



# General Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 21, 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 7:00.

**Board Members Present:** Kimber Smith, Harold Bock, Robyn Braun, Bette Billet, Michael Lynn, Jon Liberman, Paula Waxman, Armando Roman, Terrence Gomes, Barry Levine, Troy Richardson, Marjan Safinia, Sam Jagger, Martin Epstein, Susan Burden, Victor Mitry, Aron Klein, Doug Fitzsimmons, Erick Morales

**Board Members Absent:** Rachel Lester, Nahed Guirguis, Brian Kite,

**Guests:** SLO Mario Gonzalez, Elizabeth Carlin, David Giron, Joseph Hari,

## II. General Public Comment

## III. Community Reports

### LAPD Report. LAPD- Mario Gonzalez

- The LAPD now has a vehicle description for the recent distraction burglaries in the area. The suspects went up to the residents and introduced themselves as construction workers. They were driving a construction vehicle and displayed "Handy Man" placard on doors. The vehicle's description is: 2008-2009 Chevy pickup that has a construction box in back. If a vehicle is noticed that matches this description try to get a license plate number.
- There have been multiple robberies in the Beverlywood area. The recent victims have been females. Some of the items that were stolen were a gold chain, wallet and cell phone.
- The West La Division had an officer-involved shooting. The parents called the police as their son was off his medicine. He pulled a knife which resulted in the officer shooting the suspect. He is now recovering in the hospital.
- Lots of kids on the street trying to find things to do as there aren't a lot of summer school activities.
- Last Sunday at the corner of Cadillac and Corning there was an officer-involved shooting, and we are still looking for the shooters.

### Office of Council President Wesson.

- Liz announced the prescription medicine recycling program located in the Pico neighborhood area. This program properly disposes unused medicine and has a positive ecological effect with fewer pollutants in the environment.
- Movies in the Park in coming up. If SORO would like to do anything special at the event let her know.

**Doug Fitzsimmons**  
President

**Brian Kite**  
Vice-President

**Terrence Gomes**  
Treasurer

**Martin Epstein**  
Secretary

**South Robertson  
Neighborhoods Council**

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- There is a medical marijuana meeting being scheduled. If you have any questions email Liz at [Elizabeth.Carlin@LACity.Org](mailto:Elizabeth.Carlin@LACity.Org).
- Marj announced the movie for August 3<sup>rd</sup> Movies in the Park will be "Hoodwinked" and will be soon listed on Council Presidents Wesson's Website.

#### **Office of Councilmember Koretz.**

- Congratulations on the amazing SORO Festival. Councilman Koretz and office had a great time attending.
- The Guru Ram Das Ashram has a upcoming community event in July
- Doug mentioned that Koretz's office has a community impact statement for Community Care.
- David also wanted to mention the death of Dr. Robert Rainey, a chiropractor located in the Palms area. A reward of \$50,000 is now being offered for information on this murder. There was a press conference this morning about this tragedy. The murder occurred on the morning of May 31<sup>st</sup> at approximately 7am. The location was the offices above Blockbuster Video at 9201 Venice Boulevard.

#### **Office of the Mayor.**

- Joseph commented on how wonderful it was to be here, and had just a few announcements. I wanted to thank all of you for the work that you've done. I'm sure many of you will be running again in your upcoming elections. There will be a leadership academy in June. More information on this event is to come. Neighborhood congress will be in September, and in October there will be a Mayor Appreciation Day. Doug will be forthcoming with more information on this.
- This is my first time at this location and the security man made me feel uncomfortable as I entered the building. I hope this isn't happening to others that are coming here for your meetings.
- Elections are coming up. The more seats are contested, the more robust the elections will be and the higher the turnout will be. That will be good for the health of the system. The more outreach you can do will be a very positive thing.
- Your work is very encouraging. I'll look forward to seeing you again.

## **IV. Approval of Minutes**

#### **Draft Board Meeting Minutes of 17 April 2012 (Epstein / GB062112-1)**

- The minutes had some technical issues and the motion package was late, so the minutes will be voted on next meeting in order to adhere to the bi-laws.

## **V. Committee Reports**

#### **Confirmation of Board committee memberships and absences (GB062112-2)**

- Brian requested an official absence for tonight's meeting. Jon announced that he would be joining the Transportation, Land Use, and Outreach Committees.
- **Requests confirmed by general consent**

#### **Executive.**

- Meredith has resigned her At Large seat due to a new job.
- Rachel has also resigned her Zone 1 seat.



- Doug distributed copies of the SORO NC Code of Civility, and said that all Board members are bound by its guidelines. We must all treat the public and each other with respect, no matter how much we may disagree.
- Some Board members had expressed concerns about the tenor of the May meeting, particularly in comments made by the public. Doug discussed that during board meetings when things become heated a short break should be taken, and pledges to do so in the future.
- Come to meetings prepared and having read the motions. We will be more respected if we have read and been prepared for the votes.
- We received a letter from the Crestview neighborhood association thanking us for helping make a better community. The entire board signed it.

**Treasurer Report.**

- Nearly 37K was spent during our last fiscal year. We were able to fund all but three motions that were passed, as we ran out of time and had issues with the pcard.
- The books were closed for the credit card report on June 15<sup>th</sup>.

Treasurer's report and approval of monthly expenses (Gomes / GB062112-3)

- Michael moved; Jon seconded.
- **Vote: 16-Y, 0-N, 1-A. Motion passed.**

**Land Use.**

- Pico Glatt Kosher Mart was not in attendance for the meeting. The motion will be considered at a future date.

**Education.**

- Barry talked about tutors needed at Shenandoah Elementary, and asked if anyone was interested in tutoring to let him know. Fresh Fruit Fridays will start earlier, as school is back in session starting in August. There will be no meeting next month or the following.

**Green Team.**

- Paula mentioned that the green team in researching the issues of fracking, which has been a major concern with a few SORO stakeholders. They will be getting both pros and cons on the topic, and will be writing a motion on either to support or oppose.
- A group of student researchers from Hamilton High School will be studying the pros and cons of a ballot initiative calling for California growers and producers of foods containing GMO's to be labeled. They will present their findings to the board in September
- Marj has been working on getting the trees that didn't get planted previously on Robertson Blvd.

**Public Safety.**

- There were 46 people that participated in the CPR training and received certification. We immediately saw a positive result of this training, as one of the newly certified participants was able to put his training into practice and save a life when someone felt ill at the recent SORO festival.
- We're continuing our neighborhood watch Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> at Orlin, North of Venice Blvd, and Cattaraugus South of Venice blvd.



#### **Outreach.**

- Marj commented on KCET, and all is moving forward at a good pace and they are building relationships within the SORO community. In July they will be in our neighborhood with cameras and should be wrapped at the end of August.

#### **Transportation.**

- Doug discussed the metro grand opening at Robertson and National. Kimber was there handing out SORO pamphlets. It is a beautiful line, and Culver City said that they are already seeing more interest in the community because of this line. The current parking lot will be turned into a parking garage building to accommodate more cars.
- We will be inviting the developers from Century City Center in August to discuss traffic impacts to the SORO neighborhoods.

#### **Board Development.**

- The board development committee will be reconvening for the upcoming October elections next month. If you would like to join this committee please email Martin. Also, if you have any suggestions for ways to attract more diversity within the board, please feel free to share that as well.

#### **Westside Regional Alliance of Councils.**

- Terry discussed that Westside retail developments will have an effect on the SORO area.

## **VI. Special Orders**

#### **Nomination of Doug Fitzsimmons as Co-Chair of Transportation (GB062112-4)**

- Paula moved; Kimber seconded.
- **Vote: 17-Y, 0-N, 0-A. Motion passed unanimously.**

## **VII. Unfinished Business**

#### **Motion to support the expansion of Pico Glatt Kosher Mart (GB041912-8)**

- Applicant not in attendance.

## **VIII. New Business**

#### **Motion to accept motion packet**

As the motion packet was posted after the 72-hour deadline in the Board's standing rules, the Board must vote by supermajority to accept them. The agenda was posted in compliance with the Brown Act and Board rules.

- Paula moved; Kimber seconded.
- **Vote: 17-Y, 0-N, 0-A. Motion packet accepted unanimously.**

#### **Motion to approve the election stipulation worksheet (Epstein / GB062112-5)**

- Terry moved; Robyn seconded.
- Jon Liberman offered an amendment to not opt in to vote by mail. That amendment failed due to lack of second.
- **Vote: 17-Y, 1-N, 0-A. Motion passed.**

#### **Motion to consider reduction in required parking for Corinthian/Everest College at 3000 S. Robertson Blvd. (Gomes / GB062112-6)**

*Liz Carlin stated for the record that Corinthian College has proactively made the effort to complete the requirements and has been fully cooperative with the CD10 office on this matter.*

- Terry moved; Robyn seconded.



- **Vote: 16-Y, 1-N, 0-A. Motion passed by general consent.**

**Motion to approve fiscal year 2012-13 SORO NC budget (Gomes / GB062112-7)**

- Marj moved; Paula seconded.
- **Vote: 17-Y, 0-N, 0-A. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Resolution in support of Peace Picnic (Safinia / GB 062112-8)**

- Terry moved; Marj seconded
- **Vote: 17-Y, 0-N, 0-A. Motion passed by general consent.**

**Motion to request change of meeting times for City Council and the Education & Neighborhoods Committee (Gomes / GB062112-9)**

- Aron moved; Robyn seconded
- **Vote 16-Y, 1-N, 0-A. Motion passed.**

**Motion to Send Apology Letter to Terri Dickerhoff (Lynn / GB062112-10)**

- Motion withdrawn by Michael

## **IX. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.



## 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	Transportation	Finance	Exec	Bylaws	Econ Revital	Board Dev	Parks & Rec
Zone 1 Rep												
Kimber Smith												
Harold Bock												
Robyn Braun												
Bette Billet												
Michael Lynn												
Jon Liberman												
Zone 8 Rep												
Paula Waxman												
Armando Roman												
At Large Rep 1												
Nahed Guirguis												
Terry Gomes												
Brian Kite												
Barry Levine												
Troy Richardson												
Marj Safinia												
Sam Jagger												
Martin Epstein												
Sue Burden												
Victor Mitry												
Aron Klein												
Doug Fitzsimmons												
School Rep 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
Zone Rep 1														
Kimber Smith	C	Y	2Y	2Y	Y	C	Y	2C	Y					
Harold Bock	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	C	Y	C	Y					
Robyn Braun	C	Y	Y	Y	2Y	2C	Y	C	2Y					
Bette Billet	C	Y	Y	Y	N	C	Y	C	N					
Michael Lynn	C	1Y	Y	Y	Y	C	Y	C	Y					
Jon Liberman	C	2Y	Y	Y	Y	C	Y	C	Y					
Zone 8		Y												
Paula Waxman	C	Y	1Y	1Y	Y	C	2Y	C	Y					
Armando Roman	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	C	Y	C	Y					
At Large Rep 1														
Nahed Guirguis														
Terry Gomes	C	Y	Y	Y	1Y	C	Y	1C	Y					
Brian Kite														
Barry Levine	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	C	Y	C	Y					
Troy Richardson														
Marj Safinia	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	1C	1Y	C	Y					
Sam Jagger	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	C	Y	C	Y					
Martin Epstein	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	C	Y	C	Y					
Sue Burden														
Victor Mitry	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	C	Y	C	Y					
Aron Klein	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	C	Y	C	1Y					
Doug Fitzsimmons	C	Y	Y	Y	Y	C	Y	C	Y					
School Rep 1														
Erick Morales	C	A	Y	Y	Y	C	Y	C	Y					

### Votes taken

1. Changes to committee memberships and meeting absences
2. Treasurer's report and approval of monthly expenses (GB062112-3)
3. Nomination of Doug Fitzsimmons as Co-Chair of Transportation Committee (GB062112-4)
4. Accept monthly motion packet
5. Motion to approve election stipulation worksheet (Epstein / GB062112-5)
6. Motion to consider reduction in required parking for Corinthian/Everest College at 3000 S. Robertson Blvd. (Gomes / GB062112-6)
7. Motion to approve fiscal year 2012-13 SORO NC budget (Gomes / GB062112-7)
8. Resolution in support of the Peace Picnic (Safinia / GB062112-8)
9. Motion to request change of meeting times for City Council and the Education & Neighborhoods Committee (Gomes / GB062112-9)