



# Draft General Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 16, 2010, 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 7:14 PM and introduced the guests and presenter.

**Board Members Present (16):** Rachel Lester, Harold Bock, Robyn Braun, Bette Billet, Michael Lynn, Brian Kite, Nahed Gurguis, Terry Gomes, Gerald Chavarria, Barry Levine, Martin Epstein, Sue Burden, Doug Fitzsimmons, Victor Mitry, Alexander Chavarria, Erick Morales.

**Board Members absent (5):** Kimber Smith, Nick Burkhart, Joe Gjonola, Paula Waxman, Marj Safinia

**Guests:** Elizabeth Carlin, David Giron, Kevin James, Jay King, Aldo and Zilda Scoz, Carolina Abrego-Pineda, Xochi Aguero, Cynthia Morales, Alexandra Navarro, Lottie Williams,

## II. General Public Comment (6 Minutes)

None

## III. Presentations (10 Minutes)

### a. Kevin James, KRLA Radio

James introduced himself and is here conducting a "tour" of the NC system and has made them a topic of discussion in his radio show. James believes that the NC system and all the coalition entities have been active in quality of life issues dealing with homelessness, land use and other issues specific to their individual NCs. Believes that perhaps one day, NCs can actually have policy-making powers such as choosing department commissioners.

James's background includes talk radio and has served as chairman of AIDS Project Los Angeles.

E-mail: [heykevinjames@aol.com](mailto:heykevinjames@aol.com)

## IV. Board Seat Election (15 Minutes)

### a. (GB 121610-1) School Seat 2 Candidates; Gary Garcia & Erick Morales

Gary withdrew his nomination and Erick was unopposed at the start of the meeting. Doug raised the issue over the fact that per DONE rules, Board members less than (18) years of age are prohibited from voting on motions dealing with contracts and funding.

Erick is a sophomore at Hamilton High School; he made a statement and then answered a slew of questions from the Board.

**Moved by:** Harold **Seconded by:** Robyn  
**Vote:** Yes-15, No-0, Approved; Erick elected.  
**Abstained:** 6

Doug Fitzsimmons  
President

Brian Kite  
Vice-President

Gerald Chavarria  
Secretary

Terrence Gomes  
Treasurer

South Robertson  
Neighborhoods Council

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**Recusal:** 0

**Note:** SORONC now has (3) Board members under the age of (18).

#### **IV. Old Business (10 Minutes)**

**a. (GB 121610-2) Draft General Board Meeting Minutes of November 18, 2010.**

Doug was responsible for the Minutes from the November meeting as Gerald was not present last month. Some minor grammatical corrections were made.

**Moved by:** Harold **Seconded by:** Michael

**Vote:** Yes-11, No-0, Approved.

**Abstained:** 5

**Recusal:**

**Note:** Doug will ensure the approved November Minutes will be posted.

**b. (GB 121610-3) Treasurer's report and vote to approve monthly expenses.**

Terry reported on the various expenses since the last meeting.

**Moved by:** Bette **Seconded by:** Gerald

**Vote:** Yes-11, No-0, Approved; Erick elected.

**Abstained:** 5

**Recusal:**

**Note:**

#### **VI. Community Reports (20 minutes-3 Minutes)**

**LAPD Report;**

LAPD Senior Lead Officer Mario Gonzalez, Basic Car 8A59, cited some street robberies involved adolescent suspects who have been seen riding "Razor" scooters; crimes have been rising.

Terry informed Officer Gonzalez that he is aware of a witness to one of the robberies and the Captain (Nathan) has been told of, but the witness has not been contacted. Gonzalez will look into the lead.

Bette asked Officer Gonzalez if he would send the information of crime stats to the Reynier Village community so they can be on the look-out.

Officer Gonzalez also cited budgetary constraints in fingerprint-analysis delays.

**Office of Councilmember Wesson.;**

Elizabeth Carlin representing the Councilmember's office thanked the SORO Board for the civility and dedication in working for the community. Carlin also informed of the new City Ordinance prohibiting new fast food restaurant building near an existing one. A new Inn-n-out restaurant will be coming up.

Carlin also informed that the winter wonderland, will be taking place where a thousand kids are expected. Volunteers for the event have to be High School-aged. Regarding the parking leasing issue, Carlin will get back to the Board on the answer.

**Office of Councilmember Koretz.**

David Giron representing the Councilmember reminded us that donating blood is important. Giron also informed that a list of communities Koretz is involved with is available.

Giron asked all to forward questions regarding the "P3" parking issue to Eric Norton who is directly involved with that issue; [eric.norton@lacity.org](mailto:eric.norton@lacity.org). Per Giron, Koretz is in favor of the City retaining management of the facilities.



**Office of the Mayor;**  
Not represented.

**Office of Senator Price;**  
Not represented.

**Robertson Recreation Center;**  
Not represented.

## **VII. Committee Reports (15 Minutes-2 Minutes Each)**

### **Executive Committee**

Doug checked out the Emergency Notification Plan. How to get the word out. Brian asked how it works in their NC, found templates. Brian is working on drafting a preliminary emergency plan of sorts for when there is a shooting or other emergency. The business cards sheet was distributed and Doug will place the order before the end of year.

Doug reminded the Board to complete the ethics training on-line. Alexander will send an ethics training completion certificate to Doug.

### **Land Use.**

Terry informed that the Museum of Tolerance, Simon Wiesenthal Center (through efforts from Sue Burden), has allowed for the Land Use Committee to meet there regularly (technically, the Center is just outside the SORO-NC boundaries).

### **Education;**

Barry informed us on the SKATCH program which currently has 9 volunteers and 15 children. A proposal has been submitted to use \$150 to feed the kids every other month. Shenandoah is looking into starting a garden. Terry stated that SORONC had funded a garden in the past. Lottie Williams with the PTA stated that they do have a garden. Barry will meet with folks shortly to discuss that issue. Fresh Fruit on Fridays will continue.

Lottie said the garden is still there. Terry interested in finding out what happened to the original garden. The SKATCH program has 9 students and 15 volunteers.

**Green Team;**  
Nothing to add.

### **Public Safety;**

Michael invited Senior Lead Officer Ragsdale to the meeting which focused on beefing up the Neighborhood watches throughout SORO NC. Michael invited everyone to attend the upcoming Safety meeting on Monday Jan 10<sup>th</sup>. Gerald added that Larry Bogatz from Battalion 18 CERT will be spearheading a CERT "Neighborhood Team Program which will not require volunteers to take the entire CERT course. Gerald added that this CERT idea would be great to incorporate it into the Neighborhood Watch program and will keep the Board updated.

**Outreach;**  
No meeting this month.

### **Ad Hoc;**

Doug stated that the Bylaws will be reviewed and new templates will be incorporated and asked all Board members to review the draft by-laws when distributed to expedite the approval process.



No news about the DWP meetings, but Terry announced that DWP wants people to show up. Bette volunteered to keep the board apprised of any updates regarding the MOU committee.

## **VI. New Business (90 Minutes)**

### **a. (GB 121610-4) Motion to send a letter to PLUM regarding proposed project at 3146 Halm Ave.**

Terry introduced Carolina Pineda who is representing Aldo Scoz who owns the property at 3146 south Halm. Mr. Aldo Scoz who was also present, wants to “legalize” the property from a four unit to a six unit building

The variance request is to allow the six units of 900 sq. feet in lieu of 1100 sq. feet and extra parking spaces. The property is adjacent to a commercial building on Venice Blvd. Every unit will have their own parking space. The owner has collected over 50 signatures without opposition from the neighbors.

Joy King from “Women for Wesson” also came in support for the project because the property allows for affordable living for low income families.

The property owner’s daughter, Zilda Scoz, informed the board that the City had lost the blueprints and wants to simply have the property be up to code as a six unit building.

**Moved by:** Harold **Seconded by:** Bette  
**Vote:** Yes-16, No-0, Approved; Unanimous  
**Abstained:** 0  
**Recusal:** 0  
**Note:**

### **b. (GB 121610-5) Motion to oppose billboard installation at 9080 W. Pico Blvd Pico Blvd. and Canfield Ave.)**

Terry mentioned that we (SORONC) did not get noticed over the proposal for the billboard which would go up at the Chase bank. The motion was tabled.

**Moved by:** **Seconded by:**  
**Vote:** None  
**Abstained:** 0  
**Recusal:** 0  
**Note:**

### **c. (GB 121610-6) Discussion of City’s proposed 50-year lease of City parking garages.**

Many points were raised by Board members:

Brian announced that many residents in Westwood are against the proposal. Westwood garage has helped that area. WRAC and Westwood have a petition drive.

Giron stated that the item was pulled from the City Council agenda; Koretz is against the leasing of the garages.

Kevin James added the economic issue example of Chicago, where it has been detrimental for the business owners due to increased rates.

Gerald raised the point of private parking lots in collusion with bandit tow companies in illegally towing cars from City lots. Gerald sees it as open the doors on this sort of criminality.



Kevin added that other meetings that no NC will support this idea.

Doug asks the Land Use to take the issue up in committee, Gerald asked Liz and David of the possibility of bringing statistical data showing a nexus between parking lots who are bidding for the leases and illegal towing complaints.

d. **(GB 121610-7) Nomination of official representatives to SORO Incorporated**

Doug asked for volunteers to be SORO Inc. rep. Bette mentioned that Kimber had already volunteered; Motion withdrawn.

e. **(GB 121610-8) Discussion and Nomination of official representatives to WRAC Preparedness Committee**

Doug asked for volunteers to be reps for the committee. No dates are determined yet for the meetings. Doug nominated Gerald who accepted the nomination.

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

**Vote:** Yes-16, No-0, Approved; Unanimous

**Abstained:**

**Recusal:**

**Note:**

## **VII. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55pm.



# Board Vote Tally Sheet

Meeting: Thursday, December 16, 2010, 7:00pm  
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Y: yes |N: no |A: abstain |R: recusal |T: tabled| D: discussion  
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
Rachel Lester	Y	Y	A	Y	T	D	D	Y							
Kimber Smith	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X							
Harold Bock	Y	Y	Y	Y	T	D	D	Y							
Robyn Braun	Y	A	Y	Y	T	D	D	Y							
Bette Billet	Y	Y	Y	Y	T	D	D	Y							
Michael Lynn	Y	Y	Y	Y	T	D	D	Y							
Nick Burkhart	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X							
Joe Gjonola	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X							
Paula Waxman	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X							
Zone 10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brian Kite	Y	Y	Y	Y	T	D	D	Y							
Nahed Guirguis	Y	Y	Y	Y	T	D	D	Y							
Terry Gomes	Y	A	Y	Y	T	D	D	Y							
Ben Bellet	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X							
Gerald Chavarria	Y	A	A	Y	T	D	D	Y							
Barry Levine	Y	Y	Y	Y	T	D	D	Y							
Marj Safinia	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X							
Martin Epstein	Y	Y	Y	Y	T	D	D	Y							
Business 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sue Burden	Y	A	A	Y	T	D	D	Y							
Doug Fitzsimmons	Y	Y	Y	Y	T	D	D	Y							
Victor Mitry	Y	Y	A	Y	T	D	D	Y							
Alexander Chavarria	Y	Y	Y	Y	T	D	D	Y							
Erick Morales	X	A	A	Y	T	D	D	Y	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

## Motions



- 01:** School Seat Election
- 03:** Approve Treasurer's Report
- 05:** Opposition to Billboard Installation
- 07:** Nomination of SORO Inc. Rep

- 02:** Approve November Minutes
- 04:** Letter of Support to PLUM
- 06:** Discussion of Parking Leasing
- 08:** Rep- WRAC Preparedness Committee