

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA
Sunland Tujunga Neighborhood Council
Special General Board Meeting
Minutes

August 13, 2025

DRAFT

*This meeting is being held by the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council using
teleconferencing pursuant to Government Code Section 54953.8(a)(2)(B).*

1. Welcoming remarks:

- A. Call to order, Lydia, 7:02pm.
- B. Flag salute led by Leny.
- C. Approve July 9, 2025 General Board Meeting Minutes. Note: Minutes were approved later in the meeting, after Roll Call had been taken. By the time this vote was taken, Dante Calvo had left the meeting. Motion made by Jon, seconded by Barry. Approved.

Item 1(c). Motion to approve July 9, 2025 Minutes					
Motion: VonGunten, Second: Glover					
Yes	No	Abstain	Ineligible	Recuse	Absent
Grant, Glover, Moran, Freeman, McCoy, John, von Gunten, Cerpa, Sagastume, Keshish <i>10 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 3 ineligible, 5 absent, 18 total</i>			Cleghorn, Siegel, Schmidt		Mardirousi, Redpath, Dorothy, Calvo, Royal

2. Discussion/Possible action to appoint Vice President Outreach.

- A. Cindy shared that she received an interest letter for the position from Melissa. Melissa expressed enthusiasm for the role. Cindy made a motion to appoint Melissa and Vartan seconded it; the motion was approved. Lydia noted that this now opens up the Representative position, the application can be filled out on-line if anyone is interested.

Item 2. Motion to Approve Melissa Sagastume as Vice President, Outreach					
Motion: Cleghorn Second: Keshish					
Yes	No	Abstain	Ineligible	Recuse	Absent
Grant, Glover, Moran, Freeman, McCoy, John, von Gunten, Cerpa, Calvo, Sagastume, Keshish <i>11 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 3 ineligible, 4 absent, 18 total</i>			Cleghorn, Siegel, Schmidt		Mardirousi, Redpath, Dorothy, Royal

3. Discussion/Possible action to appoint **Region 2 Representative** – No applicants per Lydia
4. Discussion /Possible action to appoint **Region 4 Representative** - No applicants per Lydia
5. **Seating of the new neighborhood council board members** – Introductions and Oaths were done at last Board meeting.
6. **Discussion/Q&A** with LAPD, LAFD, Elected Officials/Representatives, DONE, NC Budget Advocates, City Departments
 - A. Officer Caloca. Caloca provided a statu of crime which was generally down, including burglaries, grand theft auto, etc. Caloca noted that National Night Out had a great turn out and provided information about street closure during the event. Contact information for Caloca is 35755@lapd.online and 818-634-0754.
 - B. Officer Godoy. Godoy provided a status of crime; overall crime numbers are down. Godoy attended NNO in Pacoima and said it was a busy event. Contact information for Godoy is 818-634-0705. 36495@lapd.online.
 - C. Ricardo Flores, CD7, Councilwoman Rodriguez Office. Ricardo provided a status about local events, including Hanson Dam paddle boats and swimming, the Verdugo High School swimming pool opening. Victoria asked about street lighting; call 311.
 - D. Alex Avanesyan, Assemblymember Nick Schultz Office. Avanesyan provided a status and said that the Assemblymember would be available at the Backdoor Bakery this Saturday, August 16th. (Reference <https://a44.asmdc.org/events> from CHAT). Lydia commented about SB79 and wanted to make sure that floor votes do not support it; we are a high risk fire area and egress is critical. wants to make sure floor votes do not support it. Lydia also commented about testing in the Seven Hills dump area – we are depending on Alex to help out. The County has now indicated that there is the potential for Valley Fever to result. The County said we can test; testing has to be worked with Public Works. The expected winds are going to cause a big problem. Ricardo said there is not funding to do testing.

Alex will connect with Lydia this week to discuss community needs.

- E. Diana Oganessian, from Kathryn Barger's Office, provided updates from the Office and discussed upcoming events at Castaic Lake and Santa Fe Dam on August 15 and 22, and Hollywood Bowl shows in September (Ref Hollywood Bowl \$1 Ticket Program - Discount Code **D5HBDOLLAR** and <https://www.hollywoodbowl.com/concerts-and-events/experience-the-bowl-for-just-1> from CHAT).

7. **Roll Call, Voting Eligibility - Karen Moran, Recording Secretary & Completion of City / DONE Required trainings status for the STNC board & committees.**

Board Member	Roll Call	Funding Voting Eligibility	Board Appointment
Lydia Grant	Present	Yes	President
Armen Mardirousi	Absent	Yes	1st VP
VACANT			2nd VP
Barry Glover	Present	Yes	Treasurer
Cindy Cleghorn	Present	Yes for funding only	Correspondence Sec
Karen Moran	Present	Yes	Recording Sec
Leny Freeman	Present	Yes	Region 1 Rep
Brenna Gibson Redpath	Absent	Yes	Region 1 Rep
Sherry McCoy	Present	Yes	Region 2 Rep.
VACANT			Region 2 Rep
Mikal McEnany	Present	Yes	Region 3 Rep
Dillon Dorothy	Absent	Yes	Region 3 Rep
Jon von Gunten	Present	Yes	Region 3 Rep.
Vicky Cerpa	Present	Yes	Region 4 Rep
Dante Jose Calvo	Present	Yes	Region 4 Rep
Mark Seigel	Present	No	Region 4 Rep
VACANT			Region 4 Rep
Melissa Sagastume	Present	Yes	Education Rep
Cheryl Schmidt	Present	No	Public Safety Rep

Board Member	Roll Call	Funding Voting Eligibility	Board Appointment
Nina Royal	Absent	Yes	Senior Rep
Vartan Keshish	Present	Yes	Community Interest Rep
Mihran K			Member of the Community (MC)
Doug Chapin, Member of the Public			Member of the Community (MC)
18s total; 14 present, 4 absent			

8. **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS.** None.

9. Discussion/Action: **Appoint Ad-Hoc Committee regarding STNC Storage.**

A. Lydia said that we need to address our storage unit; there is a need to downsize with a lot of paperwork and equipment in the unit now. Cindy would like to start an ad-hoc committee to explore the path forward (e.g. reduction in size, another storage facility, etc.). With a reduced budget of \$25K, the \$810 monthly rental is not trivial. Cindy would like a report by the next meeting. Dante and Jon volunteered. Jon asked about advertising the storage unit on the website for a potential reduction in cost. Leny is willing to go through the paperwork and equipment with the assist of another person; some paperwork goes back to the year 2000. Some paperwork can be digitized. Lydia said we have to match everything to the inventory sheet. Mark asked about the need for chairs and table, would like to share with Council Office. Ricardo said they are full; they have 35 chairs. Lydia said we could need 100 for meetings if they were as in past years and we have about 100-200 chairs in storage. Cindy made motion to start the Ad-hoc Committee and include Barry, Dante, Leny; Mark seconded it.

Item 9. Motion to Approve Appointing an Ad-Hoc Committee regarding STNC Storage					
Motion: Cleghorn, Second: Siegel					
Yes	No	Abstain	Ineligible	Recuse	Absent

Grant, Glover, Moran, Freeman, McCoy, John, von Gunten, Cerpa, Calvo, Sagastume, Keshish <i>11 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 3 ineligible, 4 absent, 18 total</i>			Cleghorn, Siegel, Schmidt		Mardirousi, Redpath, Dorothy, Royal
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10. Approve Petition effort for use of NVCH for community meetings and storage. See item 17.

11. Committees, Lydia reminded that all committee members have to sign Code of Conduct.

A. Next meeting will be committee member updates.

12. Funding Items.

A. Discussion/Possible Action: Budget request from STAT committee up to \$240-Outreach. There was some discussion about tree watering and providing water. Sherry commented that Starbucks donates coffee and other in-town organizations have donated water. Jon and Leny made comments about how the trees that were rescued are in better condition than the trees not attended to (mulching and watering) and that the movement for watering is gradually moving east to Tujunga. Barry made a comment about using extra water from National Night out. A motion was made by Dante and seconded by Barry and the vote passed.

Item 12 (A). Motion to Approve Budget request from STAT committee up to \$240					
Motion: Calvo Second: Glover					
Yes	No	Abstain	Ineligible	Recuse	Absent
Grant, Glover, Moran, Freeman, McCoy, John, von Gunten, Cerpa, Calvo, Sagastume, Keshish <i>11 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 3 ineligible, 4 absent, 18 total</i>			Cleghorn, Siegel, Schmidt		Mardirousi, Redpath, Dorothy, Royal

B. Discussion/Possible Action: McGroarty Art Center sponsorship up to \$1,000-Outreach. Lydia described our historical support for the event (renting a Golf Cart and setting up a table). Comments were made by Lenny and Jon expressing concern about funding \$1,000 in view of our decreased budget. Lydia noted that we get great PR during the event. Barry asked about our support historically and said he would abstain from voting. Lydia said this is one of two events we support for McGroarty and this would be the same day that there are plans to object to SB79 (August 23rd) which might be useful to

educate people. Lydia said that McGroarty has provided a meeting place for the Arts and Culture Committee. Mark and Karen expressed support for supporting the event with Mark noting McGroarty has been a big part of our history and has provided opportunities for artists and events for the Community.

While a motion had been made for \$1,000, a change to the motion was suggested by Jon for support of \$500 instead. A vote was taken to change the original motion to \$500. The motion was made by Melissa and seconded by Sherry. The motion to amend the original motion passed.

Item 12B. Motion to approve amending the original motion from \$1,000 to \$500.					
Motion: Sagastume Second: McCoy					
Yes	No	Abstain	Ineligible	Recuse	Absent
Freeman, Von Gunten, Cerpa, Calvo, Sagastume, Keshish <i>6 yes, 4 no, 2 abstain, 2 ineligible, 4 absent, 18 total</i>	Grant, Moran, McCoy, John	Cleghorn, Glover	Siegel, Schmidt		Mardirousi, Redpath, Dorothy, Royal

- C. With passage of this vote, a second vote was taken to approve the change to \$500. The motion was made by Leny, seconded by Jon, and passed.

Item 12(C). Motion to approve sponsoring McGroarty Art Center sponsorship up to \$500.					
Motion: Freeman Second: Von Gunten					
Yes	No	Abstain	Ineligible	Recuse	Absent
Grant, Moran, Freeman, John, Von Gunten, Calvo, Sagastume, Keshish <i>8 yes, 1 no, 3 abstain, 2 ineligible, 4 absent, 18 total</i>	McCoy	Cleghorn, Glover, Cerpa	Siegel, Schmidt		Mardirousi, Redpath, Dorothy, Royal

13. *CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS (NON-FUNDING) MOTION: The STNC Board approves the non-funding consent calendar:

- A. The 2025-26 Proposed Budget adopted by the Los Angeles City Council includes the creation of a new Development Services Bureau (“Bureau”) within the

Department of City Planning (DCP), and the functional transfer of Zoning Review staff from the Department of Building and Safety (DBS) to DCP.

<https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=25-0572> **SUPPORT**

- B. Potential benefits of the permit extensions proposed in Council File 25-0173 against the risks of prolonged disruption, health and safety concerns, and possible economic and social consequences. **SUPPORT**
- C. Status: State Senate Bill 79 must go through the State fiscal committee by August 29.
https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260SB79 – **STRONGLY OPPOSE SB79 & CONTACT MAYOR BASS & CALL TO ACTION. [also include opposition in CF 25-0002-S19]**
- D. CF-25-0247 Department of Building and Safety updated report, dated June 25, 2025, relative to amendments to the Los Angeles Building Code permitting single-exit, single-stairway, multifamily residential buildings of up to six stories. **OPPOSE**
- E. To Government Operations Committee: CF-25-0765 City Administrative Officer report, dated June 23, 2025, relative to the execution of a Personal Services Contract with Information Technology Agency and TPUSA, Inc. for live captioning, offline captioning, translation, and transcription services. **SUPPORT**
- F. CF 25-0753 which supports AB1033 which can allow the ADU be sold separately as a “condo”. **OPPOSE**
- G. Discussion and possible action regarding **SB130/SB131** signed by Governor Newsom which have wide-ranging changes to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and amendments to state housing laws. These were signed 30JUN2025 which became effective immediately. **OPPOSE**

A motion was made to approve the non-funding items A through G by Jon and seconded by Melissa; the vote passed.

Item 13. Motion to Approve Non-Funding Items A through G					
Motion: Von Gunten Second: Sagastume					
Yes	No	Abstain	Ineligible	Recuse	Absent
Grant, Glover, Moran, Freeman, McCoy, John, von Gunten, Cerpa, Calvo, Sagastume, Keshish <i>11 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 3 ineligible, 4 absent, 18 total</i>			Cleghorn, Siegel, Schmidt		Mardirousi, Redpath, Dorothy, Royal

14. **Presentations: Sanitation** -no presentation tonight.
15. **DWP Tour / Trip Opportunity.** Valley Alliance sent out to all members. 2 day bus trip in the past to see where water comes from hydroelectric plant. Dates in Sept, Oct and Nov. Sign up, they pay for hotel and meals. Ref.
<https://www.babnc.org/assets/documents/16/meeting6254ab32838bd.pdf>
16. **Discussion/Action: To set date for STNC Board retreat** prior to next Board meeting.
- A ‘retreat’ meeting is intended to go over how the Neighborhood Council(s) function, from Council Files, the relationship with the City, Brown Act, etc. per Lydia. Cindy It would be 2-3 hours. Lydia and Cindy lead a discussion to see what Board Members preferred – in-person or zoom, day of the week, times, etc. It was decided that the retreat would be in-person on Sunday, September 14th, from 12-2pm. This allows time to approve money for food for the event. Lydia noted that Joselito’s has set up a buffet in the past with 2 dishes and 2 side dishes. Lydia felt the public needed to be included. Mark provided information that said that meetings for general training do not have to include the public, and the Brown Act does not apply. Lydia will review this but felt it would be a very limited number of people from the community that would attend.
17. **Discussion/Action: Approve Letter to Mayor Bass** - Request for Action to Restore Public Safety, Local Control & Enforcement – “A Difference of Opinion” - Final version.
- A. Lydia said that the letter is on hold at this time. Per Lydia, we either move forward with the Petition to ask for STNC to be reinstated in the NVCH building for meetings including giving us the keys for the building (as was historically the case), or accept the condition that Ricardo is suggesting. Ricardo told Lydia that a meeting could be held once a month without police support, but it would have to be doors closed by 8:30pm. Ricardo would attend the meeting and be there only until 8:30pm for building close. While this would save STNC money for use of the facility, it would be untenable for the end time, per Lydia. The meeting would have to end by 8pm for clean up, and many people didn’t even get home from work until 6pm or later. Comments from Vartan, Mihran and Leny were made that we should continue to push back with Mihran suggesting an in-person trip to the City to discuss it, feeling letters did not get attention. Melissa asked about consequences if we didn’t agree to it.
 - B. Lydia expressed annoyance that the City did have funds for the Fire Department but when it wasn’t used they took \$2M and put in a reserve fund for the City. Now that they need the funds they removed, they are charging people for inappropriate fines.
 - C. Melissa asked if we joined with other NCs on issues and Lydia said we make our position available to other NCs and who can take it up also.
18. **Committee & Liaison Reports** - by committee chairs present. Cindy scanned through the following items; there were no formal reports.
- Land Use Committee - Meeting Sept 8 @ 7:00pm - Zoom
 - Beautification: 8/21 @ 6PM - in person @ ST Library

- Outreach Meeting - 8/21 @ 7PM - Zoom
- STAT - 8/26 - @ 6PM - virtual Zoom
- STARC: 8/26 @ 7:30PM - in person @ McGroarty Art Center
- Youth & Adult Education: - TBA
- Budget & Finance: 9/3 @ 6pm - Zoom
- Community Improvement & Government Affairs 9/3 - Zoom
- Executive: 9/3 @6:30pm - Zoom
- Other

19. **PRESENTATION & TRAINING** on the Neighborhood Council (NC) System. No further discussion.

- 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. NC Alliances (Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils - VANC meets 2nd Thursday on Zoom; LANCC meets 1st Saturday at 10am; PlanCheckNC meets 2nd Saturday at 10am, STNC Community Events/Meetings, Other Training Opportunities

20. **FINAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- The next Board meeting is September 10th per Cindy.
- Cindy reminded people about the LA City Charter Reform Commission for Charter meetings on-line (<https://reformlacherter.lacity.gov/>). We need to know what is going on. People on the commission are appointed by elected officials. NCs can speak at the beginning of the meetings.
- Lydia said that National Night Out attendance was easily over 500 people; there were 408 hot dog tickets used alone.
- Victoria inquired about trainings questions from Jose; Lydia will get his contact information for her.
- Cindy said that City budget meetings are starting at this time and it is a great opportunity for anyone to be part of the meetings if interested in the City Budget (go to <https://www.budgetadvocates.org/>)
- Cindy presented a short video on Youtube that Doug Chapin spearheaded about SB79 (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=69DwSgJQ75o>) and thanked Doug for his efforts. Doug will continue to highlight the issue with other videos. Melissa shared a link also for an organization called “United Neighbors”, <https://www.unitedneighbors.net/>
- Jon provided Contact information in CHAT:

PLEASE SAVE THESE CONTACTS!!!

☼ Call 911 for any emergency or a crime in progress.

- ▶ LAPD NON-emergency: 1-877-ASK-LAPD
- ▶ File an LAPD Report Online: <https://www.lapdonline.org/file-a-police-report/>
- ▶ TUJUNGA Senior Lead Officer: Gloria Caloca: 35755@lapd.online
- ▶ SUNLAND SLO: Wil Godoy: 36495@lapd.online
- ▶ SLO for HOMELESS Issues: Eric Herrera: 38507@lapd.online
- ▶ TRAFFIC: Officer Sal Venegas: 35917@lapd.online
- ▶ Volunteer to Help Foothill: Milton Ramírez: 41625@lapd.online

21. **ADJOURN** at 9:28pm