

Contact Information

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Agenda Date: 08/14/2013

Item Number:

Brief Summary: Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council supports L.A. City Mural Ordinance "B" (Council File # 11-0923), which prohibits murals on Single-Family (R-1) properties. The STNC supports that neighborhoods "Opt In" to allow murals within their NC boundary in their particular Single-Family (R-1) neighborhoods.

Additional Information: The STNC opposes the Mural Ordinance because there already exists a zoning ordinance in Chapter 1, Article 4.4.20 of the LAMC that they are prohibited unless approved by a specific plan.

**Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council  
Board Meeting Minutes  
August 14, 2013**

Attendance: 58 Audience: 43, Board: 15

**Call to Order** at 7:10 by Mark Seigel, STNC President with the Flag Salute. Quorum established with 13 board members: John Blue, Al Timins, Pat O'Brien, Araz Parseghian, Lydia Grant, Thomas Smoker Jr., Cindy Cleghorn, Mark Seigel, Melodee Patterson, Nina Royal, Ed Novy, Kresse Armour and Joe DeCenzo. Richard Stewart arrived at 7:25 p.m. Krystee Clark and Michael Jones had excused absences. (New board member, Susie Smith, is a part of the count).

**1. Introductions:**

- Senior Lead LAPD Officer Rich Wall announced a drug bust of a drug house producing methamphetamine and the arrest of a 17-year old for 10 grand theft of autos in Tujunga (all Toyotas and Hondas). He advised stakeholders to lock their cars as the motor vehicle thefts of these cars only took the suspect 9 seconds. Stats are way down on crime in S-T. Next Tuesday is Neighborhood Watch at 6:30 at N. Valley City Hall.
- Fire Dept. Capt. Tim Werle asked everyone to help prevent fire by clearing brush around their properties and keeping anything flammable away from their houses. As the temperatures rise, he reminded everyone to be vigilant of the heat and stay hydrated. He also talked about pothole repair work on Oro Vista between Foothill and Big T Canyon.
- Marcos Sanchez, Field Deputy for Assembly member Bocanegra, invited everyone to a breakfast meeting on August 25 talk about water issues affecting the state and the district.
- Wesly Hernandez, Field Deputy for Council District 7, reported that Councilmember Fuentes is chair the City Council's Energy & Environment Committee. The office has been dealing with a lot of building and safety issues.

**2. President's Message**

**Open board seats:** Vacancies exist in regions 1 and 3. Susie Smith offered her availability for Region 1. She is involved in equestrian issues and is a small business owner. After questions from the audience and board **(Cleghorn/Smoker) moved that Susie Smith be appointed to the Region 1 position on the board. The motion carried unanimous.**

**Homeless Services Group:** Is meeting again to address an increase in the homeless living in the S-T area.

**Oro Vista Park:** The anticipated start date for work to begin on the passive park is Oct. 2013.

**Verdugo Hills Pool:** The pool is being revamped. Mark asks that if anyone is interested in serving on the volunteer committee to please contact him as this group is being set up.

**Community Garden:** STNC has opened an account with the Community Garden Council to support the community garden.

**3. Approval of Minutes: (Cleghorn/Grant) moved to accept the minutes with corrections. The motion carried.**

**4. Bureau of Street Services presentation:** Division Manager Keith Mozee reviewed different street resurfacing projects: He advised residents with questions to call: (213) 847-3200 to check on the status of any street. This is a direct line. He talked about their computer system which tracks work that they are doing. Lydia suggested using the cell phone app: MyLA311

which allows users to send a photo of any potholes they see with their locations to the City to have it logged into their database.

5. **American Cancer Society presentation:** Michaela Chapman, representing S-T's Relay for Life fundraiser said she is looking for sponsors and volunteers for next April's event. On September 3, they will hold their Karaoke Kick off event at The Comfort & Joy Café.
6. **Tuna Canyon Detention Station:** Lloyd Hitt updated the board on their last Working Group meeting with the City and the developer (before returning to City Council) to establish a historic monument as requested by the City Council motion passed in June. A map showing the area of the historic site, including parking, was presented by the developer's architect and attorney. At the close of the meeting, the developer's representative, Fred Gaines (attorney), announced that a lawsuit has been filed suing the City and opposing the historic monument. This news is a big disappointment for all involved in the progress made in the Working Group meetings that have included representation by the developer, City staff and community. Lloyd said 2,500 people were held at that detention camp when it was in operation. He displayed a 1946 map showing the detention camp at the current golf course site which shows the buildings and detail of the camp at that time.  
**(Novy/Cleghorn) moved that STNC support the efforts of the Tuna Canyon Detention Station Coalition." The motion carried with one abstention (Blue).**

8. **Letter to Director of Animal Services:** Lydia tabled this item until next month.

9. **Branding Initiative:** Board member Paolina Milana was not present for the meeting. **(Blue/Smoker) moved to table both motions until she is present. The motion carried unanimously.**

10. **Letter to support Equine Committee: (Cleghorn/Smoker) moved to support a letter regarding the Equine Committee.** Mary Benson explained that the Equine Advisory Committee has sought a grant to restore the Graveyard Trail, a National Forest trail from Haines Canyon to Big Tujunga Canyon, and to restore the Doc Larson Trail. The letter of support is an effort to partner with the Committee in their efforts to restore the natural habitats and trails in the Forest. **The motion carried unanimously.**

**11. Public Comments:**

- Roger Klemm said the Sunland Welcome Nature Garden is growing wonderfully.
- Sheri Smith of Little Landers Historical Society thanked everyone for supporting the Centennial Rededication of Bolton Hall. On August 24 at 1 p.m. they will have a presentation on The History of the Sewing Machine.
- Wally Wharton said she is a candidate for Honorary Suppressive Person and gave reasons why.
- John Blue is proposing that during the Winter Olympics of 2014, that every USA athlete wear a rainbow colored label pin with the words, "Who am I to Judge?" to indicate their opposition to Russia's oppressive anti-democratic and anti-Gay laws.
- Resident Colleen Pathe talked about Going Green and her Turf business.
- Nina Royal talked about her newspaper "North Valley Reporter".
- Greg Chastan reported the safety problems of overnight parking of oversized trucks on Foothill Blvd. opposite Sunland Park and the Commerce Center.
- Melodee Patterson announced her candidacy for Honorary Mayor of S-T. She is raising money for American Cancer Society Relay for Life. Also, she mentioned that Thomas Smoker Jr. is running for Honorary Mayor to raise money for the American Legion. She also thanked Double Deal Pizza in Sunland for providing the refreshments for the STNC meeting.

- Lydia Grant said that four new schools in L.A. are using the Parent Trigger legislation that the community helped bring to fruition. She is also trying to set up a viewing of the new documentary about the Parent Trigger legislation. On another note, she suggested the website: [www.Claw.org](http://www.Claw.org) for an organization working to protect the wildlife corridors.
- John Blue pointed out that he saved the sign for Troy Burgers and felt it would be a good piece of folk art from the community.

**12. Motion: Code Enforcement Section of the Housing Department – (Royal/Patterson) moved that the STNC strongly requests that the Code Enforcement Section of the Housing Department be transferred to the Department of Building and Safety.** Discussion was lengthy. One point that was brought up was that this was the recommendation of former City Controller Wendy Greuel in 2012. The motion carried with three abstentions: **DeCenzo, Novy, & Armour.**

**13. Position letter supporting the Neighborhood Council Plan Review –(Cleghorn/Novy) moved that STNC collectively support all nine recommendations. The motion carried unanimously.**

**14. Neighborhood Council Elections (Cleghorn/Stewart) moved that STNC support the position letter that the City Council adopt an ordinance change to return the authority of NC elections to DONE/Empower LA in order to conduct NC board elections and to partner with the City Clerk for back office administrative services. That STNC recommends that wherever the draft ordinance shows “City Clerk is authorized,” it be changed to “DONE/Empower LA is authorized.” The motion carried unanimously.**

**15. Board Reports:**

- John Blue, Veterans Rep, offered to put together another presentation with Vector Control on the West Nile Virus.
- Al Timins, Seniors Rep, listed art classes being offered at the Senior Center in Sunland.
- Pat O’Brien, Veterans Rep, reported that the VA now has housing units available for homeless vets and services to help vets get benefits.
- Araz Parseghian asked for suggestions on ways Region 4 can help local businesses.
- Lydia Grant, Parent Rep, cautioned that children have returned to school so drivers need to be much more vigilant about kids crossing. Due to LAUSD changes, the “No Child Left Behind” program is not being implemented in the school system.
- Thomas Smoker Jr. announced his fundraiser BBQ dinner at and for the American Legion as he’s running for Honorary Mayor. He also talked about the influx of massage parlors in our area.
- Richard Stewart, Environmental Rep, acknowledged Roger Klemm and Lloyd Hitt in their efforts to improve the environment.
- Ed Novy, Homeowner’s Rep, predicted that the new DWP contract will increase fees by \$40 a year, for homeowners. Councilmembers Krekorian and Fuentes will be participating in the meeting on this issue.
- Kresse Armour, Region 1, noted the problems with street paving in her region and urged everyone to register their complaints at the phone number given in the presentation. (213) 847-3200.
- Joe DeCenzo, Poets and Writers rep, announced that Councilmember Fuentes has acknowledged the S-T area with a proclamation for Bolton Hall Day and the Artist Day Games. He announced the next Village Poets meeting at McGroarty, Aug. 24 at 4:30 p.m.

**16. Pedestrian Advisory Committee:** Cindy asked for a stakeholder to volunteer to serve as a rep on this City committee geared to developing pedestrian-friendly areas.

**17. Group Rep Reports:**

**Parking of Oversized Vehicles.** Cindy called it unsafe having 18 wheelers parking on city streets and announced that meetings are underway. She will keep everyone informed.

**Save Our Streets LA:** Cindy stated that the Neighborhood Councils helped to stop the measure from being on the previous ballot but it is due to come back. Everyone needs to become aware of the 24 points in the report, especially the first nine that have to do with cost.

**LADWP Water Recycling Program:** LADWP is looking for support on their groundwater recycling project.

**18. Treasurer's Report:** Cindy reported that the STNC Budget Committee reviewed in great detail the current approved budget and the monies disbursed last month. **The board approved receiving the August 2013 Monthly Budget Report.** An item to approve a website vendor was tabled until the next meeting.

**19. Safety Report Report:** Nina Royal announced that the CERT class has wrapped up and she will now be setting up a CPR Aid Class. Contact Nina to attend. National Night Out was a huge success with its two volunteer bands, food donations from Corsica's Deli, Back Door Bakery and other vendors. Over 700 people were served at Sunland Park. Nina is organizing a "Going Beyond the Call of Duty" Awards. She asked for volunteers for her Safety Committee to help.

**20. Land Use Committee:**

- **New Committee member appointment:** STNC approved the LUC recommendation of architect Ani Barsegyan as an alternate LUC member. The motion carried unanimously.
- **Proposed Drive-Thru Car Wash at Apperson and Foothill** is now pending a traffic study. The Zoning Administrator has tentatively approved the Conditional Use but is holding the file open until the Traffic Study is submitted and receipt of comments from the STNC/LUC on the Traffic Study. The owner will provide copies of the Traffic Study to the LUC as well as LADOT's report once they are complete and prior to the ZA's final determination. There is still time to send in comments to the City pro and con on this proposal. Cindy Cleghorn participated in the ZA hearing and presented the STNC's comment letter.
- **Citywide Mural Ordinance comment letter was approved:** "The STNC opposes the Mural Ordinance because there already exists a zoning ordinance in Chapter 1, Article 4.4.20 of the LAMC that they are prohibited unless approved by a specific plan. However should the City adopt a Mural Ordinance, the Board of the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council supports Los Angeles City Mural Ordinance "B" (Council File # 11-0923), which prohibits murals on Single-Family (R-1) properties. The STNC supports that neighborhoods "Opt In" to allow murals within their Neighborhood Council boundary in their particular Single-Family (R-1) neighborhoods. The motion carried with one opposition (Novy).
- **Position letter regarding Housing Element:** (Cleghorn/Royal) moved that STNC approve the comment letter as presented by the LUC Land Use Committee Chair, Dean Sherer. The motion carried with one abstention (Novy).

**21. Outreach Committee:** The Watermelon Festival takes place at the Rose Bowl August 16-18 Monies raised will return to the S-T area. Parking is free.

**22. Meeting Adjourned:** 9:40 pm