

Sunland Tujunga Neighborhood Council General Board Meeting Minutes

October 9, 2024, 7pm

DRAFT

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, Welcome** - Lydia Grant, President, 7:06pm
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**, led by Leny Freeman
3. **STNC President's Updates**
 - A. Notice of Board member resignations. Mapi Moran, Lallah Rowe and Chris Rowe have resigned
 - B. Notice of Board Vacancies:
 1. **Region 2 Representative:** North-West Tujunga Region: North of Foothill Boulevard, from Mount Gleason Avenue and Big Tujunga Canyon Road to Commerce Avenue and Seven Hills Drive.
 2. **Region 4 Representative** - South of Foothill Blvd. between Sunland Blvd. on the west & Tujunga Canyon on the east. Geographical Representatives shall represent the interests of the stakeholders within their region. Geographical Representatives shall maintain lines of communication with the various neighborhoods, businesses, and other organizations operating within their districts. Geographical Representatives shall actively outreach to stakeholder groups and individuals within their regions. One (1) Geographical Representative from each region shall attend all Outreach Committee meetings. Region boundaries shall be based upon population density, distinct neighborhoods and geographical size within the community, and distribution of diverse populations and interests. It is expected that region boundaries may need to be changed over time, and that these change will be made by means of bylaws amendments.
 3. **Vice President Community Improvement:** Shall perform the duties of the President when the President is unavailable or otherwise unable to preside at Agenda or Board meetings. They shall be the liaison between the Board and STNC/Community Improvement Projects They shall assist Standing and or Ad Hoc committees and see that the committees are able to perform their appointed tasks, as requested by the President or any Board member. The First Vice-President shall carry on the duties of the Treasurer should there be no Treasurer or

the Treasurer be incapacitated. The First Vice President will chair the Community Improvements Committee.

4. **Education Representative** (1) Open to Stakeholders eighteen (18) years of age or older who live, work, or own real property within the STNC boundaries. This Representative shall be elected from the pool of community stakeholders representing an interest in Education and will chair/co-chair the Education Committee.
- C. Board member recusals or paid lobbyists in attendance - none
 - D. Update regarding Welcome Garden Tree Trimming – Ross said an update available at end of week
 - E. Update on Oro Vista Survey & Outreach – update is TBD per Ross.
 - F. Community Events: Halloween Oct. 31; Veterans Day Nov. 1. Lydia said that the Halloween event at the park is looking for volunteers.
4. **Roll Call, Voting Eligibility** - Karen Moran, Recording Secretary & Completion of City / DONE Required trainings status for the STNC board & committees. Cindy said that trainings for people in attendance were current.

Board Member	Roll Call	Funding Voting Eligibility	Board Appointment
Lydia Grant	Present	Yes	President
Vacant			1st VP
Ross Herman	Present	Yes	2nd VP
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
T. Schmidt	Present	Yes	Region 2 Rep
Mike Goglia	Absent	Yes	Region 3 Rep
Peter Darakjian	Present	Yes	Region 3 Rep
Jon von Gunten	Present	Yes	Region 3 Rep
Belinda Woodruff	Absent	No	Region 4 Rep
Vacant			Region 4 Rep

Board Member	Roll Call	Funding Voting Eligibility	Board Appointment
Mark Seigel	Present	Yes	Region 4 Rep
Vacant			Education Rep
Cheryl Schmidt	Present	Yes	Public Safety Rep
Nina Royal	Present	Yes	Senior Rep
Vartan Keshish	Absent	Yes	Community Interest Rep
Quorum: 13 present at roll call, 2 absent (15 total). <i>Note: No longer with STNC are Lallah Rowe, Chris Rowe, Mapi Moran</i>			

5. **Discussion/Q&A** with LAPD, LAFD, Elected Officials/Representatives, DONE, NC Budget Advocates, City Departments. Tagging on Property and Inaccessible sidewalks.

- **Officer Caloca**, Tujunga SLO. Welcome back to Officer Caloca! Crime is down; one factor may be that people may not be reporting crime. Break-ins are happening in the area including Seven Hills. Detectives believe break-ins due to a local Chilean gang. Homes broken into have had cameras set to survey activity of the resident(s); gang members are known to be armed and go in through locations in the back of the house. If the house has a balcony, sensors on second story windows are suggested. To date, descriptions are general and more information is needed. Officer Caloca also warned that people are calling, impersonating calls from banks to verify information and use a cloned number that looks like your bank to get more information (*e.g.* DOB, social security, etc.). Be sure to call the bank back directly, not at the number they give you. Travel advisories are also suggested with your bank as a precaution. There is a meeting next Tuesday at Joselito's with a guest speaker who is an officer from the mental evaluation unit. The Officer can advise how we can make reports. Lydia said there is still dumping going on behind Auto Zone and it is apparent that it is being done by a resident who lives across the street. Lydia herself has told the person to stop dumping but the person keeps doing it. Also Lydia said that people who have parked illegally next to In and Out have had a tow truck driver tell them that they had to pay them a \$275 fine or he would tow their car away even if it wasn't hooked up yet. Caloca said the person should minimally ask for a receipt and can also call dispatch if there is any question about it being a legitimate company. Lydia said the situation she knew of was a pay-pal payment. Ofc. Caloca said there is signage not to park and you run a risk if you park illegally.
- **Officer Godoy**, Sunland SLO. There is more graffiti in Sunland Park while a new gang is trying to establish themselves in the community. A clean up was done for the sidewalk area in front of the old K-Mart. There is a fence to stop them from putting up tents and attempts to move them into city property where there are more rules to

follow. In general, crimes stats down, credit goes to a joint effort with community. There is an uptick in grand auto theft; thieves can by-pass key fobs in some cases. The trash dumping at 8630 La Tuna Cyn homeless is an on-going issue and going through the court system at this time. Street racing is increasing; call 911 if you see anything. Jon asked about intersection take-overs and if the cars used were stolen. Ofcr Godoy said that many were stolen, but not all reported stolen immediately because they were taken in the evening when people were asleep and the events happened throughout the night. Susan asked about new gangs doing graffiti; younger boys apparently.

- Ricardo Flores, Rodriguez Office, CD7. Ricardo thanked the board for their letter of support for Oro Vista project. They are working on the encampments along Foothill Blvd. Also noted were the rain barrel distribution program, the annual Indigenous People Day, and the Halloween event. Surveys are still going on for Oro Vista for landscaping suggestions. There are changes in staffing in the office and a new case worker is assigned to Sunland Tujunga. Susan asked if he could pressure 7577 Foothill Blvd (the old Denny's lot) to replace the fencing to be able to keep drug dealers out. Flores said it is an on-going issue and they did talk to the owner. Susan said Patrick has cut a hole in the fencing on the Plainview Ave. side and reopens it even when repaired; good fencing is needed. Susan concerned about 2 oaks there that are protected; permits are needed and the trees may delay the new project from starting.
- **Declan Floyd**, District Rep, Sen Portantino's Office. Senator Portantino will be voting on bills next week. There is a community event Nov 9th in Glendale, and he will be available for another 6-7 weeks if needed. KT wanted to know if Senator will be at Indigenous People's Day and Declan assured that he planned to go.
- **Diana Oganessian**, Supervisor Barger's Office. This week there is a ground breaking event for a new health facility, passage of Prop 36 will help to implement year round shelters for homeless. Lionel Mares asked about the ethics proposal; Diana will check and get back. Leny asked about the possibility of getting a night shift to monitor the activities on Foothill Blvd; Diana said that even after hours public health help is available although it may be more difficult to get in a timely manner.
- Maria Flores, LAUSC Rep for ST schools, introduced herself and advised that Kelly Gonez will update when she arrives.
- **Kelly Gonez**, Board Member, LAUSD District 6. Kelly said she has visited many schools, including ST, and is enthusiastic about what is happening, including Magnet school programs and improvements to the schools. Over 400 backpacks were distributed in the SF Valley. The Board voted to put a bond measure on the ballot to address school needs which will update facilities and replace aging infrastructure. A Teacher advisory cabinet is planned to be launched.

- **Jose Galdamez**, Empower LA Advocate. Jose discussed forthcoming elections for Neighborhood Councils (NCs) noting there was a workshop this past Monday, there are “Get out To Vote” events on-going, and that NCs will help with processing votes. Jose said there will be a virtual NC webinar this Saturday offered by the Office of the City Clerk, providing information on elections and how NCs roles and responsibilities. Jose reminded that there are guidelines for NCs (e.g. meeting annually in-person) and required trainings detailed in SB411. He will send out an email with a link for changes to funding issues. Cindy asked about the annual inventory and wanted to know if he had info about it; he will email a link. Cindy also asked him about Community Improvement and is it possible for him to provide a presentation about examples of Community Improvement projects. Lydia noted that the information is described in the manual (step by step) and asked if someone from the City Clerk’s office could discuss at a future meeting. Jose will ask if someone is available to present next month. Lydia will send him an outreach package for his information about the elections. Lydia reminded that 2023 elections were not conducted because there were enough candidates to fill all seats. Jose will reach out to schedule a meeting with the City Attorney. Lydia said we are uncompromising about the STNC approach for conducting elections. Jose talked about the baseline approach for elections as the City has dictated. *[Update: Neighborhood Councils can hold their own Election / Selection notifying the City by January 3, 2025. STNC has already voted, only the manual needs finalizing.]*

6. Discussion/Motion to Approve STNC Board 2025 Selection Manual and Timeline

- Lydia said this item has not been completed yet and will postponed at this time.

7. Discussion/Motion to appoint Ross Herman to DONE/L.A. City Homelessness Liaison

- Per Lydia, KT is on a Homeless Liaison; Ross will be the second person and there is another vacancy for a third person.

Item 7. Motion to appoint Ross Herman to DONE/L.A. City Homelessness Liaison.					
Motion: Royal, Second: Cleghorn					
Yes	No	Abstain	Ineligible	Recuse	Absent
Grant, Herman, Hutchinson, Cleghorn, K Moran, Freeman, Travers, McCoy, Darakjian, von Gunten, Seigel, C Schmidt, Royal					Goglio, Keshish
13 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 0 ineligible, 2 absent					

8. Discussion/Motion to appoint Ross Herman as a Neighborhood Council Budget Representative

- Lionel Mares is also a budget rep/participant, per Cindy. Mark expressed concern Ross taking on too much. Peter expressed frustration that board members not stepping up. Ross will encourage people who are currently not volunteering to step up.

Item 8. Motion to appoint Ross Herman as a Neighborhood Council Budget Representative					
Motion: Cleghorn, Second: Travers					
Yes	No	Abstain	Ineligible	Recuse	Absent
Grant, Herman, Hutchinson, Cleghorn, K Moran, Freeman, Travers, McCoy, Darakjian, von Gunten, Seigel, C Schmidt, Royal					Goglio, Keshish
13 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 0 ineligible, 2 absent					

9. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS (FUNDING) MOTION: The STNC Board approves the funding consent calendar: Discussion/Action:

- a. Motion to approve September 2024 MER
- b. Discussion/Action: Motion to approve up to \$400 to purchase Doggie waste bag dispensers (unable to purchase dispensers, previously approved due to price increase.) Dispenser only- plus tax and shipping per dispenser x 3 dispensers, one replacement for Sunland Park (one already purchased) as well as dispensers for Finn park and McGroarty Park from dogwastedepot.com
 - Doggie waste bags were already approved at previous meeting but there has been a price increase so voting is needed again to cover increased costs, per Lydia. Mark said that previous bags didn't work with dispensers and wanted to make sure they match this time. Leny said the previous dispensers were vandalized by the homeless living in the park and Leny put them back up but they are destroyed again at this time. Leny noted that we did get 8 years service which isn't bad, and yes, they are compatible with the proposed doggie bags. Mark asks if bags have STNC embossed on them. Leny said there are placards that give STNC credit, but not on bags themselves. Carol said amount was over \$1,000 and needed a BAC and invoice, but the prices went up \$10 from the time we submitted the invoice and when we voted on them. Then the dispensers went from \$80 to \$120 and Carol bought only 1 dispenser which could be covered under the current approved vote, but needs additional funds for another dispenser. We are voting for another \$200 to cover the additional expense. Lydia said we are adding them to 2 additional

parks and Rec and that the Dept of Parks has to install them. Carol gave Leny kudos for patrolling the parks and checking on the dispensers.

- c. Discussion/Action: Motion to approve \$700.00 outreach materials (i.e. totes, beach balls, etc.)
 - Per Ross, we will try to find someone local to personalize merchandise and perhaps not have set up fees. Items are replacement items. Mark likes snap-sticks for emergency lighting also; Leny said there are some in the storage shed with emergency supplies.
- d. Discussion/Action: Motion to approve up to \$800.00 for promotional materials, food, amenities, location and staffing for “Community Engagement Event” for end of October or early November.
 - Comments from Ross, KT, Lydia. Lydia felt we should have some money for food and Ross said that the event will be at the Elks Lodge (6-10pm, including set up and tear down).
- e. Discussion/Action: Motion to approve up to \$350.00 for outreach materials for STAT committee tree watering events: Five gallon buckets w/lids & 2 gallon jugs with caps.
- f. Discussion/Action: Motion to approve up to \$300.00 for Beautification committee for future Big Tujunga Canyon clean ups, welcome garden maintenance, paint supplies.
- g. Discussion/Action: Motion to approve up to \$200 for Halloween event materials including promotion, candy, table, materials, miscellaneous.

Ross said there was an omission - tree trimming expenses (\$1600) were approved by Outreach but was not on the list for General Board voting. Lydia said tree trimming wasn't on the budget committee and costs can't be set aside. Marjorie Maxon expressed annoyance that the item was being ignored by STNC for funding. Cindy noted that not including tree trimming on the General Board funding list is a miss because the agenda was sent out for review and could have been included. Lydia and Cindy suggested voting on it in the November meeting and Cindy said that we may be able to gin up a special Board meeting to vote on the item earlier.

KT wants to remove C and D. Peter wants to pull item B. A motion is made to remove these items and the motion passed. Subsequent items were discussed and voted on individually.

Item 9. Motion to approve the funding consent calendar Items a, e, f and g. (b,c and d removed).					
Motion: Cleghorn, Second: Freeman					
Yes	No	Abstain	Ineligible	Recuse	Absent
Grant, Herman, Hutchinson, Cleghorn, K Moran, Freeman, Travers, McCoy, Darakjian, von Gunten, Seigel, Royal, 12 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 0 ineligible, 3 absent					Goglio, Keshish, C Schmidt,

Item 9. Motion to approve the funding consent calendar Item b.					
Motion: Cleghorn, Second: Hutchinson					
Yes	No	Abstain	Ineligible	Recuse	Absent
Grant, Herman, Hutchinson, Cleghorn, K Moran, Freeman, Travers, McCoy, Darakjian, von Gunten, Seigel, Royal, 12 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 0 ineligible, 3 absent					Goglio, C Schmidt, Keshish

Item 9. Motion to approve the funding consent calendar Item c.					
Motion: Cleghorn, Second: Grant					
Yes	No	Abstain	Ineligible	Recuse	Absent
Grant, Herman, Hutchinson, Cleghorn, K Moran, Freeman, Travers, McCoy, Darakjian, von Gunten, Seigel, Royal 12 yes, 1 no, 0 abstain, 0 ineligible, 3 absent					Goglio, C Schmidt, Keshish

Item 9. Motion to approve the funding consent calendar Item d.					
Motion: Cleghorn, Second: Royal					
Yes	No	Abstain	Ineligible	Recuse	Absent
Grant, Herman, Hutchinson, Cleghorn, K Moran, Freeman, Travers, McCoy, Darakjian, von Gunten, Seigel, Royal 12 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 0 ineligible, 3 absent					Goglio, C Schmidt, Keshish

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

- A. Discussion/Motion: To approve September 11 board minutes and September 19 special board meeting minutes.
- B. Discussion/Motion: The Board of the Sunland Tujunga Neighborhood Council (STNC) **opposes** Council File 23-0002-S151: Title, AB 2525 (Zbur) / Freeway Underpasses / Parking / Storage / Recreational and Oversize Vehicles. The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) owns certain state properties whose airspace can be leased on a right of first refusal basis to the City of Los Angeles. Such areas can be leased for \$1 per month and an administrative fee of \$500 per year for use as an emergency shelter or feeding program. Assembly Bill 2525 seeks to expand the number of such airspace parcels that the City can rent from 10 to 25. This bill would also permit the parcels to be used as vehicle storage; this would include the storage of recreational vehicles (RVs) and oversize vehicles for homeless persons receiving services. This bill is irresponsible and ill advised. Rented airspace under the 10 freeway recently caught fire, resulting in the closure of one of LA's major freeways and millions of dollars in damage. There have been many fires of broken-down RVs in the City, which have threatened businesses and homes. Permitting the homeless to store decrepit RVs beneath freeway underpasses used by the traveling public invariably will lead to fires and other public safety threats, even if inspected prior to storage. The City does not need the liability. This motion is also to be submitted as a Community Impact Statement (CIS) to Council File 23- 0002-S151 CA Assembly Bill 2525
- C. Discussion/Motion: The Board of the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council (STNC) **supports** Council File 23-0002-S147 to to block the largest proposed supermarket merger in U.S. history, (Kroger Company's \$24.6 billion acquisition of the Albertsons Companies, Inc.), alleging that the deal is anticompetitive. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) charges that the proposed deal will eliminate fierce competition between Kroger and Albertsons, leading to higher prices for groceries and other essential household items for millions of Americans. This motion is also to be submitted as a Community Impact Statement (CIS) to Council File **23-0002-S147 (CFMS)**
- D. The Board of the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council (STNC) **supports** Council File 24-0889 for the City Council to direct the Los Angeles Department of Sanitation (LASAN) to report on the status of the recyclables market, including:
 - a. A review of market prices for major recyclable materials since 2018
 - b. An analysis of the factors that have contributed to market fluctuations

- c. An assessment of the impact of market changes on the City's recycling program
- d. A forecast of market prices for major recyclable materials
- e. An analysis of the factors that are likely to affect market stability in the future
- f. Recommendations for strategies to improve market stability

To be submitted as a Community Impact Statement (CIS) to Council File 24-0889

- E. The Board of the Sunland-Tujunga Neighborhood Council (STNC) requests Councilwoman Monica Rodriguez, as well as, the Los Angeles Bureau of Street Lighting to get the streetlights turned back on in Sunland-Tujunga. Specific areas include Sunland Blvd., Foothill Blvd., Commerce Avenue.

Lydia read all items which were voted on in entirety and approved.

Item 10. Motion to the non-funding consent calendar, items A through E.					
Motion: Cleghorn, Second: Freeman					
Yes	No	Abstain	Ineligible	Recuse	Absent
Grant, Herman, Hutchinson, Cleghorn, K Moran, Freeman, Travers, McCoy, Darakjian, von Gunten, Royal,		Seigel			Goglio, C Schmidt, Keshish
11 yes, 0 no, 1 abstain, 0 ineligible, 3 absent					

11. DISCUSSION/ACTION: To review and approve STARC Committee presentation and current members: Committee Chair: Joe DeCenzo, Committee Members: Gerardo Barrientos, Joanna Gates, Dawn Jenkins, Corey Stein, KT Travers* Denotes Board member Quorum = 4.

- Cindy requested voting be done in a future meeting, agreed to by KT. KT discussed the programs STARC does including a monthly program where local talent (e.g. artist) is highlighted. All programs are exciting and in-person, engaging new people from the community. Suggestions for future speakers is welcomed. Cindy said the next speaker is Dana Spangel who will discuss how we can co-exist with our wild life (at Bolton Hall). Cindy thanked KT for her efforts to make STARC successful.

4. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS – None.

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

- Land Use Committee - Oct. 21 -Per Cindy there are two new projects - demolition notice and trampoline. Come to the LUC and learn more.

- Community Improvement & Government Affairs - Oct 29 –Lallah has had to leave STNC and there is a vacancy for the VP position, per Lydia.
- Outreach Meeting - Oct. 17 – Ross said that the next Outreach meeting will be on October 17th on zoom, 7:30pm. Ross is trying to recruit more people and will be reaching out to Sherry. Right now Outreach is working towards the Community Engagement event.
- Beautification: Oct. 17 – Marjorie Maxon. Marjorie expressed thanks for the funding approved.
- STAT-Oct 22 @6PM
- STARC: Oct. 22 @ 7:30PM – KT said the next speaker will be Dana Stengel talking about co-existing with our local wildlife (including coyotes)
- Youth & Adult Education: - No meetings at this time with loss of our Chair, Lallah Rowe
- Budget & Finance: Oct. 30 – Carol said that if anyone has a group that needs money, get the request in 3 months before the event. Lydia noted there were new rules for funding to review.
- Executive: Oct. 30 –14. 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. Cindy said there would be an update to NC funding, training sessions available on-line, and there would be a review of the new ATLAS program.

15. FINAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. KT reminded that everyone is invited to attend the annual Indigenous People Event (4th annual) this Sunday on Big Tujunga Canyon Road.
2. Ross – possibility good presentation public democracy of L.A. presentation on voting vouchers, way to ask community to get more involved. Blind draw anonymous, helps to solve different issues (zoning, etc.) interesting concept that can be scaled up and down. Ross has contact information if anyone interested. Can do a 20 min talk or more, take power out of bureaucracy and in to hands of people. Lydia said she has a flyer for who to call for different community concerns she can send to him for November event; Ross said he can use the flyer

to find contacts who might be interested in participating in the upcoming Community Engagement event.

3. Jon, reported on the tree watering event Saturday. Jon said the City rules only allow for a 2-year care of trees after planting. There were a125 trees watered on Foothill Blvd with most getting 10 gallons (water provided by the City of L.A.). It was well organized event. Events come up about once a month, all are welcomed to support.
4. Cindy revisited the tree trimming funding item that was missed and said that there is an Outreach meeting coming up and hoped we could have a Special Board meeting to vote on this funding item to expedite it. Lydia asked about the second thing Ross mentioned that had been left off; Ross said it was the overage; tree trimming got rolled into the overage. Lydia said we will vote on it the next opportunity we have, a special meeting, or the November General Board meeting.

16. ADJOURN, 9:46 pm