

Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 17, 2026
Tujunga Branch Library

Co-Chair Klemm called the meeting to order at 6:08 pm.

In attendance: Roger Klemm, Angela Nordhagen, Gerardo Barrientos, KT Travers
(Committee quorum: 3). Also Ricardo Flores from CD7.

Absent: Nelly Luboff (has Covid)

Agenda Item 2, Public Comments

(no public comments at the beginning of the meeting)

Agenda Item 3, Approval of August 2026 minutes

Gerardo moved, Angela seconded, and all were in favor of approving the minutes from our August 20, 2026 meeting.

Agenda Item 4, Welcome Garden

Gerardo and Roger will deal with the skeleton of the Sugar Bush that died; the seedlings are looking good. Roger has called FormLA for help with the irrigation; they will be meeting us on a Wednesday morning. Once we get an estimate, Roger will ask STNC if they're willing to pay the bill. There are two sprinklers under the oaks that are broken and a third that does not spray properly, and the two valves that supply the main part of the garden are not working.

<< reminders for next meeting – back shrubs need some trimming. Monument signs need painting. Buckwheat by the east monument sign needs trimming/removal. >>

Agenda Item 5, Beautification Project at 12400 Big Tujunga Canyon Road

We have this in hand, will do on October 3 in conjunction with the cleanup.

Agenda Item 6, Beautification Committee Cards and flyers

Gerardo will develop artwork for a second side, with our logo, the STNC logo, and Monica Rodriguez's logo, and a quote (possibly from John Muir) to inspire people to civic duty.

Ricardo Flores joined us, so officially we moved back to agenda item 2, public comment

Agenda Item 2, Public Comments (continued)

We were selected for UCLA Day Of Service, on Saturday, September 26. Ricardo has been working with Pat Kramer, watering trees on the Boulevard. 7:30 and 8:30, till 1pm. Will meet up at Howard Finn Park, and will deploy people from there. Will have coffee & pastries. We're excited as this is the second time they have selected us.

Working on tree planting – we had over 15 empty tree wells in our corridor, narrowed down to 10, will be installing. Thanks to Nelly that she's signed the commitment to water – the new trees by the Welcome Garden will be ours. The councilwoman wants native trees on this side of town. Every tree has to have a permit to be planted. We (the community) will be involved in the planting. Goal is to plant 250 trees in the district. Councilwoman is interested in tree canopies. Ricardo will let us know when we're getting close. The community will be doing this – she wants trees to be planted by community members, not employees of the non profit.

Sunland Rec Center - trees in the park there are approaching the 100 year mark...pines and oaks (some of them are even older). Councilperson wants to extend the life of the trees. Some of them are top heavy. Not going to cut any trees down. Dog park will be built around the trees. First dog park in the area is at Lopez Canyon Park; this will be the second.

Will be planting a lot more trees in the park. Want to keep the shade there.

KT shared some of the history of the pines at the park. Originally there were oaks. Then the oaks were cut down for walnut orchards. Then there was a walnut blight, after which the City planted pines because the pines grow fast. The City didn't want to listen to everyone else who advised to plant oaks.

Roger is the current president of the San Gabriel Mountains chapter of the California Native Plant Society, and wants to be part of the discussion of native trees in our parks.

KT left ST Forward at the end of February 2026, and started Reimagine the Land with Eric Santiestevan. They have asked for a booth at Indigenous People's Day, and have written 11 grants to fully fund a \$160k program to resurrect the California Blue Elder (endangered species) and California Elder Flute. It is Lazaro Arviso's mission to resurrect the flute. They

are planning four (4) workshops, one of them at McGroarty Arts Center, and one at Whittier Narrows, plus a concert!

Agenda Item 7, next meeting date and time

Third Thursday of next month is 10/15. Same time (6:00), same place (Tujunga Branch Library).

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.