

SUNLAND-TUJUNGA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
Safe Traffic and Transportation Meeting Minutes
4/25/2023

Held at the S-T Branch library, 7771 Foothill Bl., Tujunga, CA 91042

- 1) **Call to Order** by Chairperson Pat Kramer at 6:03 p.m. Quorum of 4 met with STAT committee members: Pat Kramer, Chair; Jon von Gunten, Co-chair; Leny Freeman; Barbara Rowe; and George Arakel. Also attending were: Mark Dutton, Katie O'Brien (who arrived at 6:48 p.m.) and Joan Anderson.
- 2) **Welcome:** Pat welcomed everyone and reviewed STAT's goals and vision.
- 3) **Chair Report: Still no word from CD7's** Ricardo Flores re: the STAT letter asking our Councilmember to fund \$100K for more LAPD Valley Traffic Officers in our area. Pat, Leny and George went to LAPD's retirement party for Capt. Neiman and Officer Joel Flores. It was held in a cold garage on a freezing day but they enjoyed it very much. Afterward, they went to a nearby BBQ restaurant, which they highly recommended. Pat will invite LAPD Traffic Officer Sal Venegas to the next STAT meeting. Leny and Pat reported seeing increased LAPD traffic enforcement in S-T!
- 4) **Motion to approve the minutes for the January 2023 STAT meeting.** (Pat/Leny) moved to approve the January 2023 minutes as drafted by Jon von Gunten. The motion carried unanimously.

At the next STAT meeting, the February 2023 and April 2023 meeting minutes will be approved. There was no STAT meeting in March due to the death of Pat's partner.

5) Public Comments:

- Jon announced the on, off, now on-again Coffee with a Cop meeting at Crow's Nest on Friday, 28 April, 9:00AM for an in-person meeting.
 - Pat will request Cindy to make certificates of appreciation for STAT committee members who served over the course of the past two years.
 - Leny noted that the Pear Blossom Highway pass to Palmdale, recently closed due to winter's weather, is now open with only momentary delays.
 - Mark has tried repeatedly to contact the CIRCLE program, which uses ex-convicts to contact homeless, but they don't respond. The L.A. City Council has approved funding \$8M to CIRCLE, a non-profit, which he said was not closely supervised by the City. He noted its Executive Director makes \$250K/year and questioned whether this would be an effective program. Mark rode along with LAPD's very understaffed SMART program and saw it work well. In San Francisco, CIRCLE has been used but the SF called it ineffective.
- 6) **Slow Down Signage:** Pat received word that local realtor John Hart is printing and distributing free SLOW DOWN lawn signs, but they have his logo, so STAT can't officially hand them out. <https://diana.jhagents.com/safe-and-slow>. It was noted that this is a great idea though.

7) Committee Reports:

- George has contacted LAPD for new stop signs for Elmhurst Street in Tujunga, but they're not the correct entity, which is LADOT. He continues to see excessive speeding on Tujunga Canyon Blvd. He will contact DOT for a Stop Sign.
- No report on billboard prices. Pat estimates \$3,000 each for our general S-T location.
- Jon and Cindy will begin work on a flyer to promote local merchants supporting Foothill trees by watering, keeping clean, etc.

Pat is pursuing DIY for the next Tree Adoption Event on June 24, 2023. She estimates 100+ trees could be watered and weeded if we can get the word out to our stakeholders effectively. Pat is requesting \$350 from STNC for tools, refreshments and other supplies.

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- Regarding wording for a flyer, Mark noted that many people don't realize that the City does not water the trees anymore so they aren't sure why they should be responsible for the trees in front of their property.
- Leny will continue removing agroperm along Foothill Blvd. with volunteers.

8) Public Comment:

Ms. O'Brien is reporting on STNC meetings for CV Weekly. She promised to cover future meetings at the start time of 6 p.m.

Joan says Foothill/Tujunga Canyon Blvd. has a "No Right Turn On Red" sign that's confusing and too high to be seen. When it was originally lower, it was vandalized.

Mark Dutton has baby oak trees from the library's acorns. Needs to get someone to plant it.

9) **Meeting Adjourned** at 7:15 p.m. The next STAT meeting is 23 May, 6:00 p.m. at the Library.

-Minutes by Jon von Gunten-