

Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council
Board Meeting Minutes, Wednesday, March 11, 2015
North Valley Neighborhood City Hall
7747 Foothill Blvd., Tujunga, CA 91042
82 audience, 15 board, total 97.

Meeting called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Mark Seigel, president.

Board members present: Mark Seigel, Charlie Bradley, Brenda Fortune, Jon vonGunten, Dana Stangel, Pat Kramer, John Laue, Jim Moore, Krystee Clark, Sergio Soto, Marlene Hitt, Maureen O'Byrne, Susan Mona, Jorge Martinez, Gail Carlson, Cindy Cleghorn, Nina Royal, David Barron. Absent: Arno Akobyan, Julie Cuddihy.

LAPD: Officer Contreras introduced Officer Potter who will be our Senior Lead for the Tujunga area. Crime is up but is slower and still up overall. A lot more police are now in the area and addressing issues where crime is occurring. A business car will deal with a lot of business issues making direct contact with the businesses. There are more sheriff cars in the area because of the follow-ups handling the bus routes. Fire in the wash Monday is an ongoing issue and on their radar as it has been for the last few years, working to make it not reoccur. LAPD has a basic car and two supplemental cars bringing us up to five during daytime hours. There will be overlap to the evening. Questions regarding increase in billboard tagging. Also not getting bulky item pick ups. Patrols are on going but the problems still continue including private property under construction. Reported that auto dismantling is taking place in residences. Marijuana dispensaries are reopening. TVR has picked up lately and the gang unit resources are coming up to our area to deal with it. Bulky items are not a police issue. Call CD7 (Asatur or Wesly) for help. They realize it affects crime. Regarding dismantling, they want to know addresses to bring in LADBS and City Attorney. Tagging on billboards is responsibility of the billboard company.

Rep from Monica Ratliff talked about resolution that Monica requested the budget be distributed to the public in advance. Question regarding working with students to be good citizens referred to talk with the principals of the schools. Online testing is underway and no live paper and pencil testing in the future. Testing online at school, not at or from home.

Asatur from CD7 talked about a tree planting on 3/21. Reminded all to call his office 818-352-3287 regarding bulky item issues. Question regarding dispensers for the doggie bags and Asatur will get back to us. Also, re: former Backdoor Bakery site still sitting will get back to us.

Vickerie Murphy from Carol Liu present.

Thank you to Fresh & Easy for providing refreshments for tonight's meeting and also for our clean outs.

Budget Advocates: White Paper is completed. Bas met with all Councilmembers, Union leaders, community groups. BAs prepared a 90 page document with specific recommendations per department. First 8 pages are the brief. This is now in the Mayor's hands. The Mayor is all about "back to basics" and the BA's prepared their report with that in mind. It also suggests managers look 3-5 years in the future. Website: ncbala.com.

Selection of Civic University volunteers for three classes (April 2, 8, 15), one male and one female to represent STNC. Krystee Clark and Charlie Bradley volunteered and their names will be submitted on behalf on STNC.

High Speed Rail issue of putting routes through the Angeles National Forest is still a threat to the area. Stay informed at the dontrailroad.us website. If anyone has information on endangered plants or animals, please send in to Dana Stangel and to Dave DePinto at SAFE. The STNC voted at the February meeting to support the SAFE coalition. The collaboration of more groups and organizations is growing. The latest route goes right through the Angeles National Golf Club.

Discussion and vote to fill vacant group rep position postponed to next meeting. Janet Paz, Verdugo Hills High School is interested.

Presentation by Jim Moore, Region 3 rep regarding the small LAPD force we have in Sunland-Tujunga and the City overall. Jim presented statistics regarding increases in crime in our area compared to the city and the national averages. We have a lot of auto theft. Jim promotes that we should have 12 officers per shift and we have 10. The trash fee that we voted on was to go for more police for our communities. How they classify the crimes that don't show up on the list is unknown. How many officers we get has to do with how many crimes in our area. We do not have a local station. Foothill Station is too far away for people to go in to report. LAPD only hired a third of the

police officers that our taxes have paid for. Reporting crimes and reporting the crimes correctly is important. Every crime is important. We need to take action to get the LAPD coverage we have coming to us. The passing of Prop 47 where crimes that were once felonies and are now misdemeanors has increased the crime problem in our areas. Call 818-756-8861 LAPD front desk, FAX 818-756-9449 to report crimes. Maureen O'Byrne will be attending the next CPAB meeting and ask if there's online reporting. Two years ago the City Council paid for online reporting, what is the status of that process?

Land Use Committee recommendation to appoint Cathi Comras to the LUC, serving as an alternate passed unanimous. Cathi lives in Shadow Hills and is a community interest stakeholder through Little Landers Historical Society. Cathi's background is in commercial real estate appraisal. Marlene Hitt has worked with Cathi and spoke in support of her appointment to the LUC.

Consent Items: Monthly Expenditure Report, Minutes, Additional .20 cents for an expenditure for Spring Kids supplies at Sunland Park, Booth at Summerfest. Minutes corrected to reflect that Pat Kramer was not present at the Feb. STNC board meeting. Roll Call vote taken, unanimous.

Community Announcements: Joe DeCenzo talked about the Sunland-Tujunga Branding Initiative Gateway to the Angeles National Forest and Arts Culture & Recreation Committee Community Hike to Trail Canyon Falls on March 28. Come out to discover how convenient and close it is. Meet at 8 a.m. at the old Starbucks to caravan from there. It is three miles round trip. All vehicles require an Adventure Pass. This trail had been closed down and inaccessible since the Station Fire. It has been repaired and has been maintained. Sheri Smith talked about upcoming the Blazing Star Bazaar on April 5. Plants and items will be available. Regina Clark talked about the Little Landers Historical Society event on local fossils from the Sunland-Tujunga area. Dana Stangel talked about the nature hike starting from Oro Vista Park to talk about local plants. Gail Carlson reminded all about the community cleanup the next Saturday with thanks to local business Champion Building Supplies and Fresh & Easy. Will meet corner of Mt. Gleason and Alpine Way.

Discussion/Action regarding NC Online Voting and the \$1,000,000 contract to Everyone Counts. Question if this will solve the long lines? This is to be an initial run using Neighborhood Councils and in the future City elections will have online voting. Ability to contain and control online voting is uncertain. There will be a pre-registration process which is uncertain to be sure voters are stakeholders of the community. Comment opposed based on the threats to the banking and credit system that this is not secure yet. We've had a great turnout with increase in voters and we're doing a good job increasing people to participate in STNC Elections. More attention to vetting and qualifying candidates beyond a photo and short statement should be where DONE spends money. Pre-registration also a big concern. For people who are not able to vote it would be good to have an early opportunity to vote. There are a lot of people who do not come to meetings but this is their council and they want to participate. Money toward outreach would be better than dollars to online voting. Motion: STNC does not support online voting and would opt out. STNC has seen increased voter turnout and believes engaging the community directly with in person voting. Each NC should be able to opt in if they want online voting (Fortune/Bradley). Motion passed with one abstention (Moore).

Discussion/Action to support letter to Jaime Contreras regarding the completion of Oro Vista Park including the parking lot, hitching post for horses, addition of exercise equipment. The Arts, Culture & Recreation Committee recommends approval of the letter as presented. The committee is excited about the completion and future of the park. There is a letter in the packet showing opposition to the exercise equipment. Neighbors surrounding the park signed a petition in support for the equipment expecting it will bring people out to use the park. The goal is to get more activity at the park. Jaime gave a walking tour that included equestrians at the meeting where they identified problem with the driveway gravel and recommend dirt and wood hitching posts. Another concern is the fence around the park has been taken down and should be placed back up. If there will be a fence then will need docents to lock and unlock the park. The trail around the park needs to be finished. Pat Kramer talked about not being included in the meetings due to her being away but that she would like to be in the future. VNOC committee was also not included in the meeting. The STNC does not want the completion of the park to be delayed or halted. Motion to send the letter approved unanimous.

9:15 p.m. Maureen O'Byrne, John Laue, Dana Stangel and Susan Mona left the meeting.

Discussion/Action (Kramer/Carlson) to support letter to DWP regarding cat rescue incident. The letter is an effort to get Animal Services and DWP to work together. Motion to table the vote to the end of the meeting passed with two opposed. The letter was then brought back to discussion (Cleghorn/Bradley) and after several changes the letter was approved by unanimous vote as revised with the president and board member Pat Kramer signing the letter.

Discussion/Action (Hitt/Carlson) to approve a copier lease through DONE for a new (black& white & color) copier at the STNC office at \$81.30 per month base cost. The copier will be for all committees to use. Monthly cost includes toner and maintenance with additional click charges raising the average cost to \$100 per month possible. Roll call vote: unanimous.

STNC Bylaws Amendment proposal regarding absences. To amend Article V, Section 7 of the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council Bylaws regarding absences. Item sent back to the Bylaws committee.

Group Representative reports were postponed to the next meeting.

Public Comments from three stakeholders were given.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.