

## **STAT Meeting of 28 Sept 2021**

1. Meeting called to Order: Chair Pat Kramer convened the meeting at 6:02PM. Quorum achieved with 6 members. In attendance were committee members: Jon von Gunten, Cochair, Levon Parian, Barbara Rowe, Roger Swart and George Arakel. Absent: Gerry Sherman. STNC board member Cindy Cleghorn acted as Zoom administrator. Also in attendance was Evennie Flores, who left at 6:18.
2. Pat read the mission statement for the STAT committee. She acknowledged that the Zoom link did not work on the agenda but it did work in Cindy's email, which Pat re-sent.
3. Approval of Minutes: (Jon/Levon) moved and seconded approval of the August STAT meeting minutes. The motion to approve was unanimous.
4. Announcements and Updates by CD7, LAPD and LADOT: Pat read and update via email by Eve Sinclair, CD7 deputy, describing CD7's traffic improvements. There was discussion about what Vision Zero's traffic improvements will look like in our community. Will there be medians erected in the middle of Foothill Boulevard to slow down traffic or will there be bollards, which essentially do the same thing to keep people from crossing lanes.
5. Discussion about community tree-watering event:
  - Roger said that after the tree watering many, many people contacted him through three Facebook pages to praise how our community came together to get a project done, without the complexities of City involvement. He wants to contact store owners to re-ask them to water trees near their shops. Leon watered 5+ trees with his truck and a container.
  - Jon commented on the hardpacked soil and pavers around many trees preventing absorption, so these must be broken up with stout tools so soil can absorb water.
  - Pat contacted CD7/Eve Sinclair to request the council office's help with correcting these issues but got no response or indication that her email was even read. Despite CD7 citing a tree study (done in Virginia) that trees planted along major roadways slow down traffic, Pat has received no cooperation or indication of interest in maintaining the trees or improving the root-choked tree bases.
  - Cindy shared information about Urban Forestry. Pat will contact them and Tree People to see if we can get any help from these organizations. She also has asked for help from Cathy Roberts of Hollywood Beautification Team, and our STNC Beautification committee. She suggested reaching out to anyone else that may be interested in helping with this.
  - Pat asked why Leny Freeman was no longer moderating our Zoom meeting. Leny had some suggestions for a "do it yourself" tree beautification and maintenance event but Roger suggested it was not our place to be hammering and breaking up concrete around the tree wells. Pat also spoke about Eve's idea that we transport mulch ourselves from Lopez Canyon to Sunland to mulch the trees. This would

require a truck, plenty of muscle, and it might not even be the right thing to do in light of the tree wells being too small.

- Cindy said there's a Thursday, 9/30/21, meeting of Urban Forestry and sent Pat info on who to contact - Stefan Strong, who is our new STNC Rep and seems very active in tree matters.
- Pat mentioned that the manager of Ralph's wants to help on tree watering in the future. This may also provide a staging area for volunteers to fill up their watering cans.
- There was discussion about whether to do another tree-watering on Saturday, November 6<sup>th</sup>. It was decided we would wait and see as Pat is going on vacation right before that time.
- Jon will investigate how to get water to roots through rock-hard soil.

#### 6. Committee Reports:

- Pat talked about an incident with a street person who rushed toward her car while she was slowing for the traffic light by Vons. He seemed to jump off the curb next to homeless Patrick and was yelling something at Pat while running into the lanes of traffic. It was dark and Pat decided to lock her doors and keep moving as she was afraid for her safety.
- Pat also sent an email to CD7 asking when someone will finally deal with Patrick. Response came within moments saying they'd done all possible and implied Pat hadn't been paying attention to CD7 efforts.
- Jon spoke on behalf of Gerry that someone he knows said that their insurance rates went up because of all the accidents in our community. He suggested we each reach out to our auto insurance companies to see if that's true, based on our zip codes.
- Jon mentioned STNC's CIS supporting a pending motion before the L.A. City Council motion to allow L.A. Park Rangers to carry firearms. However, that motion has been on hold as our own councilmember, Monica Rodríguez, is chair of Public Safety and has put it off for a vote for several months.
- George mentioned that crossing the street midblock by CVS in Tujunga (and Smart and Final) is a death invitation due to speeders.

7. Public Comment: Cindy mentioned the redistricting proposal which would move Shadow Hills into Paul Krekorian's CD but move him out of Glendale areas, which he now represents.

Pat asked if anyone wanted to have an informal get-together for the holidays. COVID-19 fears were expressed.

8. Set next STAT meeting: October 26 is next meeting.

9. Meeting Adjourned at 7:28.

-Minutes by Jon von Gunten-