



General Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 19, 2010, 7:00pm
Hamilton Senior High School Cafeteria
2955 S. Robertson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90034

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Doug called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm.

Members present: Rachel Lester, Kimber Smith, Harold Bock, Robyn Braun, Bette Billet, Michael Lynn, Joe Gjonola, Paula Waxman, Brian Kite, Nahed Guirguis, Terry Gomes, Gerald Chavarria, Barry Levine, Marj Safinia, Martin Epstein, Sue Burden, Doug Fitzsimmons, and Victor Mitry.

Total members present (18).

Members absent: Ben Bellet.

Guests: Sat Purkha Khalsa

II. General Public Comment

Rachel made comments.

III. Old Business

- a. **(GB 081910-1) Draft General Board Meeting Minutes of July 15th.**
Some name and grammatical corrections were made. Terry moved for a vote, Robyn seconded.

Vote: Yes-16, Approved.

Abstained: Joe Gjonola and Sue Burden.

- b. **(GB 081910-2) Treasurer's report and vote to approve monthly expenses**
Terry informed us that the Department of Neighborhood Empower (DONE) cannot find the demand warrants for the Fire Department, Hami Garden and the ER pavilion. Other Neighborhood Councils (NCs) have also made various recommendations to the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (BONC) about the funding issues.

Kimber asked about the \$17, 900 balance versus the unallocated amount. Terry explained that a generic budget was made because DONE did not have hard numbers actual costs. Terry further informed the \$17,500 was left from the \$45,000.00 budget which included the three main categories.

Marj inquired as to the scheduling of the budget meeting. Terry and Doug suggested for us to wait until further information was available. Marj also asked about the motion regarding the banners, which Elizabeth Carlin with Council District 10 (CD-10), resolved the issue.

Marj moved for a vote. Robyn seconded.

Vote: Unanimous. Approved.

Doug Fitzsimmons
President

Brian Kite
Vice-President

Gerald Chavarria
Secretary

Terrence Gomes
Treasurer

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Neighborhoods Council**

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IV. Community Reports

Doug informed the speakers and reminded the board that these reports would be kept on a time constraint as agreed upon at the board training session. Doug gave three minutes for each report and any subsequent Questions/Answers.

- a. **Office of Councilmember Wesson- Carlin;**
Carlin informed that a new Department of Water and Power (DWP) schedule was available and distributed related literature. She also announced the upcoming festival in Little Ethiopia, and invited all to attend. CD-10 found a funding source to maintain the medium on Venice Boulevard. The contract will be expedited after September.
- b. **Office of Councilmember Koretz- Weiser;**
Weiser reiterated the new water rates. Council District 5 (CD-5) has received calls about Robertson Library (RL) being closed on Sundays. Library representatives met with CD-5 to discuss that the RL will consider closing on Sunday rather than Saturday to satisfy the Jewish stakeholders. Weiser has also been making calls to ensure the RL garden is kept up.
- c. **Office of the Mayor-Badger;**
Not represented.
- d. **Office of Senator Price-Bernal;**
Not represented.
- e. **LAPD Report;**
Not Represented
- f. **Robertson Recreation Center-Powers;**
Brooke Powers informed us that next week would be the last week of camp and the kids would go two weeks without the program. The Robertson Recreation Center (RRC) is looking to take over the childcare program, but they are unlicensed. Powers reminded all of us to attend the Peace Picnic. She also announce that this would be her last meeting (Powers will be getting married and pursuing other goals).

Doug reminded all about the great job Brooke Powers has been doing. Powers gave a sentimental farewell.

V. Committee Reports

- a. **Executive (XC)- Fitzsimmons;**
The goal-setting exercise was discussed and asked the board to think about the objectives for the year. Doug asked all to consider three projects people may want to consider and bring it up for discussion at the next board meeting.
- b. **Land Use & Economic Development (LU & ED)- Vacant Chair position;**
A Chairperson has yet to be nominated. However, Terry and Marj commented on an issues regarding the farmer's market at La Cienega Plaza (La Cienega Blvd. & 18th St.), and the new rail line posing accessibility problems with the handicapped.



Terry informed that Caliber Collision Center (CCC) has made strides in their clean-up efforts (CCC had been investigated by the Building and Safety De

Bette and Terry commented on Quimby and Prop "K" funds to be used for Century City expansion.

c. Education (EC)- Levine/Williams;

On August 29th a barbeque will be held for the mentors and anticipates they will have between 20 and 28 members.

d. Green Team (GT)- Waxman/Hess;

Paula stated would like to move the GT meeting on 9/15 due to Rosh Hashanah. No objections were made. Paula also announced the regular schedule for the Hami Garden would be Mondays and Wednesdays through September 13th, 12pm to 2pm and Sundays 12pm to 2pm. Robertson cleanups, one each season.

Paula suggested in making the Hami Garden part of the Robertson Revitalization, but Marj objected. Paula suggested for all of us to visit the "Green School" on Kincardine and to throw trash in appropriate bins. She also introduced six workshops from "Sustainable works" where 200 were in attendance.

e. Public Safety (PS)- Vacant Chair position;

Committee nominated Harold and Michael as co-chairs (although no motion was presented) and introduced the motion to fund the Peace Picnic. The Monday meeting moved to Wednesday due to the Labor Day Holiday.

f. Outreach (OC)- Vacant Chair position;

Marjan and Kimber were nominated as co-chairs and submitted a motion. A Director of Events position was created to coordinate such issues. Martin Epstein was named the liaison between the OC and Peace Picnic committee.

Other topics discussed were the Robertson revitalization goals and the emergency preparedness town hall. Marj, Gerald, and a city representative have been in communication to make the event happen.

g. Bylaws (BC)- Fitzsimmons;

No meeting was held.

VI. New Business

a. (GB081910-3) Nominations of Kimber Smith and Marjan Safinia as Co-Chairs of the Outreach Committee.

Kimber Smith and Marj Safinia were nominated.

No public comment

Terry moved for a vote, Brian seconded

Vote: 17 Yes / 0 No / 1 Abstention

Motion passes

Marj stated that as co-chairs, she and Kimber will be equally responsible for the committee. Doug suggested for each committee to organize themselves. Brian suggested for any changes be included in the By-laws.



b. (GB081910-4) Nominations of official representatives to the LADWP Oversight Committee.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the DWP calls for the NCs to act as advisory body on rate hikes and policy making.

Bette commented that DWP historically planned to raise rates, Paula reminded us of their inconsistent meeting schedules.

Gerald, Harold, and Michael nominated themselves. Martin asked for more explanation on schedule to make a decision.

There were too many unanswered questions and many agreed to delay the vote to next month. All the nominees were invited to attend the up-coming DWP meeting.

Vote to table: Unanimous.
Motion tabled.

c. (GB081910-5) Motion to create ad-hoc committee focused on the economic revitalization of the South Robertson Corridor.

Marj commented on the motion as having a “big vision.” Having the committee ad hoc makes provides flexibility to meet and confer.

Doug reminded all about the six board member limit for the meetings.

Gerald inquired on the notion of making the committee a sub-committee. Marj and Doug stated that as an ad hoc, it frees the committee from the parent committee and allows for more drive.

Terry moved for a vote. Michael seconded.

Vote: Unanimous.
Motion approved.

d. (GB081910-6) Motion to fund Peace Picnic 2010 for up to \$1140.00.

This motion created some debate regarding the funding, appropriateness of some board members in relation to the Peace Picnic. For the sake of clarity, member statements are listed:

Marjan Safinia:

- Reviewed the motion and stated that last year the PS and OR split the funding, and that the bifurcated approach has worked. Traditionally, the event has drawn 200 or so people.
- Suggested for all to review the flyer (not enough copies were available for the members)
- Suggested to hire a company do the flyer distribution (NC would not fund this).
- Felt uncomfortable about the theme of the “WAR” being appropriate.
- Suggested to have Sat and Kimber arrange for a speaker.
- Mentioned that the city will not fund the event if it is believed that some board members should have recused themselves from voting.

Sat Purkha Khalsa:

- Assured the board that there would be a greater outreach effort and would decide on an ideal date for the event.



- Costs would be reduced for a lack of funding.
- The event will take place with or without NC funding because they have received other donations from other sources, and the garbage issue will be mitigated.
- Assured that no political agenda for the event and only general peace issues would be focused.
- With no conflicting events from other faith-based organizations, he expects greater attendance this year.
- Trash collection would not be provided by CD-10.
- Furnished a table with quotes and associated costs for the event.
- Current vendor has brought down the cost of the sound system to \$300.00

Harold Bock:

- The PS committee supports the event and sees it as a learning tool for future event coordination.
- Harold recused himself from voting on the motion after Doug advised the board of the potential for a “conflict of interest.”
- Initially protested on the comment made by Doug, but then protested against the city attorney’s office.

Bette Billet:

- Concerned that the NC would be funding a greater percentage of money this year, and asked if there were other sources of funding.
- Expressed a lack of confidence in the success of the event due to the late start as compared to last year.
- Requested for updates from Martin (liaison).

Michael Lynn:

- Made a point of order that the money is earmarked for advertisement and the sound system. Any other would not be paid.

Terry Gomes:

- Expressed concern over the price of the signs.
- Mentioned that the salaries for the staff cannot be paid using NC funds.
- Mentioned that Martin is the representative for the OC and not the entire board.
- Suggested to Harold, Nahed, and Martin it may be prudent to recuse themselves based on the city attorney’s advice at the time.

Brook Powers:

- Stated they have the ability to recycle and separate the trash. Brook stated that burden on the RCC to deal with trash issue from the event.
- She would hire less people if the funding for salaries was reduced.
- Two to three part-time staff members to work the entire day including doing the heavy lifting, and clarified that only the RCC funds the staff salaries.
- Does not see the funding as just giving away money

Kimber Smith:

- Asked for clarification on the strategy used for the outreach effort such as canvassing the neighborhood.



Doug Fitzsimmons:

- Doug cited the SORO festival, namely the point that board members are part of the committee and the potential for a conflict of interest this issue may pose for the city attorney.
- Suggested to Harold, Nahed, and Martin it may be prudent to recuse themselves based on the city attorney's advice.

Martin Epstein:

- A timetable for the event will be presented at a later date.
- Informed that next Thursday a meeting will be held where updates will be presented.

Nahed Guirguis:

- Reminded that some Board members that were also part of the SORO Festival planning committee and voted to fund the SORO Festival.
- Clarified that she and Harold are members of the planning committee and wants clarification of the appropriateness of their position in voting for the picnic funding.
- Peace picnic is not a legal entity and members should be allowed to vote (seeks language in the by-laws delineate this issue in the future).

Robyn Braun:

- Asked about legal consequences in voting on the motion.

Gerald Chavarria:

- Mentioned that the vendor could no longer provide the sound system free of charge and offered a quote for \$450.00 (Tribe audio).
- Opined that as leaders of our community, we have to make individual choices based on our values and ethics. Although Doug merely reminded us of the potential for a conflict of interest, he is not suggesting that we should see it as such.

Gerald moved for a vote. Robyn seconded.

Vote: 9 Yes / 5 No / 1 Abstain / 3 Recues

Motion approved

VII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:01pm.



Board Vote Tally Sheet

Meeting: Thursday, June 17, 2010, 7:00pm
Hamilton Senior High School Cafeteria
2955 S. Robertson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90034

Y: yes | N: no | A: abstain | R: recues | X: missed vote
Put a check next to Board members attending the meeting.

Motion	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15
Rachel Lester	Y	Y	Y	-	Y	N									
Kimber Smith	Y	Y	Y	-	Y	Y									
Harold Bock	Y	Y	Y	-	Y	R									
Robyn Braun	Y	Y	Y	-	Y	Y									
Bette Billet	Y	Y	Y	-	Y	N									
Michael Lynn	Y	Y	Y	-	Y	Y									
Zone 7															
Joe Gjonola	A	Y	Y	-	Y	N									
Paula Waxman	Y	Y	Y	-	Y	N									
Zone 10															
Brian Kite	Y	Y	Y	-	Y	Y									
Nahed Guirguis	Y	Y	A	-	Y	R									
Terry Gomes	Y	Y	Y	-	Y	N									
Ben Bellet	-	-	-	-	-	-									
Gerald Chavarria	Y	Y	Y	-	Y	Y									
Barry Levine	Y	Y	Y	-	Y	Y									
Marj Safinia	Y	Y	Y	-	Y	Y									
Martin Epstein	Y	Y	Y	-	Y	R									
Business 5															
Sue Burden	A	Y	Y	-	Y	A									
Doug Fitzsimmons	Y	Y	Y	-	Y	Y									
Victor Mitry	Y	Y	Y	-	Y	Y									
School 1															
School 2															

Doug Fitzsimmons
President

Brian Kite
Vice-President

Gerald Chavarria
Secretary

Terrence Gomes
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Motions

01: Draft minutes (July/2010)

02: Treasurer's Report

03: Co-Chair Outreach Committee

Notes: Board member Ben Bellet was absent. Item 04 was tabled.

04: LADWP Representative

05: Ad-Hoc Committee-Robertson Corridor

06: Peace Picnic funding