

SUNLAND-TUJUNGA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Safe Transportation & Traffic Committee Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, May 27, 6:00pm

Zoom Meeting Online or By Telephone

1. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL - Welcome - STAT Chairperson Pat Kramer

Called to order at 6:00 pm. Quorum achieved with four committee members:

Pat Kramer, chair; Jon von Gunten, cochair; Natalie Cruz, and George Arakel. Also attending: Cindy Cleghorn and phone caller not identified

2. Motion to approve minutes from March and April 2025 meetings:

Jon moved to approve both sets of minutes, George seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Chairperson's Message: Day of Service, Campaign to recruit new Committee Members, efforts to prevent trees being cut down.

- Pat spoke about the traffic fatalities and traffic collisions this year.
- She recognized Miran Kalaydjian, a guest who contacted the owner of Great Cesars and pointed out to him that he does not have the authority to chop down trees, even if they are in front of his business. Hamlet began antagonistically with criticisms and falsehoods, which convoluted throughout the conversation.
- Pat noted that Susan Denning, who often attended our and Neighborhood Watch meetings, passed away, likely from unexpected heart failure. Consolations go out to her family.
- This Saturday, May 31st is a day of service: Pat has 40 buckets at NVCH, and lids at her house that Natalie will help her move to the event. George can fill water containers. Jon may be able to trim suckers. Plans are to have mulch berm to hold water in the wells. A nonprofit will plant 4-5 trees, and Nelly's team will water them for three years using Welcome Garden's water. CD7 to provide snacks and water. The flyer was sent out two weeks ago; we should all promote it. Pat promoted it at Earth Day event in Glendale.

4. LAPD Traffic Stats, recent fatalities/accidents.

Received stats from LAPD Traffic Officer Venegas:

Accidents in Foothill Div. = 9 from Ap 6 to May 3, down by 6%. One fatality.

5 DUI-related accidents. 11 Hit and run. Vehicle vs. Pedestrian = 2

Foothill & Hillhaven fatality on Mar 22, vehicle vs parked vehicle.

Also, a fatality at Foothill, Wyngate, Foothill & Woodward and in La Crescenta Ave & Foothill on I-210 on Friday May 2. This involved LAPD chasing a car after a hardware store theft. The driver was killed after clipping a dump truck while trying to exit the 210 at the 2 interchange.

5. Updates from CD7, LADOT, CA High Speed Rail:

No updates from CD7. Miran will write up his interactions with Hamlet.

6. Tree Adoptions.

George and Natalie attended the Sierra Club's program with Pat, where master gardener Kevin Altar, arborist gave a presentation. He justified Agriperm by saying the city put it in expecting smaller or narrower trees. His presentation on how not to "top" trees:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ltRG0q6C268> The trees are continuing to be adopted by stakeholders which is helped them get healthier.

Next Sierra Club presentation is wildfire resilience. 7PM on Tues, June 10 by Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81862923237?pwd=UK5tnbgqolsPbzwYR0V5yhScgtLsjl.1>

7. Public Comments.

Jon lauded Susan Denning's public interest and participation in Neighborhood Watch.

He spoke about a stakeholder, not in attendance, Valena Hernández, a Tujunga resident, who complained about traffic aggression and tinted windows at a NW meeting.

8. Committee Reports.

- Jon will send out Neighborhood Watch report before week's end.
- George's nephew's mother-in-law was hit by speeder on Elmhurst, totaling her car, giving her a minor concussion, and injuring his nephew's daughter. He took photos and will send them to CD7. A few days later, another near-accident occurred also on Elmhurst.
- George's microscopic back surgery will be on June 2 to decompress, giving him 2 days in hospital and fast recovery.
- There was a comment that Bright Spot team isn't trimming suckers wisely and that there are land fill odors in Seven Hills.

9. Next Meeting: June 24th will be our next STAT next meeting.

10. Meeting Adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Minutes by Jon von Gunten, co-chair