



Motion to allocate \$10,000 to SoRo Inc. to manage the SoRo Festival

Agenda Item: GB052010-3
Date: 20 May 2010
Proposed By: Doug Fitzsimmons

Summary

That SORO NC allocate \$10,000 to SoRo Inc to manage the SoRo Festival.

Full Proposal

Note: this motion was previously passed at the Board meeting of 18 March 2010. DONE has highlighted a possible conflict of interest with an out-going SORO NC Boardmember in that vote, and so has asked the Board to vote again on the motion.

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 \$10,000 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 \$5,000 for Community Emergency Preparedness Plan and Supplies

Agenda Item: GB052010-4
Date: 20 May 2010
Proposed By: Doug Fitzsimmons

Summary

Motion to approve \$5,000 for SORO, Inc. to administer development of a community emergency preparedness plan and purchase of supplies.

Full Proposal

Note: this motion, amended in the meeting to reduce the amount from \$6,000 to \$5,000, was previously passed at the Board meeting of 18 March 2010. DONE has highlighted a possible conflict of interest with an out-going SORO NC Boardmember in that vote, and so has asked the Board to vote again on the motion.

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;

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- 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.

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 \$5,000 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.

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.

Given the City's current financial



situation, having plans and supplies on hand will help ensure our community's needs will be met.

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: GB052010-5
Date: 20 May 2010
Proposed By: Doug Fitzsimmons

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

Note: this motion was previously passed at the Board meeting of 18 March 2010. DONE has highlighted a possible conflict of interest with an out-going SORO NC Boardmember in that vote, and so has asked the Board to vote again on the motion.

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

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-- 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.

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: GB052010-6
Date: 20 May 2010
Proposed By: Doug Fitzsimmons

Summary

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

Full Proposal

Note: this motion was previously passed at the Board meeting of 18 March 2010. DONE has highlighted a possible conflict of interest with an out-going SORO NC Boardmember in that vote, and so has asked the Board to vote again on the motion.

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:



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

Agenda Item: GB052010-7
Date: 20 May 2010
Proposed By: Doug Fitzsimmons

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

Note: this motion, amended in the meeting to specify a reallocation of \$2,350 from the Operations budget, was previously passed at the Board meeting of 18 March 2010. DONE has highlighted a possible conflict of interest with an out-going SORO NC Boardmember in that vote, and so has asked the Board to vote again on the motion.

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,

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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.

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

1. 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.
2. To reallocate \$2350 from the Operations budget to ensure that the Green Team budget has adequate funds.

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:



Attn: Funding Program
Department of Neighborhood Empowerment
334-B East 2nd Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

20 May 2010

The undersigned hereby **resolve and affirm** that the following motions were duly passed with no amendments at the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council meeting of 20 May 2010:

- Motion to reapprove GB031810-6: \$10,000 for SoRo Festival (GB052010-3)
- Motion to reapprove GB031810-7: \$5,000 for Emergency Preparedness plan and supplies (GB052010-4)
- Motion to reapprove GB031810-9: \$9,000 for a brochure to promote community development and attract businesses (GB052010-5)
- Motion to reapprove GB031810-10: \$3,000 for two community clean-up projects (GB052010-6)
- Motion to reapprove GB031810-11: \$12,000 for tree planting, educational events on "green" issues, and Hamilton High garden maintenance (GB052010-7)

A copy of the motions are attached to this resolution.

Sincerely,

President Pro-tem

Secretary Pro-tem

Vice-President Pro-tem

Treasurer Pro-tem

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South Robertson Neighborhoods Council

Proposed Budget

Fiscal Year 2010-2011

May 20, 2010

Funds

	Yearly Allocation	\$45,000
	Rollover 2009-2010	0
	Total	\$45,000

Budget

<i>Account</i>	<i>Category</i>		
100	Operations		\$5,000
	Facilities		
	Meetings		
	Office Supplies		
	Utilities		
	Website/Hosting		
	General Operations		
200	Outreach		\$20,000
	Festival		
	General Outreach		
300	Community Improvement		\$20,000
	Education		
	Green Team		
	Land Use		
	Public Safety		
	Safety Phones Hami		
	Fiscal Year 2009-2010		\$45,000

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South Robertson Neighborhoods Council

Proposed Budget

Fiscal Year 2010-2011

May 20, 2010

The South Robertson Neighborhoods Council General Board met on May 20, 2010. The approved budget covers the periods of 7/1/2010-6/30/2011. The budget was created in accordance with the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council's By-laws and within the guidelines set forth by the City of Los Angeles and the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE).

Yes _____ No _____ Abstain _____

Terrence Gomes
Treasurer
South Robertson Neighborhoods Council



Motion re 8616 Pico Blvd applicant request for liquor license

Agenda Item: GB052010-10
Date: 20 May 2010
Proposed By: Marjan Safinia

Summary

Consideration of a liquor license application at 8616 Pico Boulevard

Full Proposal

A new business is going up at 8616 Pico Blvd which hopes to sell kosher wine and spirits. The applicant reached out to the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council to seek their support for the license. Their hearing is set for June 2.

Proposed Motion

- I. The SORO NC Board resolves to support / not support the granting of a liquor license at 8616 Pico Boulevard.

Considerations

Pro

Con

Board Notes

Votes For:

Against:

Abstain:

Proposed Amendments:

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Motion re Caliber Collision compliance with permit/municipal code provisions

Agenda Item: GB052010-11
Date: 20 May 2010
Proposed By: Marjan Safinia

Summary

The motion asks the Board to file a formal complaint against Caliber Collision Center regarding its non-compliance with its Conditional Use Permit (CUP).

Full Proposal

Caliber Collision Center is located at 2001 South La Cienega Boulevard. The business is part of a chain of collision repair centers throughout Southern California and Texas.

SORO NC has received numerous complaints that Caliber has been in violation of the agreements within its CUP.

Proposed Motion

The SORO NC Board resolves to file a complaint against Caliber Collision Center regarding its non-compliance with its Conditional Use Permit for 2001 South La Cienega Boulevard.

Considerations

Pro

Con

Board Notes

Votes For:

Against:

Abstain:

Proposed Amendments:

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Motion to fund up to \$2000 for a Board retreat

Agenda Item: GB052010-12
Date: 20 May 2010
Proposed By: Marjan Safinia

Summary

That SORO NC agree to fund no more than \$2,000 towards the costs of a board retreat to allow the newly elected board to receive important training, set goals and create a stronger worker dynamic.

Full Proposal

The newly elected board of SORO NC is made up of people with a wide spectrum of experience with NC matters, ranging from brand new to seasoned. A retreat offers an important opportunity to clarify our purpose as a group, share important training and procedural understanding of the work that we do, and set collective goals and visions for our work ahead. This kind of event allows the new board to begin their terms on equal footing, and can foster important partnerships and knowledge exchange that will allow us to do the jobs we were elected to do more effectively.

The retreat would take place as soon as can be organized on a Sunday, and would last about six hours. We will need funding to cover refreshments and food, a location for the event, preparation of materials and possible help with facilitation. While every effort will be made to keep costs to a minimum, since we have not yet established the details of the event, this motion will allow us the flexibility of organizing the meeting as soon as possible while keeping a cap on expenditure.

Proposed Motion

- I. That SORO NC approves funding of up to \$2,000 for costs associated with a board retreat for the newly elected board, to be spent on location, refreshments, food, materials and facilitation (if necessary).
- II. That SORO NC decide a suitable Sunday for this event and commit to a calendar date so that planning can begin.

Considerations

Pro	Con
We'll be a better board if we do this	Cost
We can best work as a team if we are familiar with the rules and the strengths of individual members	6 hours on a Sunday is a time commitment

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Motion to Establish a Runoff Election System

Agenda Item: GB052010-13

Date: 20 May 2010

Proposed By: Doug Fitzsimmons

Summary

The SORO NC bylaws have no provision for competitive officer, chair, or representative elections with more than two candidates. The motion proposes a runoff system that would be in compliance with the bylaws and the Brown Act.

Full Proposal

The bylaws specify that Board officer, chair, and open Board seat elections must be made by a majority vote of the Board. However, if more than two people run, you may have a situation where no candidate wins a majority.

The motion seeks to clarify the process by establishing a runoff system. This would be a standing rule, rather than a bylaws amendment.

Note that the Brown Act requires all votes to be public. The Council has previously established a standing rule that does not count abstentions or recusals, so the simple majority would be calculated based on the number of actual votes cast. The City Attorney has also previously advised the NC that Board members may vote for themselves.

Proposed Motion

To create a standing rule that establishes a simple runoff election system for Board votes where more than two candidates stand for a seat, chair or office.

- I. If no candidate wins a majority of votes cast in the first round, only the two candidates with the most votes proceed to a second round of voting.
- II. Assuming that any potential ethical conflicts are resolved, all Board members are free to vote for either of the two candidates in the second round, even if they have abstained or recused themselves in the first round, or if it means voting for a different candidate.
- III. A coin toss will be used to resolve a tie in either round.

Considerations

Pro

Allows the Board to consider more than two candidates

Complies with Brown Act regulations

Con

A coin toss may not be the most fair way to resolve a tie

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