



# General Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 19, 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 7:09.

**Board Members Present:** Kevin Gres, Kimber Smith, Melissande Colton Bette Billet, Michael Lynn, Jon Liberman, Doug Fitzsimmons, Paula Waxman, Michael Bloom, Victoria Martin, Beth Hirsch, Marj Safinia, Terrence Gomes, Victor Mitry, Leo Portal, Sherilyn Correa, Barry Levine,

**Board Members Absent:** , Giovanni Ferdinand, Nahed Guirguis, Robyn Braun, Aimee Zeltzer, Susan Burden, Martin Epstein, Grant Cohen

**Guests:** Grace Yoo, Ellen Lanet, (came at the end of the meeting) Lydia Grant from the Commission of Neighborhood Councils

## II. General Public Comment

Ellen Lanet – expressed concern that the SORO Board was not posting Agendas, Meeting minutes appropriately or in a timely manner. Was most concerned about the The new Mansionization Motion from January Board meeting was not included in the minutes.

Grace Yoo, introduced herself as a Candidate running for Los Angeles City Council for CD 10.

Lydia Grant – Came on behalf of the Commission of Neighborhood Councils to discuss concerns about on-line voting.

## III. Community Reports

**LAPD Report.** None

**LAFD Report – James Q Ruiz –** Announced reorganization of roles of Battallion Chiefs – to make more of an effort to do community outreach (similar to the LAPD Senior Lead officer duties) and more communication and cooperation with the LAPD.

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

- Announced Abilities Expo Sponsored by the LA Department of Disabilities March 6-8<sup>th</sup> 11am-5pm at the LA Convention Center.
- Community Shred, Recycle and Special Waste Disposal Event March 28<sup>th</sup> 9am -3pm in front of the Sentinal Newspaper at Bronson and Coliseum

**Office of Councilmember Koretz. Joseph Galloway -**

- announced Baby car seat event Sunday Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> 12-4pm.
- Meeting regarding the Robertson Rec Center Project, Monday March 9<sup>th</sup> 7pm at the Robertson Rec Center, on Preuss and Airdrome.

**Office of the Mayor.** None.

**Office of Assemblymember Bloom.** None

**Doug Fitzsimmons**  
President

**Kevin Gres**  
Vice-President

**Terrence Gomes**  
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



**Office of Assemblymember Ridley-Thomas.** Deputy District Director

- Working on issues regarding Work place fairness for teachers
- Transition of Inglewood Oil fields into a park
- Community cleanup of Caltrans property
- Update on State budget input.

**Office of Senator Mitchell.** None

**Office of Congressman Lieu's office.** None

**IV. Robertson Recreation Center improvements: Jaime Contreras, LA Bureau of Engineering V Presentation and Board Discussion**

Presented drawing and materials on the proposed Robertson Recreation Center new building project.

**Public Comment:**

- Numerous speakers commented on their concerns which included:
- Gymnasium only for basketball no longer has stage.
- No Full Kitchen for events
- The 18 additional parking spaces /for and against
- Preserving existing trees
- Extra outdoor basketball court, community would like to see other uses for the grounds
- Not enough outreach to Crestview Community regarding the design
- Security issues

***5 minute Break to allow public to file out***

**V. Consent Agenda**

**•All items on the Consent Agenda removed for discussion and amending**

**a. Draft meeting minutes of January 15, 2015 (Hirsch / GB021915-1)**

Motion to amend Minutes regarding final draft of **Motion (GB011515 – 5)**

**Moved , seconded.**

**Read as follows:**

“SORO NC therefore opposes Councilman Koretz’s blanket application of the ICO and believes such restriction must be applied on a community by community basis. Further, the city should suspend implementation of the ICO for a period of six months, while it actively solicits community input. SORO NC believes each community should have the power to decide its own future on this matter and no community should be forced to follow a vocal minority regardless of which side of the issue they fall on. SORO hereby authorizes sending letters to all City Council members reflecting the sentiment of this motion and community impact statements be filed on its behalf. “

**Amendment adopted by general consent**

**b. Motion to approve keyholders for SORO NC mailbox and storage (Fitzsimmons / GB021915-2) Draft Board Meeting Minutes of February 15, 2015 (Hirsch / GB011515-1) moved to New Business**

**VI. Committee Reports**

**a. Confirmation of Board committee membership (GB021915-3)**



- Tobi Stein resigned from his post as LGBTQ Co-Chair due to educational pressures.
- Sherilyn Correa and Jon Lieberman asked to be placed on the Parks and Rec Committee.

**Requests confirmed by general consent**

**b. President's report**

**Ethics and Code of Conduct:** list of board members whose certifications have expired, discussion of consequences of not completing them. Cannot vote on any funding motions until in compliance, and removal from board if not completed by deadline. **Business cards** will be ready by next board meeting.

**c. Treasurer's report & monthly expenses approval (Gomes / GB021915-4)**

**Amount Spent: \$652.72**

**Funds remaining: \$25,736.36**

**Moved and seconded.**

**Vote: 10-Y, 0-N, 0-A. Report accepted.**

**d. Committee reports, events and legislative issues**

- **Land Use** – Terry - Still working on LUED committee and board training. March 26<sup>th</sup> joint meeting with Pico NC LUED, regarding mansionization, SLSD etc, pushing middle class out of neighborhoods. Next LUED meeting we have 10 density bonus projects, 2 SLSDs and 1 CUB projects to review. Senior Housing Development.
- **Public Safety** – Mike - PEPC is in process of approving Castle Heights area for a cash of EP supplies. Looking for a location. Planning of EP Expo at SORO Fest. Car Seat Safety event.
- **Transportation:** Jon – committee identified 10 intersections that need improvement by LADOT in SORO. Doug will come up with Proposal. Mobility plan has been revised and needs review.
- **Green Team** – Paula – several funding motions and planning of Water Conservation Town Hall. E Waste drive at Hamilton High.
- **Outreach** – Marj - Business and Community Access database, Green Team Town hall outreach. Asked NPG committee to get info so we can get the info to the community.
- **Education** - Barry - Fresh fruit on Friday Funding Motion.
- **LGBTQ** – Leo - Search for new co-chair .
- **Parks and Rec** – met recently regarding new park building on at Robertson rec Center. Will update website with new info as it becomes available.

**e. Creation of SORO business database** – Beth - description of how the database would work and benefit the community. 1<sup>st</sup> phase Identify all the business on a spread sheet and then eventually create a full database with more detail. Full board participation would be ideal. Possible joint project with LUED.



## VII. Special Orders

**Nomination of two attendees to the 2015 Civic University for Neighborhood Councils (GB021915-5)**  
3 nominees from each gender

- Nominations moved and seconded
- Final Votes: Female: Victoria Martin with 9 votes
- Male Vote: Michael Bloom with 8 (*see attached Vote Tally*)

## VIII. New Business

**Motion to approve keyholders for SORO NC mailbox and storage (Fitzsimmons / GB021915-2) (*moved from Consent Agenda*)**

Terry explained that Mailbox Shop can only give out two keys. Can't duplicate keys. The only mail that comes in is for LUED Committee and Executive Committee. Storage unit is complicated as well.

**Moved and Seconded to amend motion:** Will read: President and Chair or Vice Chair of the Land Use Committee will hold the two mailbox keys.

**Storage facility:** Some discussion about difficulty to get into, tabled till we get more information.

**Moved and seconded:**

**Vote passes by consent.**

**a. Motion to spend \$2600 to trim & maintain 17 Chinese Elm trees planted by SORO along S. Robertson Blvd. (Green Team / GB021915-6)**

**Moved and Seconded.**

Paula – explained that the trees we planted need immediate trimming. Terry expressed concern about spending the money on this right now as some of the businesses have been cutting the trees down without permission. Wants to make sure the city is going to support our plantings before spending money on maintenance. Paula explained that trimming is urgent and she has gotten special permits and doesn't want to go thru that again.

**Vote: Y – 8, N – 1, A - 7**

**b. Motion to spend up to \$340 to buy and replace Hamilton High Garden equipment (Waxman / GB021915-7)**

Paula- explained that some of the equipment has been broken and garden needs netting.

**Moved and seconded.**

**Vote: Y – 9, N – 0, A – 7. Motion passes.**

**c. Motion to approve a \$3952 Neighborhood Purposes Grant for the Fresh Fruit on Fridays program at Shenandoah Elementary (Levine / GB021915-8)**

Barry - Fresh fruits and Healthy foods educational program for under privileged students at Shenandoah ES.

**Moved and seconded.**

**Vote: Y - 9, N - 0, A – 7. Motions passes.**

**d. Motion for \$1750 to sponsor CPR/AED/First Aid classes for SORO (Lynn / GB021915-9)**

Mike: Same as last three years. Reduced CPR training for the community. Very successful last year.



**Moved and seconded.**

**Vote: Y - 9, N - 9, A – 7. Motion passes.**

**e. Participation Diversification Act: Motion to require each Boardmember to propose one Neighborhood Purposes Grant and one general motion per year (Gres / GB021915-10)**

Kevin - Attempting to encourage participation and incentive to inactive board members. Asking SORO board in addition to attendance requirements to also set a minimum standard of requirement of 1 NPG's and 1 Motion from each board member per fiscal year or be thrown off the board by vote of the Executive Committee.

**Moved and seconded.**

Board debate. Overall feeling that it was a negative way to get participation.

- Marj proposed amendments 1. That attendance should be included the board meeting Agenda packages. 2. Not practical to ask 24 board members to come up with an NPG. May not be enough organizations to cover this requirement be removed should be by board approval, not executive approval as this not the purpose of the executive committee to lord over the board.
- Amendment moved and seconded.
- **Vote of the 1<sup>st</sup> amendment – Y - 14, N - 2, A – 0**
- Bette commented that perhaps a committee be formed to come up with some good ideas to address the lack of participation.
- Terry moved to amend that the motion be split into 2 motions. First Motion would be that attendance would be posted on the website and that a board members attendance should be a transparency issue. **Moved and seconded.**
- **Vote to split into two motions: Y - 14, N - 1, A – 1 Motion to amend passes.**
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> motion should be that **Kevin's Motion, (as amended ) should be postponed until such time as the bylaws committee can meet, review it and come up with specific language with in 60 days.** Doug will reopen the rolls so that if someone wants to join the Bylaws committee they can do so in order to contribute and vote on this Motion.
- **Moved and seconded. .**
- **Motion vote 2<sup>nd</sup> half: 16-Y, 0-N, 0-A. Motion approved.**

## **IX. Reopen Committee Roles:**

**Opportunity to join the Bylaws Committee.**

Paula Waxman, Beth Hirsch, Victoria Martin . **Committee assignments**

**Committee members approved by consent.**

## **X. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20pm.



## 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 a	11 b	11 c	14	15
Kevin Gres	C	A	C	A	W	A	A	A	A	A	N				
Kimber Smith	C	Y	C	A	W	A	A	A	A	A	Y				
Melissande Colton	C	Y	C	A	W	A	A	A	A	A	Y				
Giovanni Ferdinand	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Bette Billet	C	Y	C	A	W	A	A	A	A	A	Y				
Michael Lynn	C	Y	C	Y	W	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
Jon Liberman	C	N	C	Y	W	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
Doug Fitzsimmons	C	Y	C	A	W	A	A	A	A	A	Y				
Paula Waxman	C	Y	C	Y	W	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
Michoel Bloom	C	Y	C	A	W	A	A	A	A	A	Y				
Victoria Martin	C	Y	C	Y	W	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
Nahed Guirguis	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Robyn Braun	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Aimee Zeltzer	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Beth Hirsch	C		C	Y	W	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
Susan Burden	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Marj Safinia	C	Y	C	Y	W	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
Terrence Gomes	C	Y	C	Y	W	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N				
Martin Epstein	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Victor Mitry	C	Y	C	y	W	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Leo Portal	C	Y	C	Y	W	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
Sherilyn Correa	C	Y	C	Y	W	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
Barry Levine	C	N	C	A	W	A	A	A	A	A	Y				
Grant Cohen	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
School Rep 2															

### Votes taken

1. Draft meeting minutes of January 15, 2015 (Hirsch / GB021915-1)
2. Motion to approve keyholders for SORO NC mailbox and storage (Fitzsimmons / GB021915-2)
3. Confirmation of Board committee memberships (GB021915-3)
4. Approval of monthly expenses (GB021915-4)
5. Nomination of two attendees to the 2015 Civic University for Neighborhood Councils (GB021915-5)
6. Motion to spend \$2600 to trim & maintain 17 Chinese Elm trees planted
7. Motion to spend up to \$340 to buy and replace Hamilton High Garden equipment (Waxman / GB021915-7)
8. Motion to approve a \$3952 Neighborhood Purposes Grant for the Fresh
9. Fruit on Fridays program at Shenandoah Elementary (Levine /GB021915-8)
10. Motion for \$1750 to sponsor CPR/AED/First Aid classes for SORO (Lynn /GB021915-9)



11. Participation Diversification Act: Motion to require each Boardmember to propose one Neighborhood Purposes Grant and one general motion per year (Gres / GB021915-11)