

Sunland Tujunga Neighborhood Council

General Board Meeting Minutes

August 14, 2024

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

1. Call to Order, Welcome - Lydia Grant, President, 7:01 pm
2. Pledge of Allegiance, led by Leny Freeman
3. STNC President's Updates, Lydia:
 - A. Notice of Board Vacancy, Region 4 Representative – there is still an opening
 - B. Announce any Board member recusals or paid lobbyists in attendance – none identified
 - C. National Night Out Report – Over 700 people attended; there was a great sense of community. The event included dancing, live music, games, food and more. Others expressed their enthusiasm for the evening, including Cheryl, Ross and Nina. Suggestions were made to include STNC Committees for next year's event.
 - D. Update on Oro Vista Survey & Outreach – an update went out in the latest STNC newsletter
 - E. West Nile Virus Positive Mosquito Sample Found in Sunland
 - F. LA County Public Works - Devils Gate Reservoir Maintenance Project
 - G. Community Events – please let Lydia know if there are any events you would like publicized.
4. Roll Call, Voting Eligibility - Karen Moran, Recording Secretary & Completion of City / DONE
Required trainings status for the STNC board & committees

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

Board Member	Roll Call	Funding Voting Eligibility	Board Appointment
Carol Hutchinson	Absent	Yes	Treasurer
Cindy Cleghorn	Present	Yes	Correspondence Sec
Karen Moran	Present	Yes	Recording Sec
Leny Freeman	Present	Yes	Region 1 Rep
KT Travers	Absent	Yes	Region 1 Rep
Sherry McCoy	Present	Yes	Region 2 Rep
Mapuana Moran	Absent	Yes	Region 2 Rep
Mike Goglia	Present	Yes	Region 3 Rep
Peter Darakjian	Absent	Yes	Region 3 Rep
Jon von Gunten	Present	Yes	Region 3 Rep
Belinda Woodruff	Absent	No	Region 4 Rep
Trevor Schmidt	Present	Yes	Region 4 Rep
Mark Seigel	Present	Yes	Region 4 Rep
Chris Rowe	Absent	Yes	Education Rep
Cheryl Schmidt	Present	Yes	Public Safety Rep
Nina Royal	Present	Yes	Senior Rep
Vartan Keshish	Present	Yes	Community Interest Rep
Quorum: 13 present at roll call, 7 absent (20 total)			

- a. People who did not complete the Code of Conduct include Belinda Woodruff; they will not be able to vote.
5. Discussion/Q&A with LAPD, Elected Officials/Representatives, DONE, NC Budget Advocates, City Departments (2 min per Representative including Q&A)
 - a. Officer Godoy, Sunland SLO, commented that National Night Out was most enjoyable and provided a status of crime reports which were very good, cleanups for homeless are continuing, Oro Vista issues are continuing to be addressed. Jon asked about the Tacos with a Cop event and it was confirmed that this event will go forward this month at Joselito's.
 - b. Officer Alvarado, Tujunga SLO, provided updates including the fire at 7636 Foothill

- Blvd (the owner said the building was going to be demolished shortly). The Auto Zone RV issue is being addressed but the RV is on City property. Officer Alvarado said she enjoyed National Night Out very much.
- c. Ricardo Flores, CD7, provided information about local programs/events and the free air conditioner program. KT commented about tenants who are not allowed to have air conditioners by their landlords due to electrical load problems; Ricardo will do some research on this concern. Lydia suggested Ricardo review a file (20-0835) that provides information that may be helpful for this issue.
 - d. Michelle Vergara, Senior Area Rep from Mayor Karen Bass Office of Public Engagement, commented on the Olympics flag that was given to the City of L.A. who will host the 2028 games. She suggested people sign up for the newsletter which provides information about the games. School has started again and safety of the children getting to/from is being reviewed. The Mayor is hosting an event at CSUN (Nov 12th) and Michelle will share the link for any business that could benefit. Lydia requested the information to include in the STNC newsletter. KT commented that there is no identified path for volunteers. Ross said we are planning a Town Hall early October about how people can contact city officials; Michelle agreed to participate. Lydia asked about flags for the Olympics and that it was stated tax-payers would not have to pay; a sponsor is needed.
 - e. Declan Floyd, District Representative at the Office of State Senator Anthony Portantino. Declan said that bills that are in process of being passed and approved at this time. Lydia noted that Senate Bill 610 would abolish fire rankings with a state rep determining if an area is a high fire area and that the people who live in these areas are not aware of the potential impact to them; Lydia said it should be on next month's agenda.
 - f. Diana Oganessian – Supervisor Barger's Office, LA County Board of Supervisors, commented about future meetings and that the LA Phil plans to extend their program for the public. Ross invited Diana to the planned Town Hall in October and he said his Hollywood Bowl experience was great. Mark Seigel asked about increasing the number of County supervisors; Diana will send a fact sheet on it (which will be on the ballot for voting).
 - g. Jose Galdamez, NEA at the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment for the City of Los Angeles. Jose has recently been assigned as the Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate and Director (replacing Raul Preciado). Jose introduced himself. He has been involved in NCs since 2012 and has considerable experience with the Department and with Neighborhood Councils (NCs). Jose noted that there is a 2024 survey that will gather information from NCs to be more effective working with the NCs; August 30th is the close date for the survey. Jose provided information about other events including the Congress of Neighborhoods (Sept 28th, Saturday) at City Hall (go to Neighborhood Congress, City of L.A. for information and to register). The City Council approved roll-over amounts (over \$10K) for NCs which will go over to current fiscal year. Jose said that if any Board member has issues with training to please contact him.

6. Discussion/Motion RE: STNC Board Elections 2025 Timeline

- a. Lydia commented that STNC does not want by mail elections only but plans to follow the Chatsworth model for in-person elections. STNC will train their Board members to staff the elections. Cindy scanned through the Chatsworth election plan which is being modified for STNC. Voting will be held on a Saturday (May 16, 2025). Lydia commented the STNC election process will continue to be worked and voted on later.

7. Discussion/Action: Motion to approve July MER

- a. There is no MER this month and this item was deleted.

8. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS (NON-FUNDING) - MOTION: The STNC Board approves the non-funding consent calendar:

- A. [23-0726](#) - Policy No. 821 / Streets of Significance / Area W / Major Transit and Transportation Construction Impact Areas / Los Angeles Metropolitan Transit Authority (Metro) / East San Fernando Valley Transit Corridor Project - Discussion/ Action to Support and submit CIS.
- B. [24-0831](#) - relative to authorizing certain staff members to perform as Acting General Manager and Acting Chief Accounting Employee at Recreation & Parks. Discussion/ Action to Support and submit CIS.
- C. Discussion/Motion: Support Wilmington NC position regarding their efforts to receive proper mitigation regarding the Pier B Railroad project.
- D. Discussion/Motion: Support Wilmington NC position on air quality
- E. Discussion/Motion: Support report back regarding Sidewalk Repair Program and adopt EIR with STNC recommendation to use native trees, root barriers and mandate scheduled pruning add to include sidewalks that impede access and to expedite disabled projects.
- F. Discussion/Motion: Adopt position that supports Mayor Karen Bass ED1, version 3.
- G. MOTION TO Approve July 2024 STNC Board Meeting Minutes
- H. Discussion/Motion: Approve letter to L.A. Street Services re: trimming oak trees at the Welcome Garden
- I. Discussion/Motion: Community support for the Pullman Family request to adjust parking designations and conform to City of L.A. Code for parking for new Coffee Cafe at 10065 Commerce Avenue, Tujunga. [Land Use Committee voted to support 7-15-24].
- J. Discussion/Action: [24-0864](#) to support a permanent memorial at Sunland Park of the California Grizzly and submit CIS.
- K. Discussion/Action: [CF-24-0867](#) to Oppose amending all Neighborhood Council Bylaws to require Youth participation and term limits because STNC already has the opportunity for a Youth position and limits no more than two terms in the same position on the board.

Lydia read the items (A through K). Cindy moved to approve Non-Funding Consent Calendar and Nina seconded. Pat Kramer asked to pull item E for the vote and items A through K (less item E) were voted on and passed.

Item 8, items A, B, C, D, F, G, H, I and K. Motion to approve Consent Calendar items (not including item E)					
Motion: Cleghorn, Second: Royal					
Yes	No	Abstain	Ineligible	Recuse	Absent
Grant, Herman, Cleghorn, K Moran, Freeman, Travers, McCoy, von Gunten, T Schmidt, Siegel, C Schmidt, Royal, Keshish	Goglio				L Rowe, Hutchinson, M Moran, Darakjian, Woodruff, C. Rowe
13 yes, 1 no, 0 abstain, 0 ineligible, 6 absent					

Item E was discussed. Pat’s question was about root barriers with a particular concern about agriperm. Trevor said if there was a sidewalk (as an example), a barrier would be included that would force the roots down and not lift up side-walks; the barrier would not impede the growth but just force the roots direction to go down instead of to the side for some distance. Agriperm is not involved. KT said it is like a box without a bottom; our native trees should have roots going down and there should not be an effect on the trees. Lydia made the motion to approve item E, Ross seconded, and Item E was approved.

Item 8E. Motion to approve Consent Calendar item E.					
Motion: Grant, Second: Herman					
Yes	No	Abstain	Ineligible	Recuse	Absent
Grant, Herman, Cleghorn, K Moran, Freeman, Travers, McCoy, Goglio, von Gunten, T Schmidt, Siegel, C Schmidt, Royal, Keshish	Goglio				L Rowe, Hutchinson, M Moran, Darakjian, Woodruff, C. Rowe
14 yes, 1 no, 0 abstain, 0 ineligible, 6 absent					

8.

9. **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS - none.**

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

- Land Use Committee - Aug. 19 - Housing Element
 - Cindy said there is a Planning Commission hearing tomorrow, 4:30pm; info is on the STNC website with the call-in number. The next Land Use Committee meeting is Aug 19th (7pm via zoom) and there are 2 new members on the Committee. Cindy also said there is another hearing for 9604 Hillhaven location and to see the STNC website for further information.
- Community Improvement & Government Affairs
 - Need a date for next meeting (TBD)
- Outreach Meeting - Aug. 15
 - Ross commented that National Night was a great success and that there was a Town Hall planned for the first or second Saturday in October with a focus on how residents can contact their Local and State Reps. Need volunteers to man the booths. More discussion will take place during the next Outreach Committee meeting. A potential small business event will also be planned.
- Beautification: Aug 15 – no update

- STAT – Aug 20
 - Pat Kramer – National Night Out very successful and it was particularly nice to be able to interface with the LAPD. The LAPD is invited to next meeting and all are invited to this meeting which will also support the LAPD that will attend. During the last watering event there were 25 volunteers and it was very successful with trees watered within 2 hours. Pat noted that trees need 10 gallons every week during peak summer months. Pat met members of Urban Forest Division who are interested in helping to remove the agriperms for us (eliciting cheers from all). Pat gave them a chart of the 27 trees that need to be done yet. The City will do this using a hydraulic hand drill and will put mulch in tree wells to level ground; they advised not to put fertilizer in because it will burn the tree. The next tree watering event will be Sept 28th through the STAT using funds that were previously approved. Sherry commented that some of the wells are shallow and need to be watered slowly at first or it will run off.
- STARC - Aug 27
 - KT said that there will be a speaker at the next STARC meeting, and there is a monthly reading by Village Poets with the next being Aug 25th. Cindy asked about the DOT box across from Sunland Nature Garden which was damaged and is now painted over. KT said that they took the next popular design (a monarch butterfly) and that Gerardo will be painting it. KT offered to show the design, which had been previously submitted but had just missed having the number of votes to win. Cindy asked about protective coating; KT said they have the coating on-hand at this time. Lydia asked if they checked with Ricardo; KT will check with them.
- Youth & Adult Education: - No meetings
- Budget & Finance: Aug 28
- Executive: Aug 28

11. PRESENTATIONS & 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
 - Cindy commented about these meetings and that the Valley Alliance meets the second Thursday and has good information. Boardmembers are encouraged to attend all.

12. FINAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Leny commented that during a walk he noticed standing water that needs to be addressed.

13. ADJOURN, 8:26pm