



Doug Fitzsimmons
President

Brian Kite
Vice-President

Gerald Chavarria
Secretary

Terrence Gomes
Treasurer

**South Robertson
Neighborhoods Council**

PO Box 35836
Los Angeles, CA 90035

P: (310) 295-9920
F: (310) 295-9906
E: info@soronc.org

soronc.org

General Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 17, 2011, 7:30pm
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 7:50pm.

Board Members Present (19): Rachel Lester, Harold Bock, Robyn Braun, Bette Billet, Michael Lynn, Nick Burkhart, Joe Gjonola, Paula Waxman, Brian Kite, Nahed Guirguis, Terrence Gomes, Gerald Chavarria, Barry Levine, Marjan Safinia, Martin Epstein, Sue Burden, Doug Fitzsimmons, Victor Mitry, Erick Morales

Board Members absent (3): Kimber Smith, Ben Bellet, Alex Chavarria

Guests: Martin Liberman, Liz Carlin, Luis Montoya, Mildred Sloughten, Deni Mosser, Craig McCain, D. Goodman, Paul Martinkovic, Elaine Martinkovic, Michelle Wytko, Gigi Galias, Joseph Zimring, Patricia Stewart Noleen, V.E. Nolan, Angelica Hess, Sylvia Lacy, Dee O., Max Berson, Patricia McCullough, Victoria Theal, Carol Duran, DARRYL Jackson, Jonathan Norton, Carol Duan and Sam Jagger.

(Many of the guests signed in the visitor log, but were in attendance for the CD-10 Candidate Forum. Many guests left as the meeting started).

II. General Public Comment (6 Minutes)

Sam Jagger, General Manager of "Mr. C Hotels" located on Pico Blvd. and Beverwil, announced his business. Jon Liberman commented that the Board should not spend "10%" of the budget on items "e" and "f".

III. Old Business (10 Minutes)

a. (GB 021711-1) Draft General Board Meeting Minutes of January 20, 2011.

No corrections were made.

Moved by: Terry **Seconded by:** Brian

Vote: Yes (14), No (0); Approved.

Abstained: (5)

Recusal:

Note:

b. (GB 021711-2) Treasurer's report and vote to approve monthly expenses.

Terry introduced the credit card report which was voted on. Balance of between \$42,000.00 and \$43,000.00.

Moved by: Michael **Seconded by:**

Vote: Yes (19), No (0); Unanimous.

Abstained:

Recusal:

Note:



IV. Community Reports (20 minutes-3 Minutes)

LAPD Report;

Senior Lead Officer Mario Gonzalez, Basic Car 8A59, announced that he will attend the SORO Festival again this year representing LAPD West LA Division. Officer Gonzalez gave a brief crime trend report and although crime has been low, he mentioned that a crime task force will be in force, but could not furnish more details due to the nature of the operation.

Office of Councilmember Wesson.;

Liz Carlin was present but did not make a report. She would answer questions on the side.

Office of Councilmember Koretz.

David Giron commended Paula Waxman for winning the LADWP grant. Marjan took the opportunity to discuss with Herb Wesson the plan of the Robertson revitalization and asked Giron for Councilmember Koretz to also commit to the plan. Giron stated that Koretz would have no objections to the idea, but would like to be updated on any efforts.

Office of the Mayor;

Per Terry, Jennifer Badger reminded all to take the online Budget Survey.

Office of Senator Price;

Not Represented.

Robertson Recreation Center;

Not represented.

Doug announced that Hamilton High School will be holding a "Career Symposium" on March 8 & 9, 2011 and Principal Gary Garcia is looking for volunteers to participate. More information and the application can be found on the SORO NC website.

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

Executive Committee

Some still need ethics training. The committee also considered language for the "Emergency Notification Plan." The proofs for business cards draft were distributed for and the board members checked them for errors. The Logo and NC name will be on the card once it is printed. It is unknown if the term for the member will be on the card because it has not been determined whether the City Clerk's office will run our elections or when the term will officially end.

Land Use.

Terry mentioned that the cell tower issue was discussed and the committee is also helping the community near the Citibank regarding some traffic and safety issues, Yula School will be at the next meeting to talk about their expansion plans.

Education;

Barry said he and Harold were the only ones present. Announced that next month several items will be on the agenda including a proposal from the library. Next meeting is March 8th.



Green Team;

Paula mentioned they had an E-waste drive earning \$243.00 Eight car loads of waste were gathered, and they worked in committee to define the language for the judging of the green award. Paula is taking volunteers for the fruit picking efforts.

Public Safety;

Michael mentioned that some items on tonight's agenda were worked on at the committee level. The Neighborhood Watch program will be revamped as well.

Victor was interested in joining the Citizen Police Academy and was urged by Gerald and Terry to contact the Captain at West LA Division.

Outreach;

Marj mentioned some of the items on the agenda and announced the "We Are SORO Project." The committee is working on designs for permanent markers and the outreach to the arts district area to be annexed. Next meeting only to discuss communication like website, social media, and general outreach.

Ad Hoc;

Marj mentioned that the SORO Revitalization Committee is focused on the Robertson strip between Cadillac to National.

Doug also talked about consistency in bylaws and announced that the draft Bylaws is up on the website. Requested all members to review it and be familiar with the language. If any concerns are raised, to e-mail Doug. Approval of the bylaws will be at the next (March) meeting. The bylaws template was provided by BONC and served as a basis for the draft document.

WRAC Report

Terry reported that the council is no longer looking into leasing the parking lots because no company submitted bids. WRAC also discussed the bylaws issue and that SORONC is ahead of many other NC's.

DWP Report

Harold went to the planning meeting and the major issue for discussion was that they have plans to switch from chlorine to an ammonia based solution for cleaning the reservoir. DWP will complete their master plan by the end of year.

CPAB Report

Terry mentioned that West LA Division had the highest drop in crime and that the Citizen Police Academy will start on March 9th. Interested parties may contact the Captain for more information.

VI. New Business (90 Minutes)

a. (GB 021711-3) Resolution to approve Kimber Smith as SORO Inc. representative.

Although Kimber was absent tonight, Doug conveyed that she is interested in being the representative and fill the role as liaison but feels she does not have time to attend all the festival planning meetings.

(The long term function of the rep will be to serve as a liaison between SORO NC and SoRo Inc., and not to actively participate as an attending member of the planning meetings).

Moved by: Terry **Seconded by:** Rachel

Vote: Yes (18), No (0); Approved.



Abstained: (1)

Recusal:

Note:

b. **(GB 012011-4) Motion to Support Measure L**

Measure L aims to restore funding to higher levels and not to add new taxes for the measure. The measure also seeks to restore staffing to 6 days a week.

Carol Duan, Librarian and Manager of Robertson Library, stated that City Charter requires 2% of funding. This is critical because books and student attendance has actually gone up. Duan provided statistical data to show that the library provides an essential function to the community such as homework help and access to media for disadvantaged families.

Doug announced that City officials like the Mayor, Councilmember Wesson and Koretz are publicly supporting the measure.

Moved by: Paula **Seconded by:** Bette

Vote: Yes (18), No (1); Approved.

Abstained:

Recusal:

Note:

c. **(GB 021711-5) Motion to approve up to \$150.00 for food at Hamilton High, Palms NC, and SORO NC partnerships meetings.**

Barry stated that SORONC has partnered with Palms NC, to involve the Hamilton High Students to teach them about city government. The motion seeks funding for 30 dollars a month to feed the "Alliance" to feed the students. SORONC will only pay for April, May, and June.

Barry clarified that the entire funding will be up-to \$150.00 for the rest of the fiscal year. Erick, who is a member of the program, announced other programs the alliance is working on.

Moved by: Harold **Seconded by:** Terry

Vote: Yes (17), No (0); Approved.

Abstained: (1)

Recusal: (1) Erick is on the club that would benefit from the funding.

Note: Per DONE rules, Rachel is prohibited from voting on funding motions.

d. **(GB 021711-6) Motion to approve \$1250.00 for promotional license plate holders.**

Marj introduced the motion which calls for license plate frames (1000 units) with the SORO NC logo and "brand." The idea is that since many people are stuck in traffic, they can see the plate frame and find out about the NC. She will be calling vendors to find cheaper deals.

Moved by: Michael **Seconded by:** Robyn

Vote: Yes (11), No (6); Approved.

Abstained: (2)

Recusal:

Note: Per DONE rules, Erick and Rachel are prohibited from voting on funding motions.

e. **(GB 021711-7) Motion to approve up to \$1200.00 for promotional SORONC keychain flashlights.**



This motion calls for (1000 units) for flashlight key chains which would appeal more to the younger stakeholders.

Moved by: Nick **Seconded by:** Robyn

Vote: Yes (10), No (7); Approved.

Abstained: (2)

Recusal:

Note: Per DONE rules, Erick and Rachel are prohibited from voting on funding motions.

f. **(GB 021711-8) Motion to approve up to \$2000.00 for promotional SORONC shopping bags.**

The shopping bags are in line with current efforts to get away from using the plastic bags.

Victor suggested forming a partnership with Palms NC and perhaps saving money and getting a “package” deal.

Michael was curious as to what the budget for the NC is; Terry stated we have about \$21,566.69 after the funding for other projects. The March meeting may be the last one to get funding motions through.

Paula favors the shopping bag motion because it may help the low income areas of the NC. Terry suggested targeting the low income areas within the NC and amending the language for the motion.

After much discussion as to how to distribute the bags and what area of the NC to target, Terry moved to amend the motion:

Amended language:

“That SORONC approve funding for up to \$2000.00 for SORONC promotional tote bags with an attempt to focus on areas of our neighborhood that may be most impacted by the plastic bag ban.”

Joe and Harold disagreed with targeting the lower income families, but Terry asked to consider how that was different from funding the Winter Wonderland program which targeted low income families.

Paula also had an idea for Vons to possibly sponsor our bag.

After further debate, the motion to amend the existing motion was withdrawn.

Moved by: Harold **Seconded by:** Nahed

Vote: Yes (14), No (3); Approved.

Abstained: (2)

Recusal:

Note: Voted on existing motion language. Per DONE rules, Erick and Rachel are prohibited from voting on funding motions.

g. **(GB 021711-9) Motion to approve SORO Inc’s application for a Neighborhood Purposes Grant (NPG).**

Paula, Introduced the motion. Terry suggested for the NC to pay back SoRo Inc thought the NPG. Terry added that in 2010, the Board approved to allocate \$3000.00.



The motion is to award the grant and not the funding.

Moved by: Terry **Seconded by:** Marj

Vote: Yes (18), No (0); Approved.

Abstained: (1)

Recusal:

Note: Rachel and Erick voted on the motion because it was determined that it was a procedural vote and not a funding vote.

h. **(GB 021711-10) Motion for a \$500.00 NPG to co-sponsor Castle Height's Earth Week Event.**

Paula introduced the motion to support and defray the cost to the school by approving the grant. However, there was no NPG application submitted with the motion and Paula move to amend the language:

Amended language:

"For 500 dollars toward the purchase of t-shirts for Castle Heights Earth Week Event."

Nick Proposed substitute motion:

Substitute motion language:

"That the SORONC approve \$900 for t-shirts for the Castle Heights Earth Week Event to be held April 25th to April 30th, 2011 SORONC is to be credited on all t-shirts with our logo."

Moved by: Terry **Seconded by:** Joe

Vote: Yes (17), No (0); Approved.

Abstained: (2)

Recusal:

Note: The substitute motion was voted on. Per DONE rules, Erick and Rachel are prohibited from voting on funding motions.

i. **(GB 021711-11) Motion that SORO NC approves the judging committee membership , applicant eligibility, and judging criteria for the "Outstanding Green Citizenship Award."**

Paula introduced the motion and talked about the past working relationship with Vons. Paula modeled the language used in Santa Monica.

Funding for the certificate was not in the motion, but Terry can have the printing and delivery done (through a different motion).

Moved by: Marj **Seconded by:** terry

Vote: Yes (18), No (0); Approved.

Abstained:

Recusal:

Note: Harold left the meeting at 9:33pm and did not vote on this motion.

j. **(GB 021711-12) Motion to approve up to \$700.00 for Neighborhood Watch signs.**

Michael amended his motion to approve 100 signs and addressed the benefits of this funding. The signs call for non-stake, outdoor use, hanging signs only.

Moved by: Robyn **Seconded by:** Nahed

Vote: Yes (14), No (0); Approved.



Abstained: (3)

Recusal:

Note: Rachel left the meeting and did not vote on this motion.

k. **(GB 021711-13) Motion to approve up to \$500.00 for Emergency Notification lawn signs.**

The motion calls for signs with stakes to be used with emergency notification. They will be used with dry-erase markers (reusable), and will be kept in the storage space. The Public Safety Committee will decide later as to whom will have access to the signs.

Moved by: Robyn **Seconded by:** Nick

Vote: Yes (16), No (0); Approved.

Abstained:(1)

Recusal:

Note: Per DONE rules, Erick was prohibited from voting on funding motions.

l. **(GB 021711-14) Motion to approve Neighborhood Watch Flier plan.**

Michael introduced the motion which aims to inform the community when a significant crime occurs. The flier gives details as to what the crime was and will be distributed by volunteers.

Doug, suggested redesigning the flier to have the SORONC branding, and to have it as a template. The content can be determined later.

Moved by: Robyn **Seconded by:** Gerald

Vote: Yes (16), No (0); Approved.

Abstained: (1)

Recusal:

Note: Bette abstained from voting on this motion.

m. **(GB 021711-15) Motion to approve entering into an MOU with the LADWP for a \$45,000.00 Community Grant.**

Paula introduced the motion which calls for the SORONC to enter into an MOU with the LA DWP. After much discussion, it was determined that the MOU should be made between the DWP and SoRo Inc. since their non-profit status was used for the grant.

The motion was withdrawn.

Moved by: - **Seconded by:** -

Vote: -

Abstained: -

Recusal: -

Note: No vote was made on this motion.

n. **(GB 021711-16) Motion to support the City's proposed Community Care Facilities ordinance**

Terry introduced the motion which originated at WRAC and deals with four areas. The first is State Licensed facilities which can be anywhere. The second one is Unlicensed facilities that serve 5-6 residents. These can be can only resident from members of same household. Next, State Licensed facilities serving more than 6 residents and have to comply with all rules such as parking and noise abatement. The last one deals with unlicensed facilities serving more than 6 residents.

The Ordinance aims to limit concentration of these facilities in certain areas.



Moved by: Gerald **Seconded by:** Nick

Vote: Yes (11), No (0); Approved.

Abstained: (5)

Recusal:

Note: Martin left the meeting and did not vote on this motion.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned 1005pm.



Board Vote Tally Sheet

Meeting: Thursday, February 17, 2011, 7:00pm
Hamilton Senior High School Cafeteria
2955 S. Robertson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90034

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	16
Rachel Lester	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	A	A	A	Y	A	Y	X	X	X	X	X
Kimber Smith	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Harold Bock	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	X	X	X	X	X	X
Robyn Braun	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	W	Y
Bette Billet	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	A	W	A
Michael Lynn	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	W	Y
Nick Burkhardt	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	W	Y
Joe Gjonola	A	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	W	Y
Paula Waxman	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	W	Y
Zone 10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brian Kite	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	W	Y
Nahed Guirguis	A	Y	A	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	W	A
Terry Gomes	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	W	Y
Ben Bellet	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Gerald Chavarria	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	W	Y
Barry Levine	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	W	Y
Marj Safinia	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	W	A
Martin Epstein	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	W	X
Business 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sue Burden	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	W	A
Doug Fitzsimmons	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	W	Y
Victor Mity	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	A	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	W	A
Alexander Chavarria	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Erick Morales	Y	Y	Y	Y	R	A	A	A	Y	A	Y	A	A	Y	W	Y

Motions

01: Approve February Minutes
03: SORO Inc. Rep.

02: Approve Monthly Treasurer's Report
04: Support Measure L



- 05:** Partnership Food
- 07:** SORONC Key chains
- 09:** SORO Inc NPG
- 11:** Green Citizenship Award
- 13:** Emergency Notification Signs
- 15:** MOU with LADWP

- 06:** SORONC License Plates
- 08:** SORONC Shopping Bags
- 10:** Castle Heights NPG
- 12:** Neighborhood Watch Signs
- 14:** Neighborhood Watch Flier
- 16:** Support Ordinance-CCF