

Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council  
Special Board Meeting Minutes  
Monday, October 7, 2019, 7:30 p.m.  
Tujunga United Methodist Fellowship Hall  
9901 Tujunga Canyon Blvd., Tujunga

1. Called to Order at 7:46 p.m. by Liliana Sanchez, President
2. Roll Call of board members present: Liliana Sanchez, Lydia Grant, Nina Royal, Sandy Capps, Cindy Cleghorn, Vartan Keshish, Glen Belt, Arsen Karamians, Rafi Shaheenian, Pati Potter, Carol Hutchinson, Jon von Gunten. 12 board members present, quorum met. Seme Park from the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment also present.
2. DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE ACTION: (Grant/Royal) To submit a Community Impact Statement regarding CF-19-1051 naming of the Commerce and Valmont intersection.

Recommendation from the Land Use Committee read: STNC opposes placement of a permanent ceremonial sign at the intersection of Commerce Avenue and Valmont Street because this intersection is the cornerstone of the history of Sunland-Tujunga and no signage marker should be placed here.

President Sanchez stated that she invited Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez or her representative to our Special Meeting tonight but did not hear from anyone with yes or no. She then asked if anyone present from Councilwoman Rodriguez office / staff. No one acknowledged. The council file is to be voted on by the city council tomorrow, Oct. 8th so this is a time sensitive item. Over 200 public comments are posted in the council file.

Public Comments on the motion from the following:

Elektra Kruger - rather than never having anything there, should be a person historic to this area.

Stakeholder - Why did Councilwoman Rodriguez do this ? Was it brought by a group in the community? We are perplexed at this.

Stakeholder who use to live in San Diego but now lives here - This is divisive and sneaky. Naming a square is something the entire community should be a part of.

Boardmember Comments:

Glen Belt - Adores our Councilwoman and stated only she should be making this decision. He will vote for this motion. We have a large Armenian population and they deserve recognition.

Nina - The charter guarantees Neighborhood Council's a voice. We should not be bypassed in the decision making process. This is what we clearly need to express at the vote tomorrow. They need to respect the Neighborhood Councils that are supposed to have a voice. They should outreach and get feedback from the broad community. Nina is opposed to the community being left out of the decision making process.

Lydia Grant - This was to be passed by City Council last week. We would not have known about it if it wasn't for a stakeholder. Lydia went with Carol Hutchinson to the City Council Public Works and Gang Reduction Committee meeting to ask for an extension of time. We got a one-week postponement. It is good that people have submitted their own comments to the Council file after our president made this public. If we had not gone to the committee meeting it would already be voted on. We went to the meeting so we could give our stakeholders a voice.

Jon von Gunten - good that it was postponed. We should be clear that whatever motion goes forward, we support the Armenian community but not at this intersection. That's the only problem here.

Stakeholder - Resident since 1952. This is a special interest group going for a land grab, piece of property. It doesn't constitute a reason to have a sign. It's back handed and sneaky. Things don't go through the City this quickly. He would like to see this kind of stuff stop. It all starts with something simple and then it grows to renaming a school or a street or something else. Why wouldn't someone local be considered for something like this? The board is in the middle. Agrees with comment from the earlier Land Use Committee discussion that CSUN has plenty of inclusive programs just for this and placing it there would be more effective.

Cindy Cleghorn - wants to bring our community together. We all want to be respectful of each other and be part of the discussion, not left out on purpose. Doesn't understand why there has to be division in our community like this. Celebrate our historic community.

Liliana Sanchez - Welcomes diversity. We are having this meeting for our Sunland-Tujunga Community. A Multi cultural event is being planned for next year.

Glen Belt interrupts - there are 4 people who caused the divide in this town. Glen Belt left the meeting.

Arsen Karamians - we are supposed to be a polite society. 33 years ago I entered the United States. I was working with the US Army in Iran and I came to New Hampshire where I was welcomed like a King. I was a refugee. What we are talking about is our historic town. Getting this approved by someone else is a shame. Let's come together for our community. I chose this area 10 years ago. I love this community. Let's keep it the way it is, please.

Stakeholder comment: In the future any recognition signs in our community need to be properly vetted and approved through the STNC by the community.

During the roll call vote it was realized that Sandy Capps had left the meeting room, bringing the total vote count to 10 in favor of the CIS. But since the board lost quorum during the vote, no action was taken on this motion and the special meeting adjourned 8:20 p.m.