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 City of Los Angeles Certified
Neighborhood Council

General Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 21, 2013, 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 NC Board President Doug Fitzsimmons called the meeting to order at 7:14 PM.

Board Members Present (20): Kevin Gres, Kimber Smith, Beth Ryan, Robyn Braun, Bette Bilet, Michael Lynn, Ellen Lanet, Paula Waxman, Michael Bloom (arrived at 7:50 PM), Bethie Kohanbash (left at 9:55 PM), Nahed Guirguis (left at 9:30 PM), David Mattis, Brian Kite (arrived at 9:20 PM), Barry Levine, Susan Burden, Marj Safinia, Hector Garza, Victor Mitry, Doug Fitzsimmons and Erick Morales

Board Members Absent (3): Jon Liberman, Terrence Gomes and Martin Epstein

City Officials and their Representatives Present (2): Officers Mario Gonzales and Rick Ballesteros from LAPD

Members of the Public Present (6): There were 4 representatives from SORO, Inc – Larry DeMers, Susan Bursk, Mary Earl and Aubrey Provost. Robert Baird attended the meeting representing Community Health Councils. Sherilyn Correa – co-president of Crestview – introduced herself. Marilou Blanco Yarosh was also in attendance.

II. General Public Comment

- a. Sherilyn Correa introduced herself as one of the new co-presidents for the Crestview Neighborhood Association.
- b. Ellen Lanet shared information regarding the upcoming Ciclavia scheduled for Sunday April 21, 2013.
- c. Marj Safinia indicated that the IDA – International Documentary Association – will be hosting an all-day event on Saturday, Feb 23rd at the Writers Guild on Doheny showing Oscar nominated movies and shorts all day.
- d. Nahed Guirguis informed the board about the upcoming free health screening on Saturday, Feb 23rd from 10 AM – 3 PM at Robertson Rec Center.

III. Community Reports

- a. LA Police Department
Officer Gonzalez indicated that although crime was down there is an increase in scams raising money on behalf of LAPD. He indicated that anyone calling asking for money for LAPD was a scam and although he appreciated the support, the LAPD would never see any of that money.

LA Police Department - Officer Ballesteros indicated that there have been some new gang members seen in the area and that sometimes these new gang members coincide with an increase in graffiti. In order to get graffiti removed, feel free to call him at 310-444-0739. His e-mail is 33652@lapod.lacity.org.

IV. Presentation and Board Discussion

- a. Introduction of SoRo, Inc.
Mary Earl, President of SORO, Inc discussed that SORO, Inc is a 501c3 and they see their role as one of supporting the efforts of the Neighborhood Council through additional financial assistance or use of the non-profit status. Susan Bursk shared the history of SORO, Inc indicating that they were created prior to the Neighborhood Council system at the request of then



Councilmember Mike Feuer. They created the Festival, were involved in patrols, tree planting, lighting and crosswalk improvements.

Larry DeMers spoke about the shift of SORO, Inc from advocacy to becoming a tool for the SORO Neighborhood Council for the NC to request emergency funding, management of grants and to partner with SORO NC on projects.

To help eliminate confusion, SORO, Inc is considering a name change to South Robertson Community Foundation.

- b. Community Health Councils, Inc Robert Baird
West Adams-Baldwin Hills-Leimert Park Neighborhood Community Plan

Robert indicated that CHC Inc was monitoring the Community Plan regarding food access and open spaces as well as transportation in the community. They submitted letters to city planning and are expecting staff reports to be released within a few weeks.

Upcoming workshops and meetings include:

March 25th at 6 PM – CHC Community Engagement Workshop

April 2nd at 4 PM – Area Planning Commission

April 11th at 10 AM – City Planning Commission

June 2013 – Planning and Land Use Committee

August 2013 – City Council to discuss

For more detailed information, go to www.chc-inc.org or contact Robert at 323-295-9372 or robert@chc-inc.org.

- c. KCET Departures: South Robertson project launch, Outreach Committee

Marj Safinia shared that Phase 1 of the KCET project has been completed and uploaded. There are 6 videos sharing the history of the neighborhood, neighborhood council, transforming Robertson, religious and ethnic groups, SORO's geographical location and it's impact on development and Doug Fitzsimmons describes his perfect day in SORO.

Other content includes:

Neighborhoods – Reynier Village, Castle Heights, Beverlywood and La Cienega Heights.

Points of Interest – Hamilton High School, Beverlywood Swim School and Creating the Santa Monica Freeway.

Faith Intersection – St. Mark's Coptic Church and Guru Ram Das Ashram

Kosher Food District – MexiKosher Restaurant, Pat's Restaurant and Kosher Food Corridor

For more information or to see the videos go to

Kcet.org/socal/departures/south-robertson/a-collection-of-neighborhoods/

V. Approval of Minutes

- a. Draft meeting minutes of February 21, 2013 (Ryan / GB022113-1)
 - Minutes were unanimously approved by general consensus.

VI. Committee Reports

- a. Confirmation of Board committee memberships and absence requests (GB022113-2)
 - Paula Waxman requested to be removed from the Education committee
 - Committee memberships were unanimously approved by general consensus.

- b. President's report



- Doug discussed an open line of communication and encouraged board members to come forward if they have concerns. Nahed requested a process for issues to be raised.
- Doug talked about the upcoming board retreat on Sunday March 17th and encouraged everyone to be there to be a part of the discussion on common projects.
- Everyone needs to be thinking about projects and priorities at the committee level. We will be meeting as a Finance committee – all are welcome and invited - within six weeks to pull together a proposed budget.
- NC Plan Review meetings – Doug meets with other NC leaders to discuss various topics including stakeholder definitions, funding, the relationship between DONE and BONC, etc.
- c. Treasurer's report and approval of monthly expenses (Gomes/GB022113-3)
 - In Terry's absence, Doug presented the updated budget including monthly expenses and available budget of \$25,908.28.
 - Financials were approved by the board. (16 YES/0 NO/3 Abstain)
- e. Standing committees
 - Outreach – Marj discussed the KCET project, upcoming movies in the park, the on-going banners/medallions project and the business outreach survey.
 - Education – Barry indicated that there wasn't a meeting in February, mentioned that there is an NPG grant coming from the education committee later in the agenda and discussed prop c that will be on the ballot on May 21st.
 - Public safety – Michael discussed the upcoming self-defense workshop, the safe passages motion and the Emergency Preparedness Summit coming up on March 28th.
 - Land Use – The committee discussed the proposed apartment complex on the 1500 block of Bedford and the WRAC meeting.
 - Green – The e-waste drive at Hamilton proposed 2 trucks of items and \$365 for the school. The fruit pick produced 2000 lbs to SOVA. Paula also commented on the upcoming transit rail field trip and the upcoming solar presentation.
 - Transportation – Doug indicated that the upcoming meeting will be on February 28th. One of the topics to be discussed will be the Century City project.

VII. New Business

- a. Motion to discontinue funding of the Hamilton High School "Safe Passages" program (Bloom/GB022113-4)
 - SORO NC has been funding a program for Hamilton High School's security to be able to receive calls from local businesses in case of any issues involving high school students during school hours.
 - After consulting with the local business Kevin realized that most of the area businesses are not aware of the program.
 - Additionally, the Sprint phones will no longer function after June 30, 2013.

AMENDMENT for the public safety and education committee to work with the school to look into replacement phones with a solution that does not have on-going funds.

- The amendment was made by Erick Morales and seconded by Michael Lynn.
- The amendment was approved by the board.
- Vote count on amendment: (11 YES/7 NO/1 Abstain)

MOTION to discontinue funding of the Hamilton High School "Safe Passages" program.

- The motion was made by Marj Safinia and seconded by Paula Waxman.
- The motion was approved by the board.
- Vote count on the motion: (18 YES/0 NO/1 Abstain)



- b. Motion for \$3699.30 Neighborhood Purposes Grant for Fresh Fruit on Fridays for Shenandoah Street Elementary School (Levine / GB022113-5)
 - Shenandoah Elementary School is a title 1 school where 66% of the students were overweight. This is the fourth year for the program. The program is a 19-week program where local farmers provide fresh fruit for the students with an educational piece about the farmers, the nutritional facts of the produce.
 - The motion was made by Barry Levine and seconded by Marj Safinia.
 - The motion was approved by the board.
 - Vote count on the motion: (13 YES/1 NO/5 Abstain)
- c. Motion to fund up to \$1000 to purchase Pico Blvd. trees, stakes/ties, planting mix (Waxman / GB022113-6)
 - The Green Team committee is requesting funds to purchase trees for the empty wells on Pico Blvd. A member of the community will be watering the trees twice a month and the trees are on the approved city list and are drought tolerant.
 - The motion was made by Barry Levine and seconded by Marj Safinia.
 - The motion was approved by the board.
 - Vote count on the motion: (13 YES/1 NO/5 Abstain)
- d. Motion to approve up to \$925 to Castle Heights Elementary School to help fund Earth Week/Eco Fair (Waxman / GB022113-7)
 - The week of April 21st, 2013 the Castle Heights Elementary School will be hosting their annual Eco Fair during Earth week. The green team is requesting funds for incentives and food on the day of the event.
 - The motion was made by Michael Lynn and seconded by Bette Billet.
 - The motion was approved by the board.
 - Vote count on the motion: (16 YES/0 NO/3 Abstain)
- e. Motion to support enforcement of Court ruling on illegal billboards (Gomes/GB022113-8)
 - In 2006, the City of LA entered into an agreement with Clear Channel Outdoor and CBS Outdoor to convert 800 static billboards to digital. In addition, the agreement resulted in an additional 100 illegal digital billboards to be erected.

AMENDMENT South Robertson Neighborhoods Council urges the city of Los Angeles to fully implement the Court ruling *and have the illegal digital billboards removed.*

And further be it resolved, South Robertson Neighborhoods Council opposes any efforts by the City of Los Angeles to initiate any changes to the zoning laws relative to digital billboards without a full and open public process.

- The amendment was made by Victor Mitry and seconded by Brian Kite.
- The amendment was NOT approved by the board.
- Vote count on amendment: (5 YES/10 NO/1 Abstain)

MOTION South Robertson Neighborhoods Council urges the city of Los Angeles to fully implement the Court ruling and remove the illegal digital billboards.

And further be it resolved, South Robertson Neighborhoods Council opposes any efforts by the City of Los Angeles to initiate any changes to the zoning laws relative to digital billboards without a full and open public process.

- The motion was made by Kevin Gres and seconded by Robyn Braun.
- The motion was approved by the board.
- Vote count on the motion: (13 YES/1 NO/2 Abstain)

VIII. Adjournment



Current Committee Membership

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

Note that Bylaws, Econ 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	Econ Revital	Board Dev	Parks & Rec
Kevin Gres	█				█							
Kimber Smith				█			█					
Beth Ryan				█			█	█			█	
Robyn Braun					█							
Bette Billet		█	█	█					█	█	█	
Michael Lynn					█		█					
Jon Liberman			█	█		█			█			
Ellen Lanet	█		█			█						
Paula Waxman		█					█					
Michael Bloom			█		█							
Bethie Kohanbash											█	
Nahed Guirguis												
David Mattis				█								
Brian Kite			█				█	█	█			█
Barry Levine	█	█		█		█	█			█		
Susan Burden			█									
Marj Safinia			█	█			█			█		
Terrence Gomes			█		█		█	█	█	█	█	
Martin Epstein		█										
Hector Garza											█	
Victor Mitry			█				█					
Org 3												
Doug Fitzsimmons				█		█	█	█	█	█		█
School 1												
Erick Morales	█			█		█					█	



Board Vote Tally Sheet

Meeting Date: February 21, 2013

Votes taken	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10
Kevin Gres	2C	C	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	N	1Y
Kimber Smith	C	C	A	Y	Y	Y	1Y	Y	N	Y
Beth Ryan	C	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Robyn Braun	C	C	Y	N	Y	A	Y	Y	N	2Y
Bette Billet	1C	C	Y	N	Y	Y	2Y	2Y	Y	Y
Michael Lynn	C	C	A	2Y	Y	Y	Y	1Y	X	X
Jon Liberman	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ellen Lanet	C	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y
Paula Waxman	C	C	2Y	Y	2Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Michael Bloom	C	C	Y	N	Y	A	Y	Y	N	Y
Bethie Kohanbash	C	C	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	A	X	X
Nahed Guirguis	C	C	Y	Y	Y	X	X	X	X	X
David Mattis	C	C	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Brian Kite	X	X	X	X	X	A	Y	Y	2N	Y
Barry Levine	C	C	Y	N	Y	1Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Susan Burden	C	C	1Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	A
Marj Safinia	C	C	Y	Y	1Y	2Y	Y	Y	N	N
Terrence Gomes	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Martin Epstein	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Hector Garza	C	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Victor Mitry	C	C	A	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	1Y	A
Org 3										
Doug Fitzsimmons	C	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
School 1										
Erick Morales	C	C	Y	1Y	A	A	A	A	X	X

Votes taken

1. Draft meeting minutes of Dec, 2012 (Ryan/GB022113-1)
2. Confirmation of Board committee memberships & absence requests (GB022113-2)
3. Treasurer's report and approval of monthly expenses (Gomes / GB022113-3)
4. Amendment for Hamilton High School "Safe Passages" program
5. Motion to discontinue funding of the Hamilton High School "Safe Passages" program (Bloom/GB022113-4)
6. Motion for \$3699.30 Neighborhood Purposes Grant for Fresh Fruit on Fridays for Shenandoah Street Elementary School (Levine/GB022113-5)
7. Motion to fund up to \$1000 to purchase Pico Blvd. trees, stakes/ties, planting mix (Waxman/GB022113-6)
8. Motion to approve up to \$925 to Castle Heights Elementary School to help fund Earth Week/Eco Fair (Waxman/GB022113-7)
9. Amendment on illegal billboards
10. Motion to support enforcement of Court ruling on illegal billboards (Gomes/GB022113-8)