



# General Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 18, 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 Board President, Doug Fitzsimmons, called the meeting to order at 7:12 PM.

**Board Members Present (15):** Beth Ryan, Bette Billet (left at 8:15PM), Michael Lynn, Jon Liberman, Ellen Lanet, Paula Waxman, Michael Bloom (arrived at 8:40 PM), Nahed Guirguis (arrived at 7:45 PM), Brian Kite, Susan Burden, Terrence Gomes, Hector Garza, Victor Mitry, Doug Fitzsimmons and Grant Cohen.

**Board Members Absent (8):** Kevin Gres, Kimber Smith, Robyn Braun, Bethie Kohanbash, David Mattis, Barry Levine, Marj Safinia and Martin Epstein.

## II. General Public Comment

- Terry informed everyone of a meeting he coordinated for local disadvantaged workers on July 23<sup>rd</sup> at 8 AM.

## III. Applicant for open Board seat

- a. Organization Seat 3 (partial term expiring 2014): Dan Berkovitz
  - Withdrawn

## IV. Community Reports

- a. LA Police Department (Ballesteros & Gonzalez)
  - Officers unable to come to meeting due to other assignments.
- b. Office of Council President Wesson (Carlin)
  - Camp – Council President Wesson has a camp for inner city kids this weekend.
  - Movies in the Park – Council President will be hosting the Movies in the Park at Reynire Park on Friday August 2<sup>nd</sup> at dusk.
  - Newsletter – Liz Carlin handed out CD10 newsletters.
  - SORO Festival – Liz thanked the NC members and community for a great SORO Festival.
- c. Office of Councilmember Koretz (Bradkin)
  - City Council on recess. They will be discussing the mural ordinance next month.
  - Tania recently completed training on how to deal with homeless issues.
  - Working with stakeholders on issues regarding Caste Heights, Rob Rec Center, tree planting and a Preferred Parking District zone.
- d. Office of Assemblymember Bloom (Cohen)
  - Assemblymember Bloom's office is working on securing a national guard for the SORO safety event in October.
  - On August 9<sup>th</sup> there is a senior scam stopper event. More information can be found at seniorscamstopper.com
  - Working on two higher education bills SP173 –introduced by Senator Liu and passed the senate and SB520 which is a bill regarding online courses and also has passed the senate to be reviewed by the assembly.

**Doug Fitzsimmons**  
President

**Brian Kite**  
Vice-President

**Terrence Gomes**  
Treasurer

**Beth Ryan**  
Secretary

**South Robertson  
Neighborhoods Council**

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## V. Approval of Minutes



- a. Draft meeting minutes for June 20, 2013 (Ryan / GB071813-1)
  - Moved by Jon Liberman and seconded by Brian Kite.
  - Amended minutes were unanimously approved by general consensus. (14 board members voted)

#### **VI. Committee Reports**

- a. Confirmation of Board committee memberships and absence requests (GB071813-2)
  - Grant Cohen requested to be added to the Public Safety and Education committee.
  - Marj Safinia has requested approval for her to be absent in July and August due to travel (requested via Doug Fitzsimmons)
  - All committee additions were unanimously approved by general consensus. (14 board members voted)
- b. President's report
  - Doug announced that there would be another board retreat to discuss the "big idea" on Sunday July 21<sup>st</sup> from 1 – 4 PM.
  - There was some conversation whether or not there would be any items for the Board meeting in August. Public Safety will have a motion so there will be a meeting.
- c. Treasurer's report and approval of monthly expenses (Gomes / GB071813-3)
  - Since there have not been any expenses in the past month, there were no expenses to approve.
  - Financial training requirements – all board members need to complete the financial training – either online or in person – in order to be able to vote on funding motions

#### **VII. Unfinished Business**

- a. Motion to support a height variance at 1500 S Beverly Drive (Land Use / GB052013-7)
  - i. Property is located at corner of Beverly Dr and Cashio – sidewalk higher on Beverly – driveway off Cashio using rear yard for driveway – open space on roof – to be ADA compliant they are requesting 10% extra height for elevator. Lavish landscape. Proposing 8-units with 1 low income. 3 bedroom units. Mediterranean style.
  - ii. Amendment proposed to restrict roof access hours – did not receive a second.
  - iii. Motion to approve the height variance request at 1500 S. Beverly Drive and send letter of support to La City Zoning Administrator
    - Doug Fitzsimmons moved the motion and it was seconded by Michael Lynn.
    - Motion was approved by the board.
- b. Vote Count was: (14 YES/0 NO/0 Abstain).

#### **VIII. New Business**

- a. Motion to support the suspension and re-evaluation of DWP's FIT-100 program (Gomes / GB071813-10)

After hearing from a representative from DWP and hearing about a position from the Rate Payer Advocate Dr. Fred Pickel, a motion was presented to postpone the motion.

  - Jon Liberman moved the motion and it was seconded by Paula Waxman.
  - Motion to postpone was approved by the board.
  - Vote Count was: (13 YES/1 NO/0 Abstain).
- b. Motion to fund up to \$500 for Informational Community Gatherings (Smith / GB071813-4)



AMENDMENT – That SORO NC allocate **up to \$100 per event** to produce and market informational community gatherings in various SORO neighborhoods.

- Victor Mitry moved the motion and it was seconded by Jon Liberman.
- Motion was NOT approved by the board.
- Vote Count was: (6 YES/8 NO/0 Abstain).

MOTION - That SORO NC allocate up to \$500 to produce and market one or more informational community gatherings in various SORO neighborhoods.

- Doug Fitzsimmons moved the motion and it was seconded by Beth Ryan.
- Motion was approved by the board.
- Vote Count was: (12 YES/2 NO/0 Abstain).

- c. Motion to support retaining Grayce Liu as General Manager of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (Fitzsimmons / GB071813-5)
- Doug Fitzsimmons moved the motion and it was seconded by Beth Ryan.
  - Motion was approved by general consensus with 14 board members in attendance.
- d. Motion for \$800 to fund the purchase of office and printing supplies (Fitzsimmons / GB071813-6)
- Doug Fitzsimmons moved the motion and it was seconded by Michael Lynn.
  - Motion was unanimously approved by the board.
  - Vote Count was: (14 YES/0 NO/0 Abstain).
- e. Motion to support Councilmember Huizar’s full resolution (12-1682-S1) to modify the “Plan for a Citywide System of Neighborhood Councils” and supporting administrative code changes to remove the existing factual basis stakeholder definition for NCs and substitute one for community interest stakeholders. And to authorize a community impact statement and public testimony to that effect. (Fitzsimmons / GB071813-7)
- SUBSTITUTE MOTION: To reject this motion and to replace it with the language that we already approved regarding at-large stakeholders which allows each NC can adopt their own definition and number of at-large seats for that neighborhood council.
- Jon Liberman moved the motion and it was seconded by Doug Fitzsimmons.
  - Motion was approved by the board.
  - Vote Count was: (13 YES/0 NO/1 Abstain).
- f. Motion to support the initial recommendations of the NC Plan Review committees (Fitzsimmons / GB071813-8)
- Motion was withdrawn.
- g. Motion to approve changes to the LA Neighborhood Council Coalition bylaws (Gomes / GB071813-9)
- Motion was postponed.

## **IX. Adjournment**

The SORO NC Board President, Doug Fitzsimmons, adjourned the meeting at 9:29 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	Transportation	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								
Bethie Kohanbash													
Nahed Guirguis													
David Mattis													
Brian Kite									Ch				Co
Barry Levine	Co												
Susan Burden													
Marj Safinia				Co						Ch			
Terrence Gomes			Co				Ch					Ch	
Martin Epstein													
Hector Garza													
Victor Mitry			Co										
Org 3													
Doug Fitzsimmons								Ch					Co
Grant Cohen													
School Seat 2													



## Board Vote Tally Sheet

Meeting Date: July 18, 2013

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

### Votes taken

1. Draft minutes (GB071813-1)
2. Confirmation of committee memberships and absence requests (GB071813-2)
3. Motion to support the suspension and re-evaluation of DWP's FIT-100 program (GB071813-10)
4. Motion to support a height variance at 1500 S Beverly Drive (GB052013-7)
5. Amendment to fund up to \$500 for Informational Community Gatherings (GB071813-4)
6. Motion to fund up to \$500 for Informational Community Gatherings (GB071813-4)
7. Motion to support retaining Grayce Liu as General Manager of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (GB071813-5)
8. Motion for \$800 to fund the purchase of office & printing supplies (GB071813-6)
9. Motion to support Councilmember Huizar's motion to amend the NC stakeholder definition (GB071813-7)