

Special Joint Board & Executive Committee Meeting
Minutes

Wednesday, September 30, 2020 at 7:30 PM
Held via Zoom

Call to Order 7:31 p.m. by President Liliana Sanchez.

Roll Call: Liliana Sanchez, President, Lydia Grant, First Vice President Community Improvement; Nina Royal, 2nd Vice President - Outreach; Sandy Capps, Treasurer; Cindy Cleghorn, Secretary, Board members present included: Arsen Karamians, Mark Norling, Shirley Kim, Vartan Keshish, Carol Hutchinson, Glen Belt. Also present: Ivan Spiegel, Parliamentarian and Jasmine Elbarbary, DONE and 6 Audience Attendees.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS (10) - Nina Royal announced National Night Out caravan at 6 p.m on Oct. 6.

Items 4 and 5. Discussion regarding Zoom, Live Streaming. Jasmine went over a number a number of points regarding the use of Zoom showing board members live on video, virtual backgrounds, live streaming on Facebook or Instagram. Jasmine offered to review the settings with our Zoom account. Currently STNC does not show video for board members. Only our names show. Pro and Con discussed regarding live streaming on Facebook. Concerns about too much to monitor, comments and internet connection. Goal is to get more exposure. ADA requests go through DONE so they can accommodate those requests. Several board members expressed dislike for live streaming on Facebook at this time.

Item 6. OLD BUSINESS

Discussion regarding Agenda Requests: Cindy pointed out that the rest of the agenda is what has come in using the online Agenda Request submittal process. Liliana asked about submittal of Judith Quinones interest in stakeholder position. Cindy stated Judith did not submit all documentation. Lydia wants to make sure we place on our agenda for both U.S. Congress candidates to speak, 20 minutes each.

Liliana asked if anything not on the draft agenda.

Item 7. NEW BUSINESS

A. Motion (Lydia/Nina): Approve Executive Committee Special Meeting Minutes for August 26, 2020 – Motion passed unanimous. No discussion called.

B. Motion (Nina/Lydia): Approve Executive Committee Special Meeting Minutes for August 31, 2020 – Motion passed unanimous. No discussion called.

C. Discussion: Missing social media access. Cindy asked if anyone has the Instagram account access so we can utilize it. Liliana said page moderation on Facebook and she can provide Cindy link. Lydia asked number of social media followers STNC has? Will provide at Outreach committee. Unknown if STNC has a Twitter account. NextDoor access can be received from DONE if we need to.

D. Discussion / Action that the following motions / agenda item requests are to move forward onto the STNC Board meeting agenda for October or other month in the future or are referred to committee:

1. Motion (Cindy/Lydia): Recommendation that STNC Board change meeting on November 11, 2020 to November 4, 2020 due to Veterans Day holiday. [Cindy Cleghorn] – STNC has a standing rule that we do not meet on Federal holidays. Suggests we meet a week earlier although it could be a week later. Board will need to vote for this change. Passed unanimous.
2. Motion (Cindy/Lydia): Add Executive Committee access for STNC Telephone 818-951-7411 to set up auto answer capability and receive reports. [Cindy Cleghorn] – There are features with the phone system we are not utilizing. Liliana wants to modify so that someone else take over

the phone line. Lydia says that if set up it would go to various members of the board. Liliana doesn't want responsibility to answer thousands of calls. Says she's answered over 2,000 calls or more. Would like someone else to take it over and have full responsibility. Cindy would like to see the phone system used to its full potential. Liliana noted that many who call are trying to reach Councilmember Rodriguez. Comments taken. Recommends this go to the Outreach Committee. Passed unanimous.

3. Motion (Lydia/Nina): Approve 2021 Neighborhood Council Election Information Worksheet and Election Drop Box Location for Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council [Sandy Capps] – Email from City Clerk and will need a board vote. Passed unanimous.
4. Motion (Sandy/Lydia): Approve 2021 Elections Committee. No discussion. Passed unanimous.
5. Motion (Lydia/Sandy): Remove Ivan Spiegel as Parliamentarian of the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council [Lydia Grant]

Lydia requested Item #6 go before Item #5 but Liliana chose to keep the order as is.

Liliana stated that this motion goes against our Bylaws, pg. 20.

Jasmine read from the Bylaws that the president may appoint an unbiased parliamentarian. She interprets it that it's the president's choice to appoint and the parliamentarian advises on parliamentary rules.

Lydia requested the item be postponed until after Item #6. Liliana said cannot postpone due to being in middle of a motion. Liliana denied Lydia's request to postpone.

Ivan said this came up when he started to work with STNC and it was changed through the Bylaws change process and it was discussed how a parliamentarian could be removed. The way you change the parliamentarian, the president decides they don't want that person any longer. He sees this as a power grab and that the bylaws should not be changed. Ivan does not want his name dragged through this. He's here as a volunteer trying to help. Ask Liliana to remove him. He's tried to be impartial and he would like to go through the Standing Rules and update those.

Arsen said the parliamentarian has been helpful. Unless someone takes his place, its best to continue. We need a formal, civil way to deal with any problems.

Carol said she has not spoken with Ivan as he states.

Lydia said that we need a parliamentarian that can help guide us and we're not getting that with Ivan at this time because he refuses to address problems with Liliana. Motion passed 4 in favor, 1 opposed.

6. Motion (Lydia/Nina): Add to the Standing Rules that the Parliamentarian which is appointed by the President be ratified by the Board. The Parliamentarian may also be removed by a vote of the Board. The Bylaws that were rewritten for the Parliamentarian did not include checks and balances. When the Parliamentarian fails to do the job as required by the bylaws and or oversteps his duties the Board needs to be allowed to remove the Parliamentarian. This should be added to the Bylaws when the Bylaw window is open. It should be noted that this Bylaw was written by the Parliamentarian which was being paid by our Board which is a Conflict of Interest. The Board did not realize that there was no removal clause. [Lydia Grant]

Bill Skiles recommends changing to refer to the Bylaws & Standing Rules committee so they can come up with wording. If Item 6 passed as is it would create the illusion that a Standing Rule was created but it would be ambiguous. Refer to the Bylaws committee and come back to the board at a later date.

Nina agreed. Lydia did not agree.

Bill explained that this wording would be perceived as a Standing Rule and create more confusion.

Standing Rule is specific words, not an idea. Needs to be precise. Clarified that the Board refers it to the Bylaws & Standing Rules committee. Liliana supports this going to the Bylaws committee. Cindy stated that we have a motion that we're putting it to the board. Liliana asked are we recommending this motion as it is or with changes? Liliana/Cindy amended the wording to include STNC board refer to the Bylaws & Standing Rules committee. Discussion on the amendment:

Lydia would like to leave it like it is so the board can make a decision.

Bill repeated the amended wording: Motion to refer to the Bylaws and Standing Rules Committee the matter of preparing appropriate language to create a standing rule that the Parliamentarian, who is appointed by the president, that the appointment be ratified by the board. Amended version of this motion goes to the board. Passed 3 -Yes, 2-No.

7. Motion (Lydia/Nina): That STNC board ratify Ivan Spiegel as Parliamentarian. [Carol Hutchinson]

Carol said the board should input because the way he is advising Liliانا affects the board.

Lydia said that any item that goes before our board, the board has a right to vote on.

Ivan said he didn't want to become the issue. He's tried to help and has worked with over a dozen neighborhood councils. Ivan said he would resign. He's tried to help and he's getting resistance. He's not going to be a party to tearing the board apart. Thanked Liliانا for working with him and sharing his knowledge.

Liliانا thanked Ivan and then said how we all are a "expletive" embarrassment. Code of Conduct violation called out. Liliانا then stated she's resigned. Then said "expletive" Lydia Grant, "expletive" Carol, "expletive" Nina. Bye. Several spoke up that what Liliانا said was uncalled for. Liliانا said good riddance and hopes Lydia can lead this board to wherever disaster you want to lead it.

At this time Liliانا did not continue to preside for this meeting.

Lydia Grant then presided for the remainder of the meeting.

Lydia then made a statement that she originally invited Ivan to come to our board to assist us but things have become political and there hasn't been opportunity to share the concerns with the board. Lydia said this became a problem when Ivan said he would not work with us, it became political.

Bren – When Ivan first came along, he brought a lot of good information to the STNC. Bylaws do need to be brought up to speed so next parliamentarian should not have to go through this.

Betty – Item #7 that the board ratify parliamentarian did not seem appropriate due to #6. Can't ratify until dealing with #6.

Cindy, seeing Liliانا still present, asked if Liliانا is presiding for the remainder of the meeting and would like to know for certain. No response.

Reason for item #7 is because it was never in the minutes that the parliamentarian was appointed by the president. The parliamentarian should be ratified by the board.

8. Motion: All agenda items that are not operation items to a committee for review. [Lydia Grant] (Cindy/Nina) recommend this item be postponed.

Shirley said that going to committee will save time during board meetings. Motion passed to postpone 4-0. (Liliانا still present but did not vote. Liliانا did leave the meeting a few minutes later.)

9. Motion: Vote on an STNC board member to fill the duty of vetting all new board member applicants.[Lydia Grant]

Lydia explained that Item #9 and 10 go together. The item is "how do we review new board members?" Sandy asked if the motions were sent through the Agenda Request portal. What committee or board member? Move to the board agenda to see if someone volunteers.

Cindy explained the process so far. People think its up to the secretary or the president to determine whether a stakeholder group organization is authentic. As long as we know what is to be collected. All of this should go to the Standing Rules and Bylaws committee to come up with the procedure and who does what and come back to the board later.

Carol – We need to have vetting committee. Outreach committee that ask for money. There needs to be a way that research is all done before it comes to the board.

Shirley – Agrees what can streamline the board meetings. Anything to save all of us time. Also what committee? It should be a panel of people so that it doesn't fall on one person. And the panel has to know all the rules. Goes back to the checks and balances.

Rock Swart called in by phone - a lot has happened tonight and there's a lot of talent among you and has faith in the committee.

Motion to postpone items 8, 9, 10, 11 (Nina/Sandy) to the Community Improvement and Standing Rules/Bylaws committee. Passed 4-0-1

10. Motion: To send all candidates to committee for review to confirm eligibility. New candidates should be approved before they are added to the agenda and should answer questions before a committee. [Lydia Grant]
11. Motion: Vote on an STNC board member to fill the duty of vetting all new board member applicants. [Liliana Sanchez]
12. Motion (Cindy/Nina): Request committee chairs or representative and liaisons give their reports at the beginning of STNC board meetings. [Lydia Grant] Passed 4-0-1.
13. Motion(Cindy/Nina): To change name of Community Improvement Committee to Community Improvement and Government Affairs Committee. [Lydia Grant] Passed 4-0-1.
14. Motion (Sandy/Cindy): Approve LAUSD request for Facilities Use at Pinewood Elementary. [Sandy Capps] *Beautification Committee request to provide LAUSD Request for the use of Facilities and Insurance at Pinewood Elementary School for painting of the Pinewood Mural on the west side of campus.* Passed 4-0-1.
15. Discussion of EVG protocols as in 'webinar' format to be used at all Zoom meetings as recommended by DONE on Sept. 9, 2020. [Liliana Sanchez]
We already conduct our meetings in webinar format. Jasmine will work with Cindy to check settings. Lydia/Sandy motion to postpone passed 4-0-1
16. Motion: Discuss the offer from Jean Morrison's offer for a FREE online resilience in the COVID Era. [Liliana Sanchez] - Motion (Sandy/Nina) to refer to the outreach committee. Passed 4-0-1.
17. Motion (Nina/Cindy): That STNC Boardmembers required to serve on at least one committee may use their liaison position to satisfy this requirement. Example: Currently Oscar Alvarez is the liaison to the NC Sustainability Alliance [Lydia Grant] Passed 4-0-1.
18. Discussion/Possible Action: Stakeholder Request from Evelyn Serrano that her Stakeholder Group Rep appointment postponed at last board meeting return to the STNC board: I request for our Council to take a vote, without abstentions, on my application to become a stakeholder representative on behalf of Against Bigotry Responding with Action. I make this request on the basis that the vote was postponed indefinitely based on guidance that will not be effective until October 16th. Under current bylaws, the organization I represent deserves due process and a vote by every member of my Neighborhood Council. Motion Title: Motion to Vote on ABRA Stakeholder Representative Application

Motion (Sandy/Cindy) – No public comments. Lydia explained that at the last meeting ABRA does not qualify as a stakeholder group. At the last meeting it was postponed indefinitely. According to past bylaws the stakeholder group definition was the same as it is in the new bylaws so would not qualify either. It would be a violation that board members have their rights to abstain taken away.

Bren – Does the STNC ask for the letters of the organizations from the State of California or are these just letters from people who have come together?

Jasmine – Last Bylaws for STNC approved June 29, 2020 and under that definition this isn't a limitation about address. These will be the bylaws until DONE provides a new set with the NC Reform motions updated which will be sometime after Oct. 16. Placing the item on the agenda is OK with the wording about abstentions because the board will vote as they are able to vote. Lydia pointed out Attachment B. The organization doesn't have a location in the community.

Bren – Pointed out that the Lions Club is an established. This is not a legitimate organization. They can become a formal organization. Bren – Sometimes organizations are formed abroad and they have chapters. There's a proper way to do this and makes it honorable for the community.

Arsen – Agrees with Bren.

Shirley – Agrees with Bren. When she was reviewing the packet, it was an email and not a letter on letterhead.

Motion failed 0-4-1

19. Confirm Items from the Community Improvement Committee [Lydia Grant]

- a. Motion: CF20-1145 - Controller report, dated September 9, 2020, relative to Meeting the Moment: An Action Plan to advance Prop HHH

Lydia requests that we have a speaker and postpone this item until that time.

Stakeholder comments: Bill Skiles in favor of postponement for the speaker, Betty Markowitz asks what is the action.

Motion (Nina/Cindy) to postpone. Passed 4-0-1

- b. CF20-1099 (Martinez- Krekorian) relative to request the LA Department of Water and Power to report on the methane leak at the Valley Generating Station, and develop a policy to proactively find and address leaks of methane, or other hazardous pollution; and request the Air Quality Management District and the Jet ropulsion Laboratory report as detailed in this Motion.

Motion (Nina/Cindy). Passed 4-0-1

- c. CF20-0608 - Office of Anti-Corruption and Transparency / Independent Auditors and Investigators / Land Use Approval Oversight and Monitoring / Quid Pro Quo Activity
Motion (Nina/Cindy) to postpone. Passed 4-0-1

20. Confirm Items from the Budget & Finance Committee [Sandy Capps] – Motion Cindy/Nina – Passed 4-0-1

8. MOTION: The Executive Committee approves the draft agenda for the General Board meeting on October 14, 2020.

Cindy reviewed the order and corrected dates on the draft agenda, presenters, and items.

Marjorie requested changing time of Beautification Committee meeting to 5:30 p.m. instead of 6 p.m.

Sharon – Asked how we are going to address the president resigning in such a way. Since the NEA heard it. Need to let the board know.

Motion (Nina/Sandy) to approve the agenda. Motion passed 4-0-1

Lydia apologized to what we have experienced at this meeting tonight. We have a process for replacing the president and as first vice president she (Lydia) will take that role and follow the STNC Bylaws to replace the president.

Nina said that National Night Out will be Tues. Oct. 6, 6 p.m. for a car caravan escorted by a motor officer.

Meeting adjourned: 10:15 p.m.