

Sunland Tujunga Neighborhood Council

Special General Board Meeting Minutes Tuesday, February 13, 2024

This meeting is being held by the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council using teleconferencing pursuant to Government Code Section 54953.8(a)(2)(B).

- 1. Call to Order, Welcome** - Lydia Grant, President, 7:02pm
 - a. Meeting is held on Tuesday, the 13th, instead of February 14th to avoid having it on Valentine's Day when people may not be able to support it.

- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**, Leny Freeman lead

- 3. STNC President's Updates**
 - A. STNC In Person Board & Committee Meeting updates/meeting locations + Update on SB411 (Portantino) regarding NC meetings on Zoom.
 - Hybrid meetings are still in discussion, per Lydia
 - B. Land Use Committee Vacant Seats
 - Cindy – looking for members to join; next meeting is 26th February and the agenda will be provided. Meetings are on zoom.
 - C. Updates / Changes to the STNC Bylaws due April 1. If you have suggestions, submit through the stnc.org website or to president@stnc.org or secretary@stnc.org
 - Lydia noted that the By-Law changes were made previously; standing rules will be addressed now. Reminder that Committees are not autonomous from the Board; events need to go through the Board.
 - D. Status of STNC Board approved Light Pole Banners - We are waiting for Councilwoman Rodriguez to provide her support. Sites already identified.
 - E. Lydia commented on shortcomings in the HLA Ballot, a measure intended to improve streets.
 - F. Lydia commented about a ballot backed by the group "Our Neighborhood Voices that would neutralize laws passed by the State that currently allow developers to build without any input from the residents, giving more local control back to the community.

- 4. Roll Call, Voting Eligibility** - *Karen Moran, Recording Secretary*
 - A. Completion of City / DONE Required trainings status for the STNC board
 - B. Announce any Board member recusals or paid lobbyists in attendance
 - No ineligible to vote and no recusals were identified
 - Note: Nina Royal arrived at 7:14 pm and Peter Darakjian arrived at 8:45 pm

Board Member	Roll Call	Funding Voting Eligibility	Board Appointment
Lydia Grant	Present	Yes	President
Lallah Rowe	Absent	Yes	1st VP
Mapuana Moran	Present	Yes	2nd VP
Carol Hutchinson	Present	Yes	Treasurer
Cindy Cleghorn	Present	Yes	Correspondence Sec
Karen Moran	Present	Yes	Recording Sec
Leny Freeman	Present	Yes	Region 1 Rep
KT Travers	Present	Yes	Region 1 Rep
Sherry McCoy	Present	Yes	Region 2 Rep
VACANT	VACANT	VACANT	Region 2 Rep
Mike Goglia	Present	Yes	Region 3 Rep
Peter Darakjian	Absent	Yes	Region 3 Rep
Jon von Gunten	Present	Yes	Region 3 Rep
Belinda Woodruff	Absent	Yes	Region 4 Rep
Trevor Schmidt	Present	Yes	Region 4 Rep
Mark Seigel	Absent	Yes	Region 4 Rep
Ross Herman	Present	Yes	Region 4 Rep
Cheryl Schmidt	Present	Yes	Public Safety Rep
Chris Rowe	Present	Yes	Education Rep
Nina Royal	Absent	Yes	Senior Rep
Vartan Keshish	Present	Yes	Community Interest Rep
Quorum: 15 present at roll call, 5 absent			

5. Discussion/Q&A with LAPD, Elected Officials/Representatives, DONE, NC Budget Advocates, City Departments (2 min per Representative including Q&A)

- Lydia suggested only bringing forward issues that community in general are interested in to keep the meeting flowing.
- Budget Advocates Report - Region 1 - <https://www.budgetadvocates.org/reports>
- Lydia – we have Officer Choi, a new interim policeman.
- Diana Oganessian - Supervisor Barger is working issues to analyze homeless issues; primary

election information should have been received; voters can now with new vote at any voting center.

- Jack Artan, Senator Portantino’s Office, filling in for Declan Floyd - the SB997 bill will allow schools to offer NARCAM. Lydia noted we plan to put together another event on drugs/NARCAM.
- Raul Preciado – There is a Women’s Leadership event March 28th at City Hall. The Department is working with Neighborhood Homeless liaison - if anyone is interested, the Board can invite people to attend. Contact Raul is any training help needed.
 - Lydia inquired if there were any plans to host a Men’s Leadership event; Leny Freeman wanted to know if there was a men’s history month. Raul knew of no plans but will check.
 - KT Travers inquired about a new code of conduct; Raul said it is forthcoming.
 - Trevor Schmidt inquired about our continual request to use city resources for meetings; Raul said there is no update.

6. Motion: To fill the vacancy in Region 2: Mapi Moran

- Mapi Moran requested to fill the vacancy for the Region 2 Rep. Mapi will be vacating her position in the Outreach Committee at this time due to person reasons. A motion was made and passed to appoint Mapi as the Region 2 Rep.
 - *Note that the Outreach position will stay open for a month prior to appointing someone else; Mapi plans to stay at Co-Chair.*

Item 6. Motion to approve Mapi Moran to be Region 2 Representative					
Motion: Cleghorn, Second: Herman					
Yes	No	Abstain	Ineligible	Recuse	Absent
Grant, M Moran, Hutchinson, Cleghorn, K Moran, Freeman, Travers, McCoy, Goglio, von Gunten, T Schmidt, Herman, C Schmidt., Keshish 14 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 0 ineligible, 5 absent			Travers		Rowe, Darakjian, Woodruff, Seigal, C Rowe, Royal

7. INFORMATION / UPDATES: Pending Land Use Committee projects:

- A. 7665 Machrea – Subdivision into 7 single family dwelling lots, zoned RE3-1. LUC waiting for owner’s rep to schedule a second meeting. Over 40 neighbors attended the Oct. 16 meeting with several major concerns regarding this many units on that site and the impacts to neighbors’ quality of life.
- B. 9604 Hillhaven - addition to two story home and relief from 20ft widening of street. - waiting for owner & City response to building, quality of life & street width concerns by neighbors & LUC.
- C. 7577 Foothill & Plainview - Former Denny’s site. - PLUM denied the neighbor appeal and approved the plans for 46 apartments [7 reserved very low income]. Approval by City Council any time now and then the owner can proceed with building.
- D. Update to CEQA Thresholds and Methodology In response to requests from various stakeholders, an additional 30-day extension for public review and comments is being granted until **February 19, 2024**. Pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guideline

Section 15064.7(b), the Department of City Planning (Department) is considering adopting updated thresholds of significance and methodologies to analyze impacts: 1) for construction noise and vibration, and 2) to historic resources. Written comments or questions may be submitted by email to mindy.nguyen@lacity.org. Any updated guidance would be publicly available on the Department’s website at planning.lacity.org/project-review/environmental-resources.

- Lydia commented that Lydia commented that the community needs to come to the hearings to give opinions objections to projects. Also that the City plans to remove (from CEQA) any noise or vibration levels restrictions for building projects. Cindy commented that with a deadline of February 19th for comments, there is no time to go through Committees but direct input is needed.

8. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION: Approve STNC letter to City Council & Budget & Innovation Committee regarding the 2024-25 DONE budget.

- Lydia showed the budget spreadsheet and noted that she does not have a letter regarding the budget ready at this time and it will be put off until next month. There has been a significant increase in the budget but DONE has put Neighborhood Councils (NCs) at the bottom of the budget priority list; no input from NCs was solicited. Lydia requested that the budget be reviewed by the Board and that STNC put forward a letter including comments. City budget advocates want to set up a Town Hall to explain what the budget is used for; a date has not been determined yet. This year we did roll over some money when the elections were not needed, providing some additional funds.
- Cindy would like to see what spent this fiscal year vs what is being baselined. The entire document should be reviewed to see what is included.
- Raul stated that his understanding is that this is a proposal for what the Department can achieve. He can reach out to Admin team to see what other information can be shared.
- Additional comments were provided by Leny, Cindi, Mapi and Jon. Lydia suggested a separate meeting to go over the budget specifically which was well received.

9. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS (FUNDING) - MOTION: The STNC Board approves the funding consent calendar: ***[Budget Committee approved 1/3/24]***

- A. Approve December 2023 and January 2024 MER
- C. Approve \$200 for one Zoom license for the STNC [Approved in annual budget, vote required to make payment]
 - Ross asked if 1 or 2 zoom licenses, Lydia said 1 was felt to be all that was needed at this time.

Item 9 A, C. Motion to approve Funding Consent Calendar items					
Motion: Freeman, Second: Hutchinson					
Yes	No	Abstain	Ineligible	Recuse	Absent
Grant, M Moran, Hutchinson, Cleghorn, K Moran, Freeman, Travers, McCoy, Goglio, von Gunten, T Schmidt, Herman, C Schmidt., Royal, Keshish 15 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 0 ineligible, 4 absent			Travers		Rowe, Darakjian, Woodruff, Seigal, C Rowe

10. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS (NON-FUNDING) MOTION: The STNC Board approves the non-funding consent calendar:

- A. Discussion/Action: Approve January 2024 STNC Board Meeting Minutes
- B. Discussion/Action: Motion of support and submit Community Impact Statement (CIS) for **Council File 24-0055, Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers** / Fiscal Year 2022-23 Complaints and Citations / Enforcement / Education Program (Raman – Blumenfield): Introduced January 16, 2024 and referred to Public Works Committee. Motion is instructing the Bureau of Street Services (BSS) to report within 60 days on the number of complaints received and the number of citations issued for gas-powered leaf blower violations in Fiscal Year 2022-23. Data should include the BSS enforcement area and the Council District in which the citation was issued. *CIS: The Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council supports the report back regarding gas-powered leaf blower violations.*
- C. Motion of support for **Council File 24-0050 Nuisance Abatement Properties** / On-Site Retail Commercial Cannabis Activity / Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) / Amendment (Hutt – Rodriguez): Introduced December 12, 2023, and referred to Planning and Land Use Management Committee. Motion is instructing the City Planning Department (CPD), with the assistance of DCR (Dept of Cannabis), to initiate amendments for consideration by the Citywide Planning Commission that would amend Article V, Chapter X of the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) relative to regulating onsite retail commercial cannabis activity to add nuisance abatement properties. *CIS: The Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council supports regulating onsite retail commercial cannabis activity to add nuisance abatement properties.*
- D. Motion of support for **Council File 23-0652-S3, Homelessness Emergency Declaration**/Fiscal Year 2023-24/Second Quarterly Report (City Administrative Officer): Introduced January 1, 2024 and referred to Housing and Homelessness committee. City Administrative Officer report is relative to the Homelessness Emergency Declaration 2023-24 Second Quarterly Report. *CIS: The Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council supports the Homelessness Emergency Declaration.*
- E. Motion to support **Council File 24-0079 [To Public Safety Committee] Motion (de Leon - Park) relative to instructing the Police Department to create a Copper Wire Task Force** to address copper wire theft in Downtown, Boyle Heights, El Sereno, and Lincoln Heights communities, and transfer/appropriate funds from the General City Purposes Fund to cover task force costs. Motion amended to add: This CF needs to be amended to include the community of Sunland Tujunga. Being a more rural, dark area with narrow, crowded streets, many lacking sidewalks, the absence of street lighting, due to copper wire vandalism, is acutely felt, Our community is a high accident area and special needs. *CIS: The Sunland Tujunga Neighborhood Council requests the Sunland Tujunga area also be included due to copper wire theft in our area.*
- F. Motion to support on **Council File 22-0156-S2 [To Public Safety Committee] Motion (deLeon, Park-Lee)** relative to instructing the Police Department, with the assistance of the City Attorney, Bureau of Street Lighting, and City Clerk, to report with recommendations to **establish a standing reward offer for information resulting in the identification, apprehension and conviction for copper wire theft and streetlight vandalism crimes.** Recommendation: *The Sunland Tujunga Neighborhood Council requests the Sunland Tujunga area also be included due to copper wire theft in our area.*

G. Motion of recommendation of **NON support regarding California SB1772:AB1772**, as introduced, Ramos. Theft. Existing law, the **Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Act, enacted by Proposition 47**, as approved by the voters at the November 4, 2014, statewide general election, defines and prohibits an act of shoplifting and prohibits prosecution for an act of shoplifting under any other law. Existing law defines shoplifting as entering a Commercial establishment with intent to commit larceny while the establishment is open during regular business hours. This bill would revise the definition of shoplifting to require an intent to steal retail property or merchandise. Existing law provides that a person with a prior conviction for specified sex offenses may be charged with a felony for shoplifting or for theft of property not exceeding \$950 in value. This bill would require a person convicted of petty theft or shoplifting, if the person has or more prior convictions for specified theft-related offenses, to be punished one year, or for 16 months, or 2 or 3 years, and would make conforming changes. This bill would provide that its provisions would become effective only upon approval of the voters, and would provide for the submission of its provisions to the voters for approval at the statewide general election. Motion of **NON support** with recommendation: *The Sunland Tujunga Neighborhood Council recommends the City Council not support SB1722:AB1722. It makes it difficult to convict shoplifters in our neighborhoods. In 2014, Prop 47, originally sold to the voters as: The Safer Neighborhoods and Schools as a way to reduce overcrowding in our prison system. And it has been nothing more than a failed experiment in criminal justice reform which needs to be changed so that we can put a stop to property crime. Originally, it was intended to keep non-violent criminals out of crowded prisons and treat low-level criminals with more compassion. What it has done is to create an atmosphere of lawlessness and destruction. We are hearing of businesses closing, nearly every day due to wanton theft. Many businesses don't even bother to report crimes as they know nothing will be done. The costs of these thefts are usually either passed on to the paying customer or the business tries to absorb the loss until it can no longer afford to do so and closes its doors. Many of our stores resort to creating barriers- even heavy chains- to prevent theft. Californians should not be forced to live like this. The proposed amendment is nothing more than a bandage on a gaping wound. Prop 47 needs to be repealed in its entirety. We need to stop this onslaught against our businesses and communities. We need to actually make our neighborhoods safe and take criminals off our streets so they can no longer prey on the law abiding. The Sunland Tujunga Neighborhood Council requests City Council support any legislation to repeal Prop 47.*

Item 10 A, B, C, D, E, F, G. Motion to approve Non-Funding Consent Calendar items					
Motion: Freeman, Second: Keshish					
Yes	No	Abstain	Ineligible	Recuse	Absent
Grant, M Moran, Hutchinson, Cleghorn, K Moran, Freeman, Travers, McCoy, Goglio, von Gunten, T Schmidt, Herman, C Schmidt., Keshish 14 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 0 ineligible, 5 absent			Travers		Rowe, Darakjian, Woodruff, Seigal, C Rowe, Royal

11. Committee & Liaison Reports - by committee chairs present

- Community Improvement & Government Affairs

- Carol commented that members of the Board should advise if they see any community events or concerns that are of interest that we should get on the agenda.
- Outreach: *2/22 @ 7pm*
 - Mapi will be transitioning duties to her replacement, she is doing a full audit of roles, responsibilities, timelines, a transition plan, etc. Ross Herman plans to support more Committee meetings personally to enhance communication between the Committees and the Board.
 - Lydia discussed Movies in the Park, a goal that STNC has had but has not realized yet. There are certain items that we would still need to procure. Nina has been in contact with a rep (Nicole) from the Recreation Center who has suggested that the event take place in the Rec Center (Sunland Park) and we could partner with them, also saving the \$300-500 that it would cost to rent a movie. Lydia will meet with Nicole to understand better how many people the Rec Center would hold, what is needed to procure (e.g. projector, screen, etc.) and will continue to get prices on items for the future event (e.g. outdoor lighting, etc.). Lydia will get back to the Outreach Committee.
 - Lydia noted that future events include National Night Out, March 30th, an Easter Egg hunt at Sunland Park, and more. Information will be included in the next meeting.
- Beautification: *2/15 @ 6pm*
 - KT pointed out that meeting is not Feb 15th but Feb 27th
 - Lydia noted that the cleanups that the Beautification Committee is doing, while much appreciated, need to be brought to the Board for approval of the event(s), ensuring that the event is identified officially and participants are insured by the City if there is an injury/ accident. While cleanups can be done by individuals, if not approved, they are not STNC events. There was additional discussion about the need for approval by the STNC and scheduling the event with 30 days notice. Marjorie indicated that she felt hampered by STNC's need to approve the cleanup events. Lydia said that the number of events could be pre-approved in a block but STNC had to follow the rules that the City put forward is it were to support the cleanup events with insurance and food/water. Ross said that his participation at the Committee's meetings could help them get approvals by the STNC. Per KT, meetings are typically on zoom and less than an hour long. Cindy noted that the Committee Chairs deserve recognition for the work they do.
- STAT: *2/27 @ 6pm*
 - Pat Kramer asked Ricardo if he could share info on illegal street activities (e.g. racing, loopies, etc.). Ricardo said there are no new developments but will keep us informed if anything significant develops. Pat would like to move forward on a motion to re-allocate police to CD7 and would like to get more traffic officers in the area. Pat requested fatality information; accidents continue to get worse. New traffic laws, involve parking; "Daylighting" refers to keeping parked cars away from cross-walks for better visibility of people in the cross-walk and is now baselined (e.g. 15-20 ft away from cross-walk even if curb is not painted red). Pat expressed appreciation for funding of tree-care events.
- STARC: *2/27 @ 7:30pm @ McGroarty Art Center*
- Youth & Adult Education: no report. Lallah is currently unavailable.
- Budget & Finance: *2/28 @ 6pm*
 - Carol reminded people to get the events into the Budget Committee at least 30 days before; if later, the event cannot go forward.
- Executive: *2/28 @ 6:45pm*

12. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS - Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the agenda that are within the Board's jurisdiction will be heard during the General Public Comment period.

- Edward Han introduced himself; he is a State Assembly (District 44) candidate from La Crescenta, elected to the Assembly as our Representative. From Chat - Please visit EdHanCA.com if you're interested in learning more about our campaign for AD44.
- Carlos Gonzalez introduced himself, he is Dean at Mission College. He noted that there will be courses offered at local schools and Mission College has not totally left the area. Lydia indicated she would like to continue the conversation; there was a lot of work that STNC did to get Mission College into the area and there is a continuing need for such a college.
- Additional comments were provided by Nina and Jon supporting the need for the college in the immediate area. From Chat, contact information for Mr. Gonzalez is 818-979-1918, gonzalcr@laccd.edu
- Cheryl noted that Coffee with a Cop is now at Joselito's, and that people can join the Police Advisory Board. Cheryl will send information to the Outreach Committee.

13. PRESENTATION & TRAINING on the Neighborhood Council (NC) System.

- A. Bylaws, Standing Rules, BONC Policies, Brown Act (Meeting Agenda Posting, ENS)
- B. NC Meetings: Agenda Items, Presenters, Meeting Agendas, Making Motions, Community Impact Statements
- C. NC Alliances (Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils - VANC meets 2nd Thursday on Zoom; LANCC meets 1st Saturday at 10 am; PlanCheckNC meets 2nd Saturday at 10am, STNC Community Events/Meetings, Other Training Opportunities

14. FINAL ANNOUNCEMENTS – None.

15. ADJOURN, 9:09 pm