

Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council
Minutes for April 13, 2016
General Board Meeting
held at Elks, 10137 Commerce Avenue, Tujunga, CA 91042

Meeting called to order at 7:10 p.m. with the following board members in attendance: David Barron, Julie Cuddihy, Dana Stangel, Jorge Martinez, Nina Royal, Brenda Fortune, Cindy Cleghorn, Mark Seigel, Charlie Bradley, Pat Kramer, Jon vonGuten, Marlene Hitt, Gail Carlson, Maureen O'Byrne, Susan Mona, John Laue. Absent: Sergio Soto, Jim Moore, Janet Paz, Arsen Karamians, Krystee Clark.

LAPD Senior Lead Officers Contreras and Caloca talked about the huge property crime uptick at 20% higher than last year. Next Neighborhood Watch will be on April 19 at 6 p.m. at North Valley City Hall.

Presentation: Community Garden & Mural by Kristi Sandoval with Recology and Local Artists. Ruben Zaragoza spoke on behalf of Resource Recovery Trash Hauling Company which is a company originally from San Francisco. Only 15% of their trash goes into the landfill. They came to Los Angeles after acquiring the assets of the former Crown Disposal in March 2015. They met with CD7 regarding a community project, day of service and adopted the community garden at Howard Finn Park in April 2016. They will be fixing the existing garden, removing trash, installing 65 yards of mulch, preparing flower beds, fixing the fence, painting the retaining wall on both sides with recycled paint. They will incorporate a mural. The mural will promote gardening. The mural will be completed by also partnering with local artists and the STNC. Recology's goal is to recycle and social sustainability. They will be expanding the mural as well. Artists are invited to arrive early for the opening event this Saturday, April 16. Recology is a community benefit and they look forward to giving back to the community through this project. It is a significant financial investment for Recology as well as they will be responsible for the garden for the next two years. The opening event will include a taco truck. They are limited to 110-115 volunteers who have all signed up already. Future maintenance of the garden will be done also with the L.A. Conservation Corps. They will be planting trees as well. The distribution of what grows at the garden is unknown as of this meeting.

David Barron and Jorge Martinez arrived at 7:15 p.m.

Public Comments – Assembly 39 candidates: Kevin Suscavage, Joanne Fernandez introduced themselves. Patty Lopez representative thanked the current board and announced her sound wall project between Sunland-Tujunga and Osborne cost \$10 million and talked about Mission College, Cal Trans, Horse Trail due to horses killed in this area and All Nations Church. 23 bills are moving through the State Assembly, 10 are out of committee. Invitation to the May 21-22 Equine Fair. Monica Rodriguez, Public Works Commissioner, talked about DOT boxes finalized two weeks ago, Sunland Park dog waste dispensers installed, Palm stumps removal. She also announced the overhaul of the contracting opportunities with the City. Registration takes about 10 minutes. There is a Small Business Academy so businesses can secure contracting opportunities. 50% are women business owners. Register at lababn.org. Email her at monica.rodriguez@lacity.org. Monica Ratliff, LAUSD School Board member commented on the importance of recognizing the history of the Armenian Genocide. She introduced the new principal at Verdugo Hills High School, Dr. Linda Calvo. Dr. Calvo was very impressed with the turnout at tonight's meeting. Dr. Calvo said she's been with LAUSD 38 years, 23 years at High School level. Graduation is June 9 and VHHS has a student who attends VHHS via a Robot. She has not met the student yet but she has met the Robot. Regina Clark talked about the May 14, 1 p.m. program at Little Landers Historical Society -- History of the Mt. Wilson Observatory. Sheri Smith announced the Bazaar and Plant Sale on April 16 at Bolton Hall Museum. More info at littlelandershistoricalsociety.org Ted Sneider talked about the Valley Disaster Preparedness Fair and requesting financial support of the fair by the STNC. Last year there were 27 Neighborhood Councils who gave support. The fair will be at Fire Station 87 on Balboa, south of Devonshire Oct. 1, 2016 between 10-2. Each family will receive a bag of emergency preparedness items and includes lunch, free event. This is the largest event of this type in the

Valley. Caruso's Grand Opening Ribbon Cutting will be April 20 with the Sunland-Tujunga Chamber of Commerce. Also re-Code public forum is the same evening in Northridge. More info at stchamber.org. Bill Larson, Deputy City Attorney and Prosecutor (213-393-5561) gave an update that a drug house at Plainview and Owens has been closed. Request for more expanded time with City Attorney Larson at a future meeting recommended.

STNC Board Election Results – Cindy Cleghorn presented the Final Results by the City Clerk 4-6-16:

President – Krystee Clark

First Vice-President – Charlie Bradley

Second Vice-President – Dana Stangel

Secretary – Aris Hovasapian

Treasurer – Shooshig Susan Avakian

Region 1 Representatives – Pat Kramer and Ana Orudyan

Region 2 Representatives – Gail Carlson and Kathrine Juarez

Region 3 Representatives – David Barron and Rick Ramirez

Region 4 Representatives – Pati Potter and Eve Sinclair

Stakeholder Group Representatives: Jon vonGunten – Neighborhood Watch; Edwin Miranian – Armenian Cultural Sasoon Association; Marlene Hitt – Historical Preservation; Julie Ann Cuddihy – Verdugo Hills High School; John Candler – Sunland Foursquare Church; Mark Seigel – Ham Radio Operator Organization; Richard Stewart – Service Clubs; Amelia Anderson – Sunland-Tujunga Homeless Working Group.

Total Registrations:

Ballots = 1,050

Community Interest = 164

Total Ballots

Polling Place = 1,222

Provisional = 1

Curbside = 75

Provisional = 93

The board members elect that were present stepped up for introduction and a group photo . Cindy also acknowledged the candidates not elected and encouraged them to stay involved and join committees. 1,223 came out to vote and the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council is #1 in the Valley in voter turnout. The City wants to see their stakeholders participate in their government and Sunland-Tujunga has come through to accomplish this goal. Cindy thanked the current board for their leadership to plan and encourage participation in this election. Normally we would install the new board at this meeting but a challenge was filed and we await final outcome of that challenge.

Glenn Bailey, Poll Manager, acknowledged the leap of faith that STNC took with a polling location at the VONS parking lot and in accommodating the voters. We needed more volunteers from the community to help with documentation requirements. We needed more polling booths and we had a shortage of ballots. Disappointed that the City Clerk did not print enough ballots. We worked to move up voters who were physically challenged or elderly and we accommodated over 70 curbside voters, the highest in the City. Nobody was turned away from voting. Even without documentation people were given the choice of provisional voting. It was a voter's choice to walk away. No one from the polling site turned anyone away. Everyone who was in line as of 6 p.m. were allowed to vote. Some people showed up an hour later and unfortunately could not vote. Because of the shortage of ballots, people waited patiently for more ballots to arrive and then voted. Huge thank you to the stakeholders for sticking it out for the arrival of more ballots. There are always some people who don't get the information regarding documentation. STNC is a Neighborhood Council that requires documentation. Candidates and outreach need to stress that people need to come prepared with something with a Sunland-Tujunga street address. Organizations that provided membership rosters helped to speed up the process. Other Neighborhood Councils identified the organizations in advance and approved them by the board prior to election day. This is something STNC could consider in future elections to save time and challenges. If not, we are leaving it up to a volunteer poll worker on the day of the election who may not know the organizations and regions in Sunland-Tujunga. Glenn said that even though he was officially in charge he received a call two hours

into the election and had to change things for the remainder of the election as to the documentation for community interest stakeholder. This was a disappointment as it “changed the rules” in the middle of the election day and that should not have happened. The sample letter provided by the City Clerk to document community interest stakeholders was not followed. The community interest stakeholder seems vague but its not vague. Defining Community Interest is going to a church for example. Shopping does not count. A voter must know the address of their community interest as this determines the ballot they receive. People came to the polling location to vote but did not know the address for their community interest. Criteria for a national association should include local meeting schedule and have activities /notices. The Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (BONC) has asked the City Council to give them permission to define the “community interest” stakeholder and the ordinance has been drafted by the City Attorney. Expect this to be changed prior to the 2018 election cycle. Uncertain what the BONC’s recommendation will be. They are at least trying to address the issue. It was learned after the election that who ever was guiding people using the STNC boundaries map to find their region were not all correct and some people voted in the wrong region. Overall, the board and stakeholders expressed great appreciation to Glenn for his work. Regarding a question about the 16 provisional ballots: 15 submitted documentation within the time deadline and their ballots were counted. Glenn pointed out that the Final report distributed tonight has errors and he will bring this to the City Clerk’s attention. Specifically community interest number should not include voters who also live, work and/or own property in Sunland-Tujunga.

Even though the line was long, it moved quickly and it was much thanks to Cindy and Glenn. Cindy asked all the candidates and board members to stand who volunteered to help to set up the election. She then asked for everyone else to stand who volunteered. Thank you to all, we have lots to talk about in the future. Sunland-Tujunga is on the rise and we made it better from prior elections.

Committee Updates:

Beautification: Gail talked about the new non profit that has taken responsibility for the DOT Boxes project, North Valley Grafitti Busters, and that the artists are starting to paint the boxes. The Dog Waste stations are installed now at Sunland Park and Howard Finn Park. Over 60 calls for illegal dumping and bulky item pick ups were made in our community. Use the app or call 311 to submit. The Free Tree program for Foothill Blvd. still exists and you can go to hbt.org and download a tree request form as long as you commit to watering it. Also able to get trees that were cut down on Foothill Blvd. replaced.

Animal Issues: Dana said she is happy to see so many present tonight, looking forward to keeping the meetings more interesting and more inviting. One person does make a difference. Lucy Pet Foundation is still coming out and they are still looking for people low income to help with health care for animals, free spay and neuter. The need is here but we need to let people know. Low cost vaccinations 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. April 27 at 5 p.m. will be ribbon cutting at Berkshire Hathaway and animals will be there. Also butterflies. Same night at 7 p.m. the Animal Issues Committee meeting will be held with speaker Operations Blankets of Love at Sunland Foursquare Church. Summerfest 3rd annual July 22-23-24 at Sunland Park. Looking for vendors and music bands. Youth Council – Food drive had an awesome turnout and the donations were taken to Chapel of the Hills. Next meeting April 25 at the STNC office.

Safety / Mission College – Nina said Mission College is coming to ST and Mission is looking for feedback as to classes. STNC has a survey online to collect comments. There have also been requests for Spanish and English as a second language classes. STNC’s Mission College Survey link is: <http://survey.constantcontact.com/survey/a07ecfdppirilzhy41k/start> - Suggestions for classes can be made through the survey or outside the survey.

Motion (Royal/Cleghorn): STNC supports planning for a Community-wide Emergency Response Drill event and formation of ad-hoc committee with event to be held in 2016. Motion passed unanimous.

Motion (Barron/vonGunten) that STNC supports adding 1,000 additional LAPD officers. Motion passed unanimous.

Nina thanked all for the great turnout at the LAPD Town Hall. Everyone was respectful and the topics were current. LAPD very impressed. Look forward to holding another one.

Neighborhood Watch: Jon vonGunten said April 19 is the next meeting. There are three Neighborhood Watch meetings held each month with up to 80 people turning out.

Land Use: Cindy Cleghorn said that the Jain Temple presentation to add a second story to 10105 Commerce was well received by the committee and stakeholders present. The owners will return with a few updates and the committee will be submitting a letter for the board to approve. Liliana Sanchez will now be a committee member instead of an alternate. There are two vacancies on the committee. Application to become a committee member is available on the stnc.org website under documents. The committee will be reviewing upcoming citywide ordinances. Meetings are held first and third Mondays at 7 p.m. at the Elks.

Three sites are finalists for a \$20,000 grant for exercise equipment including Oro Vista Park but only if we participate in an online survey. You can vote once per day, the most votes between now and April 30 deadline could receive the grant for the equipment. Location and equipment details will be worked out after the vote. If you support the equipment at the park, vote, if not, do not vote.

Discussion/Action (Cleghorn/Carlson): STNC Board approves up to \$1,000 for the Congress (\$500); Budget Advocates (\$300) and NC Awards (\$200) 2016 events. An amendment to reduce the Congress amount to \$300 failed for lack of a second. Motion passed 15-1 (Kramer) – 0.

The following items are postponed to future board meeting:

Discussion: Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment Funding Reform – topics to discuss include:

- i. Transfer accounting and funding to the City Clerk
- ii. Define rules and transparency for NC funding operations
- iii. Define community benefit for NCs

Discussion/Action: DWP Reform: should STNC take a position that more time is needed for community outreach, review of issues and comment before placing on the ballot.

Discussion/Action: California High Speed Rail released the Supplemental Analysis and comment deadline on the report is April 18 and approve comments from the STNC.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Special thanks to the Elks for the extension of time.