

Special Joint Beautification and Outreach Committee Minutes

November 20, 2025, 6pm

Sunland-Tujunga Branch Library
7771 Foothill Blvd., Tujunga

1. **Call to Order and Committee Roll Call.** Melissa and Nelly. 6:07pm
 - a. OUTREACH COMMITTEE – Present: Melissa Sagastume, Chair Leny Freeman, Sherry McCoy, Dante Calvo, Karen Moran. Absent: Absent: Mikal McEnany
 - b. BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE – Present: Nelly Luboff and Angela Nordhagen. Absent: Roger Klemm, Co-Chair Matt Walker, Gerardo Barriento and K.T. Travers
2. **Approve Outstanding Minutes.**
 - a. Outstanding Beautification Committee meeting. Informal approval without quorum at this time; formal approval at a later meeting.
 - b. Outstanding Outreach Committee meeting. Melissa made a motion and Sherry seconded. A vote was taken which passed.
3. **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS.** *Note: Comments on items included everyone in attendance (Sherry, Dante, Leny, Melissa, Nelly, Angela and Karen).*
 - a. Leon Aguilar from the L.A. City Department of Recreation and Parks provided information about the newly opened Verdugo Swimming Pool in Tujunga and passed out flyers. The pool is located at 10654 Irma Ave. and the temporary phone number is 213-820-7164. Pool hours are Tues-Fri from noon until 7pm, Sat and Sun from 1pm to 5pm, ad closed Monday. Fees vary and can be found at the website <https://www.laparks.org/aquatic/year-round/verdugo-hills-pool> , but typical Adult fees for a single admission is \$4. Leon's contact info is leon.aguilar@lacity.org. Leon noted they were hiring lifeguards at this time and invited people to come and enjoy the pool. The pool is not connected to the Verdugo Hills High School.
 - b. Melissa noted there was a Tree Lighting event on December 6th at 5pm at the Sunland Recreation Center 8651 Foothill Blvd. Sunland.
 - c. Melissa also noted there was a 21st Annual Festival with Chili Bowls at the McGroarty Arts Center on December 6th and 7th from 10-5pm Saturday and 10-

4pm Sunday (<https://www.mcgroartyartscenter.org/20th-annual-chili-bowl-festival>).

4. **Suggestions for future Beautification and Outreach projects.** *Note: Comments on items included everyone in attendance (Sherry, Dante, Leny, Melissa, Nelly, Angela and Karen.*
 - a. Nelly said that there will be another Clean Up Day in big Tujunga Canyon in January or February and invited Outreach to join and bring water. Nelly lamented the conditions that people left the area in with major trash. She noted that there are two areas that are designated for recreational use and have trash bins and picnic tables, but people use this area illegally and just leave their trash there. A group discussion ensued about how to discourage people from using the area and the impact to local residents. One suggestion was to ticket cars parked on the sides of the road; closing a parking area has not discouraged people from coming. The area is being promoted through social media (e.g. TikTok). Industrial sized dumpsters have been filled with waste. DWP manages the land.
 - b. Melissa said that she had an idea for "Little Libraries" to be put up throughout the community. (A "little library" is a small, community-based book-sharing box where people can take a book or leave a book, operating on an "honor system" with no due dates or fees. The goal is to foster community and promote a love of reading by making books more accessible to everyone.). Use of volunteer help from local youths who might need volunteer credits was discussed (e.g. Girl Scouts/Boy Scouts, students).
 - c. Sherry said she was working on ideas with Dante to welcome new businesses in the area and would like to see more community involvement with local businesses. Nelly said they had thought about encouraging businesses to make their areas more welcoming, perhaps with plants or such outside entry doors.
 - d. Nelly said they don't currently have a budget for the Beautification Committee. Processes to get approvals for expenditures and how to submit invoices was discussed.
 - e. A question was asked if there was a Farmer's Market in the area; Nelly researched it on-line and said that she found one in Sunland (Heart of the Canyons Farmers Market, 9666 Foothill Blvd, Sunland).
5. **Create a survey for the community to give feedback on Beautification and Outreach ideas and projects.**
 - a. Melissa said that she would like to see a survey go out to the Community for people to suggest future events and community needs. This can be done in conjunction with the Beautification Committee and Melissa can work with Nelly. Sherry suggested it be advertised through social media as well as the STNC Newsletter. Leny suggested the survey include asking people in the community if they are willing to help also.

6. Update on Outreach giveaways

- a. Melissa showed the current SWAG items in process of being ordered and noted that the magnet will have a barcode that can be used with a personal cell phone to get critical phone numbers (emergency, etc.). With a barcode, the contact numbers can be updated regularly vs. printing them on the magnets and having them be outdated. Melissa hopes to have all items in time for the Dec 6th Tree Lighting event. Use of surplus candy from the Halloween event was discussed as part of give-away items.

7. Suggestions for future Outreach events

- a. Already discussed – Tree Lighting, McGroarty's Chili event, Sherry's business friendly approach.
- b. Recently discussed was a holiday home-decorating contest where people in the community could be recognized for having festive holiday decorations and lights. Pictures could be included in the Newsletter and award certificates handed out.
- c. Leon would welcome help with the Verdugo Pool opening events where we could have a table also; Leon will keep us advised.

8. Future meetings

- a. Next Outreach Meeting: Thursday, December 18th at 7:00 PM via Zoom .
- b. Next Beautification meeting: Thursday, Jan 15th, 6pm at the Library.

9. ADJOURN. 7:19pm