

Sunland Tujunga Neighborhood Council
Outreach Committee Agenda
Thursday, February 19, 2026 at 7:00 PM

Draft

IN CONFORMITY WITH THE JANUARY 1, 2026 ENACTMENT OF CALIFORNIA SENATE BILL 707 (DURAZO) AND LA CITY COUNCIL FILE 23-1114, THE SUNLAND-TUJUNGA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED VIRTUALLY.

1. WELCOMING REMARKS

- a. **Call to Order**, Melissa Sagastume, Chair - 7:02 pm
- b. **Roll Call.**
 - i. Present (Board): Melissa Sagastume (Chair), Leny Freeman, Sherry McCoy, Dante Calvo. Karen Moran. Absent: Mikal McEnany.
 - ii. Also present (Members of the Community): Ricardo Flores, Cindy, Mark Seigel
- c. Give away up to \$500 for plants and seeds, Beautification Committee
- d. Ricardo Flores, Senior Area Representative, described events forthcoming in the Sunland Tujunga area including Earth Day, hosted by the STNC, which will be on April 18, 2026 from 10-12pm. This event will include a Resource Fair. Comments were made by Cindy, Melissa, Sherry and Dante. There will be departments from the City participating and a Food Truck and DJ. A motion was made by Sherry and seconded by Dante to support the event as detailed which passed; the motion will be passed along for a vote at the General Board meeting.
- e. Leny suggested that clean up in the Big Tujunga Canyon could be foregone this year in view of recent rains; Ricardo agreed.

2. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

- a. Melissa gave an update for the Beautification meeting and Earth Day event planning. Per Melissa, the Beautification committee will request up to \$500 for give-aways (plants and seed packets, etc.) for the Earth Day event. Sherry asked if the group who attended the Verdugo Hills Pool opening event would be at Earth Day and Melissa said that should be the case.

3. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

- An extensive discussion took place about planning for the 4th of July Parade in Sunland Tujunga. Comments were made by Dante, Cindy, Melissa and Sherry. They are looking for new sponsors. Current planning meetings are at Caruso's Restaurant and STNC will find a way to promote Caruso's who has been so supportive. Funding, up to \$3,000, is hoped to be provided by STNC for the event as was done last year. The theme is the 250 Birthday for America. One idea is to come up with tiers for funding/donations tied into promotions for the funders. The funds are needed to be pushed ASAP; it takes time to process the funding (e.g. months). With a cut in budgets, there is a need to review the STNC commitments. 4th of July parade.

- The idea of having a float for STNC was discussed. Past years have been getting a flat bed truck with bales of hay for volunteer members to sit upon. This was not continued in 2024 (and before) because there were water-ballooning incidents that discouraged people from participating. However, 2025 was encouraging with water events largely curtailed. It was suggested that there might be a competition for floats with prizes attached.
- The sponsors of the Parade wanted to borrow the STNC speaker system. Cindy said that the system seems to be missing at this time and may not have been returned from last year. While STNC has a wired system, the missing wireless system would be the one that is needed. A replacement wireless system could cost about \$200.
- Volunteers are needed for the parade. The parade usually starts at 10 am and a rendezvous at 8am has been historically requested. STNC had people staged along the route in the past per Sherry, with whistle sand vests and some traveled in golf carts (or a jeep).
- If STNC members continued the flat bed tradition, it could cost about \$200 to rent a flat bed; Dante has a truck that could tow a flat bed. It might be possible to contact the person who previously provided the flat bed and see if that can be an option also. It was noted that in previous years, there were multiple decorated cars in the event with STNC members riding in them.
- Melissa will meet with Barry to ensure the budget can support the \$3,000 sponsorship. NNO expenses come from the next-year fiscal budget. Cindy said that the sponsorship should be as specific as possible, stating what is included (e.g. banners, social-media promotions, golf carts, hand-outs, etc.). Sherry noted that last year we ran out of hand-out materials; bead necklaces were a hot ticket item and cards with info on them also.
- An event at the end of the parade was discussed, as has been done in previous years. Entertainment groups, food trucks in the park, etc. It was noted that the American Legion has a barbeque at the end of the event also.
- A motion was made by Leny and seconded by Sherry for spending up to \$500 for a float . A vote was taken which passed.

4. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

- a. Review and Adoption of Outstanding Minutes. A motion was made by Melissa and seconded by Dante. A vote was taken which passed.
- b. Update on Giveaway Items. Melissa has made up fliers, and SWAG items will be delivered to Cindy's office (chip clips, pens, and tote bags).

5. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Outreach Committee Communication
- b. General Newsletter Ideas - including support for creation and distribution. Dante said that in the recent newsletter, some of the dates for events were incorrect; they were reposted when errors found. Dante received major recognition on the newsletter from members of the community.

- c. Request for Graphic Design Help for Social Media. Mikal McEnany might be able to help, Melissa will ask him. Mikal might leave Outreach and go to STARC ; this committee is in dire need of membership or it will have to close down.
- d. Cindy asked for help in keeping the STNC.org website current and correct if anyone felt they had the skills and interest.

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. A survey for the community is in process to try to get information about how STNC can best serve the needs of the community. Both Melissa and Dante created initial drafts and went over them during the meeting. They will get together to finalize the survey; much overlaps. Websites were shared in CHAT where members could go in and directly edit the survey also. A motion was made to approve the Community Survey as discussed and will be edited by Melissa and Dante. The motion was made by Melissa and seconded by Leny, a vote taken which passed.
 - b. Melissa took the initiative to contact other CD7 Neighborhood Councils to see if there was any interest in putting together a group forum to introduce City candidates to the community prior to upcoming elections in November 2026. Cindy commented that when this has been done in the past, not all candidates will respond, but those that do are given equal time to introduce themselves. A forum could be in October but that might be a very busy time for the candidates. Cindy also suggested that it might be possible to invite candidates to speak at our meetings, ensuring equal access and times to talk. People in the community have asked if STNC plans to have a forum for candidates.
 - c. Cindy and Melissa discussed ideas to bring member of the community together that might include having an ugly-cake contest, or a chili cook-off contest, noting that Karen Von Gunten had put together a chili cook-off in the past which was very successful. Cindy noted that we have many diverse skills and interests in the community and events such as these might be of interest, noting that Leny is working on a SWAP meeting for the summer.
 - d. Cindy said that in-person events at the Elk's Lodge seems to bring more members of the community to them vs. virtual meetings and wants the next two meetings to be at the Elk's. Melissa has a potential locale that might be used alternatively for meetings.
 - e. Dante introduced his 4 month old adorable daughter, Linda May.
7. **Next Outreach Meeting:** The initial date (March 19th) is changed to March 18th (Wednesday) to avoid conflicts in schedules, with a 6pm start time.
8. **ADJOURN.** 8:43pm.