



# General Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 18, 2016, 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 Vice President Ken Blaker called the meeting to order at 7:10.

**Board Members Present:** Charlie Stein, Kimber Smith, Bryan Warman, Michael Lynn, Jon Liberman, Adam Rich, Michael Bloom, Ken Blaker, Nahed Guirguis, Aimee Zeltzer, Beth Hirsch, Barry Levine, Martin Epstein, Dan Fink, Yvette Edidin, Noa Zarur

**Board Members Absent:** Mike Bitton, Giovanni Ferdinand, Doug Fitzsimmons, Krystal Navar, Gary Kasbarian, Marj Safinia, Susan Burden, Victor Mitry, Frank Shelton,

**Guests:** Grace Kamins, Chris Klatman, Eleni Petron, Patrick MacFarlane, James Inks (?)

## II. General Public Comment

- Patrick MacFarlane Statement from Carol Eisner regarding her apposition to SORO NC's proposed BMO Community Impact Statement (Crestview)
- Patrick MacFarlane made is opposition BMO CIS (Crestview)
- James Inks (sp) from Crestview opposition to BMO CIS
- Grace Kamins (same)

Public was in opposition specifically to the letter and the suggested amendments created by the Land Use Committee's Working Group to address BMO CIS.

## III. Community Reports

**Office of Council President Wesson.** Liz Carlin –

- Announced next Movies in the Park Friday, Aug 26<sup>th</sup> at Reiner Village Park
- Notice for Public Hearing regarding R-1 Zoning that is coming up August 25<sup>th</sup>
- Notice for Open House Public hearing for Neighborhood Conservation Ordinance for New Single Family Home Changes that affect Crestview , Faircrest Heights, Picfair Village, and Wilshire Vista, held Mon Aug 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Office of Councilmember Koretz.** Statement read by Liz Carlin for Joseph Galloway -

- Money was found for the additional parking for Mercy Housing project on Pico Blvd.

**Office of Assemblymember Ridley-Thomas.** - Darryl Lucien –

- Updates on California's CAP and Trade Bill funds coming to Los Angeles,
- Still asking Governor to declare a State of Emergency on Homelessness, asking public to sign a petition on Change.org
- Still pushing for the Millionaire's tax to fund homelessness even though the Governor is still very much opposed looking to help the county get it on the Ballot for March 2017 Ballot.

**Doug Fitzsimmons**  
President

**Ken Blaker**  
Vice-President

**Jon Liberman**  
Treasurer

**Beth Hirsch**  
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**





## IV. Presentation and Board Discussion

### Presentation topic

Guest Speaker Eleni Petrow, - Energy Upgrade California – Helping Californians curb water and Energy use.

- passed out surveys, pamphlets, shower timer gadgets and key chains. Directed everyone to their website full of resources on energy and money saving strategies.

## V. Consent Agenda

a. Draft meeting minutes of July 21, 2016 (Hirsch / GB081816-1)

b. Motion to call for California Homelessness State of Emergency and creation of temporary housing (LANCC / GB081816-2)

- Adam Rich asked for item b. to be removed and sent to New Business
- **Remaining Consent Agenda accepted by general consent.**

## VI. Committee Reports

a. Confirmation of Board committee membership (GB081816-3)

- Adam Rich joined Transportation Committee
- Yvette Edidin joined Quality of Life and Green Team and Education Committee
- Bryan Warman joined Parks Committee
- Aimee Zeltzer joined Parks Committee
- Nahed Joined Park Committee

- **Requests confirmed by general consent**

**Executive.** Ken Blaker read a statement from President Doug Fitzsimmons.

- According to City Attorney – Board or Committee members will no longer be allowed to use Public Comment to bring up items that are not on the Agenda. Short public announcements only, with no additional comments.
- Relocation of Robertson Rec Center activities update. Doug asked if there had been any progress made in finding a new or temporary home for SORO NC Supplies storage during the Robertson Recreation Center's demolition and reconstruction which will begin in January 2017. Mike Lynn expressed that we are still looking.
- Board vision and strategy retreat. Still need to set a date. Would like to combine it with a Committee Chair Training

### Treasurer Report.

**Approval of monthly expenses (Liberman/ GB081816-4)**

- **No report per Jon Liberman. Need supporting documents.**

**Education.** Barry Levine –

reminded everyone that school will start soon and the Committee will continue its two programs at Shenandoah Elementary.

- Fresh Fruit on Friday and it's after school tutoring program from 2 -4pm. Looking for more volunteers.
- The Education committee is also lobbying the City Council to move the 6-1 matching funds for city elections out of committee and bring it to a vote before the council.

**Green Team.** Yvette Edidin –



on Behalf of the Green Team, announced there will be a Pico Street Cleanup on Sept 18<sup>th</sup>. She created a signup sheet and passed it around. Date may need to be changed since it was realized during the meeting that it is scheduled for the same day as the Peace Picnic.

**\*\*\*\*\*(UPDATE: Event has been moved to the Sept 25<sup>th</sup>)**

**Public Safety.** Michael Lynn –

Date of Committee meeting changes due to Labor Day holiday. Most likely changed to Monday Sept 12.

**Outreach.** Charlie Stein –

Need Volunteers for Movies in the Park – Friday August 25<sup>th</sup> starting at around 5pm.

**Transportation.** Adam Rich –

reminded that the BSS asphalt truck is coming Sept 19<sup>th</sup> to SORO to patch potholes. Asked for nomination of worst spots.

**Quality of Life -** Beth Hirsch –

Many projects in development Computer Literacy, Robertson Mural, Parking Media Campaign and many more.

## **VII. Special Orders**

- a. **Transportation: Jon Liberman, Chair & Adam Rich, Vice-Chair (GB081816-5)**
  - b. **Quality of Life: Beth Hirsch, Chair Dan Fink as Co -Chair (GB081816-6)**
  - c. **Item (GB081816 7) – was not needed as all spots were found to be filled**
- **Nomination approved by general consent**

## **VIII. New Business**

- a. **Motion for Neighborhood Purposes Grant to 101 Enterprises to support Movies in the Park 2016 for \$1000 (Outreach / GB081816-8)**

**Board Debate:** Some on the board expressed concern that it is on Friday and this prevents religious Jews from attending. It was explained that this was an event to reach out to an underserved population in the community.

Beth Hirsch asked if there were any board members who speak Spanish. That it was a huge need at our Outreach table at the event. Bryan Warman stated that he was not available that night but he would be available to help create or translate materials for future events.

- **Moved by Jon. Seconded by Aimee.**
- **Vote: Y – 15, N - 0, A – 0. Motions passes.**

- b. **Motion to fund SORO NC Town Hall 2016 for up to \$1090 (Outreach / GB081816-9)**

- **Moved by Charlie. Seconded by Kimber.**

**Board debate:** Bryan Warman suggested that the event might be too late, that most people would have made up their minds.

- **Vote: Y -14, N – 0, A – 0. Motion passes.**



**c. Motion to edit the attachment to SORO NC's Baseline Mansionization Ordinance Amendment CIS (passed as GB072116-22) (Executive /GB081816-10)**

Ken Blaker presented the Motion to reconsider the language of the attached letter.

- **Motion to table** until next meeting due to not having recent and correct Motion language attached to Agenda:
- **Moved by Beth. Seconded by Mike.**
- **Vote to Table: Y - 11, N - 4, A - 0.**

**d. Motion to fund up to \$1000 for SORO NC business cards (Executive / GB081816-11)**

- **Moved by Aimee. Seconded by Nahed.**
- **Vote: Y - 14, N - 0, A - 0. Motion passes.**

**e. Motion for \$1750 to Sponsor CPR/AED/First Aid Classes for SORO (Public Safety / GB081816-12)**

Presentation by Gerald the Instructor from the CPR Classes (name?)

- **Moved by Mike. Seconded by Jon.**
- **Vote: Y - 14, N - 0, A - 0. Motion passes.**

**f. \*\*\*\*\* moved from Consent \*\*\*\*\***

***b. Motion to call for California Homelessness State of Emergency and creation of temporary housing (LANCC / GB081816-2)***

**Motion was read by Beth Hirsch .**

**Motion moved by Mike Lyn. Seconded by Jon.**

**Board Debate:**

Beth summarized the discussion that was had at Quality of Life Committee on 8/17 regarding how the County and non-profit homeless services feel about temporary housing vs permanent housing. A representative from PATH attended and answered questions for the committee. PATH is concerned that many people are focused too much on funding temporary housing and not enough on permanent, long-term, affordable housing.

Jon made the case that long term housing could take several years and we need to get them off the street right now.

Beth agreed, but with no real funding being approved by the state if City money is spent on temporary trailers, the money may never come for real affordable, permanent housing. Therefore, thinks we need to support the first part of the Motion to force the issue of getting state funding. The county has said it will take roughly \$450 million a year, ongoing, for housing and care for the homeless.

Adam Rich stated opposition to the idea of declaring a state of emergency. He believes that it is a device that should be reserved for natural disasters and not for homelessness which is a continuing ongoing problem.

Jon says the city and the county have declared it a state of emergency. We need the state to declare it as well and loose up immediate funding from the state and Federal government.



Kimber stated she has lived in Los Angeles for 14 years and has seen the problem “explode.” She believes it is an emergency and that an argument can be made that man-made disasters can qualify for a state of emergency. But wanted to emphasize the urgency of addressing the long term problems that contribute to homelessness.

Yvette made the comment that because the government is not being responsible that the people need to force the situation by insisting that the governor declare a state of emergency. Wanted to know If the city has an inventory of the available properties that could be used for temporary or permanent housing.

Jon said there was an inventory but that not much was available.

Michael stated that prop 47 may have contributed to the homeless population when it allowed the release of criminals from over crowded jails. That there was a direct spike of homelessness after that. Because of lack of services.

Jon said that another problem is the homeless are being offered help and housing vouchers but are not accepting them.

Beth said according to PATH, that this is not true. Many do want to accept housing, but there is just not enough available, so they have to wait long periods of time, many of them get lost in the meantime while waiting or they are being offered relocation to other sometimes far away and undesirable cities with low resources and higher crime which makes them reluctant.

- **Adam Moved that we amend the motion to strike part one of the motion and leave the 2<sup>nd</sup> part. There was no second to that motion.**
- **Aimee moved to bifurcate the motion.** Only vote on part one and vote on part two separately. Adam seconded.

**Board debate:**

Jon feels that it would be better to keep the two parts together.

Dan Fink stated that he would prefer to separate and come up with a new motion for part two.

- **Vote to bifurcate the Motion: Y - 7, N - 7, A - .0. Motion fails.**

**Debate on full Motion as is.**

Beth stated we are running out of time as at the end of the month as state legislation ends.

Dan feels part one is so important that we should vote yes in order to show our support for state and federal funding.

Charlie – state of emergency is for earthquakes not homelessness. The money should be saved in case of unforeseen natural disasters.

Beth said that she asked Assemblyman Blooms office if there was a set amount that would be triggered by the state if an emergency was declared. Beth read the quote from his office.

“According to the California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services, there is no real dollar amount associated with a declaration of homelessness as the Governor is allowed to develop the guidelines for this “emergency declaration”



which would trigger dollars. It could initiate additional state emergency dollars and federal emergency dollars.”

Ken Blaker stated that the Mayor’s office stated that they also support the statewide state of Emergency, because it would trigger more federal funding as well as state and this money is needed in Los Angeles as it has a disproportionate amount of homelessness to the rest of the country, most likely because of our city’s warm weather. The problem isn’t likely to be spread around the country fairly.

Jon – There are natural and man-made disasters and there are disasters caused by neglect. This problem has been building for four years and Government has essentially done nothing. This is man-made disaster created by the government and they need to address it.

Amy says this problem is an emergency. Women and children are suffering. It is “disgusting” that we are doing nothing about it.

Yvette made the point that politics sometimes doesn’t leave room for the “nuances” of an issue. The purpose of calling the state of Emergency is about creating directional pressure on the governor. We shouldn’t get caught up in the details about what makes an actual state of emergency.

Adam stated he feels that using the State of Emergency to solve ongoing problems put us in danger of not having enough funding for natural disasters. It’s too often used to create a short term fix for long term problems.

- **Kimber called the question to end debate.**
- **Vote: Y - 12, N - 1, A - .0. passes.**
- **Vote on the Motion. Y – 11, N– 2, A – 0. Motion passes.**

## **IX. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:53pm.



## 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	12	13	14	15
Charlie Stein	C	C	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N				
Kimber Smith	C	C	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
Michael Bitton	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Giovanni Ferdinand	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Brian Warman	C	C	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y				
Michael Lynn	C	C	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y				
Jon Liberman	C	C	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y				
Doug Fitzsimmons	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Adam Rich	C	C	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N				
Michael Bloom	C	C	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	X	X				
Ken Blaker	C	C	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y				
Nahed Guirguis	C	C	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	X	X	X				
Krystal Navar	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Aimee Zeltzer	C	C	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
Gary Kasbarian	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Beth Hirsch	C	C	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
Barry Levine	C	C	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y				
Marj Safinia	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Susan Burden	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Martin Epstein	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Victor Mitry	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Dan Fink	C	C	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
Frank Shelton	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Yvette Edidin	C	C	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
Noa Zarur	C	C	C	X	X	X	X	Y	N	Y	Y				

### Votes taken

- Consent Agenda Draft meeting minutes of July 21, 2016 (Hirsch / GB081816-1)
- Confirmation of Board committee membership (GB081816-3)
- Special orders – GB081816 5 -6)
- Motion to fund Movies in the Park 2016 for \$1000 (Outreach / GB081816-8)
- Motion to fund SORO NC Town Hall 2016 for up to \$1090 (Outreach / GB081816-9)
- Motion to edit the attachment to SORO NC's Baseline Mansionization Ordinance Amendment CIS (passed as GB072116-22) (Executive /GB081816-10)
- Motion to fund up to \$1000 for SORO NC business cards (Executive / GB081816-11)
- Motion for \$1750 to Sponsor CPR/AED/First Aid Classes for SORO (Public Safety/GB081816-12)
- Motion to call for California Homelessness State of Emergency and creation of temporary housing (LANCC / GB081816-2) **moved from consent agenda**
- Motion to bifurcate the motion. GB081816 – 2
- Called the question to end debate on GB081816 - 2
- Vote on Motion GB081816- 2.