

Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council
Board Meeting Minutes, Wednesday, February 11, 2015
North Valley Neighborhood City Hall
7747 Foothill Blvd., Tujunga, CA 91042

Meeting called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Mark Seigel, president.

Board members present: Mark Seigel, , Nina Royal, Cindy Cleghorn, Jorge Martinez, Julie Cuddihy, Gail Carlson, Krystee Clark, Charlie Bradley, Jim Moore, John Laue, Dana Stangel, Pat Kramer, Jon vonGunten, David Barron, Marlene Hitt, Maureen O'Byrne, , Susan Mona. Absent: Sergio Soto, Brenda Fortune Arno Akobyan, one vacancy. Attendance: 82 audience, 15 board, total 97. Boy Scouts Troop 394, Sunland-Tujunga LDS, led us in the pledge of allegiance. Our local Girl Scouts were also present with cookies outside.

Reports from LAPD, State, County, CD7, BONC, NC Budget Advocates representatives including Q&A: LAPD Officer Contreras said crime is up and up citywide compared to last year, year to date. AB109 a change in the probation system and Prop 47 de-criminalized felonies down to misdemeanors attributes to this increase. LAPD has many challenges to maintain order and enforce the law. They have assigned five additional police cars to the Sunland-Tujunga area. Reminder to call in to LAPD and report suspicious activity. Don't wait til a week later. Don't leave items visible in your car and keep doors locked. Next Neighborhood Watch will include Det. Coyle who will talk about narcotics.

Wesly Hernandez, CD7 – Reported on the recent homeless count, 78 individuals helped. Volunteer Housing Navigator training available Feb. 17 and 20. CPAB meeting will be at Japanese American Cultural Center. Contact him at 818-352-3287. Kevin Suscavege from Assemblymember Patty Lopez gave the new office phone 818-504-3911 and location at 9300 Laurel Canyon Blvd., Arleta. Patty is working on legislation in area of senior care, foster care, water and wildlife. Women of Action for Woman of the Year Award nominations deadline is Feb. 19. Flyer also available describing how Assy Lopez' office can help constituents. Rep from LAUSD Board member Monica Ratliff gave school board updates.

Gail Carlson introduced the artists present who participated in DOT Box Voting. She presented certificates to volunteers who worked on the DOT Box Art vote counting,

Presentation: Martine Colette, Founder and CEO, Wildlife Waystation gave a history of the Wildlife Waystation that has existed for 40 years with how the 162 acre site of the Wildlife Waystation started. Projected date to open the Waystation to the public is hopeful for late 2015 or early 2016. Food for the animals comes from a wide range of sources. Little by little they are working to get approvals from the County completed which will also open up more animal education opportunities. The Waystation was built by the people's efforts in our area.

Budget Advocates Report: Krystee Clark reported that the Greek Theater proposal was at City Council and the apples to apples comparison that the NCBA's presented is moved forward. City Council rejected the Live Nation proposal which will send the proposal back to the commission to evaluate more closely. STNC and CM Fuentes supported the NCBA's position to support Nederlander. More Info: NCBALA.com

BONC Commissioner Lydia Grant: There are now 96 Neighborhood Councils with the new Zapata King, NC in South LA. A 97th NC is still in formation "United For Victory" also South LA". Grievance Policy update: Current policy is that the Grievances go to the NC. New policy will go Regional for a more objective body. E&N is supposed to be meeting once a month but they have not met since March 2014. Many of the recommendations by BONC have not moved forward. E&N will be meeting next week. A new NC Online Voting system is also being considered which will require pre-registration and allow more time to vote. The BONC will be voting on the contract. Proposal will mean Voting will still be available on voting day by computer. NC Congress event will be Sept. 26, 2015 and the BONC Awards will be a separate event. The budget for NC Congress and NC Budget Advocates is proposed to be in separate accounts. Reminder to sign up for Early Notification at <http://lacity.org/city-government/subscribe-meeting-agendas-and-more>. To submit comments to the BONC email: janet.lindo@lacity.org

All Motions requiring Vote Count sheets are on file.

Motion (vonGunten/Clark) to appoint Cindy Cleghorn STNC Secretary passed unanimous.

Board Member vacancy: Group Representative.

Minutes of 1/12/15 approved as presented.

Monthly Expenditure Report (MER) for January 2015. Motion (Bradley/Hitt) passed unanimous.

STNC Microphone / Sound System – volunteer is needed for set up and take down at STNC and LUC meetings.

Community Announcements (also see STNC calendar at stnc.org for details) included upcoming hike on 3/28, plant sale and collectible sale at Bolton Hall, Square Dancing.

Motion (O'Byrne/Mona) to approve up to \$200 for craft supplies for Sunland Park Spring break activities. Passed without objection.

Motion (Cleghorn/Bradley) to approve up to \$250 for STNC table at Spring Carnival. This is one of the highest attended community events and good for more local outreach. Passed without objection, two abstentions.

Motion (Cleghorn/Martinez) to approve \$7,000 for 4th of July Fireworks deposit. The amount is the same as 2014 and the deposit is paid directly to Pyro Spectaculars, single source vendor. Passed without objection, unanimous. Recommendations for kids activities and games at the Family Fireworks Festival including science related activities.

Motion (Carlson/Mona) to approve \$300.00 for T-Shirts and Gloves. Angel Angel from Champion Building Supplies (818-951-4056) located at Valmont and Foothill offered to donate the gloves. Passed without objection.

Land Use Committee: Recommendation to appoint Cathi Comras to the LUC postponed to March 11, 2015 meeting.

Motion (Barron/Clark) to appoint Charlie Bradley, VP Community Improvement to chair the Great Streets Committee. Purpose is to formalize this committee that has met loosely, without structure with the intention for Sunland-Tujunga's efforts to get a Great Streets designation. The City needs to convene and document collaboration with the committee holding agenda public meetings. Meetings will be first and third Mondays at 6 p.m. and will work to get the tasks accomplished with everyone's participation including surveys and ideas for improvements. Volunteers welcome. Having the Great Streets designation will open the door to improving the community. Suggestion that the committee make a presentation to the board and include Public Works president Kevin James. There is only one Great Street chosen per council district. One other one in CD7 already picked in Pacoima. Goal is for us to be shovel ready when the next group are up for selection. At a future meeting the committee members will be presented. At present Charlie Bradley will serve as Chair along with Krystee Clark and John Laue. Motion passed unanimous.

Motion (Laue/Hitt) to send letter to Councilman Fuentes regarding addition of exercise equipment at the new Oro Vista Park. More than 40 parks around the city have this equipment. More discussion needed with the Arts, Culture and Recreation and the park's VNOC committees including funding and type of equipment for this park or at another park. The letter asks Mr. Fuentes to identify funding sources for this type of equipment. Motion (Clark/Barron) to refer this to committee. Mark appointed John Laue, David Barron, Lloyd Hitt and Krystee Clark to form the ad hoc committee to research exercise equipment for Oro Vista Park. Motion to refer to ad-hoc committee passed without objection.

Group & Region Rep reports: Dana Stangel: RACO update with two possible volunteers, Fix Nation referrals for ferret cats. Preparing animals for disaster and rattlesnake training coming up. Next meeting will feature SMART team from Animal Services who are available for animal rescue. Marlene Hitt invited everyone to Bolton Hall to find where the community began. Open Tuesdays and Sundays 1-4 p.m. Research opportunities available. Jon vonGunten talked about Neighborhood Watch efforts and long term entrenched drug dealers in the community. Stronger effort to abate the problem are being communicated to LAPD and the Neighborhood Prosecutor. Jim Moore would like to present a crime statistics report he's prepared. Krystee Clark talked about new tax incentives for filming and bringing in FilmLA to present and ACR Committee work to encourage filming in the community and our equestrian areas with a new brochure. We have one of the largest prop houses in the country. USC School of Cinematic art will be showing two shorts at our ST Library. Thank you from Region Rep David Barron who said the Town Hall was a success covering HSR, Big T and Samoa proposals. Susan Mona has been working to get the old Back Door Bakery building demolished; Jorge Martinez has been talking with neighbors with positive responses from neighbors and businesses. Maureen O'Byrne talked about shopping carts, graffiti and bulky items clean ups. Mark recognized the board for their work behind the scenes for the community.

Public Comments from three stakeholders were given.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.