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 City of Los Angeles Certified
Neighborhood Council

General Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 17, 2013, 7:10pm

Simon Wiesenthal Center 3rd Floor

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

I. Call to Order & Roll Call

SORO NC Board President Doug Fitzsimmons called the meeting to order at 7:10.

Board Members Present (17): Kevin Gres, Beth Ryan, Robyn Braun, Bette Billet, Jon Liberman, Ellen Lanet, Paula Waxman, Michael Bloom, Bethie Kohanbash, Nahed Guirguis, Barry Levine, Marj Safinia, Terrence Gomes, Martin Epstein, Hector Garza, Doug Fitzsimmons and Erick Morales

Board Members Absent (6): Kimber Smith, Michael Lynn, David Mattis, Brian Kite, Susan Burden, Victor Mitry

City Officials and their Representatives Present (5): David Giron and Tania Bradkin from the office of Councilmember Paul Koretz, Officers Mario Gonzales and Rick Ballesteros from LAPD and Liz Carlin from the office of Council president Herb Wesson.

Members of the Public Present (39): There were 39 representatives, members and neighbors of the proposed Adas Torah in the audience.

II. General Public Comment

Barry indicated that there would be a rally on Saturday. More details can be found at www.unitedforthepeople.org.

III. Community Reports

Los Angeles Police Department: Senior Lead Officer Gonzales indicated that although crime was down there continues to be thefts from motor vehicles. He mentioned the Lock It, Hide It, Keep It campaign.

Officer Rick Ballesteros introduced himself as the acting Senior Lead Officer for the east side of Robertson taking Maria Gray's position.

Office of Councilmember Koretz: Tania Bradkin introduced herself and indicated that she has been on the job for 7 days. She indicated that there was a homeless situation in the area that had been taken care of recently.

IV. Presentation and Board Discussion

a. **SoRo Inc:** Soro Inc will present at next month's meeting.

b. **Celebrate Israel Festival:** Adele Dory gave an update on the Celebrate Israel Festival which will be taking place on April 21, 2013. They had 15,000 attendees last year. All permits have been pulled. More information can be found at www.celebrateisraelfestival.com

c. **SoCal Gas Advanced Meter Project:** Mona Verches indicated that Southern California Gas will be installing new meters on residential and business locations. She indicated that the new meters will be able to be read remotely, provide more detailed information to the consumer, eliminate the need for meter readers to have access to the meters and cut costs. For more information, go to www.socalgas.com.

V. Approval of Minutes

a. **Draft Board Meeting Minutes of December 20,2012 (Ryan/GB011713-1)**



- Barry indicated that the mock court was for the high schools and will not be taking place at Shenandoah Elementary.
- Amended minutes accepted by general consensus.

VI. Committee Reports

a. Confirmation of Board committee memberships and absence requests

(GB011713-2)

- Erick Morales requested to be removed from the Green Team
- The above changes were accepted and approved by general consensus.

b. President's report

- Doug reiterated that all motions need to be submitted in the next month or by March at the latest to avoid the bottleneck at the end of the fiscal year.
- Doug indicated that the board is almost 100% compliant with the required Ethics training.
- Doug asked Beth to update the board on the board retreat. Beth handed out a board survey and asked for Board Development committee members (as an ad hoc committee can have no more than six board members). Committee members are: Bette Billet, Hector Garza, Bethie Kohanbash, Erick Morales, Terrence Gomes and Beth Ryan. Marj will assist the committee by providing details from last year's retreat.

c. Treasurer's report & approval of monthly expenses (Gomes/GB011713-3)

- Terrence discussed p-card charges and indicated that we have \$29,510.98 remaining.
- Financials were moved by Barry Levine and seconded by Jon Liberman and approved by the board. (11 YES/0 NO/1 Abstain)

d. Standing Committees

- Outreach – no meeting in December and January meeting will take place on January 28th.
- Education – Barry indicated that Shenandoah Elementary tutoring take place on Mondays and Fridays for 1 hour and are still looking for volunteer tutors. The Fresh Fruit on Friday program is continuing and hoping to expand to Canfield.
- Land Use – Terrence provided an update indicating that the cell phone tower issue and Adas Torah will be discussed tonight. Elat Bakery and the Jewish Center pulled their applications. Terrence is working with the West Adams, Baldwin Hills, Leimert Park Redevelopment Plan to make sure that the South Robertson area is in the plan as it is being considered.
- Transportation – Doug reported that there was no meeting this month. Will have a joint meeting with Land Use.
- Green Team – Paula indicated this Sunday 1/20/13 from 9AM – 12PM, the green team and volunteers will be participating in collecting fruit from local trees and donating the fruit to SOVA. Last year they collected 2000 lbs of fruit. If you have a tree that has fruit, the volunteers can come and remove all of the fruit or just some if you would like to keep some on the tree for your own consumption.
Saturday 1/26/13 from 10AM-2PM there will be an e-waste drive at Hamilton High School. Essentially anything with a cord can be donated. Donations can be dropped off in room 607 prior to the event.
- Public Safety – Michoel indicated that graffiti in the area was up, the committee was discussing with a resident who has a disaster preparedness plan to do some cross training and the committee is discussing proposing a motion to stop funding for Safe Passages.

e. Ad-hoc committees

Put a check next to the Board Members attending the meeting.

1: Moved

2: Seconded

Y: Yes

N: No

A: Abstain

R: Recuse

X: Missed Vote

C: Passed by general consensus



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Y: Yes

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- Neighborhood Purposes Grant – the committee met and is discussing the quantities and process for all NPG grants. The grants would be collected and vetted and then presented to the Exec committee and then to the full board. The committee will meet with the Outreach committee on January 28th and continue to flesh out the criteria and process for NPG grants.

f. Representatives

- LANCC – Terrence reported that Councilmembers Mitch Englander and Joe Buscaino submitted a \$3B bond measure to be placed on the May ballot. The bond measure offered very little details on how the money would be spent, which streets would be fixed, etc. LANCC requested that the ballot measure be placed on hold for 60 days allowing LANCC to secure input from the neighborhood councils.

g. Public Comment request granted for Mark Herd

- Mark is running for City Council District 5. He wanted to introduce himself and let everyone know that there is a debate scheduled for Tuesday, February 26th, 7 - 8:30 at St. Paul's Church in Westwood.

VII. New Business

a. Motion to not support a proposed cellular substation at 1830 S. Robertson (Gomes / GB011713-4)

- Land Use committee asked cell phone tower location to provide a Certificate of Occupancy for school. The committee indicated without this COO, they would not support the motion. No Certificate of Occupancy was submitted.
- The Board will also ask CD 10 to direct the Department of Building and Safety to investigate the current use of the building since there was no Certificate of Occupancy on file.
- The motion was made by Terrence Gomes and seconded by Kevin Gres.
- The board voted to NOT support the MetroPCS cell tower installation at 1830 Robertson Bl.
- Vote count: 16 YES/0 NO/1 Abstain

b. Motion to support a parking variance request from Adas Torah synagogue at 9040 W. Pico Blvd (Mity / GB011713-5)

- Adas Torah is requesting a zoning variance to reduce the parking space requirement from 113 to 8 spaces and to continue to have reduced back up space for cars exiting the southerly parking area and to double two of the parking spaces as a loading zone space.
- David Moss and Daniel Nagel – a member – answered questions from the board explaining that the variances are specific and can not be transferred to another owner, there is only 1 Full-time employee, there are early morning services, but little to no activity during the week. The membership of the synagogue all walk to services and the board was presented with their drive and no-drive schedule. The board was shown a rendering of the new building. And a large stack of letters from members and neighbors living in the SORO community were presented as support for the project.
- In total, there were 39 community members in attendance to show their support, but due to time constraints eighteen speakers spoke in support of the Adas Torah synagogue.



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- The discussion amongst the board included opposition to setting a precedence limiting the parking so drastically to praising the Adas Torah for their outreach and presentation.

AMENDMENT to provide 10% of the parking (11 spaces) plus 1 distinct handicap space plus 1 distinct loading space.

- The amendment was made by Ellen Lanet and seconded by Paula Waxman.
- The amendment was NOT supported by the board.
- Vote count on amendment: 5 YES/11 NO/1 Abstain

MOTION to support a parking variance request from Adas Torah synagogue at 9040 W. Pico Blvd

- The motion was made by Bette Billet and seconded by Terrence Gomes.
- The board voted to support Adas Torah's request for the variances at 9040 Pico Blvd.
- Vote count on motion: 15 YES/1 NO/1 Abstain

c. Canfield Avenue Elementary School Farm to School nutrition program NPG funding proposal for \$980 (Levine/GB011713-6)

- Canfield Avenue Elementary School is requesting \$980 for 7-week nutrition program for their students.
- Due to the fact that the board has not finalized the NPG grant process and criteria, there was a motion to table by Terry Gomes and seconded by Marj Safinia.
- The board voted to table the motion.
- TABLE MOTION vote count: 7 YES/6 NO/ 2 Abstain – 2 board members left the room and did not vote

d. Motion to approve \$1671 NPG for Castle Heights annual Earth Week and Eco Fair (Waxman/GB011713-7)

- Castle Heights is seeking funds to offset the cost of their week-long program that is well attended by the Castle Heights community.
- There was a discussion to see if there might be other funds available.
- Paula withdrew the motion until the NPG criteria and process can be agreed upon.

e. Motion to spend up to \$2600 to plant 7 Koelreuteria bipinnata trees along Pico Blvd (Waxman/GB011713-8)

- Community member has agreed to care for trees planted along Pico Blvd.
- Green Team was able to get trees donated by Tree People.
- Motion is to pay to have the dead trees and roots removed from the locations so the new trees can be planted.
- Board will secure all of the necessary permits. Additional estimates will be secured as well.

Motion: South Robertson Neighborhoods Council to spend up to \$2,600 in two phases to remove stumps and dead trees and plant 7 Koelreuteria bipinnata trees.

Phase 1 to include clearing the boxes located at:

- 9800 Pico (Chase Bank, Ficus stump)
- 8918 Pico (2 Ficus tree trunks cut at 10')
- 8612 Pico (Tile Shop, dead tree)

Phase 2 to include clearing the boxes located at:

- 8501 Pico (Bank of America, 4' high tree stump)
- 8500 Pico (Shell Station, space filled with asphalt)



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- The motion was made by Paula Waxman and seconded by Michael Bloom.
 - The board voted to support the motion.
 - Vote count on motion: 11 YES/2 NO/4 Abstain
- f. **Motion to approve up to \$500 to be used for supplies, copies and food for the board training meetings and retreat (Ryan/GB011713-9)**
- In October, SORO added 7 new board members. The funds would pay for supplies, copies and binders for the new board members as well as a retreat for the entire board.
 - The Board Development committee will take into account the feedback on the surveys as well as comments to limit the number of trainings and for non-kosher food to be provided.
 - The motion was made by Jon Liberman and seconded by Terrence Gomes.
 - The board voted to support the motion.
 - Vote count on motion: 15 YES/0 NO/2 Abstain
- g. **Motion to support proposed Koretz Medical Marijuana Dispensary ordinance (Fitzsimmons/GB011713-10)**
- Doug provided a detailed account of the three initiatives including the one submitted by Greater Los Angeles Collective Alliance (GLACA), the second referred to as the “Welch Initiative” and the third being proposed by Councilmember Koretz as well as the differences between the initiatives.
 - There was board discussion regarding distance from schools, sensitive uses, other collectives, operating hours, etc.
 - The motion was made by Jon Liberman and seconded by Marj Safinia.
 - Vote count on motion: 14 YES/ 2 NO/0 Abstain – 1 board member left early
- h. **Motion to support LANCC motion to allow NCs to weigh in on LA City Council motion for \$3 billion street repair bond measure (Gomes/GB011713-11)**
- MOTION: South Robertson Neighborhood Council joins LANCC in demanding that a City Council decision on this item be postponed for 60 days so that all 95 certified Neighborhood Councils have an opportunity to hold a Brown Act compliant meeting and report back.**
- The motion was made by Jon Liberman and seconded by Terrence Gomes.
 - Vote count on motion: 15 YES/0 NO/0 Abstain – 2 board members left early
- AMENDMENT: South Robertson Neighborhood Council requests that a City Council decision on this item be postponed for 90 days so that all 95 certified Neighborhood Councils have an opportunity to hold a Brown Act compliant meeting and report back.**
- The motion was made by Jon Liberman and seconded by Terrence Gomes.
 - Vote count on motion: 15 YES/0 NO/0 Abstain – 2 board members left early
- i. **Motion to support WRAC motion on City Infrastructure Review (Gomes/GB011713-12)**
- There hasn't been a review of the City's general plan since 2000 using data based from 1998.
 - The motion was made by Terrence Gomes and seconded by Jon Liberman.
 - Vote count on motion: 11 YES/4 NO/0 Abstain – 2 board members left early

VIII. Meeting was adjourned at 10:45 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	Transportation	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	■			■		■					■	

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Board Vote Tally Sheet

Meeting Date: January 17, 2013

Votes taken	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13
Kevin Gres	C	C	Y	2Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y
Kimber Smith	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Beth Ryan	C	C	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Robyn Braun	C	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	X	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Bette Billet	C	C	Y	Y	N	1Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Michael Lynn	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Jon Liberman	1C	2C	2Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	1Y	1Y	Y	Y	Y
Ellen Lanet	C	C	Y	Y	1Y	N	X	A	Y	Y	2Y	2Y	2Y
Paula Waxman	C	C	Y	Y	2Y	X	N	1Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Michael Bloom	C	C	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	2Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Bethie Kohanbash	C	C	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	A	Y	N	Y	Y	N
Nahed Guirguis	C	C	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	Y	X	X	X
David Mattis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brian Kite	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Barry Levine	C	1C	1Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Susan Burden	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Marj Safinia	C	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	2Y	Y	Y	2Y	Y	Y	Y
Terrence Gomes	C	C	Y	1Y	N	2Y	1Y	Y	2Y	Y	1Y	1Y	1Y
Martin Epstein	C	C	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N
Hector Garza	C	C	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Victor Mitry	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Org 3													
Doug Fitzsimmons	C	C	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
School 1													
Erick Morales	C	C	Y	Y	N	Y	A	A	A	X	X	X	X

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Votes taken

- Draft meeting minutes of Dec, 2012 (Ryan/GB011713-1)
- Confirmation of Board committee memberships & absence requests (GB011713-2)
- Treasurer's report and approval of monthly expenses (Gomes / GB011713-3)
- Motion to not support a proposed cellular substation at 1830 S. Robertson Blvd (Gomes/GB011713-4)
- Amendment to provide 10% of the parking (11 spaces), plus 1 distinct handicap space and 1 distinct loading space.
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- Motion to approve up to \$500 to be used for supplies, copies and food for the board member training meetings and retreat (Ryan/GB011713-9)
- Motion to support proposed Koretz Medical Marijuana Dispensary ordinance (Fitzsimmons/GB011713-10)
- South Robertson Neighborhood Council joins LANCC in demanding that a City Council decision on this item be postponed for 60 days so that all 95 certified Neighborhood Councils have an opportunity to hold a Brown Act compliant meeting and report back. (Gomes/GB011713-11)
- Amendment to GB011713-11 - South Robertson Neighborhood Council joins LANCC in requesting that a City Council decision on this item be postponed for 90 days so that all 95 certified Neighborhood Councils have an opportunity to hold a Brown Act compliant meeting and report back.
- Motion to support WRAC motion on City Infrastructure Review (Gomes/GB011713-12)