



## Approved Special Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 17, 2009, 7:00pm

Hamilton Senior High School Cafeteria

2955 S. Robertson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90034

Doug Fitzsimmons  
President

Jon Liberman  
Vice-President

Ann Hammond  
Secretary

Terrence Gomes  
Treasurer

South Robertson  
Neighborhoods Council

PO Box 35836  
Los Angeles, CA 90035

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### I. Call to Order & Roll Call

SORO NC Vice President Jon Liberman called the Special Meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

**Board Members Present:** Bette Billet, Harold Bock, Gerald Chavarria, Paul Del Piero, Doug Fitzsimmons, Gary Garcia, Terrence Gomes, Nahed Guirguis, Ann Hammond, Barry Levine, Jon Liberman, Caitlin Lowe, Roy Nwaiser, Marj Safinia, Kimber Smith, Paula Waxman

**Board Members Absent:** Brian Bergman, Robyn Braun, Susan Burden, Joe Gjonola, Anne Gross, Baila Romm, Adam Wheeler

**Guests:** Rose Ibanez, Lottie Williams

### II. General Public Comment

None

(Doug arrived.)

### III. New Business

**a. Motion to approve up to \$3,000 for community outreach for 2010 SORO NC Board elections (Nwaiser/SB121709-2).** Roy introduced the motion and responded to questions from those present. Terry moved to approve the motion; Roy seconded. **Motion approved unanimously.**

**b. Motion to fund up to \$2,000 for general election outreach (Safinia/SB121709-2).** Marj introduced the motion and responded to questions from those present. There was detailed discussion, which will be included as an annex to the General Board Meeting Minutes for December 17, 2009. Marj moved to amend the motion to state: "That SORO NC fund up to \$2000 for joint outreach with other west side NCs regarding the upcoming NC elections to be used for flyers, banners and website;" Kimber seconded. **Vote: Y-12, N-3, A-1. Proposed amendment approved.** Marj moved to approve the motion, as amended; Jon seconded. **Vote: Y-8, N-7, A-1. Motion approved as amended.**

### IV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.



# Approved General Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 17, 2009, 7:20pm

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## I. Call to Order & Roll Call

SORO NC President Doug Fitzsimmons called the meeting to order at 7:44 p.m.

**Board Members Present:** Kimber Smith, Harold Bock, Bette Billet, Paul Del Piero, Jon Liberman, Paula Waxman, Brian Bergman, Terrence Gomes, Marj Safinia, Barry Levine, Gerald Chavarria, Roy Nwaiser, Doug Fitzsimmons, Ann Hammond, Nahed Guirguis, Caitlin Lowe, Gary Garcia

**Board Members Absent:** Robyn Braun, Joe Gjonola, Baila Romm, Anne Gross, Adam Wheeler, Susan Burden

**Guests:** Rose Ibanez, Mark Davis, Oliver Summers, Lottie Williams

## II. General Public Comment

Doug urged all throughout the meeting to keep comments as concise as possible, in the interests of time, and cautioned that we might not be able to get through the full agenda as the meeting needed to adjourn at or shortly after 9:00 p.m.

Ann said nearly all Board members had successfully completed the ethics training, and we expect to reach 100% shortly.

Doug clarified points regarding the Brown Act. He said following requirements of the Brown Act ensures all our discussions are in public. We can have no discussion as an assembly without agendaing an item and publicizing at least 72 hours in advance that discussion is planned. This requirement applies to all Committees except Ad Hoc. A meeting is a gathering of more than seven Board members; thus, if eight Board members are gathered and discuss issues relevant to the Board without the required advance announcement, this is an actionable violation of the Brown Act and can trigger severe penalties. This requirement applies to email communications as well. Doug also explained the concept and definition of serial meetings and gave an example. He added that polling on any item is not acceptable under the Brown Act; if a Community report triggers an issue of interest to us, we cannot pursue debate or polling; we can only ask questions. Rose added that the whole purpose is to have more transparency so that stakeholders can know what we will be discussing.

## III. Old Business

**a. Draft Special Board Meeting Minutes of December 17, 2009 (Hammond/ GB121709-1).** Ann read proposed amendments to the draft minutes to reflect decisions taken and moved to approve amendments;



Doug seconded. **Proposed amendments approved unanimously.** Barry moved to approve the draft minutes, as amended; Marj seconded. Doug clarified that an abstention does not count in tallying a vote. **Draft minutes, as amended, approved unanimously.**

**b. Draft General Board Meeting Minutes of November 19, 2009 (Hammond/ GB121709-2).** Doug moved to approve the draft minutes, Ann seconded. **Draft minutes approved unanimously.**

Gary asked for agenda item GB121709-6 to be moved up to accommodate the schedule of the parent volunteer.

#### **IV. Community Reports**

**a. Office of Councilmember Wesson (Carlin).** Doug reported that Liz Carlin was unable to attend tonight's meeting.

**b. Office of Councilmember Koretz (Davis).** Mark reported there is sewer work on Robertson south of Pico; if questions arise, he asked that people call the Council-member's office. Construction will shut down some offices on Robertson. The campaign to have businesses "adopt" trash bins has been successful; 80 bins will be stationed along Pico, Robertson, and side streets; these will be locked up, and businesses will have their names posted on the bins so they know who is responsible. Mark conveyed the Councilmember's congratulations to the Hamilton High team and said he wants to help out wherever possible. Gerald asked about temporary parking restrictions posted just north of Guthrie; signs were up all week, saying people would be towed, but the work was not done until the end of the week. Gerald said parking is a big issue in Zone 4, and these postings aggravated the situation. Marj said she was surprised that Councilmember Koretz's comments and positions about medical marijuana seemed to reflect closely views of medical marijuana establishments but did not seem equally cognizant of community concerns. As Chair of the Outreach Committee, she invited the Councilmember to learn more about the community's views. Mark said the Councilmember is in favor of medical marijuana.

**c. Office of the Mayor (Badger).** No report was made as no representative was present.

**d. Office of Senator Price (Bernal).** No report was made as no representative was present.

**e. LAPD (Gray & Gonzalez).** Doug reported that the Senior Lead Officers were unable to attend tonight's meeting.

**f. Robertson Recreation Center (Powers).** [Report made after Treasurer's Report] Brooke distributed copies of the Winter 2010 Rec Center newsletter. She said this is the last week of classes and the first week of both basketball and RAL. She announced the Child Care Center is having show at 6:30 tomorrow night.

**g. DONE (Ibanez).** Rose distributed two flyers.



## VI. New Business

Jon asked for agenda item GB121709-6 to be moved up to accommodate the schedule of the parent volunteer.

**c. Motion to request SoRo, Inc. to fund \$250 for Hamilton High School Football Awards Dinner (Levine/GB121709-6).** Charlie Wilhelm, a parent volunteer, summarized main points of the letter he wrote, attached to the motion, and asked for the Board's help in funding the banquet. Marj asked if SoRo, Inc. were prepared to pay, if asked; Barry said yes. Gerald asked about other sources of funds that might be available; Mr. Wilhelm said this was the first time such a banquet had been arranged, so it was not certain. He clarified that about 15 to 20 of the students would not be able to pay the \$40 cost for the banquet, so the need is for about \$800 plus the cost of trophies. Terry asked about money that had been raised previously (\$2500) for the High School to have trophies and a banquet; where did the money go? There was no immediate answer. It was clarified that SoRo, Inc. would make the check out to the Hamilton Football Club. Paul moved to approve the motion; Ann seconded. **Motion approved unanimously.**

**b. Motion to send a letter of commendation to the Alexander Hamilton High School Football Team (Lieberman/GB232709-5).** Jon introduced the motion. Ann moved to approve it; Roy seconded. **Motion approved unanimously.** Gerald suggested our City Councilmembers also be asked to prepare a motion of commendation; Jon will follow up.

**a. Motion to approve up to \$4,400 to enhance operations of Fire Station #58 (Bock/Hammond/GB121709-4).** Ann introduced the motion. Station #58 Captain Larson explained that GSD owns the Fire Station building; if something breaks, the firemen assigned to the station pay for repairs or replacements out of their own pockets. There are many items the City does not provide. For example, pots, pans silverware, and utensils are all the responsibility of the firemen, and their beds are replaced only every 12 years or so; to cover these types of items, the firemen purchase every meal they eat at the Station and add a little more money for household items. During the past two years, the firemen have started some major projects. They tiled the kitchen floor and front office; and one fireman built and installed desks in their front office. Some materials for these projects were donated, and the firemen paid for some items themselves. One fireman, Jeremy, is a master electrician, and would undertake installation of the proposed light fixtures. Bette said she was part of adopt a fire station program; part of that agreement was to look at the overall picture of Fire Station needs. She asked about plans for a pancake breakfast; Captain Larson said they do not have sufficient room at the Station to hold such an event. Bette said about a Fire Station commitment to joint activities with SORO NC; Captain Larson said that commitment remains. Terry said the Captains said they would mentor at-risk youth, but never came up with it for RAL. Terry added that the Fire Station floor was put in by 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox. Bette said that nothing she and Terry were saying should be taken to mean that the NC is not supportive of the Fire Station. Nahed asked why the Fire Department was not at Peace Picnic and did not bring chili. Gerald said he wanted to echo concerns about the



SORO NC relationship with the Fire Station to be a two-way commitment, and he asked what work had already been done, specifically, are the requested items replacements? Captain Larson said some of the items are replacement; some are items the city would never buy. Harold moved to approve the motion, Jon seconded. It was clarified funding would come from the Public Safety budget. Some of the tools are for rig maintenance; with the city's budget crisis, trucks are waiting in line to be repaired. They are trying to keep the rig going so they can protect the community. **Vote: 16-Y, 0-N, 1-A. Motion approved.** Bette asked for a report on the Fire Station's community involvement; Ann committed it would be forthcoming.

(Gary temporarily out of room.)

**d. Motion to approve outreach letter and reimburse copying costs to board members (Safinia/GB121709-7).** Marj introduced the motion and asked to strike the second part of it, i.e., to reimburse up to \$200 from the Operations budget for costs associated with printing and replicating the letter for distribution. Roy suggested to strike the part about zone representation because once you are a Board member, you represent everyone. Gerald will translate the flyer into Spanish. It will be printed two-sided, in color. Bette moved to approve the flyer; Marj seconded. **Motion approved unanimously.**

(Gary returns)

### III Committee Reports

**a. Executive Committee (Fitzsimmons).** Doug said that Ann will email the Board with our meeting dates for 2010, asking Board members to spend the next month looking in detail at the dates to make sure we are all okay with them. The aim is to avoid people not being able to attend meetings for religious reasons. Then we will vote at the January meeting and all be in accord. (b) Doug asked the City for an extension of time to consider the election packet. He noted there are errors. (c) The Executive Committee talked about ways to clarify some funding motions, and would like to introduce a separate template for funding motions that would require the person submitting the motion to fill in which budget category the money would come from. Doug will post the form on our website. DONE is under enormous pressure to get funding motions through; ours sometimes get hung up for extensive periods of time. Doug said that, If Board members have questions, they should talk with Terry in advance. Doug strongly suggested everyone share motions with Terry for advice; it is not for his personal agreement on the substance, but rather to ensure administrative compliance, based on his opinion whether it can be funded. When motions are presented, Doug will ask Terry first if there are any concerns from a budgetary perspective.

**b. Treasurer's Report (Gomes/GB121709-3).** Terry distributed a one-page budget summary; he reported that \$78,982 is available. He said he and Jon had met with DONE to determine what had happened with paperwork on some financial requests for payment, and they made recommendations to DONE on possible processing improvements. He also asked questions about what has been funded; in some cases,



places received money but the program has not proceeded. Terry will copy Rose on everything in future. Jon added we can bypass a month's wait on a motion if we attach a resolution. Jon added that expectations are that it takes at least 20 working days from the time a motion reaches their desks until a check is cut. Jon said we are very lucky to have Rose who helps to make sure things get done. Rose invited all Board members to contact her; she will let EC know on reply so everyone is on the same page.

**c. Land Use & Economic Development (Bergman).** Brian reported the Committee had met with representatives who are developing a new community development plan for South Robertson between the 10 freeway and Cadillac; Brian will send this in pdf to the Board. Brian said the Committee would be coming back to the Land Use committee in February, so the SORO NC Board would need to look at all the proposals at its January meeting. He emphasized this was a very important proposal. Brian added that Gil Cheron, who had attended the November Board meeting and reported the imminent opening of a medical marijuana facility, attended the Land Use Committee meeting, but no Committee action on this facility or issue was either requested or taken. Marj added that the City Council has been working hard on medical marijuana issues; the focus has been on offsets. Brian said that Councilmember Paul Koretz will attend the January Land Use Committee meeting, and he and Marj urged all Board members to attend as it is important for people to know what their councilmember thinks about issues important to them. Brian added that there are police reports of a break-in at a medical marijuana clinic within SORO boundaries, and he will look at those reports.

**d. Education (Levine & Braun).** Barry reported no meeting had been held during the last month.

**e. Green Team (Waxman & Hess).** Paula reported the Team has a new member, Erin, who will take charge of the Hamilton garden. This Monday, between 11 and 2, the Team will be working in garden. The next project is January 23<sup>rd</sup> at Hamilton. Larry Hess is continuing to work with Councilmember's Koretz's office to get trees planted on Robertson. Doug asked if it is possible to get more mature trees; Paula said they more expensive. Brian asked why they don't rip out trees on the Beverlywood side; Doug said it is because of electrical wires.

**f. Public Safety (Bock & Hammond).** Harold said there was nothing to report in addition to the motion considered this evening.

**g. Outreach (Safinia).** Marj said there was nothing to report in addition to the motion considered this evening.

**h. Board Development (Hammond).** Ann said there was nothing to report: this ad hoc Committee has not met recently.

## **VIII Adjournment**

Doug adjourned the meeting at 9:13 p.m.