



General Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 18, 2014, 7:00pm
Simon Wiesenthal Center 3rd Floor
1399 S. Roxbury Dr., Los Angeles, CA 90035

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

SORO NC Board President Doug Fitzsimmons called the meeting to order at 7:00.

Board Members Present: Kevin Gres, Kimber Smith, Bette Billet, Michael Lynn, Jon Liberman, Doug Fitzsimmons, Paula Waxman, Michael Bloom, Victoria Martin, Nahed Guirguis, Aimee Zeltzer, Beth Hirsch, Marj Safinia, Victor Mitry, Leo Portal, Melissande Colton, Robyn Braun

Board Members Absent: Giovanni Ferdinand, Susan Burden, Terrence Gomes, Martin Epstein, Sherilyn Correa, Grant Cohen, Barry Levine

Guests: SLO Mario Gonzalez, Elizabeth Carlin, Joseph Galloway, Stephanie Cohen, HarSimran Khalsa

II. General Public Comment

HarSimran Khalsa spoke about the upcoming 9th Annual Peace Picnic and thanked SORO NC for their support.

III. Community Reports

LAPD Report. Mario Gonzalez reported that there had been an incident where some youth from Hamilton High School had been confronted by a group of 10-15 youth from the 18th Street gang. Things had calmed down now but LAPD are monitoring the situation. There had been the usual level of car break ins and 2 residences were broken into. Both had left their doors unlocked. He noted that speed special enforcement would be coming into the area to check on speeding complaints that had been received.

Office of Council President Wesson. Liz Carlin thanked SORO NC for their support for Movies in the Park. 800 people had attended. Their team had made some improvements to the part before and after the event. They were very grateful to SORO NC for all the help. She encouraged folks to sign up for the Congress of Neighborhoods. Liz stated she would check on the Council President's position on small lot subdivisions, in response to a question posed by Bette Billet.

Office of Councilmember Koretz. Joseph Galloway introduced himself as the new field deputy for SORO and Palms. CM Koretz would be attending the Peace Picnic and thanked SORO for their support of the event. He offered his contact information at the new office location 323-866-1828. He also noted that the JMB project had been approved and that no appeals had come in.

Office of Assemblymember Bloom. Stephanie Cohen stated that she would bring an update on the Assemblymember's new bills next month. She said their office would like to support any efforts around a car child seat check-up event.

IV. Approval of Minutes

(GB091814-1) This item was tabled until the October meeting

Doug Fitzsimmons
President

Kevin Gres
Vice-President

Terrence Gomes
Treasurer

Aimee Zeltzer
Secretary

**South Robertson
Neighborhoods Council**

PO Box 35836
Los Angeles, CA 90035

P: (310) 295-9920
F: (310) 295-9906
E: info@soronc.org

soronc.org



V. Committee Reports

Confirmation of Board committee membership (GB091814-2)

Kevin is leaving the Education Committee.

Melissande is joining the LGBTQ Committee.

- **Requests confirmed by general consent**

Executive. Doug Fitzsimmons presented a community input survey that was gathered at Reynier Park during the Movies in the Park event. The number 1 item on the community's wish list was more frequent cleaning of the restrooms. Liz Carlin commented that they were already on the maximum once-per-day schedule. She said she would look over results and discuss with Parks and Recreation.

Treasurer Report. Presented by Doug Fitzsimmons.
Funds remaining: \$36,187.99.

Approval of monthly expenses (Gomes / GB091814-3)

- Mike moved to accept the report; Bette seconded.
- **Vote: 17-Y, 0-N, 0-A. Report accepted.**

Upcoming Events and Legislative Issues. Congress of Neighborhoods is happening Saturday 9/20/14 at City Hall. Victoria, Beth Hirsch, Aimee and Leo volunteered to help at Peace Picnic. November 9th (Sunday) 10am-5pm was provisionally chosen as budget retreat meeting.

LGBTQ Committee. The inaugural meeting drew 20 people and 6 board members. The committee has selected co-chairs who will be presented to the board for ratification at the October meeting.

VI. Special Orders

Election of new SORO NC Secretary (GB091814-4)

- No candidates volunteered. Item tabled until October meeting

Selection of Community Grant Working Group (GB091814-5)

Volunteers included Kevin, Jon, Paula, Kimber, Terry, Melissande, Nahed. This working group will have to have agenda meetings due to number of participants. Bette Billet offered a substitute motion to create a formal committee. Kevin Gres seconded. **A new committee was formed by general consent.**

VII. New Business

Motion to sponsor/host a free CHP "Child Car Seat Check Up Event" (Lynn / GB091814-6)

Michael presented the motion. Still need to firm up date.

- Aimee moved to approve the motion; Victoria seconded.
- **Motion approved by general consent.**

Motion to not support SB 1818 1058-1064 S. Holt Avenue Project (Martin / GB091814-7)

Victoria presented the motion. Kevin proposed that we should be careful about "not supporting" projects without knowing the reasons the applicant did not return to the Land Use Committee. Bette pointed out that the committee had asked the applicant lots of question in the August Land Use meeting, and had made it clear they were to return on 2 September.

- Aimee proposed an amendment that SORO NC's LUED would contact the applicant to advise that unless they get back within 10 days with the requested information the "no support" letter would be sent. Jon Liberman seconded.
- **Vote: 2-Y, 14-N, 1-A. Amendment fails.**



- Doug proposed an amendment to say that the letter would be sent as proposed, but that this did not preclude SORO NC reconsidering its decision if the applicant provided the requested information in a timely fashion. Marj seconded.
- **Vote: 11-Y, 4-N, 2-A. Amendment passes.**
- Jon moved to vote on the motion as amended; Kimber seconded.
- **Vote: 12-Y, 4-N, 1-A. Amended motion passes.**

Motion to support Community Impact Statement for CF-13-0163-S4 Comprehensive City Sidewalk Repair Program / Regular Program for Improvements (Gomes / GB091814-8)

Board discussion and opinion about motion. Marj states that the motion is inadequately written. It does not present enough information and is impossible to understand with lots of jargon that is unexplained. It is irresponsible to present a motion without adequate information to allow the board to take an informed vote.

- Jon moves to table the motion. Marj seconded.
- **Vote: 6-Y, 10-N, 1-A. Motion to table fails.**

Board discussion continues with more debate about the lack of information in the motion and the unsatisfactory and non-inclusive discussion that had occurred at the LANCC meeting.

- Jon moves to vote on motion; Michael seconded.
- **Vote: 0-Y, 17-N, 0-A. Motion fails unanimously.**

Motion to support Early Notification from the Planning Department for Small Lot Subdivisions (Martin / GB091814-9)

Victoria presented the motion. Michael proposed a friendly language amendment to read “To authorize SORO NC to send a letter to the Planning Department to include Small Lot Subdivisions in its Early Notification System”

- Marj moved to vote on the motion. Jon seconded.
- **Motion passed by general consent.**

Discussion and possible motion to recommend ways to increase voter turnout (Fitzsimmons / GB091814-10)

- Doug presented the item for board discussion. To help increase voter turnout in Los Angeles municipal elections, the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council suggested the following:

I. Strategies for consolidation & cost reduction

- a. **Sync municipal elections with State and Federal elections.** We have no opinion as to whether current terms should be shortened or lengthened.
- b. **Fewer special elections.**

II. Strategies for increasing access

- a. **Online voting.** To protect the integrity of the election, we feel the State should explore issuing a unique digital ID for registered voters. We should also remember that not all constituents have web access or basic computer skills—although smartphones are closing that divide.
- b. **Ability for voters to vote at any polling location.** If I work downtown but live in the Valley, it's going to be tough to make it back to vote. Would probably require a shift from printed to electronic voter rolls.
- c. **Extended voting hours.**
- d. **Guaranteed paid time off to allow employees to vote.**
- e. **Election day is a public holiday, like Memorial Day.** Other countries do this.
- f. **Free transit to and from the polls.** Perhaps Metro could waive fares on election day. The City could also strike a deal with ride-share firms like Uber.

III. Strategies for increasing awareness



- a. **Agnostic awareness campaign by social service agencies.** Targeted at low-turnout/disenfranchised communities.
- b. **Increased use of social media for awareness.** Reminders, etc.
- c. **"Heroes Vote" media campaign.** Features celebrities and sports stars talking about why it's important to your community that you vote.
- d. **More town halls and grassroots-organized debates.** Increases the likelihood that voters can see the candidates and make informed decisions. The advertising for these also serves to increase general awareness.

IV. Strategies for motivating future voters

- a. **Stronger civics curriculum throughout all school grades.** It is important to start early with this.
- b. **Awareness campaigns targeted to High Schools.** Particularly Seniors.
- c. **Bring-your-kid-to-the-polls.** Activities at the polling locations for young non-voters, to get them interested in voting and civic responsibility.

V. Strategies for a better informed electorate

- a. **Expanded translation services.** Applies to both election materials and in-person guides at polling locations.
- b. **More relevant and simple language for ballot measures.** It is difficult for voters to assess a measure that doesn't seem to relate to their daily lives.
- c. **Cultivating better candidates.** The parties should do a better job seeking out a more diverse and inspiring pool of potential candidates.

- Bette moved that these ideas be submitted in a Community Impact Statement. Aimee seconded.
- **Motion passed by general consent.**

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40pm.



Vote Tally

1: moved | 2: seconded | Y: yes | N: no | A: abstain | R: recuse | X: missed vote
C: passed by general consent

Votes taken	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11
Kevin Gres	C	Y	1C	C	N	N	N	N	N	C	C
Kimber Smith	C	Y	C	C	N	Y	2Y	N	N	C	C
Giovanni Ferdinand											
Bette Billet	C	2Y	2C	C	N	Y	Y	N	N	C	1C
Michael Lynn	C	1Y	C	C	N	A	Y	N	2N	C	C
Jon Liberman	C	Y	C	C	2N	Y	1Y	1N	1N	2C	C
Doug Fitzsimmons	C	Y	C	C	N	1Y	Y	N	N	C	C
Paula Waxman	C	Y	C	C	N	Y	Y	N	N	C	C
Michael Bloom	C	Y	C	C	N	Y	Y	N	N	C	C
Victoria Martin	C	Y	C	2C	N	Y	Y	N	N	C	C
Nahed Guirguis	C	Y	C	C	A	A	A	N	N	C	C
Aimee Zeltzer	C	Y	C	1C	1Y	N	N	N	N	C	2C
Beth Hirsch	C	Y	C	C	N	Y	Y	N	N	C	C
Susan Burden											
Marj Safinia	C	Y	C	C	N	2Y	Y	2N	N	1C	C
Terrence Gomes											
Martin Epstein											
Victor Mitry	C	Y	C	C	Y	N	N	N	N	C	C
Leo Portal	C	Y	C	C	N	Y	Y	N	N	C	C
Sherilyn Correa											
Grant Cohen											
Barry Levine											
Melissande Colton	C	Y	C	C	N	Y	Y	N	N	C	C
Robyn Braun	C	Y	C	C	N	N	N	N	N	C	C

Votes taken

- Confirmation of Board Committee Membership (GB091814-2)
- Approval of Monthly Expenses (Gomes / GB091814-3)
- Selection of Community Grant Working Group (GB091814-5)
- Motion to support/host free CHP "Child Car Seat Check Event" (Lynn / GB091814-6)
- 1st amendment to "not support" SB 1818 1058-1064 S. Holt (Martin / GB091814-7)
- 2nd amendment to "not support" SB 1818 1058-1064 S. Holt (Martin / GB091814-7)
- Motion to "not support" SB 1818 1058-1064 S. Holt (Martin / GB091814-7)
- Motion to table CIS re: City Sidewalk Repairs (Gomes / GB091814-8)
- Motion to support CIS re: City Sidewalk Repairs (Gomes / GB091814-8)
- Motion to support ENS for Small Lot Subdivisions (Martin / GB091814-9)
- Motion to file CIS re: increasing voter turnout (Fitzsimmons / GB091814-10)