



# General Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 15, 2011, 7:00pm  
Hamilton Senior High School Cafeteria  
2955 S. Robertson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90034

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## I. Call to Order and Roll Call

SORO NC Board President Doug Fitzsimmons called the meeting to order at 7:18.

**Board Members Present:** Rachel Lester, Michael Lynn, Nick Burkhart, Paula Waxman, Armando Roman, Terrence Gomes, Brian Kite, Barry Levine, Marjan Safinia, Martin Epstein, Susan Burden, Victor Mitry, Doug Fitzsimmons

**Board Members Absent:** Kimber Smith, Harold Bock, Robyn Braun, Bette Billet, Benjamin Bellet, Nahed Guirguis, Troy Richardson, Sam Jagger, Erick Morales

**Guests:** Raymond Yu, HarSimran Khalsa, Mario Gonzalez, David Giron, Lisa Mowery

## II. General Public Comment

Raymond Yu noted the upcoming LA Neighborhood Congress, and the Mexican Independence Day celebration on Olvera St. He also notified the Board that the Los Angeles Korean Festival would take place from Thursday, Sept 22<sup>nd</sup> until 8PM on Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup>. Raymond also noted that the Korean Parade will take place on September 24<sup>th</sup>. More information is available by calling (213) 487-9696.

HarSimran Khalsa thanked to SORO NC for its support of the peace picnic – in particular, Terry for printing flyers, and Martin and Paula for arranging a motion at the SORO NC meeting.

## III. Proposed standing rule change

**Motion to change standing rule on vote recording (eliminating requirement for roll call) and incorporating Standing Committees and the SORO NC Code of Civility (Executive / GB091511-1).**

No discussion.

- Doug moved to approve the report; Mike seconded.
- **Vote: Y-13, N-0, A-0. Unanimous in favor of approval.**

## IV. Community Briefing and Discussion

**Lisa Mowery – Bureau of Sanitation (Presentation about waste water system)**

NOTES: The expected life of a sewer is approximately 80 years, and about 30% of LA's sewers are older than that. But with the city's current budget, the Bureau of Sanitation is working with a 168-year replacement cycle. Staff has been reduced significantly since the 1990s, and operating costs have also decreased. Residents of Los Angeles had same sewer charge for 14 of 20 years, and a fee increase is now proposed. The proposed 10-year plan includes an increase of approximately \$28 per year for each of the next 10 years for the average family in LA. The proposal is currently in the Energy & Environment committee of City Council. It will then go to the council for the first time, for permission to notify regarding a public hearing. To reduce one's own service charge, reduce irrigation during the winter.

**Doug Fitzsimmons**  
President

**Brian Kite**  
Vice-President

**Terrence Gomes**  
Treasurer

**Nick Burkhart**  
Secretary

**South Robertson  
Neighborhoods Council**

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Terry asked how much of the rate increase proceeds will be used to fund infrastructure, vs. labor. Lisa noted that 60 percent of every dollar goes to construction, and 16 percent to debt service. The department is not planning to add staff.

Lisa's presentation is available online at [http://lacitysan.org/wastewater/publications/pdfs/2011/SSC\\_presentation.pdf](http://lacitysan.org/wastewater/publications/pdfs/2011/SSC_presentation.pdf)

## V. Old Business

### **Confirmation of Board committee memberships and absence requests (GB091511-2)**

No board members have requested an official absence for September 2011. Bette has requested to leave the Green Team.

- **Vote: Request approved by general consent.**

### **Draft Board Meeting Minutes of August 18, 2011 (Burkhart / GB091511-3).**

No discussion.

- **Vote: Requests approved by general consent.**

### **Treasurer Report and vote to approve monthly expenses (Gomes / GB091511-4).**

Terry noted that a committee budget, complete with the percentages of each committee budget used, is available. Mike inquired about the organization of charges on the p-card report. Terry and Doug responded that the money spent may appear in categories that do not match the committees from which they originate.

- Marj moved to approve the report; Brian seconded.
- **Vote: Y-12, N-0, A-1. Report approved.**

### **Nominations and votes for Budget Advocates and authorized Community Impact Statement submitters (Gomes / GB091511-5).**

Victor and Terry have expressed interest in being named Budget Advocates. Doug nominated Nick to be an authorized Community Impact Statement submitter.

- **Vote: Victor and Terry named Budget Advocates by general consent.**
- **Vote: Nick added as Community Impact Statement submitter by general consent.**

## VI. Community Reports

**LAPD Report.** (Mario Gonzales): NOTES: Usually when school starts, there is an uptick in crime. Fortunately, the situation this year has been different. LAPD is unsure of the reason why this is happening, but the crime picture isn't as bad as it has been in past years. Mario reported that there have been no major crimes except for homicide at Cattaraugus and Helms. This was the first homicide in three years in Mario's reporting district. However, there were two robberies on Venice and La Cienega in early morning hours. The victim was approached by an individual on a bike. There was also a community meeting at Castle Heights Elementary about increasing burglaries in Castle Heights and Beverlywood.

**Office of Councilmember Wesson.** (Doug, on behalf of Liz Carlin): There will be an electronic waste and shredding drive at the CD10 office on Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Office of Councilmember Koretz.** (David Giron): David noted that he cannot stress enough the importance of giving blood. Councilman Koretz plans to be at the Peace Picnic between 1pm and 2pm. A new "Adopt-a-Basket" is program is underway – new trash cans have been added on Pico between Robertson and



Doheny. Contact David Giron if you know of a business wanting a city trash can nearby. Businesses are responsible for emptying the bins. Koretz made national headlines for introducing a motion (11-1531) planning to ban plastic and paper bags within the city. The motion instructs the Bureau of Sanitation to look into what the benefits and costs are of implementing such a program. The provisions in the motion cover only grocery stores and carryout bags.

**Office of the Mayor.** No report.

**Office of Senator Price.** No report.

**Robertson Recreation Center.** No report.

## VII. Committee Reports

**Executive.** (Doug): SORO NC was the first NC to appeal a ruling to the City Council; through support from council districts, the appeal passed. The appeal congratulated Mid-City for its acquisition of Area B, but overturned the finding that nobody in Area B supported SORO NC's bid for the area. The appeal also awarded the uncontested western annex area to SORO NC. The motion also established a committee designed to evaluate the regulations governing the NC system. Councilmember Krekorian brought forth four reform motions: about these, WRAC is going to have a meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> of this month. Meeting will be at 7pm at the IMAN Cultural Center. The Neighborhood Congress, beginning at 7:45 on Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, will provide seminars and useful programs for board members. It will begin with a roll call of NCs, and it would be great to have a large SORO presence. Website: <http://www.nccongressla.com> Doug also noted that an uncomfortably large number of board members have not completed ethics training.

**Land Use.** (Terry): Temple Beth Am will be meeting with the neighborhood regarding building impacts. Eilat Bakery will be presenting at next month's meeting for a vote. An auto repair shop also wants to add a floor for a parts department.

**Education.** (Barry): The committee spent \$4,000 for fresh fruit, for Canfield and Shenandoah Elementary Schools.

**Green Team.** (Paula): The tree planting project is back on.

**Public Safety.** (Mike): Discussed homeless living in vehicles and encampments. Discussion of Helms Bakery area parking district.

**Outreach.** (Marj): This month's meeting was a meeting of neighborhood association leaders, with LAPD presence. The discussion covered car break-ins. The Outreach committee plans to host a meeting of this style every three months.

**Bylaws.** No report.

## VIII. New Business

### **Motion to approve up to \$200 for the purchase of fruit harvester tools (Waxman / GB091511-6).**

Paula noted that the Green Team has already budgeted money for this program, and that the additional \$200 would help to streamline the process and improve its efficiency.

Terry moved to approve the motion; Martin seconded.

- **Motion vote: 12-Y, 0-N, 1-A. Motion approved.**



**Motion to formally adopt new SORO NC borders and zone definitions (Fitzsimmons / GB091511-7).**

Brian noted Doug and Marj worked extremely hard on this issue for months.

- Mike moved to vote; Terry seconded.
- **Vote: 13-Y, 0-N, 0-A, 0-R. Motion approved.**

**Motion to submit a Community Impact Statement on the proposed City Sign Ordinance (Gomes / GB091511-8).**

Doug noted that the city's Planning Commission pulled together a draft ordinance in 2009; it then went to the Planning Department, and the staff proposed a lot of changes. The changes are outlined in the body of this motion. Doug argued that the changes absolutely gut the ordinance, providing many loopholes. WRAC is trying to organize a regional referendum on this issue. This Community Impact Statement will ensure that SORO NC's voice is heard at PLUM. Marj inquired whether this sentiment is widespread throughout the NC system; Doug responded that LANC is also considering a similar referendum. Mike noted that the PLUM meeting is this Sunday, and inquired about the time of the meeting. Brian inquired whether it is known why the staff gutted this motion. David Giron noted that some changes were incorporated because of threat of litigation. Doug suggested that the City Council, in the interest of risk aversion, plunged the city into chaos. Mike inquired if it is known when this issue might be addressed by the City Council. David Giron noted that it is unclear.

- Doug moved to vote; Terry seconded.
- **Vote: 10-Y, 1-N, 2-A, 0-R. Motion approved.**

**Motion to submit a Community Impact Statement on the proposed downtown football stadium (Gomes / GB091511-9).**

Terry noted that the developer is asking the city for tax-free bonds. The project is still in planning stages, and development is ongoing.

- Doug moved to vote; Nick seconded.
- **Substitute motion: Motion to support a letter composed by WRAC opposing public funding of the proposed Farmers Field Stadium**
- Doug moved to accept the substitute motion; Mike seconded.
- **Substitute motion accepted by general consent.**
- **Vote: 8-Y, 3-N, 2-A, 0-R. Substitute motion approved.**

**IX. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.



## Current Committee Membership

Board members must attend at least 7 committee meetings within a 12 month period.

Note that Bylaws, Econ Revitalization, and Board Development meet infrequently. Those three ad hoc committees may only have 6 voting members.

Committee	Edu- cation	Green Team	Land Use	Out- reach	Public Safety	Finance	Exec	Bylaws	Econ Revital	Board Dev	Parks & Rec
Rachel Lester											
Kimber Smith											
Harold Bock											
Robyn Braun											
Bette Billet											
Michael Lynn											
Nick Burkhart											
Zone 8											
Paula Waxman											
Armando Roman											
Ben Bellet											
Nahed Guirguis											
Terry Gomes											
Brian Kite											
Barry Levine											
Troy Richardson											
Marj Safinia											
Sam Jagger											
Martin Epstein											
Sue Burden											
Victor Mitry											
Organization 3											
Doug Fitzsimmons											
School 1											
Erick Morales											



## Vote Tally

1: moved | 2: seconded | Y: yes | N: no | A: abstain | R: recuse | X: missed vote  
C: passed by general consent

Motion	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15
Rachel Lester	Y	C	C	A	C	C	A	Y	Y	Y					
Kimber Smith															
Harold Bock															
Robyn Braun															
Bette Billet															
Michael Lynn	2Y	C	C	Y	C	C	Y	1Y	N	Y					
Nick Burkhart	Y	C	C	Y	C	C	Y	Y	Y	2Y					
Zone 8															
Paula Waxman	Y	C	C	Y	C	C	Y	Y	Y	A					
Armando Roman	Y	C	C	Y	C	C	Y	Y	Y	Y					
Ben Bellet															
Nahed Guirguis															
Terry Gomes	Y	C	C	Y	C	C	1Y	2Y	2Y	Y					
Brian Kite	Y	C	C	2Y	C	C	Y	Y	Y	N					
Barry Levine	Y	C	C	Y	C	C	Y	Y	Y	Y					
Troy Richardson															
Marj Safinia	Y	C	C	1Y	C	C	Y	Y	Y	Y					
Sam Jagger															
Martin Epstein	Y	C	C	Y	C	C	2Y	Y	A	A					
Sue Burden	Y	C	C	Y	C	C	Y	Y	A	N					
Victor Mitry	Y	C	C	Y	C	C	Y	Y	Y	N					
Organization 3															
Doug Fitzsimmons	1Y	C	C	Y	C	C	Y	Y	1Y	1Y					
School 1															
Erick Morales															

### Votes taken

- Change standing rule on vote recording
- Committee memberships and absences
- Draft board meeting minutes
- Treasurer report
- Nominations and votes for Budget Advocates
- Nominations and votes for Community Impact Statement submitters
- Motion to approve \$200 for fruit harvester tools
- Motion to adopt new SORO NC borders and zone definitions
- Motion to submit a Community Impact Statement on the proposed City Sign Ordinance
- Motion to submit a Community Impact Statement on the proposed downtown football stadium