



Approved General Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 15, 2010, 7:00pm

Hamilton Senior High School Cafeteria

2955 S. Robertson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90034

I. Call to Order & Roll Call

SORO NC President Doug Fitzsimmons called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

Board Members Present: Robyn Braun, Bette Billet, Jon Liberman, Joe Gjonola, Paula Waxman, Brian Bergman, Baila Romm, Marj Safinia, Barry Levine, Gerald Chavarria, Doug Fitzsimmons, Ann Hammond, Caitlin Lowe, Gary Garcia

Board Members Absent: Kimber Smith, Harold Bock, Terrence Gomes, Anne Gross, Adam Wheeler, Roy Nwaiser, Nahed Guirguis, Susan Burden

Guests: Eric Weiser, Liz Carlin, Brooke Powers, Walter Gaworecki

II. General Public Comment

Walter Gaworecki of T-Mobile distributed plans for a wireless facility at 8906 West Pico Blvd. He said this is an existing facility, not a new one; T-Mobile purchased it from Cingular as one of many sites, not realizing at the time that the facility was not in compliance. To bring it into compliance, T-Mobile proposes to install equipment cabinets on the rooftop with 16 antennas on four arrays, with a new screen six feet in height and a GPS antenna to be mounted on the equipment cabinet. Equipment cabinets would be at the center of the building, so would not be seen by the public. The change in environmental electromagnetic emissions would be similar to installing a wireless connection in a residence. Ongoing maintenance would be T-Mobile's responsibility. Marj asked if he had spoken with people who live in the building; he said no, T-Mobile normally consults only with Neighborhood Councils in these circumstances. Bette said that SORO NC normally expects community input before coming to the NC. Eric Weiser said that T-Mobile is simply coming up to code, not constructing anything new, and Councilmember Koretz's office considers this area non-residential. Walter said T-Mobile is only going into areas where the city wants them to go. Gerald asked if they would support a banner; Walter said no, this was not allowed by code. Ann asked about timing; Walter and Doug explained there will be a hearing in late April/early May, so there was not an opportunity to consult with the Land Use Committee before coming to the Board.

III. Old Business

Draft Special Board Meeting Minutes of April 1, 2010 (Hammond/GB041510-1). Jon moved to approve the draft minutes; Gerald seconded. **Vote: 9-Y; 0-N; 3-A. Minutes approved.**

Doug Fitzsimmons
President

Jon Liberman
Vice-President

Ann Hammond
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



IV. Community Reports

a. Office of Councilmember Wesson (Carlin). Liz distributed a flyer about the Councilmember's upcoming "Hail to the Chief" photo art exhibit on April 24th. She said the Councilmember is trying hard to resolve the issue of LADWP's outstanding payment to the city and other aspects of the City's budgetary crisis. She said a community clean-up is scheduled for Saturday. She announced that her colleague, Victor Durazo, had passed away that morning; an artist, he had answered the Councilmember's phone at City Hall for many years. Liz explained that his death, just one month and one day after the sudden death of their colleague, Charnette Bonpua, was very difficult for the Councilmember and his staff. All present expressed their condolences.

b. Office of Councilmember Koretz. (Weiser). Eric reported on the mediation meeting with food truck vendors and La Cienega Heights residents complaining about noise from their horns and vehicles blocking traffic. Robyn asked if there has been any monitoring of complaints against the vendors; Eric said officials can try to patrol more often. Gerald asked if CD-5 has tried to develop viable alternatives to the anti-vendor side of the issue. Eric said some parts of the city have parking lots where vendors can congregate; he welcomes suggestions to resolving the situation, and said City officials are looking at both sides of the issue. Regarding trailer ads on South Robertson, Eric said state law allows vehicles to be parked there for up to 72 hours, although attempts are underway to change that law.

(Joe left)

c. Office of the Mayor (Badger). No report was made, as no representative was present.

d. Office of Senator Price (Bernal). No report was made, as no representative was present.

e. LAPD Report (Gray/Gonzalez). No report was made, as no representative was present.

f. Robertson Recreation Center (Powers). This report was deferred until the representative arrived.

V. Committee Reports

a. Executive (Fitzsimmons). Doug thanked the Ad Hoc Election Committee and congratulated all re-elected Board members. As Doug had not been able to attend, Jon reported on the April 8th Executive Committee meeting. Jon said the Committee focused on the transition, including training new Board members, obtaining CD-roms of the Board manual, and putting tools and historical records on the website for all to access as needed. Marj suggested Committee Chairs try to compile agendas, contact lists, and key information. Ann added that storage of paper records was also discussed, including Board meeting records, Treasurer records, and any letters issued by Board members – Officers and Committee Chairs – on behalf of the Board. Ann said submission of quarterly audit reports was also discussed, with the understanding that normally these reports would be signed by the Board President and



Treasurer; it was also suggested that, as a general rule, joint Board member signatories to documents issued by the Board should not have a personal relationship, such as husband and wife, to avoid any potential appearance of conflict of interest.

b. Treasurer's Report. No report was made as the Treasurer was not present. The package of materials available at the meeting included a financial summary indicating that, of the \$45,000 annual allocation, \$40,600 had been committed by motions and an additional \$291.43 had been disbursed, leaving \$4,108.57 available. Also included was an (unsigned) quarterly reconciliation form for the SORO NC prepaid card for the period January 1 through March 31, 2010, showing \$7,716.05 had been charged.

c. Land Use and Economic Development (Bergman). This report was deferred until the Chairman arrived.

d. Education (Levine and Braun). Barry said the Committee had not met this month.

e. Green Team (Waxman and Hess). Paula said the City made a presentation to the Green Team on proposed new garbage collection technology and facilities in six areas of the city; facilities are several years off. Paula said she is discussing with Marj having a Town Hall on this issue. Larry and Paula obtained 300-400 seedlings for the Hami garden. The Mayor's Day of Service is May 1st, and the City asked for another fruit pick. Paula asked that anyone with a fruit picker bring it. Doug said the NC is required to have at least one Town Hall meeting per year, but can have more. Paula said that, since the garbage collection decision is not imminent, we can have another topic first. Bette said this project is expected to cost \$3 billion. Ann asked the status of the rat poison situation; Paula said the issue has not been resolved. She said the Agriculture Department had the traps installed, but the contract with that vendor was not renewed, and now CALTRANS refuses to remove the traps because they do not have requisite expertise. Gerald said they have cordoned off the area. Liz suggested contacting Sylvia Castillo in Karen Bass' office, who may have some influence with CALTRANS.

(Bailla arrived.)

f. Public Safety (Bock and Hammond). Ann reported on the Public Safety meeting discussion. She noted that the meeting usefully clarified for LAPD that the NC had not endorsed the idea of the Carnival at this time because of the upcoming SORO Festival, lack of planning lead time, and concern about the Pico Blvd. venue, but that the NC, through the Public Safety Committee, is committed to work closely with LAPD to find ways to help fund programs that would reach at-risk youth within SORO. Bailla talked about the second mediation session about the food vendor trucks, clarifying that some residents do not find the vendors a nuisance while others do. Two vendor representatives attended the second meeting and agreed to stop blowing their horns. Bailla reported the Senior Lead Officer said LAPD would continue to cite vendors for blowing their horns, and vendors said they need two weeks to let customers know their schedule. Bailla said Sergeant Durrell had formed an investigative task force but it was unsuccessful as the vendors had been tipped off. She said LAPD



would also ticket vendors who broke the law. Baila said the letter the SORO NC approved at its March meeting had not been sent as Terry, who was going to put in the code references, was instead re-writing the letter; she said now the letter may be moot. Gerald asked if it had been a one-day task force; Baila said she was not sure, and there is a need to know who told the vendors of the plan.

g. Outreach (Safinia). Marj said no meeting was held this past month because of a conflict with holidays. She said the Susan Bursk award nomination process is open, and Gary offered to post it on the Hamilton website. Marj said the NC will need volunteers on June 3rd, the day of the Festival. Marj said there will be an Outreach meeting this month, perhaps the quarterly joint Outreach and Public Safety meeting.

h. Ad Hoc Election (Nwaiser). Ann said Eric had done an analysis of voter turnout for the SORO NC election compared with other NCs. SORO NC had 264 turn out at the polls and two voted by mail. This placed SORO NC at the low middle range for turnout within Region D.

(Brian arrived.)

Paula said that, for the amount of money spent, this turnout was out of whack. Gerald said it would have been helpful to have more support from the City. Marj said parking was difficult; simultaneously, a very large group was meeting at the Rec Center and nearby houses of worship were holding services. Ann said that, on the positive side, there were many new people participating in this election process. It was also noted that there was the possibility of curbside voting, but this was neither advertised nor readily apparent. It was suggested that, in future, food should be offered.

IV. (f). Robertson Recreation Center (Powers). Brooke reported the Child Care operation is essentially finished due to budget cut-backs; Child Care was open 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. , but they are now only to serve children for three hours per day. Brooke said it is likely that she will run both buildings. She said it also appears that the RAL is finished: they are trying to offer a teen program for 15 children three days a week, but would have to charge \$50 per week apiece. She said she has not yet received reimbursement from SORO NC from November 2008. Baila said crime statistics for this area for summer, winter, and spring before the RAL program were significantly higher than after the RAL program was instituted. Brooke said LAPD's new Jeopardy program is aimed at reaching at-risk youth; RAL did not. Robyn said La Cienega neighborhood elements have changed a lot; it is not nearly as bad as when the RAL program began, and she hopes it stays that way. It was suggested that the NC's Public Safety Committee track these statistics.

V. (c) Land Use and Economic Development (Bergman). Brian reported the Committee has received complaints about Caliber Collision's compliance with its Conditional Use Permit ("CUP"). At the next meeting, there will be a motion to file a complaint against Caliber. The committee also discussed whether local catering trucks are operating in violation of LAMC.

(Caitlin left)



VI. New Business

a. Motion to co-sponsor an annual “Community Award for Outstanding Green Citizenship” (Waxman/GB041510-3). Paula introduced the motion. Robyn asked if other candidates were considered. Paula said the focus had been on Vons because of knowledge of its environmental responsiveness; they had then looked at other supermarket chains and did not find they met the same high standards. In future years, all businesses will be considered and there will be clear criteria for selection at the outset. Jon said maybe other SORO NC Committees would want to have awards; Doug said there would be no harm in that. Paula said the idea behind the award is to stimulate change in how businesses work. Marj said it sounds like a great idea. Bette said maybe we want to look at business development. Doug said maybe there could be a range of awards, such as Public Safety, Education. Doug said “like SoRo Stars.” Bette moved to approve the motion, Jon seconded. **Motion approved unanimously.**

b. Motion to create a certificate of appreciation from SORO NC and presented to Rabbi Avraham Zajac (Chavarria/GB041510-4). Gerald introduced the motion. Robyn said she had had a discussion with the Rabbi and thanked him; we often forget to say thank you, and it makes a great difference to do so. Baila said the Rabbi loved having the training there; he considered it a blessing to make it available to the community. Ann moved to approve the motion; Robyn seconded. **Motion approved unanimously.** Doug will make the certificate.

c. Motion to post a link to the Crime Stoppers website on the SORO NC website (Chavarria/GB041510-5). Gerald thanked Doug for his time and hard work in updating the SORO NC website, noting the Crimestoppers link has been established. Doug said the current SORO NC website does not have a natural place for this link, hence the delay, but the new website will. Gerald withdrew the motion as it was moot.

d. Motion to post the May CERT training class on the SORO NC website (Chavarria/GB041510-6). Gerald thanked Doug for already posting the class on the website, noting the venue had changed from the 3rd floor to the 2nd. Doug said he would post the change. Doug added that people should ask him to post notices on the website and bug him if necessary. He added that migration to new website has begun. Gerald withdrew the motion as it was moot.

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:08 p.m.