

Sunland Tujunga Neighborhood Council

Special General Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

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, Meeting started 7:02pm

- a. Welcome, return to Zoom.

2. STNC President's Updates

A. STNC In Person Board & Committee Meeting updates/meeting locations + Update on SB411 (Portantino) regarding NC meetings on Zoom

- Thanks all who worked to have NC go back to zoom, STNC is the first in city going back virtually.

B. Board Vacancy - Region 2

C. Land Use Committee Vacant Seats.

- Pati Potter – Announced that the Sunhill Shopping Center (Gas) where Ralphs/Rite Aid are located have signed agreements for Ross on the upper Sunland Blvd. level and Alta Med on the lower Fenwick side level. Rumors about In-N-Out and TJ Max are not true.

D. Status of STNC Board approved Light Pole Banners

- Cindy Cleghorn – explained that the sites have all been selected and we are still waiting for CD7 to submit the motion to City Council. Ricardo Flores also gave an update during his updates.

3. Roll Call, Voting Eligibility - Karen Moran, Recording Secretary

- Completion of City / DONE Required trainings status for the STNC board - STNC has two board members needing funding training. The board members stated that they have not heard back from DONE to assist with their trainings.
- Board member recusals or paid lobbyists in attendance – none

Board Member	Roll Call	Funding Voting Eligibility	Board Appointment
Lydia Grant	Present	Yes	President
Lallah Rowe	Present	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

Board Member	Roll Call	Funding Voting Eligibility	Board Appointment
Leny Freeman	Present	Yes	Region 1 Rep
KT Travers	Present	Limited	Region 1 Rep
Sherry McCoy	Present	Yes	Region 2 Rep
VACANT	VACANT	VACANT	Region 2 Rep
Mike Goglia	Absent	Absent	Region 3 Rep
Peter Darakjian	Present	Limited	Region 3 Rep
Jon von Gunten	Present	Yes	Region 3 Rep
Belinda Woodruff	Absent	Absent	Region 4 Rep
Trevor Schmidt	Absent	Absent	Region 4 Rep
Mark Seigel	Present	Yes	Region 4 Rep
Ross Herman	Present	Yes	Region 4 Rep
Cheryl Schmidt	Absent	Absent	Public Safety Rep
Chris Rowe	Absent	Absent	Education Rep
Nina Royal	Present	Yes	Senior Rep
Vartan Keshish	Present	Yes	Comm Interest Rep
Quorum: 15 present at roll call, 5 absent			

4. Pledge of Allegiance

5. PRESENTATION / SPEAKERS / Q&A:

- State Senator Caroline Menjivar – Presented an Overview (‘big picture focus’) of what is being addressed in the City (e.g. bills, events, budgets, etc.). Holiday event in Van Nuys December 9th; STNC is welcome to attend.
 - Lydia Grant voiced concerns about density of building and evacuation ingress/egress
 - Jon Von Gunten expressed concern over traffic/accidents in our area
 - Lallah Rowe discussed concern about water/sewage infrastructure that would challenge future growth.
 - Cindy Cleghorn thanked the Senator for improvement/maintenance efforts on freeways

6. Comments: LAPD, Elected Officials/Representatives, DONE, NC Budget Advocates, City Departments

- Sunland LAPD Senior Lead Godoy provided a status on crime in Sunland and Tujunga. Tujunga will have a replacement Senior Lead starting Nov. 16.
 - Lydia Grant comment to work more closely in the future on issues, including emergency evacuation.
- Diana Minor – Diana Miner discussion on Oro Vista Recreational Impacts on Surrounding Neighborhood Public Safety Health not held; Ms. Miner *not able to attend meeting*.
- Michelle Vergara from Mayor’s office provided a status on efforts to improving accessibility to 311, students have free transportation for the coming year in public transportation (e.g. BART), process to stay current with City events via text, City has Job fairs for filling jobs.
 - Lydia Grant questioned vacancies in the city which impact community needs if work/improvements not able to be done due to manpower.
- Declan Floyd, CA State Senator Anthony Portantino’s Office – Thank you for sponsoring Halloween event. Will be having annual holiday open house in December and will send out information when finalized, glad to have virtual meetings again.
 - Lydia Grant expressed gratitude for virtual meetings and noted that requirement for video cameras on was not part of original bill.
 - K Travers questioned Canyon Hills project. Declan noted that City is actively working on a solution noting overall community concerns.
- Christopher Khachadour, reported on bills signed by the Governor that Assemblymember Friedman initiated such as use of cameras for speeding, etc.
 - Nina Royal - question about parking spaces with businesses and apartments which comes down to agreements between the business owners and the apartment owners.
 - Gerardo Barrientos questioned locations for cameras.
- Diana Oganessian, Assistant Field Deputy for County Supervisor Kathryn Barger, General status and Officers holding a food distribution event, drive through event; flyer will be going out this week.
 - Cindy Cleghorn asked about how funding Section 8 payments are made - Through the City or through the County.
- City Council District 7 representative Ricardo Flores provided a status and updates on many projects going on at this time (e.g. construction on Foothill Blvd, cross-walk, ADA access, parking issues).
 - Pati Potter would like information on contacting neighbor next to Elk’s Lodge to work with them and lessen their impact on the Elk’s parking lot.
 - K Travers question about putting a camera at Ora Vista and Foothill; already targeted for a camera.
 - Lydia Grant– question about Winter Wonderland event, and update on pole banners. Ricardo has a list of banners and will update next month.
 - Cindy Cleghorn noted that speeding related signs are great but the one near Smart and Final is blocked by a tree.

- Lallah Rowe questioned STNC participation in Christmas event as a guest or active participant. Alziri Camarena, DONE representation, asked that perhaps STNC have a table at event.
- Lydia Grant noted that we participated in Halloween event and appreciated being involved.
- Pat Kramer noted that the High Speed rail project may impact community air and water, expressed appreciation for speed sign at Ora Vista and Foothill and inquired about status of hiring another Officer for traffic speed enforcement.
- Lydia Grant noted that we host a Town Halls on traffic enforcement in January to update community on changes; Lallah Rowe stated that she could put it together with her Committee.
- K Travers noted that there is an event tab on website but invitations don't go out automatically; it is up to the organization to approach the Council Office. KT also thanked Ricardo for his active participation in our community.
- Aliziri Camarena, DONE representative, provided status of information on website and is working with NCs for in-person and virtual meetings.
 - Glenn Bailey commented on Youth Council and 411 protocols.

7. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS (FUNDING) - MOTION: The STNC Board approves the funding consent calendar items A through F ***[Budget Committee approved 10/25/23]***

- A. Discussion/Action: Approve October 2023 MER
- B. Discussion/Action: Approve reimbursement to Carol Hutchinson for \$114.66 for Board name badges *[previously approved by STNC Board]*.
- C. Discussion/Action: Approve reimbursement to Carol Hutchinson for \$26.46 for dog waste plaques *[previously approved by STNC Board]*.
- D. Discussion/Action: Approve reimbursement to Mapi Moran for storage tubs \$98.50 *[previously approved by STNC Board]*.
- E. Discussion/Action: Approve up to \$1,000 STNC outreach sponsorship to McGroarty Art Center for Chili Bowl event Dec 2 & 3, 2023 prominently displaying STNC on marketing items.
- F. Discussion/Action: Move rollover of \$2,502.29 to office and \$700 refund to Outreach budget *[pg. 9 of 12 in the NCFP Admin Packet]*.

Item 7. MOTION to approve the funding consent calendar items A through F [Budget Committee approved 10/25/23] Motion: L Rowe, Second: Hutchinson					
Yes	No	Abstain	Ineligible	Recuse	Absent
Grant, L Rowe, M Moran, Hutchinson, Cleghorn, K Moran, McCoy, von Gunten, Seigel, Herman, Royal, Keshish 12 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 2 ineligible, 6 absent			Travers, Derakjian		Freeman, Goglia, Woodruff, T Schmidt, C Schmidt, Rowe

8. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS (NON-FUNDING). MOTION to approve the non-funding consent calendar Items A-F.

- A. Motion to approve Nina Royal as a member of the Budget & Finance Committee, recommended by the STNC Budget & Finance Committee 10-25-23.
- B. Approve LUC recommendation to add Peter Darakjian to the LUC
- C. Approve October 2023 STNC Board Meeting Minutes
- D. Approve Amendment to Aug 30, 2023 Board minutes
- E. Discussion/Possible Action approve Community Impact Statement (CIS) regarding holding STNC Board and Committee Meetings in accordance with Senate Bill 411, CF23-1113 and CF23-1114, STNC to return to Zoom (teleconferencing) meetings due to lack of meeting location. [*Two Thirds vote of the board required.* Other CFs 23-0002-S16 and 23-0002-S].
- F. Approve outstanding STNC Board Meeting Minutes not previously approved.

Item 8. MOTION to approve the non-funding consent calendar Items A-F.					
Motion: Travers, Second: Rowe					
Yes	No	Abstain	Ineligible	Recuse	Absent
Grant, L Rowe, M Moran, Hutchinson, Cleghorn, K Moran, Travers, McCoy, Derakjian, von Gunten, Seigel, Herman, Royal, Keshish 14 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 0 ineligible, 6 absent					Freeman, Goglia, Woodruff, T Schmidt, C Schmidt, Rowe

9. Motion to approve support for CF 23-1106 relative to the necessary steps to conduct a Nexus / Feasibility Study to determine if there is a relationship between new development and increased fire, and related matters.

- Carol Hutchinson expressed a concern that the community has too few fire personnel for our population.

Item 9. MOTION to approve support for CF 23-1106 relative to the necessary steps to conduct a Nexus / Feasibility Study to determine if there is a relationship between new development and increased fire, and related matters.					
Motion: Cleghorn, Second: Hutchinson					
Yes	No	Abstain	Ineligible	Recuse	Absent
Grant, L Rowe, M Moran, Hutchinson, Cleghorn, K Moran, Travers, McCoy, Derakjian, von Gunten, Seigel, Herman, Royal, Keshish 14 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 0 ineligible, 6 absent					Freeman, Goglia, Woodruff, T Schmidt, C Schmidt, Rowe

10. Motion to approve non-support for CF 23-1008 Regarding immediate and indefinite moratorium on breeding permits.

- Carol Hutchinson expressed that this would hurt ethical breeders but not affect back-yard breeders
- Lallah Rowe noted that this measure was for dogs and cats (not livestock)
- Mark Seigel and Sherry clarified that this motion was for NON support (e.g. against the measure)
- Nina Royal expressed that measure (in opposition) supported businesses
- K Travers noted that legitimate breeders pay extra fees for animals they intend to breed.

Item 10. MOTION to approve non-support for CF 23-1008 Regarding immediate and indefinite moratorium on breeding permits.

Motion: Cleghorn, Second: Hutchinson

Yes	No	Abstain	Ineligible	Recuse	Absent
Grant, L Rowe, M Moran, Hutchinson, Cleghorn, K Moran, Travers, McCoy, Derakjian, von Gunten, Seigel, Herman, Royal, Keshish 14 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 0 ineligible, 6 absent					Freeman, Goglia, Woodruff, T Schmidt, C Schmidt, Rowe

11. Motion to approve Community Impact Statement against CF 21-0002-S13 regarding Whiteman Airport Closure *with a statement added to include a statement recommending use of available fuels less toxic to the community.*

- Whiteman Airport Closure/Pacoima Community / November 12, 2020 Single-Engine Plane Crash / Public Safety / Air Pollution / Toxic Emissions.
- STNC Supports the Arleta Neighborhood Council statement: We write to you to oppose the closing of Whiteman Airport. Whiteman Airport is a vital part of the East Valley Community offering non-ubiquitous commercial, social and youth programs. The activities carried out at the Whiteman Airport are of critical importance for the commerce, safety, education and enrichment of the community and are unique to the Whiteman airport in the San Fernando Valley.
- The following include activities hosted as reported by the LA County Website:
 - “COMMUNITY BENEFITS:
 - General Aviation Products, Services, and Facilities * Business /Corporate Travel * Aircraft Charter / Air Taxi * Flight Training * Personal Flying (Recreation and Training) * Utility/Pipeline Patrol & Inspection * Aerial Surveying & Observation * Aircraft Storage * Aviation Businesses (Aircraft Fueling, Maintenance/Repair, and Rental, Sale of Parts and Supplies, etc.) Emergency Preparedness & Response * Aerial Fire Fighting Support (utilized by L.A. County Fire, U.S. Forest Service, and other support agencies) * Law Enforcement/National Security * Disaster Relief * Search & Rescue (Civil Air Patrol—U.S. Air Force Auxiliary

Squadron 35 is based at the airport) Community Services & Facilities * Aeromedical / Air Ambulance Flights * News, Weather & Traffic Reporting * Events (Annual Air Fair, Airport Tours, etc.) * Youth Organizations / Educational Programs * Aircraft Viewing Area and Meeting Facilities Destination & Special Events * The airport directly supports approximately 246 jobs. Accounting for the multiplier effect, the airport creates roughly 412 jobs, with associated labor income of nearly \$19 million annually. Economic Impact * The airport and the surrounding communities benefit from the estimated \$54.5 million in total airport-related (direct, indirect and induced) spending each year.”

- Lionel Mares expressed a concern about pollution and desire to ensure they move to cleaner fuel.
- Nina Royal suggested that people that move into the area are aware of the airport before moving in.
- Lallah Rose reiterate that the airport is vital to our community.
- K Travers also commented about having a cleaner fuel.
- Lydia Grant commented that they are already planning to use cleaner fuels.
- Nina Royal requested that the letter be changed to recommend include use of cleaner fuels.
 - *An amendment (K Travers/_____) to include a statement recommending use of available fuels less toxic to the community.*

Item 11. MOTION to approve Community Impact Statement against CF 21-0002-S13 regarding Whiteman Airport Closure with a statement added to include a statement recommending use of available fuels less toxic to the community.

Motion: L Rowe, Second: Royal

Yes	No	Abstain	Ineligible	Recuse	Absent
Grant, L Rowe, M Moran, Hutchinson, Cleghorn, K Moran, Travers, McCoy, Derakjian, von Gunten, Seigel, Herman, Royal, Keshish 14 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 0 ineligible, 6 absent					Freeman, Goglia, Woodruff, T Schmidt, C Schmidt, Rowe

12. UPCOMING Land Use Committee projects: Information only

- 7665 Machrea – Subdivision into 7 single family dwelling lots, zoned RE3-1. LUC will schedule another meeting with the owner/developer. Over 40 neighbors attended the Oct. 16 meeting.
- 9604 Hillhaven - addition to two story home and relief from 20ft widening of street. - tentatively scheduled for Nov. 20.
- 10156-10158 Hillhaven – demolishing 4 single-family homes and replaced with new 3 story 19 unit apartment building with 21 parking spaces- not scheduled yet Project Withdrawn
- 10003 Commerce - Change of use from Video Store to Trampoline Jump Club - tentatively scheduled for Nov. 20.

K Travers asked about the Tree removal permit all board members received and how we can expedite replying as requested. The tree is requesting removal by a neighbor and presented that the City will replace with 2 smaller trees. Carol Hutchinson noted a forthcoming Mayor's meeting for infrastructure where the matter could be discussed.

13. Update on the latest version of the [proposed new Neighborhood Council Code of Conduct](#) and consider submitting updated Community Impact Statement to the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners. *[Board previously submitted non support]*

- Lydia Grant noted that the City version of By Laws was now baselined and it was mandated for all members to sign. The Board of Neighborhood Commissioners passed the latest draft 11-7-23.

14. Committee & Liaison Reports - by committee chairs present:

- Community Improvement & Government Affairs: Lallah Rowe stated there would be a meeting the coming week and there are openings for new members.
- Outreach: Mapi Moran thanked Board members and community members for the website support and requested to please send info (blurb and picture) if you haven't already. Please email Mapi about events so we can get the information in the Newsletter. Outreach event planed for Dec 2 & 3 and Board and Committee members encouraged to come and socialize.
- Youth & Adult Education: Lallah Rowe stated that the next meeting would be Thursday, Nov 16th, at McDonald's in Tujunga. Fire Safety and Historical Land Use Town Halls are planned.
- Beautification: 11/16 @ 6pm @ ST Library - this is change of day/date
- STAT: 11/28 @ 6pm @ ST Library - Pat Kramer would like more members to join. Contact patkramerstnc@gmail.com
- STARC: 11/28 @ 7:30pm @ McGroarty Art Center – K Travers – every month there has been a presentation by local artist and it has been well attended. Welcome to attend this month via zoom.
- Budget & Finance: 1/3/24 @ 6pm
- Executive: 1/3/24 @ 6:45pm

Additional Comments:

- a) Senior Committee - Nina looking for people to be part of Senior Committee and would like to have a social event, location TBD.
- b) Glenn Bailey – The Budget Advocates will have filled a vacancy at this time tomorrow. They have started to meet with City Departments for budget request with a November 17th deadline. City Controller Town Hall meeting about the budget was a good session and the Recording is now available (1hour 8min).

15. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS.

- Lionel Mares noted that he attended California High Speed Rail presentation which was well attended. Imminent domain to get property (underground and above-ground) may be invoked. Can google the Website California High Speed Rail for more information. Also community members should be aware of the Pacoima Restoration proposal and Public Works LA effort to clean up reservoir and dam.
- Pat Kramer noted that the High Speed train route won't go through S-T but will impact the 118 and 210 freeways and Foothill Blvd in Lakeview Terrace.

- Mark Seigel noted that now that COVID is gone he will have ham-radio classes. Please contact him. Classes will be around 10-15 people.

16. PRESENTATION & TRAINING on the Neighborhood Council (NC) System – *Note: this agenda item not discussed.*

- 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. Alliances, STNC Community Events/Meetings, Other Training Opportunities - NC Congress is 9/23 at L.A. City Hall - <https://www.neighborhoodcongress.la>

17. FINAL ANNOUNCEMENTS 18. ADJOURN by 9:00 p.m. Adjourn at 10:08 pm.