



General Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 20, 2014, 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 Board President, Doug Fitzsimmons, called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.

Board Members Present (19): Kevin Gres, Beth Ryan, Robyn Braun, Bette Billet, Michael Lynn, Jon Liberman, Ellen Lanet, Paula Waxman, Michael Bloom, Nahed Guirguis, Brian Kite, Barry Levine, Susan Burden, Marj Safinia, Terrence Gomes, Martin Epstein, Victor Mitry, Doug Fitzsimmons, Grant Cohen.

Board Members Absent (5): Kimber Smith, Daniel Boethin, David Mattis, Jessica Kurzban and Sarah Sabin.

II. General Public Comment

- a. Marj Safinia shared that on March 1st there will be a full day of film screenings at the Writers Guild Theater. For more details, go to: Documentary.org/docuday
- b. Doug Fitzsimmons commented on the recent shootings in neighborhood and the increase in violence. He reported that the Worksmen's Circle mural was defaced two weeks ago.
- c. Terry Gomes and Jon Liberman will be recognized in city council for their work with the We Build program.

III. Community Reports

- a. **LA Police Department (Senior Lead Officer Mario Gonzalez)**
 - At 2812 S Robertson on February 17th in the morning, two hispanics were involved in an altercation with another victim. Also, Office Depot was burglarized during the night and Worksmens Circle mural was defaced.
 - 2000 Corning Street there was a shooting on February 19th. Four individuals were outside facing west bound. A car came Southbound from Guthrie and shot 9 rounds hitting two of the males. Both victims were transported to Cedars Sinai and required surgery. One man was 50-years old and the other victim was 30-years old. Neither victim saw anything and neither are involved in gang activity. A witness saw a dark colored 4-door VolksWagon.
 - Additional LAPD cars have been assigned to the community with the increase in activity.
- b. **Office of Mayor Garcetti (Daniel Tamm)**
 - Budget discussions have been taking place throughout the city over the past few weeks.
- c. **Office of Assemblymember Sebastian Ridley Thomas (Scott Maslin)**
 - Maslin recently was hired by Riddley Thomas. He was a former mayor of Culver City where he faced similar issues facing the westside and has a strong belief that Assemblymember Ridley-Thomas will be very active. Assemblymember Ridley Thomas will be attending our April 17th board meeting to meet everyone.

Doug Fitzsimmons
President

Brian Kite
Vice-President

Terrence Gomes
Treasurer

Beth Ryan
Secretary

**South Robertson
Neighborhoods Council**

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- d. **Office of Assemblymember Bloom (Stephanie Cohen)**
- Assembly Bills introduced include:
 - AB1839 – film tax credit incentive
 - AB1637 - special driver's license for veterans
 - AB1535 - medication given to parents to avoid overdoses
 - AB1699 - plastic beads in face wash where animals are suffering the consequences.
 - There will be a homeless panel discussion in Pacific Palisades including LAPD, City Attorney, Assemblymembers and members of the City Council

IV. Presentation

a. **Proposed changes to Robertson Blvd to reduce cut-through neighborhood traffic/Pat Gibson, Gibson Transportation**

Mr. Gibson explained the problem on Robertson Blvd. with the bottlenecks when someone attempts to turn left on Robertson between Cattaraugus and just north of Cadillac. There are roughly 1500-1600 cars traveling north each hour during morning travel hours with the same number traveling south each night. The increased traffic and bottlenecks have commuters cutting through the residential streets.

Mr. Gibson's proposal was to:

- Eliminate the ability to turn left during rush hours between Cattaraugus and just north of Cadillac
- Eliminate parking heading north in the morning to allow three lanes heading north when the traffic is heaviest
- Eliminate parking heading south in the evening to allow three lanes heading south when the traffic is heaviest
- Run bike lanes parallel to Robertson Blvd rather than on Robertson when traffic is heavy

Several members of the community spoke against the proposal indicating that it was short sighted and focused on cars more than pedestrians and that they did not support this proposal as the best way to reduce traffic on Robertson Blvd. They felt that once these "test" changes were implemented that the changes would become permanent.

V. Approval of Minutes

- a. Draft board minutes for December 19, 2013 and January 16, 2014 (Ryan/GB022014-2)
- Minutes were unanimously approved by general consensus. (18 board members voted)
- b. Board attendance for 4th Quarter 2013 (Ryan/GB022014-3)
- Amended board attendance records were unanimously approved by general consensus. (18 board members voted)

VI. Committee Reports

- a. Confirmation of Board committee memberships and absence requests (GB022014-4)
- No changes were requested
- b. Treasurer's report and approval of monthly expenses for December 2013 and January 2014 (Gomes/GB022014-5)
- December 2013 Vote Count was: (18 YES/0 NO/0 Abstain)
 - Submitted financials for December 2013 were unanimously approved by the board with 18 board members voting.



- January 2014 Vote Count was: (18 YES/0 NO/0 Abstain)
 - Submitted financials for January 2014 were unanimously approved with 18 board members voting.
- c. President's report
 - Resignation of Hector Garza, Organization Rep 1 – Hector has officially resigned from the board effective immediately.
- d. Upcoming committee events and legislative issues
 - SORO Neighborhood Council Election will be on Sunday, May 18th.

VII. New Business I

- a. Motion to support proposed changes to Robertson Blvd.
(Transportation/GB022014-1)

MOTION AND AMENDMENT: (amendment to motion in bold letters)

- I. That while the traffic caps on Motor Ave. continue to unacceptably compound the traffic problems on Robertson Blvd., destroying the business district and creating dangerous conditions within our residential areas, change by the City and LADOT is urgently needed;
- II. That SORO NC finds considerable merit in the proposed changes to Robertson Blvd with the aim of reducing the volume of commuter cut-through traffic in residential areas and increasing public safety **and would like to therefore bring the discussion to the community.**
- III. That the impact on businesses must be offset by the development by the City and/or third parties of off-street parking to serve the area between Cadillac and Cattaraugus.

AMENDMENT:

- Marj Safinia moved the amendment and it was seconded by Brian Kite
- Amendment was unanimously approved by general consensus (19 board members voting)

MOTION:

- Doug Fitzsimmons moved the motion and it was seconded by Jon Liberman
- Vote Count was: (15 YES/4 NO/0 Abstain)
- Motion was approved by the board

VIII. New Business II

- a. **SORO Community Grant Applications (Grant Evaluation Committee)**
 - I. **Fresh Fruit on Friday grant for \$3,669.30 (GB022014-11)**
 - Motion was tabled by general consensus with 19 board members voting.
 - II. **LAUSD We Build program grant for \$1950 (GB022014-12)**

MOTION: South Robertson Neighborhoods Council will fund the NPG for \$1,950 for the LAUSD 13-week We Build Program to train 15 disadvantaged workers in the construction trade. The 15 spots will have priority for SORONC area residents, but will be filled with other qualified candidates in the bordering areas to fill the class with disadvantaged workers.

- Doug Fitzsimmons moved the motion and it was seconded by Michael Lynn
- Vote Count was: (17 YES/0 NO/0 Abstain)



- Motion was unanimously approved by the board

III. Canfield Elementary School neighborhood butterfly garden grant for \$1,085.15 (GB022014-13)

MOTION: To approve \$1085.15 in funding for the Canfield South Neighborhood Butterfly Garden NPG

- Doug Fitzsimmons moved the motion and it was seconded by Jon Liberman
- Vote Count was: (17 YES/0 NO/0 Abstain)
- Motion was unanimously approved by the board

IV. Canfield Elementary School outdoor garden classroom renewal for \$2,782.33 (GB022014-14)

MOTION: To approve \$2,782.33 in funding for the Canfield School Garden Outdoor Classroom NPG.

- Doug Fitzsimmons moved the motion and it was seconded by Marj Safinia
- Vote Count was: (15 YES/0 NO/2 Abstain)
- Motion was approved by the board

b. Motion to fund \$800 for Town Hall on proposed changes to Robertson Blvd and revitalization efforts (Outreach/GB022014-6)

MOTION: That SORO NC \$800 of funding for costs associated with the production and outreach for SORO NC's 2014 Town Hall event.

- Martin Epstein moved the motion and it was seconded by Michael Lynn
- Vote Count was: (16 YES/1 NO/0 Abstain)
- Motion was approved by the board

c. Motion to fund \$1000 for LAUSD School Board District One candidate forum (Education/GB022014-7)

MOTION: South Robertson Neighborhoods Council will fund up to \$1,000 for a candidate forum to fill the LAUSD Board seat in District One. The Town Hall style event will be held at Hamilton High School in the Auditorium on May 1, 2014 from 7 :00 PM to 9:00 PM.

- Jon Liberman moved the motion and it was seconded by Brian Kite
- Vote Count was: (15 YES/0 NO/1 Abstain)
- Motion was approved by the board

d. Motion to fund \$3,500 for 2014 SORO NC elections (Board Development/GB022014-8)

MOTION:

- I. To approve the 2014 Election budget of \$3,500 to be used for outreach for candidates and voters as well as for day-of-election costs.
- II. To increase the amount on the P-card expenditures for this quarter by \$3,500 to cover all expenses for the 2014 elections.



- Beth Ryan moved the motion and it was seconded by Jon Liberman
- Vote Count was: (16 YES/0 NO/1 Abstain)
- Motion was approved by the board

e. **Motion to fund \$395 for SORO NC street banner inspection and repair (Liberman/GB022014-9)**

MOTION: The Outreach Committee seeks approval to hire AAA Flag & Banner to repair or remove the two banners that are not anchored, to do on site repairs on the remaining banners where possible and to produce an inventory of the status of the remaining banners. The cost will be \$395. Based on the inventory the Outreach Committee may have a future recommendation as to the remaining banners which would come before the Board for approval.

- Jon Liberman moved the motion and it was seconded by Terry Gomes
- Vote Count was: (17 YES/0 NO/0 Abstain)
- Motion was unanimously approved by the board

f. **Motion to fund \$480/year for meeting location for Transportation Committee (Libermand/GB022014-10)**

MOTION: That the SORO NC Board authorize the change of location for the Transportation Committee meetings. The cost of this change would be \$27.00/hour.

- Jon Liberman moved the motion and it was seconded by Terry Gomes
- Vote Count was: (7 YES/8 NO/2 Abstain)
- Motion was NOT approved by the board

IX. Adjournment

The SORO NC Board President, Doug Fitzsimmons, adjourned the meeting at 9:40 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	Transportation	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								
Daniel Boethin													
Nahed Guirguis													
David Mattis													
Brian Kite									Ch				Co
Barry Levine	Co												
Susan Burden													
Marj Safinia				Co						Ch			
Terrence Gomes			Co				Ch						Ch
Martin Epstein													
Vacant Seat													
Victor Mitry			Co										
Jessica Kurzban													
Doug Fitzsimmons								Ch					Co
Grant Cohen													
Sarah Sabin													



Board Vote Tally Sheet

Meeting Date: February 20, 2014

Votes taken	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10
Kevin Gres	C	Y	Y	C	Y	C	Y	Y	Y	Y
Kimber Smith	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Beth Ryan	C	Y	Y	C	Y	C	Y	Y	Y	Y
Robyn Braun	C	Y	Y	C	N	C	Y	Y	A	N
Bette Billet	C	Y	Y	C	Y	C	Y	Y	Y	Y
Michael Lynn	C	Y	Y	C	N	C	2Y	Y	Y	2Y
Jon Liberman	C	Y	Y	C	2Y	C	Y	2Y	Y	Y
Ellen Lanet	C	Y	Y	C	N	C	Y	Y	Y	Y
Paula Waxman	C	Y	Y	C	Y	C	Y	Y	Y	Y
Michoel Bloom	C	Y	Y	C	Y	C	X	X	X	X
Daniel Boethin	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Nahed Guirguis	C	Y	Y	C	Y	C	X	X	X	X
David Mattis	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Brian Kite	C	Y	Y	2C	Y	C	Y	Y	Y	Y
Barry Levine	C	Y	Y	C	Y	C	Y	Y	Y	Y
Susan Burden	C	Y	Y	C	Y	C	Y	Y	Y	Y
Marj Safinia	C	Y	Y	1C	Y	C	Y	Y	2Y	Y
Terrence Gomes	C	Y	Y	C	N	C	Y	Y	Y	Y
Martin Epstein	C	Y	Y	C	Y	C	Y	Y	Y	1Y
Hector Garza/Resign	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Victor Mitry	C	Y	Y	C	Y	C	Y	Y	A	Y
Jessica Kurzman	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Doug Fitzsimmons	C	Y	Y	C	1Y	C	1Y	1Y	1Y	Y
Grant Cohen	X	X	X	C	Y	C	Y	Y	Y	Y
Sarah Sabin	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Votes taken

1. Draft minutes and attendance (GB022014-2)
2. Treasurer's Report and monthly expenses for Dec 2013 (GB022014-5)
3. Treasurer's Report and monthly expenses for January 2014 (GB022014-5)
4. Proposed Changes to Robertson Blvd (GB022014-1) – Amendment
5. Proposed Changes to Robertson Blvd (GB022014-1) – Motion
6. NPG - Fresh Fruit on Fridays (GB022014-11) – Tabled
7. NPG - LAUSD We Build program (GB022014-12)
8. NPG – Canfield Elementary Butterfly Garden (GB022014-13)
9. NPG – Canfield Elementary Outdoor Garden Classroom (GB022014-14)
10. SORO NC Town Hall (GB022014-6)



Votes taken	11	12	13	14
Kevin Gres	Y	Y	Y	N
Kimber Smith	X	X	X	X
Beth Ryan	Y	1Y	Y	N
Robyn Braun	Y	A	Y	N
Bette Billet	Y	Y	Y	Y
Michael Lynn	Y	Y	Y	Y
Jon Liberman	1Y	2Y	1Y	1Y
Ellen Lanet	A	Y	Y	A
Paula Waxman	Y	Y	Y	N
Michoel Bloom	X	X	X	X
Daniel Boethin	X	X	X	X
Nahed Guirguis	X	X	X	X
David Mattis	X	X	X	X
Brian Kite	2Y	Y	Y	Y
Barry Levine	Y	Y	Y	Y
Susan Burden	Y	Y	Y	A
Marj Safinia	Y	Y	Y	N
Terrence Gomes	X	Y	2Y	2Y
Martin Epstein	Y	Y	Y	Y
Hector Garza	X	X	X	X
Victor Mitry	Y	Y	Y	N
Jessica Kurzman	X	X	X	X
Doug Fitzsimmons	Y	Y	Y	N
Grant Cohen	Y	Y	Y	N
Sarah Sabin	X	X	X	X

- 11. LAUSD School Board District One Candidate Forum (GB022014-7)
- 12. SORO NC Elections (GB022014-8)
- 13. SORO NC Banner Repairs (GB022014-9)
- 14. Transportation Committee Location Fees (GB022014-10)