

# Sunland Tujunga Neighborhood Council General Board Meeting & Town Hall Meeting Minutes

**November 13, 2024, 7pm  
In Person, Elk's Lodge, Tujunga**

1. Call to Order, Welcome - Lydia Grant, President, 7:15pm
2. Pledge of Allegiance, led by Lydia Grant
3. 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
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
Vacant			Region 2 Rep
Mike Goglio	Present	Yes	Region 3 Rep

Board Member	Roll Call	Funding Voting Eligibility	Board Appointment
Peter Darakjian	Present	Yes	Region 3 Rep
Jon von Gunten	Present	Yes	Region 3 Rep
Vacant			Region 4 Rep
Trevor Schmidt	Present	Yes	Region 4 Rep
Mark Seigel	Absent	Yes	Region 4 Rep
Vacant			Education Rep
Cheryl Schmidt	Present	Yes	Public Safety Rep
Nina Royal	Present	Yes	Senior Rep
Vartan Keshish	Present	Yes	Community Interest Rep
Quorum: 15 present at roll call, 1 absent (15 total). <i>Note: Trevor Schmidt has returned as a member.</i>			

4.

**4. Business Meeting:**

- a. Motion to approve October 2024 MER. The MER is not ready at this time. No motion or vote.
- b. Motion to approve updated/amended STNC NCFP to include rollover funds. Carol explained what funds were being rolled over to the next year and provided the amounts. A motion was taken and the vote passed to approve the rollover funds.
- c. Motion to approve \$1,000 for McGroarty Chili Bowl festival sponsorship (outreach). A question came from the audience about what the \$1,000 included. Ross said that it was for the cart which was rented to drive people up and down the hill to get to the event and any booth expenses. Note: Cindy recused herself from voting on this item. Per regulations, Cindy was absent during all discussion of this item and voting on this item and returned to the meeting after the discussions and vote.

<b>Item 4(b). Motion to approve updated/amended STNC NCFP to include rollover funds.</b>					
<b>Motion: Royal, Second: Hutchinson</b>					
<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Ineligible</b>	<b>Recuse</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Grant, Herman, Hutchinson, Moran, Freeman, Travers, McCoy, Darakjian, von Gunten, Seigel, C Schmidt, Royal, Keshish  12 yes, 1 no, 0 abstain, 0 ineligible, 2 absent	Goglio				Cleghorn, Seigel

d.

<b>Item 4(c). Motion to approve \$1000 for McGroarty Chili Bowl festival sponsorship (outreach).</b>					
<b>Motion: Herman, Second: Darakjian</b>					
<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Abstain</b>	<b>Ineligible</b>	<b>Recuse</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Grant, Herman, Hutchinson, Moran, Freeman, Travers, McCoy, Goglio, Darakjian, von Gunten, Seigel, C Schmidt, Royal, Keshish  13 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 0 ineligible, 2 absent					Cleghorn, Seigel

## 5. President's Opening Comments

- Lydia noted that General Board meeting would come first and Town Hall will follow. Lydia described the general functions and responsibilities of the STNC and noted that there were fliers at the tables in the back for additional information. Our focus is on the community, to be the voice of our community with the City. We only have a board of 16 people and have openings. Lydia explained that the STNC weighs in on issues via Community Impact Statements and said that the community can also weigh in on issues that are in the STNC.org website even if they disagree with the position that the Board has taken.

6. **Board Vacancies.** Lydia described open positions (see below) and encouraged people from the community to join. At this time we have four vacancies on the STNC board.

With elections for new officers coming up next year (2025) this is an opportunity to join the board now. If you have an interest, please complete the application which includes a statement of why you are interested in joining the board and filling the respective vacancy. See the STNC Bylaws for more information overall and specific to the positions. Below are the descriptions of the open seats directly from the Bylaws.

- **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.
  - **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 changes will be made by means of bylaws amendments.
  - **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.
  - **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.
7. **STNC 2025 Elections.** STNC Board Elections will follow the Chatsworth Neighborhood Council Handbook. Voting will be paper ballots and held on May 17, 2025. Instructions to register as a candidate are in the handbook. If you are interested in joining the Selection committee please email [secretary@stnc.org](mailto:secretary@stnc.org) with your interest.

- Lydia discussed elections process and how STNC will have in-person voting to ensure that the community could participate. All that will be needed is to picture ID and proof that you live, work or own property in the community.

## 8. **Community Engagement Town Hall Meeting, commencing at 7:36pm.**

Presenters & Discussion on Community Concerns, including comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the agenda that are within the Board's jurisdiction will be heard during the General Public Comment period. Please note that under the Brown Act, the Board is prevented from acting on a matter that you bring to its attention during the General Public Comment period; however, the issue raised by a member of the public may become the subject of a future Board meeting.

- **Officer Coloca, SLO Tujunga**, provided a status report on crime stats. Officer Coloca noted that people were complaining that PD asking for personal information but said that this is a scam. Always get a phone number and verify anyone asking for personal information. Officer Coloca reminded that we are all the eyes and ears for the community.
- **Officer Godoy, Sunland SLO**, provided a status report with a comparison from 2023. Overall crimes are down with more community involvement and reporting. Getting pictures as appropriate helps greatly. Officer Godoy cautioned about leaving keys in cars even for brief periods of time. There was a question from audience about how the PD prioritized responses and another question about a particular RV parked in the area. Another question from the audience about an RV, how do you determine if someone Officer Godoy said that Parking citations might be the only option for illegally parked vehicles but they try to meet the people living in or owning the RV first.
- **Darick Blackshere, Manager Community Relations Government Affairs Department, L.A. Housing, LAHSA**. Darick noted that people that are homeless are invariably from the community where they decide to reside; they gravitate back to their own community. Person in audience (woman) expressed concern about the impact of the homeless on the community and the businesses in the community. Another person in the audience commented that many homeless prefer to be in the situation they are in. Darick responded that he agreed with the concerns expressed. Ross commented that part of the purpose of this meeting is to get contacts at this meeting and be able to collaborate with them going forward. Another question from the audience asked about who manages tickets that go to 311; it does not appear that they are closed for a long time. Lydia commented that we may also invite some speakers to a NC meeting. Lydia suggested that STNC may host a Town Hall focusing on the homeless; getting a good count of how many homeless are in the area may not be accurate if based on the number of RVs and tents. One

member of the audience felt that community members might have more success in engaging homeless than city officials but another person felt it was the responsibility of officials to address.

- **Ricardo Flores, Council District 7 (CD7).** Ricardo introduced himself and his office and provided an overview of their responsibilities and the areas that are served. ST has a low number of homeless compared to the rest of the city. Ricardo emphasized the need for community involvement. Sunland Tujunga has one of the biggest equestrian units in the City of L.A. Ricardo cited near-term future events in the area. There was a question from the audience about whether there were ordinances in place to upkeep property when it is vacant and homeless move in; Ricardo replied there were.
- **Diana Oganessian, Assistant Field Deputy, from County Supervisor Kathryn Barger's Office, 5<sup>th</sup> District.** Diana gave an quick update of events going on, elections, and measures that have passed.
- **Declan Floyd, Senator Portantino's Office.** Declan said that this was his last meeting with the STNC, he is rolling out of his office. Declan thanked the Board for their involvement and reminded the Board that they would need to get an extension for having zoom meetings from Senator Menjabar's office because the provision will expire next year. Mick Schultz will be the next rep under Senator Manjabar. Declan said they get a lot of questions that should be directed to the Federal government. Ross asked what the Senator's office looked at the most from Neighborhood Councils, such as Community Impact Statements. Declan said that meeting with the rep at the State level is impactful, and inviting the rep to attend our meetings and events very helpful.
- **Jon Von Gunten, Neighborhood Watch (NW).** Jon said that NW meetings are the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month with the exception of December. Meetings have recently been at Joselito's Restaurant starting at 10:30 am. People are welcomed to join Jon's email list for reminders of meetings (and minutes afterwards). Also people can join as a volunteer to NW; there are no enforcement responsibilities but one can participate in drive-arounds with the PD in the patrol car. People can also join the Community Police Advisory Board (CPAB) meetings; there are a lot of ways to get involved. LAPD has been stellar in working with our community. Ross encouraged people to join NW or other committees but to get involved.
- **Pat Kramer, STAT Committee Chair.** Lydia gave kudos to Pat for her efforts. Pat said that she moved from New England 28 years ago and put a Committee together about 10-12 years ago with Jon. She has fought hard to get more traffic officers in the community. Aggressive driving seems to be increasing. Currently the Police have to be in Traffic Enforcement in order to write tickets. STAT has tried get more funding and more officers for our community. Pat initiated a program 4 years ago to water trees in the area; the city only waters trees for the first 3 years and the overall

temperatures are getting hotter. Pat talked about the “agroperm” problem where the city has put enclosed the trunk of the young tree in such a way that when it grows to meet the pavement slab, rain water can no longer get to the tree/roots. STAT took the initiative to remove agroperm slab of pavement, rescuing about 78 trees. The Urban Forestry helped with the rest. Tree water events are usually about 20-40 people showing up with CD7 providing the water. There has been a lot of community involvement from youngsters to seniors. Ross noted that events for tree watering are on the STNC website.

- **Roger Klemm, Beautification Committee Chair.** Projects that the Beautification Committee has done include work at the Sunland Welcome Garden and painting a mural on a local school wall as well as helping out with community clean ups. They meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at 6pm in the ST Library; more information is on STNC website.
- **Joe DeCenzo, STARC.** Joe thanked the Board for voting the funding for the bus-bench advertisements, which are now up. STARC is inviting people to speak about their arts; the artist Abby Dunn will be the next guest speaker on November 25<sup>th</sup>.
- **Cindy Cleghorn, Land Use Committee (LUC).** Cindy said that she is a Co Chair with Richard Marshalian and that LUC meetings take place the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month, most always on zoom. Members include civil engineers, contractors, and others that have backgrounds that are helpful. LUC gets Early notifications of projects that require approval by the City. Currently about 90% of the permits applied for are granted but LUC reviews the projects that require a different type of approval. Cindy encouraged people to join LUC. Cindy noted that when LUC approves a project, it is forwarded to the STNC Board for further approval. The next meeting is Monday; Lydia said that there is more information on the STNC.org website about LUC and the other Committees.
- **Ross Herman, Outreach Committee.** Ross Herman, Vice President of Outreach. Ross said that the Outreach committee needs additional members. In general STNC Board members have carried the load for years and new volunteers are needed.
- **Nina Royal, Community Advisory Board.** Cheryl and Nina are members of the Community Advisory Board. Typically the Board has 5 members but there are only 2 and more members are needed. A new member will need to be fingerprinted and have a background check done. Members of the public are encouraged to join.

## 9. Closing remarks.

- **Lydia Grant.** Lydia thanked everyone for coming and said that there are so many things that the STNC does that are not visible but always in the interest of the community. It is vital to have new input, new people join the STNC. Lydia introduced each Board member giving an overview of their responsibilities and recognition of their efforts. Lydia gave info about her many years in community

service and told stories about how STNC has helped people in the community; she is passionate about serving the community. Lydia said that our Neighborhood Council (NC) is very active compared to other NCs in the City, for example we have the largest turn out for National Night Out. Lydia said we need an Emergency Preparedness Committee and to send her a message if interested in starting this committee. Pat said there is an alliance for Emergency Preparedness that meets once a month on Saturdays for a for couple of hours (via zoom); Pat was on the Board for 5 years. Pat said that if someone could step up and join this group that would be a good thing. Lydia noted that there are other Committees such as the Budget Committee and if anyone has an interest in other areas, please contact her.

- **Ross.** Again thank you for coming, flyers in the back will give more information.

10. **Adjourn,** 9:36pm