

Safe Traffic and Transportation Committee

Meeting Minutes

23 August 2022

1. **Call to Order:** STAT Chairperson Pat Kramer called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. **Roll Call:** Quorum reached with six committee members: Pat Kramer, Glenn Klatter, Leny Freeman, Roger Swart, Barbara Rowe and George Arakel. Jon von Gunten came onto the meeting at 6:10 p.m. Also attending were Cindy Cleghorn, Stephanie Cisneros, Jasmina Vega and Bethany _____.

2. **Mission Statement:** Pat announced the STAT mission statement and purpose of the STAT committee.

3. **Chairperson's report:**

- Pat reported on her attendance of the Crescenta Valley Town Council meeting in July and the many town officials who attended to give reports (10+). In attendance were Glendale PD, La Crescenta Sheriff, Metropolitan Water District, Glendale FD, and Glendale USD.
- She encouraged the Sheriff who gave the report to ticket any motorist they see creating traffic problems as they drive through out community on their way to Little Tujunga Canyon. They agreed to do so.
- She talked about the reduction of lanes planned for La Crescenta Ave. going into Glendale for the purpose of creating a bike lane on both sides. At that meeting, there was a controversial presentation by Glendale Department of Transportation. Glendale Transportation says their survey indicated that people there want one lane in each direction turned into a bike lane. Others echoed all the objections we've had. Crescenta's Safe Streets person was against it. Pat hopes one of us can go to their meeting each month.
- Pat reviewed the results of the latest LAPD Traffic Survey, provided by LAPD Traffic Officer Joel Flores. The Foothill Division had 65 DUI arrests in the last four weeks.

Leny Freeman observed that a smaller, defunded LAPD force encourages scofflaw driving.

George Arakel said people challenge the yellow light at Lowell and Tujunga Canyon Blvd. near the freeway all the time. George also reported a bad accident the day of the committee meeting by Elmhurst and TJB intersection.

4. **Approval of the July 26, 2022 STAT meeting minutes:** Barbara/Roger moved to approve the meeting minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Approval of the June 28, 2022 STAT meeting minutes: Leny/Roger moved to approve the meeting minutes. The motion was approved unanimously.

5. **Review of National Night Out (NNO):** Pat thanked STNC/STAT members who set up table, did LAPD's certs, took photos, got names, and did survey. Roger shared photos, etc., on 6 pages. In particular, Jon and George who conducted a community survey, onsite. Pat shared and read the results of the STAT NNO survey and thanked Jon and Karen von Gunten who created the document. Barbara Rowe said that we had a good location and everybody wanted to talk about traffic.

6. Letters to CD7 and Senator Portantino Asking for Funding for LAPD Traffic:

A motion was made by Leny/Barbara to approve the two letters requesting \$80,000 in funding for an additional Traffic Officer or overtime for this purpose. Pat and Jon previously drafted a motion for two letters several years ago, which the STNC board then approved and sent to CD7. The letter was unanimously approved by the STNC board (Liliana Sanchez president) and a CIS was created which was sent to our Councilperson Monica Rodriguez. No action was ever taken on it Pat recalled that we then received a rote response from Eve Sinclair, deputy to CD7, listing Rodríguez' traffic safety actions. Pat had high hopes for Senator Portantino who has shown up for this community on multiple occasions.

Cindy Cleghorn suggested we look at CD7 Councilmember MR's motion to get LAPD to do study on traffic safety, and noted that our CIS has been removed.

The motion to approve the letters was approved unanimously and will go to Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council for a board vote.

7. **Public Comment:** Cindy Cleghorn related that two STNC board seats are still open and available if any worthy candidates are interested.

8. **Review of Tree Care Events:** Pat noted that our Tree Care Committee has rehabbed 68 trees on Foothill Boulevard in Sunland; 38 trees on the north side need mulch. We are getting great support from Stephanie Mines at the S-T Chamber of Commerce for our next tree watering event: August 27th. We'll meet at the Chamber, next to Sweet Cherrie's Diner, at 7:00 a.m. She thanked Leny, Jon, Glenn, and George (plus Matt, Mark, David and Natalie) who have been part of this effort

9. **Committee Reports:** Pat asked if anyone wants to take on the Billboard Project that Gerry Sherman proposed. Gerry resigned from the STAT committee due to his wife's illness.

10. Meeting Adjourned at 7:18 p.m.