



General Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 20, 2011, 7:00pm
Hamilton Senior High School Cafeteria
2955 S. Robertson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90034

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

SORO NC Board President Doug Fitzsimmons called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm and opened the meeting for public comments.

Board Members Present (17): Rachel Lester, Kimber Smith, Harold Bock, Bette Billet, Michael Lynn, Nick Burkhart, Paula Waxman, Brian Kite, Nahed Gurguis, Terry Gomes, Gerald Chavarria, Barry Levine, Martin Epstein, Doug Fitzsimmons, Victor Mitry, Alex Chavarria, Erick Morales.

Board Members absent (5): Robyn Braun, Joe Gjonola, Ben Bellet, Marj Safinia, Sue Burden.

Guests: Guru Dev Khalsa, Rosemary Cohen, Alma Okazaki, Rebecca Bernal, Carol Duan, Sat Purkha Khalsa, Cynthia Morales, Lottie Williams, Liz Carlin, Lee Zamos, Majit K. Khalsa, Har Simran K. Khalsa.

II. General Public Comment (6 Minutes)

Several guests voiced their concerns over the installation of a cell phone tower/antenna on the bell tower of Saint Mark's Coptic Church, located at 1600 South Robertson Boulevard. Some concerns were aesthetics, devaluation of surrounding properties, and health concerns due to increased radio-wave exposure. Terry Gomes (Land-Use Committee Co-Chairperson), asked the guests to provide information of the decline of property values due to cell tower installations and other concerns for evaluation at the committee level.

III. Old Business (10 Minutes)

a. (GB 012011-1) Draft General Board Meeting Minutes of December 16, 2010.

Minor grammatical corrections were made.

Moved by: Michael **Seconded by:** Martin

Vote: Yes (13), No (0); Approved.

Abstained: Kimber, Paula, Nick

Recusal:

Note:

b. (GB 012011-2) Treasurer's report and vote to approve monthly expenses.

Both the monthly and quarterly statements will be considered for approval. Terry informed the board that all requests for funds from partner organizations have to be through the Neighborhood Purpose Grant Program versus using the credit card for DONE oversight purposes.

Terry added that we have a balance of about \$59,000 but does not include payments to the *Hami Garden* fence and the Emergency Preparedness Fair. He also informed that Councilmember Koretz is in favor of NCs keeping the roll-over funds.

Doug Fitzsimmons
President

Brian Kite
Vice-President

Gerald Chavarria
Secretary

Terrence Gomes
Treasurer

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Doug encouraged all to consider ideas for funding.

(Last fiscal year, all NCs were in danger of losing the roll-over funds due to City Council action).

Moved by: Nick **Seconded by:** Kimber

Vote: Unanimous; Approved.

Abstained:

Recusal:

Note:

c. (GB 012011-2.1) Approval of submitting a Quarterly Expense Report in addition to the monthly report.

The Board also took action on approving submission of a quarterly financial report.

(The preceding three months would also be submitted together).

Moved by: Harold **Seconded by:** Michael

Vote: Unanimous; Approved.

Abstained:

Recusal:

Note:

IV. Community Reports (20 minutes-3 Minutes)

LAPD Report;

Not represented.

Office of Councilmember Wesson.;

Elizabeth Carlin representing the Councilmember's office informed that the Housing Department will seek collection efforts on money owed due to inspection fees. According to Carlin, Councilmember Wesson has not taken a position on the issue of charging for plastic bags, but does agree to the leasing the City parking lots

Terry informed that per Miguel Santana, CAO, the city needs to net \$280 Million on the leasing. The City will also get a cut from the overage of established caps and from advertisement fees charged by the operator.

Per Carlin, the Councilmember also seeks support from the community (individuals and neighborhood associations), to lobby against the elimination of the Community Redevelopment Agency. A letter (petition) will be distributed via e-mail.

Carlin distributed print copies of the CD 1 newsletter.

Office of Councilmember Koretz.

David Giron representing the Councilmember's office informed of many street repairs made in the district, including 12000 pot holes. CD 5 staffers will also clean up areas that are in need of repairs making up for the lack of services. Regarding the Chase bank (Pico Blvd. & Doheny Drive), Giron clarified that the bank wants to make their current sign larger, but not place a new billboard.

Giron does not know who will conduct oversight of the leased parking lots because the plan is still in the early stages. Gerald commented that various City unions will be protesting in favor of the leasing of the parking lots to ensure funding for salaries and pensions.



Upcoming events being considered in CD 5 will include Code Enforcement training from the Department of Building and Safety, the Budget Town Hall, and the SORO Festival. Giron conveyed that the office is shuffling the workload due to cut backs, which included cuts to the discretionary fund as suggested by the CAO.

Office of the Mayor;
Not represented.

Office of Senator Price;
Rebecca Bernal from the Senator's office informed that the Senator was sworn in to a his 4-year term as State Senator. The Senator will chair the Black Caucus, the Business and Professions Committee which over sees various Boards (professional license). The Senator introduced Senate Bill 100 which aims to regulate oversight of the licensing of professional organizations. Toy drive to give out 1200 toys including Coptic Church.

Events: Cash for college, Jan 29th. Budget Town Halls around the district in Culver City. Bernal stated that the Senator has taken a position against eliminating funding for the Community Redevelopment Agencies (CRA) because as an Inglewood City Council member, the Senator saw value in the CRA.

Robertson Recreation Center;
Not represented.

V. Committee Reports (15 Minutes-2 Minutes Each)

Executive Committee

Brian submitted a draft version of an emergency notification system for the NC and asked for feedback. Doug reminded the Board to complete their ethics training; several members have not yet taken the training. Doug needs Joe Gjonola's information to be able to order the SORONC business cards.

Doug also informed that due the City Clerk's office discouraging staggered elections, there is talk that all board positions will be up for elections in 2012.

Land Use.

Terry informed that Natalie Brill from Debt Management gave a full presentation on P3 issue. Due to traffic/speeding concerns, the LAPD has to monitor speeding near Castle Heights Elementary. The next meeting will be attended by the owner of the Glat Kosher Market on Pico Blvd, the Yula Girl's School, whose EIR is up for renewal, and a presenter to discuss the Community Care Center ordinance.

Education;

Barry informed that Sarah Bailey from the School Board is interested in creating a garden at Shenandoah. He also informed that all the garden equipment worth about \$2000 that was approved in 2006 is unaccounted for.

Green Team;

Paula announced that the Hami Garden will be having an E-waste drive; any waste with a cord will be taken in. A winter urban fruit picking event will take place sometime soon.

Public Safety;

Michael informed that the last PS Committee meeting touched on many issues including the revamping of the Neighborhood Watch program within SORO—a flyer will be created and distributed for outreach. The SORO emergency notification system was also a key issue and will report further information at a later date.



Outreach;

Kimber announced that the *We are SORO* project is in the works and will showcase a photo gallery from participants or a similar show--details will be discussed. At the last meeting, the committee is also discussed the issue on forming a volunteer Corp, getting banners made, and compiling survey results from past outreach efforts.

Kimber expressed that the committee is cognizant of the ever changing funding issues at the City Council level and will take advantage of the availability of funds for use in future outreach efforts.

Ad Hoc;

Doug mentioned that DONE had no update on the standardized bylaws efforts. The Committee will be meeting next month.

VI. New Business (90 Minutes)

- a. **(GB 012011-3) Resolution to recognize the late Captain Eaton of the LAPD.**
Doug briefly informed of the Captain's past contributions to the community when he was the Commanding Officer of West LA Station. The letter is addressed to Chief of Police Charlie Beck from the Board expressing condolences to Captain Eaton's family and fellow officers.

(The captain passed away on January 13, 2011 due to a medical condition).

Moved by: Terry **Seconded by:** Paula

Vote: Unanimous; Approved.

Abstained:

Recusal:

Note:

- b. **(GB 012011-4) Approval of SORO Incorporated's application for a Neighborhood Purposes Grant.**

This motion was withdrawn by Paula Waxman.

Regarding the SORO Festival, Bette privately asked the Secretary to note in the Minutes that student board members are to attend the upcoming planning meeting, since they are responsible for assisting in soliciting and organizing student volunteers for the youth area. The first meeting will be held February 6th.

(Section 7.7.1 of the current bylaws defines Officer responsibilities, but not that student seats. Section 11.3 mandates that members be part of at least one Action Committee).

Moved by: **Seconded by:**

Vote: None

Abstained: 0

Recusal: 0

Note:

- c. **(GB 012011-5) Outreach to adoption of orphaned areas.**

According to DONE, two large areas have been identified as not being part of any neighborhood council. These areas encompass the western boundary of SORONC adjacent to Zones 1, 7, 8, and 9; the southeast orphaned area borders Zone 6.



The motion seeks approval to solicit stakeholders of Monte Mar, Irving Schachter Park, the Country Club, parts of Cheviot Hills, and all the Museum of Tolerance properties to approve annexation into SORONC.

Questions of whether this would add seats to the board (Erick) and whether DONE would pay for the outreach (Gerald). Doug proposed an initial \$500 allocation for flyers and lawn signs and recognized that fact that the relationships with HOAs such as Beverlywood have not been positive all the time.

Many points for and against the annexation were raised, specifically by Bette, who believes that the neighborhood associations may resist annexation because the NC would usurp their power. Both BONC and DONE would like to have 100 percent coverage of all orphaned areas and have requested our NC to spearhead this effort.

Terry informed that Mid-City Neighborhood Council (MINC) has not ventured into annexing the southeast area and their border extends up to the 10 Freeway.

Moved by: Michael **Seconded by:** Kimber

Vote: Unanimous; Approved.

Abstained: 0

Recusal: 0

Note:

d. **(GB 012011-6) Motion to approve Board Meeting Annual Calendar**

In an effort to have inclusive meetings so that all stakeholders can participate, the motion seeks to establish an approved meeting calendar for 2011.

Doug created a table which shows current and possible alternate dates. Most of the possible conflicts center on mainly Jewish holidays.

Rachel had a concern for the March 17th meeting, but then agreed to the regular Thursday meetings. Harold and Brian suggested for us to continue with the existing meeting days (third Thursday of the month) to ensure consistency.

Moved by: Gerald **Seconded by:** Rachel

Vote: Unanimous; Approved.

Abstained: 0

Recusal: 0

Note: The General Board meetings remain every third Thursday of the month.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned in memory of Captain Eaton at 9:00 pm.



Board Vote Tally Sheet

Meeting: Thursday, January 20, 2011, 7:00pm
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Y: yes |N: no |A: abstained |R: recusal |D: discussed |T: tabled |W: Withdrawn
An "X" denotes an absent member or missed vote. Hyphen denotes a vacant seat.

Motion	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15
Rachel Lester	Y	Y	Y	W	Y	Y									
Kimber Smith	A	Y	Y	W	Y	Y									
Harold Bock	Y	Y	Y	W	Y	Y									
Robyn Braun	X	X	X	X	X	X									
Bette Billet	Y	Y	Y	W	Y	Y									
Michael Lynn	Y	Y	Y	W	Y	Y									
Nick Burkhart	A	Y	Y	W	Y	Y									
Joe Gjonola	X	X	X	X	X	X									
Paula Waxman	A	Y	Y	W	Y	Y									
Zone 10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brian Kite	Y	Y	Y	W	Y	Y									
Nahed Guirguis	Y	Y	Y	W	Y	Y									
Terry Gomes	Y	Y	Y	W	Y	Y									
Ben Bellet	X	X	X	X	X	X									
Gerald Chavarria	Y	Y	Y	W	Y	Y									
Barry Levine	Y	Y	Y	W	Y	Y									
Marj Safinia	X	X	X	X	X	X									
Martin Epstein	Y	Y	Y	W	Y	Y									
Business 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sue Burden	X	X	X	X	X	X									
Doug Fitzsimmons	Y	Y	Y	W	Y	Y									
Victor Mitry	Y	Y	Y	W	Y	Y									
Alexander Chavarria	Y	Y	Y	W	Y	Y									
Erick Morales	Y	Y	Y	W	Y	Y									

Motions

01: Approve December Minutes **02:** Approve Monthly Treasurer's Report
2.1: Approve Quarterly Expense Report **03:** Letter Re: Captain Eaton

- 04:** SORO Inc-NPG (Motion Withdrawn) **05:** Outreach to Orphaned Areas
- 06:** Approve 2011 SORONC Calendar

