

STNC Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 9, 2010
North Valley Neighborhood City Hall
7747 Foothill Blvd., Tujunga, CA 91042

76 in attendance: 17 board, 59 audience

1. **Call to Order by Dan McManus, STNC President** at 7:10 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance – Flag Salute. Board members present: John Blue, Lydia Grant, Richard Stewart, Cara De Caro, Mark Seigel, Jodie Brittain, Tom Macauley, John Laue, Janet Linsalato, Cindy Cleghorn, Dan McManus, Tomi Lyn Bowling, David Cain, Barbara Johnson, Olina Lowe, Ed Novy and Belinda Woodruff. Nanci Calliouet was absent. David Cain contributed chicken wrap sandwiches and Lydia Grant pasta salad.
2. **LAPD Report:** Senior Lead Officer Rich Wall announced the arrest of four people who were burglarizing Tujunga homes. He asked stakeholders to call the police if they notice strangers knocking on doors. This ploy is used to see if someone is home before attempting a break-in. He invited everybody to attend the Neighborhood Watch meeting the following week.
3. **Nate Jones, new Field Deputy for Councilman Krekorian,** reported the Oro Vista Project (Riverwood Ranch crossing) is nearly completed. New trash cans and benches have been installed on Commerce Ave. The Councilman opposes the merger of DONE with the Community Development Department. Councilman Krekorian will participate in the July 4th parade in Sunland.
4. **Approval of Minutes:** The May board meeting minutes were approved unanimously with one correction.
5. **STNC Board Orientation** – Cindy Cleghorn, STNC Secretary, reviewed the orientation points for the new board.
6. **710 Freeway Tunnel expansion.** John Blue spoke on behalf of the extension as a way to alleviate traffic and allow for a faster route to Long Beach.
Tom Williams spoke against the extension citing the possible destruction of 500 homes in El Sereno. The proposed freeway would be 4 lanes wide. He said it would increase traffic through residential areas, including Sunland-Tujunga.
Joanne K. gave a historical review of the 710 tunnel saying costs have risen since it was first introduced. She anticipates it would increase traffic along the 210 through Sunland-Tujunga.
(Unknown speaker) talked about using rail transportation instead of trucks for shipping.
Nina Royal stated that from a health and safety standard, the 710 extension would destroy the clean air that this area is known for and could cause health issues for people with respiratory problems.
(Cleghorn/Cain) moved that STNC take a stand to oppose the 710 freeway.
(Unknown speaker) said the freeway extension would create stop and go traffic through the Foothills.
Ed Novy said more traffic was not necessarily a ‘bad thing’ and that tolls could raise money for highway work. He believes with the tight environmental controls, there would not be any change in air quality from the 710 expansion.
Tomi Bowling noted the rich history of Sunland-Tujunga stating she is opposed to having more traffic on the 210 that then impacts us through Sunland-Tujunga.

(Unknown speaker) said the community needs to put their foot down and demand a rail alternative.

Belinda Woodruff cited studies on the affect of diesel fuel on kids with an increase in emphysema cases.

Mark Seigel believes the rail system would be more efficient and cheaper than putting a tunnel through.

A straw poll of the audience indicated the majority supported the motion that the STNC oppose the 710 freeway extension. The motion carried 16 – 1-0 (Blue opposed).

7. **Land Use Committee Recommendation – (Bowling) presented the LUC recommendation that STNC supports the appeal filed by the STA (Sunland-Tujunga Alliance) regarding Determination by City Planning for 7937 Foothill Bl., Sunland (change of use from drive-thru to propane).** Abby Diamond said the STA appealed the decision by City Planning on May 26, 2010. They are waiting to hear when the appeal will go to the North Valley Area Planning Commission. **The motion carried unanimously.**

8. **Public Comment:**

Sonia Tatulian announced an S-T Chamber of Commerce luncheon with Supervisor Mike Antonivich on June 30 at noon at the Elks Lodge (\$15.00).

Rotary Club President **Ellis Robertson** talked about the \$7,000 shortfall in putting on the S-T July 4th parade. He suggested those marching in the parade make donations to offset these fees.

Susan Stewart spoke on behalf of the Rotary Club requesting donations from the public for the parade and announced “Dance Night” at the Elks Club and a Liars Contest on Tuesday, June 22 at Old Towne Cafe.

Diane Shaw, candidate for the 38th Assembly, said she is becoming knowledgeable about septic tanks and monopines.

Virginia Clark, S-T Historical Society, invited the public to a show about disasters.

Joe Barrett announced the S-T Alliance and Devil Dog Ranch presentation on Co-existing with Wildlife on Monday, June 14th.

Abby Diamond, S-T Alliance, talked about the appeal filed against the Lopez Canyon Truck Driving Academy, a move which violates Open Space. The City Council’s Planning and Land Use Committee will hear the appeal on June 15.

Marlene Hitt announced open poetry readings by the Village Poets of S-T at Bolton Hall on the 4th Sunday of every month.

Marynance Shellenbach, Lions Club, announced the Watermelon Festival August 13-15, 2010. She encouraged everyone to buy tickets for the girls running for Queen to raise money for charity. She asked for volunteers to help out noting their new attraction: a Kid’s Zone. The Festival is also seeking local parking lots to accommodate visitors.

Fred Fisher announced efforts to create a walking class at VHHS. Due to economic reasons, the school is going to close the stadium unless they get funding. The stadium track is used daily for exercise by hundreds of our neighbors.

Tom Williams, El Sereno resident, talked about septic tank and storm water fees.

Nina Royal talked about the need for qualified City Council candidates for the 2011 election. As editor of the North Valley Reporter, she spoke about the paper’s need for advertisers.

Rotary Interact Club Presidents Noemi and Leslie introduced the incoming officers, Jonathan and Verna. Noemi and Leslie are graduating and were thanked for their efforts to organize the Students Against Drugs Walk, their contributions to the Community Garden and other efforts, such as the Art Exhibition to help victims of the Station Fire.

Ed Novy announced McGroarty Art Center’s Ceramic Fair and acknowledged Diana Shaw, Assembly candidate, for showing up for many community events. In recognition of Region 4, he

awarded a Community Spirit Award to Richard Stewart for his stone sculptures on Tujunga Canyon Blvd.

Mark Seigel announced a series of Ham Radio classes he will be teaching.

9. LA City Budget Report – STNC & North Valley Area NC Budget rep Ed Novy said many city services will be cut in the next fiscal year including fire services, libraries and parks. He suggested looking at ways our community can take care of itself. Currently, the city is looking at potentially selling Ontario Airport, the Convention Center, the L.A. Zoo, and property in Mammoth to outside entities in an effort to raise money.

10. (Cleghorn/Blue) moved that the **STNC** oppose the Mayor's proposal to merge **DONE** with **CDD**. **(Novy/Woodruff)** moved that the motion be split into two independent motions addressing the merger of **CDD** with **DONE**, and the second to oppose the funding portion. The amendment carried.

(Cleghorn/Blue) moved that the **Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council (STNC)** opposes any efforts to merge the **Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE)** with the **Community Development Department (CDD)**. **Neighborhood Councils** were created by the **Charter of the City of Los Angeles** and the **CDD** was created by ordinance. Two different entities with different purposes. The motion passed unanimously.

(Cleghorn/Blue) moved, "The **STNC** supports simplified funding procedures as presented by **Paul Hatfield, Neighborhood Council Valley Village and Adrienne O'Niell, Harbor Gateway Neighborhood Council**. Their interim proposals will keep neighborhood councils from any funding interruptions that might occur on **July 1, 2010**. The **STNC** looks forward to working with the Mayor, City Council and Neighborhood Councils for other alternatives to the benefit and support to Neighborhood Councils and their advisory role for the citizens of the City of Los Angeles now and in the future." The motion as amended carried unanimously.

(Novy/Blue) moved that **STNC** submit the **Community Impact Statement** to the **City Council** so it becomes part of the record: that **STNC** has voted in opposition of the merger of **DONE** and **CDD**. The motion carried unanimously.

11. Board Appointment: **(Cain/Grant)** moved to appoint **Sunland resident Brenda Fortune as Region 2 representative**. Brenda recently moved back to Sunland after raising a son here and graduating from **VHHS**. She's excited about serving on the board.

12. STNC committees: Dan explained the bylaws as it relates to committee meetings and choosing a chairperson. Ad Hoc committees do not require a board member to serve as the chair.

13. Treasurer's Report & Updates on STNC Funding – Treasurer **Mark Seigel** updated the board on bills submitted to **DONE** for approval. **(Seigel/Bowling)** moved that **STNC** approve the **June 2010 STNC Financial report**. The motion carried unanimously. **(Seigel)** moved the **Budget Committee recommendation that STNC allocate \$1,000 to the Sunland-Tujunga/Shadow Hills Rotary Club to help cover City permit fees for street closures and other City fees for the annual 4th of July Parade**. [**STNC FY2010-11 Budget allocation: \$500 from Account #2040 (elections) and \$500 from Acct. #2030 (Misc. Outreach)**]. The motion carried unanimously. The next **STNC Budget Committee meeting** will be **7-29-10**

14. Land Use Committee Report – Tomi Lyn Bowling, LUC Chair announced: The Bureau of Sanitation (BOS) has put the proposed Septic Systems ordinance on the back burner due to community opposition. T Mobile's proposed 60' cell phone tower was abandoned due to quick action by Councilman Krekorian's Office. The Council Office had boulders placed in the Tujunga Wash to prevent trucks from driving in after a call from a concerned resident. Angeles National Golf Course's hearing for their appeal by the Department of Fish and Game has been extended. Commissioner Andrea Alarcon has resolved the issue at Riverwood Ranch crossing. The media carried several stories about the homeless problem in the Tujunga Wash. A sweep was done and several transients were arrested on outstanding warrants. Most of the medical marijuana stores have been closed in the S-T area but there are some still not in compliance with the new ordinance. A Food Bank has been established at 11350 Satcoy Street where residents can pick up fresh produce for a minimal charge. Mary Benson at the Council Office has the details. A car wash is being proposed for the Mobil Station at Floralita and Foothill. This will be presented at the next LUC meeting. There are a few vacancies now on the LUC. Contact Tomi if interested.

15. Board Reports:

- Lydia Grant said the Council Office is putting out petitions to request the MTA move their bus stop by Vons to just outside VHHS so as to address student rowdiness. Due to cutbacks in funding, VHHS now has Scrip that consumers can use when shopping at Vons to help fund the Swim Team.
- Richard Stewart announced efforts to help fund the 4th of July Parade.
- John Laue is organizing a community bike ride after the success of the initial bike ride to celebrate the opening of the new bike lanes on Foothill Boulevard.
- Janet Linsalato talked about how police averted a drug buy in her area.
- Cindy Cleghorn reviewed correspondence STNC has received.
- Dan encouraged everyone to attend the Parade and buy a ticket to the fireworks to support the community.
- Tomi asked for volunteers to supervise a water game at the Fireworks Festival on the 4th of July.
- David Cain requested everyone bring picnic refreshments for the next STNC meeting on July 14, 2010.

15. Meeting Adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

- Minutes from audio by Pat Kramer, Kelly Services –