

Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council  
Board Meeting Minutes – July 8, 2015 -- DRAFT  
Held at North Valley Neighborhood City Hall

Meeting called to order at 6:45 p.m. by president Mark Seigel.

Board member introductions and attendance: Mark Seigel, Krystee Clark, Dana Stangel, Jon vonGunten, Jorge Martinez, Nina Royal, Charlie Bradley, Cindy Cleghorn, Susan Mona, Gail Carlson, Marlene Hitt. David Barron arrived at 7:10 p.m., John Laue arrived at 7:35 p.m. Absent: Jim Moore, Brenda Fortune, Maureen O'Byrne, Sergio Soto, Janet Paz.

Over 100 in attendance. Many first time stakeholders attending this STNC meeting.

Public Comments: Glenn Bailey, Northridge East NC announced the Sustainability Alliance and request to designate a formal representative form STNC to the alliance. There have been two public meetings that have also included the Mayor. Next meeting will be in August. Dana Stangel thanked the STNC for support of Summerfest. Nate Woodward announced the opening of their new financial services office, specializing in families for investment planning targeting the middle class market and they are located at 6501 Foothill Blvd. Unit 104, Tujunga. They grew up here and have returned to open their business. There will be financial service seminars. Nina Royal announced that the North Valley Reporter will be back online and in print. CERT Training also coming up. Contact: 818-618-1648 or email [nroyal9259@aol.com](mailto:nroyal9259@aol.com). Lloyd Hitt with the Tuna Canyon Detention Coalition announced upcoming Fundraiser Event on August 29 in Downtown Los Angeles and grant for travelling exhibit.

President's Report: Formation of Public Health Committee item postponed til August.

Discussion / Action to fill vacant Region 2 rep position – Arsen Karamians gave a brief history of his work with the STNC, his work background and interest in serving. Cindy Cleghorn explained to the audience that the STNC board is elected every two years by the Sunland-Tujunga community stakeholders. Today the board is voting to fill a vacancy which the board can do up until the next election. Motion: (Kramer/Royal) to appoint Arsen Karamians to the STNC board for the remainder of the 2014-16 term. Passed: unanimous. At this time Arsen took his seat on the board.

### **Reports from public representatives**

LAPD – Cesar Contreras: Officer Potter is no longer the acting SLO for Tujunga due to the time limit. For now Cesar will be helping the Tujunga area until new temporary person is appointed in a couple of weeks. We will continue to still see Officer Potter in the area. In L.A. crime is up in the double digits. We have not had double digits in a long time. Foothill is not in double digits but has an increase at 4%. Sunland-Tujunga has had a 0.6% increase. LAPD covering S-T is doing well and the community is being vigilant. Continue to be aware of surroundings. Patrol is getting a lot of calls that people are checking car doors and front doors. Biggest crime right now is Theft from Motor Vehicles. Homeless issues are 9 out of 10 calls. LAPD can only use the tools they have. Tools to alleviate bulky items and trash can help with this problem. If you have an opinion about certain laws bring up to elected officials. Police is not able to change the laws. Homeless can't be arrested just for being homeless. Until more housing and mental health assistance, we will continue to have homeless. LAPD can't fix all problems. Homeless Veterans in the area were recently housed and are now off the streets. Next Neighborhood Watch will be on 7/21 at 6 p.m. A problem with transients in the Sunland area was taken care of by LAPD and the business is appreciated. Someone set up a swap meet and has been informed that is not allowed. Thank you and applause to Jon vonGunten for getting the word out to sign up for CPAB classes begin July 9. Most all the sign ups are from Sunland-Tujunga. Council passed a law regarding homeless and the Mayor is not allowing enforcement by LAPD at this time. Officer Contreras has been to the Big T illegal dumping and is expecting an update week of July 13. The dumping problem is severe in this area. Brief comments regarding use of drones and other methods.

Vickere Murphy from Senator Carol Liu announced a water forum on 7/24 with several great speakers. Announcement posted on the STNC website and video expected. A senior scam stopper event is also being planned. Email: [vickere.murphy@asm.ca.gov](mailto:vickere.murphy@asm.ca.gov)

Richardo Benitez from Assemblywoman Patty Lopez announced small business events, student loan information and other agency information available. Patty's office is open to everyone. Meeting on 7-18 will be 4-5 p.m. at their office. Phone 818-544-3911 or [Ricardo.benitez@asm.ca.gov](mailto:Ricardo.benitez@asm.ca.gov)

David Gonzalez from School Boardmember Monica Ratliff. Board approved \$7.8 budget and raises for teachers. Please reach out regarding school/education issues phy phone: 818-252-5445.

Laena Shakarian from Felipe Fuentes, CD7 - Oro Vista Park grand opening will be held at end of July. Office is working with Sanitation to pick up debris behind the Masonic Temple. Thank you to all for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade.

**Southern California Gas Company – Ray Verches Advanced Meter Team** was at STNC last Fall. The Gas Company is automating the way gas meters are read. Started in 2012 will be finished in 2015. Network 9 units have been installed and two more needed to complete our area. Dellmont Drive and 1115 Estepa Drive. None of the network is working until these last two are completed. You will be able to read your gas meter on a daily basis. Meters will transmit four times a day, total two minutes a year. Frequency is 450 mhz. Just above the ham radio band. Historical data will be stored. Will be able to see trends over course of a year. Currently they are estimating bills. Once the network is working, no more estimating. All employees have been relocated into other jobs. No response regarding if there be a refund if overcharges/undercharges. Will be the new system going forward.

**Department of Transportation – Brian Gallagher** – Large turnout of neighbors from the Samoa Avenue area. DOT received complaints regarding access and they went out and measured the street. City standard is 36' to allow parking on both sides plus two way traffic plus 20' for emergency vehicles. There are wide and narrow parts of Samoa. Concerns about the trash trucks and side swipes and no pedestrian access. Increased emphasis in pedestrian safety and mobility. Want it safe for pedestrians. Street narrow, especially at night will be mixed with the cars and cars won't see pedestrians. For sections wider than 36' can keep parking. Less, taken away. His job is to be the rule bender. He's going to take a second look and see what can be done to allow more parking on Samoa. He came to the Fireworks show. Plainview works good for parking on both sides. If it works there they can apply to other streets. 32' wide is ok and will allow on both sides. Only room to get by in one direction at a time. Most that drive on the street live on the street and all are courteous. One car or other will always pull over. Will do a traffic count and see what percentage of drivers are from neighborhood. If used by a lot that don't live there then its risky. Don't want accidents. Parts of Samoa has sidewalk and 28' – 29' and can allow 7' on one side, 7' on other side and 7' in each direction. That's a tight squeeze. If pick up truck or SUV will need to be wider. He will go out and see about providing additional parking. 20'-14' = 6' is only 6' to let a car get by with parking on both sides. If parking on one side then 7' on one side would have 13'. Need to check with Sanitation and Fire Departments. Asking to give him time to go out and make some changes and he will do the best he can to maximize the number of spaces for the neighborhood. Also talked with Parking Enforcement. He is extending the non-enforcement until the end of July. Some tickets have been given. Give any to CD7 or [secretary@stnc.org](mailto:secretary@stnc.org) or to Brian Gallagher. Email a copy with number and he will have the tickets dismissed. Brian has also scheduled a survey of intersections at Mt. Gleason and Foothill and Oro Vista and Foothill and DOT can put in left arrow signs. Have approved left turn signals if on Foothill and turn left onto Mt. Gleason. If going west can only turn on the arrow only. There is limited visibility on this curved part of Foothill. Going east bound has better visibility. Because the apartments have been allowed to be built right up to the street, is the problem and parking has been right up to the front door. If no parking then all the streets in the surrounding area would need to be towed away. Never had the problem for 30 years. The City rules have been set up and there are laws that if certain conditions are not met then they can do what they need to make it safe. They will make it safe as possible and make exceptions. Normally they don't notice when the street is below code. People sue the city for a lot of things such as emergency response. As long as one person complains, they have to do what they're told by the law to bring to the minimum safety first. 20 speakers spoke regarding concerns and impacts the new Tow Away signs are having on the area, presented comment letters to CD7 and DOT and asked to remove the Tow Away signs. Brian will work on interim solutions and next STNC meeting will update everyone. No enforcement until after the Aug. 12 meeting.

**Consent Items:**

The following items were unanimously approved without objection the boardmembers present:

- a. MER for June 2015.
- b. June 2015 STNC Board minutes
- c. Letter of support to keep Officer Potter as Tujunga Senior Lead officer.

Discussion/Action regarding letter of support for Volunteer Surveillance Team to be sent to Captain Eskridge. VST ceased due to lack of LAPD staff able to staff VST volunteers at this time. Motion Cleghorn/Bradley to send the letter as presented passed unanimous.

**Committee Chair Reports**

Krystee Clark – Arts, Culture, Recreation meets at 5:30 p.m. – Would like to place an ad in the Tuna Canyon Coalition program for event honoring Dr. Lloyd Hitt on 8/29. May need a special meeting unless funds can be sent after August meeting. ½ page is \$250 and full page is \$500. This request needs to go to the Budget Committee. Gail Carlson and Dana Stangel have both been nominated for a Johnny Carpenter Award.

Dana Stangel – Animal Issues committee met last month with several new stakeholders attending. Local wildlife, spay and neuter. Next meeting will be 7/28 guest speaker PAWS LA a nonprofit that works with chronically ill who have pets.

Nina Royal – NNO is Aug. 4 and street will be closed Valmont between Commerce and Samoa. Entertainment, LAPD, activities, hot dogs, free event.

David Barron and Nina Royal left at 8:50 p.m.

Gail Carlson – CUB meets last Monday at 6 p.m. – Last year six clean ups and working to create list on how stakeholders and other board members can arrange clean ups, including resources. 82 new trees have been planted along Foothill and several have been killed. Please look out for the trees and some trees are being unofficially adopted and cared for by neighbors. Adoption of trees is a great idea.

Marlene Hitt – Little Landers Historical Society at Bolton Hall is open during the summer Tuesday and Sunday 1-4 p.m. Current exhibit is Our Hills and Hollywood and is about history of filming here in Sunland-Tujunga. Exhibit includes original uniform from a movie.

Julie Cuddihy – invited everyone to Jr. Football and Cheer Camp July 27. Fundraiser. Great opportunity to get involved in the Football program at VHHS.

Pat Kramer talked about a problem with the light changing and motorist pulls out when pedestrians go to cross. That intersection is being studied for improvement by DOT. Send information to Mark Seigel to be sent to DOT. It's a dangerous situation when cars make left turns into the Jack in the Box from the left turn lane. It's a double yellow line and illegal. It's been an issue for a very long time.

Budget Advocate Report – Krystee Clark was Elected as Budget Advocate with Juan Salas (Pacoima) and Kevin Davis (Foothill Trails). Krystee also selected as a vice chair of Budget Advocates. July 18 is their next meeting. Any suggestions for the City budget, everyone welcome. Focus will be more local this next year.

Discussion/Action to approve 2015 FY STNC Budget. Elections will be an added expense in the new FY. The NC budgets have been increased by \$5,000 but has not yet been identified. Emphasized that the STNC Budget can be revised in any way at any time. We need to vote the budget to have funding released to pay bills. \$18,000 is operations, \$15,950 to outreach, \$6,800 community improvement, \$1,250 in neighborhood purposes grants. Every item that is spent still comes before the board. Motion (Cleghorn/Kramer) to approve this \$42,000 budget passed unanimous.

Discussion/Action/Executive Committee Recommendation: Motion for STNC to put in an application to adopt the north west corner of Wyngate and Foothill Blvd. and direct the Arts, Culture and Recreation Committee to prepare an application for approval by the STNC board prior to submittal.

And for the same committee to investigate the possible upgrade to an electronic programmable sign. Planting and season decorations would be encouraged. Question if this sets precedent for this type of signage and that this concern would be explored by the committee. Encouraged to work with Council District 7 to help with funding. Interested stakeholders are encouraged to attend Arts, Culture, Recreation Committee meetings as they work on this. The type of electronic sign would be similar to what they have at VHHS, Glendale College, Summit Church and that it should fit within the landscape of the community. Motion passed unanimous.

Discussion/Action/CUB Committee Recommendation to approve up to \$450 to purchase a weed wacker and gasoline for weed wacker for community clean up events. STNC has other tools through the Council office and what STNC already has but weed wackers are needed at all clean ups for weed abatement. Item will be light weight, gas powered and have a warranty. Gas will be used when the weed wacker is used and not stored. Motion passed unanimous.

Discussion/Action/CUB Committee Recommendation to approve up to \$100 for animal friendly spray weed killer for CUB Committee clean ups. Motion passed unanimous.

Discussion/Action: (Cleghorn/Laue) to approve up to \$800 for August 4 National Night Out event to cover cost for refreshments and banners. Suggestion to recycle old banners. The event is free, including the food. Opportunity to meet people in the community. LAPD, LAFD will be present. Great opportunity to meet neighbors. Motion passed unanimous.

Dana Stangel left at 9:25 p.m.

**Public Comments:** Announcement: Small Asphalt Repairs looking for intersections or sidewalks for the next Blitz. Looking for 15 sites. DWP rate increase meetings are coming up and information will be on the website. Special Traffic operations newsletter from DOT available. Land Use Committee is busy and all encouraged to participate. STNC has 5,000 new business cards to get out to the community and all are encourage to take a supply. A stakeholder talked about need for help with clean up with his home from the many items he has as the LAFD has issued a citation. He needs a dumpster and labor assistance and has an Aug. 8 deadline. John Blue apologized for comment he made at a previous meeting about a board member.

Meeting adjourned at 9:44 p.m.