



General Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 17, 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 7:15 PM.

Board Members Present (17): Kevin Gres, Kimber Smith, Beth Ryan, Robyn Braun, Bette Billet, Michael Lynn, Jon Liberman, Paula Waxman, Nahed Guirguis, David Mattis, Barry Levine, Susan Burden, Marj Safinia, Terrence Gomes, Victor Mitry, Doug Fitzsimmons and Grant Cohen.

Board Members Absent (7): Ellen Lanet, Michael Bloom, Bethie Kohanbash, Brian Kite, Martin Epstein, Hector Garza and Sarah Sabin.

II. General Public Comment

- a. Christine Agassi discussed the closure of the walkway in Reynier Village Neighborhood Association.
- b. Rabbi Jonathan Klein, Wendie Dox and a resident on Bedford Street commented on the chicken sacrifice practice taking place in SORO on Pico Blvd.
- c. Jon Liberman handed out awards to Mike Lynn for submitting the most sidewalk and street repairs to the Mayor's blitz. And honorable mention goes to Terrence Gomes and Ellen Lanet as runners-up in the contest.

III. Presentation and Board discussion

- a. Jay Greenstein, Council District 5 Chief Field & Transportation Deputy
 - i. Introduced himself and Steve Gaur
- b. Steve Gaur, LADOT bikeways unit: proposed bike lanes on Roxbury between Cashio and Beverly Hills
 - i. Adding signs and painting on street for a bike path will be added on Roxbury between Cashio and Pico Blvd.
 - ii. No impact on traffic or parking
 - iii. Adding continental crosswalk on corner of Pico and Roxbury

IV. Community Reports

- a. LA Police Department (Ballesteros & Gonzalez)
 - No officers were in attendance
- b. Office of Council President Wesson (Carlin)
 - La triathlon street closure on September 29th re: Fairfax, Venice or La Brea.
 - Taste of Soul will take place on Saturday October 19th from 10 AM – 7 PM on Crenshaw Blvd between Stocker and Rodeo Road - ~2000 residents come out to celebrate
 - West Adams NC – living history – recreate stories of people who have died over 100 years ago
 - Robertson car wash closed for the time being. Future is unknown.
 - Tree trimming based on nuisance locations only – including any trees on parkway that is blocking lights, impeding street cleaning or fallen trees.
- c. Office of Councilmember Koretz (Greenstein)
 - Jay Greenstein has been with CD5 for 7 years – 5 years served as Westside NC deputy – Transportation – Western to La Brea to Fairfax to La Cienega subway extension – Expo Phase 2

Doug Fitzsimmons
President

Brian Kite
Vice-President

Terrence Gomes
Treasurer

Beth Ryan
Secretary

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Neighborhoods Council**

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- Tania Bradkin is no longer our field deputy with CD5. They hope to hire her replacement in the very near future.
- Jay introduced John Darnell – Senior Field Deputy
 1. John briefly discussed the following:
 - Rooftop solar projects, Emergency Preparedness Resource, September High Holiday – relaxed parking for certain areas, Phase 2 expo line includes bike ways - Overland to Santa Monica, Expo Blvd under motor and cross north of 10 – will be a meeting next Tuesday at 7 PM Palms Rancho Park library to discuss design phase of bike path and also that the City of LA did not issue permits for animal sacrifices – as was mentioned by a member of the public earlier in the meeting.

d. Medical Marijuana dispensaries

- None are legal in CD5 and CD10
 1. Koretz helped write measure D – working with city attorney's office
 2. Report locations to CD5 and will send complaints to city attorney's office
 3. Doug Fitzsimmons commented on how Eagle Rock used to have a proliferation of medical marijuana sites and now all but one have been forced to leave the Eagle Rock community
 4. Work with new field deputy, LAPD, city attorney and NC will work together
 5. Liz Carlin from Council president Herb Wesson's office indicated that LAPD West LA Captain Nathan has Lt. focused on shutting down dispensary next to the car wash – searching for evidence and indicated that Council President Wesson has asked Kamala Harris to write up language re: medical marijuana dispensaries.

V. Approval of Minutes

- a. Draft board retreat minutes for July 21, 2013 and draft meeting and special meeting minutes for August 15, 2013 (Ryan / GB091713-1)
 - Moved by Marj Safinia and seconded by Bette Billet.
 - General Board meeting on 8/15/13 and special meeting minutes as well as retreat board minutes from 7/21/13 were unanimously approved by general consensus. (17 board members voted)

VI. Committee Reports

- a. Confirmation of Board committee memberships and absence requests (GB091713-2)
 - No changes were requested
- b. President's report
 - Doug Fitzsimmons announced that the SORO NC was chosen as one of the EmpowerLA 2013 recipients.
 - Congress of Neighborhoods will take place on Saturday September 28th from 7:45 AM – 4 PM at City Hall.
- c. Treasurer's report and approval of monthly expenses (Gomes / GB091713-3)
 - Moved by Marj Safinia and seconded by Beth Ryan.
 - Vote: 13 Y / 0 N / 3 A — monthly expenses approved
 - Financial training requirements – all board members need to complete the 20 minute financial training – either online or in person. We still have several board members who have not completed the training.



VII. Unfinished Business

- a. Motion to support the suspension and re-evaluation of DWP's FIT-100 program (Gomes / GB071813-10)
Six individuals from the community spoke including representatives from the Sierra club, board member from Mar Vista, an apartment dweller in a green building, a rep who was accepted into the FIT program and a woman from Pacific Palisades. John Darnell from Council member Paul Koretz' office also spoke regarding the FIT 100 program.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION submitted by the Green Team Committee: After considering all the submissions for and against the program, the committee determined that the FIT 100 Program should NOT be suspended.

That the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council support continuing the DWP's FIT 100 Program as currently structured.

- Paula Waxman moved the motion and it was seconded by Beth Ryan.
- Substitute Motion was NOT approved by the board.
- Vote Count was: (8 YES/8 NO/0 Abstain).

MOTION: To support the Rate Payer Advocate Dr. Fred Pickel's request that the FIT-100 Program be suspended and support the subsequent reevaluation of the FIT-100 Program as suggested by the Office of Public Accountability.

- Jon Liberman moved the motion and it was seconded by Kimber Smith.
- Motion was NOT approved by the board.
- Vote Count was: (7 YES/8 NO/1 Abstain).

VIII. New Business

- a. Motion to fund 2013 SORO NC town hall up to \$500 (Safinia / GB091713-4)
- Terrence Gomes moved the motion and it was seconded by Mike Lynn.
 - Motion was approved by the board.
 - Vote Count was: (13 YES/0 NO/1 Abstain).
- b. Motion to support a system-wide NC grievance and complaint process (Fitzsimmons & Gomes / GB091713-5)

AMENDMENT: Keep motion sections 1 – 3 wording as is. Remove wording with strike-through in section 4 and eliminate section 5 completely.

- ~~4. That the regional panels be conducted in accordance with the Brown Act to ensure a public process, but that since they are not courts of law, attorney representation should not be allowed;~~
- ~~5. That stand alone elements of the new procedures that do not require Administrative Code changes be implemented within 90 days of this motion.~~

- Doug Fitzsimmons moved the motion and it was seconded by Robyn Braun.
- Amendment was NOT approved by the board.



- Vote Count was: (5 YES/5 NO/3 Abstain).

MOTION: That sections of the City's Administrative Code which touch upon Neighborhood Council grievances and complaints procedures be amended as follows:

1. That the grievance procedure and the complaint process be merged into one system;
2. The the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) establish a single set of procedures with a regional grievance panel empowered to render a final decision on a grievance without further right of appeal, which shall be based on the grievance policy recommendations already made by DONE as reflected in its report dated November 22, 2011 and contained in Council File Number 11-1018;
3. That BONC and DONE develop a set of potential consequences for NCs who do not comply with the regional panel's recommendations (up to and including decertification) and that when applied, those penalties be recommended by DONE and approved by BONC;
4. That the regional panels be conducted in accordance with the Brown Act to ensure a public process, but that since they are not courts of law, attorney representation should not be allowed;
5. That stand alone elements of the new procedures that do not require Administrative Code changes be implemented within 90 days of this motion.

- Doug Fitzsimmons moved the motion and it was seconded by Jon Liberman.
- Motion was approved by the board.
- Vote Count was: (14 YES/0 NO/0 Abstain).

IX. Adjournment

The SORO NC Board President, Doug Fitzsimmons, adjourned the meeting at 10 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: September 17, 2013

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

Votes taken

1. Draft minutes (GB091713-1)
2. Treasurer's Report and monthly expenses (GB091713-3)
3. SUBSTITUTE - Motion to support the suspension and re-evaluation of DWP's FIT-100 program (GB071813-10)
4. Motion to support the suspension and re-evaluation of DWP's FIT-100 program (GB071813-10)
5. 2013 SORO Town Hall Motion (GB091713-4)
6. AMENDMENT - System-wide NC grievance process (GB091713-5)
7. System-wide NC grievance process (GB091713-5)