

**Minutes of the  
FOOTHILL TRAILS DISTRICT NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL (FTDNC)  
General Board Meeting  
Thursday, June 19, 2008  
Stonehurst Elementary School  
9880 Stonehurst Ave., Shadow Hills**

**A. Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call**

President Bart Paul called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. Mr. Paul led the Pledge of Allegiance and took the Roll Call. Board Members present:

Bart Paul, President	Billy Hays, V.P., Administration
Cris Hughes, V.P., Communications (late)	Kevin Davis, Treasurer (late)
Royan Herman, Recording Secretary	John Blue, Board Member (late)
Cile Borman, Board Member	Fritz Bronner, Board Member
Dale Gibson, Board Member	Cheryl Greslie, Board Member (late)
Terry Kaiser, Board Member (late)	Ken Keeble, Board Member
Kris Sabo, Board Member	Nancy Woodruff, Correspond. Sec'y

Board Members absent: **[CONFIRM:\_\_\_]** Erwing Davis, Board Member (excused).

Nine of the 15 Board Members were present at the beginning of the Meeting, which is a quorum and the business of the Council could be conducted.

Also present were approximately 24 Stakeholders and Guests.

**B. Remarks from public representatives**

Ms. Borman reported for Nicole Chase, Field Deputy for L.A. City District Seven Councilman Richard Alarcon (818-756-9115; nicole.chase@lacity.org), reminding that [unofficial] fireworks are illegal in L.A. County; due to the high fire danger, there'll be a laser light show at the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration at Hansen Dam. The pool there will be closed from 4 – 6 p.m.

Angela Motta, Field Deputy for L.A. City District Two Councilwoman Wendy Greuel (818-352-3287; angela.motta@lacity.org), reported that Tree People distributed fruit trees to underserved people. There'll be a Joint Neighborhood Watch Meeting next month with both LAPD (L.A. Police Dept.) Senior Lead Officers Rodriguez and Martinez; she'll advise when there's more information.

[The following Agenda Item was addressed after Item #1.]

**C. Public Comment on non-Agenda items**

Stakeholder Bernie Buenaflor, representing Shadow Hills neighbors, is requesting copies of the letter brought from the STNC to the May 15<sup>th</sup> FTDNC General Board Meeting thanking the FTDNC for its previous support and requesting its continued

support on the Home Depot issue. He's also requesting the NC to do something about the Sunland Blvd. traffic impact of the project not being addressed.

Mr. Hays, the Rules and Elections Committee Chair, distributed a ¼-page handout regarding and presented a proposed Bylaws change. He "wanted as many Stakeholders to participate as can." The change is as follows:

"Proposed Bylaw Change

Article VII, Board of Directors, E. Committees, c.

(From)

~~c. All committee's shall consist of at least three members and shall be less than the number of the quorum of the full FTDNC.~~

(to)

c. All committees shall consist of an unlimited number of stakeholders with a minimum of three.

c-1. A maximum of 4 FTDNC board members may serve on any one committee."

Stakeholder Mike Carpenter, representing New Heaven on Earth Ranch, distributed a flyer about and announced that on July 25<sup>th</sup> All Nations Church will have a Community Family Concert, with a reception at 6 p.m. and the concert at 7:30 p.m. (818-470-5235, www.nhoer.org, lamikec@yahoo.com). Tickets are \$10.00. He's asking the NC to buy an ad in the Program.

Stakeholder Marlene Radar announced that the KCCA (Kagel Canyon Civic Association) needs help dealing with the proposed Lopez Canyon truck driving school. Ms. Sabo noted that Kagel Canyon people are [FTDNC] Stakeholders, too, even though they're technically not in the City [of L.A.], and the NC needs to recognize them. "The County is interested in what's going on." The next step includes attending the [L.A. City Dept.] of Public Works and three other hearings.

[The following Agenda Item was addressed after Item #9.]

**D. Approval and possible corrections of May 15 General Meeting Minutes**

The following corrections to the May 15, 2008 Minutes were requested:

Page two, Item #B, in Grayce Liu's report: "Ms. Sabo" should be "Ms. Hughes".

**Lopez Canyon** - Page three, Item B, "regarding a Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) facility and the proposed Lopez Canyon truck driving school" should be "regarding a Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) and Tanking Storage facility and the proposed Lopez Canyon truck driving

school.” [THERE IS NO “ITEM B” ON PAGE 3; THE ABOVE PHRASE IS FROM PAGE 5, ITEM F1a, THE ONLY SECTION MENTIONING ‘LNG’ IN THOSE MINUTES.]

**MOTION** (by Ms. Sabo, seconded by Ms. Herman): to approve the Minutes of the May 15, 2008 General Board Meeting, with the above corrections.

**MOTION PASSED** by unanimous voice vote.

[The following Agenda Item was addressed after Item #B.]

**E. President’s announcements**

Mr. Paul reminded Committee Chairs to let Ms. Hughes know about their Committee Meetings so that she can put the information on the NC website [ftdnc.org]. Also, Ex-Officio Board Member seats are available for former Board Members; contact the NC for more information.

**F. Action Items**

**1. Discussion and possible action regarding the Stonehurst HPOZ (Historic Preservation Overlay Zone).**

Stakeholder William Malouf wants to preserve the “uniqueness and history of the area.” He put his house on the market one year ago and people are interested in buying it because it’s in an HPOZ. A potential future buyer likes that the “neighborhood character” “will be preserved.”

Stakeholder Gary Randall has “spent more than \$100,000 to fix” his home. The house was a “great deal.” The “only drawback is if you want to tear it down.”

Stakeholder Ed Drenten expressed that the HPOZ is “in no way tied to the “K” overlay; it will not protect horses.” Materials distributed to the neighborhood have not been clear, including none being in Spanish. A survey indicated that 36% of residents “want more information before the process moves forward.” There hasn’t been time for everybody to be informed or “have a consensus.”

Stakeholder Cindy Cleghorn, representing the Sunland-Tujunga NC (STNC), declared that the STNC “voted to support the HPOZ.”

Stakeholder Christian Aguirre, representing “Stonehurst neighborhood property owners,” contended that “misinformation” has been distributed by the FTDNC, saying that the HPOZ will benefit property owners. The HPOZ’s own website says “this is not the vehicle” to accomplish what it’s trying to do. It’s been “a blank check.” Many homeowners are “not in favor” of this; many said they “thought this would protect the horses.” He urged the NC to “give it more time; you’ll probably find out that it’s overwhelmingly not supported by the homeowners.”

Stakeholder John Luciano, representing the “Stonehurst neighborhood,” likes “no monitoring about how he wants it to look.” He keeps his property like it should be. The mailer he got was to someone who lived there before the previous owner. We “need more time on this . . . a preservation plan.” “The HPOZ is not what it’s cut out to be.” “Other neighborhoods” “aren’t happy with their HPOZ.” The neighborhood hasn’t had “adequate notification.”

Stakeholder Vinita McClennon stated that she’s one of the HPOZ starters and that [Councilwoman] Greuel suggested the HPOZ to help keep “developers from coming in and tearing down the houses.” They “started the process five years ago.” We “can keep this community the way it is . . . unique and special.”

Stakeholder Phil Tabbi was originally against the HPOZ. He doesn’t “want to be forced to do something he doesn’t want to do or can’t afford.”

Stakeholder Mary Benson noted that the proponents of the HPOZ “brought in people because the City wouldn’t pay for it.” “Only the people within the Zone will have a say” and “can make up the rules.” The City says that there won’t be a [City] PLUM (L.A. City Planning and Land Use Management Committee) Meeting until October.

Stakeholder Albert Knight observed that discussion will benefit everyone; let’s do it respectfully together “and make it work.”

Mr. Paul referred people to the next FTDNC Land Use Committee Meeting.

Dale Thrush, Director of Planning and Economic Development for Councilwoman Greuel (213-473-7002; dale.thrush@lacity.org), clarified that the purpose of the HPOZ is to protect the neighborhood character “for as long as possible” and that it’s not about horses. The present plan would create the HPOZ and define its boundaries. Every HPOZ “has a mechanism for hardship exemptions “which are usually approved.” The City can “only assess property if it becomes a hazard.” The City “doesn’t have the power to force” improvements. The Planning Commission Report hasn’t been released. He encouraged the community to organize and work on its own before the City will meet.

Ms. Herman encouraged everyone to post meeting notices of all kinds; this should “take care of who knows what.”

**MOTION** (by Ms. Sabo, seconded by Mr. Gibson): to direct the interim FTDNC Land Use Committee Chairman to draft a letter to the L.A. City PLUM Committee and L.A. City Council District Two stating that “the Foothills Trails District Neighborhood Council, while maintaining its support of the Stonehurst Historic Preservation Overlay Zone (SHPOZ) (Case #CPC 2007 5633 HPOZ), requests that all Stonehurst residents and property owners who will be directly affected by the HPOZ have the opportunity to address the direction, scope and manner of the HPOZ as it proceeds.”

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Paul noted that the Motion is a general statement and shouldn't be a problem with the bureaucracy.

**MOTION PASSED** by unanimous voice vote.

[The following Agenda Item was addressed after Item #C.]

**2. Discussion and possible action to create a standing committee on both residential and commercial equestrian issues.**

Ms. Herman explained that the City's emergency response regarding horse manure disposal turned into "a debacle." She's asking the NC to establish a standing committee to deal with this. The L.A. Bureau of Sanitation talked about it but there's been no action. The NC "needs to re-educate the City" that horse manure "is a resource," not "toxic material."

Stakeholder Mary Ann Geyer noted that community members had said they'd organize, including to avoid having to deal with Brown Act issues. DONE (the L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment) (213-485-1360; lacityneighborhoods.com) said that commercial property owners need to contact the City. Mr. Paul explained that the original idea was, because the NC represents so many horse keeping owners, that a permanent, standing Equestrian Committee is best. Kaiser declared that it's important to have a committee "to apply pressure" and "directly focus on these issues"; the City unofficially believes there're 20,000-25,000 horses in the City, "a huge subculture." Ms. Herman pointed out that if the City recycles horse manure as a resource, it could attract federal money. Ms. Borman said that the KCCA can't take advantage of this because they're in the County, not the City. Mr. Paul noted that the committee can address the business side of this.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Gibson, seconded by Mr. Kaiser): to create an FTDNC Equestrian Standing Committee.

**DISCUSSION:** Kevin Davis is concerned that the NC will be "locked into" the Ad Hoc Committee becoming a Standing Committee. Ms. Geyer noted that Committee membership remains open for 30 days.

**MOTION PASSED** by voice vote, with all in favor except for Mr. Keeble abstaining.

Mr. Paul declared that membership in the Committee is now open for 30 days.

**3. Discussion and possible action on Rules and Elections Committee Chair recommendation.**

**MOTION** (by Mr. Hays, seconded by Ms. Sabo): to request that the Rules and Elections Committee Chair recommendation, "that all FTDNC committees that have more than seven stakeholders requesting participation be conducted as Town Hall meetings only,

under appointed interim chairpersons, until such time as the FTDNC and DONE approve a bylaw change to address this issue,” be accepted as a resolution.

**DISCUSSION:** Ms. Geyer noted that if such a Town Hall Meeting is held, everyone [attending] can vote.

**MOTION PASSED** by unanimous voice vote.

- 4. Discussion and possible action to designate up to five (5) representatives authorized to submit Community Impact Statements (CISs) on behalf of the Neighborhood Council. These representatives shall be Executive Board members Royan Herman, Recording Secretary; Kevin Davis, Treasurer; Chris Hughes, VP of Communications; Billy Hays, VP of Administration; and Bart Paul, President. Should any of the five not wish to be so designated, the Board shall appoint a replacement.**

Mr. Paul explained that the City indicated that this Meeting’s Minutes need to show the above wording before the NC can submit a CIS. There was discussion regarding whether specific individuals’ names need to be designated, instead of just position titles. Ms. Geyer noted that “up to five” people can be so designated.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Hays, seconded by Mr. Gibson): to designate up to five (5) representatives authorized to submit Board-approved Community Impact Statements (CISs) on behalf of the Foothill Trails District Neighborhood Council. These representatives shall be Executive Board members Royan Herman, Recording Secretary; Kevin Davis, Treasurer; Chris Hughes, VP of Communications; Billy Hays, VP of Administration; and Bart Paul, President. Should any of the five not wish to be so designated, the Board shall appoint a replacement.

**DISCUSSION:** Kevin Davis believes that the NC needs to allow the Correspondence Secretary to participate in this. Mr. Paul added that the City has said that a CIS can be submitted by fax or a Meeting Minutes.

**MOTION PASSED**, with everyone in favor except for Ms. Greslie and Ms. Sabo abstaining.

- 5. Discussion and possible action on a request for FTDNC to allocate up to \$10,000 each to the Lake View Terrace Recreation Center and the Stonehurst Recreation Center to purchase operational and programmatic equipment and materials as requested by the respective Directors, approved by the Department of Recreation and Parks, and subject to the billing process established by the DONE Funding Department and the FTDNC Finance Committee.**

Ms. Sabo distributed “Park Summer Supply List”s for both the Stonehurst and Lake View Terrace Recreation Centers. She explained that, due to severe budget cuts, Parks “programming is moving toward purchasing digital items, but the [L.A. City] Recreation and Parks Dept. doesn’t have the resources to” get them. There was extensive discussion regarding the budget and allocation consideration process, and

park programs and histories. It was suggested to refer this to the Budget Committee; their next Meeting will be June 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. at the FTDNC Office [9747 Wheatland Ave.]. Kevin Davis noted that these look like new items; Parks had said they need help to “cover shortfalls in their budgets.” Mr. Paul described that this program is “in limbo” and the “long-term goal is to find a home for” it; it’s “been run as an after-school program.”

**MOTION** (by Kevin Davis, seconded by Mr. Keeble): to refer this Item to the Budget Committee.

**MOTION PASSED**, with all in favor except for Mr. Paul abstaining.

**6. Discussion and possible action to approve up to \$50 per month for Wi-Fi access for the FTDNC Office.**

Ms. Hughes declared that “to be without Internet access is crippling for any organization”; “the Office needs Internet access.” The Roadrunner computer software program could be installed to do this for \$50 per month; she explained the procedure. There was discussion regarding Office operations and the procedure for doing this.

**MOTION** (by Ms. Borman, seconded by Ms. Greslie): to refer this to the Budget Committee to explore options for Wi-Fi access for the FTDNC Office.

**DISCUSSION:** there was additional discussion regarding Office operations and the procedure for doing this.

**MOTION PASSED** by unanimous voice vote.

**7. Discussion and possible action to approve office staffing**

Mr. Paul explained this. Ms. Woodruff said that she’s happy with the Office Manager’s work and that it’s been requested by a number of people to hire the Office Manager permanently. Wi-Fi would help the Office Manager process and distribute e-mails and other information and communications. Ms. Geyer encouraged Board Members to bring archive material to the Office for the Office Manager to organize. She’d like to have the Office Manager work there 48 hours per month. Ms. Herman declared that the Office Manager is “doing a wonderful job,” but the NC needs to consider that the Office Manager and Minutes-writing expense could be 12 ½% of the NC’s annual budget. The Office Manager stated that the Office Manager position is also a professional and outreach resource for the NC and the community. There was extensive discussion regarding the logistics, job responsibilities, NC needs, scheduling, and evolving nature of the Office Manager position. Mr. Hays agreed to administer the Office Manager work.

**MOTION** (by Ms. Greslie, seconded by Mr. Blue): to approve up to but not exceeding 48 hours of permanent, part-time office staffing per month (not including the preparation of Meeting Minutes) through the AppleOne Agency at an hourly rate up to but not exceeding \$20.25 per hour (\$607.50 total), with scheduling to be determined by input from the Board and Committee Chairpersons, and Mr. Hays.

**DISCUSSION:** Kevin Davis noted that the NC'll need to consider changing the budget.

**MOTION PASSED**, with all in favor except for Ms. Herman, who was opposed.

**8. Discussion and possible action to approve an amount not to exceed \$200 to purchase a secure storage unit for laptop and other NC equipment.**

Mr. Kaiser offered to take care of this.

[The following Agenda Item was addressed after Item #D.]

**9. Discussion and possible action to approve an amount to cover fees for local skywatch group.**

Kevin Davis explained that the Sidewalk Astronomers (818-841-0548; www.sidewalkastronomers.us) events are very popular, but the City won't waive the permit fee. This would be an outreach event. Mr. Kaiser related that a "minimum of 150 people show up" for each event. Ms. Sabo added that the events are of "great educational" value.

**MOTION** (by Ms. Greslie, seconded by Mr. Blue): to approve an amount not to exceed \$200 per session to cover fees for the Sidewalk Astronomers to lease the Hansen Dam Aquatic Center up to twelve times per year.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Kaiser suggested that the NC could have a banner with the NC's name on it at the events.

**MOTION PASSED** by unanimous voice vote.

**G. Comments from the FTDNC Board**

Ms. Borman announced that Presidential Volunteer Service Award Certificates arrived and she presented them to the Board Members. Ms. Greslie asked for ideas, in letter form - regarding the cost of City residential water reductions for horse keepers need \_\_\_\_\_ for local homeowners groups regarding \_\_\_\_\_ **[SOMETHING ABOUT** Greg Bartz, Neighborhood Council Liaison, L.A. Dept. of Water and Power (213-367-2800, greg.bartz@ladwp.com)].

Mr. Bronner gave a Land Use Committee report. The [State of California Parks and Recreation Trails and Greenways] Conference was "very informative." The State has suggested adding \$10 to the license plate fee to establish a "Fast Pass" to enter any state park. Sixty per cent of various state and local government agencies were represented at the Conference, but not the City of L.A.

Mr. Hays thanked Ms. Woodruff for bringing many supplies and materials to the Office. Mr. Keeble announced the Police's National Night Out, August 5th at 5 p.m. at Stonehurst Park; many local officials will attend. Mr. Kaiser thought the NC should

consider purchasing a portable Public Address system. Mr. Paul thanked people for their assistance with the HPOZ discussion and work.

**H. Adjournment**

Mr. Paul **ADJOURNED** the Meeting without any objections at 9:46 p.m.