



General Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 18th, 2011, 7:00pm

Hamilton Senior High School Cafeteria

2955 S. Robertson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90034

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

SORO NC Board Vice President Brian Kite called the meeting to order at 7:10.

Board Members Present: Kimber Smith, Harold Bock, Robyn Braun, Bette Billet, Michael Lynn, Nick Burkhardt, Paula Waxman (7:10), Armando Roman, Terrence Gomes, Brian Kite, Barry Levine, Troy Richardson, Sam Jagger, Martin Epstein, Erick Morales

Board Members Absent: Rachel Lester, Benjamin Bellet, Nahed Guirguis, Marjan Safinia, Susan Burden, Victor Mitry, Doug Fitzsimmons

Guests: Elizabeth Carlin, David Giron, HarSimran Khalsa, Phil Brown

II. General Public Comment

HarSimran Khalsa spoke briefly about the upcoming Peace Picnic. A representative from the Eilat Bakery also spoke.

III. Elections for Board seat and Secretary

Armando Roman was nominated for the Zone 10 seat (expiring in 2014). Armando provided a brief statement.

- **Vote: Unanimous in favor of appointment.**
- **Note:** At this point, Armando is eligible to vote on tonight's motions.

Nick Burkhardt and **Erick Morales** were considered for the position of Secretary. Nick and Erick both provided brief statements.

- **Vote: 9 - Nick, 4 - Erick, 1 - Abstention. Nick was chosen as Secretary.**
- **Note:** At this point, Nick assumed the role of Secretary.

IV. Community Briefings and Discussion

- a) Victoria Cross, of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, provided a briefing about the proposed rate increases. Included in her presentation was information about LADWP's plan to gradually phase out the city's purchasing of coal-generated electricity.
- b) **Paula** introduced Gina from Sustainable Works: Business Greening Program & Green Living Workshops, a program sponsored by a grant from the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. Gina provided a presentation about the services provided by Sustainable Works. Information is available on the Sustainable Works website, at <http://www.sustainableworks.org/>

V. Old Business

Confirmation of Board committee memberships and absence requests (GB081811-1).

No committee memberships or absence requests were submitted for consideration.

Doug Fitzsimmons
President

Brian Kite
Vice-President

Terrence Gomes
Treasurer

Nick Burkhardt
Secretary

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Draft Board Meeting Minutes of July (Burkhart - GB081811-2).

- Terry moved to approve the draft minutes, Bette seconded.
- **Vote: 12-Y, 2-A, 0-N. Minutes approved.**

Treasurer Report and vote to approve monthly expenses (Gomes - GB081811-3).

Terry noted that charges from eFax and Vonage appeared twice on a single p-card invoice, due to the time at which the card was reactivated.

- Kimber moved to approve the report; Harold seconded.
- **Vote: Unanimous in favor of approval. Report approved.**

VI. Community Reports

LAPD Report. No report.

Office of Councilmember Wesson. Liz Carlin noted that Fresh and Easy is hosting a hiring event on the evening of Wednesday, August 24th. Barry asked whether these jobs are full time and whether benefits are provided to employees. Liz noted that these are full time jobs, and that medical benefits and paid time off are included. Terry mentioned that Fresh and Easy already has hired a store manager. Brian noted that the company prefers to hire from within the community. Liz continued by mentioning that her office is working with Wally Marks to set up a metered parking zone near Helms Bakery, and that a traffic study had been completed. Terry inquired about the reason for establishing a metered parking zone. Liz responded by noting an increasing demand because of the Expo Line's arrival, and that meters would keep traffic fluid within a business district. The metered parking zone would also maintain consistency with an adjacent area of Culver City, where metered parking is also planned.

Office of Councilmember Koretz. David Giron noted that any senior citizens using the Lifeline Program who missed the opportunity to renew their participation in the program should contact the Department of Finance online or by phone at (213) 473-5901. David noted the ongoing debate surrounding apron parking on the Westside. Enforcement of apron parking ordinances was prompted by a lawsuit alleging a lack of compliance with ADA regulations concerning street and sidewalk safety. Councilmember Koretz will be introducing a motion related to apron parking in the near future. David also mentioned the efforts to bring \$6 million forward for the renovation of Robertson Recreation Center, and he asked that the SORO NC Parks and Recreation ad-hoc committee schedule a meeting. Brian noted that SORO NC has assembled its own Parks and Recreation subcommittee, separate from the LVNOC. Bette asked about the frequency of the SORO NC Parks and Recreation Committee's meetings. David suggested that the committee's schedule of meetings might mirror that of the LVNOC, with 5 to 6 meetings throughout the coming year. Brian noted that the purpose of the committee is to keep the NC's representatives to the LVNOC (Brian, Doug) on track with the wishes of the Board and the community. David also noted that the Bel Air Association is inviting Neighborhood Councils to attend a disaster awareness workshop on Thursday, September 8th from 6 to 7:30pm.

Office of the Mayor. No report.

Office of Senator Price. No report.

Robertson Recreation Center. No report.



VII. Committee Reports

Executive. Brian noted that the bond issue has been moved to a special meeting to follow the general board meeting.

Land Use. Terry noted that the Land Use committee will entertain a presentation from Phil Brown about his proposal to establish flow boulevards throughout Los Angeles.

Education. No report.

Green Team. Paula reports that the Green Team has encountered difficulties in moving forward with tree planting on Robertson Blvd., due to budget issues at Million Trees LA. Paula noted that due to logistical issues, the project cannot move forward until it receives formal approval from Million Trees LA's leadership. Brian noted that Paula was appointed to serve on Assemblywoman Mitchell's environmental commission.

Public Safety. Mike noted that September's meeting has been moved to September 12th, due to the Labor Day holiday. Increasing property crime led SORO NC's Outreach committee to sponsor a special public meeting concerning property crime on the evening of August 29th. Mike also reported that LAPD has been intensifying enforcement efforts to promote pedestrian safety. Crosswalk enforcement has increased, most notably on Robertson Blvd. and Pico Blvd.

Outreach. No update from the last meeting. Kimber mentioned that the Outreach Committee will be hosting a meeting of neighborhood leaders at Hamilton High School on Monday, August 29th, primarily in response to a rash of thefts from vehicles.

Bylaws. No report.

CPAB. Terry reported that National Night Out was a great success. Due to the increase in thefts from vehicles, people are reminded that putting all personal property out of sight within a vehicle is the best mechanism for preventing theft. Terry also mentioned a significant increase in residential burglaries in Crestview. Throughout the Westside, an increase of armed robberies has been noted. Mike noted that auto burglars have been using universal TV remotes to disable vehicle security systems and gain entry to vehicles.

Neighborhood Congress. Terry noted that the Neighborhood Congress is a meeting where all NCs come together to learn more about the NC system. Elected officials and general managers from city departments will give seminars. This event will take place on September 24th. DONE is only providing \$10,000 to fund the meeting, so most NCs are contributing between \$250 and \$500 to cover the cost of the event. Kimber expressed interest in bringing this to an Outreach meeting.

VIII. New Business

Motion asking for review of DWP rate increases by a Ratepayer Advocate. (Bock / GB081811-4).

Harold noted that this motion asks the DWP Ratepayer Advocate to review the department's proposed rate increase before it is officially adopted. Bette asked why we would be considering this motion. Harold responded that it is an affirmation that we don't want an increase in rates until the Ratepayer Advocate is ready to review the proposed increase. Brian and Terry also noted that WRAC asked the NC to consider such a motion. Paula asked when the Ratepayer Advocate might come on board. Harold noted that this is at the discretion of the city council, and Brian noted that the committee to pick the Ratepayer Advocate has been formed.



- Mike moved to approve the motion; Terry seconded.
- **Motion vote: 13-Y, 0-N, 2-A. Motion approved.**

Motion to Sponsor and Fund Up To \$500 for the 2011 Peace Picnic (Lynn / GB081811-5).

Brian commented that he is concerned about the nature SORO NC's involvement in the Peace Picnic – despite the fact that the NC might provide \$500 out of a total budget of \$600, the NC has very little control over the event. He also noted concern about a lack of widespread community support. Martin noted that over 500 people might walk through the picnic, and that an independent Peace Picnic committee has collected over \$200 of in-kind donations. HarSimran Khalsa mentioned that the event's food is largely donated, and that this amounts to hundreds of dollars of donation. She also notes that the picnic's organizers hope to more carefully measure attendance this year. Harold noted that the picnic is SORO NC's second largest outreach activity – the NC has a prominent table near the gate, and the NC has an opportunity to bring in lots of stakeholders. He also noted that the picnic is significantly supported by LAPD, and that the value of in-kind contributions will likely exceed the NC's financial contribution to the event. Martin mentioned that CD5 and CD10 are donating the use of canopies and tables. Bette expressed concern over the sponsorship of the event, asking whether there is an existing NC committee responsible for the operation and evaluation of the Peace Picnic. Harold and Kimber noted that different committees (both Outreach and Public Safety) have handled this event. Martin noted that while the event was organized through Outreach last year, a funding motion was not prepared in time for the Outreach Meeting; thus, funding requests went through the Green Team and Public Safety. Bette expressed a desire to have a single committee responsible for the event in the future.

Proposed amendment (**Martin**):

“II. No more than \$65 for 500 sustainable plates. III. No more than \$135 for food.”

- **Mike** moved to approve the amendment; **Harold** seconded.
- **Amendment vote: Unanimous in favor of approval. Amendment approved.**
- **Mike** moved to approve the motion as amended; **Harold** seconded.
- **Motion vote: 13-Y, 0-N, 2-A. Amended motion approved.**

Motion re: Support Request to Conditions of Approval for National Oil. (Gomes / GB081811-6).

Terry noted that National Oil came before the NC back in 2006 with a more elaborate plan, but that they now want to refurbish the structure that is currently on site. The proposed renovations include cutting out walls, adding windows, and refurbishing the canopy, but not tearing it down. They also plan to add an air and water station in the residential section of the property (the property straddles two parcels, one of which is zoned residential).

- **Robyn** moved to approve the motion; **Mike** seconded.
- **Motion vote: Unanimous in favor of approval. Motion approved.**

Motion re: Fresh and Easy Support. (Gomes / GB081811-7).

Paula asked Terry whether he is concerned about noise from early morning deliveries. Terry noted that Neighbors United never met with Fresh and Easy, but that former councilmember Dennis Cunningham was concerned about the noise and the maintenance contract. Brian noted that Fresh and Easy responds to these concerns by saying that the trucks used for deliveries will be smaller, because the store itself will be rather small. Robyn asked whether we could request that trucks enter/exit off of La Cienega. Kimber asks whether reusable plastic bags are being given to the community. Brian mentions that they plan to give out as many reusable bags as is possible. Kimber asks whether bags will be given away in-store. Brian



and Terry responded that they will be sold in-store for 78 cents. Bette commented that the NC should express unqualified support for the store, because having a store like Fresh and Easy will be a real asset for the community. Kimber noted that Fresh and Easy's presentation was a very neighborly gesture, because their upcoming La Cienega Blvd. location is not within SORO NC boundaries.

- **Terry** moved to approve the motion; **Harold** seconded.
- **Motion vote: 14-Y, 1-N, 0-A. Motion approved.**

Resolution to congratulate Mid City Neighborhood Council on the acquisition of Area B. (Fitzsimmons / GB081811-8).

No discussion.

- **Bette** moved to approve the motion; **Mike** seconded.
- **Motion vote: Unanimous in favor of approval. Motion approved.**

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:47 p.m.



Vote Tally

Y: yes | N: no | A: abstain | R: recuse | X: missed vote | -- : absent from meeting

On motion 2 only: N: Nick | E: Erick

Motion	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15
Rachel Lester	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--					
Kimber Smith	Y	N	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y					
Harold Bock	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y					
Robyn Braun	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y					
Bette Billet	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y					
Michael Lynn	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y					
Nick Burkhart	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y					
Zone 8															
Paula Waxman	Y	E	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y					
Armando Roman	--	N	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y					
Ben Bellet	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--					
Nahed Guirguis	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--					
Terry Gomes	Y	E	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	N	Y					
Brian Kite	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y					
Barry Levine	Y	E	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y					
Troy Richardson	Y	N	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y					
Marj Safinia	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--					
Sam Jagger	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y					
Martin Epstein	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y					
Sue Burden	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--					
Victor Mitry	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--					
Business 4															
Doug Fitzsimmons	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--					
School 1															
Erick Morales	Y	E	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y					

Motions

- 01: Zone 10 appointment
- 02: Secretary position election
- 03: Draft minutes approval
- 04: Treasurer report approval
- 05: Motion asking for review of DWP rate increases by a

- Ratepayer Advocate. (Bock / GB081811-4).
- 06: Amendment to motion to Sponsor and Fund Up To \$500 for the 2011 Peace Picnic (Lynn / GB081811-5).



- 07: Motion to Sponsor and Fund Up To \$500 for the 2011 Peace Picnic (Lynn / GB081811-5).
- 08: Motion re Support Request to Conditions of Approval for National Oil. (Gomes / GB081811-6).

- 09: Motion re Fresh and Easy Support. (Gomes / GB081811-7).
- 10: Resolution to congratulate Mid City Neighborhood Council on the acquisition of Area B. (Fitzsimmons / GB081811-8).