



General Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 21, 2015, 7:20pm

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 7:20.

Board Members Present: Kevin Gres, Melissande Colton, Giovanni Ferdinand, Michael Lynn, Jon Liberman, Doug Fitzsimmons, Paula Waxman, Michael Bloom, Nahed Guirguis, Robyn Braun, Aimee Zeltzer, Beth Hirsch, Marj Safinia, Terrence Gomes, Martin Epstein, Barry Levine

Board Members Absent: Kimber Smith, Vicki Martin, Susan Burden, Victor Mitry, Leo Portal, Sherilyn Correa, Grant Cohen

Guests: Katherine Costa, Colleen Edwards, Aaron Belliston, Dennis Brown, Uzi Avery

II. General Public Comment

- Uzi Avery & Aaron Belliston, developers who were not on the Agenda gave brief presentation on two projects on Cattaraugus
- Doug Fitzsimmons asked for good thoughts and support for Board member Vicki Martin, whose baby daughter was born three months premature this past week.

III. Community Reports

LAPD Report. Mario Gonzales - Crime report –

- Update on shootings in Palms
- Reported increase in catalytic converter thefts, car thefts, and home burglaries
- Update on robberies near Hamilton High School
- Update on burglary in Castle Heights area
- 2 arrests made on car thefts. Warning of robbery scams on Craig's List
- Massage parlors being monitored and new establishments need to register with the Police Department now.
- New Police Captain at WLA Tina Nieto.

Office of Council President Wesson. Liz Carlin –

- Thanked SORONC for Water Town hall event
- Thank Terry, Doug and LANNC for getting participation at the NC Town Halls presented by Wesson, to get feedback for changes to DONE and the NC's.
- Offered help and support for SORO Festival Coming up June 7th.

Office of Councilmember Koretz. Joseph Galloway –

- Thanked NC for Water Town Hall
- Support for SORO Fest, Councilman Koretz will attend and will have booth

Doug Fitzsimmons
President

Kevin Gres
Vice-President

Terrence Gomes
Treasurer

Beth Hirsch
Secretary

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- Expressed concern about the rising rate in murder and violent crime in all of LA. Pacific and West LA Police department will be holding a community event on May 27th to discuss concerns.
- Reminder to get your rain barrel before rebate cut off deadline at the end of the month.
- Meeting on Robertson Rec Center coming up at Rec Center May 28th.

Office of the Mayor. Daniel Tamm –

- City of LA ranked number one in the country on Open Data. Received an award from the World Council on City Data.
- City Budget passed. Budget contains the following priorities from the Mayor's office: Safety, prosperity, sustainability, city planning, great streets program, earthquake and Emergency preparedness.
- Plan was approved to increase the minimum wage in Los Angeles gradually to \$15 and hour by 2020.
- Barry Levin mentioned that Nestle is bottling water from Southern California asked the Mayor's office to look into it.

IV. Consent Agenda

- a. Draft meeting minutes of April 16, 2015 (Hirsch / GB052115-1)
- b. Motion to support AB 446: indefinite extension of the Baldwin Hills Conservancy Act (Fitzsimmons / GB052115-2) *(removed for discussion to New Business)*
- c. Motion to support City Council files 15-0389, 15-0524, and 12-1681: NC presentation time, inclusion of CIS, funds to City departments, rollover funds, accept donations, review DONE responsibilities, streamline processes, NC subdivision policy (Fitzsimmons / GB052115-3)

- Consent Agenda accepted by general consent.

V. Committee Reports

- a. Confirmation of Board committee membership (GB041615-4)
Victoria Martin resigned as Vice Chair of Land Use

b. President's report – Doug Fitzsimmons

- May 10th Community member and famed Performance artist, actress, teacher, local business owner Rachel Rosenthal died this week at 88.
- Thanks to all who worked on the Water Town Hall. It was a huge success.
- 18th Annual SORO Fest June 7th - Call to all board members to attend and volunteer.
- Reminder to board members that have not completed their ethics training to please complete immediately.

c. Treasurer's report & monthly expenses approval (Gomes / GB052115-5)

- Expenses for April/ May \$795.19
- Funds remaining \$15,591.82

Moved and seconded.

Vote: 16-Y, 0-N, 0-A. Report accepted.

d. Committee reports:



Land Use. Terry Gomes –

- 1 Small Lot Subdivision project (presenting tonight) Uzi Avery and Assoc project announced at public comment has two buildings.
- 166 units being currently being proposed in SORO
- Four new projects being presented over the next two months.
- Jon brought up issue that all the new development could put a strain on local water resources. Feels the NC needs to look into it.

Education. Barry –

- Tutoring program at Shenandoah ending for the year. Starting next Sept. Need volunteers to help 2nd, 3rd and 4th graders. Mon –Friday program 2:30 - 3:30pm.
- Start Fresh Fruit on Friday for two more weeks then start up again in August for new school year.

Green Team. Paula Waxman –

- Town Hall was great success, still pushing free rain barrels until the May 27th

Public Safety. Mike Lynn –

- Gearing up for SORO Fest. Huge Safety Expo.
- PR campaign for Expo going well, secured support from the Movie “San Andreas” to provide swag to giveaway at the EP event.
- Still looking for more vendors.
- Need volunteers to set up tents and booths and work the event.

Outreach. Marj Safinia –

- Getting ready for SORO Fest. Need volunteers to man the booth.
- Updating 2015 Community Outreach Survey. Outreach needs all committees to turn in questions to Marj they want included in survey.
- Need to replace the SORO street banners. Brief discussion for costing out and where to place them.

VI. New Business

a. Motion to support proposed small lot subdivision at 9218-9228 National Blvd. (Land Use / GB052115-6)

Colleen Edwards and Katherine Costa presented 15 - two-story modern town house style units (for sale) replacing two – 3 unit apartment buildings (rentals).

Board Questions: Terry brought up that the guest parking issues had still not been addressed that were asked for at last Land Use meeting. Why not. Jon brought up the possible water use concerns. How will they tackle them. Developer seemed not to have answers.

Motion moved by Jon and seconded by Michael –

Board discussion: Jon moved that Motion be tabled and sent back to Land use.

Vote: 9-Y, 7-N, 0-A to table Motion.

Martin Epstein leaves the meeting.

b. Motion to approve \$5000 neighborhood purposes grant for the Ness Counseling Center (Gres / GB052115-7)



Kevin Gres presented – pleaded that the non-profit org addresses drug addiction, domestic violence, anger management, homeless and mental health and funding this org would help the entire community – Dennis Brown the director of the group said he would go directly to counseling and not administrative. \$5000 would provide counseling to help people out of the system and get them off waiting lists for help.

Vote: 15 - Y, 0 - N, 0- A Motion passes.

c. Motion to approve Fiscal Year 2015-16 budget and strategy (Finance / GB052115-8)

Committee met to divide up the budget of \$42,000. 00 starting July 1 and to create a strategic plan for the new fiscal year.

Moved by Jon. Seconded by Terry.

Vote: 14 -Y, 0- N, 1 - A. Budget passes.

d. Motion to require non-Board member committee members to sign DONE's Code of Conduct and SORO NC's Code of Civility (Gomes / GB052115-9)

Terry Gomes presents –

For transparency per the city attorney suggestion. Concerns that non-Board member committee members could potentially vote with a conflict of interest.

Motion moved by Marj and seconded by Jon.

Board discussion - Many committee members are concerned that this would prevent public participation is we required too much of them. Chair should be held accountable for keeping track of conflicts of interest. Others argued that non board member committee members may be ignorant of what is a conflict of interest, requiring ethics education for at least some of the committees, such as LUED may be prudent. Others argued that all committee members should at least be held accountable for civil behavior and conduct.

Terry, Marj and Doug crafted a Substitute Motion

“SORONC moves that the following take effect with the beginning of the new fiscal year 2015-2016. 1. All voting members of the SORONC Committees will be required to sign and abide by the DONE Code of Conduct and the SORONC Code of Civility. 2. All committee Chairs, co-chairs or Vice chairs, will be required to take all required training by the board as mandated by DONE.”

Moved and seconded.

Vote: 12-Y, 3-N, 0-A.

e. Motion to create new “Quality of Life” standing committee (Hirsch / GB052115-10)

Beth Hirsch presented – Propose new committee to address community “quality of life” issues that concern local residents. Committee would be a clearing house for people to come and pitch ideas, work on projects, events, or form new groups to benefit the community. Quality of Life would also handle some issues that may not fall squarely in one committee camp or the other and take up the slack to handle very difficult problems that need a deeper commitment of time to solve. Committee would help the community navigate multiple city departments and help find resources from non-city



agencies as well. Committee would be set up by Beth Hirsch and Aimee Zeltzer who expressed their commitment to cooperate with the board and other committee chairs and make this work for the community.

Moved by Doug and seconded by Marj.

Board discussion: Jon feels that committee may set too high of an expectation for solving things that can't be solved. Beth explained the committee would be opening a dialogue to help educate the community as well as solve concerns.

Paula had an issue with the title of the committee. Thought committee should have a different name.

Aimee expressed her desire to help solve mental health issues in the area and help make better communications between her community and the city. She felt these issue fall under quality of life and wants to keep the name.

Doug said he liked the idea because it could potentially be a collection of subject matter experts that are willing to stand up and take responsibility for an issue and set up a kind of infrastructure where things can be tracked so we can get back to our community members more quickly and continuously and a committee that continues to work until issues are resolved.

More debate on whether it should be a standing committee or an ad-hoc committee, Doug disagreed. Felt the committee was defined in a way that it fit in with being a standing committee. Others debated if we even needed a separate committee at all. That Land use and Public Safety etc. should be handling these issues. Many agreed that a committee to handle some community issues more directly and intensely was a good idea.

Doug called for a vote:

13 - Y, 0- N, 0-A. Motion approved.

- f. **Motion to approve \$325 in outreach materials for 2015 SORO Festival (Safinia / GB052115-11)**

Moved and seconded.

Board discussion: Mike wants to increase the budget to \$500 for extra flyers for Safety Expo. Discussion on whether it was needed.

Amendment moved by Mike Lynn, seconded by Marj.

Amended by consent to \$500.

Vote: 13 - Y, 0- N, 0- A. Motion passes.

- g. **Motion to allocate \$500 each (\$1000 total) to support the NC Budget Advocates and 2015 Congress of Neighborhood Councils (Fitzsimmons / GB052115-12)**

Tabled for lack of time, moved to next meeting

- h. **Motion to pay our overhead expenses by the year (Gomes / GB05211513)**

Tabled for lack of time, moved to next meeting.



- i. **Motion to recommend an ordinance requiring recreational vehicles and campers to have and display a 72-hour parking pass to park on City streets (Fitzsimmons / GB052115-14)**

Tabled for lack of time, moved to next meeting.

- j. **Motion to support AB 446: indefinite extension of the Baldwin Hills Conservancy Act (Fitzsimmons / GB052115-2)**

Jon pulled from consent because he had concerns about the budget of the original bill. Terry felt the wording in the original bill expressed some racism and felt we should say we support it as long as some the language was changed.

For lack of time, withdrawn by Doug.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15pm.



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	C		C		Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y				
Kimber Smith	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Melissande Colton	C		C		Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y				
Giovanni Ferdinand	C		C		Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
vacant															
Michael Lynn	C		C		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
Jon Liberman	C		C		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
Doug Fitzsimmons	C		C		Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
Paula Waxman	C		C		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
Michael Bloom	C		C		Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y				
Victoria Martin	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Nahed Guirguis	C		C		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
Robyn Braun	C		C		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
Aimee Zeltzer	C		C		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
Beth Hirsch	C		C		Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
Susan Burden	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Marj Safinia	C		C		Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
Terrence Gomes	C		C		Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y				
Martin Epstein	C		C		Y	N	X	X	X	X	X				
Victor Mitry	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Leo Portal	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Sherilyn Correa	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Barry Levine	C		C		Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y				
Grant Cohen	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
School Rep 2															

Votes taken

- Consent Agenda (GB052115-1) (GB 052115-3)
- Approval of monthly expenses (GB052115-5)
- Motion to support proposed small lot subdivision at 9218-9228 National Blvd. (GB052115-6)
- Motion to approve \$5000 neighborhood purposes grant for the Ness Counseling Center (GB052115-7)
- Motion to approve Fiscal Year 2015-16 budget and strategy (GB052115-8)
- Motion to require non-Board member committee members to sign DONE's Code of Conduct and SORO NC's Code of Civility GB052115-9)
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