

Sunland Tujunga Neighborhood Council Special General Board Meeting Minutes

June 11, 2025, 7pm
In person at Elk's Lodge
10137 Commerce Ave, Tujunga, Ca. 91042

1. **Call to Order, Welcome** - Lydia Grant, President, 7:06pm
 - a) MyLA311 submissions & Report Non Functioning Street Lights
<https://forms.gle/yGjnKBXDVoFDDYdEA>. Special page is set up for 311 calls; please use for street lights that don't work
 - b) Forming the STNC Emergency Preparedness Committee; Lydia said we will be setting this up. If anyone is interested in joining, please contact Lydia. Egress is critical in the event of an emergency. Pat Kramer said there is a committee that meets monthly downtown that is a City-wide emergency preparedness committee. Lydia said she is aware of it, it is called the Neighborhood Council Emergency Preparedness Alliance (NCEPA).
 - c) Certificates for Mt. Gleason Runners & Academic Decathlon have been handed out.
 - d) Valley Presbyterian - Keep in Touch program for the community. The Valley Presbyterian Church is establishing a program which focuses on people living alone to be able to get a safe-call on a weekly/monthly basis. The Church would like the NCs to promote this program. If anyone in the community interested, contact the Valley Presbyterian Church. STNNC will put the information out and let the Church know if anyone needs the service.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Roll Call, Voting Eligibility** - Karen Moran, Recording Secretary. Lydia reminded people to check on their training. Lydia also noted that we are still looking for someone to take on the role of Treasurer.

Board Member	Roll Call	Funding Voting Eligibility	Board Appointment
Lydia Grant	Present	Yes	President
Armen Mardirousi	Present	Yes	1st VP

Board Member	Roll Call	Funding Voting Eligibility	Board Appointment
Ross Herman	Absent	Yes	2nd VP
Carol Hutchinson	Absent	Yes	Treasurer
Cindy Cleghorn	Present	Yes	Correspondence Sec
Karen Moran	Present	Yes	Recording Sec
Leny Freeman	Present	Yes	Region 1 Rep
KT Travers	Present	Yes	Region 1 Rep
Sherry McCoy	Present	Yes	Region 2 Rep.
Vacant			Region 2 Rep
Mike Goglia	Absent	Yes	Region 3 Rep
Peter Darakjian	Present	Yes	Region 3 Rep
Jon von Gunten	Present	Yes	Region 3 Rep.
Belinda Woodruff	Absent	No	Region 4 Rep
Trevor Schmidt	Absent	Yes	Region 4 Rep
Mark Seigel	Present*	Yes	Region 4 Rep
Deborah Ramirez	Absent	Yes	Education Rep
Cheryl Schmidt	Present	Yes	Public Safety Rep
Nina Royal	Present	Yes	Senior Rep
Vartan Keshish	Present	Yes	Community Interest Rep
Quorum: 13 present at roll call, 6 absent (19 total). **Note that Mark Siegel left at 7:30pm.			

4. **Discussion/Q&A** with LAPD, LAFD, Elected Officials/Representatives, DONE, NC Budget Advocates, City Departments
 - a. Lydia noted that the information that the budget is \$32K does not appear to be accurate; it was not approved. Lydia noted that Traci Parks, Los Angeles City Council, will see if there is a way to get back to \$32K, the previous budget provided.

- b. LAPD and LA Fire – not present. On tactical alert due to unrest in the City at this time.
- c. Natalie Vartanian, Field and Legislative Deputy, Office of Supervisor Kathryn Barger. Natalie noted that she was with Diana Oganessian. Discussions focused on the continuing concerns with the Eaton fire dumping in the Seven Hills area.

There was a meeting on June 3rd to address concerns but it wasn't well attending although on the Council agenda. Dirt dumped had to first be scraped from organic material so it could compact better. Natalie noted that initial notification to the community was not well handled. Lydia said that the packet of information sent to us would be on the STNC website. Peter D insisted that the packet sent to us be provided in a way that he could have a hard copy. Karen Von Gunten, who lives around 200 yards away from the dump, said that she can't open windows due to the smell that still exists (burnt chemical smell). Karen said a couple of feet of fresh soil on top would help. Karen said that Altadena neighbors, who were very knowledgeable about the Altadena debris basins, said that the debris from burnt houses went into the debris basin, and that their own house was above the debris basin. This conflicts with previous claim that it wasn't from the burnt houses. Karen said that reporting the odors in real-time (when they were happening) was a challenge because when the inspectors finally came out, the wind/smell conditions did not exist any longer. Advanced notice is not possible to give.

MC (Member of the Community), Mark, had additional questions about toxicity of sampling. Lydia said the STNC is asking the City to take multiple samples at multiple levels and if the City doesn't do it, we will ask the State. Mark wanted sampling to be witnessed. Lydia said we can ask the County to come out again to address the STNC and that people who have pools have had many problems, such as replacing pool pumps, etc. Jon V said he talked that one elderly lady had to vacate the area due to bronchial issues. Lydia repeated that we have requested additional testing but the Council has been unresponsive. Another MC said our Council woman has been ignoring us for years and NC meetings have not been that productive. Natalie said that if STNC wanted to hire a Lab to do our own testing, it should be able to be done, but would be out of our own funds.

Lydia has a meeting with the State and expressed that she will not give up on the concerns of the community. Lydia has been waiting for 6 weeks to set up a meeting with the City Council Office to discuss the Seven Hills dumping issue. There is an Inconsistent story about the source of the dirt; the initial loads have been covered up with additional loads and contaminant levels in the initial loads need to be assessed. There have been over 1,000 truck loads dumped in our community. In the future, winds can be expected to blow the contaminants all over our community. Lydia is trying to get new sample testing scheduled; currently the unrest/riots in the City have taken precedence. Peter stressed the importance of setting up a meeting in-person with a group of people from the NC. Lydia said we are not giving up on it and she has been trying to meet with Barger for some time. Lydia stressed that we still need the testing done at the

depth of the soil where initial dumping was done, noting that the results from the community sampling were different than the County's results.

- d. Jose Galdamez, Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate (NEA) with EmpowerLA, provided a status of current events and bills. Jose encouraged members, including the newest members, to complete their training. Training status is available on the EmpowerLA website. Leny said that predecessor used to send out reminders and Jose expressed a willingness to do the same. Jose is available to address any member's concerns and problems with the website, training, etc. Jose will send info to the new members soon. Cindy asked if we can approve the agenda funding at tonight's meeting and Jose said yes. Jose answered Leny's question about doing training ahead of time; it can be done but the two year expiration date starts with the date the training is completed.
 - e. Maria Sosyan, Director of Community Engagement, City of Los Angeles. Maria statused current efforts to support the community including funding issues and addressed questions from Cindy, Cheryl and Nina as well as MCs (members of the community) who asked about illegals and social security numbers. Cindy asked if Congresswoman Laura Friedman could come to an STNC meeting and Maria said that would be possible with advance notice. would be open to coming to a meeting, answer was yes with plans in advance.
5. ***Discussion/Action & Updates regarding Truck Traffic with fires debris dropping in Seven Hills. Note – this item was discussed previously during Natalie Vartanian's presentation.***
- Resources LA County, others
 - L.A. City updates
 - County Meeting - June 3 – test results
6. **Discussion: STNC at 4th of July Parade and National Night Out on August 5, 2025.**
- Lydia noted that the City had decided that the 4th of July parade, due to on-going water bombing incidents in recent years, would not be held. However, working with the Elks, American Legion and Rotary, the community provided a petition of more than 500 signatures to have the parade with was granted. Volunteers will monitor for people bringing water guns, etc. and the LAPD will be present. If there are more incidents, the parade will no longer be held. KT noted that it has besmirched our community reputation as word of the incidents has traveled. The parade was gone on over 50 years. Cheryl asked about where STNC members should plan to be during the parade, monitoring or in the truck; Cheryl has been active in getting the truck for the parade. Lydia said we should have some vehicle in the parade, but not necessarily a truck. With a show of hands for who would plan to be in the vehicle, about 5 people were estimated including Lydia and Cheryl.
 - National Night out, August 5th, will need volunteers to help out.
7. **CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS (FUNDING)** - Note: Consent calendar items are considered to be non-controversial and will be treated as one agenda item. Any Board member or stakeholder may request that an item be removed. There will be no discussion of these

items unless an item is removed from the consent calendar, in which case it will go to the end of New Business and be considered as time allows. **MOTION: The STNC Board approves the funding consent calendar: for items B, C and D.**

- A. Removed.
- B. Discussion/Action: Motion to approve Lydia Grant STNC Cardholder
- C. Discussion/Action: To approve STNC Budget package for 2025-26
- D. Discussion/Action: To approve \$80 for STAT June tree watering

Item A had been the MER and it was withdrawn. Items B, C and D were voted on an approved without further comment.

Item 7. Motion to approve the Funding Calendar items B, C and D.					
Motion: Cleghorn, Second: Mardirousi					
Yes	No	Abstain	Ineligible	Recuse	Absent
Grant, Mardirousi, Cleghorn, Moran, Von Gunten, Freeman, Travers, McCoy, Darakjian, C Schmidt, Royal, Keshish <i>12 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 0 ineligible, 7 absent, 19 total</i>					Herman, Hutchinson, Goglio, Woodruff, T Schmidt, Ramirez, Ramirez

8. **CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS (NON-FUNDING)** - Note: Consent calendar items are considered to be non-controversial and will be treated as one agenda items. **MOTION: The STNC Board approves the non-funding consent calendar:**
- A. Discussion/Motion: To approve May 2025 board meeting minutes
 - B. Discussion/Action: To approve STNC Support Letter re: 10105 Commerce - Jain Temple Dome height.
 - C. Discussion/Action: **Council File 25-0002-S19** Subject: California Senate Bill 79 (SB 79) / Abundant & Affordable Homes Near Transit Act Position: **Support City Attorney Letter**
 - D. Discussion/Action: The Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council (STNC) supports a motion by CM Traci Park and Imelda Padilla regarding NC funding at \$32,000 for FY 25-26. A Community Impact Statement will be filed for Council File 25-0600-S7, Budget Proposal for Fiscal Year 2025-2026.
 - E. Discussion/Action to support letter of support regarding school police on Sunland-Tujunga school campuses.

The items were read by Lydia and Nina requested that item C be withdrawn for further discussion. Items A, B, D and E were voted on and approved.

Lydia discussed item C, noting that the letter was available on the STNC website. One concern is that it is an unfunded mandate which means that the if a project goes forward, there is no funding for the related infrastructure needed to support it, citing the 6 story low income building being forced on the community at this time. The concern that these bills are pushed out by Sacramento but don't address these problems. There is no money from the City to pay for fire hydrants, structural, water, etc. Several of these bills are going forward at this time. A vote was taken for item C which was approved.

Item 8. Motion to approve the Non-Funding Calendar items A, B, D and E.					
Motion: Cleghorn, Second: Freeman					
Yes	No	Abstain	Ineligible	Recuse	Absent
Grant, Mardirousi, Cleghorn, Moran, Von Gunten, Freeman, Travers, McCoy, Darakjian, C Schmidt, Royal, Keshish <i>12 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 0 ineligible, 7 absent, 19 total</i>					Herman, Hutchinson, Goglio, Woodruff, T Schmidt, Ramirez, Ramirez

Item 8. Motion to approve the Non-Funding Calendar Item C.					
Motion: Cleghorn, Second: Freeman					
Yes	No	Abstain	Ineligible	Recuse	Absent
Grant, Mardirousi, Cleghorn, Moran, Von Gunten, Freeman, Travers, McCoy, Darakjian, C Schmidt, Royal, Keshish <i>12 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 0 ineligible, 7 absent, 19 total</i>					Herman, Hutchinson, Goglio, Woodruff, T Schmidt, Ramirez, Ramirez

9. **Thank you to STNC board 23-25 and Installation of 25-27 STNC Board.** Installation to be done at a later time.
10. **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS** - Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the agenda that are within the Board's jurisdiction will be heard during the General Public Comment period.
 - Committee & Liaison Reports - by committee chairs present

- Land Use Committee - Town Hall June 17 @ 7:00 will be in person at the Aurora Banquet Hall per Cindy. The first half hour will be dedicated to discussing the 6 story apartment building that the City is planning to build on Foothill Blvd, followed by the regular LUC meeting.
- Beautification Committee: 6/19 @ 6PM - in person @ ST Library. KT encouraged people to join the committee and described some areas that the committee is involved with including the Welcome Garden on Foothill Blvd near the 210. Gerardo Barrientos provided additional comments about the Committee.
- Outreach Meeting - 6/19 @ 7PM - virtual Zoom.
- STAT - 6/24 @ 6PM - virtual Zoom. Pat Kramer said that events to water and mulch trees are on-going but more volunteers are needed. Last event did not have a big turn-out. About 15 people were present but 30-40 were hoped for. This Saturday will have a mulching event between 8-9am. Pat said they are always looking for businesses to provide a source of water. 4 new trees have been promised for Sunland and STAT will commit to watering these trees. Adopt a tree (water weekly 5 gallons water) is another way to help, if interested, let Pat know. There is information on the STNC website also. KT commented that the trees provide a positive image and may help to slow traffic also.
- STARC: 6/24 @ 7:30PM - in person @ McGroarty Art Center. KT encouraged people to join STARC, providing an overview of what the committee does.
- Youth & Adult Education: - TBA
- Budget & Finance: TBA @ 6pm
- Community Improvement & Government Affairs - TBA
- Executive: Date change forthcoming
- Norma Chavez, Sun Valley Area NC President . Norma wanted to thank STN for all activities they have initiated regarding the Eaton fire dumping. Norma said that their NC doesn't have the same resources to do what we do and they appreciated joining with us in addressing the concerns; any responses and actions we can get will affect them also. There are several places in the Sun Valley area where debris has been dumped. Lydia encouraged Norma to generate a letter to the County and offered to help with a PRA (The California Public Records Act (PRA) **gives every person the right to access public records**). Lydia said that if STNC gets a meeting with County Office, Norma is invited to come. There is a lot of truck traffic with debris still on-going. Lydia said we need to pull together the local NCs and work together to have our collective voices heard.
- Leny commented that we should also be looking at resolution for the debris problem, saying that a layer of good dirt and about 1,000 lb of sunflower seeds will attract bees and might help. Lydia said that there is a potential for birds, eating the seeds, to be poisoned and that has to be considered.
- Mark (Member of the Community (MC)) asked about noises heard at night (e.g. explosion noises). While there is no specific answer, Lydia said that the word on

the street (e.g. social media) felt that the noises were coming from the Valley and might be generators. Lydia will look into it and ask NC members in the area where the noises are suspected are coming from what information they have.

- Lydia said that we still have no venue to conduct our meetings; it will cost about \$1,000 a meeting if we use the North Valley City Hall (NVCH) after work hours with two full time LAPD needing to be present. Lydia would like to get a petition going to use the NVCH again. STNC would not ask for the office or storage area used in past years, just a meeting place. With enough signatures on the petition, we should be able to put some pressure on the system to have City Hall reinstate us to use the NVCH facility again. Other venues are costly (e.g. the Church is asking for \$400). take to City Hall to reinstate us back into the building. Church wants \$400 a meeting. Will need to fight it.
- There was a discussion about graffiti and it was noted that the City will not clean up graffiti on private property. Cindy encouraged that graffiti continue to be reported via 311.
- Two guests from the Granada Hills NC presented information about the City Budget and how community members and NCs need to be active in reviewing the City budgets.
 1. Brian. Brian said that each region has 3 budget advocate positions with elections held every two years. The City of L.A. Budget Day is June 21st (pending status of current unrest/riots). This event is held at the Los Angeles City Hall, hosted by the Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates, and will focus on City Services: Budgetary Transparency and Accountability. This year's Budget Day is particularly important due to the City facing a record-high deficit and the potential for significant cuts to services and layoffs. This is an opportunity to meet with other budget reps and NC members, and elected officials who will be present including the Mayor. NC Budget Advocates have regular meetings, evaluate the budgets and come up with solutions that may improve the City budget, like consolidating roles where every department has its own IT personnel, etc. The budget for City has grown, despite layoffs and reduction of services. The NCs have an alliance with the City in reviewing the budget and offering suggestions. NC Budget Advocates meet twice a month. Brian noted that increases in tourist taxes only discourages people from visiting the city. We need to understand where the money is being spent. There are more than 30,000 people working for the City of L.A. Vartan commented that city workers appear to work in slow motion much of the time. Brian said that the City has 99 NCs and noted that the budget is reduced from \$32K to \$25K and a roll-over of unspent 2025 funds is not ensured.
 2. Gary. said that the budget covers services, police, infrastructure, etc. and noted that the mayor is focusing on homeless issues as a priority to the needs of the community. The Mayor's claim that her first priority is public safety doesn't ring true. Labor contracts are approved behind closed-doors. There is a \$13B budget with a \$1B deficit. The way forward has

been to just increase the budget to include the deficit, but there is no plan for where the additional revenue is coming from.

12. **PRESENTATION & TRAINING on the Neighborhood Council (NC) System** – *due to time constraints the following were not discussed.*
 - Bylaws, Standing Rules, BONC Policies, Brown Act (Meeting Agenda Posting, ENS)
 - NC Meetings: Agenda Items, Presenters, Meeting Agendas, Making Motions, Community Impact Statements
 - 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
13. **FINAL ANNOUNCEMENTS** –
 - a) Lydia - The next Board meeting will be in July 9, 2025 at 7pm. Thank you to the Elks for our meeting location tonight.
 - b) Lydia introduced members of the Board including new members who attended the meeting (Mikal McEnany, Dillon, Vicky Cerpa).
 - c) Upcoming community events per Cheryl and Cindy: Sunland Park in Sunland, CA will host the Foothills Pride festival on Saturday, June 14th from 12 PM to 4 PM; there is a Father's Day breakfast at the Elks from 9-11am on Saturday; there is a luncheon at the Sunland Senior Citizen Center (8640 Fenwick St) tomorrow (June 12), "Paternal Extravaganza", at 11am for \$3/person.
14. **ADJOURN, 9:20pm.**