



# General Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 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 7:13.

Doug reminded everyone that this meeting this will be recognizing the nominees and the winner of the Susan Bursk Community Service Award. The SORO NC mission is to link the community to local representative and government. It is nice to have you here. We are going open it up now to public comments that are not on the agenda.

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

**Board Members Absent:** Nahed Guirguis, Sam Jagger, Troy Richardson

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

## II. General Public Comment

Assembly member Betsy Buttler representing the 53<sup>rd</sup> District introduced herself. I represent communities in West Los Angeles, West Hollywood, Hancock Park and other portions of the City of Los Angeles. I was elected into office less than a year and a half ago. I ran wanting to have a greener community. I also wanted to ban fracking here in CA. There is a lot of activity in Ohio and in Pennsylvania. It cost 2 billion dollars to clean up one leak. We need to have regulations on this, and the oil companies have said that they do have regulations. They are really good at killing the bills and I'm really good at taking on the oil companies. I served with the Clintons and now I'm glad to be in Sacramento.

I'm really honored to be in the assembly and to be here in your meeting this evening. Any questions ask me now or give me a call. Contact my office. Doug asked for the contact information and was given a card.

For more information about Assembly Member Betsy Buttler visit:

[www.asmdc.org/members/a53/](http://www.asmdc.org/members/a53/)

Good evening I'm Har Simran and work with the Peace Picnic Committee. It is on September 9<sup>th</sup> this event is free and open to the public. There will be free food donated by the local restaurants and businesses as well. Deeply grateful for all the support from Soro NC, Soro Inc., and all those that have given support.

## III. Community Reports

**LAPD Report.** LAPD - Mario Gonzalez

There have been a lot of complaints about the Westside pot shops. The narcotics undercover went in but they were not successful in being sold anything. We are writing citations and patrolling the area. There is a hearing on the 24<sup>th</sup> and everyone

**Doug Fitzsimmons**  
President

**Brian Kite**  
Vice-President

**Terrence Gomes**  
Treasurer

**Martin Epstein**  
Secretary

**South Robertson  
Neighborhoods Council**

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should come downtown to show support. All we can do now is control the customers and make sure that they abide by the rules.

There was recently a robbery in which a woman had her watch and cell phone stolen. We continue to have issues with robberies and car break-ins, and we're still having complaints about men walking around with orange vest on and posing as construction workers. The community is asking people to ask them questions and take pictures. We have a picture of the white van and the license plate due to this type of community involvement. Doug wanted to thank you and let you know that the community appreciates your presence.

Terry said there was a fatality on La Cienega. The street has been turned into a speed way. Is there anything to do to slow this down? The officer said that hopefully the community continues to call in and put pressure on the police to act on it. The officer said that he will put that complaint in.

**Office of Councilmember Koretz.**

David has just a few updates. The most important this is that I've met with Marj and Kimber about setting a time to meet with KCET.

This week as well as last week I've walked Pico Blvd addressing issues with the green garbage cans donated to local business with the business owners. There was a misunderstanding with some business that the city was supposed to come and dump the cans. I also was able to recruit a few more business' to adopt the green garbage cans.

On a sad note Mr. Ray Bradbury passed away. He was a personal hero to Councilman Koretz. Our office is trying to have a library named after Ray to honor his memory.

**Office of the Mayor.**

There was an audit done on the neighborhood councils. We spent a lot of time in the mayor's office to develop some best practices. The goal is to determine if the neighborhood councils are using their money in the best way possible. I am creating a working group and will ask your treasurer to be part of this group. I dropped into "Joe's" to discuss the fresh fruits initiative, and they seemed to be working toward doing this. Please support this business they are small, and family-owned.

Betty asked why the mayor is now interested in how the neighborhood communities are spending their dollars. Joe said that this did not originate in the mayor's office, but rather the controller's office. The controller does a report card every month to look at this spending, and found that some neighborhood councils were not using best practices. In some cases dollars were spent on frivolous items, and were not being dedicated for the purpose of bettering the community. They've asked for the mayor's help in starting this conversation.

Doug mentioned that this community is blessed with having many strong leaders and hopes to have another successful 10 years. The other great thing that we're here tonight to do is to recognize the Susan Bursk Award recipients. Larry said that this award was started by Betty to recognize outstanding members of our community. People who are not usually in the lime light, but people who do amazing things and bring us together. I'm privileged to recognize the following neighbors and nominees:

- Carmen is an ambassador of our children. Over 200 people nominated her. This has been more than anyone we've ever seen before. Although she will be leaving our community to go to a new school, she will always be remembered for her contribution to this community.



- Har Simran works hard to connect people and open the dialog for our diverse community.
- If you need someone to bring peace to chaos, it is Doug Fitzsimmons. He is a person who gets things done. Doug is involved in every aspect of our community, and works harder for the community than at his regular job.
- Her efforts have been critical to our Soro Festival. Karen is also a member of the Green Team
- Paula Waxman, the creator of the Hamilton Garden that enriches the students lives. The garden's efforts allows for food to be brought to the needy. Paula is showing us how to efficiently use our surroundings to make this a better land.
- The final and the winner of the Susan Bursk award is Beth Ryan. She has kept our kids active and teaches the children life values that make for a brighter future.

These are some of the leaders who help to make great things happen in our community.

#### **IV. Approval of Minutes**

a. Draft meeting minutes of May 17, 2012 (Epstein / GB071912-1)

**Vote: 18-Y, 0-N, 0-A. Motion passed by general consent.**

b. Draft meeting minutes of June 21, 2012 (Epstein / GB071912-2)

**Vote: 18-Y, 0-N, 0-A. Motion passed by general consent.**

#### **V. Committee Reports**

##### **Confirmation of Board committee memberships and absences (GB071912-3)**

a. Aaron to be added to the transportation committee

**Requests confirmed by general consent**

##### **Executive.**

The SORO NC elections are Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>. The Board Development Committee needs your help, and if you're interested in joining or have suggestions, let Martin know. The first meeting will be July 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7pm during the outreach meeting.

There will be a board meeting next month and if you're not going to attend please let us know so that we can meet quorum.

##### **Treasurer Report.**

We closed the books and don't have anything to approve. However, there were four demand warrants from funds dedicated to last year.

##### **Land Use.**

We have Pico Glatt Kosher Mart coming up next month. They are coming in for a wine and beer license. There will be a document that will detail what to expect from land use.



**Public safety**

Last month we had a really great discussion on better ways that we can communicate throughout the community. Next meeting (August 6<sup>th</sup>) we are going to have an expert in the field of hand radios. Our largest spike in Facebook activity has come from the recent emergency alerts in the SORO neighborhood.

**Education**

No meeting in July or August -- will be back in September.

**Green Team.**

Labeling GMO's panel discussion: Eight Hamilton Science Students are working on forming a panel of experts to discuss a November California Ballot initiative on GMO's (crops which are genetically modified) and whether or not they should be labeled in the State of California. They are inviting speakers on both sides of the issue to a formal discussion to be held at Hamilton High School the evening of September 6<sup>th</sup> from 7 to 9 in the cafeteria.

The ban on single use plastic bag passed the City Council with only one dissenting vote. The South Robertson NC passed a resolution in support of this resolution in Nov. 2010. The resolution was written by our own Councilman Paul Koretz. Paul Koretz also sponsored a bill which recently passed in City Council in support of the EPA's clean air act, specifically those portions having to do with mercury and carbon emissions.

"I would like to withdraw the fracking motion and resubmit a revised motion at the August 16<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. We drafted this motion prior to the release of Paul Koretz and Herb Wesson's resolution on fracking that comes before the City Council. We would like to incorporate some of their ideas in the revised motion. We have also had recent valuable input from an environmental group that we would like to incorporate but need to research first. Therefore, I think it would be prudent for the Green Team Committee members to weigh in on these changes rather than to try to amend this current motion."

**Outreach.**

We discussed having a town hall by the end of the year. Also discussed was hyper leadership for the areas that don't have a NC. We would invite those that don't have a NC to come in and see how to start one.

KCET will be here in the next few weeks filming, and if you see them say high.

The banners have to come down by July 31<sup>st</sup>. There are some areas that would allow us to continue to hang the banners.

We're also looking forward to discussing the Board Development Committee's election discussion.

**Transportation.**

They will be meeting this Thursday and they will be discussing all of the traffic increases in our neighborhood.

**Board Development.**

As Doug mentioned earlier, we need members to join this committee. We welcome all suggestions for the upcoming elections.

**Westside Regional Alliance of Councils.**



There will be a meeting in West Los Angeles (location and time to follow). The SORO NC motions and votes from last month's meeting about changing the city council meeting time has sent a message to BONC.

## **VI. New Business**

### **Motion to Support Assembly Bill 972 Calling for a Moratorium of Hydraulic Fracturing**

Motion withdrawn by Paula and it will be brought to the board again in August. Marj inquired about any timing sensitivity for this motion due to lack of quorum for next month's meeting, and Paula said no.

### **City Planning survey to be completed by Board members**

Terry discussed the 3 documents and asked that we fill them out and return them at the next meeting. They want the neighborhood council's opinions because they are the ears and eyes of the community. Doug reminded to please bring these filled out to next month's meeting, or call Terry because these are important.

## **IX. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05



## 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	15	16	17
Rachel Lester	C	C	C														
Kimber Smith	C	C	C														
Harold Bock	C	C	C														
Robyn Braun	C	C	C														
Bette Billet	C	C	C														
Michael Lynn	C	C	C														
Jon Liberman	2C	2C	C														
Zone 8																	
Paula Waxman	C	C	C														
Armando Roman	C	C	C														
At Large Rep 1																	
Nahed Guirguis	X	X	X														
Terry Gomes	1C	1C	C														
Brian Kite																	
Barry Levine	C	C	C														
Troy Richardson	C	C	C														
Marj Safinia	C	C	C														
Sam Jagger	X	X	X														
Martin Epstein	C	C	C														
Sue Burden	C	C	C														
Victor Mitry	C	C	C														
Aron Klein	C	C	C														
Doug Fitzsimmons	C	C	C														
School Rep 1																	
Erick Morales	X	X	X														

### Votes taken

1. Draft meeting minutes of May 17, 2012 (Epstein / GB071912-1)
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3. Confirmation of Board committee memberships and absences (GB071912-3)