



General Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 18, 2016, 7:00pm

Simon Wiesenthal Center 3rd Floor
1399 S. Roxbury Dr., Los Angeles, CA 90035

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

SORO NC Board President Doug Fitzsimmons called the meeting to order at 7:20.

Board Members Present: Kimber Smith, Giovanni Ferdinand, Michael Lynn, Jon Liberman, Doug Fitzsimmons, Paula Waxman, Victoria Martin, Robyn Braun, Aimee Zeltzer, Beth Hirsch, Martin Epstein, Barry Levine.

Board Members Absent: Kevin Gres, Mike Bitton, Roger McCracken, Michael Bloom, Nahed Guirguis, Susan Burden, Marj Safinia, Terrence Gomes, Victor Mitry, Leo Porta, Noa Zarur

Guests: Yvette Edidin, Paul Bush, Lenora Tompkins, Tommy Lee Childress, Kathryn Pellam

II. General Public Comment

Dan Fink – Open House at the Relational Center Feb 21st.

III. Community Reports

LAPD Report. Eric Jackson – Report on increase in grow houses (marijuana). Asked public to be on the lookout as they are illegal and can pose a fire hazard. Uptick in stolen vehicles, theft from cars and theft of catalytic converters.

Office of Council President Wesson. Liz Carlin –

- Thanked SORONC (Beth Hirsch and Dan Fink for organizing it) the first South Robertson Business event on February 4th, she felt it was a huge success.
- West Adams Community plan was passed. The Planning Commission did not move forward on any of the input from SORONC. The Councilman is taking it very seriously and will try and fight for this by getting it on the Agenda for the next PLUM committee meeting TBD.
- Councilman has removed cap on matching funds that the NC requested.

Office of Assemblymember Bloom. Stephanie Cohen –

- Assembly back in January – still working on legislative package which will include affordable housing bills, homeless and low income fee waivers for drivers licenses, healthcare bills.
- Co-sponsoring with SORONC, CD 5 and 10 a child Car Seat Safety event on Pico and Robertson Feb 21st.
- Brief discussion on how funding is created and distributed to the cities for programs to help the homelessness.

Office of Representative Karen Bass – Doug announced that the Congress Woman would be holding a town hall at Canfield Elementary School on Sunday Feb 28th10am-12pm. Encouraged everyone to attend.

Doug Fitzsimmons
President

Kevin Gres
Vice-President

Terrence Gomes
Treasurer

Beth Hirsch
Secretary

**South Robertson
Neighborhoods Council**

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IV. Consent Agenda

- a. Draft meeting minutes of January 21, 2015 (Hirsch / GB021816-1)
- b. Motion to support the draft master plan for the Dept. of Veterans Affairs West LA Campus (WRAC / GB021816-2)
- c. Motion to approve the Green Team committee mission statement (Green Team / GB021816-3)
- d. Motion to split the Economic Development Committee into three separate committees (Lieberman / GB021816-4)
 - Moved to New Business.
- e. Motion to support LADWP Governance and Professional Board of Commissioners formation (LAANC / GB021816-5)
 - Moved to New Business.

All items on the Consent Agenda not removed to new business were accepted by general consent.

V. Committee Reports

- a. Confirmation of Board committee membership (GB021816-6) - None

b. Executive. Board President Doug Fitzsimmons – Report on South Robertson Business Gathering – Thanks to Dan Fink and the Relational Center for facilitating the event and Beth Hirsch for Organizing. Looking forward to the businesses meeting again on regular basis on their own with continued support from SORONC.

West Adams Community Plan – includes the South Robertson Business district and the area around the Expo line. SORONC has been working on a list of changes to the South Robertson area of the plan for seven years which included a pedestrian gateway linking the expo line to the SORO Business district and changes to zoning along South Robertson Blvd to encourage development of new businesses there. None of the changes presented by SORO were moved forward by the Planning Department. They seemed to have been completely dismissed. Doug attended the meeting where the plan was adopted and spoke up strongly for the community. There was no real explanation of why the plans were not included. With the support of the Councilman's office SORO is working to get these items incorporated back into the Community Plan.

SORO Neighborhoods Council Elections – 13 seats are open for election. Candidate registration will begin on Feb 21st. Please spread the word and we need board volunteers to help get yard signs up. We will be on one of the NC who will be piloting on-line voting. Registration for on-line voting is available now.

- c. Treasurer's report & monthly expenses approval (Gomes / GB021816-7)
Tabled until next board meeting as the incorrect report was attached.

VI. New Business

**Motion to table New Business items f., g., j.(e) and k.(f) until next Board meeting due to Board member absences.
Moved by Doug. Seconded by Barry.**

Vote to table: 11 – Y, 2 – N, 0 – A. Motion passes.



a. Motion to refer Verizon cell tower at 3512 S. Robertson to the Land Use and Economic Development committee for further consideration (Lieberman / GB021816-8)

Brief presentation by Jon. Due to the fact that the community surrounding proposed cell tower placement has been protesting board decision in July to support placement of cell tower Jon is proposing that the it be brought back to Land Use Committee so that discussion of possibly bringing a new Motion in front of the General Board.

Moved by Jon. Seconded by Kimber.

Board debate on whether this was motion was warranted. Jon, felt that we needed to address whether or not public was notified in a timely manner.

Vote: 11 – Y, 2 – N, 0 – A. Motion passes.

b. Motion to support the approval of a liquor license change of location for Smart & Final to 1833 La Cienega Blvd. (Lieberman / GB021816-9)

Brief presentation by Jon. S&F is moving over two store fronts (within the same shopping center) change of loading dock, change of hours and on renewal of liquor license.

Representative for S&F said that the issue was being held open, under advisement for two weeks from Feb 17th in order to get input from the public. Needed, in particular, information about loading hours and noise to neighboring houses.

Public comment: Holt avenue residents are concerned about noise from loading and unloading, increased truck traffic on Holt and concern of later sales of alcohol.

Moved by Jon. Seconded by Robyn.

Board debate: Robyn discussion about very loud traffic and loading and unloading noise that will be intensified during the extended late hours. Mike asked for clarification from Liz Carlin about whether it is even possible to restrict loading movements and hours. Liz stated since it is on private property they can be restricted.

Proposed amendment to section 2.

Language: Truck traffic will not be allowed on 18th Street West of Holt and on Holt Avenue itself.

Seconded by Robyn.

Vote to amend: 13 – Y, 0 – N, 0 – A. Amendment passes.

More Board and public debate on Motion itself. Continued discussion about concerns that later alcohol sales will occur if hours are not restricted 10pm .

Proposed amendment added to the end of section 1:

Language: Under no circumstances should liquor be served after 10pm.

Moved by Doug. Seconded by Kimber.



More debate: Giovanni feels that community may be inhibited by not having the extra convenience of hours after 10pm, since there are no other nearby grocery stores in this area.

Vote on amendment: 11 – Y, 2- N, 0 – A.

Vote on Motion: 13 – Y, 0- N, 0- A.

c. Motion to approve a \$5,000 Neighborhood Purposes Grant for the 2016 SoRo Community Festival (Fitzsimmons / GB021816-10)

Some discussion about Jon Liberman recusing himself as he is on the SORO Inc. Board and one of the primary coordinators of the festival. If he recuses himself we will not have quorum and will have to table the motion til next month. Doug asked if there was no objection, the board would vote including Jon, but that Doug would run it by the City Attorney. Worst case is the vote would be thrown out and Board would vote again next month. No objection was made. Board proceeded with Motion.

Moved by Paula. Seconded by Robyn.

Vote to fund motion: 12 – Y, 0- N, 1 – A. **Motion passes.** (*pending City Attorney approval*)

d. Motion to recommend policy improvements at Reynier Park (Parks & Quality of Life committees / GB021816-11)

Beth Hirsch and Doug Fitzsimmons presented the motion.

Laid out the consensus from the community gathered from two very well attended meetings to address these concerns that prompted the community to ask for help.

During weekend hours, it is usual to have several large parties of 100 or more concurrently running, some with live amplified music. Because reservations and permits are not being enforced, party organizers are coming and reserving and roping off areas for as long as 48 hrs in advance. Filling up the park so it can't be used by others and then events will commence all day and night. Drinking, smoking, bouncy houses and other large party entertainment (which are not legal in the park due to liability issues) Then some party goers are not cleaning up properly and leaving a mess of trash, broken bottles and even dirty diapers behind. Party goers have no place to park and are parking illegally in front of driveways and double parking, restricting traffic flow.

Public comment from Kathryn Pellman representing the neighbors from Reynier Park. Asking for support in changes to hours, park supervision and limits on the size of the parties due to serious problems with parking, noise and public safety issues. Also, she wanted to make it clear that the community is wanting to be very inclusive. Requests are not meant to exclude any group from being there, but enforcing rules that will make it more comfortable for everyone.

Questions from the board, included specifics about what was an appropriate party size, whether this should be a police issue instead of a park issue. Costs of permits, burden on the community. Cost of staffing the park.

Moved by Doug. Seconded by Jon.



Board Debate: Opposition to the proposal: concerns that the neighbors are involved in NIMBYism. Felt the proposal went too far. Parks should be free and open to everyone. Don't feel neighbors to the park should create new rules. Don't feel the other side of the community has been notified of these potential changes. Were suspicious of neighbor intentions.

Those in favor of the proposal argued that these are already the park rules that are just not currently being enforced. Park is being neglected and classified incorrectly as a pocket park, when in fact it is too large for that classification and should have regular supervision as other similar parks in the city. There is NO parking of any kind at the park. The burden of these party's cars are solely on the neighbors. We don't have parks in the area that can accommodate every use. Neighbors who live near the park should not have to suffer because of lack of enforcement of park rules and permits and hours. Establishing a permitting process again would provide additional funding for administration and supervision costs.

Board began to move towards discussion of amendments.

Motion to amend proposal by adopting sections 1 5 and 6 and striking 2, 3, 4 and 7.

- **Moved by Jon. Seconded by Mike.**

Vote to amend: 6 – Y, 7 – N, 0 – A. Amendment fails.

Motion to amend section 6 to include additional language to include park rules on website.

Seconded by Kimberly.

- **Amendment passes by consent.**

Doug called for a Vote on the Motion.

Vote: 6 – Y, 7 – N, 0- A. Motion fails.

e. **Motion to give 60-day notice to City Attorney Feuer for enforcement of short term rentals (LAANC / GB021816-12)**

- **Tabled until next board meeting**

f. **Motion to support a manageable Street Vending ordinance (LAANC / GB021816-13)**

- **Tabled until next board meeting**

g. **Motion to spend up to \$250 to buy Hami Garden equipment (Waxman / GB021816-14)**

Moved by Paula. Seconded by Doug.

Vote: 13 – Y, 0 - N, 0 – A. Motion passes.

h. **Motion to fund up to \$4,500 for updates to soronc.org (Fitzsimmons / GB021816-15)**

Brief questions from Jon, about waiver for using approved vendors and is this the best price. Doug says he has permission. And the price is significantly



less than approved vendors. Some discussion of changing platforms, cost to change platforms would be significant as well.

Moved by: Doug. Seconded by Dan Fink.

Vote: 13 – Y, 0 – N, 0 – A. Motions passes.

- i. **d. Motion to split the Economic Development Committee into three separate committees (Liberian / GB021816-4) moved from consent to New Business.**
 - **Tabled until next board meeting**
- j. **e. Motion to support LADWP Governance and Professional Board of Commissioners formation (LAANC / GB021816-5) Moved from consent to new business.**
 - **Tabled until next board meeting.**

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10pm.



Vote Tally

1: moved | 2: seconded | Y: yes | N: no | A: abstain | R: recuse | X: missed vote
C: passed by general consent

Votes taken	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15
Kevin Gres	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Kimber Smith	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	C	Y	Y	Y			
Mike Bitton	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Giovanni Ferdinand	C	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	C	N	Y	Y			
Roger McCracken	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Michael Lynn	C	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	C	N	Y	Y			
Jon Liberman	C	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	C	N	Y	Y			
Doug Fitzsimmons	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	C	Y	Y	Y			
Paula Waxman	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	C	Y	Y	Y			
Michael Bloom	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Ken Blaker	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	C	N	Y	Y			
Nahed Guirguis	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Robyn Braun	C	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	C	N	Y	Y			
Aimee Zeltzer	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	C	Y	Y	Y			
Beth Hirsch	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	C	Y	Y	Y			
Susan Burden	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Marj Safinia	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Terrence Gomes	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Martin Epstein	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	C	N	Y	Y			
Victor Mitry	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Leo Portal	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Dan Fink	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	C	Y	Y	Y			
Barry Levine	C	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	C	N	Y	Y			
Noa Zarur	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
School Rep 2															

Votes taken

1. Draft meeting minutes of January 21, 2015 (Hirsch / GB021816-1)
2. Motion draft master plan for the Dept. of Veterans Affairs West LA Campus (WRAC / GB021816-2)
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