



Motion to consider a Conditional Use Permit application for the expansion of an auto repair facility at 8661 W. Pico Blvd.

Agenda Item: GB092012-6
Date: 20 September 2012
Proposed By: Land Use Committee

Full Proposal

The project under consideration at 8661 W. Pico Blvd. is the construction of a proposed one-story auto parts storage facility to be added to an existing auto repair facility (Independent Motorcar Clinic, Inc.). The applicant is applying for a conditional use permit (CUP). The LA City Planning Dept. case number is ZA-2011-1896-CU.

SORO NC and Council District 5 have requested that the Planning Department hold the matter under advisement for 30 days to allow the NC to weigh in. Due to timing, the Land Use Committee has sent this the full Board without a recommendation. More information on the request will be provided by the applicant at the Board meeting.

Proposed Motion

To support / not support the application for a conditional use permit (CUP) for the proposed project at 8661 W. Pico Blvd. (Planning case number ZA-2011-1896-CU).

Considerations

Committee review:
(highly recommended)

Votes For: n/a

Against:

Amount previously allocated in Committee's working budget: \$
(applies to funding motions only)

Arguments for:

Arguments against:

Doug Fitzsimmons
President

Brian Kite
Vice-President

Terrence Gomes
Treasurer

Martin Epstein
Secretary

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Motion to add a standing rule clarifying duties of SORO NC liaisons

Agenda Item: GB092012-7
Date: 20 September 2012
Proposed By: Bylaws Committee

Full Proposal

The SORO Board appoints a number of representatives to act as liaisons to other bodies: one to the Westside Alliance of Councils, one to the Department of Water and Power Memorandum of Understanding committee, etc. The roles of these liaisons have been poorly defined.

Article V, Section 5, Item 3 of the SORO NC bylaws states:

No individual member of the Board shall speak for the Board or otherwise publicly represent a Board position unless authorized to do so by official action of the Board. The Board may, by official action, appoint official representatives to other public bodies with the authority to present a standing Council position previously adopted by the Board or a statement that the Council has had insufficient time to develop a position or recommendation on a matter before that body. Such authority may be revoked at any time by the Board.

We define duties of the Board's officers in the bylaws, but haven't done so with these public representatives of the Board. The proposed standing rule:

- emphasizes that the role is a liaison--an ambassador--rather than a quasi-independent representative;
- sets expectations for the liaisons regarding reporting, transparency, and advocacy of SORO positions; and
- clarify that our participation in other bodies ultimately should be to identify issues and develop proposals to bring back for Board action. Liaisons should not be voting for other bodies to act unless explicitly authorized by the Board to do so.

Note that additions to the standing rules require a simple majority vote.

Proposed Motion

To add the following standing rule:

Board-appointed Liaisons (aka Public Representatives) to other public bodies are expected to regularly and proactively report to the SORO NC Board on activities and issues pertaining to both organizations; help keep communication between the two organizations open and transparent; actively identify issues of mutual concern and develop proposals for Board action; and be a vigorous advocate for official Board positions and recommendations. The Liaison may not vote to endorse or otherwise publicly represent a position on an issue without prior Board authorization.

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Considerations

Committee review:
(highly recommended)

Votes For: 3

Against: 0

Amount previously allocated in Committee's working budget: \$
(applies to funding motions only)

Arguments for:

The motion ensures that the duties and expectations for liaisons are clear and that they accurately and actively represent SORO NC positions.

Arguments against:

The motion limits the ability for liaisons to officially weigh in on time-sensitive issues before other bodies. This may hobble the effectiveness of those bodies and/or our ability to influence policy.



Motion to add ethics training requirement for Board votes

Agenda Item: GB092012-8
Date: 20 September 2012
Proposed By: Bylaws Committee

Full Proposal

While the Board is required by law to complete ethics training every two years, many Board members allow their certification to lapse or fail to complete it at all. This creates potential issues with financial and land use decisions made by the Board.

The Board of Neighborhood Commissioners and the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment strongly recommend limiting the voting ability of Board members who are not in compliance with the ethics training requirement.

Note that additions to the standing rules require a simple majority vote.

Proposed Motion

To add the following standing rule:

Board members must complete State-mandated Ethics training within one month of election/selection/appointment and every two years after that. Board members who have not taken Ethics training or whose certification has lapsed are prohibited from voting on all financial and land use matters before the Board.

Doug Fitzsimmons
President

Brian Kite
Vice-President

Terrence Gomes
Treasurer

Martin Epstein
Secretary

Considerations

Committee review:
(highly recommended)

Votes For: 3

Against: 0

Amount previously allocated in Committee's working budget: \$
(applies to funding motions only)

Arguments for:

Helps with the public credibility of Board decisions.

Creates a real incentive for Board members to be in compliance with state law.

Arguments against:

Limiting what Board members may vote for is contrary to their status as public representatives.

The current NC ethics training does not seem particularly relevant at times to the actual issues we face as a Board.

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Motion to clarify term expiration for Board-appointed officers, chairs, and liaisons

Agenda Item: GB092012-9
Date: 20 September 2012
Proposed By: Bylaws Committee

Full Proposal

Each newly-elected Board should be able to choose their own leadership. The SORO NC bylaws reflect that, specifying that the election of officers should happen as soon as the new Board is seated, and that those terms are for two years.

It does not address the issue of partial terms, however. In the case where an officer resigns early, it's not clear in the bylaws that the person who replaces him/her would be serving whatever remains of the original two-year term.

Nor do the bylaws address the length of terms for our committee chairs or representative positions (DWP rep, CPAB rep, etc.). The same principle of new Board/new leadership should apply.

The last issue is that the Bylaws specify a two-year term for officers. As we see this year, changes to the election schedule can mean that the actual length of the term could be longer or shorter than 24 months--which is why the motion sets an end condition, rather than a fixed term length.

The recommendation is to have that end point after the second meeting of the new Board. The thought is that this allows the Board to become familiar with each other and the committees and the outgoing executive team to smoothly run the election of the new officers.

Ultimately, this is probably something that should be included in the Bylaws. Because of the proximity of our 2012 election, however we are currently in a blackout period with regard to bylaws changes.

Note that additions to the standing rules require a simple majority vote.

Proposed Motion

To add the following standing rule:

- I. Terms (including partial terms) for all executive officer, committee chair and other Board-appointed NC liaison positions shall end after the second official General Board meeting following a public Board election or selection.

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Considerations

Committee review:
(highly recommended)

Votes For: 3

Against: 0

Amount previously allocated in Committee's working budget: \$
(applies to funding motions only)

Arguments for:

Each new Board should select its own leaders--and turnover in leadership also tends to empower and engage a greater number of Board members.

Gives us time for outgoing Committee chairs to organize a first meeting so that new members can understand what the Committees are about. Last election, the President Pro Tem created the agendas and ran many of those Committee meetings by default.

Arguments against:

It often takes a while for Boards to regain efficiency/effectiveness after changes in leadership.

Not entirely in sync with bylaws, which specify that executive officers are selected at the *first* meeting after an NC election. (Although last election, we didn't fill all the executive seats until the third meeting).



Motion to amend Code of Civility to encourage Board engagement

Agenda Item: GB092012-10

Date: 20 September 2012

Proposed By: Bylaws Committee

Full Proposal

While the SORO NC Code of Civility requires that Board members "make the best possible effort to understand the issues...[and do their] homework," an important part of being a Board member is staying on top of communications to the Board.

Some Board members do not regularly check their official SORO NC email, for example, and so miss important administrative announcements, City programs, emails from constituents, etc.

The motion amends the Code of Civility all Board members are obligated to abide by to include staying on top of NC communications. It does not reference email directly, as communication may also come by other means--and indeed, evolve over time.

Note that as part of the standing rules, additions and changes to the Code of Civility require a simple majority vote.

Proposed Motion

To change item 17 in the Code of Civility to read (new language in **bold**):

I owe it to my fellow board members, the public, and the decision-makers who we are trying to influence to make the best possible effort to understand the issues before me. I will **stay current on Board and neighborhood communications and** "do my homework."

Considerations

Committee review:
(highly recommended)

Votes For: 3

Against: 0

Amount previously allocated in Committee's working budget: \$
(applies to funding motions only)

Arguments for:

While staying on top of communication should be a given, a number of Board members chronically miss important Board announcements.

Arguments against:

Not everyone checks email regularly.

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Funds to re-hang banners (up to \$900)

Agenda Item: GB092012-11
Date: 20 September 2012
Proposed By: Marjan Safinia

Full Proposal

Most of the SORO NC banners that have been hanging on Robertson Boulevard have had to come down because our permits expired. We were able to leave some banners in place, because permits were renewed quickly with the help of our Council District offices.

We now have new permits to re-hang remaining banners back in the old locations. There are a total of 29 banners that are in good enough shape to re-hang. The cost to re-hang each banner is \$27.50, which includes pre-paying the take-down fee at the end of the permit term, currently 10/12/2012 – 10/12/213. Permit renewals have been successfully obtained in the past.

Our new permits allow us to re-hang banners on:

- 1100 block of S. Robertson from Whitworth to Pico
- 1400 – 1700 block of S. Robertson from Pico to 18th Street
- 1800-3700 block of S. Robertson from 18th Street to Venice

There has been some interest expressed in moving the banners to other locations within our boundaries – specifically along Pico and the West side of La Cienega. Unfortunately, there is no way to know whether poles are available in those locations without going through the permitting process over from the start. The locations outlined above on S. Robertson have already been through the process and we have the permits in hand.

Proposed Motion

- I. That SORO NC approves up to \$900 of funds to re-hang 29 SORO NC banners along locations on S. Robertson for which we have been permitted.

Considerations

Committee review:
(highly recommended)

Votes For: 7

Against: 0

Amount previously allocated in Board's working budget:
(applies to funding motions only)

\$2650 for General Outreach

Arguments for:

The banners represent a large financial investment we made, and we should exploit returns for as long as possible

Arguments against:

Some of the banners are now faded.

Banners have repeatedly been cited as having brought stakeholders to the NC, so they are effective outreach.

Spending these funds will mean less General Outreach funds available for other actions.

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Motion to support the naming of Palms Recreation Center for Rosalind Wyman

Agenda Item: GB092012-12 (provisional)

Date: 20 September 2012

Proposed By: Doug Fitzsimmons

Full Proposal

In 1953, Roz Wyman became the first woman and youngest person to be elected to the Los Angeles City Council.

Just 22 at the time, she went on to serve as Councilmember for the Fifth District for three terms. Some of her many remarkable accomplishments are detailed in the attached document. Not least among her efforts was the creation of Palms Recreation Center.

To honor her, current Fifth District Councilmember Paul Koretz has introduced a motion to rename the Palms Rec Center for Roz Wyman on the occasion of her 82nd birthday on October 4th.

Proposed Motion

To officially recognize Rosalind Wyman for her innumerable and life-long contributions to Los Angeles and the Fifth Council District, and to support the effort to rename Palms Recreation Center in her honor.

Doug Fitzsimmons
President

Brian Kite
Vice-President

Terrence Gomes
Treasurer

Martin Epstein
Secretary

Considerations

Committee review:
(highly recommended)

Votes For: n/a

Against:

Amount previously allocated in Committee's working budget: \$
(applies to funding motions only)

Arguments for:

As a tireless and groundbreaking advocate for our area, Roz Wyman more than deserves this honor. It's fitting that we should join the chorus of voices supporting renaming the Rec Center.

Arguments against:

The Palms Rec Center, while used by SORO residents, is not in our NC.

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MOTION

Rosalind "Roz" Wiener Wyman was born on October 4th, 1930, to Oscar and Sarah Wiener, New Deal Democrats who introduced their daughter to politics at a very young age. A lifelong resident of Los Angeles, she has been an extraordinary advocate for the City throughout her remarkable career of public service. Having gone to both Los Angeles High School and the University of Southern California, Roz was first elected to the Los Angeles City Council in 1953, at the age of 22, to represent the 5th Council District and on July 1st, 2013, it will be exactly 60 years since this historic event occurred. In 2012, the Fifth Council District formally honored Roz as "Pioneer Woman of the year" for her long service to both City and Country.

Roz has been an exceptional leader whose lifelong dedication and heroic achievements have been an incredible blessing for the City, people and communities of Los Angeles. She is beloved as a magnificent and effective champion for the progress, prosperity and betterment of the City. Although Roz began her career in the Department of Recreation and Parks, her love of people compelled her to run and eventually win a seat on the Los Angeles City Council. The first and still youngest woman ever elected to the Council, Roz became a national figure as she took the reins of major issues: she was the first woman to serve on the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, the first woman elected President Pro Tempore of the City of Los Angeles and the first woman to serve as acting Mayor—a real trailblazer! After leaving the Council, Roz remained active in public, political and humanitarian affairs, heading the Democratic Party's fund-raising campaigns and serving as chair of the 1984 Democratic National Convention.

Under Councilmember Roz Wyman, the 5th District experienced historic transition and progress, including the development of the Fox Studio back lot into Century City and the construction and completion of Interstate 10. One of Roz's foremost successes as an elected official was her pivotal role in bringing the Dodgers baseball team from Brooklyn to Los Angeles in 1957. By accomplishing this monumental feat, Los Angeles became part of that select club of municipalities that are home to Major League Baseball. On the other side of the sports field, Roz also played a key role in bringing the Lakers to the City of Angels.

In addition, Roz was also a major force for her constituents on issues closer to home. The construction of the Palms-Rancho Park Library, Fire Station 92, the push to have a Parks bond passed in the City and the purchase of land for both Palms Recreation and Westwood Recreation were hallmarks of a Councilmember in tune with her community. During that time and ever since, she has been a treasured source of inspiration for countless people, thanks to her

ongoing efforts and legacy of good deeds for the sake of Los Angeles and its communities.

As Roz Wyman was the major force behind the development and completion of the Palm Recreation center, including by identifying and advocating for parkland dollars to purchase the land, and overseeing the groundbreaking and construction of the park and recreation facility and adjacent library (Palm-Rancho Park), it is wonderfully appropriate to name the Recreation Center after the Fifth Council District's Pioneer Woman: Roz Wyman.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners be requested to name the Palms Recreation Center as the Rosalind "Roz" Wyman Recreation Center.

PRESENTED BY:



PAUL KORETZ

Councilmember, 5th Council District

SECONDED BY:

