



Motion to allocate \$30,000 to SoRo Inc. to manage the SoRo Festival

Agenda Item: SB021810-1
Date: 18 February 2010
Proposed By: Marjan Safinia

Summary

That SORO NC allocate \$30,000 to SoRo Inc to manage the SoRo Festival.

Full Proposal

Recent budgetary cut backs by the City of Los Angeles pose a significant threat to the survival of the SoRo Festival since many costs that were traditionally borne by the City will no longer be covered. These costs include the costs associated with closure of the street, personnel from the Department of Transportation to manage the street closure, rental of port-a-potties, tables and chairs etc., permits, fees and so on.

Since the SoRo Festival is the single largest outreach opportunity that we have, and the festival may be the only time in the year that the majority of our stakeholders really connect with the NC and the community as a whole, we feel it is prudent to allocate significant funds to ensure the continuation of the festival.

Proposed Motion

I. That SORO NC allocate \$30,000 to SoRo Inc. to manage the SoRo Festival.

Considerations

Pro

It's the single most significant outreach opportunity for the NC and the neighborhood as a whole.

If the choice faces us to spend our money locally or risk losing funds in the City's budget reshuffles, it would be prudent to commit this money for local expenditure, as it was originally intended.

Con

It's a large sum of money.

The City's in the hole and could probably do with the cash

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Board Notes

Votes For:

Against:

Abstain:

Proposed Amendments:



Motion to Approve \$6,000 for Community Emergency Preparedness Plan and Supplies

Agenda Item: SB021810-2

Date: February 18, 2010

Proposed By: Ann Hammond, Co-Chair, Public Safety Committee

Summary

Motion to approve \$6,000 for SORO, Inc. to administer development of a community emergency preparedness plan and purchase of supplies.

Full Proposal

A large concern for Los Angeles communities is imminent threat of natural and man-made disasters that can tax public safety components of our city. During large-scale disasters such as earthquakes, brush fires, and mudslides, the fundamental objective for City police and fire department resources is to protect life, the environment and property. City protocols and systems in place to mitigate these disasters are guided by strategies to benefit the greatest number of residents. This means that public safety personnel may be delayed in responding to our neighborhood immediately following a disaster. A local system implemented at the neighborhood council level, complete with short-term supplies, is needed.

The City expects Neighborhood Councils to take a lead on developing community-based emergency plans and, in case of an emergency, help ensure their residents have access to emergency supplies. Necessary steps include: (a) developing a Community Disaster Plan; (b) ensuring a critical mass of residents trained to help the community in case of a disaster; (c) holding a community emergency fair to educate residents and provide background materials to help them implement household emergency plans; and (d) ensuring the SORO NC community has emergency supplies on hand.

(a) Although DONE is currently working on language and establishing what each NC will be responsible for with regards to emergency preparedness, the Public Safety Committee has initiated work on a Community Disaster Plan.

The goal of the plan, ultimately to be presented for Board consideration, is:

- Augment the overall public safety capability of the City of Los Angeles as it relates to Police and Fire Departments;
- Form partnerships with various entities such as members of the local police and fire stations, business and neighborhood associations, and religious organizations; and
- Develop a comprehensive system within SORO-NC boundaries to implement preventive and ongoing measures including training stakeholders how to help during community emergencies.

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- In addition to helping to meet community safety needs, such a plan aims to:
- foster a sense of community by promoting stakeholder participation in developing and implementing the plan;
 - encourage other NCs to adopt “responsible” plans of their own; and
 - encourage overall commitment by stakeholders to our community.

(b) Under the leadership of Gerald Chavarria and Baila Romm, CERT training has been arranged two years in a row, marketed primarily to SORO NC neighborhoods. They will continue this initiative on an annual basis. All NC Board members are strongly urged to participate in CERT training.

(c) An emergency preparedness fair, either as a stand-alone event or as a featured activity within the annual SORO Community Festival, would help educate and prepare the community.

(d) Based on particulars of the Disaster Plan and City requirements for communities, emergency preparedness materials will need to be purchased, perhaps at short notice. These are likely to include battery-powered radios, flashlights, household tools, gloves, water, canned food, can openers, toiletries, clothing, and first aid supplies. Specific items and quantities will be based on inventory of supplies already on hand and needs identified through development of the Disaster Plan.

Given the nature of this project and its ties to local community resources, it is proposed that SORO, Inc. administer this project, under the guidance of the Public Safety Committee.

Proposed Motion

Motion to approve \$6,000 for SORO, Inc. to administer development of a community emergency preparedness plan, including holding an emergency preparedness fair and purchase of supplies to meet immediate and priority community needs in the event of a disaster.

Considerations

Pro

A community-specific disaster preparedness plan and supplies will help keep our community members safe in the event of a disaster.

Given the City’s current financial situation, having plans and supplies on hand will help ensure our community’s needs will be met.

Con

It would be preferable to have our plan be part of a City-wide plan for Neighborhood Councils, but the timing for such a plan is uncertain.



Motion to allocate \$5,000 to SoRo Inc. to manage the expansion of Fresh Fruit program to Castle Heights and Canfield

Agenda Item: SB021810-3
Date: 18 February 2010
Proposed By: Barry Levine

Summary

That SORO NC allocate \$5,000 to SoRo Inc to manage the expansion of the Fresh Fruit program to include Castle Heights and Canfield Schools.

Full Proposal

With the success of the current Fresh Fruit of Fridays program running at Shenandoah Elementary school, we propose an expansion of the program to include students at Castle Heights Elementary and Canfield Elementary schools in conjunction with our existing partners at the La Cienega Farmers' Market.

As with the current program, each participating student will receive a weekly piece of fresh fruit or produce from the Farmer's Market, together with a short geography lesson about the origins of the produce and a short nutritional lesson about the benefits of healthy eating and a diet rich in fresh fruits and vegetables.

Proposed Motion

- I. That SORO NC allocate \$5,000 to SoRo Inc. to manage the expansion of the fresh fruit program to include Castle Heights Elementary and Canfield Elementary schools.

Considerations

Pro

Educating young kids about the value of eating right is of critical importance

If the choice faces us to spend our money locally or risk losing funds in the City's budget reshuffles, it would be prudent to commit this money for local expenditure, as it was originally intended.

Con

Cost

The City's in the hole and could probably do with the cash .

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Board Notes

Votes For:

Against:

Abstain:

Proposed Amendments:



Motion to approve \$9,000 for a brochure to promote community development and attract businesses

Agenda Item: SB021810-4
Date: 2/18/10
Proposed By: Land Use Committee

Summary

Motion that SORONC provide SORO, Inc. with \$9,000 for the creation of high-end marketing material to promote the economic development of the South Robertson corridor.

Full Proposal

In a survey conducted among SORO NC stakeholders in 2009, the overwhelming majority of stakeholders expressed that their number one wish for the neighborhood was the economic revitalization of the South Robertson corridor to provide more neighborhood friendly businesses that residents could enjoy. With a large number of our storefronts now empty, SORO NC feels it is critically important to make the economic revitalization project a priority. In the coming years the Expo Line will bring many new visitors to our neighborhood, and we want to be primed to capitalize on this attention and place SORO firmly on the Los Angeles map as a vibrant neighborhood in the city.

After conversations with our representatives from CD 10 and CD 5 over the past year, and following consultation with different groups who have successfully revitalized pockets of the City in recent years, we have decided to create high-end marketing materials to promote the South Robertson corridor to potential commercial interests and highlight the virtues of the neighborhood to potential developers, commercial real estate agents and desirable businesses that we wish to attract.

Given SoRo Inc.'s previous experience with the LANI program and funds awarded for Soro Village, we propose that SORO NC allocate the sum of \$9,000 to SoRo Inc. for the management of an Economic Revitalization Program for South Robertson.

This sum will go toward the creation and printing of a high end brochure that can be used to attract businesses and developers into the area's many empty commercial storefronts. Costs will include:

- Artists renderings, elevation and map designs of South Robertson and the vision for the revitalization
- Research and collation of demographic information about the neighborhoods
- Layout, design and printing for full color brochure
- Costs associated with promoting this brochure to interested parties

Proposed Motion

Motion that SORONC provide SORO, Inc. with \$9,000 for the creation of high-end marketing material to promote the economic development of the South Robertson corridor.

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Considerations

Pro

The Community has expressed its interest in the economic revitalization of South Robertson.

Con

It's a lot of money.

Board Notes

Votes For:

Against:

Abstain:

Proposed Amendments:



Motion to approve \$3,000 for two community clean-up projects

Agenda Item: SB021810-5

Date: 2/18/10

Proposed By: Land Use Committee

Summary

Motion that SORONC provide SORO, Inc. with \$3,000 to be used for community cleanup projects.

Full Proposal

Motion that SORONC provide SORO, Inc. with \$3,000 to be used for community cleanup projects, including but not limited to, street cleaning/power washing.

Proposed Motion

Motion that SORONC provide SORO, Inc. with \$3,000 to be used for community cleanup projects.

Considerations

Pro

It's dirty out there.

Con

The last time we paid for a cleanup, people complained that they thought we did not get enough for our money.

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Board Notes

Votes For:

Against:

Abstain:

Proposed Amendments:

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Motion To Allocate \$12,000 from the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council to Soro Inc., to Manage Three On-Going Green Team Programs

Agenda Item: SB021810-6

Date: February 18, 2010

Proposed By: Paula Waxman, Co-Chair, SORO NC Green Team

Summary

Allocate \$12,000 to Soro, Inc to manage and fund three programs:

1. \$9,000 for trees to be planted and maintained for a period of one year along South Robertson Boulevard between Pico Boulevard and Cattaraugus Street.
2. \$2,000 for educational programs and field trips, teaching a better understanding of the environment for Shenandoah Elementary School, Castle Heights Elementary School, Canfield Elementary School and Hamilton High School.
3. \$1,000 for maintenance of the Hami Garden, a learning garden established on the Hamilton High School campus for use by teachers, students, school garden and environmental clubs, and the community.

Full Proposal

The \$12,000 will be used to fund three programs:

1. **TREES ALONG ROBERTSON FROM PICO TO CATTARAUGUS BOULEVARDS.** This is only part of a larger project that the Green Team has been working on with Councilmen Weise (then Koretz) and the Los Angeles Conservancy. A motion to fund the project was delayed when we discovered we would need additional trees to replace 4 which were destroyed in a windstorm. We have asked the LA Conservancy, who will be helping to plant and maintain the trees for a period of one year, to resubmit an estimate with the adjustments. Their informal estimate was \$9,000. The purpose of the tree planting is to beautify the boulevard and thus encourage new, higher-end businesses to relocate in currently an economically depressed business area.
2. **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND THE ENVIRONMENT.** Landfills receiving Los Angeles black bin waste will reach capacity in 2011. The Green Team plans to take students from Shenandoah Elementary School, Castle Heights Elementary School, Canfield Elementary School, and Hamilton High School on field trips to visit both a recycling facility and a landfill so that they can see the enormity of the problem. Rental buses will run approximately \$1400 and incidentals around \$600 for a total of \$2000.

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3. MAINTAINING THE “HAMI GARDEN”. The Green Team was recently awarded a grant from the Office of Community Beautification and the Soronc to plant a learning garden on the campus of Hamilton High School. Although the grant will cover things like irrigation, fencing, plantings, tools and tool sheds, it will not cover the ongoing costs of plant replacement, tool replacement, science equipment, textbooks, repairs and soil amendments. These expenses will run about \$1000 per year. The Green Team will support the garden for the first post-planting year until the school gets their own support system up and running.

Proposed Motion

Motion to allocate \$12,000 from the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council to Soro Inc., to manage three on-going programs initiated by the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council Green Team: 1. \$9000 for trees to be planted and maintained for one year by the LA Conservancy, along South Robertson Boulevard between Pico and Cattaraugus to beautify the area and stimulate business, 2. \$2000 for field trips to recycling facilities and landfills for students from Shenandoah, Canfield, and Castle Heights Elementary Schools, and Hamilton High School, and 3. \$1000 to maintain the “Hami Garden” one year beyond the initial set up phase, which would include repairs, plant and tool replacements, science equipment and textbooks, and soil amendments.

Considerations

Pro

These programs help to stimulate business growth, increase community happiness and satisfaction, augment our children’s awareness and understanding of the consequences of societal waste, and increase our children’s knowledge of biology and nutrition.

Con

Robertson beautification should be a responsibility of the businesses along Robertson, not the community.

Children don’t necessarily need to see recycling and landfill facilities to be made aware of the problems created by trash.

We have provided Hamilton with a garden; they should be responsible for maintaining it.

Board Notes

Votes For:

Against:

Abstain:

Proposed Amendments:



Motion that SORONC support applicant's request for variance at 1540 Cardiff Avenue

Agenda Item: GB021810-4
Date: 2/18/10
Proposed By: Land Use Committee

Summary

Motion that SORONC support applicant's request for variance at 1540 Cardiff Avenue.

Full Proposal

Applicant is remodeling their home. Their proposed remodel would add more square footage to their home than allowed by the municipal code by right.

Proposed Motion

Motion that SORONC support applicant's request for variance at 1540 Cardiff Avenue to allow an 8% increase in home square footage above square footage allowed by right.

Considerations

Pro

Committee voted 7-0 to approve
Request is modest

Con

There was some concern that the project did not provide for enough parking

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Board Notes

Votes For:

Against:

Abstain:

Proposed Amendments:

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Motion that SORONC recommend that the City draft a new wireless telecommunications ordinance

Agenda Item: GB021810-5
Date: 2/18/10
Proposed By: Land Use Committee

Summary

Motion that SORONC recommend that the City draft a new wireless telecommunications ordinance.

Full Proposal

1. Residents throughout Los Angeles are concerned about numerous cell towers/antennas that have been erected or proposed in the past year, in public rights of way and on private property near homes and schools, many without notice and with little or no regulation. Some residents have been startled to find cell towers installed almost overnight in front of their homes, with no notice. These installations are continuing unabated in 2010.

2. Broadband and “data” usage is expanding exponentially because of developing new technologies such as smartphones; more and more cell towers and antennas are required to provide data coverage; the FCC has publicly claimed a “pressing” need to “cut local red tape,” in order to “boost” cell tower construction and “speed deployment” of “ubiquitous” antennas.

3. Los Angeles’ existing cell tower regulations are a patchwork of confusing and sometimes conflicting rules, policies and procedures. There is no ability to deny a cell tower on aesthetic grounds, and there are no specific protections for residential neighborhoods (whether on private or public property). Utility pole cell site installations in public rights of way (ongoing in residential neighborhoods city-wide) are completely exempt from regulation; no installation or excavation permits of any kind are required if a telecom company wishes to install a cell tower with a utility pole as the support structure. DWP officials even claim that telecoms are supposedly entitled to erect pole structures of *any height wherever they wish* in public rights of way, without local regulation, because of the “Joint Pole Agreement” (JPA).

3. Important 9th Circuit decisions have made it clear that cities now have the ability to regulate cell towers more extensively for location and appearance than had previously been understood or believed at the time Los Angeles’ current ordinances were drafted. In the most recent decision, *Sprint v. Palos Verdes*, the Court ruled that cities have discretionary authority to bar cell towers from public rights of way on aesthetic grounds, subject to federal Telecom Act restrictions. This 1996 Act prevents cities from 1) completely prohibiting cell towers; 2) unreasonably discriminating among cell providers; and 3) denying cell towers on the basis of “health” or concerns about RF emissions that are within FCC standards.

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4. The City Attorney is investigating Los Angeles' regulations in light of new case law and the city's participation in the JPA, in accordance with motions submitted by Councilmembers Rosendahl (CF No. 09-2645) and Hahn.
5. To date, 25 NCs, CCs and other organizations throughout Los Angeles have passed motions/resolutions or submitted letters to the City expressing concern about cell tower proliferation and regulation and calling for regulatory reform.

Proposed Motion

SORONC recommends that with the City Attorney's guidance and consistent with his recommendations, the City enact a comprehensive new ordinance with clear and consistent standards and procedures regulating all wireless telecommunications facilities in the City, authorizing regulation of aesthetics and providing protection to communities and residential neighborhoods to the full extent of the law.

Considerations

Pro

Con

Committee voted 6-0 to approve

Board Notes

Votes For:

Against:

Abstain:

Proposed Amendments:



Motion to establish the position of Assistant Treasurer

Agenda Item: GB021810-6
Date: 18 February 2010
Proposed By: Doug Fitzsimmons

Summary

Seeks to create a back-up to the office of Treasurer

Full Proposal

While the position of Treasurer is among the most time-consuming of the Board roles, it is also one of the most important. The smooth, timely functioning of the office is critical to virtually every aspect of what we do and to the public's confidence in the Neighborhood Council.

SORO NC's bylaws, however, does not have provision for back-up for the office. As Board members volunteer their time, other professional and personal pressures sometimes constrain their ability to do NC business. Having an additional person trained and authorized to perform the Treasurer's duties would help distribute the burdens of the office and lessen periods of unavailability.

In this motion, the new role of Assistant Treasurer would be a non-Executive officer; in other words, elected by the Board, but not eligible to vote in the Executive Committee. This would reaffirm that the Treasurer remains the lead voice in NC financial matters.

The NC is currently prohibited from amending its bylaws until after the April 2010 election. Once that moratorium is lifted, the Board may consider whether or not to formally add the position to section 7.7.1, which designates officer positions and responsibilities. Until then, the Assistant Treasurer position would be the equivalent of a committee chair, elected by a majority of Board members present at the meeting.

Proposed Motion

That the Board create the position of Assistant Treasurer, to be elected by a majority vote of attending Board members.

That the duties of the Assistant Treasurer include, but not be limited to:

- Conduct all responsibilities of the Treasurer in the absence of the Treasurer.
- Complete any required financial training as mandated by DONE.
- Aid the Treasurer in the execution of his/her duties upon request.

Considerations

Pro

As financial guidelines and requirements increase, lightens the load on the

Con

Could lead to confusion and errors if the two positions fail to co-ordinate

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Treasurer

Other NCs have similar positions

May have difficulty recruiting for the position.

Board Notes

Votes For:

Against:

Abstain:

Proposed Amendments:



Motion to Approve up to \$1,600 for Hamilton High School Student Security

Agenda Item: GB021810-7

Date: February 18, 2010

Proposed By: Ann Hammond, Co-Chair, Public Safety Committee

Summary

Motion to approve up to \$1,600 for cell phone service used by Hamilton High School security patrol and administrative staff to enhance security.

Full Proposal

In March 2008 (Motion PS031208-11), the SORO NC Board approved purchase of up to four cell phones with walkie-talkie features, and two years of cell phone service, to be used by the Hamilton High School security patrol and administrative staff to improve communication when groups of students are observed doing something that requires intervention by the school. The community can call a listed number and immediately be connected to the school security patrol or administration who can then, depending on the nature of the reported activity, take appropriate action quickly.

The program has worked exceptionally well. Students are safer, school safety and administrative personnel work more efficiently and effectively with public safety personnel, and there is an enhanced degree of community business participation in areas around Hamilton High.

Given the program's success, it is proposed that the phone service be renewed for the next two-year cycle. Equipment originally purchased (three chargers and batteries) continues to be serviceable and does not need to be replaced. Steps will be taken concurrently to further enhance the program by posting signs in businesses near the school with the contact information and by posting information about the program on the SORO NC website. The SORO NC Treasurer, in consultation with the Hamilton High School principal, will continue to monitor cell phone call records to ensure phones are used for official purposes only.

Proposed Motion

Motion to approve up to \$1,600 to cover monthly fees, payable to Sprint, for the period April 2010 to 2012, for four cell phones with walkie-talkie features used by Hamilton High School security patrol and administrative staff to enhance security.

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Considerations

Pro

Con

Enhanced security for Hamilton High Schools students and surrounding community.

Board Notes

Votes For:

Against:

Abstain:

Proposed Amendments:



Motion To Use The Approved Soronc.org Website Banner & Background Artwork For Green Team Email Newsletters, Event Flyers and Informational Website

Agenda Item: GB021810-8
Date: February 18, 2010
Proposed By: Larry Hess, Co-Chair SORO NC Green Team

Summary

The Soronc Green Team would like to disseminate information to our community using a consistently branded theme across various forms of media, specifically email newsletters, electronic and paper event flyers and on the temporary Green Team Website using the Banner and Background Artwork found on the Soronc home page: (<http://soronc.org/>).

Full Proposal

The Soronc Green Team has in the past created unbranded flyers which seem to get disregarded as not being a community event. We feel it is important to let our neighborhoods know who we are and what we are doing using a consistent and better recognizable brand.

Email Newsletters would be created using the banner and background artwork. The newsletter would be updated periodically and emailed to our community providing them with information pertaining to past and future events.

The Soronc Green Team has recently created for free, but not yet made public, a temporary website/blog for aggregating all events and information produced by the Green Team. The web site can be found at: <http://sorogreenteam.wordpress.com/>. The approved Banner and Background artwork would be used.

Flyers (both paper and electronic) would also be created to alert the community of upcoming specific events.

Proposed Motion

- I. Motion to allow the Soronc Green Team to use the Soronc.org website banner artwork for event notification and information.
- II. Motion to allow the Soronc Green Team to use the Soronc.org website background artwork for event notification and information.

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Considerations

Pro

Greater community recognition with consistent branding

No cost to Soronc

Con

None

Board Notes

Votes For:

Against:

Abstain:

Proposed Amendments: