



General Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 17, 2015, 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 7:30.

Board Members Present: Michael Lynn, Jon Liberman, Doug Fitzsimmons, Paula Waxman, Michael Bloom, Ken Blaker, Robyn Braun, Aimee Zeltzer, Beth Hirsch, Marj Safinia, Terrence Gomes, Victor Mitry, Dan Fink, Noa Zarur

Board Members Absent: Kevin Gres, Mike Bitton, Kimber Smith, Giovanni Ferdinand, Roger McCracken, Nahed Guirguis, Susan Burden, Barry Levine, Martin Epstein, Leo Portal

Guests: Aubrey Phoust, Melba Phoust, Barbara Mendes, Jacqueline Hamilton

II. General Public Comment

Beverlywood representatives spoke up regarding concerns about zoning and mansionization changes in Beverlywood. Asked SORO to intervene on behalf of the residences to help fight the HOA and the City on oversized home building and development and to keep the character of the neighborhood.

III. Community Reports

LAPD Report. SLO Mario Gonzales –

- Announced reward for information leading to an arrest of those responsible for the murder of James Jackson shot last year in Castle Heights.
- Police can no longer remove people that are sleeping in cars due to homelessness. This is because of recent lawsuits.
- Police will now, also be restricted regarding arrests due to gang injunctions because of lawsuits.
- Police will be meeting this month with Herb Wesson's office to help solve the enforcement issues related to street vending on Venice.
- Gonzales reported that Crime over all is down 4.5 percent in the area, still high in grand theft autos in the National Blvd area of Castle Heights. Early model Honda ford Civics and Accords are most commonly stolen cars for parts.
- More patrols and enforcement of crime related to the high school is in progress.

Office of Council President Wesson. Liz Carlin – There are new changes coming from the City Planning Department regarding tree planting. Go to City planning website for more information.

Office of Councilmember Koretz. Joseph Galloway –

- Transportation Deputy is taking a leave of absence due to a family illness. In the meantime forward all transportation issues to Joseph.

Doug Fitzsimmons
President

Kevin Gres
Vice-President

Terrence Gomes
Treasurer

Beth Hirsch
Secretary

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- Announcement that Koretz's office will be adding a \$10,000 reward in addition to the LAPD's reward of \$50,000 (total of \$60,000) for information leading to the arrest of James Jackson's killer.
- Bureau of Sanitation and Bureau Engineering is planning a two year long sewer project that will involve major street closures along, La Cinega, Olympic and Pico Blvds. Planned starts set for the beginning of June.
- Homeless encampments need to be reported to Sanitation through LA 31. Please include physical address along with pictures. Don't refer to it as a homeless encampment, but as illegal dumping so it will get forwarded to the correct department for clean up.
- 15 new Trash cans will soon be available on Pico Blvd.
- Recode LA is asking people to come to their website for comments on the new changes.
- Question regarding support from Koretz's office regarding city ordinance proposed for permanent office space for SORONC at Robertson Recreation Center.

Office of the Congresswoman Karen Bass. - Jacqueline Hamilton –
Will be handling environmental and Healthcare issues at the Los Angeles offices and plans to attend more NC meetings in the future.

IV. Consent Agenda

Draft Board Meeting Minutes of 21 February 2015 (Hirsch / GB031716-1)

- **Consent Agenda accepted by general consent**

V. Committee Reports

Confirmation of Board committee membership (GB031716-2)

Brief introduction of Krystal Návar, Land Use committee member.

- **Executive.** Doug Fitzsimmons asked all board members to step up and complete getting call for candidate yard signs up.
- Reyneir Park Meeting – Doug thanked Terry for initiating discussions with Rec and Parks and LAPD regarding overuse and criminal activities And illegal parking at RV park.

Treasurer Report.

- a. Events and legislative issues SORO – Terry explains clarification of rules for Neighborhood purposes grants or NPGs. If we give to a school the program needs to benefit entire school, not just a club or group.
- b. Doug asked committee to please prepare committee reports for possible inclusion in the budget. Add them to your next Committee Meeting Agendas. Finance Committee will be meeting soon to set 2016-17 Budget.
- c. SORO NC finally received a 2000.00 insurance settlement for the replacement of our audio and visual equipment that was stolen 2 years ago.

Approval of monthly expenses (GB031716-3)

Funds spent - \$ 273.98 Funds remaining: \$27,121.34

- Terry moved to accept the report; Mike seconded.
- **Vote: 21-Y, 0-N, 0-A. Feb Report accepted.**

Approval of report from January tabled due to Treasurer absence.

Funds spent - \$ 691.38

Moved by Doug, seconded by Jon

•**Vote: 21-Y, 0-N, 0-A. Jan Report accepted.**



Land Use. Verizon Cell Tower project on South Robertson Blvd has been denied by the ZA pending appeal. Owner of property may also reconsider deal to lease to Verizon as well.

Elections report – Beth Hirsch – Marj Safinia -

- Less than 3 weeks until Candidate registration closes. April 6th. Candidate applications are going well. Most of the seats are covered or pledged and contested as well. Asked board to reach out in person or on social media for more candidates.
- Registration for online voting is also now available. Liz (Wesson's) offered to help get the word out.

VI. Unfinished Business

*****all tabled due to time constraints losing quorum at 8:30pm*****

- Motion to split the Economic Development committee into three separate committees (Liberman / GB021815-5)**
- Motion to give 60-day notice to City Attorney Feuer for enforcement of short term rentals (LANNC / GB021816-12)**
- Motion to support a manageable Street Vending ordinance (LANNC / GB021816-13) (GB010115-5)**

VII. New Business

- Motion to fund Get Lit NPG for \$5000 (Safinia / GB031716-4)**

Presentation by Diane Vane (sp) - Director of Get Lit – a non-profit team literacy program organization currently working with Hamilton High School. GL provides a poetry program to teachers and teenagers and culminates in participation in state and national poetry slams, which the Grant would help pay for. The board was treated to a performance by one of the students.

Board questions: Is the program available to all students and teachers? Yes. Performed at the white. Helps at risk youth. Provides a voice for students who have no voice.

Public comment: Jacqueline Hamilton (Karen Bass) said she had the opportunity to see one of the slams and was very impressed and moved by the program.

Motion moved by Marj. Seconded by Amy.

Board discussion: Terry expressed concerns and argued that the program did not meet the new City attorney parameters for NPGs. It's a Common core curriculum program, for school credit available to all students and teachers that want to participate. Doug read the city attorney's specific wording regarding giving money to a local high school. It stated that it would not be appropriate to bring the motion if a board member who had a child at the school would directly benefit from the program financially because of the grant and if the program was not available to all of the students.

Vote: 10 – Y, 1 – N, 2 – A. Motions passes.

*****Remainder of Motions tabled due to losing quorum*****



- b. Motion to request Recreation & Parks Dept. fill open position to help manage Reynier Park (Fitzsimmons / GB031716-5)
- c. Discussion of proposed LADWP reform; City Council file 16-0093
- d. Motion to reassert alcohol-specific conditions in Conditional Use Beverage (CUB) permits (WRAC / GB031716)

Doug expressed extreme disappointment in the Council board members that did not attend causing the council to adjourn before completing our business due to lack of quorum.

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50pm.



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
Kevin Gres	X	X	X	X											
Kimber Smith	X	X	X	X											
Mike Bitton	X	X	X	X											
Giovanni Ferdinand	X	X	X	X											
Roger McCracken	X	X	X	X											
Michael Lynn	C	Y	Y	A											
Jon Liberman	C	Y	Y	A											
Doug Fitzsimmons	C	Y	Y	Y											
Paula Waxman	C	Y	Y	Y											
Michael Bloom	C	Y	Y	Y											
Ken Blaker	C	Y	Y	Y											
Nahed Guirguis	X	X	X	X											
Robyn Braun	C	Y	Y	Y											
Aimee Zeltzer	C	Y	Y	Y											
Beth Hirsch	C	Y	Y	Y											
Susan Burden	X	X	X	X											
Marj Safinia	C	Y	Y	Y											
Terrence Gomes	C	Y	Y	N											
Martin Epstein	X	X	X	X											
Victor Mitry	C	Y	Y	Y											
Leo Portal	X	X	X	X											
Dan Fink	C	Y	Y	Y											
Barry Levine	C	Y	Y	Y											
Noa Zarur	C	A	A	A											
School Rep 2															

Votes taken

1. Draft meeting minutes of February 2016 (Hirsch/ GB031716-1)
2. Approval of monthly expenses for Jan and Feb 2016 (Gomes/GB031716-3)
3. Motion to fund Get Lit NPG for \$5000.00 (Safinia / GB031716 - 4)