



General Board Special Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 9, 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 7:18 PM.

Board Members Present (14): Kimber Smith, Beth Ryan, Robyn Braun, Jon Liberman, Ellen Lanet, Paula Waxman, Michael Bloom, Bethie Kohanbash, Barry Levine, Susan Burden, Marj Safinia, Terrence Gomes, Hector Garza, Doug Fitzsimmons

Board Members Absent (9): Kevin Gres, Bette Billet, Michael Lynn, Nahed Guirguis, David Mattis, Brian Kite, Martin Epstein, Victor Mitry and Erick Morales

Members of the Public Present (1): Jerry Singer, SORO business owner

II. General Public Comment – *no comments from the public*

III. New Business

- a. Discussion and vote on recommended changes by the Neighborhood Council to the proposed West Adams / Baldwin Hills / Leimert Community Plan (Gomes & Liberman/SB040913-1)
 - Doug opened the conversation by letting the board know that there was a joint meeting with the Land Use, Transportation and Robertson Revitalization Committees. He indicated that the members of the committees felt it was important to bring the plan before the board so that we had a voice.
 - Marj provided background indicating that SORO is a part of four community plans. They had come to SORO about seven years ago indicating that an updated plan was coming but then no one saw them again until this past January.
 - There is a Planning Commission meeting on Thursday and although we may be too late we wanted to make sure that our voices were heard.
 - Businesses on Robertson have not been developed as much as those in the communities surrounding us that are also a part of the plan. The Community Plan referenced in specifics and in length the other business districts in the plan but did not reference SORO a great deal and discussed our community in broader strokes.
 - Topics discussed included:
 - Adding a parking structure so businesses want to come here and to alleviate the traffic on Robertson.
 - Focus on the Robertson ramp filtering traffic into the community not discussed in plan.
 - Drawing community plan boundaries along Neighborhood Council boundaries.
 - Walkable community – focus on pedestrians as a priority.
 - Century City Development will negatively impact SORO community with increased traffic but will not be a benefit to more potential customers to local businesses.

Doug Fitzsimmons
President

Brian Kite
Vice-President

Terrence Gomes
Treasurer

Beth Ryan
Secretary

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- Robertson is a main thoroughfare but has failed recent traffic studies.
- The SORO community has a few absentee landlords with no incentives to fill their building space.
- Although possible solutions were discussed like making the sidewalks wider, moving the alleys behind the buildings to deepen the commercial lots or to put in parking, the board agreed that we wanted to make sure that our concerns were addressed and to allow the experts to determine what was feasible.
- Board members felt that there was a missed opportunity by bringing the Metro so close to the Robertson area without providing for a way for potential shoppers to safely enter our community.
- One comment which seemed to resonate with board members was that the development in the area was not going to change organically.
- Another comment made by Kimber - which was applauded by others - was to thank those board members who had thoroughly read through the plan, determined its strengths and weaknesses and had taken the time to put the letter together.

AMENDMENT to include the phrase “it’s not going to change organically” in the letter to the planning commission in section 3c.

- The amendment was made by Paula Waxman and seconded by Marj Safinia.
- The amendment was approved by the board by general consensus.
- Board members voting on the amendment: (13)

AMENDMENT to include “and further ask the planning department to take up the issue with an accompanying city council file” at the end of section I. of the proposed motion.

- The amendment was made by Doug Fitzsimmons and seconded by Jon Liberman.
- The amendment was approved by the board by general consensus.
- Board members voting on the amendment: (13)

AMENDMENT to reword section 1b of the letter to the planning commission to be more positive.

- The amendment was made by Kimber Smith and seconded by Ellen Lanet.
- The amendment was approved by the board by general consensus.
- Board members voting on the amendment: (13)

AMENDMENT to include the use of Hamilton High school for recreational purposes to benefit the community.

- The amendment was made by Jon Liberman and seconded by Kimber Smith.
- The amendment was approved by the board by general consensus.
- Board members voting on the amendment: (14)

AMENDMENT to cc all city council members on the letter to the planning commission.

- The amendment was made by Jon Liberman and seconded by Terrence Gomes.
- The amendment was approved by the board by general consensus.



- Board members voting on the amendment: (14)

AMENDMENT – South Robertson Neighborhood Council would prefer fast food exceptions for CD 10 to be treated the same as the rest of the city.

- The amendment was made by Jon Liberman and seconded by Robyn Braun.
- The amendment was NOT approved by the board.
- Vote count on the motion: (4 YES/7 NO/3 Abstain)

MOTION (Gomes & Liberman/SB040913-1) – to approve the motion and amended letter with all approved changes to be sent to the Planning Commission.

- The amendment was made by Doug Fitzsimmons and seconded by Terrence Gomes.
- The motion was approved by the board.
- Vote count on the motion: (13 YES/0 NO/1 Abstain)

IV. Adjournment

Doug Fitzsimmons adjourned the meeting at 8:35 PM and thanked everyone for attending the special meeting of the board.