



General Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 20, 2014, 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 7:06.

Board Members Present: Kevin Gres, Melissande Colton, Bette Billet, Jon Liberman, Doug Fitzsimmons, Robin Braun, Michael Bloom, Victoria Martin, Nahed Guirguis, Aimee Zeltzer, Beth Hirsch, Susan Burden, Marj Safinia, Terrence Gomes, Martin Epstein, Victor Mitry, Grant Cohen, Barry Levine

Board Members Absent: Kimber Smith, Giovanni Ferdinand, Michael Lynn, Paula Waxman, Leo Portal, Sherilyn Correa

Guests: SLO Mario Gonzalez, Elizabeth Carlin, Daniel Tamm, Laura Petry, State Assemblyman Bloom, Joseph Galloway, Roy Samaan, ,Judy Goldman

Special Comments from Board President Doug Fitzsimmons regarding a trial adoption of a new meeting procedure, **Consent Agenda** that would speed up the meeting process, by allowing non-controversial agenda items to pass as a block without voting on items individually. If any member of the board or the public would like an item removed in order to debate the topic, it would become a regular item on the agenda.

Debate of pros and cons. Bette expressed concerns that this was a controversial issue in the past as the Board President has sole command over what is placed on the agenda. Jon made the point that if everyone would read all the motions and supporting materials ahead of time that this would resolve any conflict.

II. General Public Comment

None.

III. Community Reports

LAPD Report. SLO Mario Gonzales

- Report on uptick of crime due to the holidays
- Burglary near Cattaraugus and Regent. Burglary on Gibson East of Robertson and on Kramerwood. Both cases neighbors took pictures of crimes in progress, but did not call police until later.
- Neighbors should report suspicious behavior or crimes in progress to police as soon as they see it.
- Avoid being a victim by paying attention to security issues around the home.
- Keep doors and windows locked,.
- Increase in thefts at shopping malls. Keep bags close and be aware of your surroundings
- Make arrangements for mail and packages to be picked up if out of town.
- Member of public brought up the idea of bringing back Bike Patrol in the area as a deterrent

Doug Fitzsimmons
President

Kevin Gres
Vice-President

Terrence Gomes
Treasurer

Beth Hirsch
Secretary

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Neighborhoods Council**

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Office of the Mayor - Daniel Tamm

- Report on Mayors trip to China and Korea
- Announced “Street Smart” Street paving initiatives by the Mayor’s office by modernization of Asphalt plants and streamlining procedures for vendors that would speed up the process and get more streets and sidewalks paved as well as saving time and money.
- Port Strike - Discussed Mayor’s progress on getting talks going.
- Terry brought up discussion of SORO NC proposal on sustainability and specifically our input on the asphalt plant improvements for street and sidewalk repair. Terry asked for Tamm’s agreement that our proposal had influence on the Mayors initiatives. Terry cited quotes from our proposal that were included in the report. Tamm agreed that it was possible as our proposal was in fact given to the Mayor’s office along with others.
- Barry asked for report on how many staffers went with the Mayor to China and who paid for it. Tamm said he would send us a report plus costs.

Office of Council President Wesson. Elizabeth Carlin

- Winter Wonderland, Sat Dec 13th at the CD 10 District office. Asked for volunteers for the event.
- Annual Turkey giveaway for elderly in CD 10 throughout December. Contact Wesson’s office for details.
- Liz expressed Council President Wesson’s support of SORO Board Motion (GB112014-8) to support Councilman Koretz’s Baseline Mansionization Ordinance.

Office of Councilmember Koretz. Joseph Galloway

- Thanked the SORO NC Transportation Committee for our meeting on November 18th at Hamilton High after the vigil for 16 year old David Lindley who was tragically killed on Nov 4th while trying to cross the street at Venice and Robertson. Stated Koretz’s office is working hard with LADOT, Expo and Metro to address the issues brought up by the public at the event.
- Kite Festival at UCLA Nov 22
- CD 5 is celebrating the Birthday of Guru Nanak Jayanti on Dec 14, at the LA Convention Center.
- Addressed complaints from community about street conditions brought by the increase of homeless on Robertson and Livona. Joseph promised to get a clean up of the area soon through the Dept of Sanitation.
- Thanked SORO NC on behalf of the Councilman for the Business and Economic Development Mixer coordinated with Mr. C Hotel on Nov 12th.

Office of Assemblymember Bloom. (tabled until he arrived later in the meeting)

2015 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count –

- Presentation by South and Westside Reginal Coordinator for The 2015 Homeless Count Event on January 28th.
- Asked for SORO Community to opt in to program
- Asked for Site Coordinator and volunteers to get surveys and count the homeless population.
- Terry volunteered to be SORO’s Site Coordinator for the project.



IV. Guest Presentation and Board Discussion

SORO Community Foundation, Inc. Larry DeMers

Non-profit organization. Coordinates with SORO NC to put on events such as the SORO Festival . Wanted to make the public aware of what they do and to let the public know that they currently have \$12,000 in funds available to be distributed in grants approved by SORO NC for community events and projects brought in by the public.

V. Approval of Minutes and Consent Agenda Items

- Agenda items 5. a-i Approved
- Included Draft Board Meeting Minutes of August – Sept 2014 (Zeltzer /Safinia) GB112014-5
- Item 5 j. removed at the request of Doug. Doug then withdrew the motion.

VI. Committee Reports

President's Report – Doug Fitzsimmons

- Death of Hamilton High Student hit while crossing Venice Blvd.**, prompted Transportation Meeting Agenda to tackle the issues of safety at the intersection of Venice and Robertson during the construction of the train station. Doug thanked Jon Leiberman for coordinating that event. Over 60 community members attended. Along with City officials, from LADOT, Expo, Metro, LAPD Traffic and Councilman Koretz's office.
- Business and Economic Development Reception** coordinated by Sam Jagger at Mr. C. Hotel and SORO NC. Event was designed to bring a small set of major business owners and developers together to help find ways to bring new business to South Robertson. Thanked Marj Safinia and Beth Hirsch for coordinating the event.

Treasurer Report and Monthly Expenses Report (GB112014-12) Sept and October - Terry Gomes

- Need committees to start looking at ways to spend money and do more work in the community.
- SOROS NC has only spent \$1000 since July.
- Mandate to pickup the spending on community projects.
- The Budget Advocates and Herb Wesson are seeking to increase NC budgets to \$50,000. Need to justify it by increasing community activity and performance.

Vote:

- **Marj moved to accept the report; Victoria seconded.**
- **Vote: 18-Y, 0-N, 0-of A. Report accepted.**

Upcoming Committee Events:

Board Retreat Dec 7th - Location /Time TBD.

Community Grant Committee - Terry Gomes

- Committee met and would like to coordinate with outreach to find more grant applicants.
- New procedures on oversight of how SORO grant money is spent by applicants
- Grant Cohen asked if more could be done to expedite delivery of money to the applicants once approved. Terry explained that funding department



procedures have changed and SORO Treasurer can give money directly instead of waiting for the Funding Department to send the checks.

Community Reports (continued) Office of Assembly member Bloom.

- Assemblymember Bloom introduced himself and gave a report on legislative progress going into his 3rd year in office.
- Reported a major increase in projected revenues
- As member of the Budget Committee he has help establish the “Rainy Day Fund” to help cushion effects of future economic downturns
- Prop 30 helped restore funding to to public and higher education system. Discussion of the UC state college tuition increases. He hopes state money will prevent increases.
- CAP and Trade projected to increase revenues.
- Next year Gasoline Tax will add 2-3 billion in increased revenue and proceeds will go towards initiatives to prevent global warming notwithstanding push back from oil companies.
- Film and Aerospace Tax Credits passed in hopes it will keep the industries here in CA.

VII. Special Orders

a. Nomination of Beth Hirsch as NC Secretary (GB082114-4)

Doug moved; Victoria seconded.

Nomination approved by general consent

b. Nomination of Leo Portal Chair and Tobi Stein Vice Chair to LGBTQ Committee

Doug Moved. Barry Seconded.

Motion approved by general consent

c. Nomination of Victoria Martin, Vice Chair of Land Use and Economic Development

Terry moved. Jon Seconded.

Motion approved by general consent

VIII. New Business

a. Motion to request measures to increase pedestrian and bicycle safety and access at the intersection of Robertson / Venice Blvds. (Lieberman / GB112014-16)

Motion was moved by Jon seconded by Terry.

Discussion: Doug/Jon and Terry discussed jurisdictional issues between Cal Trans, Metro and LADOT with fixing the intersection and it was concluded that sufficient attention to the matter was being paid by all parties to fix immediate problems such as cleaning up construction, putting barriers in place, fixing signals and repainting crosswalks and adding additional signage, but all agreed for a need for a more comprehensive and sustainable plan going forward.

Vote: Motion approved by general consent

b. Motion to support the prohibition of short-term rental low density areas (Gomes / GB112014-19)

Terry introduced presenters- Judy Goldman, Keep Neighborhoods First and Roy Samaan, LAANE

Concerns that prompted Motion:



- Commercialization of the Sharing Economy, contributing to a severe loss of housing, especially affordable housing for middle income residents. Shortage driving up the price of rentals.
- Lack of over site and regulation causing conflict in neighborhoods regarding, public health, safety, parking and criminal activity.
- Loss of city revenue.
- Participants are operating illegally.

(**Note: No one Moved or Seconded this motion)******

Public Comment: Peers and AIRBNB organized a group of their customers to attend this meeting to respond to and protest the Motion with personal, positive antidotes on their experiences renting out their own properties. Board Member Marj Safinia disclosed that she did a documentary for Peers. The question was brought up by Jon regarding whether Marj should recuse herself as she recently worked for Peers. Marj claimed she was not a “shill,” had not worked for them for over six months and did not expect to be employed by Peers in the future. This seemed to satisfy the Board.

Doug assumed the motion.

Vote: 2-Y, N-14, 2-A . Motion fails.

c. Motion to oppose development of a parking lot into Senior Housing at 8612 W Pico Blvd. (Gomes / GB112014-17)

Presented by Jon Leiberman

Joseph Galloway from Councilman Koretz’s office asked if we could postpone our vote until January, so a meeting could be set up in Dec with Koretz. Terry made a motion to table until January, hoping to resolve issue during meeting with Koretz, the developer, DOT and Planning Dept.

d. Motion to support proposal for sidewalk repair: the SORO M.A.C. plan (Gres / GB112014-18)

Brief presentation by Kevin Gres

Consent vote – motions passes

d. Motion to approve up to \$1600 for a one-year organizational membership to the Westside Urban Forum (Land Use / GB112014-20)

Presentation by Terry. Discussion of negotiation of costs vs benefits.

- Valuable land use and economic development training and information
- Networking and access to developers and city planning officials
- Access to city reports, studies and trade articles

Vote:

17 – Y, 1 - N. Motion passes

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:37pm.



Need new Vote Tally card ???

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

Votes taken

1. Draft meeting minutes of April , 2012 (GB062112-1)
2. Treasurer Report and Monthly Expenses Report (GB112014-12)
3. Nomination of Beth Hirsch as NC Secretary (GB082114-4)
4. Nomination of Leo Portal Chair and Tobi Stein Vice Chair to LGBTQ Committee
5. Nomination of Victoria Martin, Vice Chair of Land Use and Economic Development
6. Motion to request measures to increase pedestrian and bicycle safety and access at the intersection of Robertson / Venice Blvds. (Leiberman /GB112014-16)
7. Motion to support the prohibition of short-term rental low density areas (Gomes / GB112014-19)
8. Motion to support proposal for sidewalk repair: the SORO M.A.C. plan (Gres / GB112014-18)
9. Motion to approve up to \$1600 for a one-year organizational membership to the Westside Urban Forum (Land Use / GB112014-20)