



General Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 18, 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 President Doug Fitzsimmons called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

Board Members Present: Charlie Stein, Alex Mosby, Steve Chocron, Bryan Warman, Jon Liberman, Doug Fitzsimmons, Adam Rich, Ken Blaker, Nahed Guirguis, Krystal Návar, Gary Kasbarian, Beth Hirsch, Barry Levine, Marj Safinia, Martin Epstein, Victor Mitry, Dan Fink, Linda Theung, Daphne Moss

Board Members Absent: Giovanni Ferdinand, Michael Lynn, Tom Eliopoulos, Sue Burden,

Guests: None signed up.

II. General Public Comment & Board Announcements

Ken Baker gave an update on former Board member Aimee Zeltzer's poor health. Doug Fitzsimmons announced that Assemblymember Ridley-Thomas resigned due to health issues.

III. Community Reports

LA Police Department (Kirk & Baker)

Department of Neighborhood Empowerment – Jasmine Elbarberry

- Board needs to stay on top of getting receipts in for payment by the city.
- Will send information on the new Funding Training soon.

IV. Consent Agenda

- a. Draft meeting minutes of 16 November 2017 (Hirsch / GB011818-1)
- b. Motion to co-sponsor a free CHP "Child Car Seat Check Up" event (Public Safety / GB011818-2)

- **Moved by Jon Liberman. Seconded by Beth Hirsch.**
- **All remaining items on the Consent Agenda accepted by general consent**

V. Committee Reports

Changes to Board committee membership (GB011818-3)

- **None**

President's Report.

- i. **Resignation of Yvette Edidin, School Representative I is open also Zone 10 is still open.**
- ii. **Formation of Board retreat committee / call for volunteers**

Dan Fink and Martin Epstein Volunteered Nahed Guirguis.

Doug Fitzsimmons
President

Ken Blaker
Vice-President

Jon Liberman
Treasurer

Beth Hirsch
Secretary

Martin Epstein
Corresponding 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





Treasurer Report.

Funds remaining: \$36,246.92 November

Funds remaining: \$36,047.87 December

Treasurer's report and monthly expenses (Lieberman / GB011818-4)

- **Doug Fitzsimmons moved to accept the report; Kenblaker seconded.**
- **Vote: 19-Y, 0-N, 0-A. Report accepted. November**
- **Marj Safinia moved the report. Nahed Guirguis seconded.**
- **Vote: 19-Y, 0-N, 0-A. Report accepted. December**

Quality of Life -

- Homeless Count Wed Jan 24th at 9pm at the Alcott Center
Need more sign ups and help from outreach
- Soro Festival 2018 – need new volunteers for planning committee and a new production Team. Need volunteers with administration and computer skills, event production skills, Artists, builders, etc.

Green Team.

- Committee is Looking for new Chair as Paula Waxman is stepping down.

Public Safety.

- Car Seat event – Assemblymember Bloom's office. Please volunteer with Mike Lynn.

Westside Regional Alliance of Councils. -

- Billboards still a problem, may need to create a motion to revise our position. SB- 827 (on the agenda)
- WRAC is considering creating a candidate forum for Sebastian Ridley-Thomas's seat in March.

VI. New Business

a. Motion to oppose CA bill for Transit-rich Housing Bonus [Wiener, SB 827] (WRAC / GB011818-5)

Bill in current form would disallow local control of zoning in regards to High Density Housing near transit areas. The Bill has no provisions for affordable housing and could nullify neighborhood community plans.

WRAC is in opposition and asks that it's NC's support a motion to oppose. This bill until it is amended.

- **Motion Moved by Jon Lieberman. Seconded by Bryan Warman.**

Board Questions and Debate:

Adam Rich – the city has done a terrible job of creating needed density. Agrees that the bill is poorly written, but feels WRAC proposed motion is to antagonistic.

Doug explained that it was WRAC's intention to make clear that this bill is written intentionally to be clear and with prejudice. Ad an amendment that our call on our Councilmembers and the mayor's to formally oppose this motion and to communicate this to the Governor and the legislature.

- **Moved by Doug Fitzsimmons. Seconded by Jon Lieberman.**



Steve Chocron questioned what motivated the creation of the bill. Doug Explained that there is frustration that local municipalities are moving to slow to address the housing crisis.

- **Amendment was accepted by consent.**

Beth Hirsch stated concerns of unintended consequences when a state takes such sweeping control away from municipalities.

Marj continued by also pointing out even the city of LA has a hard time understanding the needs of different neighborhoods, let alone the state understanding us. This bill feels like it's the wrong tool to use to accomplish fixing the problem.

Krystal Navar – Also feels the city and neighborhoods have not done enough to solve homelessness and the housing crisis and it may time to employ bold moves to cut through the red tape.

Linda Theung – expressed that perhaps the resistance to a big change like this would not occur since the bill allows for a mile away from trains. Feels this would affect only a very small amount of housing in Los Angeles. Hopes it will encourage folks to take the train and bike once the density near trains has increased.

Charlie – Agreed this bill would just not affect us.

Doug Fitzsimmons explained that there are neighborhoods in our area that this would affect, such as La Cienega Blvd.

Ken Blaker – asked for an amendment to change the word” trashes: to “eliminates” local control from paragraph IV of the Motion.

- **Seconded by Charlie Stein.**
- **Vote: Y – 14. N – 3. A – 2. Motion passes.**

b. Motion to support the City’s Expo Transit Neighborhood Plan (Fitzsimmons / GB011818-6)

Doug Fitzsimmons feels the plan has been well vetted with lots of community, city and organizational input. Many feel it should still work towards more affordable housing. But generally, a good plan. However, our Councilman Paul Koretz is against it.

- **Moved by Marj Safinia. Seconded by Jon Liberman.**

Adam proposed to amend the motion to cut out item b. and II and just come out in support of the motion.

- **Seconded by Charlie Stein**

Debate on Amendment: Marj and Dan and Doug – the point is to engage our councilmen to work with the NC/s and communities on this issue.

- **Vote on Amendment: Y – 2, N – 14. A – 3. Amendment does not pass.**

Debate on Motion: Ken Blaker – Feels this is geared at ending parking near the train. Worried that this will prevent those who live too far way from using the train.



- **. Vote on Motion: Y – 17, N – 0. A – 2. Motion passes.**

c. Motion to oppose condominium project at 1505 S. Holt Ave. (Land Use / GB011818-7)

Presented by Krystal Navar – Opposing the Project based on the fact they refused to come into Land Use or a Board meeting to present to the public for comment.

Public comment – Community members attended expressing concerns about size of units and floors. Concerned about parking and infrastructure.

- **Marj Safinia moved it. Jon seconded it.**

Debate: Jon Liberman stated that he believes in order to do our job representing our community we must send a strong message to developers and city planning that developers must come and present their projects to the NC and thereby the public for approval, before public hearings. Because that is the only place where people who might be in opposition can easily come.

Charlie Stein – Developers are not obligated to present to us and it's unfair to disapprove them just because they don't come before us.

Bryan says even though developers are not technically obligated, we don't want to create a loophole whereby they can get around public comment and input and go straight to the Zoning Administration.

Victor Mity – concerned that opposing in this way without specific issues with the project might not be effective.

Krystal Navar - felt that the Letter opposing approval just because of a no show would carry weight with the ZA because as has happened before they would understand that insufficient notice to the public may not have been given and they might be inclined to postpone until further public comment could be gathered and the NC would have a chance to weigh in on the project.

Steve Chocron - Proposed amendment to strike the line about opposing the project and change it to a "recommendation that the hearing be postponed until such time as the applicant has presented to the NC Land Use Committee.

- **Amendment Seconded by Martin Epstein.**

Marj Safinia thinks that we should keep the language about opposing the project for more leverage.

Bryan Warmam thinks the letter is sufficient to cover that language.

Krystal who wrote the recommendation/ opposition letter feels that if they decide not to postpone we are left not opposing it.

- **Vote on amendment to motion: Y – 1. N – 16. A – 0.**
- **Motion Vote: Y – 17. N – 0. A – 0.**

d. Motion to oppose accessory dwelling unit at 2630 S. Bedford St. (Land Use / GB011818-8) Tabled



- e. **Motion to support office addition at 3235-3241 S. Hutchison Ave. (Land Use / GB011818-9) Tabled**
- f. **Motion to fund up to \$500 for a battery power pack and solar panel kit (Public Safety / GB011818-10)**
 - **Motion to tabled by Marj Safinia. Seconded by Victor**
 - **Motion tabled by general consent.**

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	C	C	N	Y	Y	N	Y	C				
Alex Mosby	C	Y	Y	C	C	Y	N	Y	N	Y	C				
Steve Chocron	C	Y	Y	C	C	Y	A	A	Y	Y	C				
Giovanni Ferdinand	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Bryan Warman	C	Y	Y	C	C	Y	A	Y	N	Y	C				
Michael Lynn	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Jon Liberman	C	Y	Y	C	C	Y	N	Y	N	Y	C				
Doug Fitzsimmons	C	Y	Y	C	C	Y	N	Y	N	Y	C				
Adam Rich	C	Y	Y	C	C	A	Y	Y	N	Y	C				
Vacant															
Ken Blaker	C	Y	Y	C	C	Y	N	Y	N	Y	C				
Nahed Guirguis	C	Y	Y	C	C	Y	N	Y	X	X	C				
Krystal Návar	C	Y	Y	C	C	N	N	Y	N	Y	C				
Tom Eliopoulos	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Gary Kasbarian	C	Y	Y	C	C	Y	N	Y	N	Y	C				
Beth Hirsch	C	Y	Y	C	C	Y	N	Y	N	Y	C				
Barry Levine	C	Y	Y	C	C	Y	N	Y	N	Y	C				
Marj Safinia	C	Y	Y	C	C	Y	N	Y	N	Y	C				
Susan Burden	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Martin Epstein	C	Y	Y	C	C	Y	N	Y	X	X	X				
Victor Mitry	C	Y	Y	C	C	N	A	A	N	Y	C				
Dan Fink	C	Y	Y	C	C	Y	N	Y	N	Y	C				
Linda Theung	C	Y	Y	C	C	A	N	Y	N	Y	C				
Vacant															
Daphne Moss	C	IE	IE	C	C	Y	N	Y	N	Y	C				

Votes taken

- Consent Agenda Draft meeting minutes of 16 November 2017 (Hirsch / GB011818-1)
- Treasurer's report and monthly expenses (Liberman / GB011818-4)1
- Treasurer's report and monthly expenses (Liberman / GB011818-4) 2
- Amendment to Motion
- Amendment language
- Motion oppose CA bill for Transit-rich Housing Bonus [Wiener, SB 827] (WRAC / GB011818-5)**
- Motion 2 amend language
- Motion to support the City's Expo Transit Neighborhood Plan (Fitzsimmons / GB011818-6)**
- Motion to amend**
- Motion to oppose condominium project at 1505 S. Holt Ave. (Land Use / GB011818-7)**
- Motion to table (Public Safety / GB011818-10)