



General Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 19, 2012, 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 7:10pm. Minutes were taken by Doug.

Board Members Present: Rachel Lester, Kimber Smith, Harold Bock, Robyn Braun, Bette Billet, Michael Lynn, Paula Waxman, Meredith Levine, Nahed Guirguis, Terrence Gomes, Brian Kite, Barry Levine, Troy Richardson, Marjan Safinia, Sam Jagger, Martin Epstein, Victor Mitry, Doug Fitzsimmons

Board Members Absent: Armando Roman, Susan Burden, Erick Morales

Guests: SLO Mario Gonzales, Liz Carlin, David Giron, Adee Drory, Jeff Selick

II. General Public Comment

Doug announced that Hamilton would be holding a Medical Fair on Wednesday, April 25 between the hours of 10:00am and 3:00pm in the school's cafeteria. The themes will be prevention and healthy eating. There will be over 35 booths presenting topics on various health related diseases and disorders with community-based organizations, doctors and health professionals participating. They will also have an organic station from the Hami Garden with fresh produce and a chef conducting food demonstrations.

Marj asked that everyone consider nominating local community leaders for this year's Susan Bursk Community Service Award.

III. Community Reports

LAPD. SLO Mario Gonzales reported that a small group was charging "toll" from motorists passing through Cadillac and Corning.

"Knock knock" burglars arrested, but copycat crimes continue.

Office of Council President Wesson. Liz Carlin said that the problems with excessive noise and overflow partying at Reynier Park have been reported to LAPD and the Dept. of Parks and Recreation, both of whom will be increasing patrols.

CD10 will hold a clean up of Washington Blvd. on Saturday, April 28th from 9am-noon in conjunction with LAPD Wilshire Division and Mid City NC. Meet at Nate Holden Center parking lot.

Office of Councilmember Koretz. David Giron announced that CD5 had successfully moved SORO NC's long-delayed Summer Youth Program funding motion from FY 2010-11 through Council. Awaiting Mayor's signature.

Councilmember Koretz is currently sponsoring two important measures in Council: one to reverse cuts to LA Fire Department funding and another to ban puppy mills.

IV. Presentations and Board Discussion

Celebrate Israel Festival

Doug Fitzsimmons
President

Brian Kite
Vice-President

Terrence Gomes
Treasurer

Martin Epstein
Secretary

**South Robertson
Neighborhoods Council**

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Adee Drury, Festival Director, presented more information on the event. On April 29th, Celebrate Israel (commemorating Israel's 64th Independence Day) will hold a large community festival, including a walk that will go through parts of SORO along Pico. The celebration itself will be Cheviot Hills Rec Center from 9am-6pm. The southbound lane of Motor Ave will be closed. The Festival has made effort to minimize parking impact on the neighborhood and has commissioned shuttle buses from off-site parking garages. Security is paramount, with a large number of visible and plain-clothes officers in attendance. They also plan to have helicopter surveillance. The Festival is returning after a year's absence, and began planning later than anticipated. She promised that next year they would consult with the surrounding NCs sooner. Complaints on the day of the festival will be handled by Council District 5 (David Giron) and by Ms. Drury.

Proposed 7-Eleven at Robertson and Cadillac

Condor Commercial Real Estate briefly presented the project before opening the floor to questions. The project seeks a community corner exemption in order to operate 24 hours a day. Liz Carlin asked about the hours for deliveries and trash pickup: most of the deliveries will be small vans delivering fresh produce at approx. 5:30am. Trash pick up won't be scheduled before 7am. Mike and Robyn asked about the back of the building: there will be no rear exit, and the existing landscaping will provide a barrier with the adjacent residential property. David Giron asked about security: 7-Eleven is "generally considered an industry leader" in security. This will be a corporate store, not a franchise, and employees will not have leave the counter to clean. Bette asked why the store needed to be open 24 hours and if they expected a high volume of customers late at night. The presenters did not have sales information, but said the 7-Eleven brand was based on 24 hour access to household essentials and medicine. Paula asked how far away the other 7-Eleven was on Robertson: it's half a mile. Bette wondered how the would be viable given the proximity to another location: it's consistent with the corporate business model. David asked about the store sign: it will be a monument-style, close to the ground. The presenter said that they would not seek an alcohol license at the time of the store opening.

V. Approval of Minutes

Draft Board Meeting Minutes of 15 March 2012 (Fitzsimmons / GB041912-1)

Marj noted that the Liz Carlin's comments should reference CD10, not CD5.

- **Amended minutes accepted by general consent**

VI. Committee Reports

Confirmation of Board committee memberships and absences (GB041912-2)

None proposed.

Executive. Doug congratulated the Board and community on a stunningly successful tree planting along Robertson in March. We hoped for 100 volunteers, but got 250. Much of the credit goes to Paula, Larry, David and Liz.

Nick has officially resigned his seat and role as Secretary.

Treasurer Report. Funds remaining: \$6,901.23. Terry reported that Neighborhood Council FY12-13 funding in the Mayor's proposed budget would be \$37,000, less than anticipated.

Approval of monthly expenses (Gomes / GB041912-3)

- Barry moved to accept the credit card report; Robyn seconded.
- **Vote: 18-Y, 0-N, 0-A. Report accepted.**

Land Use. Talked about Pico Glatt Kosher Market, 7-Eleven, and a proposal from AT&T for a small above-ground power relay.



Green Team. The Payne Foundation conducted a well-attended presentation on indigenous landscaping at the April meeting. Next month, the committee will host Anna Cummins, who will speak about the Pacific Gyre, a massive swirl of plastics and trash in the Pacific Ocean.

Public Safety. Mike will continue walking tours to promote neighborhood watch program: Sat. May 5 around Faye and Melvil; Sun. May 6 around Saturn and Holt. Both start around 1:00; Mike agreed to distribute literature about SORO NC. The committee will have a presentation about gang prevention at next meeting. Currently exploring grant opportunities.

Outreach. Much of the last meeting was concerned with funding motions. and Marj meeting with KCET/Departures to plan next steps. Medallions are in process. They will have a special neighborhood leaders meeting on April 30. Next regular meeting will be May 21 due to Memorial Day.

Education. The committee has brought the Adult Education issue before the Board this month.

Transportation. Presentation from Mark Davis on the Westside Subway extension. The Metro Planning Committee has voted to send the FEIR to the full Board for approval; that meeting will be Thursday, April 26th at 9:00am in the Metro Board Room, One Gateway Plaza, 3rd Floor.

Department of Water and Power. Proposed rate hikes would amount to up a 12-15% increase over five years. Regional public hearing at 6:30pm on May 10 at Stephen Wise Temple.

Westside Regional Association of Councils. WRAC is developing a position on UCLA's Hannah Carter Japanese Garden sale. Much regional concern about development around Expo.

VII. Special Orders

Nomination of Harold Bock as Chair of Transportation Committee (GB041912-4)

- Doug moved; Kimber seconded.
- **Nomination tabled by general consent**

Nomination of Martin Epstein as NC Secretary (GB041912-5)

- Doug moved; Barry seconded.
- **Nomination approved by general consent**

VIII. New Business

Motion to reconsider GB031512-6: changing Venice Blvd. and surrounding streets into a parking meter zone (GB041912-6)

(Brian chairs). Although he voted on the prevailing side at the March Board meeting, Victor felt that the opinions of the community at the public hearing on the issue were not properly represented. Doug explained that an abstention is a failure to vote, not an actual vote; abstentions influenced the outcome in March.

- Victor moved; Bette seconded.
- **Vote: 14-Y, 4-N, 0-A. Motion to reconsider passed.**

GB031512-6 was then reopened for debate. Doug described attendees at the public hearing as being overwhelmingly in favor of the PMZ, both by residents and businesses. Mike strongly disagreed with that characterization, and observed that people asked many questions critical of the plan. Mike called the costs into question. Victor was concerned that the plan would negatively affect lower-income homeowners in the neighborhood. Doug pointed out that the expansion of the plan came at the request of residents, and that parking meters in residential areas would



require a petition to do so by 2/3 of residents. Noted that while the meters would eliminate handicapped parking spaces, handicapped drivers are exempt from meters.

- Meredith moved to end debate; Troy seconded.
- **Vote: 15-Y, 2-N, 0-A. Motion to end debate passed.**
- Meredith moved; Kimber seconded.
- **Vote: 11-Y, 7-N, 0-A. Motion passed.**

Resolution in support of Adult Education (Levine / GB041912-7)

Presentation in support of the motion by Ann Ouwehand: emphasized that this is an irreplaceable low-cost supplement to community colleges (CCs). Paula asked if current students could use the program to make up credits; Ann said yes, it's estimated to increase graduation by 10%. Terry asked if BOG waivers have gone away--and doesn't it compete with CCs? Ann replied that the CCs can't handle the volume, are less convenient in many cases, and service a slightly different audience. Adult Ed prepares students via ESL courses, for example. Robyn asked about success rates and other courses offered; Ann said she wasn't sure about rates, but the programs include basic ed, HS ed, vocational training, elder fitness, etc. Hami doesn't offer vocational training, but programs like ESL and basic ed directly translate into job skills, not to mention that Adult Ed keeps kids off the streets. One issue: LAUSD is still getting funds for Adult Ed, but they're no longer specifically earmarked for it. The program has approximately 1800 teachers. Additional public comments by Thomas Hunt, David Ventressa, and Marguerite Stouthamer. Five more comment cards filled out by community in favor. A letter in support accepted from State Senator Ted Lieu, in addition to the eight community letters previously received in support.

- Marj moved; Kimber seconded.
- **Motion approved by general consent.**

Rachel, Harold and Nahed leave the meeting

Motion to add item to agenda: Split GB031512-9 into a three-phase project

- Doug moved; Mike seconded.
- **Motion added to agenda by general consent.**

Motion to split GB031512-9 web development into a three-phase project

The developer would prefer to have the project split and billed in three phases. Doug proposed the following:

That GB031512-9 web development be amended to split the project into a three-phases, with each of the phases billed in increments of up to \$916 each.

- Doug moved; Marj seconded.
- **Vote: 14-Y, 1-N, 0-A. Motion passed.**

Motion to release FY 11-12 funds previously allocated (Gomes / GB041912-9)

- Sam moved; Bette seconded.
- **Vote: 15-Y, 0-N, 0-A. Motion passed unanimously.**

Motion to fund up to \$1500 for Movies in the Park in conjunction with CD-10 (Safinia / GB041912-10)

- Robyn moved; Meredith seconded.
- **Vote: 15-Y, 0-N, 0-A. Motion passed unanimously.**

Motion to fund up to \$200 for NC identification ribbons for new Robertson Trees (Safinia / GB041912-11)

- Mike moved; Robyn seconded.
- **Vote: 15-Y, 0-N, 0-A. Motion passed unanimously.**



Motion to spend up to \$500 for SORO NC t-shirts (Fitzsimmons / GB041912-12)
(Brian chairs).

- Robyn moved; Mike seconded.
- **Vote: 15-Y, 0-N, 0-A. Motion passed unanimously.**

Mike leaves the meeting

Motion to fund up to \$385 for repair of NC street banners (Safinia / GB041912-13)

Several of the SORO NC banners were damaged in the recent wind storm.

- Robyn moved; Kimber seconded.
- **Vote: 14-Y, 0-N, 0-A. Motion passed unanimously.**

Motion to fund up to \$400 for Neighborhood Association workshop (Safinia / GB041912-14)

- Motion withdrawn by Marj.

Motion to encumber \$2800 for 2012 NC election outreach (Safinia / GB041912-15)

Marj notes that in 2010, the Board spend a significant amount more on the election, with somewhat disappointing results. Nevertheless, as the previous item was withdrawn, Marj proposes adding \$400 to the motion; the other option would be to use the extra money to pay down recurring bills. Board suggestions for additional potential vendors are recorded. Marj proposes amending motion to read:

That SORO NC encumber \$3,200 of FY 2011-12 funds for the purposes of NC election outreach in 2012, to be spent at the vendors listed above.

And to include the following additional vendors:

*Costco
Bagel Factory
Fu's Palace
El Pollo Loco
Kinko's / Fed Ex Office
Minuteman Press
Starbucks
Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf*

- Marj moved the amendment; Kimber seconded.
- **Vote: 10-Y, 3-N, 1-A. Amendment passed.**
- Robyn moved the amended motion; Paula seconded.
- **Vote: 14-Y, 0-N, 0-A. Amended motion passed unanimously.**

Motion to support the expansion of Pico Glatt Kosher Mart (Gomes / GB041912-8)

(Motion moved to end of agenda by general consent). Applicant not in attendance.

- Brian moved to table; Marj seconded.
- **Motion tabled until May by general consent**

IX. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50pm.



Board Committee Membership

As of 19 April 2012

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	Transportation	Finance	Exec	Bylaws	Econ Revital	Board Dev	Parks & Rec
Rachel Lester												
Kimber Smith												
Harold Bock												
Robyn Braun												
Bette Billet												
Michael Lynn												
Nick Burkhart												
Zone 8												
Paula Waxman												
Armando Roman												
Meredith Levine												
Nahed Guirguis												
Terry Gomes												
Brian Kite												
Barry Levine												
Troy Richardson												
Marj Safinia												
Sam Jagger												
Martin Epstein												
Sue Burden												
Victor Mitry												
Organization 3												
Doug Fitzsimmons												
School 1												
Erick Morales												



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	16	17
Rachel Lester	C	Y	Y	C	Y	Y	C	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Kimber Smith	C	Y	2Y	C	Y	2Y	2C	C	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	2Y	2N	Y
Harold Bock	C	Y	Y	C	Y	Y	C	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Robyn Braun	C	2Y	Y	C	N	N	C	C	C	Y	Y	1Y	2Y	1Y	1Y	N	1Y
Bette Billet	2C	Y	Y	C	2C	Y	C	C	C	Y	2Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y
Michael Lynn	C	Y	Y	C	N	N	C	X	2C	Y	Y	Y	1Y	2Y	X	X	X
Zone 7																	
Zone 8																	
Paula Waxman	C	Y	Y	C	Y	N	C	C	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	2Y
Armando Roman																	
Meredith Levine	C	Y	Y	C	Y	1Y	C	C	C	Y	Y	2Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Nahed Guirguis	C	Y	Y	C	Y	N	C	C	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Terry Gomes	C	Y	Y	C	N	N	C	C	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y
Brian Kite	C	Y	Y	C	Y	Y	C	1C	C	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Barry Levine	C	1Y	Y	2C	Y	Y	C	C	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Troy Richardson	C	Y	Y	C	Y	Y	C	C	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Marj Safinia	1C	Y	Y	C	Y	Y	1C	2C	C	2Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	1Y	Y
Sam Jagger	C	Y	Y	C	N	N	C	C	C	Y	1Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Martin Epstein	C	Y	Y	C	Y	Y	C	C	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Sue Burden																	
Victor Mitry	C	Y	Y	C	1Y	N	C	C	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Organization 3																	
Doug Fitzsimmons	C	Y	1Y	1C	Y	Y	C	C	1C	1Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
School 1																	
Erick Morales																	

Votes taken

1. Draft meeting minutes of March 15, 2012 (GB041912-1)
2. Approval of monthly expenses (GB041912-3)
3. Nomination of Harold Bock as Transportation Committee Chair (GB041912-4)
4. Nomination of Martin Epstein as NC Secretary (GB041912-5)
5. Reconsider GB031512-6: changing Venice Blvd. and surrounding streets into a parking meter zone (GB041912-6)
6. Support changing Venice Blvd. and surrounding streets into a parking meter zone (GB041912-6)
7. Support of Adult Education (GB041912-7)
8. Table: Support the expansion of Pico Glatt Kosher Mart (GB041912-8)
9. Vote to add: Split website enhancements into three phases
10. Split previously approved website enhancements into a three phase project
11. Release FY 11-12 funds previously allocated (GB041912-9)
12. Fund up to \$1500 for Movies in the Park in conjunction with CD-10 (GB041912-10)
13. Fund up to \$200 for NC identification ribbons for new Robertson Trees (GB041912-11)
14. Spend up to \$500 for SORO NC t-shirts (GB041912-12)
15. Fund up to \$385 for repair of NC street banners (GB041912-13)
16. Amendment to increase GB041912-15 to \$3200 for 2012 NC election outreach (GB041912-15)
17. Encumber \$3200 for 2012 NC election outreach (GB041912-15)