

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA
Sunland Tujunga Neighborhood Council
Special General Board Meeting
Minutes

October 8, 2025, 7pm

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

Draft

1. **Welcoming remarks:**
 - a. **Call to order & Flag salute** - Lydia Grant at 7:02pm, with Leny Freeman leading the Pledge of Allegiance
 - b. Board Retreat - #binders
 - c. Emergency Preparedness Committee first meeting. Lydia gave a brief update; the Board is still in the process of organizing at this time.
2. Discussion/Possible action to **appoint Education Representative**, no applications received per Cindy.
3. Discussion/Possible action to **appoint Region 2 Representative**, no applications received per Cindy.
4. Discussion / Possible action to **appoint Region 4 Representative**, no applications received per Cindy.
5. Discussion/Q&A with **LAPD, LAFD, Elected Officials/Representatives, DONE, NC Budget Advocates, City Departments**
 - a. **Officer Coloca, LAPD**, gave a status on crimes in her (Tujunga) area which are in general down. Officer Coloca cautioned about squatters and solicited help in identifying vacant properties, noting that evictions when squatters are established can take months. Coloca asked for help in identifying illegal vehicles (e.g. RVs), commented on the successful recent meeting at Joselito's (Tacos with a Cop) which focused on vacant homes and how ownership of homes can be illegally accomplished, and commented on local gangs and graffiti. Barry identified an area where there is graffiti at this time.
 - b. **Officer Godoy, LAPD**, gave a status on crimes in his (Sunland) area which are also generally down. Godoy commented on an encampment (Range Rover) in Sunland Park and a stabbing that took place. Lydia, Mark and Jon commented. Godoy suggested that graffiti reports be input (on-line) to remove graffiti expeditiously.
 - c. **Battalion Chief Lambert, LAFD Battalion 12**, suggested signing up for emergency alerts from the City, particularly with 'fire season' coming up. Comments and questions came

from Jon, Cindy, Cheryl and Lydia. Lambert said that water supply to the fire hydrants are checked annually.

- d. **Alex Avenesyan, Assemblymember Schultz Office**, discussed current bills in process and said that Assemblymember Schultz planned to be at the next STNC General Board meeting. Lydia asked that Avenesyan recommend to Schultz not support SB79. Mark noted it should be vetoed and Lydia agreed.

6. **Roll Call**, Voting Eligibility - Karen Moran, Recording Secretary & Completion of City / DONE
Required trainings status for the STNC board & committees

Board Member	Roll Call	Funding Voting Eligibility	Board Appointment
Lydia Grant	Present	Yes	President
Armen Mardirousi	Present	Yes	1st VP
Melissa Sagastume	Present	Yes	2nd VP
Barry Glover	Present	No	Treasurer
Cindy Cleghorn	Present	Yes	Correspondence Sec
Karen Moran	Present	Yes	Recording Sec
Leny Freeman	Present	Yes	Region 1 Rep
Brenna Gibson Redpath	Absent	Yes	Region 1 Rep
Sherry McCoy	Present	Yes	Region 2 Rep.
VACANT			Region 2 Rep
Mikal McEnany	Absent	Yes	Region 3 Rep
Dillon Dorothy	Present	Yes	Region 3 Rep
Jon von Gunten	Present	Yes	Region 3 Rep.
Vicky Cerpa	Present	No	Region 4 Rep
Dante Jose Calvo	Present	Yes	Region 4 Rep
Mark Seigel	Present	Yes	Region 4 Rep

Board Member	Roll Call	Funding Voting Eligibility	Board Appointment
VACANT			Region 4 Rep
Cheryl Schmidt	Present	Yes	Public Safety Rep
Nina Royal	Absent	Yes	Senior Rep
Vartan Keshish	Present	Yes	Community Interest Rep
Doug Chapin			Member of the Community (MC)
Wilcer, Garineh			MCs, full names not disclosed.
15 present; 3 absent (18 total); Note: Dante had to leave after Roll Call			

7. Discussion: Review newly released <https://lafd.org/fire-prevention/brush/fire-zone/fire-zone-map>.
8. **Defensible Space Regulations / Zone 0 / Ember-Resistant / High Fire Severity Zones / Governor Newsom Executive Order N-18-25** Motion to submit CIS to CF 10-2468-S2 - at City Council 10-7-25.
 - Lydia noted that bill in process states that everything within 5 ft of the home has to be removed entirely; this bill is being pushed through with minimal community input. Lydia noted that STNC is working to get a reconsideration of the high fire zone map which currently excludes portions of the area (Foothill Blvd) although the excluded area is surrounded by a high fire zone designation. (**Ember-Resistant Zone**, extends **0-5 feet** from a home and requires the most stringent fuel reduction to prevent ember ignition. This zone requires clearing all dead vegetation, flammable materials, and combustible landscaping like wood mulch or bark to prevent fire spread to the structure.) This is an Executive order from Newsom.
9. **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS.** None.
10. **Funding Items.**
 - a. Motion to approve outstanding Monthly Expenditure Reports

- A motion was made by Armen and seconded by Barry. Cindy said we now have June and August MERs that we can vote on, explaining the MER expenditures and rollover, etc. A vote was taken which passed.

Item 10a. Motion to approve outstanding Monthly Expenditure Reports					
Motion: Mardirousi Second: Glover					
Yes	No	Abstain	Ineligible	Recuse	Absent
Grant, Mardirousi, Sagastume, Glover, Cleghorn, Moran, Freeman, McCoy, Dillon, VonGunten, Seigel, Schmidt 12 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 1 ineligible, 5 absent, 18 total			Cerpa		Redpath, McEnany, Dorothy, Royal, Keshish

- b. Motion to approve funding for replacement of STNC SWAG items - \$5,000.
- A motion was made by Barry and seconded by Melissa. Melissa discussed items planned to be purchased, with about a \$2300 reserve. Barry asked if reserve would be allocated just for SWAG and Melissa said yes. Cindy asked if Melissa would have specific items and what the lead time will be; Melissa said undetermined at this time. Jon suggested changing SWAG to “promotional”. Lydia suggested Chapstix with STNC logo as one item. A vote was taken which passed.

Item 10b. Motion to approve funding for replacement of STNC SWAG items - \$5,000					
Motion: Glover Second: Sagastume					
Yes	No	Abstain	Ineligible	Recuse	Absent
Grant, Mardirousi, Sagastume, Glover, Cleghorn, Moran, Freeman, McCoy, Dillon, VonGunten, Seigel, Schmidt, Keshish 13 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 1 ineligible, 4 absent, 18 total			Cerpa		Redpath, McEnany, Dorothy, Royal,

- c. Motion to approve up to \$500 to buy candy for Halloween Carnival at Sunland Park to be held on 10-31-25
- A motion was made by Melissa and seconded by Vartan. Lydia described the event which we will have a booth at. Sherry asked if there would be a Halloween Village noting that they needed help to man it last year which our members volunteered for. A vote was taken which passed.

Item 10c. Motion to approve up to \$500 to buy candy for Halloween Carnival at Sunland Park to be held on 10-31-25					
Motion: Sagastume Second: Keshish					
Yes	No	Abstain	Ineligible	Recuse	Absent
Grant, Mardirousi, Sagastume, Glover, Cleghorn, Moran, Freeman, McCoy, Dillon, VonGunten, Seigel, Schmidt, Keshish 13 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 1 ineligible, 4 absent, 18 total			Cerpa		Redpath, McEnany, Dorothy, Royal,

- d. Motion to approve up to \$1,000 sponsorship to McGroarty Art Center for Chili Bowl support to be held in December.
- A motion was made by Barry and seconded by Melissa. Cindy described the event which supports renting a Golf Cart to help people get up and down the hill, noting that at the last event McGroarty could not have the cart which STNC had provided \$500 for and was insufficient to rent the Cart. Jon asked for clarification. Cheryl asked if it was feasible to buy a Golf Cart vs. the \$1,000 rental which Barry supported. Lydia said that discussions about buying a Golf Course could be done in the future. A vote was taken which passed.

Item 10d. Motion to approve up to \$1,000 sponsorship to McGroarty Art Center for Chili Bowl support to be held in December					
Motion: Glover Second: Sagastume					
Yes	No	Abstain	Ineligible	Recuse	Absent

Grant, Mardirousi, Sagastume, Glover, Cleghorn, Moran, McCoy, Dillon, VonGunten, Seigel, Schmidt, Keshish 13 yes, 1 no, 0 abstain, 1 ineligible, 4 absent, 18 total	Freeman		Cerpa		Redpath, McEnany, Dorothy, Royal,
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e. Motion to support Tree Lighting event at Sunland Park to be held in December.

- A motion was made by Leny and seconded by Armen. This motion is not for funding, but to support the December 5th event which Monica Rodriguez is expected to attend. Melissa said it was the same weekend as the chili event at McGroarty. Comments came from Mark, Barry, Lydia and Melissa. A vote was taken which passed.

Item 10e. Motion to approve Tree Lighting event at Sunland Park to be held in December					
Motion: Freeman Second: Mardisousi					
Yes	No	Abstain	Ineligible	Recuse	Absent
Grant, Mardirousi, Sagastume, Glover, Cleghorn, Moran, Freeman, McCoy, Dillon, VonGunten, Seigel, Schmidt, Keshish 13 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 1 ineligible, 4 absent, 18 total			Cerpa		Redpath, McEnany, Dorothy, Royal,

f. Motion to approve reimbursement for credit card charged by mistake in an amount not to exceed \$20.

- A motion was made by Barry and seconded by Melissa. Lydia explained the situation and comments were made by Mark and Jon. A vendor made the error in using the wrong charge card for a personal purchase and refused to change it. It is now resolved after considerable effort and the STNC charge number deleted from the vendor. A vote was taken which passed.

Item 10f. Motion to approve reimbursement for credit card charged by mistake in an amount not to exceed \$20.

Motion: Glover Second: Sagastume					
Yes	No	Abstain	Ineligible	Recuse	Absent
Grant, Mardirousi, Sagastume, Glover, Cleghorn, Moran, Freeman, McCoy, Dillon, VonGuten, Seigel, Schmidt, Keshish 13 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 1 ineligible, 4 absent, 18 total			Cerpa		Redpath, McEnany, Dorothy, Royal,

11. Discussion/Possible Action: **To approve outstanding General Board Meeting minutes.** A motion was made by Armen and seconded by Vartan. A vote was taken which passed.

Item 11. Motion to approve outstanding General Board Meeting minutes.					
Motion: Mardirousi Second: Keshish					
Yes	No	Abstain	Ineligible	Recuse	Absent
Grant, Mardirousi, Sagastume, Glover, Cleghorn, Moran, Freeman, McCoy, Dillon, VonGuten, Schmidt, Keshish 12 yes, 0 no, 1 abstain, 1 ineligible, 4 absent, 18 total		Seigel	Cerpa		Redpath, McEnany, Dorothy, Royal,

12. Discussion/Action: **Approve Armen Mardirousi as a member of the STNC Land Use Committee.**

- A motion was made by Vartan and seconded by Mark. Armen stated why he was interested in becoming a member. A vote was taken which passed.

Item 12. Motion to approve Armen Mardirousi as a member of the STNC Land Use Committee.					
Motion: Keshish Second: Seigel					
Yes	No	Abstain	Ineligible	Recuse	Absent

Grant, Mardirousi, Sagastume, Glover, Cleghorn, Moran, Freeman, McCoy, Dillon, VonGunten, Seigel, Schmidt, Keshish 12 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 1 ineligible, 4 absent, 18 total			Cerpa		Redpath, McEnany, Dorothy, Royal,
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13. Discussion/Action: **SB79 Update** - City voted to oppose Community Impact Statement & Charter Reform - Discussion/Possible Action: CF-2025-1152 Neighborhood Council Applicants / Registered Sex Offender Status / Disclosure Requirement / Registry Exclusion

- SB79. Lydia gave an update of SB70 with comments from Melissa.
- CF-2025-1152. Lydia gave a description of the bill. Lydia said there was an issue with Studio City NC where she attended a meeting. A community member had researched a potential NC member and found this person had been a school police officer and had been jailed for sexually assaulting students. The Board didn't want to ask directly if the person if they were a sex offender and asked if had previously been in law enforcement - and he said no. They approved him and when they found out, they released him from the Board with the City Attorney getting involved. Lydia felt that we needed to have a position on this including whether they needed to disclose information and if NCs should have to accept them. Comments were made by Jon, Barry, Cindy, Karen, Melissa, Armen and Cheryl that included a caution that this could have impact on other crimes, the difficulty NCs would have to oversee criminal history, the ease of getting the information from websites that investigate criminal histories with websites that specifically identify registered sex offenders with no charge, the position the NC would be in if they accepted a convicted sex offender that would be interacting with children during NC activities, whether NCs could discriminate, what responsibilities and challenges NCs had for investigating potential members, that sex offenses are not like other crimes, and sex offenders are not likely to be rehabilitated even with time served. Rodriguez position is to support keeping registered sex offenders off NC Boards. Lydia concluded that the City has a responsibility to protect people and that further discussions and taking a position could happen at future meetings.

14. Committee & Liaison Reports and Confirm Assignments - by liaison chairs present.

- Homeless**
- Citywide Budget / Budget Advocates**
- LADWP MOU**
- LADWP Committee**
- LANCC**

- f) **VANC**
- g) **PlanCheckNC**
- h) **Emergency Preparedness**
- i) **Sustainability**

Not all items above were addressed but comments were made as noted below.

- Melissa said there are a lot of events coming out and volunteers will be needed.
- Cindy said City Wide Budget is underway with goal to complete before Christmas; if anyone wants to participate, please do. Cindy also highlighted LUC items being discussed including a 60 ft high cell tower behind Sunland Dental (near Taco Bell), with a hearing planned for next Tuesday, JAZZVE (near McDonalds) has put in application for serving alcohol. The next LUC is the 10th November. Melissa asked about funding for flyers, etc. regarding Outreach for the Tower which can be approved per Cindy.
- Lydia said that the Emergency Preparedness Committee is trying to get a date and time to meet.

15. PRESENTATION & TRAINING on the Neighborhood Council (NC) System Bylaws, Standing Rules, BONC Policies, Brown Act (Meeting Agenda. Posting, ENS)

- A. NC Meetings: Agenda Items, Presenters, Meeting Agendas, Making Motions, Community Impact Statements
- B. NC Alliances (Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils - VANC meets 2nd. Lydia said there is a LANCC meeting the first Saturday of the month (Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition (LANCC)) and place monthly.
- C. Thursday on Zoom; LANCC meets 1st Saturday at 10am; PlanCheckNC meets 2 Saturday at 10am, STNC Community Events/Meetings, Other Training Opportunities. Cindy said that **PlanCheckNC** is Saturday at 10am.

16. FINAL ANNOUNCEMENTS - November 12 next Board meeting – Speakers: Assemblyman Nick Shultz and LA County District Attorney Nathan Hochman

- Vartan suggested recognitions for decorations for Halloween. Comments were made by Melissa and Lydia. Lydia said that Certificates could be given with minimal effort to include voting, etc. as Outreach recommended and could include Christmas if too late for Halloween.
- Armen inquired about getting STNC shirts which Lydia said are now in storage and the next time we went to storage we could get them and put in Cindy's store for people to pick up. now in storage. Melissa, per Cindy, can add more shirts in her order if supplies are down.
- Victoria asked if the City budget advocates position have been filled. Lydia said with her now being voted in as a member, she could just go to the meetings. Cindy reminded that there is a meeting in the near future.

17. ADJOURN, 8:43pm.