

Sunland Tujunga Neighborhood Council

Special General Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 13, 2024

This meeting is being held by the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council using teleconferencing pursuant to Government Code Section 54953.8(a)(2)(B).

1. **Call to Order, 7:02pm, Welcome** - Lydia Grant, President
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**, Led by Leny Freeman
3. **STNC President's Updates** – General comment from Lydia - we have bills that impact the City and more will come. Bills give a blank check to developers (e.g. AB2560, FB961). Lydia will agendize a discussion another meeting to discuss in more depth.
 - A. **L.A. City Budget: Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates** will host DONE Budget Town Hall on Saturday, March 23; hosting City Budget Town Hall, Sat. April 27; Budget Advocates Report - Region 1 - <https://www.budgetadvocates.org/reports> and Save the Date for Budget Day on Sat. June 15 @ L.A. City Hall. STNC will weigh in on the DONE Budget after the March 23 Town Hall.
 - B. **Van Nuys City Hall** open for City Council meetings every other month on first Fridays - see <https://clerk.lacity.gov/calendar>
 - Lydia noted that if anyone would like to go to a meeting, now some will be in the Valley
 - C. **Status of STNC Board approved Light Pole Banners** - We are waiting for Councilwoman Rodriguez to provide her support. Sites already identified. City Council approved DONE Street Banner motion.
 - Cindy noted that DONE banners would be up from May 2024 to May 2025.i
 - D. Discussion to submit comments to CF 23-0133-S1 regarding the DONE citywide street banner program.
4. **Roll Call, Voting Eligibility** - Karen Moran, Recording Secretary
 - A. Completion of City / DONE Required trainings status for the STNC board.
 - a. Raul Rodriguez noted that Belinda's training not current.
 - B. Board member recusals or paid lobbyists in attendance -none
 - *Note: Mapi Moran arrived ~ 8:30pm; Mark Siegel arrived ~ 7:30pm; Jon Von Gunten arrived ~ 7:20pm.*

Board Member	Roll Call	Funding Voting Eligibility	Board Appointment
Lydia Grant	Present	Yes	President
Lallah Rowe	Absent	Yes	1st VP
Mapuana Moran	Absent	Yes	2nd VP

Board Member	Roll Call	Funding Voting Eligibility	Board Appointment
Carol Hutchinson	Present	Yes	Treasurer
Cindy Cleghorn	Present	Yes	Correspondence Sec
Karen Moran	Present	Yes	Recording Sec
Leny Freeman	Present	Yes	Region 1 Rep
KT Travers	Present	Yes	Region 1 Rep
Sherry McCoy	Present	Yes	Region 2 Rep
VACANT	VACANT	VACANT	Region 2 Rep
Mike Goglia	Present	Yes	Region 3 Rep
Peter Darakjian	Absent	Yes	Region 3 Rep
Jon von Gunten	Absent	Yes	Region 3 Rep
Belinda Woodruff	Absent	No	Region 4 Rep
Trevor Schmidt	Present	Yes	Region 4 Rep
Mark Seigel	Absent	Yes	Region 4 Rep
Ross Herman	Absent	Yes	Region 4 Rep
Cheryl Schmidt	Present	Yes	Public Safety Rep
Chris Rowe	Absent	Yes	Education Rep
Nina Royal	Present	Yes	Senior Rep
Vartan Keshish	Absent	Yes	Community Interest Rep
Quorum: 11 present at roll call, 9 absent (see note for late arrivals)			

5. **Discussion/Q&A with LAPD, Elected Officials/Representatives, DONE, NC Budget Advocates, City Departments**

- LAPD officers –
 - i. **Officer Godoy** provided a status on crime (stats are down with exception of grand-theft-autos) and provided information about events coming up including Tip-A-Cop at Joselito’s. Susan asked about Patrick who is released at this time. Lydia wanted to know if we can get NO DUMPING signs for area behind AutoZone, and also commented that there are homeless people sleeping outside of McGroarty Park and people do not

feel safe walking in the area. Lydia noted there is a video on Facebook showing taggers that might help the Officers.

ii. **Officer Alvarado**, filling in for Officer Coloca, provided a status on crime. She will try to address the concern, about homeless at McGroarty Park. Officer Alvarado encouraged reporting incidents. Jon expressed appreciation for clean up efforts.

- **Ricardo Flores**, *Monica Rodriguez Office*, provided a status update. Lydia commented that we are still trying to get our banners up; DONE has already targeted their locations. Lydia questioned when a broken table will be replaced; Ricardo said that it is being worked. Leny commented on the 311 app. Jon thanked Ricardo for pushing through the red light at the Fire Station; video footage was taken and posted on STNC Facebook page. Cheryl asked about bathrooms in McGroarty park and doors not available for privacy. There was a discussion about access to North City Hall doors during business hours; there is no door bell. Ricardo noted that the Security Guard could see someone at the door and provide access but KT noted that the Security Guard is not always at their station (doing rounds) and felt a door bell would be good. Karen suggested a sign be posted outside the building with the phone number for access that could be answered by people in the building.
- **Declan Floyd**, Senator Portantino's Office. Cheryl asked about a bill where you had to pay a registration fee annually for fire arms that constituents were unhappy about. Jon commented that there is a bill that forces people to 'rent' guns which is a burden on people who need the guns in higher crime areas.
- **Diana Oganessian**, *LA County Supervisor Kathryn Barger's Office*, shared that last week the City Board approved a motion to ensure people could have access to getting insurance for fires. KT expressed thanks for work done to allow residents to keep insurance. Also, LA City is launching a program to help first time home owners.
- **Raul Preciado**, *L.A. DONE Office* – the deadline is March 15th to nominate a woman for award. County will send out info about where the DONE banners will be located; banners will be throughout the City. Mary Lou Gerada is the contact for DONE banners; Raul will send her contact information to Cindy.

Additional items from the STNC Board

- iii. Cindy had two items – Project on Commerce & Tujunga Canyon and possible Protected Trees removed and grading without permits on Tujunga Canyon near Haines Canyon.
- iv. KT has constituents upset about vendors on Foothill Blvd blocking access on the sidewalk; Ricardo said it is the County that works with food vendors but KT noted that it is the City Street Services if sidewalk access is blocked. Diana offered to send information to County Public Health if she can get specifics on the vendors.

6. Motion: To fill the Vice President Outreach vacancy: Ross Herman

- a. Ross will move into the VP of Outreach, making him the Chair of Outreach Committee. Ross comment that we need more community involvement to help efforts. People expressed appreciation for Ross' involvement.

Item 5. Motion to have Ross Herman fill the Vice President Outreach vacancy

Motion: Grant, Second: Hutchinson

Yes	No	Abstain	Ineligible	Recuse	Absent
Grant, Hutchinson, Cleghorn, K Moran, Freeman, Travers, Goglio, von Gunten, T Schmidt, Seigal, Herman, C Schmidt, Royal 13 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 0 ineligible, 6 absent					L Rowe, M Moran, Darakjian, Woodruff, C Rowe, Keshish

- *McCoy was present but could not vote due to technical difficulties.*

7. INFORMATION / UPDATES: Pending Land Use Committee projects:

- A. Public Hearing April 3, 2024 @ 9AM re: 7921 Denivelle - ZA-2022-8971ZAD-HCA
- B. Public Hearing April 20, 2024 @ 9AM re: 9604 Hillhaven - ZA-2023-3187-ZAD-SPP
- C. STNC Land Use Committee Vacant Seats
- D. Next Special LUC Meeting is Monday, March 18 @ 7:30PM and will include: 6456 W. Olcott St. (Parcel Map Application Case No. AA-2020-3222-PMLA) - Presentation will be held with Steven J. Reyes, MPP | Principal Planner | Blue Oak Planning.
- E. 7665 Machrea @ Howard Finn Park vicinity proposal for 7 small lot subdivision - no updates except improvements are being made to the existing residence. Cindy – no updates but word from neighbors.
- F. Mayor’s Executive Directive 1 [ED1] Draft Ordinance goes before the City Council PLUM Committee on March 19 @ 2PM. Cindy – Postponed til April, extensive letter writing campaign. Go to Plan Check if you would like advanced information.

8. Discussion: Status on future STNC meetings in person and/or on Zoom including DONE and City Clerk response to Locations, Hybrid and latest on SB411 (Portantino).

- Lydia noted that SB411 says that if we have an in-person meeting where quorum is met, then no board members can join by zoom. If less than a quorum, then other board members can join by zoom. This rule makes it very difficult to arrange because you have to pre-arrange with members where they will be attending (in person or on zoom). KT asked if this applies to Committees as well; Raul felt it would also apply. A straw-man vote was cast that showed members supported zoom meetings but also felt in-person meetings were valuable. With the question posed if members would like to have an in-person meeting within the next 2 months, the straw-man vote was split (7 YES and 7 NO); currently we must have one annual in-person meeting each year. Lydia noted we are very challenged to find venues for in-person meetings, and that it takes a lot of effort to get tables and chairs for the meetings which she did last year but will not be able to continue.
- Lydia asked how many NCs that meet in City facilities had to pay for Security; the answer was none although some had security in-place due to other factors. Cindy noted they have security at North Valley City Hall during work hours and that we need to do more exploration.

9. Discussion: Does STNC have any Bylaws changes? Deadline to submit to DONE is 4-1-24.

- Cindy noted that no one has suggested changes to the Bylaws (not to be confused with Standing Rules).

10. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS (FUNDING) - MOTION: The STNC Board approved the funding consent calendar (items A through D below): **[Budget Committee approved 3-6-24]**

- A. Discussion/Action: Approve February 2024 MER
- B. Discussion/Action to approve up to \$500 for Land Use Committee postage and mailers.
- C. Discussion/Action to approve up to \$300 for outreach at Sunland Park Easter Egg event for candy and misc. supplies [Outreach]
- D. Discussion/Action to approve \$30 to the Webcorner for Domain name renewal - once a year expense. [Office]

Item 10. Motion to approve the funding consent calendar, Items A, B, C and D (all items)					
Motion: Grant, Second: Hutchinson					
Yes	No	Abstain	Ineligible	Recuse	Absent
Grant, Hutchinson, M Moran, Cleghorn, K Moran, Freeman, Travers, Goglio, von Gunten, T Schmidt, Siegal, Herman, C Schmidt, Royal					L Rowe, Darakjian, Woodruff, C Rowe, Keshish
14 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 0 ineligible, 5 absent					

**McCoy was present but unable to vote due to technical challenges.*

11. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS (NON-FUNDING) - MOTION: The STNC Board approved the non-funding consent calendar (items A through I below):

- A. Discussion/Action: Approve February 2024 STNC Board Meeting Minutes
- B. Discussion/Action: STNC Board **approves** letter of support for Mt. Gleason Middle School Speed Humps on Mt. Gleason Avenue between Wentworth and Ellenbogen.
- C. Discussion/Action: **Opposition** to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guideline Section 15064.7(b), the Department of City Planning (Department) is considering adopting updated thresholds of significance and methodologies to analyze impacts: 1) for construction noise and vibration, and 2) to historic resources. STNC opposition: Homes unsettled. Construction at all hours. [Written comments or questions may be submitted by email to mindy.nguyen@lacity.org. Any updated guidance would be publicly available on the Department’s website planning.lacity.org/project-review/environmental-resources.]
- D. Discussion/Action: Motion of **Support** for Council File 24-0002-S1 AB 817 (Pacheco) / Advisory Bodies / Teleconference Meetings / Ralph M. Brown Act Amendment (Blumenfield – Hernandez -Krekorian): Introduced February 13, 2024 and referred to Rules, Elections and Intergovernmental Relations Committee. Resolution is requesting that the City of Los Angeles include in its 2024-2025 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for AB 817 (Pacheco) that would amend the Ralph M. Brown Act

to authorize the Los Angeles City Council and other legal legislative bodies to permit subsidiary, purely advisory bodies to meet by teleconference, subject to provisions for public participation.

- E. Discussion/Action: Motion of **Support** for Council File 24-0113, Special Treatment and Recovery (STAR) Program / Medical Treatment / Private Veterinarian / Severely Injured, Abused, Neglected Animals (Mayor): Introduced February 1, 2024 and referred to Neighborhoods and Community Enrichment Committee. Department of Animal Services report is relative to the status of the Special Treatment and Recovery (STAR) Program and request to transfer funds within the Animal Welfare Trust Fund to pay anticipated STAR Program invoices.
- F. Discussion/Action: Motion of **Support** for Council File 23-0002-S99, SB 915 (Cortese) / The Autonomous Vehicle Service Deployment and Data Transparency Act / Local Control (Hernandez – Hutt –McOsker – Raman – Rodriguez – Soto-Martinez - Krekorian): Introduced February 2, 2024 and referred to Rules, Elections and Intergovernmental Relations Committee. Resolution is requesting that the City of Los Angeles include in its 2023-2024 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for Senate Bill 915, “The Autonomous Vehicle Service Deployment and Data Transparency Act”, **which would prioritize local control** in the decision to deploy autonomous vehicle services.
- G. Discussion/Action: Motion of **Support** for CF 23-0002-s100 which is City Council Support for AB 1990 This bill (AB 1990) would authorize a peace officer to make a warrantless arrest for a misdemeanor shoplifting offense not committed in the officer’s presence if the officer has probable cause to believe that person has committed shoplifting. Existing law requires a peace officer to release upon a signed promise to appear any person arrested for a misdemeanor, unless the person demands to be taken before a magistrate. Existing law provides certain reasons a person arrested for a misdemeanor shall not be released including that the person is intoxicated or in need of medical attention, the person is unable to provide satisfactory proof of identification, or there are outstanding arrest warrants for the person. Additionally, existing law exempts from this provision persons arrest for specified crimes including domestic violence, stalking, threatening a witness, and, until January 1, 2026, organized retail theft. This bill would additionally exempt a person arrested for shoplifting from the requirement that they be released on citation.
- H. Motion of **Support**: The following letter to be sent to the Los Angeles Department of Transportation **to add more parking enforcement**. Whereas the Parking Enforcement call-in line menu options are too many for expeditious service in regards to reporting parking violations, as the Parking Enforcement dispatch is dealing with people reporting malfunctioning traffic signals, parking violations, requesting traffic control and locating impounded vehicles, there can be a very long wait depending on the day and time therefore, the Sunland Tujunga Neighborhood Council requests that: 1) the Los Angeles Department of Transportation simplify the call-in for Parking Enforcement requests to a specific line for Parking Enforcement only, without other service options in the same call waiting queue; and 2) more Parking Enforcement officers be hired.
- I. Motion to appoint Ross Herman to the CIGA [Community Improvement & Government Affairs Committee].

Item 11. Motion to approve the non-funding consent calendar, items A through I (all items)					
Motion: Grant, Second: von Gunten					
Yes	No	Abstain	Ineligible	Recuse	Absent

Grant, Hutchinson, M Moran, Cleghorn, K Moran, Freeman, Travers, Goglio, von Gunten, T Schmidt, Herman, C Schmidt, Royal	Siegal				L Rowe, Darakjian, Woodruff, C Rowe, Keshish
13 yes, 1 no, 0 abstain, 0 ineligible, 5 absent					

**McCoy was present but unable to vote due to technical challenges.*

12. Discussion/Action: Motion to oppose the recommendations for the Council File 23-1027 Charter Reform / Commission Creation / Periodic Review / Organizational Infrastructure / Strategic Policies as it relates to the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment until the Community and NCs have a chance to weigh in and to extend the item to the 2026 ballot.

Item 12. Motion to oppose the recommendations for the Council File 23-1027 Charter Reform / Commission Creation / Periodic Review / Organizational Infrastructure / Strategic Policies as it relates to the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment until the Community and NCs have a chance to weigh in and to extend the item to the 2026 ballot.					
Motion: Grant, Second: Hutchinson					
Yes	No	Abstain	Ineligible	Recuse	Absent
Grant, Hutchinson, M Moran, Cleghorn, K Moran, Freeman, Travers, Goglio, von Gunten, T Schmidt, Seigal, Herman, C Schmidt, Royal					L Rowe, Darakjian, Woodruff, Keshish, C Rowe
14 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 0 ineligible, 5 absent					

**McCoy was present but unable to vote due to technical challenges.*

13. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS –

- Lionel Mares, Arbor Day Celebration, a tree planting event, will be in Sylmar Park on Saturday, March 15th from 8am to 1pm. Also the L.A. Board of Police Commissioners’ Valley Bureau Community Commission Meeting will be on Tuesday, April 16th, from 6-8pm, at Bishop Alemany High School (11111 North Alemany Drive in Mission Hills)

14. Committee & Liaison Reports - by committee chairs present (See last page for committee members and meeting locations):

- Community Improvement & Government Affairs: TBA
- Outreach: @ 7pm –
 - Ross noted that a preliminary look at storage shed March 24th (~2pm) and all welcomed to join. Also March 30th is the Eggstravaganza event and all are welcomed to join; let Ross know if you can attend.
 - Mapi noted other events coming up (Tip-A-Cop, etc.) and they are working on a milestone calendar. Committees are encouraged to send event information.
 - Lydia noted that there are a lot of events happening soon (e.g. National Night Out, etc;) and

that Ross is currently working on the STNC phone system.

- TBA – KT has a constituent who can provide a newsletter on various topics (e.g. how to break the bite of a mastic (dog)). Contact KT if anyone wants information. Lydia suggested providing it to Outreach for their newsletter.
- Lydia suggested adding information about mosquitos to the newsletter; mosquito season can be expected to be active.
- Beautification: @ 6pm –
 - KT wanted to let people know that the City Metropolitan Water district has increased funding for taking out turf/grass and put in native plants and that there is no an incentive program to add native trees with the City paying if trees are planted (\$100 (up to 5 trees)). More info on the Bewaterwise.com website, turf replacement program.
- STAT: @ 6pm
 - Tree watering event May 4th per Leny.
- STARC: @ 7:30pm @ McGroarty Art Center -
- Youth & Adult Education
- Budget & Finance: @ 6pm
 - Carol reminded that if any committee needs funding, see her and it will be put on agenda
- Executive: @ 6:45pm
 - Per Cindy, 27th March is next meeting.

15. PRESENTATION & TRAINING on the Neighborhood Council (NC) System

- A. Bylaws, Standing Rules, BONC Policies, Brown Act (Meeting Agenda Posting, ENS)
- B. NC Meetings: Agenda Items, Presenters, Meeting Agendas, Making Motions, Community Impact Statements
- C. NC Alliances (Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils - VANC meets 2nd Thursday on Zoom; LANCC meets 1st Saturday at 10am; PlanCheckNC meets 2nd Saturday at 10am, STNC Community Events/Meetings, Other Training Opportunities

16. FINAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Lydia reminded that May 1st is the deadline for brush clearance

17. ADJOURN, 9:13pm

Minutes prepared by Karen Moran, STNC Recording Secretary