

Sunland Tujunga Neighborhood Council Special General Board Meeting Minutes

February 12, 2025, 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, 7:04pm**

- Meeting called to order and a moment of silence was observed in memory of Marlene Hitt who was a pillar in this community, per Lydia.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**, led by Leny.

3. **STNC President's Updates.** Lydia noted she would be recusing herself from one item in voting (13D)

4. **Roll Call, Voting Eligibility** - Karen Moran, Recording Secretary & Completion of City / DONE Required trainings status for the STNC board & committees. Members of the Community included Susan Denning, Jennifer Noyes (the Noyes family) as well as representatives.

Board Member	Roll Call	Funding Voting Eligibility	Board Appointment
Lydia Grant	Present	Yes	President
Armen Mardirousi	Present	Yes	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	Absent	Yes	Region 1 Rep

Board Member	Roll Call	Funding Voting Eligibility	Board Appointment
Sherry McCoy	Present	Yes	Region 2 Rep
Vacant			Region 2 Rep
Mike Goglia	Absent	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	Absent	Yes	Region 4 Rep
Mark Seigel	Present	Yes	Region 4 Rep
Deborah Ramirez	Absent	UNK	Education Rep
Cheryl Schmidt	Present	Yes	Public Safety Rep
Nina Royal	Present	Yes	Senior Rep
Vartan Keshish	Absent	Yes	Community Interest Rep
<p>Quorum: 12 present at roll call, 7 absent (19 total). <i>Trevor Schmidt came at 7:15 pm and left early; Deborah Ramirez came at 7:10 pm and left at 8:22 pm; Vartan Keshish came at 7:15 pm; KT Travers came in late.</i></p>			

5. **Announce any Board member recusals or paid lobbyists in attendance.**

- Lydia noted that she would recuse herself for item 13(D) (“Our Neighborhood Voices”).

6. **Discussion/Action: Applications to fill board seats – last opportunity before May 17, 2025**

- To appoint Deborah Ramirez to Region 4 Representative. Deborah is in Education Rep seat at this time but there is another person interested in this position; Deborah will vacate and take Region 4 Rep. Per Lydia, Deb is very active in her community. In addition, another member of the community, Aaron Peterson, has expressed an interest in the Education Rep position. Deb discussed her involvement in the community already, and as a life-time resident of the area, she is eager to be involved as a Rep.
- Motion to approve Aaron Peterson as Education Representative. To be continued.
- Motion to fill Region 2 representative vacancy. To be continued.

Item 6A. Motion to approve Deborah Ramirez as Region 4 Rep.					
Motion: Grant, Second: Mardirousi					
Yes	No	Abstain	Ineligible	Recuse	Absent
Grant, Mardirousi, Herman, Hutchinson, Cleghorn, Moran, Freeman, McCoy, von Gunten, T Schmidt, Siegel, Ramirez, C Schmidt, Royal		Travers			Woodruff, Goglio, Darakjian, Keshish
14 yes, 0 no, 1 abstain, 0 ineligible, 4 absent 19 total					

7. **Notice of Board Vacancies: Region 2 Representative & Region 4 Representative – 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.
8. **Upcoming Community Events:** Per Lydia:
 - Elks - Fish Fry 2/15
 - American Legion - Dinner 2/15
9. **Discussion/Q&A with LAPD, LAFD, Elected Officials/Representatives, DONE, NC Budget Advocates, City Departments**
 - Ofc Caloca provided an update on crime stats. The recent protests (deportation) at Verdugo High were uneventful, cleanups continue with Patrick. Cheryl shared a screen ad for a March 13th Tip-A-Cop event at Joselito’s 11am-1:30pm with tips going to the Special Olympics.
 - Sgt Ojeda encouraged attendance at the Tip-A-Cop event and discussed recent events. Ojeda said we are fortunate to now have Ofc Herrera, the Homeless SLO, dealing with homeless issues/RVs. Ojeda said that Officers may continue to be pulled away for other causes as has happened recently (fires, protests, etc.). Please be patient.
 - Susan asked if we were going to have Tuesday’s Coffee with a Cop event; Ofc Caloca said

it was on the schedule right now although one of the two officers might be pulled away for some other support.

- Jennifer Noyes, member of the community, said she went to the SunValley NC meeting and Ofc Herrera said that the best way to report homeless encampments is to send information to him at 813-400-7358 and/or email which is 38507@lapd.online. Ross said there is a direct link in the recent newsletter also. Deborah encouraged communicating with neighbors to encourage their involvement. Susan Denning, member of the community, said one of things she does when reporting a homeless problem (*e.g.* encampments) is to take the complaint number and text it to Ofcs Caloca and Hererra so they also know that 311 is getting the complaints.
- Jose Galdamez, Empowerment advocate, provided a status of updates including the Department’s website has migrated to another website with links/information to the City domain. Galdamez noted that the NCs zoom licenses expire the end of April so if STNC wants a zoom license, they need to agendize it to receive the \$200 for the following year; the license is good from May 25 to end of April 2026. Updates are on the website as well as forms, information on elections, fliers, a template for board meeting minutes, guidance/guidelines, and more, making it available so NCs can find information quickly. Congress takes place during December in City Hall, and the regular Congress meetings are the first Saturdays of the month, via zoom at 1:30pm.

10. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS (FUNDING)

- A. Discussion/Action: Motion to approve December 2024 Monthly Expenditure Report and Balances. (MER)
- B. Discussion/Action: Motion to approve January 2025 Monthly Expenditure Report and Balances. (MER)
- C. Discussion/Action: Motion to approve up to \$50 for the January meeting of the STAT committee refreshments
- D. Discussion/Action: To approve up to \$500 color flyer to promote candidates to run for STNC Board.

Lydia read the 4 items. A Motion made by Carol and seconded by Cindy to approve items A through D which passed.

Item 10. Motion to approve Consent Calendar items A, B, C and D.					
Motion: Hutchinson, Second: Cleghorn					
Yes	No	Abstain	Ineligible	Recuse	Absent

Grant, Mardirousi, Herman, Hutchinson, Cleghorn, Moran, Freeman, Travers, McCoy, von Gunten, Siegel, Ramirez, C Schmidt, Royal, Keshsh					Woodruff, Goglio, Darakjian, T Schmidt,
15 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 0 ineligible, 4 absent 19 total					

11. DISCUSSION/MOTION: STNC SELECTION OUTREACH.

- Cindy said she was almost through with the book and we are moving forward with Selection. Cindy showed the STNC website which has the first call for candidates. The Election day location first choice is the Council Office but we have not received a response to our inquiry so we are tentatively booking with the Elk’s Lodge and waiting for their response, per Lydia. The election is February 12 and the month to sign up for office is March, per Cindy.

12. DISCUSSION/MOTION: To establish the STNC Emergency Preparedness Committee with Lydia Grant as chair. A motion was made by Carol and seconded by Cheryl.

- Cindy said that this Committee was discussed at the Executive Committee meeting and that STNC had such a committee some years ago. Lydia said she would start off as Chair to get it rolling but needs a co-chair and another Board member, and wants to involve the community. Lydia commented she does not want to repeat what happened during the recent fires where information was not being received by the community; Facebook and other resources were used instead. Lydia envisions a one-stop shop place on the STNC website where people can access information/links that include evacuation routes.
- Deborah commended the formation of the committee and having the community involved. Nina suggested that we contact members in the City of Los Angeles to involve them; Nina has information/contacts for City to include them as resources. Lydia said she has talked to other NCs about getting supplies and will also talk to the City. Susan said there are already emergency plans on-line and we need to coordinate with others. Lydia said she spent time during the recent fires getting information out to people via Facebook. Lydia hopes for a future presentation to the Board by Animal Services to address evacuation of animals. Jennifer Noyes said she has done emergency preparedness at the elementary school and can provide information given to the students which might be helpful; Lydia expressed an interest in getting the material. Lydia said we need to work with the district and that the last time there was an evacuation it did not go well.
- A vote was taken, forwarded by Carol and seconded by Cheryl, which passed.

Item 12. Motion to approve establishing the STNC Emergency Preparedness Committee with Lydia Grant as chair.					
Motion: Hutchinson Second: C Schmidt					
Yes	No	Abstain	Ineligible	Recuse	Absent
Grant, Mardirousi, Herman, Cleghorn, Moran, Freeman, McCoy, von Gunten, Siegel, Ramirez, C Schmidt, Royal, Keshish 14 yes, 0 no, 1 abstain, 0 ineligible, 5 absent 19 total		Travers			Hutchinson, Woodruff, Goglio, Darakjian, T Schmidt

13. CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS (NON-FUNDING).

- A. Discussion/Motion: To approve January 2025 board meeting minutes.
- B. Discussion/Motion: To form the STNC Emergency Preparedness Committee.
- C. Discussion/Motion: To add Armen Mardirousi as Community Impact Statement submitter. *[currently Cindy Cleghorn, Carol Hutchinson, Karen Moran and Jon von Gunten are submitters - up to five possible]*
- D. Discussion/Action: That STNC supports and recommends L.A. City Council support the “Our Neighborhood Voices” Ballot Initiative to Amend Article IX of the Constitution of the State of California to make zoning, development, and land use matters of local authority.
 - Lydia recused herself from voting on this item (D). A motion was made to pass this item. Cindy read a draft letter expressing STNC’s support. Carol commented that, watching what is going on in Palisades, there is over-reach by government which envisions a future use of the land and is not sympathetic to the people’s needs. The power of the people needs to be reasserted over government. Susan said the letter is good and asked if other NCs are doing a similar letter or if we planned to share the letter and get more ground support. Cindy said this was generated to assist other organizations (including other NCs) and her understanding is that other NCs plan to use it as an example as well as other community groups. We are making a recommendation to the City Council to take a stand on these issues as well.
- E. Discussion/Motion: To support CF 25-0065 regarding illegal fireworks enforcement and recommend video be used as evidence and fines raised so people submitting violations can receive half of the reward.
- F. Independent After Action Report. This motion instructs the Chief Legislative Analyst, in coordination with Los Angeles County, to procure an outside entity to prepare a comprehensive, independent After Action Report of the City and County emergency

response to the January 2025 wildfires.

- G. Improving Communication Between Departments. The Council instructed the LAFD, in coordination with LADWP, to establish a formal protocol to provide the LAFD with weekly updates on the status of all water reservoirs and critical water infrastructure. This motion can be found [here](#).
- H. Preparedness Plan for Mudslide Risks. The Council has instructed the Emergency Management Department, LAFD, and other relevant emergency response departments to report to the Council within 30 days on a comprehensive Emergency Preparedness Plan in preparation for mudslide risks. [Click here to read the motion.](#)
- I. Amending Emergency Declaration Regarding Parks in High Fire Severity Zones. I (Council woman) introduced a motion amending the emergency declaration to close all parks in the city’s very high fire severity zones during these recent red flag days. Additionally, I introduced another motion asking to amend the municipal code to do the same during future red flag days. [Access the motions here](#) and [here](#).
- J. Requesting Prosecution of Misdemeanors. The City Council has instructed the City Attorney to prosecute all misdemeanors related to fires, including curfew violations, evacuation order violations, looting, and impersonation of public safety personnel.
- K. Amending the Los Angeles Municipal Code to include Penalties for Price Gouging. This motion requests that the City Attorney to prepare an ordinance that amends the LAMC to include penalties for price gouging on housing & lodging. This motion can be found [here](#).
- L. Discussion/Status on: Local Street Lights that are out. STNC will have a Google Form available for submittal and reporting.

Items A through L were read by Cindy with items B and D pulled. A motion was made by Ross and seconded by KT to pass items A, C and E through L. Item B was already voted on in item 12, and Lydia needed to recuse herself for Item D which would have to be voted on without her participation. A motion was made by Ross and seconded by KT, which passed.

Item 13, Items A, C and E through L. Motion to approve Non Funding Consent Calendar items A, C and E through L.					
Motion: Herman Second: Travers					
Yes	No	Abstain	Ineligible	Recuse	Absent
Grant, Mardirousi, Herman, Hutchinson, Cleghorn, Moran, Freeman, Travers, McCoy, von Gunten, Siegel, Ramirez, C Schmidt, Royal					Hutchinson, Woodruff, Goglio, Darakjian, T Schmidt, Keshish
14 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 0 ineligible, 5 absent 19 total					

A vote on Item D was taken with Carol making the motion and Nina seconding it. This vote included Lydia. The motion passed.

<p>Item 13 Item D. Motion to approve letter stating that the STNC supports and recommends L.A. City Council support the “Our Neighborhood Voices” Ballot Initiative to Amend Article IX of the Constitution of the State of California to make zoning, development, and land use matters of local authority.</p> <p>Motion: Hutchinson Second: Royal</p>					
Yes	No	Abstain	Ineligible	Recuse	Absent
<p>Mardirousi, Herman, Hutchinson, Cleghorn, Moran, Freeman, Travers, McCoy, von Gunten, Siegel, C Schmidt, Royal, Keshish</p> <p>13 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, 0 ineligible, 6 absent 19 total</p>		Grant			<p>Hutchinson, Woodruff, Goglio, Darakjian, T Schmidt, Ramirez</p>

14. **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS.** NONE.

15. **Committee & Liaison Reports** - by committee chairs present:

- Land Use Committee - Next LUC meeting 3/10.
 - Cindy said that, at the recent LUC meeting, Jain Temple presented and would cano come to a future STNC General Board meeting (e.g. April) (TBD) to present their project. Additionally their grand opening is May 2 and they will extend an invitation to the Board members to attend.
 - Planning 101 will be later this year, required for LUC members and Board members). The class is on YouTube, but there is a registration process to track those who have taken the training. Next meeting on 10th of March.
- Selections Committee Meeting: TBA
- Community Improvement & Government Affairs - 2/26 @ 12 noon – Armen said that the last meeting was two weeks ago and invite everyone to attend the next meeting.
- Beautification: 2/20 @ 6PM – meetings via zoom at this time per KT.
- Outreach Meeting - 2/20 @ 7PM - virtual Zoom. Ross said that there are a number of events coming up, including Easter at Sunland Park, the Small Business Bazaar April/ May, upcoming elections and other community involvement information. Lydia said she has the mailer for elections she will give Ross.

- STAT - 2/18 - Special Meeting @ 6PM - virtual Zoom. Cindy said that there is a mulching event on February 22 with more details on the STNC.org website. Cindy said she is looking forward to the 4th of July and people are interested they can look to the Rotary for information.
- STARC: 2/25 @ 7:30PM – KT said meetings continue to be via zoom.
- Youth & Adult Education: - TBA
- Budget & Finance: 2/26 @ 6pm – Loss of Pati Potter and Sandy Caps has created open positions and Carol is looking for additional people to join. The Commttee meets the last Wednesday of the month to go over the budget. It is a short meeting (~30 min) and usually 6-6:30pm. Let Lydia, Cindy or Carol know if interested.
- Executive: 2/26 @6:30pm
- Other

16. PRESENTATION & TRAINING on the Neighborhood Council (NC) System, Lydia went over items A, b and C below.

1. Bylaws, Standing Rules, BONC Policies, Brown Act (Meeting Agenda Posting, ENS)
2. NC Meetings: Agenda Items, Presenters, Meeting Agendas, Making Motions, Community Impact Statements
3. 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
 - Lydia said the LANCC went well and there would be a speaker discussing the forth-coming Olympics during the next month's meeting.

17. FINAL ANNOUNCEMENTS.

- KT read a poem she composed about Marlene Mitt which was well received. She will send to Lydia and Ross for inclusion in the STNC website and newsletter.

18. ADJOURN, 8:27pm