

Sunland –Tujunga Neighborhood Council
Board Meeting Minutes – November 18, 2015 - Draft
Held at North Valley Neighborhood City Hall

Board members in attendance: Mark Seigel, David Barron, Julie Cuddihy, Susan Mona, Gail Carlson, Cindy Cleghorn, Charlie Bradley, Jorge Martinez, Pat Kramer, Nina Royal, Jon vonGuten, Arsen Karamians, Dana Stangel, Marlene Hitt, Jim Moore. Absent: Brenda Fortune, Sergio Soto, Janet Paz, Maureen O'Byrne.

Meeting called to order: 6:50 by Mark Seigel. **Pledge of Allegiance** led by :*Julie Cuddihy*. A moment of silence was held for all the people in Paris and military personnel. Board Introductions.

Motion (Cleghorn/Bradley) to approve the October 14, 2015 minutes approved unanimous.
Motion (Hitt/Carlson) to approve STNC Monthly Expenditure Report approved unanimous.

President's report: STNC Liaison. No one was appointed to the board of public works liaison continued to the December meeting. Mark talked about the 5 Steps to Neighborhood Preparedness meetings and the importance of emergency preparedness. Only \$40 of the \$200 approved by the STNC for candy for Sunland Park Halloween event was spent.

Motion (Carlson/Barron) To approve letter to Councilman Felipe Fuentes asking that a reward for any information leading to the identification, apprehension and conviction of the person(s) responsible for the death of Julia Moniz. Her body was found on October 17th 2015 in the Tujunga Canyon Wash. Julia Moniz's sister and mother spoke in support of the motion. The motion was amended (Barron/Moore) to include additional wording regarding a monetary amount failed. The original motion then passed 18-0-1.

A comment that Lucinda Williams name should also be included in the letter to Felipe Fuentes could not be included because it was not noticed per the Brown Act.. Lucinda Williams body was found in a culvert in Sunland. The circumstances surrounding her death are also unknown.

John Laue arrived 7:15 p.m.

Emergency Preparedness Speakers: **Brian Schneider** spoke about the wash clean up. The clean up took place in the wash in the area near the Riverwood community that has had large homeless/transient encampments and dangerous encounters by recently released criminals (Prop 47). Eviction notices were given to move out the encampments. A partial cleanout was conducted but stopped due to threats of violence. LAPD helped tremendously. Most of the people were not dangerous and it was sad to see the living conditions. Filled ten 40 ft. roll offs and there is still more debris to cleanup including hazardous debris. Lots of drugs found. The property owner spent about \$15,000 to clean out. Because of public policy these people ended up on her property and wouldn't leave. The City would not help her. The only government official to help was Assemblywoman (AD39) Patty Lopez. CM Fuentes refused to help. Every public agency had permission from the property owner. Overall 220 volunteers throughout the three days. Up to 150 people were living in the wash. Nine of them are in homes now and others have gone to the shelters, others moved into the DWP area of the wash and others are coming back. Brian deals with this everyday. The neighbors were not safe with these conditions. 55-80 camps were in that acreage. Brian said he could not let his kids play outside. This has been going on and getting worse in the last three years. You could walk the wash before but not now. There's a lot of outreach to the surrounding owners. When the conservancy bought the golf course property the homeless moved further up. LA Times article has served to take things more seriously. Calls to the police are down 50% since the cleanout. There are people working behind the scenes on the problem. Brian talked about the possible hazards and safety to the environment and the need to be prepared. The SMMC is helping, the rangers are awesome and other meetings are being coordinated. Brian said they are not done. This is a first step. Removal of bio hazards is complex. Brian thanked all in the community for their amazing support.

Motion (Carlson/Royal) to support the **CD7 Open Letter** regarding neighbor concerns; repeal of Prop 47, need for more LAPD officers and patrols, moving of not-for-profit recycling centers away

from neighborhoods, enforcement of existing laws. Over 2,000 people have committed to signing the **CD7 Open Letter**. Motion passed unanimous.

LA County El Nino Preparedness: Jarrod DeGonia (SFV Field Deputy for Supervisor Antonovich), **Mr. Reeb, Mr. Lilly (Public Works)** gave a presentation on El Nino preparedness and the Big Tujunga Canyon Mitigation. Jarrod suggested that everyone should enroll in Alert L.A. County. For LA City enroll in ReadyLA. Jeff Reeb, LA City Emergency Management spoke about being prepared. Speaker complimented the community on their sense of community. Recommends we pay attention to the weather. Be prepared with sand bags. Sometimes a storm drain can be blocked. The County is very focused year round on preparedness and concerned about earthquakes, flood control, police and fire, homeless. Sheriff's Dept. is also very involved. If you need resources, LA County.gov/elnino website is regularly updated. Mr. Lilly talked about the Flood Control District which was formed in 1915. Complex infrastructure system. A strong El Nino results in flooding. \$160 million has gone into updating the dams. The Big T dam is in good shape. Valve is expected to be replaced in 2017.

The full presentation is at <http://www.lacounty.gov/elnino>
Sign up for alerts at <http://portal.lacounty.gov/wps/portal/alertla>

Jarrod spoke about the shift of homeless from LA City to LA County to Private Property areas back and forth. LA County has an allocation toward homelessness of \$3 million for shelter because of El Nino. CM Fuentes office reached out to Antonovich for some of that money to cover costs for shelter during El Nino in the northeast valley. Question regarding reopening Camp Roth for the homeless responded that it would be cost prohibitive at this time.

Board & Committee Reports: Pat Kramer - Oro Vista Park did have homeless after the clean out and will report to LAPD if any issues. Marlene Hitt announced the holiday party with the Randy Van Horne singers at Bolton Hall on Dec. 12 at 1 p.m. Dana Stangel did not have meeting space for the Animal Issues committee meeting but will meet in January. Fixnation is will present next week at the ST Library regarding feral cats. Committee is still looking for a location to hold meetings. NHOER will have an awards event including food and coat drive. Spirit of Johny Carpenter Award will be presented. Beautification Gail Carlson said All Green will be out on 12/5 for an E-Waste event at Sunland Park. New SLO is Gloria Caloca. DOT Art Boxes update. Laena said that a letter of agreement is being drafted by the city attorney. Gail asked Laena Shakarian from CM Fuentes about the delays and she has relayed the concerns. Charlie Bradley said that the Great Streets committee will be back on track first and third Mondays, next meeting Dec. 7, location to be announced. Mark Seigel gave a report on various locations for STNC and committee meetings. Will take some time to work through the locations and dates.

Nina Royal left at 8:30 p.m.

Neighborhood Watch: Jon vonGuntzen said that meetings will still be held at NVCH at 6 p.m. on third Tuesdays.

Arts, Culture, Recreation / NC Budget Advocates - Krystee Clark talked about upcoming events at McGroarty and Artisyn Studio. Also the Budget Advocates service report card to rate city services and show our Councilman exactly what we need.

Land Use: Cindy Cleghorn presented LUC committee recommends approval of comment letter and support for Conditional Use for beer and wine regarding 8349 Foothill The Back Door Bakery. Hearing is Dec. 9 at 11:30 a.m. Beer and wine will be served with meals, not as a bar. Recommendation passed unanimous. Re: 7018 Valmont - they have tentatively agreed to return to the LUC. The Zoning Administrator is aware of the STNC's desire to weigh in. City says 7 units OK, applicant wants 8 units. LUC recommendation to CM Fuentes regarding extension of comment time for the Verdugo Hills Golf Course Draft Environmental Impact Report up to 30 days passed unanimous. Next LUC meeting will be Dec. 7.

Public Comments & Announcements - Suggestion to use Oro Vista park as a dog park. OLL Craft Fair Dec. 6. CIPA bill passed in the State called Blackstart. David Rodriguez (Sylmar resident) said that CM Fuentes downplayed our eviction as just an office. We are a CD7 family and that we should attend each other's meetings and work together. Candace Laughlin said she's

left Rotary and she's never been happier. Brian Cotten is looking for any kind of storage that anyone may have. Email 353brian@gmail.com. Gerardo Barrientos looking for who painted the murals at the 210 and Sunland Blvd under the bridges to be able to clean up. Krystee Clark spoke about CM Fuentes attending Sylmar telling them about our situation and that our district is so lucky to get this homeless assistance for CD7 and its just about displacing one old man. She spoke during public comments at Sylmar. Gail Carlson said that CM Fuentes treatment feels its personal and that she's been abandoned and slighted. Another speaker talked about seeing CM Fuentes at other CD7 neighborhood councils and that our NCs should meet quarterly and work together. A stakeholder talked about recent break-ins in his area near Woodward & Foothill with people "just walking in" to people's homes.

Motion (Cleghorn/vonGunten) to support Community Impact Statement (CIS) for Council File 15-1138 and submit comment letter regarding the homeless crisis.

The Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council recognizes the homeless crisis in Los Angeles. We have reviewed the motion that would declare a State of Emergency and cannot support it without significant additional information. STNC therefore requests that additional information be made to Neighborhood Councils and that sufficient time be allowed for Neighborhood Councils to review and comment. Items we are requesting clarification include:

- Definition of Micro Units
- Impact of Amending the LAMC to allow Micro Units in residential areas
- Proposed Geographic Distribution of the 82,000 new units being discussed
- Duration of the State of Emergency
- Duration of the proposed changes to the LAMC
- Specific proposed amendments to the LAMC

Motion passed unanimous.

Discussion/Action regarding the future of STNC Board and Committee meetings and office at North Valley City Hall including vote to cover costs of moving, meetings, storage, office space and supplies. Discussion included concern regarding Mr. Fuentes' promise to cover the costs, storage and having to haul around items. We have to move and we have to locate storage. Question to Laena asking if there's any way for STNC to be able to stay at NVCH responded that the councilman has already answered that question. Details regarding funding STNC expenses not responded by anyone. A stakeholder offered to donate a storage container with shelving if we can find a location for it. Motion (Cleghorn/vonGunten) that STNC board approves the recommendation of the STNC Executive as follows:

1. Move Monthly Meeting to Elks located at 10137 Commerce Avenue – 2nd Wednesday of each month between the hours of 5:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.
 2. Move Land Use Committee Meetings to Elks on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month between the hours of 5:30 p.m. and 9:00 p.m.
 3. STNC Committees will meet with prior arrangement at:
 - a. Beautification @ Library
 - b. Arts Culture & Recreation @ Elks or Bolton Hall
 - c. Animal Issues @ Library
 - d. Budget, Bylaws, Executive, Outreach @ C&M Printing or Chamber office
 - e. Safety Committee – Chamber office
 - f. Elections Committee – Chamber office
 - G. Youth - Chamber office
 4. Other committee and special meetings @ Elks with prior arrangement. Estimated cost per meeting \$50 - \$160.
 5. Move STNC for meetings and some office desk and supplies to ST Chamber 8250 Foothill Blvd., Sunland at a cost of \$600 per month x 7 months = \$4,200.00 *
 6. Storage Cost for STNC supplies and files: \$300-600 estimated*
 7. Change official address to 8250 Foothill Blvd., Sunland, CA 91040
 8. Move copier to pay moving cost \$275*
 9. Move Verizon Phone and pay for moving cost \$250*
 10. Replace Banners cost unknown at this time *
 11. Stationery, Envelopes, Business Cards printing cost unknown at this time *
 12. Moving Cost to pack for transport, truck and move office and supplies to storage \$2,920.00 *
- *items bill to Mr. Fuentes for reimbursement.

All of these commitments are month-to-month so the STNC can make changes at anytime by coming to the board with new proposals. Motion passed unanimous.

Discussion/Action: STNC 2016 Election Outreach Plan and Schedule of events; approve budget of \$15,000.00 which includes two mailings, local ads, bus bench, banners, cards, food. Approval includes modifying the STNC budget to establish a line item for 2016 STNC Elections budget. Following are the line item changes to the budget:

Accountant \$1,000
Paper / Toner \$500
Refreshments \$200
Recording Secretary \$500
Fireworks \$7,000
Events \$1,500
General Community Projects \$1,000
General Community Improvement \$2,000
Great Streets \$1,000
General \$300
Total: \$15,000.00

Cindy is expecting a number of candidates to run. This proposal is to show the community and the City that the board is putting an emphasis on STNC elections outreach to the community. Motion passed unanimous.

John Laue left at 9:10 p.m.
David Barron left at 9:40 p.m.
Julie Cuddihy left at 9:45 p.m.

Item regarding funding for Winterfest was pulled for lack of details on the event.

Government representative updates: David Gonzales for LAUSD School Board member Monica Ratliff - office gave a general report asking what we would like to see in the next superintendent. The Assistance League of Flintridge donated \$3,000 worth of books to the library at Sunland Elementary School.

Final Announcements: Upcoming meetings: Animal Issues Nov. 24; Beautification Nov. 30; Land Use Dec. 7. Next STNC Board meeting, Wednesday, Dec. 9 at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 9:47 p.m.