

STNC MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, December 9, 2009
North Valley Neighborhood City Hall
7747 Foothill Blvd., Tujunga, CA 91042

Attendance: 58, Audience: 45, Board: 13

1. **Call to order (7:15 p.m.)** by Dan McManus, STNC president. Flag Salute. Introduction of CD2's newly elected councilmember Paul Krekorian. Paul thanked the public for electing him and asked those who did not vote for him to work with him to create a common vision for the City of L.A. He promised to be responsible and accountable to the requests of the public and STNC board.

Introduction of new Fire Department Battalion Chief Dennis Waters. He talked about surveillance efforts going on to anticipate and respond to any mud problems and ground instability as a result of the Station Fire. He asked for a quick response when/if they ask residents to evacuate and mentioned that the danger exists for the next five years, diminishing each year. He asked anyone living near the burn areas to have an emergency bag packed and ready to go with emergency supplies for several days – as well as pet food for those with pets. He predicts a certainty of mudflows with a heavy rain including the possibility of a mud avalanche. Once the mudflow begins, it's very difficult to perform rescues.

Introduction of STNC Board: Dan McManus, Mark Seigel, Cindy Cleghorn, Marti Marshall, Ed Novy, John Blue, Berj Zadoian, Lydia Grant, John Laue, Belinda Woodruff, Linda Casteel. Excused: Jenny Rodriguez and Nina Royal, Tomi Lyn Bowling.

2. **STNC Chair Report/Comments:** Dan noted that the Best of Sunland – Tujunga Business Awards is on. Deadline to vote is 12/31/09. He encouraged everyone to fill out the ballots (online or using paper ballots) for this annual contest put together by STNC VP Tomi Lyn Bowling. A committee was set up to count the ballots consisting of Linda Casteel, Tom _____ and Marti Marshall. Dan acknowledged that Paul Krekorian won the CD2 seat with 56% of the vote over Chris Essel and that voter turnout was low: 15% of registered voters. The dates for STNC Board meetings in 2010 were confirmed for the 2nd Wednesday of each month at North Valley Neighborhood City Hall. He noted that there are no conflicts with major holidays.

3. **Public Comment:**

- Lloyd Hitt: Little Landers Historical Society, invited everyone to their annual Holiday Party at Bolton Hall on December 12th.
- Lydia Grant said she is working with the TV media to try to obtain more media coverage on any issues associated with the rainstorms. She asked that people who notice a potential problem contact her so she can coordinate that effort. Free sandbags are at the fire stations. Bonners also sells them and will make home deliveries.
- Ed Novy invited the public to McGroarty Arts Center's Holiday Boutique on Dec. 12. It is a much-needed fundraiser for their classes and art shows.

4. **New Business:** Motion to fill STNC board vacancies for Region 3 & Group Reps: **(Cleghorn/Marshall) moved that David Cain and Barbara Johnson be appointed as the District 3 representatives for the STNC. The motion carried by unanimous consent.** David, a former board member, offered to serve the remaining time on this vacant board seat until the new board is seated in April 2010. Barbara lives by Haines Canyon and Day Street. She is a single mom and a business owner.

There are still two Group Rep seats open. Cindy noted that groups include any service organization, such as: Sunland-Tujunga Chamber of Commerce, Bolton Hall, McGroarty Arts Center, the Lions, Kiwanis, etc.

5. **Approval of Minutes** of 11/18/09 STNC board meeting. Minutes approved by unanimous consent.

6. **Board Member Reports** Region & Stakeholder Group reps – neighbor issues, updates, outreach events.

- Lydia Grant: is working with the Principal at VHHS to put together a presentation regarding the increase of drug use in the community.
- Belinda Woodruff spoke about the passage of the new law restricting Medical Marijuana Dispensaries.
- Marti Marshall, Scouting Rep, said Scouting for Food was a huge success. Next year, the Girl Scouts and Boys Scouts will do this project together.
- John Laue said his report on the City's Bicycle ordinance would come up later in the meeting.
- David Cain talked about areas in danger of mudslides or flooding in his region.
- Barbara Johnson was evacuated from Haines Canyon due to a danger of mudslides. She talked about keeping STNC in the loop about any future problems.
- Mark Seigel is holding Morse Code and Ham Radio operator classes in January. The classes will be held for 8 weeks.
- Berj Zadoian is researching the amount of auto body and mechanic shops in the area. He noted that they are damaging the environment and said his goal was to try to control the intensity of these businesses.

6. **Land Use Committee Chair Report.** Cindy gave the Land Use report in Tomi Bowling's absence. Cindy reported that the Wired Café, 10045 Commerce Ave. in Tujunga, has been closed for three months. Another business is located there now and has applied for an ABC License to sell beer and wine. A future hearing will be held on this proposal.

Cindy Cleghorn and Mark Seigel recused themselves from the next item, a vote involving Commerce Ave. Lydia Grant then presented the Land Use recommendations for COBRA.

a. **(Grant/Cain) moved that STNC support LUC recommendations for Community Improvement project with COBRA (Commerce Owners Business Restoration Association) for revocable City permits needed for two blocks of Historic Commerce Avenue landscaping improvements in the public right-of-way. Permit will cover tree wells, tile, planters, waste receptacles, and benches. The motion carried: 10-1-0.** During discussion, several board members wanted more information. Dan requested that COBRA present the progress on this project to the board in the future.

b. **Report: Land Use Committee/Community Improvement updates.**

Dan acknowledged Sunland Tattoo business owners Albert & Dorothy Sgambati of 8344 Foothill Boulevard (across from Starbucks) saying they had recently opened their shop but were not told about the Foothill Blvd. Specific Plan when they filed for their Business Tax Permit. Dan invited the owners of Sunland Tattoo to the next Land Use Committee meeting.

7. **Safety and Outreach Committee Reports:** No report.

8. **Treasurer's Report.**— Mark Seigel has filed another quarter of STNC's financial reports with DONE. Ed Novy asked for an update on how much of the funds are available to be allocated. Mark will report on this at a future board meeting.

9. **Unfinished Business:**

a. STNC 2010 Elections – **(Cleghorn/Novy) moved to approve the STNC Elections procedures presented by the City Clerk for the STNC Elections March 27, 2010.** Cindy reported that candidates can file for the board seats starting on Dec. 28th, 2009. This item was then moved to the end of the meeting.

11. **New Business**

a. Lopez Canyon/ FTDNC Issue: Marlene Rader asked STNC to support a letter by Foothill Trails District NC opposing Lopez Canyon Truck Driving Academy's application of a zone variance to operate this school in the Open Space area. If this variance passed, she said Lopez Canyon's Open Space could then be piecemealed for industrial use and it would set a precedent on breaking up protected areas for development. **(Cleghorn/Blue) moved that STNC support FTDNC's letter. The motion carried unanimously.** The variance was filed on Oct. 28. The hearing date is Dec. 18, 2009. In 1996, when the landfill was closed, the City Council passed a motion reserving this area for passive recreational use: hiking trails and equestrian use. Marlene announced a Town Hall meeting at the Lakeview Terrace Recreation Center on Thursday, December 10, 2009.

b. Motion to support STNC Elections outreach expenses. **(Cleghorn/Grant) that STNC designate the spending of the \$8,000 previously approved for elections.** Cindy described the sharing of expenses for ads in the Daily News and North Valley Reporter. The expense of \$1,800 will be split 4 ways (this amount could be lower if all nine NCs participate). Of the previously approved \$8,000 for election expenses, \$6,200 will remain for STNC outreach. **The motion carried 12-1-0.**

c..Motion to approve letter of support to McGroarty Arts Center. *Tabled until January.*

d. Motion to support 210 signage for S-T historic sites: Ed Novy explained that this motion applied to both Bolton Hall Museum and McGroarty Arts Center. Taking each location separately, **(Novy/Grant) moved to support 210 signage for Bolton Hall, a National Historic Landmark. The motion carried unanimously.** Ed noted that CalTrans would charge for the signage, however this motion was only for the process of getting the signage started **(Novy/Woodruff) moved to support 210 signage for McGroarty Arts Center. The motion carried unanimously.**

d. **(Laue/Seigel) moved that STNC support the Ad Hoc Bicycle Committee's three recommendations.** John presented a draft of the motion including three recommendations for creating bike trails/paths. This was a controversial item opposed by equestrian and environmental concerns. Comments included: Mary Louise Eckman of FTDNC, who stated the Ad Hoc Committee's recommendations do not address equestrian's concerns. Kristin Sabo said this process comes under Rec and Parks and should not be deferring to a "special group." She noted that off road biking is illegal in city parks as paths are restricted to open space and family usage. Fritz Bronner suggested this item go through the Parks process not the Dept. of Transportation and asked for clarification on many areas in the motion. Mary Benson supported the recommendations for the trails but not the Chapter 3 recommendation. John then made several amendments to all four recommendations, which were further amended by (McManus/Grant), (see draft). At the end of this process, both STNC and FTDNC's representatives agreed it spoke to their concerns. **The motion to amend the recommendations and the revised motion passed unanimous consent.**

(Cleghorn/Seigel) moved that STNC support the FDTNC position in opposing Chapter 3.31 of the master bike plan and asking that it be removed from the Bike Plan. (Blue) recused himself from this vote. **The motion carried with one abstention and one recusal.**

e. **(Bowling/Laue) moved that STNC cover advertisement for new fully conformed retail businesses who complete Foothill Blvd. Corridor Specific Plan approval process including all permits and approvals and as recommended by the Land Use Committee. McManus moved that it be sent to Land Use for more specifics. The motion carried by unanimous consent.**

10. Unfinished Business:

b. STNC 2010 Elections – Brought back for discussion and a vote: Cindy noted that some of the Election Procedure recommendations violate STNC's bylaws. **(Cleghorn/Novy) moved to approve the procedures presented by the City Clerk on STNC Elections Procedures and vote to adopt procedures for March 27, 2010 STNC Elections (see draft).** Cindy requested the board vote on approving this pending the Bylaws Committee reviewing it in response to some outstanding issues. **The motion carried by unanimous consent.**

11. **Public Comments:** Non agenda items: John Blue acknowledged several members of the community who were in attendance:

- Don Appleby, Sunland resident, is interested in a board Group seat.
- Dorothy Sgambati, Sunland Tattoo and Sunland resident.
- Albert S owners of Sunland Tattoo
- Jaimie Turner of Sunland Tattoo

Olina Lowe expressed her interest in Bill Manning's Group rep seat.

Cindy announced several upcoming community meetings including a meeting for community development block grant funding in downtown LA in Dec. and January.

Public hearing regarding saving the oak trees along 8330 McGroarty Street, Sunland will be held on Monday, January 11, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. City Hall.

12. Meeting adjourned at: 9:47 p.m.

- *Minutes by Pat Kramer, Kelly Services* -