



General Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 20, 2013, 7:00pm

Simon Wiesenthal Center, 3rd Floor

1399 S. Roxbury Dr., Los Angeles, CA 90035 (Pico and Roxbury)

I. Call to Order & Roll Call

SORO NC Board President, Doug Fitzsimmons, called the meeting to order at 7:22 PM.

Board Members Present (17): Kimber Smith, Robyn Braun, Bette Billet, Michael Lynn, Jon Liberman, Ellen Lanet, Paula Waxman, Michael Bloom, Bethie Kohanbash, David Mattis, Brian Kite, Barry Levine, Terrence Gomes, Hector Garza, Victor Mitry, Doug Fitzsimmons and Grant Cohen - newly appointed board member filling an empty seat.

Board Members Absent (6): Kevin Gres, Beth Ryan, Nahed Guirguis, Susan Burden, Marj Safinia, Martin Epstein.

II. General Public Comment

- a. President Doug Fitzsimmons acknowledged Councilmember Paul Koretz and thanked him for attending.

III. Applicant for open Board seat

- a. School Seat 1 (partial term expiring 2014): Grant Cohen
 - i. Was considered after Community Reports once quorum was reached.
 - ii. Grant indicated that he has been active on the Public Safety Committee and serves as a block captain. Looking to get more involved in neighborhood now that family is expanding.
 - iii. Motion moved by Doug Fitzsimmons and seconded by Mike Lynn.
 - iv. Grant Cohen was appointed to the board by general consensus.

II. Community Reports

- a. LA Police Department (Ballesteros & Gonzalez)
 - i. Mario Gonzales indicated that there has been a rash of burglaries over the last three to four months. Suspect is a well-dressed African American male pretending to sell things.
 - ii. LAPD met with Castle Heights last week. Mario urged better communication between the neighbors and police. LAPD relies on information from the public to solve crimes. Urged members of the community to report suspicious activity. LAPD unfortunately does not have resources to maintain an active presence on Facebook and other social media to give updates to the public.
 - iii. Kimber informed officer Gonzales that she has seen several men who appear to be casing the neighborhood on Shenandoah in Zone 2. She has seen men on several occasions that do not appear to be from the neighborhood parked and observing the street for hours.
 - iv. Mario noted other recent area crimes in the area including a "knock-knock" robbery. Suspect entered from the rear of the home. Housekeeper was sent to another room at gunpoint while home was ransacked. In a separate incident, a woman at a bus stop on National and Venice was robbed of her cell phone and purse.

Doug Fitzsimmons
President

Brian Kite
Vice-President

Terrence Gomes
Treasurer

Beth Ryan
Secretary

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- b. Office of Council President Wesson (Carlin) – Liz was unable to attend meeting.
- c. Office of Councilmember Koretz (Bradkin)
 - i. Tania Bradkin, Field Deputy for Councilmember Koretz, congratulated the community on the SoRo Fest and expressed pride in the community.
 - ii. She gave updates on personnel issues at the Robertson Recreation Center and indicated that training will begin soon for appropriate members to have access to the Rec Center for meetings independent of park staff.
 - iii. Tania recently completed P.A.T.H. training for homelessness and now has access to greater information and services to address issues on Robertson.
 - iv. Tania thanked Doug Fitzsimmons, LAPD, Susan Bursk for organizing last week's meeting in Castle Heights. She noted that the neighborhood would form volunteer surveillance teams.
 - v. Tonia updated the board that she is working with Kimber Smith to explore a Permit Parking District in Zone 2 and a stop sign at Cashio and Wooster. Terry Gomes asked if the moratorium on PPDs has been lifted. Tania clarified that the moratorium has not been lifted, however, she is working with Kimber to understand the process and to be prepared for when PPDs are again being considered.
 - vi. Tania invited board members to contribute items to the CD5 newsletter.
- d. Councilmember Paul Koretz
 - i. Councilmember Koretz gave an update on the City budget. Additional income was found and was placed in the General Fund for tree trimming, and street and alley repairs. No furloughs or layoffs were required and a \$50 Million Budget Stability Fund was created. There is hope the city will be back on track in a couple of years.
- e. Office of Assemblymember Bloom (Cohen)
 - i. Stephanie Cohen, Field Representative for Assemblymember Richard Bloom gave an update on two bills regarding the Homeless and Fracking indicating that both bills are held up in committee.
 - ii. Glad to announce State budget has passed.
 - iii. Stephanie encouraged members to reach out to her on any state level constituent services including Employment issues and DMV.
 - iv. Stephanie introduced Ellen Moy, new District Representative for Assemblymember Holly Mitchell.
 - v. Stephanie also announced a senior scam stopping event in Plummer Park on August 9th and Brentwood in October; an Affordable Care Act Town Hall in September, and a Gun Safety/Mental Health Awareness Town Hall in the fall due to the Santa Monica College tragedy.
- f. Office of Assemblymember Mitchell (Moy)
 - i. Ellen Moy, new District Representative for Assemblymember Holly Mitchell invited members to call on her regarding any state level issues. She distributed a one-pager on the Assemblymember's legislative package.
 - ii. Ellen invited community to attend "Christmas In July" event at Kenneth Hahn Park. Boardmember Ellen Lanet informed Ellen that much of the Westside is Jewish and suggested finding a more inclusive event name than "Christmas". Ellen indicated they will work on it.
- g. Other Neighborhood, City and State offices



III. Community Recognition

- a. Bursk Community Leadership Award Nominees: Charmaine Colina, Larry DeMers, Terrence Gomes, Erick Morales, Aubry Provost, and Celine Sotel
 - i. Councilmember Paul Koretz gifted official LA City commendations to Susan Bursk Community Leadership Award Nominees present: Terrence Gomes, Erick Morales, and Aubry Provost.
 - ii. Boardmembers accepted certificates on behalf of: Larry DeMers, Celine Sotelo, and Charmaine Colina.

- b. Councilmember Paul Koretz gifted official LA City commendations to SoRo Community Festival committee volunteers: Stephanie Marquez, and Ann Hammond. Stephanie Marquez accepted on behalf of Christel Wilson and thanked members of the board and community for support.

IV. Approval of Minutes

- a. Draft meeting minutes for May 20, 2013 (Ryan / GB062013-1)
 - Moved by Mike Lynn, seconded by Jon Liberman.
 - Amended minutes were unanimously approved by general consensus. (17 board members voted)

V. Committee Reports

- a. Confirmation of Board committee memberships and absence requests (GB062013-2)
 - Kimber Smith requested to be added to the NPG committee.
 - All committee additions were unanimously approved by general consensus. (17 board members voted)
- b. President's report
 - i. Doug noted that Beth Ryan is planning a retreat for July and advised committees to consider "Big Idea" topics in meetings.
- c. Treasurer's report and approval of monthly expenses (Gomes / GB062013-3)
 - i. Terry advised that \$566.14 from the SORO NC account was sent back to the General Fund. Per question for Barry Levine, Terry advised board how much other NCs sent back to the General Fund.
 - ii. Financial training requirements
 - iii. New debit card and checking account on track for July 1st.
 - iv. Doug noted that everyone voting on funding issues will need to complete training on fiscal policies. Doug will confirm whether or not this could affect quorum.
 - v. Per question from Barry Levine, board was reminded that a committee chaired by Terry was established to define and set up process for considering NPG grant requests from the community. Terry confirmed that the committee will meet soon.
 - vi. P-Card report
 - Motion was moved by Doug Fitzsimmons and seconded by Terrence Gomes.
 - Motion was approved by the board.
 - Vote count was: (16 YES/0 NO/1 Abstain)
- d. Upcoming committee events and legislative issues
 - i. Mike Lynn, Co-chair of Public Safety, updated board on upcoming Neighborhood Watch/Emergency Prep team outreach meeting to be held August or September at an area synagogue.
 - ii. Public Safety committees Emergency Safety Fair on schedule for October 20th.

VI. Unfinished Business

- a. Motion to support a height variance at 1500 S Beverly Drive (Land Use / GB052013-7)



- Motion was tabled as applicant was not in attendance.

VII. New Business

Doug apologized for the motions not being posted in the required 72 hours in advance of the meeting. He advised that new motions could be deferred until July or considered in the current meeting by suspending the standing rule.

- Jon Liberman raised a Point of Order that motions not be heard and meeting adjourned.
 - Barry made a motion to suspend the standing rule for the evening. Ellen Lanet seconded this motion.
 - Motion was approved by the board.
- a. Motion to request changes to the City Council mural ordinance (Fitzsimmons / GB062013-4)
- i. Motion moved by Mike Lynn and seconded by Terrence Gomes.

A lengthy discussion occurred in which concerns over 'by right' and 'homeowner's rights'

AMENDED MOTION I & II

Amendment to item I: That the final ordinance not enshrine a by-right provision for murals in R1 (Residential) zones and all low-density residential properties (less than 5 units), per the Planning Department's own recommendation. Amendment was offered and withdrawn by Jon Liberman.

Amendment to item II: That it include provisions for individual areas/Neighborhood Councils to work with the City to establish overlay zones that would allow and/or require NC or Area Planning Commission review of new mural installations. Amendment was offered by Ellen Lanet and withdrawn as no consensus was reached on language.

Doug made a motion to split items I & II from item III.

- Doug Fitzsimmons moved to consider Amended I & II and seconded by Terrence Gomes.
- Motion was approved by the board.
- Vote Count was: (13 YES/4 NO/0 Abstain).

MOTION III

- Motion was moved by Doug Fitzsimmons and seconded by Jon Liberman
 - Motion was approved unanimously by general consensus of the board with 17 board members voting.
- b. Motion to have City Council open a Council file to place NC Representatives on the Executive Employee Relations Committee (EERC) and to make the proceedings transparent (Gomes / GB062013-5)
- i. Tania Bradkin noted that Councilmember Koretz has not taken a position on the issue yet.

MOTION

- Motion was moved by Terrence Gomes and seconded by Doug Fitzsimmons.
- Amended Motion was approved by the board.
- Vote count was: (9 YES/5 NO/2 Abstain)



AMENDMENT - Doug moved to strike second paragraph dealing with appointment of 7 NC members.

- Amended Motion was moved by Doug Fitzsimmons and seconded by Terrence Gomes.
- Amendment was unanimously approved by general consensus. (16 board members voted)

VIII. Adjournment

The SORO NC Board President, Doug Fitzsimmons, adjourned the meeting at 10 PM.

Current Committee Membership

Board members must attend at least 7 committee meetings within a 12 month period.

Note that Bylaws, Robertson 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	Robertson Revital	Board Dev	NPG	Parks & Rec
Kevin Gres	Co												
Kimber Smith				Co									
Beth Ryan											Ch		
Robyn Braun													
Bette Billet													
Michael Lynn					Co								
Jon Liberman						Co							
Ellen Lanet						Co							
Paula Waxman		Ch											
Michael Bloom					Co								
Bethie Kohanbash													
Nahed Guirguis													
David Mattis													
Brian Kite									Ch				Co
Barry Levine	Co												
Susan Burden													
Marj Safinia				Co						Ch			
Terrence Gomes			Co				Ch						Ch
Martin Epstein													
Hector Garza													
Victor Mitry			Co										
Org 3													
Doug Fitzsimmons								Ch					Co
Grant Cohen													
School Seat 2													



Board Vote Tally Sheet

Meeting Date: June 20, 2013

Votes taken	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10
Kevin Gres	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Kimber Smith	C	C	C	A	Y	Y	Y	C	A	C
Beth Ryan	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Robyn Braun	C	C	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	C	Y	C
Bette Billet	C	C	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	C	N	C
Michael Lynn	2C	1C	X	Y	Y	1Y	Y	1C	X	X
Jon Liberman	C	2C	C	Y	N	Y	2Y	C	Y	C
Ellen Lanet	C	C	C	Y	Y	N	N	C	Y	C
Paula Waxman	C	C	C	Y	N	Y	Y	C	N	C
Michoel Bloom	C	C	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	C	Y	C
Bethie Kohanbash	C	C	C	Y	Y	Y	A	C	Y	C
Nahed Guirguis	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
David Mattis	C	C	C	Y	Y	N	Y	C	N	C
Brian Kite	C	C	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	C	N	C
Barry Levine	C	C	C	Y	1Y	N	N	C	1Y	C
Susan Burden	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Marj Safinia	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Terrence Gomes	C	C	2C	2Y	2Y	2Y	Y	2C	1Y	2C
Martin Epstein	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Hector Garza	C	C	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	C	Y	C
Victor Mity	C	C	C	Y	N	Y	Y	C	N	C
Org 3	X	X								
Doug Fitzsimmons	1C	C	1C	1Y	Y	Y	1Y	C	A	1C
Grant Cohen	X	X	C	Y	Y	N	Y	C	2Y	C
School Seat 2	X	X								

Votes taken

1. Grant Cohen Election
2. Draft minutes (GB062013-1)
3. Confirmation of Board committee memberships and absence requests (GB062013-2)
4. Treasurer's report and approval of monthly expenses (GB041813-3)
5. Motion to suspend
6. Motion to request changes to the City Council mural ordinance (Fitzsimmons / GB062013-4) Parts I & II
7. Amendment for City Council mural ordinance (Fitzsimmons / GB062013-4)
8. Motion to request changes to the City Council mural ordinance (Fitzsimmons / GB062013-4) Parts III



9. Motion to have City Council open a Council file to place NC Representatives on the Executive Employee Relations Committee (EERC) (Gomes / GB062013-5)
10. Amendment to strike paragraph 2 of EERC motion (GB06202013-5)