



General Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 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 7:20pm.

Board Members Present: Kimber Smith, Mike Bitton, Giovanni Ferdinand Roger McCracken, Michael Lynn, Jon Liberman, Doug Fitzsimmons, Paula Waxman, Ken Blaker, Beth Hirsch, Barry Levine, Marj Safinia, Terrence Gomes, Leo Portal, Dan Fink, Noa Zarur

Board Members Absent: Kevin Gres, Michael Bloom, Nahed Guirguis, Robyn Braun, Aimee Zeltzer, Susan Burden, Martin Epstein, Victor Mitry,

Guests: Ben Rosen, Amy Baylay, Aubrey Provost, Nathan Hutson, State Sen. Holly Mitchell, Charles Stewart

II. General Public Comment

Ben Rosen and Amy Baylay from Mercy Housing – regarding Affordable Senior Housing development propose to built at parking lot #689 near the corner of Pico and Robertson. They are continuing their community outreach along with a SORO advisory committee to address any community concerns especially the lack of parking that will be available during the construction. Construction will begin late 2017.

III. Community Reports

None. (City Holiday Parties)
Senator Holly Mitchel - Expected to arrive with a report later in Meeting.

IV. Consent Agenda

a. Draft meeting minutes of November 19, 2015 (Hirsch / GB121715-1)
******(Tabled, Minutes will be available for review and acceptance in January)*

V. Committee Reports

Confirmation of Board committee membership (GB121715-2)

- **Mike Bitton** requested to join the LUED Committee

Requests confirmed by general consent

Executive -

- Doug announced that SORO is beginning its elections activities. Half the Board is up for election this year. Asked Board to help recruit new board member candidates.

Treasurer's report & monthly expenses approval (Gomes / GB121715-3)

Funds spent: \$1038.71 Remaining: \$39,407.45

- **Moved by Doug for a vote.**
- **Vote: 15-Y, 0-N, 0-A. Report accepted.**

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



Quality of Life – Beth Hirsch – Report on Initial conversation with Reynier Village resident about park conditions. Decided that we need to convene a Recreation and Parks Committee meeting to discuss policy changes and concerns.

Projects in the works: Online media campaign to encourage considerate parking. Small Business Event on South Robertson for business owners. Community Mural on Robertson Blvd.

Public Safety Committee – Mike Lynn praised Michael Bloom for his fine report on how to deal with an “Active Shooter” at the last public Safety Meeting.

VI. Special Orders

- a. **Nomination of Paula Waxman as Green Team Chair (Green Team / GB121715-4)**

**Moved by Terry. Seconded by Marj.
Nomination confirmed by consent.**

- b. **Nomination of Nathan Hutson as Transportation Vice-Chair (Transportation / GB121715-5)**

**Moved by Jon. Seconded by Kimber.
Nomination confirmed by consent.**

VII. New Business

- a. **Motion to request protected status for the Robertson Rec Center flax-leaf paperbark trees (Fitzsimmons / GB121715-6)**

Arborist met to look at and discuss the trees that ring Robertson Rec Center. The trees do not meet the qualification of being California Native species. The City is not obligated to protect them. But, because of age and significance of the trees to the community, SORO NC is requesting that they observe those rules anyway (including, inspections and penalties for not following rules of handling) and to further protect the tree. The NC would suggest giving the trees Los Angeles Heritage Tree status.

**Moved by Barry. Seconded by Mike Lynn.
Motion by Roger to break the Motion into parts.
Motion to amend approved by consent.**

Part 1 : Vote 14 – Y, 1 – N, 1 – A

Part 2 : Vote 15 – Y, 1 – N, 0 – A

III. Community Reports

-Continued – Senator Holly Mitchell arrived at 7:57pm

State Senator Holly Mitchell –

Meeting with all the Neighborhood Councils in the District
In order to help track issues that are relevant, neighborhood by neighborhood.

Questions from the board for Holly included: Medical marijuana, affordable housing and homelessness, budgetary issues, education, school safety, gridlocked and underfunded court system, help for the middle class, fracking



and other environmental issues. Affordable Healthcare for everyone. Drought relief and funding.

Senator Mitchell said she is introducing a bill modeled after the Utah plan and she is working to identify money in the state budget that could be redirected to help cities find permanent housing and temporary measures for the homeless. Also tackling funding for poverty, housing affordability, increased training for peace officers on how to deal with the mentally ill, government transparency, help for kids in the foster care system. Getting water bonds on the ballot.

VII. New Business - *continued*

- b. **Motion to reconsider a Conditional Use Permit application for Alcohol Beverages (CUB) and change of hours of operation at Smart and Final located at 1835 S. La Cienega Blvd (Gomes / GB121715-7)**

S & F is Moving from location to the next in the same shopping center have to reconsider their original CUB and changing hours of operation to one hour later. Board felt the community may not have had enough time to weigh in on the changes. Felt S & F needed to do more to inform the community.

**Motion by Mike Lynn to send the motion back to Land Use Committee
Seconded by Beth Hirsch.**

Vote: 16 – Y, 0 – N, 0 – A.

- c. **Motion to support Crestview’s efforts to apply for an Historic Preservation Overlay Zone (Gomes / GB121715-8)**

Terry - Crestview community is concerned, because of increase in development and Mansionization in the area, that many historical homes like 1920 -30s Spanish revivals and Steinkamps are being destroyed. This may be affecting the character of the neighborhood. Want NC to support an overlay to protect the historical houses.

*******Leo and Mike B. recuse themselves as they are homeowners.**

Moved by Jon. Seconded by Marj.

Jon asked that the motion be tabled and sent back to land use for further investigation as there didn’t appear to be enough evidence that Crestview had done an appropriate amount of outreach yet.

**Seconded by Marj.
Motion tabled by consent.**

- d. **Motion to fund up to \$350 for a SORO NC Public Safety table, refreshments and food at the Regional Homeless Count January 27, 2016 event (Gomes / GB121715)**

**Moved by Roger. Seconded by Marj.
Vote: 15 – Y, 0 – N, 0 – A. Motion passes.**

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:16pm.



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 P1	06 P2	07	08	09	10
Kevin Gres	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Kimber Smith	C	Y	C	C	Y	Y	Y	C	Y	
Michael Bitton	C	Y	C	C	Y	Y	Y	R	Y	
Giovanni Ferdinand	C	Y	C	C	Y	Y	Y	C	Y	
Roger McCracken	C	Y	C	C	N	Y	Y	C	Y	
Michael Lynn	C	Y	C	C	Y	Y	Y	C	Y	
Jon Liberman	C	Y	C	C	Y	Y	Y	C	Y	
Doug Fitzsimmons	C	Y	C	C	Y	Y	Y	C	Y	
Paula Waxman	C	Y	C	C	Y	Y	Y	C	Y	
Michael Bloom	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Ken Blaker	C	Y	C	C	Y	Y	Y	C	Y	
Nahed Guirguis	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Robyn Braun	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Aimee Zeltzer	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Beth Hirsch	C	Y	C	C	Y	Y	Y	C	Y	
Susan Burden	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Marj Safinia	C	Y	C	C	Y	Y	Y	C	Y	
Terrence Gomes	C	Y	C	C	Y	Y	Y	C	Y	
Martin Epstein	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Y	
Victor Mitry	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Leo Portal	C	Y	C	C	Y	Y	Y	R	X	
Dan Fink	C	Y	C	C	Y	Y	Y	C	Y	
Barry Levine	C	Y	C	C	Y	Y	Y	C	Y	
SCHOOL										
Noa Zarur	C	X	C	C	A	A	Y	C	X	

Votes taken

1. Confirmation of Board committee membership (GB121715-2)
2. Treasurer's report & monthly expenses approval (Gomes / GB121715-3)
3. Nomination of Paula Waxman as Green Team Chair (Green Team / GB121715-4)
4. Nomination of Nathan Hutson as Transportation Vice-Chair (Transportation / GB121715-5)
5. Motion to request protected status for the Robertson Rec Center flax-leaf paperbark trees (Fitzsimmons / GB121715-6) Part 1 and part 2
6. Motion to reconsider a Conditional Use Permit application for Alcohol Beverages (CUB) and change of hours of operation at Smart and Final located at 1835 S. La Cienega Blvd (Gomes / GB121715-7)
7. Motion to support Crestview's efforts to apply for an Historic Preservation Overlay Zone (Gomes / GB121715-8)
8. Motion to fund up to \$350 for a SORO NC Public Safety table, refreshments and food at the Regional Homeless Count January 27, 2016 event (Gomes / GB121715)