

## **STAT Meeting Minutes November 23, 21**

1. **Meeting Called to Order** by Pat Kramer, chairperson, at 6:00 p.m. Quorum established with: Pat Kramer – Chair, Jon von Gunten – Cochair, Gerry Sherman – Member, Levon Parian – Member, Roger Swart – Member and Barbara Rowe – Member. George Arakel signed on at approximately 6:12 p.m. Also attending were moderator Leny Freeman and STNC executive committee member Cindy Cleghorn. Gerry Sherman left meeting at 6:30 p.m.
2. **Chairperson's Announcements and Welcome:** Pat announced that longtime STAT committee member Levon Parian is resigning for health reasons. Levon has been instrumental in focusing LADOT on speeding issues on Tujunga Canyon Boulevard, south of Foothill, and has been reporting accidents and property damage to ensure the road and signage gets fixed in a timely manner. Levon thanked the Committee for all its work, Jon vG for his Neighborhood Watch reports, and said he hoped to return soon. However, he also reported his frustration with LADOT in getting them to implement common-sense solutions such as relocating a fire hydrant further back from the roadway after it was demolished by a speeding vehicle.
3. **Tree Care Field Trip:** On Saturday, November 20, 2021, Pat, George Arakel and Babz Rowe attended an AgroPerm removal at a community location in the South Bay. The community group has been removing the AgroPerm (looks like asphalt paving) from tree wells so that the tree roots can freely expand and get water and nutrition from the soil. They are also mulching the tree wells and shared their process. George and Babz did hands-on AgroPerm removal where it was confining tree-trunk growth and Pat did research. She learned that many communities around LA City are removing the old AgroPerm and it is creating great community-oriented events that strengthen bonds with stakeholders.
4. **Reports by Officials:** LAPD, CD7, LADOT: JvG reported about an LAPD NW Zoom meeting with 98 attendees re: the hunt and apprehension of Foothill's armed night prowler. Our residents' input has helped LAPD reduce guns and crime. Capt. Smith reported that Foothill has taken more than 600 guns off the street, which is more than any other precinct in Los Angeles. Roger added that Capt. Johnny Smith has taken a personal interest in the S-T area, including answering recent questions about the unarmed lady driving her car through the front doors of DIY.

CD7's Eve Sinclair responded to Pat's email asking for help with removing the AgroPerm around the trees by saying MROD's volunteer corps worked recently to plant and trim new trees.

After meeting with Steve List, Pat amended her motion to CD7 asking for help implementing whatever actions Tree People and Urban Forestry recommend to keep trees healthy and growing. From Sunland to Marcus are older trees. From Marcus to Lowell are newer. Councilwoman Monica Rodríguez appointed Steve List to Community Forestry Advisory Council, not Urban Forestry, which is a very understaffed department under Street Services. (Strong is List's alternate.) There are varying opinions about whether trees need watering, should be mulched, etc. It's hard to say what's arboreal science vs. political "science."

Pat noted that trees do buckle our sidewalks here and there. Jon says if trees' roots truly did grow deep vertically, as is alleged, they wouldn't be growing horizontally to buckle sidewalks.

5. **Approval of Minutes:** Tabled until January 2022 meeting.

6. **STAT Committee Reports:**

- Jon: Our common concern is getting more traffic enforcement on Foothill. All present were in favor of organizing another road trip to Valley Traffic in January.
- Pat invited everyone to a Holiday Get Together in her garden on December 11, 2021 at noon.
- JvG reported that Capt. Smith asked for the location of Richard Stewart's Tujunga Canyon Blvd. sign reading "Happy Thanksgiving, Thank you, LAPD."
- George Arakel asked about ordering more No Speeding signs, which would be another agenda item for a Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council funding request. George has moved to Montrose, but will continue to represent his family's address on Elmhurst.
- Pat saw a bad collision at the intersection of Foothill/Oro Vista last week. Seemed possible that both parties may have violated traffic laws.
- Jon thanked Pat for all her STAT work through 2021. Arakel thanks all committee members.

7. **Public Comment:** None.

8. **Meeting Adjourned** at 7:10 p.m.

Minutes by Jon von Gunten