



General Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 15, 2012, 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 7:15pm. Minutes were taken by Doug.

Board Members Present: Kimber Smith, Robyn Braun, Bette Billet, Michael Lynn, Paula Waxman, Armando Roman, Meredith Levine, Terrence Gomes, Brian Kite, Barry Levine, Marjan Safinia, Martin Epstein, Victor Mitry, Doug Fitzsimmons

Board Members Absent: Rachel Lester, Harold Bock, Nick Burkhart, Nahed Guirguis, Troy Richardson, Sam Jagger, Susan Burden, Erick Morales

Guests: Liz Carlin, David Giron, Rebecca Bernal, Raymond Yu, Keith McCowan, David Asali, Modative

II. General Public Comment

Doug welcomed everyone to the new meeting location and drew attention to the change in agenda format to better conform with Robert's Rules conventions.

Raymond Yu reported on the LA Marathon on Sunday, March 18th. Full information at lamarathon.com.

Victor announced that St. Mark's would hold a celebration on May 5-6 at the Robertson Rec Center, including activities for kids.

Keith McCowan, a candidate for the 54th State Assembly District, introduced himself.

III. Community Reports

LAPD. No report.

Office of Council President Wesson. Liz Carlin announced that a proposed change to the redistricting maps would retain portions of SORO in CD10. The City Council was scheduled to vote on the changes and approve the final map on March 16, and she urged community members to speak at the meeting.

AAA Banner will be closing nearby streets on March 21st for a company event.

Office of Councilmember Koretz. David Giron noted that despite recent arrests, copper wire theft continues in the area. He asked that the NC spread the word to the community.

New benches are being installed along Pico between the 405 and Western Ave.

On April 29th, Celebrate Israel (commemorating Israel's 64th Independence Day) will hold a walk that will go through parts of SORO along Pico. The celebration itself will be Cheviot Hills Rec Center from 9am-6pm. They are requesting closure of the southbound lane of Motor Ave.

Office of the Mayor. No report.

Doug Fitzsimmons
President

Brian Kite
Vice-President

Terrence Gomes
Treasurer

Nick Burkhart
Secretary

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Office of Senator Price. Rebecca Bernal talked about Senator Price's Get Fit initiative. She also asked for nominations for the 6th annual SHeroes ceremony, honoring 26 outstanding women from his district. The deadline is March 21. More information at senate.ca.gov/price.

The State redistricting maps will take effect with the June primaries. SORO will be split between Senate Districts 26 (north of Pico, east of Robertson) and 30 (the rest).

Robertson Recreation Center. No report.

IV. Approval of Minutes

Draft Board Meeting Minutes of 16 February 2012 (Burkhart / GB031512-1).

Doug offered amendments to the draft: guests for February should include Craig McCain and the motion numbers should be corrected.

- **Amended minutes accepted by general consent**

V. Committee Reports

Confirmation of Board committee memberships and absences (GB031512-2)

In absentia, Sam requested an official absence for tonight's meeting. Meredith joined the Outreach committee.

- **Requests confirmed by general consent**

Executive. Reminders: ethics training expires in May for many Board members; Board is expected to attend the Robertson tree planting on Saturday, March 24; Budget meeting on March 20th is open to all Board members (and public) and will largely set financial priorities for coming fiscal year.

Doug has contacted the LAFD for a follow-up community meeting in SORO to address the recent disclosure that reported response times were inaccurate. Bette suggested that Station 58 would be a good venue, and that the Firefighters there be invited to participate.

Treasurer Report. Terry reported that proposals for Neighborhood Council FY12-13 funding range from \$15,000 to \$ 50,000, with the likely number somewhere close to \$36,000-\$38,000.

Approval of monthly expenses (Gomes / GB031512-3)

- Michael moved to accept the credit card report; Marj seconded.
- **Vote: 13-Y, 0-N, 1-A. Report accepted.**

Land Use. Working to bring Pico Glatt Kosher Market to the committee to discuss proposed expansion.

Green Team. Will plant 15 trees along Robertson Blvd on Saturday, March 24 at 8am. Looking for 100 volunteers.

Public Safety. Mike presented LAPD's crime report. Noted alarming increase in "knock knock" burglaries. Walking tours to promote neighborhood watch program: Sat. March 31 in Zone 6; Sun. April 1 in Zone 2. Both start around 1:00. Kimber asked that the Zone reps be involved.

Outreach. Festival seems to be back on track with new director. Beginning request for Bursk Award nominees. Will be discussing KCET/Departures, Movies in the Park, NC election outreach, and workshops for neighborhood associations at next meeting.

Education. No report.



Transportation. First meeting was successful in setting committee priorities.

Westside Regional Association of Councils. Two motions coming: one for Bergamot Station EIR, one for NC budgets.

VII. Special Orders

Nomination of Harold Bock as Chair of Transportation Committee (GB031512-4)

As Harold was not in attendance, Bette moved to table the nomination.

- Bette moved; Barry seconded.
- **Nomination tabled by general consent**

VII. New Business

Motion in Support of Fay Triangle 3217 Fay Ave (Gomes / GB031512-13)

(Motion moved forward in agenda by general consent). Residents have some concerns with review process and traffic. David Asali, property owner, talked of difficulty in getting interest in developing the lot. Modative, architects, presented plan. Numerous green features. Nearby motel and autobody shop screened by wall and bamboo plantings.

- Bette moved; Michael seconded.
- **Motion approved by general consent.**

Motion to oppose proposed drastic reductions to NC system funding (Fitzsimmons / GB031512-5)

(Brian chairs.) Discussion about whether SORO should wait for WRAC resolution. Concern about what exactly the third item in the motion authorized Exec to do. Marj proposes amending item III to read:

*To authorize **members** of the SORO NC executive committee to communicate the Board's opinion **in Items I and II** via appropriate channels, including but not limited to letters, press releases, and Community Impact Statements.*

Doug accepted the friendly amendment.

- Marj moved motion as amended; Kimber seconded.
- **Vote: 14-Y, 0-N, 0-A. Amended motion passed unanimously.**

Motion to support changing Venice Blvd. and surrounding streets into a parking meter zone (Fitzsimmons / GB031512-6)

(Brian chairs.) Unanimous support for proposal in public informational meeting from nearby residents and businesses. Michael argues that current restrictions not enforced, that money would go to general parking fund, and that the need for meters is unproven.

- Doug moved; Bette seconded.
- **Vote: 6-Y, 5-N, 3-A. Motion failed due to not achieving 7 vote minimum.**

Motion to spend up to \$550 total for two exterior recycling bins with lids for Shenandoah Elementary School (Waxman / GB031512-7)

Victor asks about school Booster Club support; Barry explains that there isn't one.

- Kimber moved; Martin seconded.
- **Vote: 14-Y, 0-N, 0-A. Motion passed unanimously.**

Motion to approve NPG for \$5000 for 2012 SoRo Festival (Fitzsimmons / GB031512-8)

(Brian chairs.) Note that due to PDF issues, printed NPG copies distributed at the meeting don't include some info. Marj reiterates that this 15th Annual SoRo Fest has new leadership and barring unforeseen issues, will happen as scheduled.

- Terry moved; Meredith seconded.
- **Vote: 14-Y, 0-N, 0-A. Motion passed unanimously.**



Motion to fund up to \$2750 for website enhancements (Fitzsimmons / GB031512-9)

(Brian chairs.)

- Meredith moved; Bette seconded.
- **Vote: 14-Y, 0-N, 0-A. Motion passed unanimously.**

Motion to fund up to \$1210 for NC projector and screen (Fitzsimmons / GB031512-10)

(Brian chairs.) Victor notes that projector speakers seem weak and proposes that the motion be amended to read:

*To approve expenditures up to \$1210 for a video projector, portable projection screen, case to protect the screen, **speakers**, and various connection cables (a second VGA cable, an HDMI cable, an audio cable, and adapters for Mini DisplayPort/Thunderbolt).*

Doug accepts the friendly amendment.

- Kimber moved motion as amended; Robyn seconded.
- **Vote: 14-Y, 0-N, 0-A. Amended motion passed unanimously.**

Motion to fund up to \$1100 for NC informational postcards (Fitzsimmons / GB031512-11)

(Brian chairs.)

- Bette moved; Robyn seconded.
- **Vote: 14-Y, 0-N, 0-A. Motion passed unanimously.**

Board survey: 2012 NC elections (Fitzsimmons / GB031512-12)

- Best day of week for elections: **Sunday** (10 votes); Tuesday (7 votes)
- Best month: **October** (11); November (3); August (2)
- Best hours: **Noon-6pm** (8); 2pm-8pm (4); 10am-4pm (1)
- Number of polling locations: **1** (unanimous)

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50pm.



Board Committee Membership

As of 15 March 2012

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	Trans- portation	Finance	Exec	Bylaws	Econ Revital	Board Dev	Parks & Rec
Rachel Lester												
Kimber Smith												
Harold Bock												
Robyn Braun												
Bette Billet												
Michael Lynn												
Nick Burkhart												
Zone 8												
Paula Waxman												
Armando Roman												
Meredith Levine												
Nahed Guirguis												
Terry Gomes												
Brian Kite												
Barry Levine												
Troy Richardson												
Marj Safinia												
Sam Jagger												
Martin Epstein												
Sue Burden												
Victor Mitry												
Organization 3												
Doug Fitzsimmons												
School 1												
Erick Morales												



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	16
Rachel Lester																
Kimber Smith	C	C	Y	C	2Y	A	1Y	Y	Y	1Y	Y	C				
Harold Bock																
Robyn Braun	C	C	A	C	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	2Y	2Y	C				
Bette Billet	C	C	Y	1C	Y	2Y	Y	Y	2Y	Y	1Y	1C				
Michael Lynn	C	C	1Y	C	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	2C				
Nick Burkhart																
Zone 8																
Paula Waxman	C	C	Y	C	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	C				
Armando Roman	C	C	Y	C	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	C				
Meredith Levine	C	C	Y	C	Y	A	Y	2Y	1Y	Y	Y	C				
Nahed Guirguis																
Terry Gomes	C	C	Y	C	Y	N	Y	1Y	Y	Y	Y	C				
Brian Kite	2C	2C	Y	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	C				
Barry Levine	C	C	Y	2C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	C				
Troy Richardson																
Marj Safinia	C	C	2Y	C	1Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	C				
Sam Jagger																
Martin Epstein	C	C	Y	C	Y	Y	2Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	C				
Sue Burden																
Victor Mitry	C	C	Y	C	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	C				
Organization 3																
Doug Fitzsimmons	1C	1C	Y	C	Y	1Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	C				
School 1																
Erick Morales																

Votes taken

1. Draft meeting minutes of February 16, 2012 (GB031512-1)
2. Confirmation of committee memberships and absence requests (GB091511-2)
3. Approval of monthly expenses (GB031512-3)
4. Table: Harold Bock as Chair of Transportation Committee (GB031512-4)
5. Amended: Oppose drastic reductions to NC system funding (GB031512-5)
6. Support Venice Blvd. parking meter zone (GB031512-6)
7. Up to \$550 total for two recycling bins for Shenandoah (GB031512-7)
8. NPG for \$5000 for 2012 SoRo Festival (GB031512-8)
9. Up to \$2750 for website enhancements (GB031512-9)
10. Amended: Up to \$1210 for NC projector and screen (GB031512-10)
11. Up to \$1100 for NC informational postcards (GB031512-11)
12. Support of Fay Triangle 3217 Fay Ave (GB031512-13)