



General Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 15, 2010, 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 7:10 pm.

Members present: Robyn Braun, Gerald Chavarria, Michael Lynn, Marjan Safinia, Victor Mitry, Martin Epstein, Nahed Guirguis, Terry Gomes, Doug Fitzsimmons, Harold Bock, Elizabeth Billet, Kimber Smith, Rachel Lester, Barry Levine, Paula Waxman, Benjamin Bellet, and Brian Kite.

Members absent: Susan Burden, Ryan Gaines (resigned).

Guests: Councilmember Herb Wesson, Elizabeth Carlin, Weiser with Koretz's office, Brooke Powers, Jon Lieberman, SORO festival members, Steven Coker, Lottie Williams and her daughter Xotchil.

II. General Public Comment

Rachel Lester mentioned that she spoke to Neighbors for Farmdale who asked her for the Board to make public statements in support of the next phase of the Expo Line. Terry talked about the Movies in the park.

- a. **Recognition of the Susan Bursk Award Nominees;** Susan Bursk introduced the winner of the Susan Bursk Award (John Lieberman). Susan expressed her gratitude to the Board for naming the award after her. John also thanked the board and the community for their support.

2010 Susan Bursk Founder's Award Recipient: Martin Jon Liberman

2010 Susan Bursk Founder's Award Nominees:

Steven Coker
Charmaine Colina
Susan Gans
Ann Hammond
Saran Kirschbaum
Cynthia Ojeda
Brooke Powers

Councilmember Wesson also expressed his gratitude to Susan for her great work and for the board in supporting him with the movies in the park where 800 people attended. Wesson presented all nominees with the awards. Saran expressed her thanks to Paula Waxman for her work with the Green Team. Marjan thanked Councilmember Wesson and Liz Carlin for all their help.

Councilmember Wesson left the meeting at 7:28 pm.

Short recess was called by Doug and the meeting resumed at 7:45 pm.

Doug Fitzsimmons
President

Brian Kite
Vice-President

Gerald Chavarria
Secretary

Terrence Gomes
Treasurer

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III. Old Business

- a. **(GB 071510-1)** Draft General Board Meeting Minutes of June 17th. Kimber identified a typo. Terry moved for a vote, Robyn seconded;

Roll Call Vote: Robyn Braun, Michael Lynn, Marjan Safinia, Victor Mitry, Martin Epstein, Terry Gomes, Doug Fitzsimmons, Harold Bock, Elizabeth Billet, Kimber Smith, Barry Levine, Paula Waxman, Benjamin Bellet, and Brian Kite. **Approved**

Abstained: Gerald, Nahed, Rachel.

- b. **(GB 071510-2)** Training session minutes: Brian addressed grammatical errors, Terry moved for a vote, Harold seconded;

Roll Call Vote; Robyn Braun, Gerald Chavarria, Michael Lynn, Marjan Safinia, Victor Mitry, Martin Epstein, Nahed Guirguis, Terry Gomes, Doug Fitzsimmons, Harold Bock, Elizabeth Billet, Kimber Smith, Rachel Lester, Barry Levine, Paula Waxman, Benjamin Bellet, and Brian Kite. **Approved.**

- c. **(GB 071510-3):** Treasurer's report; Terry stated he contacted DONE who assured him the NC funds are still available. There were some technical issues with the fresh fruit money, but it is moving forward. Terry further reported that *Sasnet*, *Walking Man*, and publishing were all paid. Thanks to the efforts of Council members Wesson, Koretz and Krekorian, SORONC got back \$42, 502.13, of roll-over funds from DONE. SORONC's balance is \$87,502.13.

Doug stated that we have more "breathing room" now that we have funds and to reconsider moving funds from SoRo Inc (Some funds were allocated to be used by SoRo Inc. for the festival held in early June).

Bette asked if others [Neighborhood Councils (NCs)] have gotten their [rolled over] funds. Terry stated that due to our Councilmember we [South Robertson Neighborhood Council (SORONC)] got funds back. Barry asked if we could use more funds for Fresh Fruit on Fridays, and Terry advised all that as long as they are in different 'phases'. Terry informed that with WLA NC, we have been making strides. DONE used Terry's budget template and reconfigured it.

Doug informed us about the fact that the approval of the budget template is crucial.

Motion to place budget template on the agenda; Bette moved, Terry 2nd.
Vote: Unanimous (17 present). **Approved.**

Motion to approve the new budget template: Terry move we vote on it, Nahed 2nd.

Vote: Unanimous (17 present). **Approved.**

Terry requested items related to "Movies in the park" for his budget

Motion to approve monthly expense report: Doug moved, Michael 2nd;

Vote: Unanimous (17 present). **Approved.**



IV. Community Reports

Doug informed the speakers and reminded our board that these reports would be kept on a time constraint as agreed upon at the board training session. Doug gave 3 minutes for each report and any subsequent Q and A.

a. **Office of Councilmember Wesson- Carlin;**

Liz Carlin reviewed the findings related to Caliber Collision Center (CCC-Guthrie/La Cienega) and investigation by Department of Building and Safety Inspector, Russell Tyne. Per the report (Liz distributed a copy of an e-mail conversation she had with Mr. Tyne to the board). The investigation revealed that the allegations were inconclusive. The vehicle manifest was given to inspector who did not find any vehicles on the street belonging to CCC.

b. **Office of Councilmember Koretz- Weiser;**

Eric Weiser updated on the Westside Leadership Summit composed of various agency reps that were there to answer questions. Regarding the budget crisis, there are ongoing negotiations with city unions. The LADOT informed CD 5 that the western area of the city will suffer understaffing, and will only address emergency items. The BOSS will also only respond to urgent matters. The LAPD continues their ongoing narcotics investigations on the Marijuana clinics. Barry asked if the lawn will be cared for at the parks. Brook Powers stated her Department (Recs. & Parks), takes care of their landscaping. Harold asked about the garden at the Robertson Library (during previous Public Safety a meeting, the issue of the garden being neglected was raised by Harold). Weiser stated that the city maintained it every month. Harold disagreed and stated *he* had been doing it. Brian suggested to Eric that he should be looking into having Bureau of Street Services (BOSS) provide funding for those services.

Carlin mentioned that BOSS is no longer mowing medians either. Terry asked why the city was caring for State property with regards to Venice Blvd. Carlin advised that it was an oversight on the city's part. Kimber commented on the use of goats for brush clearance. Gerald asked Carlin if one department asks BOSS to clear brush will it get honored. (I.e. an LAPD unit may send a "service request" through communications to remove illegally dumped furniture obstructing an alleyway). Carlin will get back to the board via Gerald.

Mr. Steven Coker asked Eric to work with the State and mentioned an example of other community members doing collaborating with the State to clear the brush.

c. **Office of the Mayor-Badger;** Not represented.

d. **Office of Senator Price-Bernal;** Not represented.

e. **LAPD Report-Gonzalez;**

Officer Gonzalez was present, but had to leave the meeting due to scheduling conflict. Officer Gonzalez had asked Gerald to inform the board that the suspect for the May shooting incident where a pregnant mother was murdered on Corning Street was being featured on America's Most Wanted



in the coming weeks. Bette suggested for 'someone' to develop a "mechanism" for informing the SORO community of such incidents, but did not volunteer to create one herself.

f. Robertson Recreation Center-Powers;

Brooke Powers stated they are in week 4 of Camp. The LAUSD summer is 12 weeks and after Labor Day weekend, no programming will be available for the children at the rec. center. She anticipates that kids will have no recourse but to be on the streets for two weeks. The "LA Kids" classes are popular and have begun. Soccer camp will have 20 kids taken to Hansen Dam with lunch. Summer Basketball season starts next week. There is construction on Preuss Ave. and suggested to walk to the park rather than drive. Brooke commented on Gerald's earlier point, and mentioned that once, the LAPD complained about the bushes being too high and landscaping was done to reduce the obstruction (one city Dept .making request for something and it being honored).

V. Committee Reports

a. Executive (XC)- Fitzsimmons;

Doug expressed his thanks to all who participated in the board training session, particular for her logistics and planning. Doug the members to consider the vision that was established. Doug also informed that Ryan Gaines resigned his seat; Roy Nwasser's seat has been vacant (Seats 7, 10, 2 school seats, and one business seat).

Kimber asked to get flyers and signs to recruit candidates. Doug reminded us that some committees do not have chairs. He will send agendas for Public Safety, Land Use and Economic Development, Outreach. Chairpersons for these committees need to be sought.

Bette suggested to share our phone numbers to recruit candidates. Doug reminded us about the serial meetings violations and to avoid them. Gerald stated that our numbers are on DONE's website (with the idea posting them if you want to let others know).

b. Land Use & Economic Development (LU & ED)- Vacant Chair position;

Kimber mentioned that she had a conversation with a stakeholder about cleaning his alleyway. Apparently, this alley which is located west of Robertson Blvd. and north of Pico Blvd. is in need of paving as well. Brian mentioned that funds from state are earmarked for streets and not alleyways.

c. Education (EC)- Levine;

Barry stated that no meeting was held this month. Next meeting could be at his home next month. Barry also announced that Shenandoah Street Elementary School parents have been involved with the mentoring program. Barry recognized Lottie Williams and introduced her as the EC Co-Chairperson.

d. Green Team (GT)- Waxman;

Paula stated that the *Hami Garden* looked great and the irrigation plan is in fruition. Paula further commented that on Monday, the City Beautifications Grant fund will end.

e. Public Safety (PS)- Vacant Chair position;

Doug, who has been taking the lead in this committee, stated that streets fell under PS (and perhaps the issue could be taken up at the next PS meeting).



- f. **Outreach (OC)- Vacant Chair position;**
Marjan commented on the success of the *Movies in the Park* program with Council District 10. No meeting was held for the OC this last month, but will have one next month.
- g. **Bylaws (BC)- Doug has been nominated as Chair;**
Doug commented that the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (BONC) recommended that all NC's standardize their bylaws. Terry stated that the by-laws issue will get voted on August 3rd.

VI. New Business

- a. **Election of Secretary: Candidate Gerald Chavarria;**
Gerald Chavarria was the only nominee and made a brief statement. Harold moved for a vote, Michael 2nd.

Vote: Unanimous (17 present). **Gerald named Secretary.**
- b. **Nomination of two representatives for the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC);**
Doug stated the intent was to develop a partnership and band together. Asked for primary and secondary. Bette asked if we would be required to go in line with RAC's decisions. Doug stated the rep would draft language and NC would vote on it. RAC: MOU with DWP, cell towers, etc. Doug also mentioned that Mayor's office instrumental in establishing the RAC. Terry stated they will meet at Rosendahls office. Kimber asked if they are bound by the Brown Act. Doug stated he believes they may not be. Terry stated they operate as though they would be.

Vote: Terry unanimously voted primary. Brian secondary rep.
- c. **Motion to change Bylaws from standing to ad hoc;**
Vote: Doug voted unanimous as Chair.
The committee also recommended to make it an ad hoc. Doug reminded us that the committee. Barry asked if we can keep the bylaws as is. Terry expressed that it would relate to only numbering and formatting structure. Doug recommended going over the proposal from BONC and identify what can be removed from the bylaws. Harold moved, Terry 2nd.

Vote: Unanimous approval to make committee ad hoc.
- d. **Motion for banner removal and cleaning-Marjan;**
Marjan stated the cost from AAA will be nearly \$10,000. However, AAA and Carlin could work with the NC. Marjan still working on the issue and Rabbi Cunin to remove his motions and get a new three year permit. Carlin will also work on getting fees waived, but suggested to still have money available through the motion. Marjan explained \$450.00 for each banner and \$200.00 for cleaning them. Victor asked about the Chabad wanting banners. Marjan stated we would have to take down NCs banners.

Vote: Harold moved, Martin 2nd. Unanimous. **Approved.**

VII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.