



General Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 7, 2011, 7:00pm

Hamilton Senior High School Cafeteria
2955 S. Robertson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90034

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Doug called the meeting to order at 7:20 pm and thanked the audience on behalf of the board for attending the meeting. Some ground rules such as time limits for public comment were established.

Board Members Present (15): Rachel Lester, Kimber Smith, Bette Billet, Michael Lynn, Nick Burkhart, Paula Waxman, Brian Kite, Terry Gomes, Ben Bellet, Gerald Chavarria, Barry Levine, Marjan Safinia, Doug Fitzsimmons, Victor Mitry, Alex Chavarria.

Board Members absent (7): Harold Bock, Robyn Braun, Joe Gjonola, Nahed Guirguis, Martin Epstein, Sue Burden, Erick Morales.

Guests: Liz Carlin, David Giron, 33 guests signed in and 48 speaker cards were turned in to the Secretary.

II. General Public Comment (6 Minutes)

Holly Clark, representing Kings Colleges informed the board and audience on the "host family" program the school is running. Doug announced the Community Development Department's survey on soliciting community input with regards to block grants.

III. Old Business (10 Minutes)

- a. **(GB 040711-1) Approval of General Board Meeting Minutes of March 17, 2011.**
Minutes

Moved by: Marj **Seconded by:** Terry
Vote: Yes (15), No (0), Unanimous; Approved
Abstained:
Recusal:
Note:

- b. **(GB 040711-2) Treasurer's report and vote to approve monthly expenses.**
Terry gave a brief statement of the board finances and had submitted the reconciliation and request to increase the quarterly P card expenses. Current balance is \$35,307.00.

Moved by: Nick **Seconded by:** Kimber
Vote: Yes (15), No (0); Unanimous; Approved
Abstained:
Recusal:
Note:

Doug Fitzsimmons
President

Brian Kite
Vice-President

Gerald Chavarria
Secretary

Terrence Gomes
Treasurer

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IV. Community Reports (20 minutes-3 Minutes)

LAPD Report

Not represented.

Office of Councilmember Wesson

Liz Carlin announced that CICLAVIA bike event will be held this Sunday and street closures will be in place. Liz invited all to the Nate Holden Performing Arts Theater in CD 10.

Office of Councilmember Koretz

Field Deputy, David Giron introduced his colleague Christopher Coontz, planning deputy from the west side and handed out documents related to various projects in the community.

Office of the Mayor

Not represented. Doug announced that Jennifer Badger is no longer with the Mayor's office.

Office of Senator Price

Not Represented.

Robertson Recreation Center

Mrs. Williams announced that spring classes would begin April 25th. April 18th spring camp will begin as well. A computer lab will be opening and the renovation of the gym will soon begin.

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

Executive Committee

Doug reported that SORO NC is one of 15 that have submitted their bylaws. The two areas that the NC is interested in annexing are near the Museum of Tolerance and the southeast corner area. The dates were announced and the public is invited.

Doug asked board members to officially sign up for committees at the next Board meeting. Rosenberg's Rules of Order will also be adopted at the next meeting as our guide for board meeting conduct.

Land Use

Terry reported that the park redevelopment will be brought up.

Education

Barry reported that 15 students have joined the SKATCH program and volunteers are needed.

Green Team

Paula had nothing new to report.

Public Safety

Michael reported that the committee is working on the neighborhood watch flier and the traffic safety project with regards to the pedestrian crosswalks.

Outreach

Marj reported that the last meeting discussed the summer youth program, and a presentation on a large public arts project were also discussed.



Ad Hoc

Marj reported that on March 21st a meeting with CD 5 was held. Councilmember Wesson has also agreed to join the NC to fund the SORO markers. Motions will be put forth.

WRAC Report

No report.

SoRo Inc. Report

No report.

DWP Report

No report.

CPAB Report

No report.

VI. New Business (90 Minutes)

a. (GB 040711-3) Motion to support the expansion of the YULA Boy's High School.

Due to the majority of the audience in attendance in support of the project, a time limit was set (48 speaker cards were turned in). The motion calls for changing the terms of the 199 Conditional Use Permit.

The YULA representative gave a brief presentation on the proposed plan including the pros and cons to the school. The major premise is that those who attend the school for worship and school live in close proximity and the change would be to accommodate their needs. YULA stresses their good faith in working with the immediate community.

Doug reminded the board of the option on voting on the motion as it stands or making changes such as an amendment or a substitute motion.

A 20 minute speaker session revealed that the majority of the attendees were in support of the expansion. A minority of speakers cited a lack of adherence of the 1999 CUP as a basis for not supporting the current expansion efforts.

YULA furnished an activities sheet that would prohibit any activity after 7:00 pm. The motion has been amended and the sheet was adopted as part of the motion.

Vote to amend the motion to include the supplied "activities and hours" sheet and to recommend that the cul-de-sac on Castello be constructed as part of the initial project phase.

Moved by: Nick **Seconded by:** Michael

Vote: Yes (15), No (0); Unanimous

Abstained: 0

Recusal: 0

Note:

Brian "called the question" and Terry seconded, and no other questions were raised by board members. The motion reads as follows:

"That SORO NC officially support the YULA Boys High School expansion, including the proposed changes to the CUP and the attached Activities and



Hours restriction schedule, and furthermore recommends that the cul-de-sac on Castello Ave. be constructed as part of the initial project phase."

Moved by: Kimber **Seconded by:** Rachel

Vote: Yes (12), No (1); Approved

Abstained: 2

Recusal: 0

Note: Terry and Marj abstained.

b. **(GB 040711-4) Motion to support police fun fair.**

This motion was introduced by Michael after item #12. Michael cited some data for last year's festival and clarified some issues with the dates for the event and the actual name. Michael further stated that the public Safety Committee supported the motion at their last meeting

Terry moved the question.

Moved by: Terry **Seconded by:** Gerald

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

Abstained: (2)

Recusal:

Note: Paula and Bette abstained.

c. **(GB 040711-5) Resolution to approve authorized Community Impact Statement filers.**

Doug stated that the board had no filers. The motion would call for Joe Gjonola (Land Use co-chair) and the Officers to be able to file Community Impact Statements (CIS).

Terry moved the question.

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

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

Abstained: (1)

Recusal: 0

Note: Rachel abstained.

d. **(GB 0040711-6) Resolution to approve second financial signatory.**

Doug introduced the motion which requires a second signor. Terry as Treasurer, signs off on all demand warrants, but a second signature would ensure someone else has reviewed the financial document.

The second signor is required to complete Treasurer's training. Doug believes that it is not good practice for the Treasurer and the President sign off on the documents. He recommended that another Board member be authorized as soon as possible.

Gerald believes that the executive committee has been tasked with many responsibilities. Although Gerald volunteered to be the second signor once he completes the training, he suggested that a non-executive committee member (non- Officer) to nominate themselves.

Moved by: Kimber **Seconded by:** Terry

Vote: Yes (15), No (0); Unanimous; Approved.

Abstained:

Recusal:

Note:



- e. **(GB 040711-7) Motion to reallocate committed but unspent funds, FY 2010-2011.**

Doug had spoken to members from DONE and BONC and the idea is to spend the funds before they are “swept” out if we do not act by April 15th. Passing a motion tonight, would ensure that the funds be spent by the June 30th deadline.

Marj mentioned that realistically, the funds would not be able be spent by the end of the fiscal year and therefore allocate it to a project that would be funded sooner than later.

Moved by: Brian **Seconded by:** Michael
Vote: Yes (15), No (0); Unanimous; Approved.
Abstained: 0
Recusal: 0

Note: Rachel and Alex were not restricted from voting on this motion.

- f. **(GB 040711-8) Motion to request an increase in FY 2010-2011 Q4 purchase card limit to \$7,500.00 and maximum charge to \$4,500.00.**

Terry introduced the motion by mentioning that the increase would allow the board to pay for the additional funding prior to the end of the fiscal year. By using the credit card, the payment process would be streamlined.

Moved by: Nick **Seconded by:** Gerald
Vote: Yes (13), No (0); Unanimous; Approved.
Abstained: (2)
Recusal:

Note: Due to DONE and BONC rules, Rachel and Alex were restricted from voting on this motion.

- g. **(GB 040711-9) Motion to fund \$16,000.00 for permanent markers for SORO.**

Marj introduced the motion by citing a UCLA report which stated that the Robertson corridor was in need of revitalization. The markers would be a step forward and appealing to prospective businesses.

Marj added that CD 10 would be joining in paying for some of the costs. The Outreach Committee has been spearheading this project. Since all paperwork has to be submitted by April 15th and CD 10 will partner, the committee thought it beneficial to allocate the funds to CD 10 to secure the money remains available for SORONC to be used for the markers and the trees (item #h). Essentially, the \$16,000.00 would be held by CD 10.

Moved by: Michael **Seconded by:** Alex
Vote: Yes (13), No (0); Approved.
Abstained: (2)
Recusal:

Note: Due to DONE and BONC rules, Rachel and Alex were restricted from voting on this motion.

- h. **(GB 040711-10) Motion to fund \$14,000.00 for purchase, installation and care of trees.**

Doug introduced the motion

Moved by: Kimber **Seconded by:** Nick
Vote: Yes (13), No (0); Approved.
Abstained: (2)



Recusal:

Note: Due to DONE and BONC rules, Rachel and Alex were restricted from voting on this motion.

i. **(GB 040711-11) Motion to approve letter to CD 10 regarding funding for collaborative Robertson Revitalization project.**

Marj introduced the letter for approval tonight. The letter would show a “good faith” that CD 10 would secure the funds for SORONC.

The letter would be read during council meeting. With immense help from Liz Carlin from CD 10 and the Outreach Committee, many issues have been addressed.

Gerald raised the question that the letter did not mention CD 10 specifically is being a “partner” on this project (the second paragraph states, “...SORONC is embarking ...rather than, “...CD 10 and SORONC are embarking...”).

Marj, seconded by Liz Carlin, mentioned that CD 10 has pledged to partner with the NC though it is not stated specifically on the letter based on the funding needs.

The board understands that CD 10 will provide additional funds for this project.

Moved by: Terry **Seconded by:** Bette

Vote: Yes (15), No (0); Unanimous; Approved.

Abstained:

Recusal:

Note:

j. **(GB 040711-12) Motion to fund a Neighborhood Purpose Grant (NPG) of \$5,000.00 for Summer Program supporting at-Risk Youth.**

This motion was considered after item 3 (YULA Boy’s School). Kimber introduced the motion of the summer youth program for students who need help to succeed in Hamilton High School. The Robertson Activities League (RAL) would be the one to benefit most from the program. The program would run for 10 weeks and provide academic instruction to approximately 40-60 High School students from the area.

The funds, along with the proposed budget for the entire program, would be used for things like transportation costs of field trips. Both Kimber and Marj reiterated the fact that this is the kind of program the NC should be supporting.

Moved by: Michael **Seconded by:** Marj

Vote: Yes (12), No (0); Approved.

Abstained :(3)

Recusal:

Note: Due to DONE rules, Alex and Rachel abstained from voting on this motion. Terry abstained.

Terry asked for clarification over the fact that the application does not mention that the program was intended for the La Cienega Heights area. The application did not mention a contingency for funding on question #7 with regards to the dollar amount.

Marj explained that it is a “needs based” issue and the additional funding will be raised.



Due to a point of clarification being raised, Brian moved to “reconsider” and seconded by Marj. Motion to reconsider:

Moved by: Brian **Seconded by:** Marj

Vote: Yes (15), No (0); Unanimous.

Abstained:

Recusal:

Note: This vote allows for the motion to be considered.

Doug moved to amend the motion as follows:

“Amend the application to include in the filling out of question #7, “Yes” in the amount of \$49,000.00 which the total projected cost of \$54, 000.00.”

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

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

Abstained: (2)

Recusal:

Note: Due to DONE rules, Alex and Rachel abstained from voting on this motion.

k. **(GB 040711-13) Motion to approved \$1,000.00 for Phase I website enhancements.**

Doug introduced the motion by stating that the website would be enhanced in phases. Doug offers amendment to increase the funding to \$1,250.00.

Vote on motion as amended:

Moved by: Gerald **Seconded by:** Michael

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

Abstained: (2)

Recusal:

Note: Due to DONE rules, Alex and Rachel abstained from voting on this motion. The funding will be \$1,250.00.

l. **(GB 040711-14) Motion to approve \$220.00 to extend Hamilton High School Safety phones through July 2011.**

Doug explained that the funding for this program runs out in May; the Board can reconsider whether to extend the program with the new fiscal year.

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

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

Abstained: (2)

Recusal:

Note: Due to DONE rules, Alex and Rachel abstained from voting on this motion.

m. **(GB 040711-15) Motion to approve a \$5,000.00 for an NPG for the 2011 SoRo Festival.**

Doug introduced the motion by stating that the \$9,000.00 has already been approved. This motion releases money as procedural process, and the second motion (item #n) actually pays costs through a demand warrant.

The NPG allows the SoRo Inc to use the funds as they see fit. Terry asked about the issue raised last year where Ann Hammond was on the board posing a conflict of interest. Doug clarified that if you are not an officer and just a volunteer, then the funds can be allocated and they can vote to spend the funds within that organization as long as they publicly declare their relationship.



Gerald, Terry, Barry, Victor, Paula and Bette publicly declared a relationship with the festival as volunteers (based on their help last year).

Moved by: Terry **Seconded by:** Michael

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

Abstained: (2)

Recusal:

Note: Due to DONE rules, Alex and Rachel abstained from voting on this motion.

- n. **(GB 040711-16) Motion to approve a \$4,000.00 interdepartmental transfer to the Bureau of Street Services for SoRo Festival fees.**

Doug stated that the fees are roughly \$6,000.00 but SORONC would only pay for the amount on the motion.

Moved by: Bette **Seconded by:** Michael

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

Abstained: (2)

Recusal: 0

Note: Due to DONE rules, Alex and Rachel abstained from voting on this motion.

- o. **(GB 040711-17) Motion to approve resolution for April funding motions.**

Doug introduced the motion which would allow the board to approve the motions for funding purposes without the minutes being approved.

Moved by: Terry **Seconded by:** Bette

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

Abstained: (1)

Recusal: 0

Note: Rachel abstained.

- p. **(GB 040711-18) Motion to endorse recommendations from the Budget Advocates Committee (Sponsored by WRAC).**

Terry informed the board that the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils created a budget for the elections while keeping the annual \$45,000.00. The recommendation was to have the city clerk involved in the elections by certifying us, but the councils would have to cover the outreach portion.

Doug sees the value in having our positions gravitate to the “elected official” capacity, and involving the city clerk helps in this effort. Paula asked how the NC’s would save money if nothing essentially changed.

Terry explained that the City Clerk personnel would work on the election rather than the councils handling the paperwork.

There is also a proposal that DONE hire a grant writer and use the rollover funds to pay for the salary. Doug offered an amendment to state, “Roll over funds be used to hire additional support staff at DONE rather than hire a grant writer.” Te

Vote to amend motion:

Moved by: Doug **Seconded by:** Terry

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

Abstained: 0

Recusal: 0



Note:

Vote on motion as amended.

Moved by: Michael **Seconded by:** Terry

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

Abstained: (1)

Recusal: 0

Note: Kimber abstained.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:22 pm.



Board Vote Tally Sheet

Meeting: Thursday, April 7, 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	A	A	A	Y	A	A	A	A	A
Kimber Smith	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Harold Bock	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Robyn Braun	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Bette Billet	Y	Y	Y	A	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Michael Lynn	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Nick Burkhart	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Joe Gjonola	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Paula Waxman	Y	Y	N	A	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Zone 10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brian Kite	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Nahed Guirguis	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Terry Gomes	Y	Y	A	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y
Ben Bellet	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Gerald Chavarria	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Barry Levine	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Marj Safinia	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Martin Epstein	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Business 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sue Burden	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Doug Fitzsimmons	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Victor Mitry	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Alexander Chavarria	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	A	A	A	Y	A	A	A	A	A
Erick Morales	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Motions



- 01:** Approve March Minutes
- 03:** YULA Boys High
- 05:** CIS Filers
- 07:** Reallocate Unspent Funds
- 09:** SORO Markers
- 11:** Funding for Robertson Revitalization
- 13:** Funding for Phase I Website
- 15:** NPG for SORO Festival
- 17:** Recommendation from Budget Committee
- 02:** Approve Monthly Treasurer's Report
- 04:** Police Fun Fair
- 06:** Second Financial Signatory
- 08:** Increase in Q4 Purchase
- 10:** Funding for Trees
- 12:** NPG Funding
- 14:** Hami Safety Phones
- 16:** Funding for Festival Fees

Motion	17	18
Rachel Lester	A	Y
Kimber Smith	Y	A
Harold Bock	X	X
Robyn Braun	X	X
Bette Billet	Y	Y
Michael Lynn	Y	Y
Nick Burkhart	Y	Y
Joe Gjonola	X	X
Paula Waxman	Y	Y
Zone 10	X	X
Brian Kite	Y	Y
Nahed Guirguis	X	X
Terry Gomes	Y	Y
Ben Bellet	Y	Y
Gerald Chavarria	Y	Y
Barry Levine	Y	Y
Marj Safinia	Y	Y
Martin Epstein	X	X
Business 5	-	-
Sue Burden	X	X
Doug Fitzsimmons	Y	Y
Victor Mitry	Y	Y
Alexander Chavarria	Y	Y
Erick Morales	X	X