



# General Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 21, 2013, 7:00pm

Simon Wiesenthal Center, 3rd Floor

1399 S. Roxbury Dr., Los Angeles, CA 90035 (Pico and Roxbury)

## I. Call to Order & Roll Call

SORO Neighborhoods Council Board President, Doug Fitzsimmons, called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.

**Board Members Present (19):** Kevin Gres, Kimber Smith, Beth Ryan, Robyn Braun (arrived at 7:32PM), Bette Billet, Michael Lynn (arrived at 7:39PM), Jon Liberman, Ellen Lanet (arrived at 7:15PM), Paula Waxman, Bethie Kohanbash (left at 9:20 PM), David Mattis (arrived at 7:17PM), Barry Levine, Susan Burden, Marj Safinia, Terrence Gomes, Martin Epstein (arrived at 7:15PM), Hector Garza, Victor Mitry, Doug Fitzsimmons

**Board Members Absent (4):** Michael Bloom, Nahed Guirguis, Brian Kite and Erick Morales

**City Officials and their Representatives Present (3):** Senior Lead Officer Mario Gonzales, Liz Carlin, field deputy from Council President Herb Wesson's office and Tania Bradkin, field deputy from Councilmember Paul Koretz's office

**Members of the Public Present (0):**

## II. General Public Comment – no public comment

## III. Community Reports

- a. LA Police Department (Senior Lead Officer Mario Gonzalez)
  - There was a \$600 cell phone taken by force from a student on their way home from school. LAPD has increased patrols in the hours after school.
- b. Office of Council President Wesson (Liz Carlin)
  - Liz encouraged everyone to check out the CicLAVia website. When asked where Council President stood regarding the cutting of funding to the Neighborhood Council, Liz indicated that she would ask him and report back.
- c. Office of Councilmember Koretz (Tania Bradkin)
  - Tania reported that she was working on the tree permits being pulled for the tree planting on Pico Blvd and that she was also quite involved with the homeless woman who lives near the overpass near National Blvd and Robertson.
- d. Other Neighborhood, City and State offices

## IV. Presentation and Board Discussion

- a. Expo Traffic Disruption on Venice / Glenda Silva, Expo Authority
  - Gabby Collins gave a brief update indicating that phase 1 has been completed and phase 2 is about to begin. Beginning on March 25, 2013 there would be lane reductions on Venice Blvd going down to 2 lanes lasting for nine months.
  - For any questions or updates, call 213-922-EXPO
- b. CicLAVia planning / Rachel Burke, CicLAVia
  - Martin Lopez informed the board that CicLAVia would take place on April 21<sup>st</sup> from 10 AM – 3 PM where Venice Beach (from downtown to the beach) is closed to car traffic.

**Doug Fitzsimmons**  
President

**Brian Kite**  
Vice-President

**Terrence Gomes**  
Treasurer

**Beth Ryan**  
Secretary

**South Robertson  
Neighborhoods Council**

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**V. Approval of Minutes**

- a. Draft meeting minutes of February 21, 2013 (Ryan / GB032113-1)
- Minutes were unanimously approved by general consensus. (19 board members voted)

**VI. Committee Reports**

- a. Confirmation of Board committee memberships and absence requests (GB032113-2)
- Ellen Lanet asked to be removed from the Education Committee.
  - Absences from the general board meeting in April were requested by Michael Lynn and Michael Bloom.
  - Today was Erick Morales' mom's birthday and he requested an excused absence from tonight's meeting.
  - All committee changes and absences were unanimously approved by general consensus. (19 board members voted)
- b. President's report
- Doug Fitzsimmons thanked everyone for participating in the board retreat.
  - He indicated that he needed all motions to be submitted by Saturday. If they were not submitted in a timely matter, they would not be included on the agenda.
  - Doug provided an update on the NC Plan Review meetings that he attends. The topics to be discussed can be found on [www.empowerla.org](http://www.empowerla.org).
- c. Treasurer's report and approval of monthly expenses (Gomes/GB032113-3)
- The banners need to be added to the budget.
  - We currently have about \$13,000 that will go back to the city if we are unable to spend it prior to the end of the fiscal year.
  - Financials were approved by the board. (18 YES/0 NO/1 Abstain)
- d. Upcoming committee events and legislative issues
- Green
    - Paula Waxman discussed the Clean H2O Clean Beaches measure coming up on the ballot. She explained that there are two types of water – sewer water is clean and storm water runoff is not clean.
    - Tree Planting on Pico Blvd is scheduled to take place on Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at 1 PM.
    - In 2010, SORO sent a letter to DWP in support of the city eliminating coal by 2020. Paula was invited to a press conference with Mayor Villarigosa and Al Gore to celebrate LA becoming one of the cleanest large cities in the world by 2025.
  - Outreach
    - Marj indicated that the SORO Festival is in need of volunteers. The committee meets on Tuesdays at 6:30 PM and last for 1 hour.
  - Public Safety
    - April's meeting has been changed from April 1<sup>st</sup> to April 8<sup>th</sup>.
    - Doug reminded everyone to let Cheryl Gray know about meeting changes taking place at the Robertson Rec Center
  - NC Budget Advocates Report
    - Mayor Villarigosa will host a meeting to discuss the budget survey responses on April 27<sup>th</sup>.



**VII. Special Orders**

- a. Nomination of Jon Liberman and Ellen Lanet as Chair and Vice-Chair (respectively) of the Transportation Committee (GB032113-5)
  - Transportation Committee Chair – Jon Liberman and Vice-Chair – Ellen Lanet were unanimously approved by general consensus. (19 board members voted)
- b. Nomination of Terry Gomes and Victor Mitry as Co-chairs of the Land Use Committee (GB032113-6)
  - Land Use Committee Co-Chairs – Terrence Gomes and Victor Mitry were unanimously approved by general consensus. (19 board members voted)

**VIII. New Business**

- a. **Motion for small lot development at 3260-3264 Fay Ave. (Gomes / GB032113-7)**
  - Jeff Powers and Mike Murphy attended the meeting to discuss and answer questions regarding the development.
  - The Land Use committee had met with the developers and asked them to provide signage so stakeholders could contact them and also to provide a landscape plan.

**MOTION** – The SORO Neighborhoods Council supports the proposal at 3260-3264 Faye Avenue with the additional variances provided.

- The motion was moved by Bette Billet and seconded by Kimber Smith.
- The motion was approved by the board.
- Vote count on motion: (16 YES/0 NO/3 Abstain)

- b. **Motion to oppose proposed NC funding cuts and 2014 election delays (Gomes / GB032113-8)**

- Doug Fitzsimmons gave an impassioned speech regarding the 1700 volunteers dedicated to city voters included in the charter. Neighborhood Council funding continues to be defunded year after year. \$50,000 is pocket change and the money being swept each year causes irresponsible spending by the NCs. Per the charter, NCs are supposed to receive the budget a year in advance, but never have. If the money continues to be stripped, Doug discussed the Neighborhoods Council consider creating a 501c3 and raising money ourselves which would be less hassle. The Neighborhood Council is revolutionary and it is frustrating to be in the conservation regarding the funding cuts year after year. Several members of the board gave Doug a round of applause.

**AMENDMENT** – South Robertson Neighborhoods Council support a Community Impact Statement to be written once a council file is created and authorize communication to the press.

- The amendment was moved by Doug Fitzsimmons and seconded by Michael Lynn.
- The amendment was approved by the board.
- Vote count on motion: (18 YES/0 NO/1 Abstain)

**AMENDMENT** – to request a written response from the Mayor and City Council within 2 weeks of receiving the letter from South Robertson Neighborhoods Council.

- The amendment was moved by Bette Billet and seconded by Michael Lynn.
- The amendment was unanimously approved by general consensus. (19 board members voted)



**MOTION –**

- I. That the city issues **NO DELAYS** in the 2014 neighborhood council elections
- II. That the city fully fund the neighborhood council elections
- III. That the city restores the \$50,000 Neighborhood Councils annual budgets
- IV. That the city cease and desist from any further sweeping of neighborhood council funds, in violation of charter section 911
- V. That the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council file an immediate letter to the City regarding its violation of Charter Section 911.

- The motion was moved by Kimber Smith and seconded by Martin Epstein.
- The motion was approved by the board.
- Vote count on motion: (18 YES/0 NO/1 Abstain)

c. **Motion to oppose amendments to the Community Care Facilities ordinance (Lanet / GB032113-9)**

- After a brief discussion regarding the issue of board houses, safe houses, residential ordinances, it was determined that the board did not have enough information – including the Motion 31B – mentioned in the motion.

**TABLE** the motion to oppose amendments to the Community Care Facilities Ordinance.

- The motion to table was moved by Marj Safinia and seconded by Beth Ryan.
- The motion was tabled by the board.
- Vote count on motion: (10 YES/7 NO/0Abstain)

d. **Motion to approve a \$5000 or \$4000 Neighborhood Purposes Grant (NPG) for the 2013 SoRo Festival (Smith / GB032113-10)**

**AMENDMENT –** That the \$4,000 the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council has previously set aside for the NPG pool be returned to the SORO general budget.

- The amendment was made by Doug Fitzsimmons and seconded by Terrence Gomes.
- The amendment was approved by the board.
- Vote count on motion: (15 YES/2 NO/0 Abstain)

**MOTION – To approve \$5,000 for the 2013 SORO Festival.**

- The motion was moved by Bette Billet and seconded by Kimber Smith.
- The motion was unanimously approved by the board.
- Vote count on motion: (17 YES/0 NO/0 Abstain)

e. **Motion to approve a \$4000 or \$3000 Neighborhood Purposes Grant (NPG) for phase II of KCET Departure project (Safinia / GB032113-11)**

- Phase 1 of the KCET project has been completed. The video pieces can be found on the KCET website and have been viewed by 3500 people in the first month of the launch. The videos will be shown at the upcoming Movies in the Park.

**MOTION –** That South Robertson Neighborhoods Council approves the attached Neighborhood Purposes Grant in the amount of \$4,000 for the purpose of expanding the KCET Departures chapter on South Robertson.



- The motion was moved by Marj Safinia and seconded by Kimber Smith.
- The motion was unanimously approved by the board.
- Vote count on motion: (17 YES/0 NO/0 Abstain)

f. **Motion to fund \$1650 for outreach materials (NC-branded pens and keychain flashlights) (Safinia / GB032113-12)**

- The Outreach committee last purchased pens in 2008 and Marj indicated that we wanted to have enough inventory of promotional materials for the upcoming SORO Festival.

**MOTION** – That South Robertson Neighborhoods Council funds up to \$1650 towards the purchase of pens and keychain/flashlights, branded with the SORO NC identity, as promotional outreach materials.

- The motion was moved by Jon Liberman and seconded by Robyn Braun.
- The motion was approved by the board.
- Vote count on motion: (16 YES/1 NO/0 Abstain)

g. **Motion to fund \$1000 for Movies In The Park (Safinia / GB032113-13)**

- Marj indicated that Movies in the park brings in 800 – 1000 residents and is hosted by Council President Herb Wesson's office.

**TABLE** the motion until we hear back from city council regarding our letter opposing the funding cuts and delay of the 2014 elections.

- The motion to table was moved by Kimber Smith and seconded by Jon Liberman.
- The motion was tabled by the board.
- Vote count on motion: (10 YES/7 NO/0Abstain)

h. **Motion for \$350 for business outreach (Ryan / GB032113-14)**

- Beth Ryan indicated that the NC does not have the data letting us know what sorts of businesses we have in the community, what they know about the NC and what sorts of services could we provide that would be helpful to the business community. A survey was created and we have a student from the community willing to hand deliver the survey to the businesses. The funds would be used for printing and to provide stamps making it easier for business owners to return the completed surveys to the NC.

**MOTION** – That South Robertson Neighborhoods Council funds up to \$350 for stamps and printed materials associated with outreach to the local business community within SORO NC's boundaries.

- The motion was moved by Jon Liberman and seconded by Susan Burden.
- The motion was approved by the board.
- Vote count on motion: (16 YES/0 NO/0 Abstain)

i. **Motion for \$2984 Neighborhood Purpose Grant for SORO Inc. to Purchase Emergency Equipment and Supplies (Lynn / GB032113-15)**

- At the December 20, 2012 board meeting, the board voted to approve \$3,000 for emergency equipment and supplies. (GB122012-20)

**AMENDMENT** – That the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council withdraw prior motion (GB122012-20) and replace it with this NPG (GB032113-15).





- The amendment was moved by Doug Fitzsimmons and seconded by Kevin Gres.
- The amendment was approved by general consensus. (19 board members voted)

**MOTION** – To approve a Neighborhood Purpose Grant of \$2984 for SORO Inc to purchase Emergency Supplies and Equipment in support of CERT graduates in training community members, to be stored in the SORO NC storage unit, located at the Robertson Recreation Center.

- The motion was moved by Ellen Lanet and seconded by Terrence Gomes.
- The motion was approved by the board.
- Vote count on motion: (12 YES/1 NO/2 Abstain)

j. **Motion for \$3800 NPG for school nutrition program (Gres/GB032113-16)**

- After a brief presentation by Katie Hill regarding the nutrition program by Sage Wellness, it was determined that they are not a 501c3. The Neighborhood Council is unable to fund an LLC.

**TABLE** the motion allowing Sage Wellness to resubmit the NPG.

- The motion to table was moved by Kimber Smith and seconded by Beth Ryan.
- The motion to table was approved by the board.
- Vote count on motion: (9 YES/6 NO/0 Abstain)

k. **Motion to approve \$1671 NPG for Castle Heights annual Earth Week and Eco Fair (Waxman / GB032113-17)**

- This motion was already approved and was withdrawn by Paula Waxman.

l. **Motion for \$75 for Hamilton garden tools (Waxman / GB032113-18)**

- SORO has been working in the Hami Garden for the past four years and needs to replace and add new tools.

**MOTION** – That the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council approve spending up to \$75 to replace and add to the inventory in the Hami Garden.

- The motion was moved by Marj Safinia and seconded by Barry Levine.
- The motion was approved by the board.
- Vote count on motion: (13 YES/0 NO/0 Abstain)

**IX. Adjournment**

Doug Fitzsimmons adjourned the meeting at 10:18 PM.



## Current Committee Membership

Board members must attend at least 7 committee meetings within a 12 month period.

Note that Bylaws, Econ Revitalization, Board Development, and Parks & Recreation ad hoc committees may have no more than 6 voting members.

Committee	Education	Green Team	Land Use	Outreach	Public Safety	Trans- portation	Finance	Exec	Bylaws	Econ Revital	Board Dev	Parks & Rec
Kevin Gres	█				█							
Kimber Smith				█			█					
Beth Ryan				█			█	█			█	
Robyn Braun					█							
Bette Billet		█	█	█					█	█	█	
Michael Lynn					█		█					
Jon Liberman			█	█		█			█			
Ellen Lanet			█			█						
Paula Waxman		█					█					
Michael Bloom			█		█							
Bethie Kohanbash											█	
Nahed Guirguis												
David Mattis				█								
Brian Kite			█				█	█	█			█
Barry Levine	█	█		█		█	█			█		
Susan Burden			█									
Marj Safinia			█	█			█			█		
Terrence Gomes			█		█		█	█	█	█	█	
Martin Epstein		█										
Hector Garza											█	
Victor Mitry			█				█					
Org 3												
Doug Fitzsimmons				█		█	█	█	█	█		█
School 1												
Erick Morales	█			█		█					█	



## Board Vote Tally Sheet

Meeting Date: March 21, 2013

Votes taken	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10
Kevin Gres	C	C	Y	C	C	Y	Y	C	Y	N
Kimber Smith	C	C	Y	C	C	2A	Y	C	1Y	Y
Beth Ryan	C	C	Y	C	C	Y	Y	C	Y	2Y
Robyn Braun	C	C	A	C	C	Y	Y	C	Y	Y
Bette Billet	C	C	Y	C	C	1Y	Y	1C	Y	Y
Michael Lynn	C	C	Y	C	C	Y	2Y	2C	Y	N
Jon Liberman	C	C	2Y	C	C	Y	Y	C	Y	Y
Ellen Lanet	C	C	Y	C	C	Y	Y	C	Y	N
Paula Waxman	C	C	Y	C	C	Y	Y	C	Y	Y
Michoel Bloom	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Bethie Kohanbash	C	C	Y	C	C	A	Y	C	Y	N
Nahed Guirguis	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
David Mattis	C	C	Y	C	C	A	Y	C	Y	N
Brian Kite	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Barry Levine	C	C	Y	C	C	Y	Y	C	Y	Y
Susan Burden	C	C	Y	C	C	Y	A	C	A	Y
Marj Safinia	C	C	1Y	C	C	Y	Y	C	Y	1Y
Terrence Gomes	C	C	Y	C	C	Y	Y	C	Y	N
Martin Epstein	C	C	Y	C	C	Y	Y	C	2Y	X
Hector Garza	C	C	Y	C	C	Y	Y	C	Y	Y
Victor Mitry	C	C	Y	C	C	Y	Y	C	Y	N
Org 3										
Doug Fitzsimmons	C	C	Y	C	C	Y	1Y	C	Y	Y
School 1										
Erick Morales	X	X	E	X	C	U	S	E	D	X

### Votes taken

1. Draft meeting minutes of Dec, 2012 (Ryan/GB032113-1)
2. Confirmation of Board committee memberships & absence requests (GB032113-2)
3. Treasurer's report and approval of monthly expenses (Gomes / GB032113-3)
4. Transportation Chairs (GB032113-5)
5. Land Use Chairs (GB032113-6)
6. MOTION – To allow variances for property at 3260-3264 Fay Ave (GB032113-7)
7. AMENDMENT - Allow communication with Press and submit CIS (GB032113-8)
8. AMENDMENT - Request a two-week response to letter (GB032113-8)
9. MOTION – to oppose funding cuts and delay in 2014 election (GB032113-8)
10. TABLE - Community Care Facilities (GB032113-9)





Votes taken	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Kevin Gres	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	2C	Y	N	X
Kimber Smith	Y	Y	2Y	Y	1Y	Y	C	Y	1Y	Y
Beth Ryan	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	C	Y	2Y	Y
Robyn Braun	Y	Y	Y	2Y	Y	Y	C	Y	N	Y
Bette Billet	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	C	N	Y	Y
Michael Lynn	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	C	Y	N	Y
Jon Liberman	Y	1Y	Y	1Y	2Y	1Y	C	Y	N	Y
Ellen Lanet	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	C	1Y	X	X
Paula Waxman	Y	Y	Y	X	Y	Y	C	A	Y	Y
Michoel Bloom	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Bethie Kohanbash	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Nahed Guirguis	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
David Mattis	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	C	X	X	X
Brian Kite	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Barry Levine	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	C	Y	Y	2Y
Susan Burden	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	2Y	C	A	Y	Y
Marj Safinia	Y	Y	1Y	Y	Y	Y	C	Y	Y	1Y
Terrence Gomes	2Y	2Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	C	2Y	N	Y
Martin Epstein	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Hector Garza	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	C	Y	Y	Y
Victor Mity	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	X	X	X	X	X
Org 3										
Doug Fitzsimmons	1Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	1C	Y	Y	Y
School 1										
Erick Morales	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

11. AMENDMENT – move NPG \$ back to SORO’s general fund (GB032113-10)
12. MOTION to approve \$5,000 for the 2013 SORO Festival (GB032113-10)
13. MOTION to approve \$4,000 for Phase II of KCET Departures project (GB032113-11)
14. MOTION to approve \$1650 for outreach Materials (GB032113-12)
15. TABLE Movies in the Park (GB032113-13)
16. MOTION to approve up to \$350 for Business Outreach (GB03211314)
17. WITHDRAW prior motion approved (GB122012-20) for Emergency Preparedness
18. MOTION to approve \$2984 for Emergency Equipment for SORO Inc NPG (GB032113-15)
19. TABLE Sage Wellness nutrition program (GB032113-16)
20. MOTION to approve \$75 for Green Team tools for Hami Garden (GB032113-18)