

STAT Meeting Minutes, October 26, 2021

1. **Meeting called to order** by STAT Committee Chairperson Pat Kramer at 6:01. Quorum established with Pat Kramer, Chair; Jon von Gunten, Cochair; Roger Swart, Member; George Arakel, Member; Barbara Rowe, Member; Levon Parian, (joined at 6:08 p.m.). Also present were Leny Freeman as moderator, STNC board member Karen Moran, STNC board member Cindy Cleghorn and community member Amy Hale. Karen Moran, STNC Rep to Region 3, introduced herself, expressed interest, and was cordially received.

2. Chairperson's Announcements and Welcome: Pat welcomed all on the call and reiterated the STAT committee's vision to keep the streets safe or make them safer in S-T.

3. Reports by LADOT, LAPD and CD7:

Pat read an email response from CD7's Eve Sinclair which reiterated CD7's traffic safety improvements from their last month's email. Pat said she had asked Eve to respond to her concerns raised by the community tree watering event regarding impacted tree roots in the sidewalk, surrounded by asphalt. Eve did not respond or acknowledge Pat's questions. Pat has since spoken with Tree People, and gotten responses from a number of different community groups who are involved in tree care.

Roger sent Eve an email about freeing up tree roots to receive water, but also got no response, only a bare-bones acknowledgment.

Cindy asked whether ruptured sidewalks, e.g., by AutoZone (Valmont/Foothill), can be fixed.

Levon Parian received, months ago, a Krekorian email about a sidewalk repair program that requires an application form. Parian will pursue if it's still/again available.

Pat and Jon expressed interest in how AgroPerm can be removed and thought it best to research further.

4. Public Comment:

Amy Hale's daughter got into a car accident with another young motorist by Foothill and Lowell (on the L.A. side of the street). Both Glendale PR and LAPD showed up but LAPD said they could not take a report as they no longer write up traffic accidents. Jon noted that Valley Traffic does take reports as they have more training but after LAPD's defunding, sparser LAPD resources must concentrate on preventing criminal harm, rather than investigate blame in a civil matter. Jon WILL contact a SLO to get their input on this situation.

5. Approval of the Minutes: Pat reviewed the STAT committee's meeting minutes for September 2021. They were approved unanimously. (Jon said he could not vote as he was then ineligible with a training not being completed).

6. STAT Committee Reports:

On the topic of insurance going up, due to multiple and increasing accidents in our community, Pat said that her insurance rates have not gone up but that may be due to having completed an online Safe Driving Course. Jon said we should refocus vehicle insurance question on "Are our insurance rates in 91040 and 91042 higher than those in nearby Zip Codes due to our higher accident rates and presence on HIN?"

The committee also discussed the ongoing issue of homeless transient Patrick by Vons. It was revealed that he and a fellow transient had OD'd on some drugs and the other individual died while Patrick went to a hospital. After recovering, he was placed in a motel in Sylmar, deserted that housing, and reappeared in front of Vons where he is rebuilding his junk heap.

Pat suggested a Holiday get-together, possibly at Starbucks, in November or December.

7. Committee Motion:

Pat and STAT committee member wrote a motion to have CD7 find a way to enable water to penetrate to tree roots:

Whereas, CD7 has informed us that streets with trees along them have a positive impact on slowing down traffic; and whereas Foothill Boulevard in S-T is considered to be part of a High Injury Network (HIN); and whereas the trees along Foothill Boulevard were planted over 5 years ago and have not been consistently maintained for more than two years; the STAT Committee of STNC moves that our Council District, CD7, allocate funding to improve and enlarge the areas around the tree wells as the decorative inserts and hard-packed soil are preventing water from penetrating down into the roots. By taking this action, we hope to encourage the survival and health of our beautiful trees along our main corridor.

(made by Roger/Barbara)

Barbara/Roger moved to approve this motion. The motion was approved unanimously (minus Jon).

Leny suggested using white gravel to replace the inserts that are removed.

8. Meeting Adjourned: at 7:28 PM

Minutes by Jon von Gunten