



# General Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 16, 2010, 7:00pm  
Hamilton Senior High School Cafeteria  
2955 S. Robertson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90034

## I. Call to Order and Roll Call

**Doug** called the meeting to order at 7:14 pm. **Doug** asked all to comply with the time limits.

**Members present:** Rachel Lester, Kimber Smith, Harold Bock, Bette Billet, Michael Lynn, Paula Waxman, Ben Bellet, Terrence Gomes, Nahed Gurguis, Brian Kite, Gerald Chavarria, Barry Levine, Marjan Safinia, Martin Epstein, Doug Fitzsimmons, and Victor Mitry.

Total members present (15).

**Members absent:** Robyn Braun, Joe Gjonola, Ben Bellet, Sue Burden.

**Guests:** Nick Burkhart, Tamara Williams, Grace Kamins, Eric Weiser, Sergeant Mark Durrell, Captain Evangeline Nathan, Sgt. Albert Kilgore, Officer Andrew Gomez, Elizabeth Carlin, Deni Mosser, Russ Kingston, Sarah Costin, Mitchel Bahmage, Inyedis Bahmage, and Chrissy Scarborough.

## II. General Public Comment

### a. Councilmember Paul Koretz

Councilmember Paul Koretz did not attend the meeting. Jon Lieberman commented that he (Jon) supports the West LAPD festival and would like the board to consider approving the motion for the carnival.

### b. Expo Line Briefing

**Sarah Costin** with the Expo Line project gave a detailed presentation on the status of the project. Among other details, Costin stated that the entire project would cost \$2.5 Billion and will be on Facebook. The presentation is available on PDF (Doug has requested the file for posting on the SORO-NC website).

**Grace Kamins** with the Beverlywood Homeowners Association was concerned about the availability of parking at the Robertson/Venice station. Costin assured parking would be available.

**Terry** asked if the SORO community would have a say in the design of the station. Costin stated she would get back to him on the matter.

### c. Sierra Club presentation

**Paula** introduced the Ms. Scarborough representing the Sierra Club. The Club is engaged in the Beyond Coal campaign which attempts to have cities transition away from coal as an energy source and encourages grassroots governments to join the campaign. She referenced various statistical data.

**Terry** stated that the LADWP already has in place the program, but was rebutted by Scarborough several times. **Doug** stated that the motion will be considered. **Jon Lieberman** added that he does not see the need to invest in renewable energy if other countries are still relying on coal

**Doug Fitzsimmons**  
President

**Brian Kite**  
Vice-President

**Gerald Chavarria**  
Secretary

**Terrence Gomes**  
Treasurer

**South Robertson  
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### III. Old Business

- d. **(GB 091610-1) Draft General Board Meeting Minutes of August 19, 2010.**  
Some grammatical corrections and content clarification were made.

**Vote:** Yes-14, Approved.

**Abstained:** 0

**Recusal:** 0

**Note:** Harold Bock was not present when this vote was cast.

- e. **(GB 091610-2) Treasurer's report and vote to approve monthly expenses.**

Terry informed us that the Peace Picnic Committee (PPC) had not provided him with an expense report and that some paperwork for the Hami Garden was still lacking. Marj added that she had sent a lengthy e-mail requesting a report from the PPC (The event is scheduled for October 10<sup>th</sup>).

**Moved by:** Doug **Seconded by:** Marj.

**Vote:** Yes-14, Approved.

**Abstained:** 0

**Recusal:** 0

**Note:** Harold Bock was not present when this vote was cast.

### IV. Community Reports (3 minutes each)

Doug introduced other members of the city family.

- a. **Office of Councilmember Wesson- Carlin;**

**Elizabeth Carlin** announce a new named in memory of Charmette Bonpua, Councilmember Wesson's late Chief of Staff who passed away in February, the ceremony celebrated the start of construction of this new 15,000 square foot state-of-the-art skate plaza (For more information on the park visit:

[http://ens.lacity.org/council/cd10/cd10press/cd10cd10press257867568\\_06172010.pdf](http://ens.lacity.org/council/cd10/cd10press/cd10cd10press257867568_06172010.pdf))

- b. **Office of Councilmember Koretz- Weiser;**

**Eric Weiser** informed that the Robertson Library (RL) staff is working on opening on Sundays rather than Saturdays. A community meeting has been scheduled in October to discuss the matter. Parking restrictions in certain areas of Council District 5 (CD5) have been relaxed due to the Jewish holidays.

- c. **Office of the Mayor-Badger;**

Not represented.

- d. **Office of Senator Price-Bernal;**

Not represented.

- e. **Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) Report-Gonzalez;**

**Senior Lead Officer Mario Gonzalez** gave statistical information on recent crime trends. Some key information relayed to the Board:

- Robbery of a bike rider on September 11<sup>th</sup> at 1400 S. Bedford at 11am.



- Attempted Burglary at 1900 S. Bedford; Victim chased the suspect away.
- Theft from motor vehicles where the Registrations are being taken.
- Recent incidents of Sport Utility Vehicles' rear seats being removed in the area of Robertson Bl and Cattaraugus Ave.
- Recent 18<sup>th</sup> Street Gang graffiti at the corner of Shenandoah and Cadillac Ave.

**Kimber** commented that on one occasion, she had to call 9-1-1 after she observed four men engaged in an altercation where one may have had a gun.

**Gerald** asked Officer Gonzalez if the City Attorney's office was going after the known gang members of a certain gang even though only the gang name and not a particular member were responsible for the graffiti.

**Weiser** answered for Officer Gonzalez by stating that the City has been making strides on that effort.

**f. Robertson Recreation Center-Powers;**

**Tamara Williams**, who took over Brooke Powers, advised that Brooke has now moved to San Diego. The Center lost two full-time staff members and is planning a Halloween event. She is currently taking donations.

## **V. Committee Reports (2 minutes each)**

**a. Executive (XC)- Fitzsimmons;**

**Doug** asked the board to consider goals to set out in the coming year so they can be prioritized.

**b. Land Use & Economic Development (LUED)- Vacant Chair position;**

**Doug** reminded that a motion to approve co-chairpersons is already in the agenda (Item in item VI.-j).

**c. Education (EC)- Levine/Williams;**

**Barry** informed that the EC meetings will be scheduled as needed.

**d. Green Team (GT)- Waxman/Hess;**

**Paula Waxman** corrected the language on Item IV.-c. to read that SORONC *urge the City Council* to mandate the DWP to devise and execute a plan to end the City's use of coal-fired power by 2020.

**e. Public Safety (PS)- Vacant Chair position;**

Motion to approve chairperson is item VI.-i.

**f. Outreach (OC)- Smith/Safinia;**

**Marjan** and **Kimber** stated that the PPC is slowly progressing on their paperwork. The Committee has also been working on the Town Hall which is going smoothly (Marj and Kimber are working on securing Shenandoah Street Elementary for the event and developing the program. Gerald is on task to secure the Speakers and participants).

**g. Ad Hoc (AHC)**

The committee did not meet.



## VI. New Business

a. **(GB091610-3) Nomination to endorse letter to control picketing noise at Robertson Car Wash (RCW).**

Discussion started at approximately 8:15pm. **Captain Evangeline Nathan (Commanding Officer of West LAPD), Sergeant Albert Kilgore and Officer Andrew Gomez (Labor Relations Unit-LAPD)** are assigned to monitor the protestors and were at hand to answer questions.

**Deni Mosser** along with other guests were frustrated with the apparent lack of noise reduction-laws enforcement on the part of the LAPD. She expressed her dissatisfaction and mentioned that it has taken a personal and emotional toll on her.

**Russ Kingston**, also shared Deni's frustration and suggested to Captain Evangeline Nathan to enforce other laws based on case law he referenced (Many of the cases are stated in the letter in the agenda item).

**Captain** agreed with the public's opinion and reminded all that the Department can only enforce laws under the direction of the City Attorney's Office. She assured that they will enforce other laws and ordinances unrelated to the picketing in an attempt to curb the noise. She also mentioned that if the picketers are seen doing something illegal to immediately call the police.

**Kingston** not agrees with the Captain, but wants her to enforce what he called the "unlawful loud and unnecessary of noise." **Captain Nathan**, who expressed that she does not like the trouble the picketers are causing to the community, reminded Kingston that she has been working with Deni on the issue.

**Kimber** asked at what point the LAPD intercedes with the picketing. **Officer Gomez** informed that they have been regulating the use of the bull horn and the fact that the protestors can't picket in front of residences or follow them home. They have been closely working with Deni.

**Officer Gomez** also informed that for the last two-and-a-half years and at seven locations labor disputes related to the car washes have been happening. He cited various accomplishments his team has been able to meet including reducing the noise level and the union conceding to the bull horn. He added that the union understands the community's concerns, but as long as the property owner does not sign the contract, the picketing will continue.

**Doug** reminded the board and the guests that we r not a panel of judges or court.

**Marj** addressed the public and tried to make them see the LAPD's position and the fact that we cannot debate the issue. She asked them to consider that at this point we need to focus on the letter of support--How can LAPD and SORONC collectively push the City Attorney.

**Captain** advised that in Century City, a similar situation came up and the property owner's attorney obtained a restraining order and the picketers backed off.



**Gerald** asked the Captain if there was anything that delineated and updates direction from the city attorney. **Captain**, stated every week they meet and confer from the CA.

**Officer Gomez** stated that studies have been made on ambient noise to help reduce the noise. He also explained that once the property owner at the car wash decides to have the election and the union fails, the union has to leave and cannot protest again.

**Kingston** continued speaking out of order. Bette suggested for LAPD to have a "hotline," but **Captain** reminded all that there are five phone numbers the public could call to summon the police.

**Michael** asked if the LPAD objected to anything contained in the letter of support (No objections from LAPD).

**Bette** suggested that although she supports the residents, the motion should be tabled.

**Brian** supports the law; Ch 11 art sec 116.01, and disagreed with Bette to table the motion

**Doug** suggested designating a committee.

**Gerald** suggested getting motion through and then getting letter so the CA can consider the laws. Believes it is a disservice to the stakeholders if we do not consider the motion tonight.

**Bette** again asked to table the motion and asked for other options.

**Doug** moved to table the motion, **Brian** seconded (no vote was actually cast).

**Terry** did not agree on tabling it the motion and reminded all that a similar situation was

The discussion ended at approximately 9:00 pm.

Many members including Paula suggested amending the motion. Marj suggested amending the motion as follows:

Amendment:

"That SORO NC Outreach Committee write two letters, on behalf of the NC.the first addressed to the City Attorney, City Council and Mayor's office, and the second addressed to the NLRB. In both cases, the letter shall draw attention to the fact that a large number of our stakeholders have brought to our attention that they believe a law is being broken (reference code section) regarding the rights of residents to enjoy the peaceful sanctity of their homes. Both letters shall request that these bodies urgently consider the attached letter and petition from our stakeholders and respond to SORO NC within 30 days with a written report and assessment of the stakeholders' arguments contained therein."

**Moved for Vote; Doug Second; Bette  
Vote; Yes-14, No-1, Approved (as amended).  
Abstained: 0**



**Recuse:** 0

On amendment.

**Moved for Vote;** Bette **Second;** Harold  
**Vote;** Yes-14, approved

**Abstained:** 1

**Recuse:** 0

**Note:** Barry missed the vote.

As amended

**Moved for Vote;** Bette **Second;** Harold  
**Vote;** Yes-14, Approved (as amended).

**Abstained:** 1

**Recuse:** 0

**Note:** Barry abstained.

**b. (GB091610-4) Motion to approve a resolution of support for the West Los Angeles Area Police Carnival**

Although most members would like to support the carnival, many feel that the loss would outweigh the gains. The proposed location for the carnival would be on Pico Bl between La Cienega Bl and ???

**Sgt. Durrell** advised that the revenue could amount to as little as \$3,000 and as high as \$43,000 based on past events and similar ones held at other divisions. **Sgt. Durrell** also informed **Paula** that four to five different programs would benefit from the revenue. Sgt. Durrell is seeking support from the NC to help gain support from the stakeholders in the affected area.

**Michael** reminded all of us that it would have to take at least a 51% vote from the surrounding businesses and residents to approve a street closure (The Bureau of Street Services requires a petition be signed by the stakeholders to gain approval).

**Barry** highlighted the benefits for the businesses such as free advertisement, more pedestrian traffic in the area, and believes the stakeholders would be willing to support the carnival.

**Captain Nathan** announced that 45 cadets, and 65 DAPS youth members would benefit from the revenue needed to support the growing number of participants.

**Moved for Vote;** Terry **Second;** Bette

**Vote;** Yes-Unanimous, Approved.

**Abstained:** 0

**Recuse:** 0

**Note:** Stakeholders from the impacted area were not present at this meeting to raise objections/support for the carnival.

**c. (GB091610-5) Motion to submit a letter to the Los Angeles City Council encouraging them to support a plan to eliminate coal from the electricity supply of Los Angeles.**

The language of the letter was amended. The motion was voted as amended.





**Moved for Vote;** Marj **Second;** Michael  
**Vote;** Yes-(11), No-(3), Approved.  
**Abstained:**0  
**Recuse:** 0  
**Note:** Barry missed the vote.

- d. **(GB091610-6) Motion to purchase up-to 40 “SORO-NC” t-shirts; a cost not to exceed \$300.00.**  
**Paula** mentioned that the idea was initially proposed at the GT meeting. The idea is that when GT members and volunteers need to be identified out at the various clean-up efforts; the shirts would ensure safety for the members and enhance the public image of the NC in the eyes of the community.

To answer **Victor’s** question, **Paula** stated that the reason for the number of t-shirts would be sufficient to be worn at other events.

**Moved for Vote;** Doug **Second;** Bette  
**Vote;** Yes-14, No-1, Approved (as amended).  
**Abstained:** 0  
**Recuse:** 0

- e. **(GB091610-7) Motion to provide \$300 to support the Hami Garden during the 2010-2011 school years.**  
This motion was amended to include “up to \$500.00.”

**Moved for Vote;** Doug **Second;** Terry  
**Vote;** Yes-14, No-1, Approved as amended.  
**Abstained:** 0  
**Recuse:** 0

- f. **(GB091610-8) Motion to fund up-to \$700.00 for Town Hall 2010 outreach**  
**Marj** reviewed the motion out loud and informed the board that the planning team consisting of Doug, Kimber, Gerald and herself. She added that the team is working diligently and making time to get the players confirmed. Approximately 200-300 people are expected to attend.

**Barry** identified a mathematical inconsistency within the Language of the motion and corrective action was taken.

**Moved for Vote;** Kimber **Second;** Martin  
**Vote;** Yes-Unanimous, Approved.  
**Abstained:** 0  
**Recuse:** 0

- g. **(GB091610-9) Motion to oppose the City’s proposed sidewalk ordinance.**  
**Brian** advised that the issue has gone before the West side Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC). The primary objection is the opposition to the transfer of liability from the city to property owners. The WRAC also seeks ample time for all NC’s to review proposed plan prior to going for a council vote.

**Moved for Vote;** Terry **Second;** Bette  
**Vote;** Yes-Unanimous, Approved.  
**Abstained:** 0  
**Recuse:** 0



h. **(GB091610-10) Motion to change NC Education Seat 2 to a Board appointment.**

Traditionally, the two school seats have been filled by a student and a faculty or an “adult” member of the school community. However, the SORONC By-laws do not give direction on this practice.

**Moved for Vote;** Terry **Second;** Brian

**Vote;** Yes-8, No-4, Not Approved.

**Abstained:** 2

**Recuse:** 0

**Note:** Harold missed vote. Rachel and Kimber abstained. 2/3 vote required, not approved because a 2/3 vote not attained.

i. **(GB091610-11) Nomination of Michael Lynn as chairperson of the Public Safety Committee.**

The PS committee has been without a chairperson for some time. At the previous PS committee meeting, Michael Lynn was nominated to fill the position. **Michael** made a statement.

**Moved for Vote;** Bette **Second;** kimber

**Vote;** Yes-14, Approved.

**Abstained:** 0

**Recuse:** 0

**Note:** Harold had left the meeting during this motion.

j. **(GB091610-12) Nomination of Joe Gjonola and Terry Gomes as co-chairpersons of the Land Use & Economic Development Committee.**

**Terry** made a brief statement. Although Joe was not present, he had wanted to be considered for the position.

**Moved for Vote;** Bette **Second;** Kimber

**Vote;** Yes-14, Approved.

**Abstained:** 0

**Recuse:** 0

**Note:** Harold had left the meeting during this motion.

k. **(GB091610-13) Discussion and possible nomination of official NC representative(s) to the Oversight Committee of Los Angeles Department of Water & Power (LADWP).**

**Martin** and **Gerald** nominated themselves, but on further consideration, nominees decided to wait and find out more on what their responsibilities would be.

The motion was tabled.

**Moved for Vote;** **Second;**

**Vote;**

**Abstained:**

**Recuse:**

**Note:**

l. **(GB091610-14) Discussion and possible nomination of official NC representative(s) to the WRAC, LU Mobility, Emergency Preparedness Committees.**





The motion was tabled.

**Moved for Vote;           Second;  
Vote;  
Abstained:  
Recuse:  
Note:**

## **VII. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 10:05pm.



# Board Vote Tally Sheet

Meeting: Thursday, September 16, 2010, 7:00pm  
Hamilton Senior High School Cafeteria  
2955 S. Robertson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90034

Y: yes | N: no | A: abstain | R: recusal | X: missed vote | -: vacant seat  
Put a check next to Board members attending the meeting.

Motion	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14
Rachel Lester	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	T	T
Kimber Smith	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	T	T
Harold Bock	X	X	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	X	X	X	T	T
Robyn Braun	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	T	T
Bette Billet	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	T	T
Michael Lynn	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	T	T
Zone 7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Joe Gjonola	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	T	T
Paula Waxman	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	T	T
Zone 10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brian Kite	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	T	T
Nahed Guirguis	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y		Y	Y	T	T
Terry Gomes	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	T	T
Ben Bellet	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	T	T
Gerald Chavarria	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	T	T
Barry Levine	Y	Y	A	Y	X	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	T	T
Marj Safinia	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	T	T
Martin Epstein	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	T	T
Business 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sue Burden	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	T	T
Doug Fitzsimmons	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	T	T
Victor Mity	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y		Y	Y	T	T
School 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
School 2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

**Motions**

- 01:** Draft Minutes Approval (August/2010)
- 02:** Treasurer's Report Approval
- 03:** Picketing Noise Control Support
- 04:** LAPD Carnival Support
- 05:** Coal Elimination Plan Support
- 06:** SORO-NC T-Shirt Funding
- 07:** Hami Garden Funding
- 08:** Town Hall 2010-Outreach Funding



- 09: Sidewalk Ordinance Disapproval
- 11: PS Committee Chair Approval
- 13: Official Reps.-LADWP Oversight

- 10: Education Seat-2 Change
- 12: Land Use Co-Chairs Approval
- 14: Official Reps.-WRAC-LU, Etc.

**Notes:**