

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

December 10, 2025, 7pm

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: Lydia Grant, President**

- a. Call to order, 7pm. Roll call.

Board Member	Roll Call	Funding Voting Eligibility	Board Appointment
Lydia Grant	Present	Yes	President
Armen Mardirousi	Present	Yes	1st VP
Melissa Sagastume	Present	Yes	2nd VP
Barry Glover	Present	Yes	Treasurer
Cindy Cleghorn	Present	Yes	Correspondence Sec
Karen Moran	Present	Yes	Recording Sec
Leny Freeman	Present	Yes	Region 1 Rep
VACANT			Region 1 Rep
Sherry McCoy	Present	Yes	Region 2 Rep.
VACANT			Region 2 Rep

Board Member	Roll Call	Funding Voting Eligibility	Board Appointment
Mikal McEnany	Absent	Yes	Region 3 Rep
Dillon Dorothy	Present	Yes	Region 3 Rep
Jon von Gunten	Present	Yes	Region 3 Rep.
Vicky Cerpa	Present	No	Region 4 Rep.
Dante Jose Calvo	Present	Yes	Region 4 Rep
Mark Seigel	Present	Yes	Region 4 Rep
VACANT			Region 4 Rep
Cheryl Schmidt	Present	Yes	Public Safety Rep
Nina Royal	Present	Yes	Senior Rep
Vartan Keshish	Present	Yes	Community Interest Rep
Members of the Community with information as identified.			
Chapin			Member of the Community (MC)
Maria Flores			Member of the Community (MC)
Maryellen L			Member of the Community (MC)
16 present; 1 absent (17 total); Note: Dillon came in shortly after roll call.			

- b. **Verdugo Hills Pool is OPEN, info at** <https://www.laparks.org/aquatic/year-round/verdugo-hills-pool>
- c. **LACity Channel 35 - <https://lacityview.org/live>.** Cindy invited people to check out the website which had a lot of good information.
- d. Flag salute - Madesyn Meadows, Senior Verdugo Hills High School. Madesyn was not present; pledge led by Leny Freeman
- e. STNC Committees require at least one board member. We need a Board member for the Beautification Committee and committee members for the Budget Committee and

STARC. If you have an interest, please email president@stnc.org. Leny indicated an interest in joining the Budget Committee.

- f. Determination of Quorum /Roll Call, Report on Voting Eligibility.

2. **Speaker and Responsibilities of the Board.**

- a. **Speaker with Q&A: Steve Kang, President Board of Public Works.** Commissioner Kang's career has been centered around civic engagement and community empowerment and spans a diverse range of impactful roles, including Director of External Affairs at the Koreatown Youth & Community Center (KYCC), a \$20 million multi-service non-profit organization that provides vital social services such as mental health counseling, youth programing, affordable housing, financial literacy education, and environmental sustainability initiatives. Melissa, our VP Outreach recently met him at the opening of Verdugo Hills Pool.
 - a. Steve gave a presentation about what the Public Works did, including Key Responsibilities, Policy & Management, Infrastructure, Street & Sanitation Services, Water & Waste Management Emergency Response. Steve grew up in the area and has a good familiarity with the community. Steve advised that there is a new 311 app and that the old should be deleted with the new one installed. Steve noted concerns of the community, including street light outages, potholes, illegal dumping, and events that the community supported such as tree-planting. Lydia noted an on-going concern that affected the entire City with people intentionally not bringing in their trash cans in order to reserve parking places on the street. There are many complaints and it will become a bigger issue as the City plans to put in more high density apartments. via 311, tree-planting events, etc. Lydia noted that there is no signage now that addresses parking restrictions. Lydia also noted that there have been complaints about the condition of Foothill Blvd which needs resurfacing/replacement in areas. Steve said they are working with CD7 and aware of the issues but have not had a level of staffing to address it. Comments were also provided by Jon, Vicky, and a Member of the Community, identified under Doug Chapin. Steve said that the best way to contact him is via email at steve.kang@lacity.org. Ricardo also knows how to contact him. Jon asked about the toxic dumping done after the Eaton Fire in Seven Hills. Vicky was concerned about the lack of street lighting in her area which had safety impacts; Steve noted how expensive it is to repair lights (where thieves have destroyed them in order to take the copper for resale) and it is a challenge with limited resources to address all the districts that have this problem but it is done on a rotating basis. A member of the community said that the new 311 app was not as easy to use as the old; Steve said the upgrade had to be done because the old app couldn't support the number of people using it (capacity issue) but the IT team was addressing problems. Steve will address concerns and get back to us and said that we should continue to work with Ricardo Flores to address our concerns.

3. **DISCUSSION//Updates/Q&A** with LAPD, LAFD, Elected Officials/Representatives, DONE, NC Budget Advocates, City Departments

- **Kelly Gomez, LAUSD School Board**, reported about events, state released annual tests that show good academic growth, and the Resilient Schools initiative to address the temperature environment in schools that challenges the children to learn (i.e. very hot or cold temperatures with measures such as installing heat pumps, greening schoolyards with trees/permeable surfaces, and upgrading infrastructure for better cooling).

Comments were made and questions asked by Lydia, Cheryl, Victoria, and Nina. Lydia expressed a concern about the toxic dumping and if there has been reporting of health issues which can occur in particular when there is a wind condition (e.g. respiratory issues, Valley Fever). Kelly said that she gets reports if there are multiple medical issues at a school site and would let us know if a trend was reported.

Cheryl asked about the plans for evacuating children in an emergency, noting that in the past her children were evacuated to Van Nuys which was actually in the direction of the fire-event. Kelly said the procedure was to evacuate to a neighboring school such as Glendale and agreements were being put in place. Kelly will advise us as policies are updated.

Vicky Board District 6 impact on students; Kelly said we are a sanctuary district, with staff trained on policies and actions and safe zones that are external to school campuses. There are legal resources and Kelly can advise about workshops as they come up. Lydia said she would like to be part of the conversation noting that the Emergency Response Committee will kick off in January. Kelly will stay in contact to support the emergency preparedness effort. Lydia noted that Public Works was supposed to be dredging dams and if they close them down we may not have access to water in the event of a fire. Kelly will keep Lydia advised. Nina commented about ICE raids.

- **Katherine Padilla Otanez, Consultant for Public Outreach**, thanked Melissa for inviting her. Katherine noted that the City evaluates flood risk periodically (every 5 years); flooding has been an issue over the years Lydia noted that flooding issues/mud slides, etc. will be addressed in the Emergency Preparedness Committee. Lydia thanked Melissa for her initiative to invite community members to speak at the STNC meetings.
- **Ricardo Flores, Senior Representative, CD7**. Ricardo provided a status of events coming up and concerns including street lights working and illegal dumping. There is an effort to install street lights that are solar powered but this is expensive. Comments/questions were made by Cindy, Vicky, Cindy, Leny and Barry. Vicky was concerned with street lighting which encouraged illegal dumping; Vicky will advise Ricardo about which lights are not working. Barry asked about an incident at the Library that Ricardo was not aware of. Cindy noted that each department in the city has control of their own 311 systems and there is a black out period before the end of the year. Cindy noted that crime was the most important issue for the community. Ricardo will check on concerns noted and get back to us.
- **Jose Galdemez, Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate**. Jose discussed upcoming events and status of bills including SB707. SB707 includes a major 2025 update to the Brown Act addressing open meeting and remote participation rules. It will provide an extension for NCs to continue to meet virtually. The bill is still in process and a majority of the board is needed for approval. Comments/comments came from Melissa and Cindy. From Jose in CHAT: Neighborhood Empowerment, Awareness and Engagement

Director - Marilu Guevara - marilu.guevara@lacity.org for information on Canva Design School. From Glenn Bailey in CHAT: SB 707 change is to a majority of the total number of Board SEATS, instead of the SB 411 two-thirds requirement.

- **Glenn Bailey, Co-Chair for the NC Budget Advocates Group.** Glenn said that a Town Hall was held December 1 on proposed changes and that a recording of the meeting can be found <https://www.budgetadvocates.org/> under Town Hall. All City Departments have to submit plans by December 21st and there is an opportunity to weigh in now. Comments/questions came from Cindy and Barry. Cindy is a member of the Budget Advocates Group and reaffirmed that budget advocates are interviewing with City Departments to go over their budgets. The Departments are receptive to budget advocates. Glenn's contact info from CHAT: GlennBaileyNCBA@yahoo.com

4. **DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION: Formation of Emergency Preparedness committee** consisting of up to 5 board and stakeholders, 3 person quorum with purpose to review and provide committee tasks to the board by the February 11, 2026 board meeting.

- A motion was made by Melissa and seconded by Nina, a vote taken and the motion passed. Lydia commented that the first 'kick-off' meeting will be January 25th in the afternoon; a Sunday was felt to have the least impact on people attending.

Item 4. Motion to approve Formation of Emergency Preparedness committee consisting of up to 5 board and stakeholders, 3 person quorum with purpose to review and provide committee tasks to the board by the February 11, 2026 board meeting. Motion: Sagastume Second: Royal					
Yes	No	Abstain	Ineligible	Recuse	Absent
Grant, Mardirousi, Sagastume, Glover, Cleghorn, Moran, McCoy, Von Gunten, Calvo, Seigel, Schmidt, Royal, 12 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 1 ineligible, 4 absent, 17 total			Cerpa		McEnany, Freeman, Keshish, Dorothy

5. **DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION: Formation of STNC Bylaws & Standing Rules committee** consisting of up to 5 board and stakeholders, 3 person quorum with purpose to review and provide updates to the board by the February 11, 2026 board meeting to the STNC Bylaws and Standing Rules, if necessary, with deadline to submit to DONE / City is April 2026.

- Lydia noted that the Bylaws deadline closes April 1st but Standing Rules can be updated any time; we have already started on the standing rules. A motion was made by Barry and seconded by Melissa. Lydia asked if there was anyone interested in Being the Chair and Barry said he would be. Lydia said that it will be put on the next month's agenda for a vote. A vote was taken which passed.

Item 4. Motion to approve Formation of STNC Bylaws & Standing Rules committee consisting of up to 5 board and stakeholders, 3 person quorum with purpose to review and provide updates to the board by the February 11, 2026 board meeting to the STNC Bylaws and Standing Rules, if necessary, with deadline to submit to DONE / City is April 2026.

Motion: Glover Second: Sagastume

Yes	No	Abstain	Ineligible	Recuse	Absent
Grant, Sagastume, Glover, Cleghorn, Moran, McCoy, Von Gunten, Calvo, Seigel, Schmidt, Royal, 11 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 1 ineligible, 5 absent, 17 total			Cerpa		Mardirousi, McEnany, Freeman, Keshish, Dorothy

6. **DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION: Stakeholder Concerns, Communication Channels, and Strategies for Effective Outreach.** Discuss the primary topics raised by stakeholders—whether in person, on social media, by direct email, or via phone messages—and explore how the STNC Board can most effectively communicate these concerns to the City. The Board may also consider ways to guide residents and businesses in advocating for themselves. Items for Discussion:

- Cindy said this item is to start the conversation - What are key issues that stake-holders are raising etc. Lydia suggested that in the interest of time, each committee should discuss the items (below) and bring back thoughts to the Board, and/or that members consider the items at home and formulate their thoughts for further discussion. Barry agreed with this approach and commented on budgetary items including check writing and credit card payments for items. Lydia and Cindy commented on which items could be handled by checks and which by credit cards. Some items have invoices and others a special form. Lydia invited Barry to contact her for any questions. Cindy provided any overview on items a,d,e and f and Melissa on items b and c (below).

- a. Key Issues Raised by Stakeholders (Past Year) including:

- Homelessness and crime
- Funding and resource requests
- Committee Efforts
- General quality-of-life concerns

- b. Projected Ongoing Issues for 2026.

- Continuation of public safety concerns including homelessness and emergency preparedness
- Increased community outreach and engagement needs
- Helping to improve business development in Sunland-Tujunga

c. Communication Channels and Opportunities

- In-Person Engagement: Increasing STNC presence at community events and public spaces
- Digital communication: Strengthening outreach, improving responsiveness, and sharing clear updates via social media and email newsletters
- Direct Communication: Improving handling of emails and phone inquiries from stakeholders

d. Advocacy Tools.

- Community Impact Statements and letters to the City
- Guidance for residents and businesses on how to communicate concerns directly to City departments and elected officials

e. Community Participation and Volunteerism.

- Encouraging stakeholder involvement in Council activities
- Exploring volunteer outreach programs to assist unhoused individuals in connecting with services
- Supporting community-led projects such as holiday decorating and beautification

f. Identifying What Works.

- Discussion on which efforts have had the greatest positive impact
- Recommendations for strengthening communication and engagement in the year ahead

7. **DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION: 2026 Events Calendar. This item was tabled in the interest of time.**

8. **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

- **Celeste Santarrosa**, Communications Specialist, Greater Los Angeles County Vector Control District Update - csantarrosa@glamosquito.org. Celeste commented about the program to release sterilized mosquitoes, piloted in 2024 and continued in 2025. The program has been successful and surveys were conducted with neighbors who have seen a decrease in mosquitoes. Celeste said that standing water can be reported and a property assessment can be done. The program is funded through property taxes. Nina inquired about an in-person presentation which Celeste can accommodate. Nina noted issues with a local venue in her area.
- **David Jenkins**, Land Use Committee. David provided an update on LUC items. ED1 has been suspended; ED1 is a City initiative launched by Mayor Karen Bass to fast-track permits for 100% affordable housing projects/. The City will pass an ordinance that codifies ED1. The project at 7937 Foothill may still see some construction despite community push-back. Lydia asked if the fact we are in an extreme fire hazard area was addressed; David will check on it and agreed this is a significant concern that needs to be included.
- **Glenn Bailey**. Glenn commented that there were two major funding groups in the City (City of Los Angeles Housing Department (LAHD), **and the** Los Angeles Development

Fund (LADF)). The revised funding program should be coming out soon so there is still an opportunity to weigh in. The City Clerk has finished selections; the next time the intention is to do both in person and via mail – funding is uncertain. There is a plan to merge regions starting in the May/June elections.

9. **DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION: Motion to approve outstanding Monthly Expenditure Reports. No action.**
10. **DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION: To approve outstanding General Board Meeting minutes. A motion was made by Cindy and seconded by Barry, a vote taken and the motion passed.**

Item 10. Motion to approve outstanding General Board Meeting minutes. Motion: Cleghorn Second: Glover					
Yes	No	Abstain	Ineligible	Recuse	Absent
Grant, Sagastume, Glover, Cleghorn, Moran, McCoy, Von Gunten, Calvo, Seigel, Schmidt, Keshish, <i>11 yes, 0 no, 1 abstain, 1 ineligible, 4 absent, 17 total</i>		Royal	Cerpa		Mardirousi, McEnany, Freeman, Dorothy

11. **DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION: To approve payment to McGroarty Arts of \$500 for sponsorship of August 2025 event.**
 - Revisit - In the past, a motion passed to provide a sponsorship to McGroarty Arts to help fund a cart that would transport people up the hill during the event. The cart was not obtained for the event. A new motion was made to provide the \$500 to McGroarty for general sponsorship of the event without specificity to the transport cart. The motion was made by Barry and seconded by Melissa. Comments were made by Barry, Melissa and Jon; in the future sponsorship specific to support should be clarified. Jon questioned if STNC derived benefit from the event and Lydia noted that we had a table at the event. A vote was taken which passed to provide the \$500 to McGroarty.

Item 11. Motion to approve payment to McGroarty Arts of \$500 for sponsorship of August 2025 event. Motion: Glover Second: Sagastume					
Yes	No	Abstain	Ineligible	Recuse	Absent

Grant, Sagastume, Glover, Moran, McCoy, Calvo, Schmidt, Royal, Keshish 9 yes, 1 no, 2 abstain, 1 ineligible, 4 absent, 17 total	VonGunten	Cleghorn, Seigel	Cerpa		Mardirousi, Freeman, McEnany, Dorothy
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12. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION: Committee & Liaison Reports and Confirm Assignments – by liaison chairs present

- Homeless
- Citywide Budget / Budget Advocates
- LADWP MOU
- LADWP Committee
- LANCC – Lydia noted that the meeting is the First Saturday of the month and Charter Reform would be addressed
- VANC – Cindy commented on the next meeting
- PlanCheckNC – meeting is Saturday 10am, per Cindy
- Emergency Preparedness
- Sustainability

Cindy commented about a Land Use project that was approved. Nina inquired about who was heading Charter Reform in the City and Cindy advised where the information was available on-line. Melissa commented that the next Outreach Committee meeting would be cancelled because the date conflicted with 'Hannakah in the Foothills'; volunteers for the Hannakah events are still needed. Lydia encouraged people to support these events.

12. PRESENTATION & TRAINING on the Neighborhood Council (NC) System

- 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 - January 14 next Board meeting

14. ADJOURN Happy safe holidays. Adjourned by Lydia at 9:15pm