

Sunland Tujunga Neighborhood Council

Special Joint Board & Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

January 29, 2025

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**, Lydia Grant, at 6:51 pm
 - a. **Roll Call:** Present – Lydia Grant, Armen Mardirousi, Ross Herman, Carol Hutchinson, Cindy Cleghorn, Karen Moran. Stakeholders present: Sherry McCoy, Miran K.
2. **Opening Announcements**, Lydia
 - a. CIGA files are in review; if we take positions tonight, we can develop ideas before they become a Board action. This will give us the opportunity for discussion before they go to the City Council.
 - b. Reminder that we want to add 1-2 people to the Budget and Finance committee; the Board will approve their membership.
3. **Discussion: Review stakeholder applications for vacant board seats**, Lydia.
 - a. We have not received any applications yet, but there were 2 people that expressed interest. One inquiry came from the City posting; Lydia is trying to make contact at this time.
 - b. The second inquiry was from a Verdugo High School teacher, Erin Peterson, who has expressed interest in the Education Representative position.
 - c. Deborah is moving from Education Representative to the Region 4 seat which was available.
 - d. Belinda is still in her seat on the Board.
4. **Discussion Community Agenda items:** Cannabis Dispensary, Traffic accidents, Sidewalks
 - a. Lydia said that people were upset about the Cannabis Dispensary being called the Bugglegum Dispensary, making it attractive to children and a violation of law. Lydia said they might be in the process of changing their name. Cindy displayed a website where one could check on license of dispensary, etc. and the Bugglegum Dispensary name was still there although there were other names associated with the dispensary. Lydia said that the other names would be other organizations with interests in the dispensary (e.g. 'umbrella' organizations).

Cindy said that per regulations, we could have up to 7 dispensaries; we currently have 3.

- b. Lydia said there is no money for sidewalk improvements at this time throughout the city. Money has been diverted to other causes such as the homeless.
5. **Haines Canyon Trail, Other.** No updates.
 6. Discussion/Action: A motion was made and passed to approve the December 30, 2024 Special Joint Board Executive Committee Minutes.
 7. **General Public Comments on any non-agenda items.** None.
 8. **Discussion Outreach events**
 - a. Ross said that the Small Business Bazaar will be in March or April, we will need to put the Easter event and the Small Business Bazaar event on the February General Board agenda in February for approval and we need to budget for it.
 - b. Fires and response preparedness
 - Lydia said that we need to create our own Response Preparedness Committee and include community egress. Lydia wants to add an item to the General Board agenda to start to prepare for the Emergency Preparedness Committee. Susan expressed an interest in being on the committee. Lydia will chair the committee temporarily. Susan reminded that Ricardo Flores (Monica Rodriguez Office) said they are also putting together an Emergency Evacuation Plan. Lydia said we can do ours in parallel. Lydia noted that is critical that we address an issue where we, as a Neighborhood Council, requested a Grand Jury investigation about egress but the effort has stopped at this time.
 - Lydia said that there was not an evacuation plan during the Eaton fire; in the one section where 18 people died, residents never got a notice to evacuate. Lydia does not want this to happen to our community. Ross said there was an 8 hour time difference in Altadena notifications for evacuation. Lydia said that during the fire, there were no notices from City Council people and she spent the day on Facebook trying to get information out. Lydia and Cindy agreed that we cannot count on anyone else but ourself.
 - Lydia said she was taking information on 'go bag' items for future use in an Emergency Preparedness Plan. Ross noted that there was an app that provided good information during the fires about the status of the fires and evacuation warning/orders, called "Watch Duty". Lydia said it was a non-profit organization with paid membership options and that the Genesis App is the app that Watch Duty gets their information from. Ross said we need a one-stop shop for emergency information. Lydia said the County is working on apps and a notification system, noting there were notices to evacuate during the fires that were in error. Lydia suggested that we have a source on our STNC website where people can go and get additional information during an emergency event where links to other resources could be embedded. Access to the STNC website can be via cell phone as well as computer. Lydia suggested a future Town Hall meeting on zoom could be done as well as getting the committee going. Cindy shared that she recently sat in on a meeting

where these issues were discussed and there was a refreshing free-flow of information. This group already has a one stop shop place for information and there is a lot of information that we can use.

9. **Discussion/Action: Approve February 12, 2025 General Board Meeting Agenda** on Zoom
 - a. The next General Board meeting will be on February 12. Cindy went over the draft agenda in detail and made edits per discussion and suggestions from Ross, Carol and Lydia. Upcoming elections were discussed in some detail. A motion was made by Carol and seconded by Ross to approve the updated Agenda for the Feb 12, 2025 General Board Meeting.
10. **Adjourn**, 8:03pm