



# General Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 20, 2014, 7:00pm

Simon Wiesenthal Center, 3rd Floor

1399 S. Roxbury Dr., Los Angeles, CA 90035 (Pico and Roxbury)

## I. Call to Order & Roll Call

SORO Board President, Doug Fitzsimmons, called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM.

**Board Members Present (17):** Kimber Smith, Beth Ryan, Robyn Braun, Bette Billet, Michael Lynn, Jon Liberman, Ellen Lanet, Paula Waxman, Michael Bloom, Daniel Boethin, Nahed Guirguis, Barry Levine, Marj Safinia, Martin Epstein, Victor Mitry, Doug Fitzsimmons and Sarah Sabin.

**Board Members Absent (7):** Kevin Gres, David Mattis, Brian Kite, Susan Burden, Terrence Gomes, Jessica Kurzban and Grant Cohen.

## II. General Public Comment

- a. Gary Garcia, principal at Hamilton High School and past SORO board member informed the SORO board about an upcoming Golf Tournament to benefit the high school. Several other local high schools – Fairfax and University will also be involved. There are two opportunities for SORO to sponsor the school - \$250 tee signs placed at the golf course holes as well as \$50 sports banner (they will be buying 22 banners in total).
- b. Doug Fitzsimmons indicated that there was a motion that we need to add to the agenda and need the board to vote to agree to add it to the agenda.
  - The motion to allow a motion to be added was unanimously approved by general consensus. (17 board members voted)
- c. The motion needing to be added is regarding the League of Women Voters as a co-sponsor of LAUSD District One Town Hall.
  - The Motion to add the motion regarding the League of Women Voters as a co-sponsor for the LAUSD District One Town Hall was unanimously approved by general consensus. (17 board members voted)

## III. Community Reports

- a. **LA Police Department (Senior Lead Officer Mario Gonzalez)**
  - Officer Gonzalez reported a robbery at Bagley and National at a bus stop. And there was a Hamilton High School teacher robbed by a student. And there was a knock knock burglary where the thief knocked and the woman was home but didn't answer and the thief entered the house.
- b. **Office of Assemblymember Bloom (Stephanie Cohen)**
  - Earth day Poster Contest – 151 public and private schools involved
  - Assembly Bills introduced include:
    - AB2140 – Orca bill – no captive breeding
    - AB2493 – releases bond money proceeds
  - Bills sent to committee
    - AB1535 - medication given to parents to avoid overdoses
    - AB1699 - plastic microbeads in face wash where animals are suffering the consequences.
- c. **Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (Tom Soong)**

**Doug Fitzsimmons**  
President

**Brian Kite**  
Vice-President

**Terrence Gomes**  
Treasurer

**Beth Ryan**  
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



- Tom is the new Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate replacing Amber Meschak as our representative. Tom's e-mail is [Thomas.soong@lacity.org](mailto:Thomas.soong@lacity.org).
- Tom discussed the upcoming election, Brown Act and the Demand Warrant deadline of May 15<sup>th</sup> and the P-Card deadline of June 5<sup>th</sup>.

#### IV. Approval of Minutes

- a. Draft board minutes for February 20, 2014 (Ryan/GB032014-1)
  - Minutes were unanimously approved by general consensus. (17 board members voted)

#### V. Committee Reports

- a. Confirmation of Board committee memberships and absence requests (GB032014-2)
  - No changes were requested
- b. Treasurer's report and approval of monthly expenses (Gomes/GB032014-3)
  - Vote Count was: (16 YES/0 NO/1 Abstain)
  - Submitted financials for February 2014 were approved by the board with 17 board members voting.
- c. President's report
  - Doug reported that we had a burglary of the storage area with our PA system being stolen along with some other items. Police report was filed and action was being taken to secure storage so that this could not happen again.
  - Susan Bursk and the Green Citizen award nominations are being accepted. The forms are on the SORO NC website.
  - SORO NC election candidate filing closes on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. If you are a candidate, make sure to get your paperwork filed before the deadline.
  - WRAC/LAPD – Chief Hara and others will be discussing SB1818 on March 26<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM at Venice High School.
- d. Upcoming committee events and legislative issues
  - SORO Neighborhood Council Election will be on Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>.

#### VI. Unfinished Business

- a. Motion to demand the restoration of the City's Special Parking Revenue Fund (Transportation/GB011614-6)
  - Jon Liberman moved the motion and it was seconded by Ellen Lanet
  - Vote Count was: (17 YES/0 NO/0 Abstain)
  - Motion was unanimously approved by the board

#### VII. New Business

- a. ***Motion to support conditional use permit for AAA Pawn & Jewelry, 1523 S. La Cienega Blvd (Transportation/GB032014-4)***

##### **MOTION:**

SORO NC supports the application for the conditional use permit for AAA Pawn & Jewelry located at 1523 S. La Cienega Blvd and will send a letter to that effect to the Zoning Administrator.

**AMENDMENT:** (in the letter dated March 20, 2014 to the City of Los Angeles Planning Department Zoning Administrator to remove the last 5 words from the first sentence in the third paragraph)



Paragraph 3 - In deciding to support this project, the Board considered the history of the site, the impact on the surrounding neighborhood ~~and its low income component.~~

**VOTING ON THE AMENDMENT:**

- Michael Lynn moved the motion and it was seconded by Jon Liberman
- Amendment was unanimously approved by general consensus. (17 board members voted)

**VOTING ON THE MOTION:**

- Doug Fitzsimmons moved the motion and it was seconded by Martin Epstein
- Vote Count was: (16 YES/0 NO/1 Abstain)
- Motion was approved by the board

b. ***Motion to approve \$5,000 for SORO Fest Neighborhood Purposes Grant (Executive/GB032014-5)***

As co-chair of the event, Jon Liberman recuses himself and leaves the room.

**MOTION:**

SORO NC approves the Neighborhood Purposes Grant in the amount of \$5,000.

**AMENDMENT:**

And further adjusts the budget \$500 to be taken from the transportation training line item.

**VOTING ON THE AMENDMENT:**

- Marj Safinia moved the motion and it was seconded by Beth Ryan
- Amendment was unanimously approved by general consensus. (15 board members voted)

**VOTING ON THE MOTION:**

- Doug Fitzsimmons moved the motion and it was seconded by Ellen Lanet
- Vote Count was: (14 YES/0 NO/1 Abstain/1 Recusal)
- Motion was approved by the board

c. ***Motion to approve up to \$1550 for portable sound system (Fitzsimmons/GB032014-6)***

**MOTION:**

To approve funding up to \$1550 for a new PA system, including mixer/amp, two speakers, speaker cables, protective bags (if necessary), speaker stands (with bag), and microphone clips.

**AMENDMENT:**

To approve funding up to ~~\$1550~~ \$2000 for a new PA system, including mixer/amp, two speakers, speaker cables, protective bags (if necessary), speaker stands (with bag), and microphone clips *and hand truck.*



**VOTING ON THE AMENDMENT:**

- Marj Safinia moved the motion and it was seconded by Jon Liberman
- Amendment was unanimously approved by general consensus. (17 board members voted)

**VOTING ON THE MOTION:**

- Kimber Smith moved the motion and it was seconded by Jon Liberman
- Vote Count was: (16 YES/0 NO/1 Abstain)
- Motion was approved by the board

- d. ***Motion to approve \$558.71 for Hamilton Garden equipment (Green Team/GB032014-7)***

**MOTION:**

To spend \$558.71 to purchase equipment for the Hami Garden. These purchases will replace equipment that has worn out and add new equipment to accommodate the growing number of student volunteers.

**VOTING ON THE MOTION:**

- Paula Waxman moved the motion and it was seconded by Robyn Braun
- Vote Count was: (16 YES/0 NO/1 Abstain)
- Motion was approved by the board

- e. ***Motion to fund \$1300 for the Emergency & Safety Expo at the SORO Fest 2014 (Public Safety/GB032014-8)***

**MOTION:**

To approve \$1300 for staging, public address system, chairs, and raffle prizes, to be utilized for an Emergency and Safety Expo as part of the South Robertson Neighborhood Festival (SoRo Fest 2014)

**AMENDMENT:**

To approve ***up to*** \$1300 for staging, public address system, chairs, ~~and raffle prizes~~, to be utilized for an Emergency and Safety Expo as part of the South Robertson Neighborhood Festival (SoRo Fest 2014)

(and to delete the last paragraph of the full proposal)

**VOTING ON THE AMENDMENT:**

- Doug Fitzsimmons moved the motion and it was seconded by Marj Safinia
- Vote Count was: (15 YES/0 NO/1 Abstain)
- Motion was approved by the board

**VOTING ON THE MOTION:**

- Michael Lynn moved the motion and it was seconded by Kimber Smith
- Vote Count was: (16 YES/0 NO/1 Abstain)
- Motion was approved by the board

- f. ***ADDED MOTION – League of Women Voters co-sponsorship of LAUSD district one Town Hall***



**MOTION:**

The South Robertson Neighborhoods Council shall accept the proposal from the League of Women Voters to co-sponsor the May 1, 2014 Town Hall debate between all of the candidates for LAUSD District One seat.

- Jon Liberman moved the motion and it was seconded by Kimber Smith
- Motion was unanimously approved by general consensus (16 board members voted)
- Motion was approved by the board

**I. Adjournment**

The SORO NC Board President, Doug Fitzsimmons, adjourned the meeting at 9:40 PM.



## Current Committee Membership

Board members must attend at least 7 committee meetings within a 12 month period.

Note that Bylaws, Robertson Revitalization, Board Development, and Parks & Recreation ad hoc committees may have no more than 6 voting members.

Committee	Education	Green Team	Land Use	Outreach	Public Safety	Trans- portation	Finance	Exec	Bylaws	Robertson Revital	Board Dev	NPG	Parks & Rec
Kevin Gres	Co												
Kimber Smith				Co									
Beth Ryan											Ch		
Robyn Braun													
Bette Billet													
Michael Lynn					Co								
Jon Liberman						Co							
Ellen Lanet						Co							
Paula Waxman		Ch											
Michael Bloom					Co								
Daniel Boethin													
Nahed Guirguis													
David Mattis													
Brian Kite									Ch				Co
Barry Levine	Co												
Susan Burden													
Marj Safinia				Co						Ch			
Terrence Gomes			Co				Ch						Ch
Martin Epstein													
Vacant Seat													
Victor Mitry			Co										
Jessica Kurzban													
Doug Fitzsimmons							Ch						Co
Grant Cohen													
Sarah Sabin													



## Board Vote Tally Sheet

Meeting Date: March 20, 2014

Votes taken	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10
Kevin Gres	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Kimber Smith	C	C	C	Y	C	C	Y	C	Y	C
Beth Ryan	C	C	C	Y	C	C	Y	C	Y	C
Robyn Braun	C	C	C	Y	C	C	Y	C	Y	C
Bette Billet	C	C	C	Y	C	C	Y	C	Y	C
Michael Lynn	C	C	C	Y	C	C	Y	C	Y	C
Jon Liberman	C	C	C	Y	C	C	Y	C	Y	C
Ellen Lanet	C	C	C	Y	C	C	Y	C	Y	C
Paula Waxman	C	C	C	Y	C	C	Y	C	Y	C
Michoel Bloom	C	C	C	Y	C	C	Y	C	Y	C
Daniel Boethin	C	C	C	Y	C	C	Y	C	Y	C
Nahed Guirguis	C	C	C	Y	C	C	Y	C	Y	C
David Mattis	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Brian Kite	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Barry Levine	C	C	C	Y	C	C	Y	C	Y	C
Susan Burden	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Marj Safinia	C	C	C	Y	C	C	Y	C	Y	C
Terrence Gomes	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Martin Epstein	C	C	C	Y	C	C	Y	C	Y	C
Empty Seat	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Victor Mity	C	C	C	Y	C	C	Y	C	Y	C
Jessica Kurzman	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Doug Fitzsimmons	C	C	C	Y	C	C	Y	C	Y	C
Grant Cohen	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Sarah Sabin	C	C	C	A	C	C	A	C	A	C

**Votes taken**

1. Add motion to the agenda – PASSED WITH GENERAL CONSENSUS WITH 17 VOTING
2. Add League of Women Voters motion to the agenda - PASSED WITH GENERAL CONSENSUS WITH 17 VOTING
3. February minutes - PASSED WITH GENERAL CONSENSUS WITH 17 VOTING
4. Treasurer's report - PASSED WITH GENERAL CONSENSUS WITH 17 VOTING
5. Parking Fund – PASSED WITH 16 YES/0 NO/1 Abstain
6. AAA Pawn Shop Amendment - PASSED WITH GENERAL CONSENSUS WITH 17 VOTING
7. AAA Pawn Shop Motion - PASSED WITH 16 YES/0 NO/1 Abstain
8. SORO Festival Amendment - PASSED WITH GENERAL CONSENSUS WITH 16 VOTING (Jon Liberman recused himself)
9. SORO Festival Motion - PASSED WITH 15 YES/0 NO/1 Abstain/1 Recused
10. PA System Amendment - PASSED WITH GENERAL CONSENSUS WITH 17 VOTING



Votes taken	11	12	13	14
Kevin Gres	X	X	X	X
Kimber Smith	Y	Y	Y	Y
Beth Ryan	Y	Y	Y	Y
Robyn Braun	Y	Y	Y	Y
Bette Billet	Y	Y	Y	Y
Michael Lynn	Y	Y	Y	Y
Jon Liberman	Y	Y	A	A
Ellen Lanet	Y	Y	Y	Y
Paula Waxman	Y	Y	Y	Y
Michoel Bloom	Y	Y	Y	Y
Daniel Boethin	Y	Y	Y	Y
Nahed Guirguis	Y	Y	Y	Y
David Mattis	X	X	X	X
Brian Kite	X	X	X	X
Barry Levine	Y	Y	Y	Y
Susan Burden	X	X	X	X
Marj Safinia	Y	Y	Y	Y
Terrence Gomes	X	X	X	X
Martin Epstein	Y	Y	Y	Y
Hector Garza	X	X	X	X
Victor Mitry	Y	Y	Y	Y
Jessica Kurzman	X	X	X	X
Doug Fitzsimmons	Y	Y	Y	Y
Grant Cohen	X	X	X	X
Sarah Sabin	A	A	X	X

- 11. PA System Motion - PASSED WITH 16 YES/0 NO/1 Abstain
- 12. Hami Garden Equipment - PASSED WITH 16 YES/0 NO/1 Abstain
- 13. Safety Expo Amendment - PASSED WITH 15 YES/0 NO/1 Abstain
- 14. Safety Expo Motion - PASSED WITH 15 YES/0 NO/1 Abstain
- 15. League of Women Voters as co-sponsor of LAUSD District One Town Hall – PASSED WITH GENERAL CONSENSUS WITH 16 VOTING