



# General Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 17, 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 Vice-President, Brian Kite, called the meeting to order at 7:20 pm. Board members Doug, Terry, and Joe were discussing a conflict with the YULA Boys School on the agenda for tonight's meeting and were outside of chambers.

**Board Members Present (20):** Rachel Lester, Kimber Smith, Harold Bock, Bette Billet, Michael Lynn, Nick Burkhart, Joe Gjonola, Paula Waxman, Brian Kite, Nahed Guirguis, Terry Gomes, Gerald Chavarria, Barry Levine, Marj Safinia, Martin Epstein, Sue Burden, Doug Fitzsimmons, Victor Mitry, Alex Chavarria, Erick Morales

**Board Members absent (2):** Robyn Braun, Ben Bellet.

**Guests:** Sam Eskenazi, Lee Zamos, Sgt. Mark Durrell, Pam Emerson, Gary Garcia.

## II. General Public Comment (6 Minutes)

Barry announced that tomorrow the Hamilton students will be having a "walk-out" against the budget cuts to schools. Lee Zamos announced that he has started a community walk in the neighborhood and was advised to touch base with the Outreach Committee. Sgt Durrell from the LAPD distributed a fact sheet for the last West LA Carnival and asked for input on how to make the festival better for this year. Terry commented that he attended the carnival and had positive remarks. Terry was also approached by some residents complaining that they had issues with the traffic being rerouted through Shenandoah instead of Robertson Blvd as they were told. Brian suggested for the discussion to move to the Public Safety Committee.

## III. Old Business (10 Minutes)

### a. (GB 031711-1) Approval of General Board Meeting Minutes of February 17, 2011.

Minutes were voted on after item 3 (approximately 7:46pm). Doug raised some grammatical corrections.

**Moved by:** Nick    **Seconded by:** Brian

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

**Abstained:** Kimber Alex, and Nahed.

**Recusal:**

**Note:** Joe missed this vote.

### b. (GB 031711-2) Treasurer's report and vote to approve monthly expenses.

Terry reported on the finances.

**Moved by:** Nick    **Seconded by:** Paula

**Vote:** Yes (15), No (0); Approved

**Abstained:** Alex

**Recusal:**

**Doug Fitzsimmons**  
President

**Brian Kite**  
Vice-President

**Gerald Chavarria**  
Secretary

**Terrence Gomes**  
Treasurer

**South Robertson  
Neighborhoods Council**

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**Note:** Doug, Joe, Michael, and Nahed were not present when this vote was cast.

#### **IV. Community Reports (20 minutes-3 Minutes)**

**LAPD Report;**

Not represented; Terry talked about some crime trends in RD 898.

**Office of Councilmember Wesson.;**

Not Represented.

**Office of Councilmember Koretz.**

David mentioned that some people had concerns over the Robertson Recreation Center not being renovated as planned. David advised that the project, although funding has been approved, is 4 million dollars short. Apparently, David has been told by stakeholders that if the gym was to be renovated, they want parking. David is handling this issue for CD 5 and requests input from the Board. Council member Koretz will contribute \$5000.00 for the SORO Festival.

David spoke to the Librarian at the Robertson Library who conveyed to him that the garden at the library did not need care or maintenance.

Marj announced that the Robertson Revitalization Ad Hoc Committee will meet with Council member Wesson on Monday (03/21/2011), and asked David to arrange for a meeting with Council member Koretz.

**Office of the Mayor;**

Not Represent.

**Office of Senator Price;**

Not Represented.

**Robertson Recreation Center;**

Not Represented.

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

**Executive Committee**

This report was given after the Minutes were approved. Doug announced the launching of the new website and reminded members to forward their bios to be posted on the site. Board members will have individual log-in and additional content like photo galleries will be posted. Committee chairs will be able to post items and automatically e-mail interested parties.

Submission for the bios will be done by April 1<sup>st</sup>. Some issues will still need to be worked on; Doug praised Nick for being instrumental in the creation of the new website.

We have support form PICO NC to annex the southeast area and Westside NC to annex the west area. Barry made arranged for a meeting with the arts gallery business owners, and Marj asked for the zone reps in the areas to absorb the new ones to be available for flyer distribution.

Sue suggested moving the April meeting up in order to get the funding motions through before the fiscal year ends.

Doug moved to move the April meeting to the 7<sup>th</sup>.



**Moved by:** Doug                      **Seconded by:**  
**Vote:** Yes (20), No (0); Unanimous; Approved.  
**Abstained:** 0  
**Recusal:** 0

**Note:** The Yula Boys School issue will also be discussed at the April 7<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Land Use.**

Terry mentioned that the issue on the YULA Boys School expansion will be taken at the next meeting. There was miscommunication on this subject for tonight's agenda.

**Education;**

Barry reminded all that the five motions came out of the committee are on the agenda for tonight.

**Green Team;**

Paula announced that the fruit picking efforts were successful and got 700 pounds of fruit.

**Public Safety;**

Michael will be late to the meeting so Harold and Nick gave the report. Harold stated that nothing significant other than the motions was brought up. Nick added that they discussed social media efforts for the committee.

**Outreach;**

Marj, mentioned that social media efforts should be unified and invited all the committee chairs to work on a plan (currently, the Green Team is the only committee with a *Facebook* account).

Next month, Beth Ryan will try to revive the Robertson Activities League (RAL) Program which will target youth within the La Cienega Heights community.

Kimber mentioned that a strategic plan is in the works to incorporate all the various efforts and establish a benchmark for public outreach.

**Ad Hoc;**

Marj mentioned that she researched a report that Robertson Blvd has not changed in the last 14 years and hopes this will spark greater interest in the revitalization efforts and get the council members on board.

**WRAC Report**

Brian stated that they are not focusing on anything major. They were successful in pushing back the idea on selling the city parking lots.

**SoRo Inc. Report**

SoRo Inc will have a meeting later this month.

**DWP Report**

Harold had nothing to report.

**CPAB Report**

Terry mentioned that

**VI. New Business (90 Minutes)**

**a. (GB 031711-3) Susan Bursk Award Committee Representative**

Marj gave some background on the award and asked that a volunteer step forward to represent SORO NC.



Mary Earl, President of SoRo Incorporated, discussed some of the key points for the award itself. For instance, the volunteer is asked to be impartial while on the committee and will also need to attend two meetings; one to select the award recipient and the second to participate in a debrief.

Bette thinks that adding one member from SORO NC is okay, but adding two is questionable. Bette nominated Brian as representative.

**Moved by:** Marj      **Seconded by:** Rachel

**Vote:** Yes (20), No (0); Unanimous!

**Abstained:** 0

**Recusal:** 0

**Note:** Doug and Joe were now present at the meeting. Michael Lynn arrived at 7:43pm.

b. **(GB 031711-4) Design for SORONC T-Shirts**

Doug passed out a sheet with three t-shirt designs. Board members wrote their names on the design they liked. The t-shirts will be for the SORO NC members and volunteers to officially wear.

Option “C” got most votes.

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

**Vote:** Yes (20), No (0);

**Abstained:**

**Recusal:**

**Note:** All members agreed to approve a t-shirt design.

c. **(GB 031711-5) Support Extension of Tax Hike for June Ballot.**

Erick mentioned that the State budget will cut funds forcing the School District to lay off teachers and cut some security staff. Hamilton High will be directly impacted with this cut. Erick cited some references and asks the board to send a letter to the State Assembly.

Gary Garcia, Principal of Hamilton High, mentioned that, he just had a meeting on the issue and the information about the cuts is on the website. Hamilton is getting hit hard. Teachers are organizing a walk-out at 9:00 am. Teachers and students will walk around the school and close with a rally. LAPD and School Police will be there. Twenty-two Hamilton teachers got “pink Slips” and the administrators would likely return to the classroom to fill the void.

Harold reminded that the aim is not to increase taxes, but to simply extend the tax. Over 600 people crowded the auditorium tonight showing concern for the cuts (another meeting unrelated to the NC).

Michael feels uneasy with voting on an issue without having a sense of what the community wants and feels we would be voting on fears rather than fact. Joe feels uncomfortable in voting on the issue as well.

Nick would like to see more concrete evidence from the schools showing what would be cut. Alex added that he has spoke to Assembly Blakely’s office and will give some names of members that should be sought for support.

Various members suggested amending the motion. Barry suggested an amendment; *“To send letters to all California State legislatures urging them to vote to place on the ballot, an extension of the current taxes.”*



Vote to amend:

**Moved by:** Barry    **Seconded by:** Brian  
**Vote:** Yes (13), No (3); Amendment Approved.  
**Abstained:** Michael, Joe, Sue and Nahed.  
**Recusal:** 0

Vote on motion as amended:

**Moved by:** Barry    **Seconded by:** Brian  
**Vote:** Yes (11), No (7); Approved.  
**Abstained:** Bette and Sue.  
**Recusal:** 0  
**Note:**

d. **(GB 031711-6) Support for Neighborhood Team Program**

Michael introduced the motion and gave a brief background on how the program would relate to the existing CERT program.

Bette supports the idea, but would rather see an overview of the program. Brian asks to vote on the concept of the program because the development of the teams and content will be an ongoing endeavor.

Kimber mentioned that she saw a program on “California Connected” that praised programs like these which would be tasked with triage and light first aid during emergencies.

(Gerald, Terry, and Michael are CERT volunteers and would be spearheading the efforts for the program to be instituted for SORONC. Larry Bogatz from Battalion 18 CERT coordinator has developed a focus group for the program). Michael mentioned some costs associated with the program and conveyed that funding motions will come at a later date, depending on what would be needed to maintain the program).

**Moved by:** Terry    **Seconded by:** Kimber  
**Vote:** Yes (16), No (0); Approved.  
**Abstained:** Rachel and Bette.  
**Recusal:**  
**Note:** Harold left prior to voting on this motion and Alex missed the vote.

e. **(GB 031711-7) Approval of Emergency/Incident Notification Plan.**

Michael introduced the plan. Brian gave some background that the plan would allow for a formal process to take place during emergencies and what the NC would do in terms of outreach to the community regarding such incident.

Paula asked how the public would be involved and Marj added that the committee chairs may have some perspective on the creation of the plan as well.

Gerald voiced the benefit of having such plan would allow for the NC to have a point of contact (President or designee) to communicate with the City and public safety agencies to be more orderly and not duplicate efforts.

Doug suggested amendment the following sections of the proposed plan:

#2; “...Contact the rest of the Executive Committee and outreach chair, rules within 4 hours if not sooner...”



#5; "...Discuss a meeting of the full Executive Board and the Outreach Chair following Brown Act rules..."

Vote on amendment:

**Moved by:** Doug **Seconded by:** Brian

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

**Abstained:** 0

**Recusal:** 0

**Note:** Harold had left the meeting prior to this vote.

Vote on motion as amended:

**Moved by:** Move **Seconded by:** Brian

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

**Abstained:** 0

**Recusal:** 0

**Note:** Harold had left the meeting prior to this vote.

f. **(GB 031711-8) Motion to approve new SORONC By-laws**

Doug; everyone has to commit to one committee. The board will ratify the membership list. The intent is to have a stable voting membership in committees; it has been a problem that by tradition we have allowed everyone attending the meeting to vote, but Brown Act is not structured for that. The intent is that committees act much like the board meetings.

Stakeholders are added to voting membership by committee vote, not board vote. Originally, we wanted to make sure a clear commitment from members and stamp on it. But going through the same process for stakeholders, it would be confusing to them and in some ways tied the hands of the committee chairs if the board had to vote for them to vote at a committee level.

Brian wants the committee to vet both sides of the issues. Doug does not discourage people to come out even if they do not vote. The issue of committee voting was greatly discussed.

Doug added that with absences, the removal process will be automatic because the general feeling is that if you are not here, then you cannot be effective. A provision exists that a member can take a leave of absence and may reapply for their seat back if removed.

Much of the language was suggested by DONE. The bylaws also give responsibilities to the Vice-President as Parliamentarian. Other changes were mentioned including having under-aged members not be allowed to vote on motions related to funding and contracts, the change of minimum age for most seats to 18, and the restructuring of one of the School seats to be by board appointment.

Some amendments made:

**(Amendment-1) Section 7-Absenses;** "move word 'consecutive' after the three."

**(Amendment-2) Community outreach;** "The town hall occur with at least 14 day notice and not 21 days."

**(Amendment-3) Article XI, Section 1;** "The secretary will refer the matter to an ad hoc grievance panel comprised of five non board members stakeholders."

**(Amendment-4) Article XI, Section 2,** "The panel to meet with the board parliamentarian and the stakeholder who submitted the grievance."



Vote to amend:

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

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

**Abstained:**

**Recusal:**

**Note:** Harold left prior to voting on this motion and Alex missed the vote.

Vote on motion as amended:

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

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

**Abstained:**

**Recusal:**

**Note:** Harold left prior to voting on this motion and Alex missed the vote. By-laws passed with over a 2/3s vote.

- g. **(GB 031711-9) Motion to approve \$9000.00 for planting and care of trees along Robertson Blvd.**

Terry gave a state of the bank account and mentioned that there was a discrepancy on the account balance. Terry will attempt to reconcile the amounts and will get back to the board.

*Funding motions withdrawn at this time.*

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

**Vote:** -

**Abstained:** -

**Recusal:**

**Note:** Nahed left 9:45 pm.

- h. **(GB 031711-10) Motion to fund \$17,000.00 for Permanent markers for SORONC.**

*Funding motions withdrawn at this time.*

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

**Vote:** -

**Abstained:** -

**Recusal:** -

**Note:** -

- i. **(GB 031711-11) Motion to approve \$2,499.00 for funding for Shenandoah Street School photography equipment.**

*Funding motions withdrawn at this time.*

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

**Vote:** -

**Abstained:** -

**Recusal:** -

**Note:** -

- j. **(GB 031711-12) Motion to approve \$2,499.00 for funding for Rancho Park Continuation School photography equipment.**

*Funding motions withdrawn at this time.*

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



**Vote:** -  
**Abstained:-**  
**Recusal:** -  
**Note:** -

- k. **(GB 031711-13) Motion to approve \$2.499.00 for funding for Hamilton High School photography equipment.**  
*Funding motions withdrawn at this time.*

**Moved by:**                      **Seconded by:**  
**Vote:** -  
**Abstained:-**  
**Recusal:** -  
**Note:** -

- l. **(GB 031711-14) Motion to approve \$2.499.00 for funding for Castle Heights School photography equipment.**  
*Funding motions withdrawn at this time.*

**Moved by:**                      **Seconded by:**  
**Vote:** Yes (    ), No (    );  
**Abstained:**  
**Recusal:**  
**Note:**

- m. **(GB 031711-15) Motion to approve \$2.499.00 for funding for Rancho Park Continuation School photography equipment.**  
*Funding motions withdrawn at this time.*

**Moved by:** -                      **Seconded by:** -  
**Vote:** -  
**Abstained:** -  
**Recusal:** -  
**Note:**

- n. **(GB 031711-16) Motion to support the installation of cell tower at 1600 Robertson Blvd.**  
Terry said that Sue Chang, the zoning administrator, had already approved the cell tower installation prior to our consideration. Voted on recommended action.

**Moved by:** Brian    **Seconded by:** Michael  
**Vote:** Yes (18), No (0);  
**Abstained:** 0  
**Recusal:** 0  
**Note:** Victor had left the meeting prior to voting on this motion.

## **VII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 pm.



# Board Vote Tally Sheet

Meeting: Thursday, March 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	Y	A	Y	Y	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	Y
Kimber Smith	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	Y
Harold Bock	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	X	X	X	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	X
Robyn Braun	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Bette Billet	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	A	Y	Y	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	Y
Michael Lynn	Y	X	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	Y
Nick Burkhart	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	Y
Joe Gjonola	X	X	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	Y
Paula Waxman	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	Y
Zone 10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brian Kite	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	Y
Nahed Guirguis	A	X	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	X
Terry Gomes	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	W	W	W	W	W	W	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	N	Y	Y	Y	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	Y
Barry Levine	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	Y
Marj Safinia	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	Y
Martin Epstein	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	Y
Business 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sue Burden	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	Y
Doug Fitzsimmons	Y	X	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	Y
Victor Mity	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	X
Alexander Chavarria	A	A	Y	Y	Y	X	Y	Y	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	Y
Erick Morales	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	Y

**Motions**

**01:** Approve February Minutes

**02:** Approve Monthly Treasurer's Report

**03:** Susan Burk Rep

**04:** SORONC T-Shirts



- 05:** Support Tax Hike
- 07:** Emergency Notification Plan
- 09:** Plant trees on Robertson Blvd
- 11:** Fund Money for Shenandoah
- 13:** Fund Money for Hami High
- 15:** Fund Money to Canfield Elementary
- 06:** Support NTP
- 08:** Approve New Bylaws
- 10:** Permanent Markers
- 12:** Fund Money for Rancho Park School
- 14:** Fund Money for Castle Heights
- 16:** Support Installation of Cell Tower