

South Robertson (SORO) Neighborhoods Council

SORO Neighborhoods Council
P.O. Box 35836
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www.soronc.org



A Certified Neighborhood Council

Vikki Karan
President
Jon Liberman
Vice President
Ann Hammond
Secretary
Terrence Gomes
Treasurer

PROPOSAL BY: Doug Fitzsimmons on behalf of the Bylaws Committee
DATE: June 11, 2008
TITLE: Proposal to amend the SORO NC bylaws regarding posting materials to the website

SUMMARY: The motion seeks to amend the SORONC bylaws to encourage the Board to post public materials to the SORONC website.

FULL PROPOSAL: As a result of the SORONC grievance hearing conducted on April 14, 2008, the hearing panel recommended that the Board consider a number of amendments the NC's Bylaws.

One of those recommendations read as follows:

"Amend its Bylaws to require web posting of agendas, minutes, and other forms of communication so that they are well organized and more easily accessible to the public."

In a related development, after July 1, 2008 the Brown Act will require written items that are of public record and that relate to an agenda item be made available to the public within 72 hours of the meeting or at the same time they are available a majority of Board members, whichever comes first. While the new Brown Act amendment only requires that these written items be available at a physical location, it does suggest posting to a website as well. The Los Angeles City Attorney endorses this additional, optional practice.

After extensive discussion, the Bylaws Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the full Board amend the bylaws as detailed below.

Note that per Article XIV, section 14.2, any amendment of the bylaws requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the total number of actual board members, and is subject to approval by DONE.

Pro	Con
Requiring web posting of the material would require that current and future Board members be technologically able to safely post to a website.	The motion does not require posting material to the web, as was proposed by the Grievance Panel.
Outside factors beyond the control of the Board (such as server failure, malicious web attacks, simple file corruption, etc.) could trigger additional grievances against the Board if web posting is required within a defined timeframe.	The motion does not set a defined timeframe for posting materials to the web.
The motion encourages greater accessibility to SORONC materials and thereby encourages stakeholder participation.	The Brown Act amendment makes posting to the web optional.

<p>The proposed redesign of the website does include areas and mechanisms for posting agendas, minutes and public communications; indeed, it is one of the driving forces for the redesign itself.</p>	
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MOTION for the Board’s consideration:

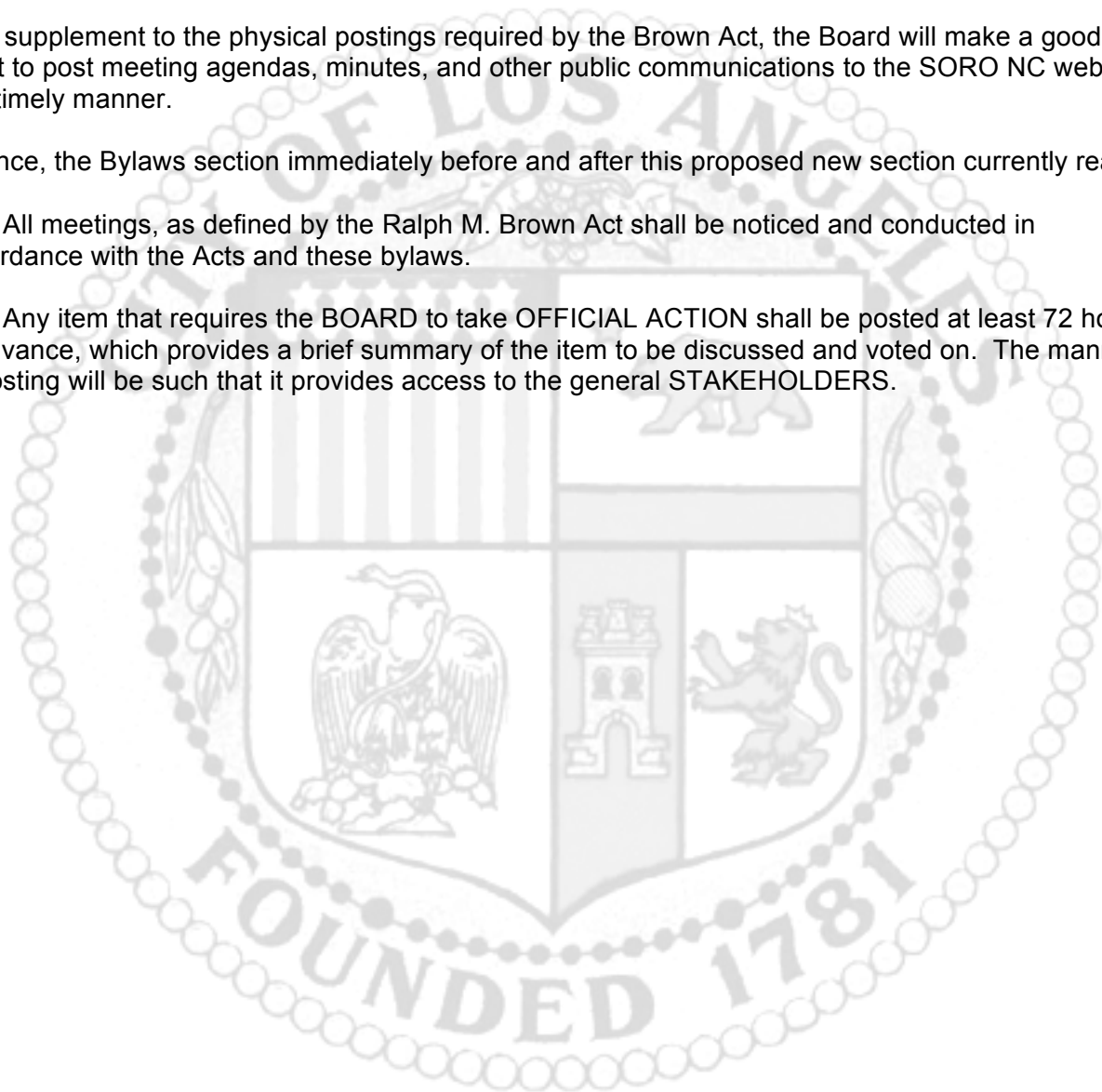
1. To append a new Article VIII, section 8.1.1 to the current SORONC bylaws, reading as follows:

As a supplement to the physical postings required by the Brown Act, the Board will make a good faith effort to post meeting agendas, minutes, and other public communications to the SORO NC website in a timely manner.

For reference, the Bylaws section immediately before and after this proposed new section currently read:

8.1. All meetings, as defined by the Ralph M. Brown Act shall be noticed and conducted in accordance with the Acts and these bylaws.

8.2. Any item that requires the BOARD to take OFFICIAL ACTION shall be posted at least 72 hours in advance, which provides a brief summary of the item to be discussed and voted on. The manner of posting will be such that it provides access to the general STAKEHOLDERS.



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PROPOSAL BY: Doug Fitzsimmons on behalf of the Bylaws Committee
DATE: June 11, 2008
TITLE: Proposal to amend the SORO NC bylaws regarding meeting scheduling

SUMMARY: The motion seeks to amend the SORONC bylaws to encourage the Board to schedule meetings during periods when a majority of the stakeholders are able to attend.

FULL PROPOSAL: As a result of the SORONC grievance hearing conducted on April 14, 2008, the hearing panel recommended that the Board consider a number of amendments the NC's Bylaws.

One of those recommendations read as follows:

"Amend its Bylaws to prohibit scheduling of meetings at times when a reasonable person could know that a significant proportion of Stakeholders would not be able to participate (such as major holidays, days or times of major religious observance, etc.)."

The core concern is one of stakeholder disenfranchisement, an issue the Bylaws Committee takes very seriously. However, much of the specific language in the recommendation presents numerous difficulties, such as who determines what constitutes a "major" religious observance? And while many people cannot attend daytime meetings, many others cannot attend evening meetings.

After extensive discussion of various approaches, the Bylaws Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the full Board amend the bylaws as detailed below.

Note that per Article XIV, section 14.2, any amendment of the bylaws requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the total number of actual board members, and is subject to approval by DONE.

Pro	Con
The motion requires awareness of stakeholder scheduling conflicts, encourages flexibility in scheduling meetings, and provides transparency when unavoidable conflicts occur.	The motion asks the Board to move meetings if they conflict with other events. It is often easier for people to keep track of regularly scheduled meeting times, as opposed to meetings that bounce around the calendar.
The motion as written recognizes that due to the diversity of SORONC stakeholders, it is possible that there could be no alternative to the scheduling of a meeting where some significant group of Stakeholders would not be able to attend.	The motion does not prohibit scheduling meetings at times that may conflict with stakeholders, as was proposed by the Grievance Panel.
A blanket prohibition might prevent the Board calling emergency meetings.	

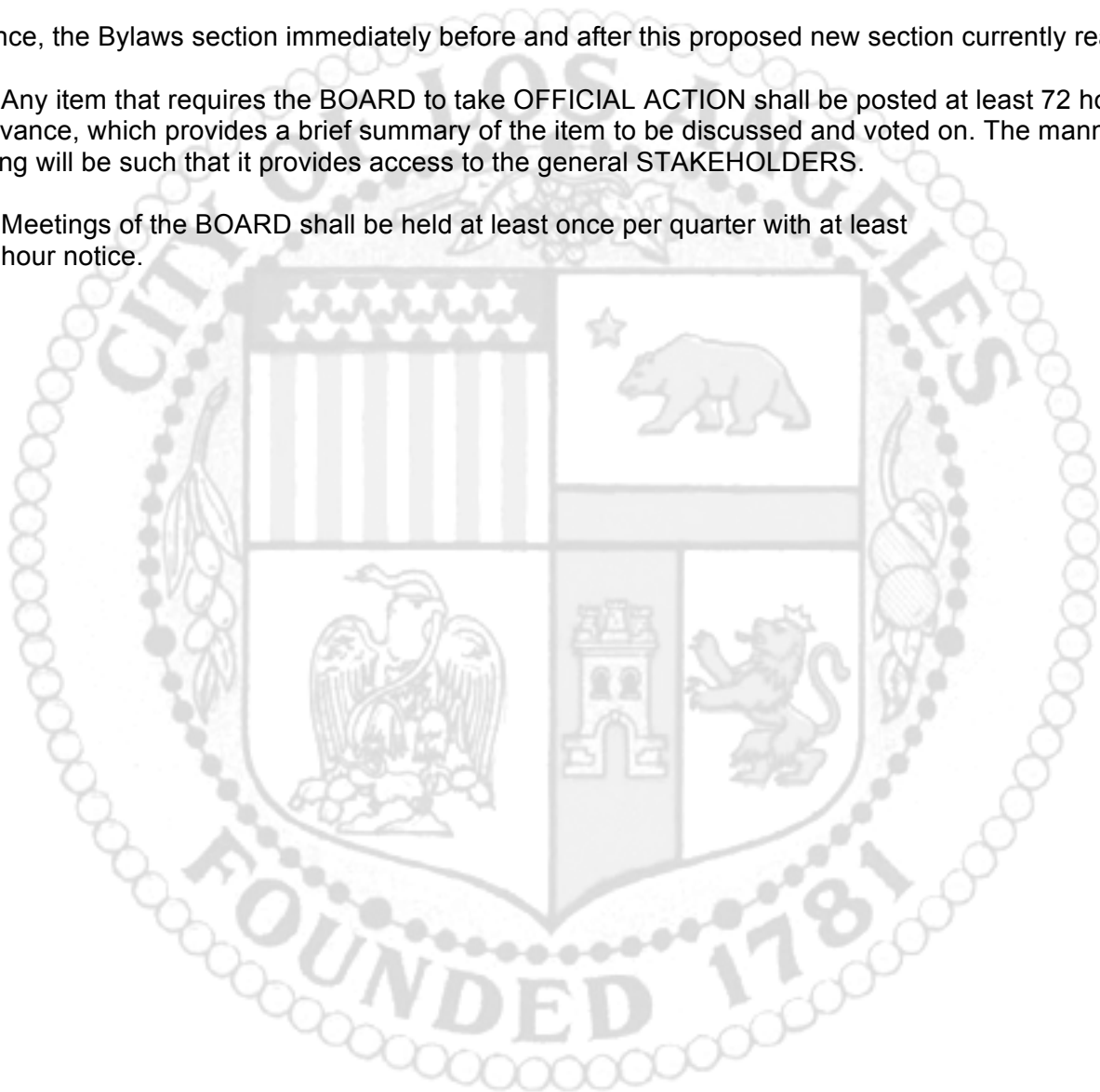
MOTION for the Board’s consideration:

1. To append a new Article VIII, section 8.2.1 to the current SORONC bylaws, reading as follows:

The Board will make a good faith effort to avoid scheduling regular meetings at times when a significant portion of its Stakeholders would not be able to participate. Should unavoidable, known meeting conflicts arise, the Board will explain why the meeting was scheduled for that date and time within the meeting agenda.

For reference, the Bylaws section immediately before and after this proposed new section currently read:

- 8.2. Any item that requires the BOARD to take OFFICIAL ACTION shall be posted at least 72 hours in advance, which provides a brief summary of the item to be discussed and voted on. The manner of posting will be such that it provides access to the general STAKEHOLDERS.
- 8.3. Meetings of the BOARD shall be held at least once per quarter with at least a 72 hour notice.



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PROPOSAL BY: Public Safety Committee (presenter Barry Levine)

DATE: June 11, 2008

TITLE: Robertson Recreation Center Piano recital expenses

SUMMARY: SORO NC to provide up to \$1,000.00 for the rental, delivery, tuning and pick up of a grand piano for the June 21, 2008 Piano recital for the Robertson Recreation Center's piano students. Also included in the budget are awards and snacks.

FULL PROPOSAL: On June 21, 2008 the students taking piano lessons at the Robertson Recreation Center will be having their yearly recital. In order to make the performance special a grand piano will be rented. The cost of the rental includes delivery, tuning, and pick up after the recital. Prizes will be awarded to the performers and snacks for the audience and performers will be available during intermission. This is an opportunity to showcase artistic talent within the South Robertson Community's youth and to help the Robertson Recreation Center enhance it's standing within our community. It is a way to reach out to the greater South Robertson Community by inviting them to see the creative talent which the Recreation Center is fostering. This may change the perception of our neighborhood for some. It will also promote more use of the Robertson Recreation Center. The Neighborhood Council can use this event to increase it's mailing list by signing in the audience and giving out SORO Cards. We can also promote SORONC by giving out water bottles and advertising SORO Walks at 7. The audience is expected to be around one hundred people.

PRO The neighborhood perception will be changed to include creative, artistic talent	Con Other worthwhile programs will go unfunded
More children will be encouraged to learn to play instruments and be kept off the streets and out of harms way	Free food will not be valued
The Neighborhood Council will increase it's outreach to a different part of the community.	We will not have any new names added to our mailing list.

MOTION for the Board's consideration:

1. South Robertson Neighborhoods Council will fund up \$1000.00 for the Robertson Recreation Center's piano recital on June 21, 2008.

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PROPOSAL BY: Public Safety Committee (Presenter: Jon Liberman)
DATE: June 11, 2008
TITLE: Proposal to Co-Sponsor the RAL Program for Summer, 2008
SUMMARY: To review the RAL program and reaffirm SORO NC's support of the Program.

FULL PROPOSAL: The RAL program is an outgrowth of collaboration by LAPD, LAUSD, LA City Department of Parks & Recreation, the LA City Attorney, CD #5, CD#10 and SORO NC. The program was started two years ago as a consequence of gang activity that led to three murders of young people. The basic thrust of the program was to be proactive. The intent was to determine those young people who were most at risk of getting involved with gangs and to provide an alternative program to keep them out of the gangs. The program was evaluated last fall by ETI. A copy of that evaluation was sent to all Board Members on June 5th. The conclusion of that study is shown on Pages 14-15. In an effort to make this as brief as possible, I will not repeat the conclusion but I will state that the report is favorable both from the perspective of the students who participated in the program and from the perspective of the staff members, volunteers and police officers who worked the program.

Why is this program undergoing review at this time? I was concerned that with the new position assumed by Beth Ryan, the transfer out of RAC by Nicolle Griffin and her replacement by Brooke Powers, The transfer of Captain Matt Blake and his replacement by Captain Bill Eaton, and the transfer of SLO Rashad Sharif and his replacement by SLO Maria Grey; we were losing all of the people who had day to day experience in running the RAL program. Additionally it was late May and the program if it was to be ongoing needed to be up and running by the last week in June. Because of this, I asked Brooke Powers, Rashad Shariff & Maria Grey to meet with me to discuss the program and to determine whether we were going to offer a Summer, 2008 program. That meeting resolved several issues:

1. One entity needed to be in overall charge of the program. It was determined that this entity should be the Department of Parks & Recreation.
2. We needed to determine whether we could obtain the same level of support from LAPD. (It was subsequently confirmed by Captain Eaton that LAPD will supply the same support as last year. Two Officers for the entire day for each day of the program).
3. The problem with past RAL programs was inherent in the fact that they were thrown together without sufficient time to preplan the program. These caused inconsistencies between what was originally promised and the program as it was delivered.
4. We would rely on the SLO to determine those young people who should be enrolled in this program.
5. With Budgetary restraints for fiscal year 2008-2009, the Department of Parks & Recreation had to have this program come in at or under budget. They could not and would not subsidize the program above a budgeted amount.
6. We needed to obtain confirmation that the LA Police Foundation and LAUSD would participate in the program. (As of this date, these items are still pending and we hope to have confirmation by Wednesday, June 11th.)
7. We need to plan on this being a transitional year. Rather than planning on a large number of participants; we will limit the scope to 40 youngsters this year. The age group will be 12-15.

8. Brooke Powers needed to put together a specific plan for the summer program. Once she had the plan, she would develop a budget. (Brooke Powers will present her plan and a proposed budget at the June 11th Board Meeting)

9. South Robertson Neighborhoods Council was not promising at this May Meeting that it could or would support the RAL program. What we promised was an evaluation of the prior program with a vote at the PS Committee level as to whether it wished to recommend to the SORO NC Board that the NC continue financial support of the program.

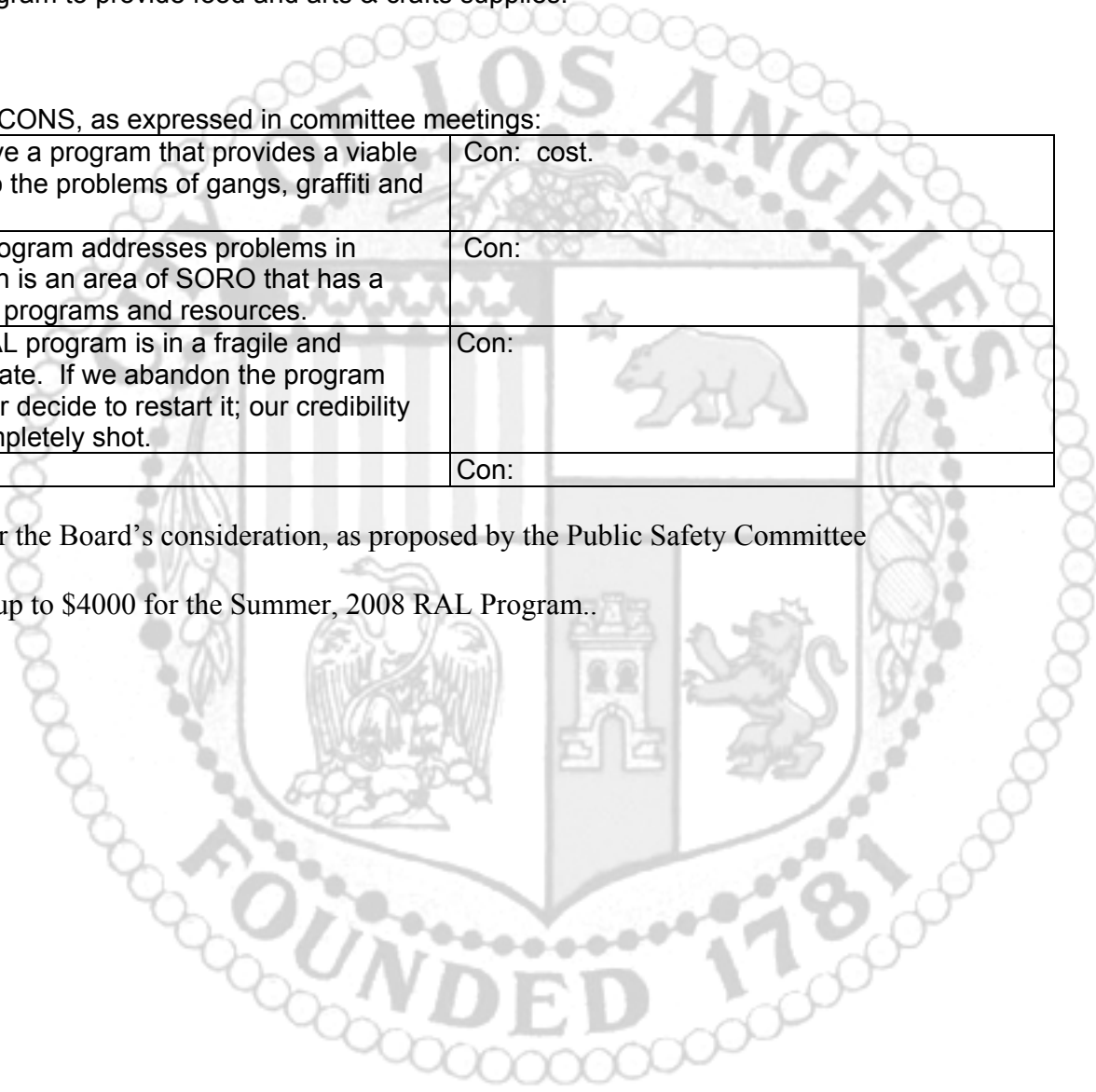
As an outgrowth of the May discussions, Brooke was invited to the June, 2008 SORO NC Public Safety Committee meeting. It was the belief of the committee that there was inherent value in continuing the RAL program. It was proposed that SORO NC co-sponsor the RAL Program and contribute up to \$4000 for the 10 week program to provide food and arts & crafts supplies.

PROS AND CONS, as expressed in committee meetings:

Pro: We have a program that provides a viable alternative to the problems of gangs, graffiti and violence.	Con: cost.
Pro: The program addresses problems in LACH which is an area of SORO that has a shortage of programs and resources.	Con:
Pro: The RAL program is in a fragile and transitional state. If we abandon the program now, and ever decide to restart it; our credibility would be completely shot.	Con:
Pro:	Con:

MOTION for the Board's consideration, as proposed by the Public Safety Committee

1. To fund up to \$4000 for the Summer, 2008 RAL Program..



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PROPOSAL BY: Jon Liberman
DATE: June 11, 2008
TITLE: Proposal to increase storage space
SUMMARY: We have need to store items

FULL PROPOSAL: Our current storage is a 5x10 foot area at Public Storage. Cost is approximately \$115/month. The current space will not accommodate much more material because we have two carts, several gallons of paint and several trash cans which occupy a lot of the floor area. There is cubic capacity that cannot be used because the carts would not permit stocking boxes. We also have board members who have their homes filled with boxes of SORO items. These items need to be moved to a location that is accessible.

I propose that we either move to a larger storage area of a 10x10 foot area, or rent a second storage space in the same building (another 5x10). Cost of a 10x10 space is approx \$203/month. I would have a preference for two 5x10 spaces as this would allow us to segregate the green team items which are coated with dust & dirt from items such as electronic equipment and give aways (water bottles/pens) which should be kept clean if we are going to be able to use them. Note that if we go with the two storage spaces there would be a onetime additional expense of approximately \$20 for a new lock and additional keys for the lock.

PROS AND CONS, as expressed in committee meetings:

Pro: Removes items from Homes of Board Members. .	Con: cost.
Pro: Protects NC property	Con:
Pro: Makes these items readily accessible to Board Members	Con:
Pro: A second storage space would segregate garden tools and paint from items that need to be kept dust free.	Con:

MOTION for the Board's consideration, as proposed by the Public Safety Committee

1. To authorize the NC to rent additional storage consistent with the proposal shown above.

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PROPOSAL BY: Jon Liberman
DATE: June 11, 2008
TITLE: Proposal re holding a picnic/barbecue at RAC or Reiner Park on Sunday Aug 10th
SUMMARY: Picnic to outreach to the community.

FULL PROPOSAL: Originally, I intended this to be held on the 4th of July. RAC indicated that this could be too short a time frame.

Therefore I propose that SORO NC sponsor a picnic/barbecue on August 10th. The theme would be celebrating the start of the Summer Olympics. We could have games for the kids. I like these informal gatherings where everyone is simply out to have a good time. I think these opportunities to meet with our stakeholders in a casual setting will enhance participation in the NC. Additionally we can give out some of our water bottles and promote "Soro Walks at Seven". Based on past events, our only cost is for food. I propose that we allocate \$400 for food.

PROS AND CONS:

Pro: Promotes the NC.	Con: cost
Pro: Provides an opportunity to meet with stakeholders	Con: calories added
Pro: Promotes SORO Walks program	Con:
Pro: Distributes our "branded" water bottles	Con:

MOTION for the Board's consideration,

1. To allocate \$400 for a picnic.