



Approved General Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 21, 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 7:10pm.

Members present: Rachel Lester, Kimber Smith, Harold Bock, Robyn Braun, Bette Billet, Michael Lynn, Joe Gjonola, Paula Waxman, Brian Kite, Terry Gomes, Gerald Chavarria, Barry Levine, Martin Epstein, Doug Fitzsimmons, and Victor Mitry.

Total members present (15).

Members absent: Nahed Guirguis, Ben Bellet, Marjan Safinia, Sue Burden.

Guests: Councilmember Paul Koretz, Field Deputy Eric Weiser, Field Deputy Liz Carlin, Alexander Chavarria, Felipe A. Villareal, Henry Huerta, Yoo Nigh Mane, Pedro Guzman, Denni Mosser, Chloe Osner, Tomas Rodriguez, Jose Manuel Zuniga, Inge-Lise Balmague, Mitchel Balmague, Nick Burkhart, Russ Kingston, Mary Ann Yurkonis, Sue Beidleman, Phoebe Neil, Har Sinrang K. Khalsa, Officer Chris Ragsdale.

Doug Fitzsimmons
President

Brian Kite
Vice-President

Gerald Chavarria
Secretary

Terrence Gomes
Treasurer

II. General Public Comment (started at 7:12pm)

Barry commented on the success of the Peace Picnic (10/10/10). Doug introduced guests from the "Clean Campaign" and asked for them to comment on the matter of picketing on Robertson.

a. Discussion about picketing noise levels at Robertson Car Wash (15 Minutes).

Chloe Osner with the "Clean Campaign" (CC) was there to address concerns from the community on the noise issue created by picketers. Osner also commented that the CC focused on improving the carwash industry from poor working conditions. The CC organizers were approached by the carwash employees after they were only getting paid with tips and endured poor working conditions. Apparently, the Robertson Car Wash (RCW) was cited by CalOsha and other government agencies in 2005 for various violations.

Felipe Villareal, a former RCW employee, gave testimony that his hourly pay was removed after a year-and-a-half, but worked a total of four years. Villareal also cited times when an employee got sick or injured; they would be sent home without pay or any sort of compensation.

Doug asked the public to be respectful and concise when making comments on both sides of the issue.

Barry asked Osner what her organization wanted from the NC and Osner called for the NC to ask the owner of the RCW to sit down to negotiate. Barry conveyed to the CC representatives that it seemed counterproductive to upset the neighbors and to reduce the noise levels.

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Terry asked Liz Carlin to have city inspectors visit the RCW and identify the violations alleged by the representatives.

Inge-Lise Balmague who lives near the RCW, stated that she has tried communicating with Henry Huerta (Union organizer), but has been met with empty promises on his part.

Doug asked **Osner** if she would provide direct contact information to the CC representatives for the public to have. Osner agreed to give such information made available; Doug will add it to the SORONC website.

Joe asked **Villareal** why he did not quit his job at the RCW if he was not getting his wages. **Villareal** stated he felt there was no other recourse but to remain there because he had to pay rent and care for his family with what little he got.

Joe asked why the employees did not just file a complaint with the State Labor Commission.

Henry Huerta replied that they have, but the State has been slow in response and has allowed for about 40 car washes to engage in more violations. Part of their efforts is to make the State more proactive.

Kimber appreciates the Union structure, but asked CC reps what sort of structure is in place to address concerns from the residents?

Osner replied that they have engaged in on-going discussion with the residents and reached an agreement that has made the picketers lower the noise.

Doug believes that since the target audience (customers) are in their cars, the picketing is really only affecting the residents that have to listen to the noise. He also asked the CC if they would re-evaluate their methods and attempt to develop a true partnership with the residents.

Bette added to what Doug stated, we can all learn. Chanting only angers people. Believes that the union would gain from working with the union.

Osner mentioned a systemized dialogue in place for such partnership building and stated that the picketers have a constitutional right to engage in the practice and further commented that they felt it was not right that the police was citing the picketers.

Balmague added that it has been quiet because the police have been citing the picketers.

Doug does not question the efforts to unionize, nor is this meeting the forum to debate the issue; but does believe that the union needs to find a way to form a true partnership with the residents.

(Many people agreed by nodding heads).

Paula made the point to the CC that what the noise was causing was animosity against the picketing and would cause residents to support the RCW and boycott the CC.



Terry recommended for the matter to be addressed by the Public Safety Committee and have the allegations of violations be investigated further.

Villareal stated he is not currently employed, but is helping the Union organizers.

Russ Kingston added that he has lived across from the RCW for 30 years and has never seen the water hit the street. He stated that everyone knows what it means to hold signs up in front of the business—boycott. He addressed the CC reps and mentioned that they do not have to shout to send their message across.

Harold moved to have the matter handled by the Public Safety Committee and **Bette** suggested to have the RCW owner be informed as well.

Doug urged both sides of the issues to work out their concerns collaboratively and announced the next Public Safety meeting.

b. Councilmember Paul Koretz

Doug welcomed Councilmember Koretz.

Koretz thanked all for having him and is looking forward to working with the NC. Koretz introduced his staff; Field Dep Greenburg and Eric Weiser, and David Giron. Koretz cited various issues he has been working on including the Medical Marijuana issue, the way the city pays its bills and wants to change the fact that the city is not using the systems in place. Koretz proposes establishing an “Inspector General” to oversee the changes, including working with city vendors in reducing their fees by 10 to 15 percent.

Doug thanked Weiser for all his work and welcomed Giron.

Barry informed Koretz that a manageable traffic flow on Motor Avenue is being considered. Koretz was aware of such proposal and believes that traffic should be routed to Robertson and Overland.

Bette invited Koretz to see the Hami Garden and take photos. Koretz asked Bette to schedule a date.

Rachel informed that various restaurants on Pico Blvd place tables on the sidewalk to attract business, but have had problems complying with the required railing and asked how the restaurants can get around the issue. Greenburg briefly cited the Bureau of Street Services (BOSS) process and suggested to have BOSS address the issue.

Doug asked Koretz for support with the traffic flow issue. Koretz stated that assistance would be available from his office.

III. Board Seat Election (800pm)

Doug introduced both nominees.

- a. (GB 102110-1) Nomination Nick Burkhardt for Zone 7 Seat**
Nick provided a brief statement.



Joe asked Nick what kind of experience he had land use. Nick stated that he has served in city planning commissions in Minnesota and has worked in developing plans for a city council.

Victor asked Nick if he planned to live in the NC even after he was done with his course work as a Ph. D. student. Nick stated he would actively participate.

Terry asked what sort of time he (Nick) would have with his busy schedule. Nick mentioned that his schedule allows for flexibility.

Nick stated that he would be interested in joining the Land Use and Economic Development Committee.

Moved for a vote by: Harold **Seconded by:** Victor

Vote; Yes, Unanimous!

Abstained: 0

Recusal: 0

Note: At this point, Nick is eligible to vote on tonight's motions.

b. (GB 091610-2) Nomination of Alexander Chavarria for School Seat-1

Alex provided a brief statement.

Robyn asked Alex how this commitment would affect his studies. Alex stated that although he is taking Advanced Placement classes, he can manage his time.

Bette made reference to Alex's auto-biographical statement and added that since Alex is part of the fulfillment fund, she believes the program makes efforts in helping Alex with his school and supports Alex's nomination.

Gerald announced his support to appoint Alex, but will recuse himself from voting for Alex because Alex is his brother.

Kimber asked Alex why he wanted to join this organization.

Alex stated that students live in the area and can children of those people affected by the RCW issue. He will focus on the students' point of views. He has also lived in Zone 4 and has seen the violence affect students and although it has gotten better, he wants to be part of a movement that helps the community.

Moved for a vote by: Harold **Seconded by:** Robyn

Vote: Yes- 14, Approved!

Abstained: 0

Recusal: Gerald recused for conflict of interest (nominee is his brother).

Note: At this point, Alex is eligible to vote on tonight's motions.

IV. Old Business

a. (GB 102110-3) Draft General Board Meeting Minutes of September 16, 2010 (Chavarria)

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

Vote; Yes-9, approved



Abstained:

Recusal: 0

Note: Kimber, Harold, and Martin were not present.

b. **(GB 091610-4) Treasurer's Report and Approval of monthly expenses.**

Moved by: Doug **Seconded by:** Gerald

Vote: Yes-, approved

Abstained: 1

Recusal: 0

Note:

V. Community Reports (3 minutes each)

Doug introduced other members of the city family.

a. **Office of Councilmember Wesson- Carlin (8:13pm)**

Carlin announced that the medians on Venice will be worked on in November and congratulated the Green Team for their work with the Hami Garden. She also invited all to the CD 10 "Ball."

Victor thanked Liz for the alerts she sent via e-mails.

b. **Office of Councilmember Koretz- David Giron (8:16pm);**

Giron introduced himself and stated it was his third week in CD 5. Although he did not have much to report, he invited all to sign up with the e-mailing list

c. **Office of the Mayor-Badger;**

Not represented

d. **Office of Senator Price-Bernal;**

Not represented, **Doug** announced the Red Ribbon week, Operation Gobble, and toy drive at African American Museum.

e. **Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) Report-Gonzalez (7:55pm);**

Officer Mario Gonzalez informed that a robbery took place at Guthrie and Garth, but the suspect was arrested within an hour of the crime. He is also investigating the allegations of narcotics sales at a local flower shop.

The picketing noise at the RCW has been curtailed by enforcement with help from the Labor Relations Unit. West LA officers have cited 8 picketers for noise violations under LAMC- Section 116.1. The citations were reviewed by the District Attorney, but charges would not be filed. The City Attorney is looking into the matter.

Officer Gonzalez added that the suspect and victim from the "Canfiled shooting" knew each other and does not believe the incidents will increase.

f. **Robertson Recreation Center-Williams;**

V. Committee Reports (2 minutes each)



- a. **Executive (XC)- Fitzsimmons;**
Doug reminded all of us to complete the ethics training.
- b. **Land Use & Economic Development (LUED)- Vacant Chair position;**
- c. **Education (EC)- Levine/Williams;**
- d. **Green Team (GT)- Waxman/Hess;**
Announced the Robertson Blvd. clean-up and the plastic bag ban.
- e. **Public Safety (PS)- Vacant Chair position;**
Michael had fliers printed out to disseminate to the community asking for Public Safety concerns so they can be addressed by the committee.

Doug requested info for the website

- f. **Outreach (OC)- Smith/Safinia;**
The Peace Picnic will be addressed at a later day. Kimber announced that the flier for the Town Hall will go out.

Doug asked all board members to help out with the flier distribution and lawn sign placement.

- g. **Ad Hoc (AHC)**
Victor will address the Mayor's Budget Day later.

Doug stated that for the up-coming Finance Committee meeting, the Committee Chairs need to be present to establish budget priorities.

VI. New Business

- a. **(GB102110-5) Motion to organize and fund (\$250) a 3 month Robertson Food Truck Night pilot program (Proposed by Gomes) (8:55pm);** Matt Geller with the Southern California Mobile Food Truck Vendors Association came to promote his organization.

Terry sees value in the food trucks to improve the Robertson strip. Paula asked if other business liked the idea.

Kimber suggested for the Robertson Ad Hoc Committee to take charge of the matter.

Brian likes the idea but wonders if \$250.00 would be enough for the plan.

Gehler stated that the Association will ensure clean-up and health issues like having portable restrooms will be taken care of. However, the event would have to be exclusively for caterers from the Association.

Alex believes that Hamilton High School students would like the idea. Although Campos Tacos is a popular restaurant, the trucks would offer some needed variety.

Bette believes the matter would be best handled by the Ad Hoc Committee first.

Gehler stated that Koretz's office has supported their efforts in the past.



Kimber suggested having coordination with other committees.

Moved by: Harold **Seconded by:** Michael.
Vote: Yes-14, no -3
Abstained: 0
Recusal: 0
Note:

b. **(GB102110-6) Motion to oppose the current development proposal at 2037 La Cienega Blvd. (Proposed by Gomes)(8:21pm);**

Terry reviewed the motion out-loud.

Mary Anne Anyuconis who lives on the east side of La Cienega and is part of "Neighbors United" east side of La Cienega, Pico to Kaiser, supports the development, but has concerns about narrow streets, and gridlock on La Cienega resulting from the development.

Anthony Kann owns property next to development and cited past issues of lack of homeless sleeping in vans parked in the empty parking lot and stench resulting from the homeless defecating on the grounds. Other groups come to empty lot and hang out and conduct in criminal activity. **Kann** Supports the development and believes it will attract ownership and increased property values. **Kann** has communicated the issues to the Senior Lead Officer, but the issues persist and the building would do away with the problems.

Anyuconis would like the project to be smaller in size.

Terry passed out artist renditions of a similar project to the board and cited statistics like; an increase of 314 additional trips a day; 568 trips a day total. 882 additional vehicles on La Cienega. **Terry** also mentioned that if the developer is not able to sell the condos, they would most likely be turned into apartments. **Terry** made clear that he is not against the project, but would like more input from the community.

Carlin mentioned that the investors were told by the zoning office to seek SORONC for advisement.

Gerald believed enough issues were raised and moved for a vote but was ignored.

Terry moved to table the motion; Michael seconded to table.

Doug moved to draft the letter.

Moved to a vote by: Bette **Seconded by:** Harold
Vote: Yes-8, No-8, **Not Approved.**
Abstained: 0
Recusal: Martin recused himself due to proximity to the development
Note: The letter to oppose will not be drafted.

c. **(GB102110-7) Motion to support the Beverlywood HOA traffic proposal (Proposed by Lynn)(9:11pm)**

Michael welcomed Scott Diamond from the Beverlywood Neighborhood Association.



Diamond stated that they have been actively working with the Public Safety Committee and working to resolve the issue for the last 18 months.

Gerald asked **Diamond** what the critical speed was, but the information was not available (based on traffic surveys, the critical speed is the average speed a vehicle travels on that particular roadway).

Doug stated that we do not want to pin neighborhoods against the neighborhoods on this matter.

Moved to a vote by: Harold **Seconded by:** Gerald
Vote: Yes-16, No-0
Abstained: 0
Recusal: 0
Note: Alex not present for this vote.

- d. **(GB102110-8) Motion to propose that CD5 reevaluate Motor Ave. traffic limits (Proposed by Lynn)(9:20pm);**
Greenstein added that he has been CD 5 as a Field Deputy; they do not want to turn neighborhood against neighborhood. Suggest this is not a “better” solution, but to also with the goal to move to Robertson and overland.

Doug stated that we do not want to pin neighborhoods against the neighborhoods.

Harold mentioned that Motor traffic relieved will bleed into Robertson

(Motion is to re-evaluate and not oppose caps)

Moved by: Joe **Seconded by:** Harold
Vote: Yes-17, approved
Abstained: 0
Recusal: 0
Note:

- e. **(GB091610-9) Motion to approve funding for the services of a stenographer at SORONC Board meetings (Proposed by Gomes)(9:40pm);**

Doug reviewed the motion.

Terry got quotes for \$81.00 per meeting with a total of \$650.00 if funded through June. The quote was from a city contractor.

Joe believes that the minutes do not need to be as detailed.

Barry believes it is not a good idea because it has been tried in the past.

Victor concerned about the price.

Gerald likes the idea because he would focus more on participating rather than just taking notes. However, the cost is also of concern to him and is now reconsidering the idea.

Martin suggested to record and just summarize it. Joe, been here

Moved for a vote by: Joe **Seconded by:** .Barry



Vote: Yes-5, No-8, Not Approved.

Abstained: 1

Recusal: 0

Note: Gerald abstained. Terry, Robyn, and Harold not present for this vote.

- f. **(GB102110-10) Motion to approve \$500 for SORO NC 2010 Town Hall expenses(Proposed by Fitzsimmons)(9:58pm);**

Doug mentioned the additional costs for signs other than the rental fee of \$700.00.

Gerald introduced the Parent Teacher Association President Cynthia and Secretary Lottie Williams. They will distribute fliers for the event and have agreed to provide child care.

Moved by: Joe **Seconded by:** .Martin

Vote: Yes-14, No-0, **Approved.**

Abstained: 0

Recusal: 0

Note: Terry, Harold, and Robyn not present for this vote.

- g. **(GB102110-11) Resolution to approve funding motions GB102110-5 and GB102110-10(Proposed by Fitzsimmons) (10:13pm).**

Doug proposes drafting a letter to say we passed the motions on the Food Truck and Town Hall.

Moved by: Brian **Seconded by:** .Bette

Vote: Yes-unanimous

Abstained: 0

Recusal: 0

Note:

- h. **(GB102110-12) Discussion and possible nomination of official rep(s) to the LA DWP Oversight Committee (10:15pm);**

Item tabled for sake of time.

Moved by: **Seconded by:**

Vote: Yes-

Abstained: 0

Recusal: 0

Note:

- i. **(GB091610-13) Discussion and possible nomination of official rep(s) to WRAC LU (10:18pm),**

Item tabled for sake of time.

Moved by: **Seconded by:**

Vote: Yes-

Abstained: 0

Recusal: 0

Note:

VII. Adjournment

Gerald moved, Martin 2nd, adjourned 10:12pm.



Board Vote Tally Sheet

Meeting: Thursday, October 21, 2010, 7:00pm
Hamilton Senior High School Cafeteria
2955 S. Robertson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90034

Y: yes | N: no | A: abstain | R: recusal | X: missed vote | T: motion tabled
Put a check next to Board members attending the meeting. Hyphen denotes a vacant seat.

Motion	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11	12	13	14	15
Rachel Lester	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	T	T		
Kimber Smith	Y	Y	A	A	N	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	T	T		
Harold Bock	Y	Y	A	A	Y	N	Y	Y	X	X	Y	T	T		
Robyn Braun	Y	Y	A	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	X	X	Y	T	T		
Bette Billet	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	T	T		
Michael Lynn	Y	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	T	T		
Nick Burkhart	X	X	A	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	T	T		
Joe Gjonola	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	T	T		
Paula Waxman	Y	Y	A	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	T	T		
Zone 10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brian Kite	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	T	T		
Nahed Guirguis	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	T	T		
Terry Gomes	Y	Y	X	X	Y	Y	Y	Y	X	X	X	T	T		
Ben Bellet	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	T	T		
Gerald Chavarria	Y	R	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	A	Y	Y	T	T		
Barry Levine	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	T	T		
Marj Safinia	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	T	T		
Martin Epstein	Y	Y	A	X	Y	R	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	T	T		
Business 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sue Burden	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	T	T		
Doug Fitzsimmons	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	T	T		
Victor Mitry	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	T	T		
Alexander Chavarria	X	X	A	Y	Y	N	X	Y	N	Y	Y	T	T		
School 2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Motions

01: Zone 7 appointment

02: School Seat 1 Appointment



- 03: Draft Minutes Approval (Sep/2010)
- 04: Treasure's Report Approval
- 05: Robertson Food Truck Pilot Program
- 06: Opposition to the Development Proposal
- 07: Support Beverlywood HOA Traffic
- 08: Motor Avenue Traffic Limit Review
- 09: Stenographer Funding
- 10: Town Hall Funding (\$500.00)
- 11: Resolution to Fund Motions 5 & 10
- 12: Oversight Committee Reps.
- 13: WRAC Reps.

Notes: