



General Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 15, 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 7:18pm.

Board Members Present: Kimber Smith, Michael Lynn, Jon Liberman, Doug Fitzsimmons, Paula Waxman, Michael Bloom, Nahed Guirguis, Robyn Braun, Beth Hirsch, Susan Burden, Marj Safinia, Terrence Gomes, Victor Mitry, Dan Fink, Barry Levine,

Board Members Absent: Kevin Gres, Roger McCracken, Giovanni Ferdinand, Aimee Zeltzer, Martin Epstein, Leo Portal, Noa Zarur

Guests: Public was there but did not sign in

II. General Public Comment

- Marj Safinia announced her new documentary series at the Arc light in Culver City on Tuesday nights.
- Barry Levine announced that walk to school day for Shenandoah on Oct 4th was a huge success.
- Sunday Oct 18th Blood Drive at Castle Heights Elementary.
- Dan Fink announced The Big Halloween Party at The Relational Center on October 31st.

III. Community Reports

LAPD Report. Edna Veloz standing in for Mario Gonzales –

Crime update: 2 Hot prowls, 2 car thefts, 3 burglaries, no suspect information.

Jon Liberman expressed his neighbors concerns about how long it takes the police to arrive at the scene of these crimes. Terry Gomes asked if more patrols were being dispatched in our area due to the increase. Edna did not know.

Beth Hirsch noted that she has seen an increase in patrols in the Castle Heights area and asked for more information regarding the arrest she witnessed earlier in the week of two women. Edna had no information.

Victor Mitry reported a series of peace disturbances and vandalism happening at 2 am in his neighborhood. Some of the suspects have become belligerent when approached, 911 did not dispatch a car. Edna recommended that we call WLA PD directly or SLOs directly instead of 911.

Office of Council President Wesson. Liz Carlin – update on illegal swap meets on Venice Blvd btw La Cienega and Cattauragus on Weekends. SLO Gonzales and Liz will be going out there on Saturday the 24th to encourage vendors not to use this as their permanent lot due to complaints about noise, traffic and trash left there. Terry Asked why they were not being issued ACE tickets (citations that go to the City Attorney office.) as it is illegal. Liz said she would follow up on that with the City Attorney and WLA PD regarding. Rest of Board members asked that the one on Robertson across from Hamilton high also be looked into.

Thanks to SORO NC for their support with the Movie in the Park event at Reyneir Park.

Asking for volunteers for the Next Event - Winter Wonderland, Saturday Dec 12.

Doug Fitzsimmons
President

Kevin Gres
Vice-President

Terrence Gomes
Treasurer

Beth Hirsch
Secretary

**South Robertson
Neighborhoods Council**

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Office of Councilmember Koretz. Joseph Galloway - Thanks from the Councilman for participating and supporting this year's Peace Picnic. Health Fair Oct over 25th at Robertson Rec Center
Dept of Animal Services Reserve Animal Control is looking for volunteer reserve officers. Interested parties must complete a 3 month training and application process and commit to 16 hours of time a month. Could lead to a paid position. Contact the Dept of Animal Services at (888) 452-7381
Event to present the new Community health Improvement Plan. Friday Nov 20. 9am -12pm. Will address Quality of Life issues for County Residents.
Updates on progress with complaints regarding parking issues with Brown Auto Body parking cars on the street. They've been cited. Will follow up on issue with AirBnB on Gibson Street.
Jon Liberman asked if Jay Greenstein had looked into the loss of public transportation on Robertson. He is making progress,
Victor Mitrey asked about what the City Attny is doing about the residents that are using extreme amounts of City water. Example 90,000 gallons, by one resident. City is looking into fines and possible water shut off to resident who don't comply.
Terry praised Joseph as being the one that got the city councilman to get the training program and hours for Animal Services Volunteers being transferred as credit for those applying for paid positions.

IV. Consent Agenda

a. Draft meeting and special meeting minutes of September 17, 2015 (Hirsch / GB101515-1)

All items on the Consent Agenda accepted by general consent.

V. Committee Reports

Confirmation of Board committee membership (GB101515-2)

Noa Zarur joined the Education committee.

- **Requests confirmed by general consent**

Executive. Doug Fitzsimmons – Report on NC Congress – Lots of informative workshops like the one on Great Streets. Doug encouraged all board members to attend next year if they can.

Two resignations: Melissande Colton and Victoria Martin. They will be very, sadly missed. Their departure has left us with 4 board openings. Doug asked for help from the Board to look for replacements for Zone 3, At large, Organizational and School Seats.

Treasurer Report. Funds remaining: \$42,571.10. Funds spent : \$175.00

Marj reminded the Board that we have only 3 months to find local non-profit organizations to apply for the NPG Grant. Outreach has been posting it, on social media and email blasts but no one has applied as yet.

Marj asked if from now on that we include our Finance Breakdown.

Approval of monthly expenses (Gomes / GB101515-3)

- **Vote: 13-Y, 0-N, 0-A. Report accepted.**



VI. Special Orders

- a. **Application of Dan Fink for vacant Organization seat / interim appointment through June, 2016 (GB101515-4)**

Doug moved; Terry seconded.
Vote: 13-Y, 0-N, 0-A. Nomination accepted.

Dan joined the table.

- b. **Nomination of Elias Martinez for Vice-Chair of the LGBTQ Committee(GB101515-5)**
Tabled until November meeting
- c. **Nomination of Nicole Zwiren for Vice-Chair of the Green Team Committee (GB101515-6)**
Tabled until November meeting
- d. **Nomination of NC liaison to the NC Sustainability Alliance (GB101515-7)**
Tabled until November meeting

VII. New Business

- a. **Motion to approve 2016 SORO NC election options (Fitzsimmons / GB101515-8)**
 - Election Option Worksheet needs to be approved. Changes include duration of 4 hrs from 11am -3pm. Location at SORO Festival. Procure a possible Spanish translator.
 - Terry moved to approve the motion. Jon seconded.
 - **Motion approved by general consent.**
- b. **Motion that South Robertson Neighborhood Council spend up to \$750 to prune 6 Chinese flame trees along Pico Blvd. (Zeltzer / GB101515-9)**

Presented by Paula Waxman – SORO planted these trees as part of a beautification project. It's been three years. Time to prune them so they grow properly.

Questions: Jon asked why are we paying and not the city. **Answer:** We made an agreement with the city that it would be NC responsibility until city budget was back on track.

Question: Jon asked how often do they have to be pruned. **Answer:** According to neighborhood arborist they need to be pruned within the first three years along with removal of stakes and cages. Then they would need to be trimmed regularly after that. Terry suggested that we at some point turn this responsibility back to the city after this first pruning.

Moved by Mike and Seconded by Terry.

Some back and forth on whether Board should amend motion to turn this over to city for the future. Decided that it would be better to wait until next year. Moved to vote:

- **Vote: 13-Y, 0-N, 0-A. Motion passes**
- c. **Motion to allocate \$500 for Movies in the Park November 7, 2015 Robertson Rec Center (Gomes / GB101515-10)**

Motion Presented by Terry: Terry felt that CD 5 was not being represented as well as CD 10 for free community events. Money would be for Movie rights and



popcorn and food up to \$500. Koretz office will cover the rest. Movie equipment and screen would be borrowed from another NC.

Questions and debate: Board liked the idea in general, but concerned that event was too late in the evening, not enough lead time for advertizing . Concerned about possible low turnout because of colder weather. Later schedule. Should be earlier. Beth Hirsch brought up issue about not being enough parking at location.

Moved by Victor. Seconded by Beth.
Vote: 13-Y, 0-N, 0-A. Motion passes.

d. Motion to support regulations on short-term rentals in the City of Los Angeles (Gomes / GB101515-11)

Presented by Terry: Motion suggests to City Council strict regulation of “AirBNBs” operating in the City of Los Angeles. Enforcement of current law to collect a TOT or bed tax on short term rentals, plus any back taxes. Inspections to protect public safety and curb excessive commercial abuses to protect valuable rental housing stock, neighborhood quality of life and appropriate liability.

Questions: How taxes would be collected? How housing stalk is being compromised? Is this contributing to homelessness. Hardship of those who depend on low income and rent controlled housing and how the idea of the “sharing economy” has been coopted and corrupted by commercialization.

Moved by Jon. Seconded by Beth.

Debate: Marj had concerns about some of the provisions.

- 1. Would like to propose striking. 1.Cap of 60 days. 2. Host shall be required to have hotel employee protections. 3, Owner occupied primary residences.**

Amendment one: to strike section “Only owner occupied primary residences shall be permitted to host for short term rentals and only one unit shall be permitted per host.”

Moved by Doug. Seconded by Mike.

Debate:

Terry: explained that this section is the most important one to preventing Short term rental “hotels” from existing. **Beth:** How do you regulate this and protect those that are trying to do it the right way. Very difficult. Either it’s legal or it’s not. Currently it is not legal. Should enforce laws on the books and not try to occomidate every different situation. **Marj** stated that property owners should have the right to use their property and assets that they have worked hard for to make money to help them make ends meet as they see fit **Beth** felt that this is not fair to put the city economy and housing stock at risk and public safety in order to accomidate a few individuals and it’s not fair to say some can do it but not others. No one should do it as the law currently states. That’s the fair thing.

Vote: 2 –Y, 10 – N, 2 – A. Amendment fails.

Amendment 2: Move to strike “ There shall be a cap of 60 nights per calendar year per host for short term rentals.”



Debate: **Marj** feels it's unnecessary. **Terry:** Explains that this refers to current laws on the books for short term vs Log term rentals. **Questions** on definition of owner occupied . How long does someone have to be living at the residence in order to claim primary residency. Looked up on internet it's approximately 6 months.

Vote: Y - 8, N – 5, A – 1. **Amendment passes.**

Amendment 3: to strike “Hosts shall be required to pay the city’s legal minimum wage, abide by hotel employee protections and register with the state employment development department”

Debate: **Terry** explained that this was to protect employees from being exploited. **Marj withdrew this amendment.**

Debate on amended motion: more back and forth about running a hotel vs renting a room. The necessity of creating a bill to allow some to do this but not others.

Doug proposed another amendment *“Upon filing for a short term rental permit, hosts shall notify property owners within 500 ft (add) ...and provide 24/7 contact information. The city will additionally create a complaint and enforcement division.”*

Seconded by Terry.

Vote on amendment: Y – 12, N – 0, A – 2.

Debate on Motion as amended: **Doug:** Even though it's illegal, people are doing it anyway and the ordinance would clarify the rules and protect against abuses.

Vote on final amended Motion:
Y- 8, 3 – N, 3 –A. **Motion passes.**

- e. **Motion to recommend modification of the NC Community Stakeholder definition (Fitzsimmons / GB101515-12 Motion withdrawn because of time.**

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:18pm.



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

Votes taken

1. Consent agenda (GB101515-1)
2. Confirmation of Board committee memberships (GB101515-2)
3. Approval of monthly expenses (GB101515-3)
4. Nomination Dan Fink for vacant Organization seat (GB101515-4)
5. Motion to approve 2016 SORO NC election options (Fitzsimmons / GB101515-8)
6. Motion to spend up to \$750 to prune 6 Chinese flame trees along Pico Blvd. (Zeltzer / GB101515-9)
7. Motion to allocate \$500 for Movies in the Park (Gomes / GB101515-10)
8. Motion to support regulations on short-term rentals in Los Angeles (Gomes / GB101515-11)