



# General Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 15, 2018, 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 7:15pm.

**Board Members Present:** Charlie Stein, Alex Mosby, Giovanni Ferdinand, Jon Liberman, Michael Lynn, Adam Rich, Ken Blaker, Nahed Guirguis, Krystal Návar, Tom Eliopoulos, Beth Hirsch, Barry Levine, Martin Epstein, Victor Mity

**Board Members Absent:** Steve Chocron, Bryan Warman, Doug Fitzsimmons, Gary Kasbarian, Marj Safinia, Sue Burden, Dan Fink, Linda Theung, Daphne Moss

**Guests:** Elisabeth Rosenson

## II. General Public Comment & Board Announcements

Elisabeth Rosenson, of Arellano Associates, on potential changes to I-10 freeway on ramps and off ramps.

Richard Komaiko – Announced intention of running for one of the open Board seats

## III. Community Reports

### Office of Council President Wesson (Carlin)

- Updates on the home sharing ordinance and
- SB-827 - SORONC was first to send letter opposing
- Airbagrecall.com
- African American Film Festival March 10, 2018
- DOT increasing availability of Speed humps and stop signs
- Report broken sidewalks to [sidewalks.lacity.org](http://sidewalks.lacity.org)

## IV. Consent Agenda

### Consent Agenda (5 minutes)

- Draft meeting minutes of 18 January 2017 (Hirsch / GB021518-1)**
  - Motion to support 5-home small lot subdivision at 8620 W Olin St (Land Use / GB021518-2) – removed**
  - Motion to support condo conversion at 1211 S Sherbourne Dr (Land Use /GB021518-3) – removed**
  - Motion to create business area-oriented Land Use subcommittees (Land Use / GB021518-4)**
  - Motion for the City to promote the NC system (WRAC / GB021518-5)**
- **All remaining items on the Consent Agenda accepted by general consent**

## V. Committee Reports

**President's Report.** None

**Doug Fitzsimmons**  
President

**Ken Blaker**  
Vice-President

**Jon Liberman**  
Treasurer

**Beth Hirsch**  
Secretary

**Martin Epstein**  
Corresponding Secretary

**South Robertson  
Neighborhoods Council**

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**Treasurer Report.**

Funds remaining: \$35,693.55

**Treasurer's report and monthly expenses (Lieberman / GB021518-7)**

- **Mike Lynn moved to accept the report; Beth Hirsch seconded.**
- **Vote: 13-Y, 0-N, 0-A. Report accepted.**

**VI. New Business**

- a. **Motion to Approve \$10,000 for Neighborhood Purposes Grant for 2018 Soro Festival (Hirsch / GB021518-8)**

**Presented by Beth Hirsch – Chair of the Soro Fest 18 Planning Committee** – asking for NPG funds to support the Festival's needs for increased marketing, advertising and sponsorship materials.

**Moved by Mike Lynn and Seconded by Jon Lieberman.**

**Board Debate** - It was very important to the board members that the additional money be spent effectively on things like Banners and additional marketing materials to increase crowds and encourage corporate sponsorship in order to make the festival more self-sustainable.

**Y – 14. N – 0. A – 0. Motion passes.**

- b. **Motion to support 5-home small lot subdivision at 8620 W Olin St (Land Use / GB021518-2) – removed from consent**

**Public comment** – 3 nearby residents attended to voice concerns and one written comment were read in by Ken Blaker. The projects are much taller and very different in style to the rest of the streets properties. Five properties on one small lot feels “tight” and concerns about a drain on an all ready over taxed existing water and power infrastructure could be problematic. Also, concerns were voiced about affordable rental properties being removed and replaced with homes for sale.

- **Jon Lieberman moved to Amend the letter to include a reference to the infrastructure impact. Seconded by Giovanni Ferdinand.**
- **Vote on Amendment. Y- 3. N – 9. A – 0. 1 Recusal. Amendment does not pass.**
- **Vote on Motion: Y- 8. N – 4. A – 1. 1 recusal.**

- c. **Motion to support condo conversion at 1211 S Sherbourne Dr (Land Use /GB021518-3) – removed from consent**

**Presented By LUED Chair Krystal Navar - simple condo conversion with no variances.**

**Public comment.** Resident of the block stated that he is in approval of more ownership and less rentals because he feels that owners take better care of the property than renters.

**Moved by Krystal Navar. Seconded by Nahed Guirguis.**

**Board debate:** Mike Lynn and Beth Hirsch expressed concerns that the public is continuing to not understand the impact that losing affordable rental housing has on the poor and middle class of our communities and that



eliminating rental properties is contributing to the crisis of homelessness and continuously pushing valuable community members out of the city and even the state.

Charlie Stein and Adam Rich, believe that rent and mortgages are similar and should not prevent people from buying property vs renting.

Barry Levine stated that he did not feel that was true as there are additional costs that prevent renters from being in a position to become home owners besides mortgages such as insurance, property taxes maintenance and utilities. Beth Hirsch stated that many are not able to save because of the high cost of rent, city utilities, healthcare costs, stagnant salaries and unavoidable debt. These common issue making the possibility of home ownership even more unlikely for many young and middle class folks in the community. People who would not qualify for government subsidies.

- **Vote: Y – 8. N – 5. 1 Recusal. Motions passes.**

**d. Motion to fund up to \$500 for traffic safety yard signs (Public Safety / GB021518-9)**

**Presented by Adam Rich** – yard signs that we could give away to home owners concerned about speeding traffic in the neighborhoods.

- **Moved by Jon Liberman. Seconded by Mike Lynn.**

**Board Debate:** Some were concerned of it being a waste of money and time. May not be legal. Many expressed that the branded signs would help show that the council is concerned about helping with traffic safety. Questions about effectiveness of signs. Others said it was a small enough amount of money to take a risk to see if it works.

**Vote: Y- 7. N – 4. A – 2. Motion passes.**

**e. Motion to fund up to \$500 for a battery power pack and solar panel kit (Public Safety / GB021518-10)**

**Mike Lynn presents** - Item is necessary for our emergency command post in case of a major emergency.

- **Moved by Martin Epstein. Seconded by Tom Eliopoulos.**
- **Vote: Y – 13. N – 1. A – 0. Motion Passes.**

## VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:51pm.



## Vote Tally

1: moved | 2: seconded | Y: yes | N: no | A: abstain | R: recuse | X: missed vote  
IE: ineligible to 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	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y							
Alex Mosby	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y							
Steve Chocron	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X							
Giovanni Ferdinand	C	X	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y							
Bryan Warman	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X							
Michael Lynn	C	Y	Y	R	R	N	Y	Y							
Jon Liberman	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y							
Doug Fitzsimmons	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X							
Adam Rich	C	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y							
Vacant															
Ken Blaker	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	R	A	Y							
Nahed Guirguis	C	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	X							
Krystal Návar	C	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y							
Tom Eliopoulos	C	Y	Y	N	N	N	A	Y							
Gary Kasbarian	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X							
Beth Hirsch	C	Y	Y	N	A	Y	Y	Y							
Barry Levine	C	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	N							
Marj Safinia	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X							
Susan Burden	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X							
Martin Epstein	C	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y							
Victor Mitry	C	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y							
Dan Fink	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X							
Linda Theung	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X							
Vacant															
Daphne Moss	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X							

### Votes taken

1. Consent Agenda Draft meeting minutes of February 2018 (Hirsch / GB021518-1)
2. Treasurer's report and monthly expenses (Liberman / GB021518-7)
3. **Motion to Approve \$10,000 for Neighborhood Purposes Grant for 2018 Soro Festival (Hirsch / GB021518-8)**
4. **Amendment to GB021518 -2) to include in the letter a reference to the infrastructure impact.**
5. **Motion to support 5-home small lot subdivision at 8620 W Olin St (Land Use / GB021518-2)**
6. **Motion to support condo conversion at 1211 S Sherbourne Dr (Land Use /GB021518-3)**
7. **Motion to fund up to \$500 for traffic safety yard signs (Public Safety /GB021518-9)**
8. **Motion to fund up to \$500 for a battery power pack and solar panel kit (Public Safety / GB021518-10)**