

South Robertson (SORO) Neighborhoods Council

SORO Neighborhoods Council
P.O. Box 35836
LOS ANGELES, CA 90035
TELEPHONE: 310-295-9920
Fax: 310-295-9906
www.soronc.org



A Certified City of Los Angeles Neighborhood Council

Victoria Karan
President
Jon Liberman
Vice President
Ann Hammond
Secretary
Terrence Gomes
Treasurer

DRAFT General Meeting Minutes July 9, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. Hamilton Senior High School 2955 S. Robertson Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90034

I. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Victoria Karan.

Board members present: Christine Aghassi, Brian Bergman, Bette Billet, Robyn Braun, Susan Burden, Daniel Fink, Doug Fitzsimmons, Terrence Gomes, Anne Gross, Nahed Guirguis, Victoria Karan, Barry E. Levine, Jon Liberman, Roy Nwaiser, Marjan Safinia, Sandra Willard

Board members absent: Harold Boch, Gary Garcia, Ann Hammond, Diane Hirsch-Garcia, Gina LaBeaud, Linda Rosen

Guests present: Jennifer Badger, Elizabeth Carlin, Brooke Powers, Barry Stone, Phil Brown, Adeena Bleich, Joey Freeman, Rick Kirkbride, Robert Schwartz, Elizabeth Swanson, Raymond, Officer Mario Gonzalez, Officer Matt Kirk

The LAPD report was moved up to accommodate Officer Gonzalez's schedule:

Senior Lead Officer (SLO) Gonzalez gave the LAPD report. While there has been a series of home invasion robberies on the West Side, in the South Robertson area, things have calmed down since school let out. There have been no cell phone robberies or other similar crimes. There has been the usual number of car break-ins, so as usual, LAPD advises people to keep valuables out of sight. Officer Matt Kirk, SLO for West Los Angeles, was with Officer Gonzalez.

II. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Raymond had two announcements: The Lotus Festival will be taking place the weekend of July 11th, starting Friday the 11th at 5:00 P.M. and concluding Sunday, July 13th at 8:30 p.m. This is the 31st anniversary of the Festival, which takes place at Echo Park Lake. The Department of

Recreation and Parks is sponsoring. For more information, see www.laparks.org and click on the Lotus Festival icon. Second, Sunday, August 17th, will be the 68th annual Nisei Week Parade, held at the conclusion of Nisei Week, a nine-day festival that will highlight Japanese and Japanese-American culture. The parade starts at 5:00 p.m. and will travel through Little Tokyo. For further information, see www.pageantryproductions.com and click on Nisei Week.

Phil Brown, an architect and urban designer, addressed the Board about his concerns and plans regarding transportation issues in the Los Angeles basin. He said that, in his view, the city has no kind of overall strategy, as evidenced by the fact that there is no transportation planning division within the Department of Transportation. Instead, planning was transferred to L.A. County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, which only focuses on the issues of commuters. He said that, given the onslaught of development within the basin, unless some sort of planning is done, transportation problems already plaguing the city are going to get worse.

He brought a map to illustrate his suggestions--ringing the central basin with improved vehicular and rail routes. Residential areas would be left alone. For example, he said the subway should go down Santa Monica Boulevard, not Wilshire. He said he would like to come back next month and give a fifteen-minute Power Point presentation with more detailed plans. Vikki suggested that he talk to Brian regarding doing his presentation at Land Use first. Doug suggested that the Public Safety committee should also be involved.

Adeena Bleich announced she is running for the 5th District Council seat that will be vacated by Jack Weiss.

III. READING OF THE MINUTES AND APPROVAL

Sandra moved to approve draft minutes of the General Meeting of June 11, 2008 with Marj seconding. **Vote: 15 -Y; 1-A. Minutes approved.**

IV. ADVISORY REPORTS

- a. **Office of Speaker of the House Karen Bass:** Jenny Wood was not present to give a report. Victoria noted our agendas need to be changed to reflect Assemblymember Bass's title of Speaker of the House.
- b. **Office of Councilmember Jack Weiss (CD-5):** Field Deputy Jennifer Badger reported that she has been getting phone calls from concerned residents regarding the rash of home invasions on the West Side. She sent a notice containing information about the situation to the Be The Change list. With regards to Linda Rosen's issue of businesses putting merchandise out on the street, Jennifer has been in contact with the Street Use department within the Bureau of Street Services regarding code enforcement; unfortunately, the money for doing sweeps has been cut. Therefore, individual locations will have to be reported and investigated. In addition, the city will be changing its policy regarding fee waivers for special events. Previously, fees for non-profit organizations were waved; this will no longer be the case. However, the full policy has not been finalized. Terry asked if the SORO Festival will have to pay the higher fee, but Jennifer wasn't sure. Each district may be given a certain 'credit' in fee waivers, which

can be allocated to events as the district sees fit. This policy will also affect farmers' markets, which have historically received the waivers. She also brought flyers regarding community beautification grants.

- c. **Office of Councilmember Herb Wesson (CD-10):** Councilmember Herb Wesson's Aide Liz Carlin was not yet at the meeting during the Advisory Reports. Her report is summarized between New Business and Committee Reports.
- d. **DONE:** Barry Stone was also not at the meeting yet; his report also comes between New Business and Committee Reports.

V. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

- a. **President's Report:** Victoria reported that the committees were given the 'Top Ten List' of goals, as announced at the June meeting, resulting from the Board member survey/goals meeting. They are being discussed within the committees in terms of implementation. There will be more discussion of the goals at the next Executive meeting. Executive meetings will be taking place on the third Tuesday of every month.
- b. **Treasurer's Report:** Terrence reported that, due to the NC's budget being in limbo, we have \$36. Once the SORO NC's budget is approved at this meeting, we'll have \$62,200. Barry asked if, during this limbo period, the credit card can be used. Terry said yes, but that nothing needs to be purchased--the T-shirts for RAL have been paid for.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- a. **Revisions to budget 2007-2008 (Lieberman) - Motion GB070908-2.** Jon moved that the Board approve the revised budget. Barry Levine seconded. **Vote: Unanimous. Motion passed/Budget approved.**
- b. **Adoption of budget 2008-2009 (Lieberman) - Motion GB070908-3.** Nahed asked for verification that funding for the Peace Picnic is included in this budget. Jon confirmed it is under the Public Safety allocations. Jon moved that the Board approve the 2008-2009 budget. Victoria seconded. **Vote: 15-Y; 1-N; 0-A. Motion passed/Budget approved.**
- c. **Modification of Summer RAL Program to expand items the NC will pay for (Lieberman) - Motion GB07098-4.** The purpose of this motion is to build more flexibility into the funding for the program in the nature of a block grant that can pay for whatever items are needed. Brooke Powers of the Robertson Recreation Center reported that the program started on Monday, the 8th. There will be six buses instead of five, and the program will go for eight weeks. The first day eight kids signed up, but by today, that number has increased to twenty-two. Bette gave a special thank you to Jon and Brooke for getting the program going. She also asked about the \$5,000 evaluation that had been done on the program, and whether the findings could be applied to the new program and therefore allow for outside funding opportunities. (Barry Stone enters at this point). Brooke replied that she thinks the real world success of the program will do more to encourage funding than the evaluation. Robyn asked Brooke if she's actually reviewed the evaluation, as Robyn felt the study wasn't particularly thorough and was skewed in

favor of the program. Brooke had gone over the program, and agreed--there isn't enough detail and it's not very useful in terms of garnering grants and other outside funding. Robyn also asked that, if any other surveys on the program are done, the NC has a chance to review them so that the problems that have been encountered with the current evaluation can be avoided in future. **Vote: 13-Y; 0-N; 2-A. Motion passed.**

VII. NEW BUSINESS

(Motion GB070908-09 was advanced to accommodate the attendance of Elizabeth Swanson).

- a. **Motion to approve Elizabeth Swanson as co-chair of the Land Use and Economic Development Committee (Bergman) - Motion GB070909-09.** Brian briefly discussed his desire to have a co-chair and introduced Liz, who greeted the Board. Christine moved to approve. Bette seconded. **Vote: 15-Y; 0-N; 1-A. Motion passed.**
- b. **Motion to create a "consent calendar" system for passage of motions at the General Board meetings (Bergman) - Motion GB070908-05.** Brian explained how the consent calendar works--at the start of the meeting, all of the motions would be part of the consent calendar. Motions in this consent package do not need any discussion before a vote. Unless a board member or community member feels that an item should be discussed and requests the removal of that item, the entire package is voted on at once without any additional explanations or comments. There was an enormous amount of discussion regarding this matter. Doug clarified that either Board members or stakeholders can ask for an item to be removed from the calendar at any time. Roy said he thought there are some gaps in the Board's voting methods not covered in the bylaws. In addition, Roy said he thought the consent calendar should not be incorporated into the bylaws; rather, it should be a procedure.

Terry had some concerns that if a stakeholder asked for a motion to be pulled from the calendar, the Board could then table it rather than discuss; however, the NC already has the ability to table motions, and has been doing so. Terry also asked Barry Stone about votes for motions--doesn't the Board have to vote, rather than merely announce motions as being passed, as the consent calendar procedure seems to indicate? Terry suggested that the entire block of consent calendar motions require one roll call vote. Christine indicated she was uncomfortable with the idea, as she thinks the public will find it confusing, and that it may limit the fullness of discussion that naturally evolves. Bette agreed with Christine, feeling the consent calendar would undermine the public service aspect of the NC. Victoria said she supported the consent calendar, as there are many motions that come before the Board that don't require discussion. Doug felt the consent calendar procedure could be interactive, as the President would inquire about each motion remaining on or being removed from the consent calendar as the new business part of the agenda was covered. Marj stated that it is incumbent on the Board to do their homework and read the motions in advance. She also asked if there could be a trial run of the consent calendar before including it in the bylaws. After more discussion of whether using the consent calendar would allow a proper level of discussion, Terry stated that if we are to use the consent calendar, all the motions must be sent to the Be The Change list, so the public knows what would be discussed at a meeting. Roy again recommended that the Board create a set of meeting procedures, rather than

incorporating them into the bylaws, but Victoria reminded him that the previous, ever-amended set of procedures became confusing to the Board and public, and ultimately no one knew what the proper ones were. Roy suggested that any set of procedures be posted, so that Board members and stakeholders will be aware of them. Seeing the level of discussion the issue was creating, Brian moved to table it. **Motion tabled.**

- c. **Motion to provide the President with the power to provide in-meeting legal and bylaw interpretations (Bergman) - Motion GB070908-6.** Brian made a change to the wording of the motion. In the last sentence, "If the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office notifies the President that an interpretation was made in error, the President shall act to correct the effect of the original bylaw interpretation to the extent possible", the phrase after "error" shall read, "recommend to the Board how SORO NC shall correct the effect of the original bylaw interpretation to the extent possible." Terry asked: shouldn't this job be done by the Parliamentarian? The problem is, once the motion to negate all guidelines and procedures apart from the bylaws was passed, the position of Parliamentarian was eliminated. However, Doug said that, because the Board elected a Parliamentarian, that position still stands. Victoria asked about the definition of the Parliamentarian's job, and Brian responded that there is no description now in the bylaws. Roy suggested that bylaw 7.7 be amended to state that any time a non-executive position is created, a job description must be included. Doug suggested we also vote in a backup Parliamentarian. Vikki agreed with this. Brian agreed to amend the motion to change all mentions of "President" to "Parliamentarian, or member of the Board acting as the Parliamentarian at the meeting". Vikki moved to approve this amendment, Marj seconded, and the amendment was approved. Vikki moved to approve the motion, Doug seconded. **Vote: 15-Y; 1-N; 0-A. Because a bylaws amendment requires a 2/3 vote of the Board, it was determined that of 22 Board members, 16 would be needed to pass this motion. Motion did not pass.**
- d. **Motion to provide the President with the power to control discussion during Board meetings (Bergman) - Motion GB070908-7.** Given the outcome of Motion GB070908-6, Brian deduced this would not have sufficient votes to pass and tabled it. **Motion tabled.**
- e. **Motion to simplify food ordering for the General Board Meeting (Safinia) - Motion GB070908-10.** Marj stated that the impetus for this motion comes from the fact that the local restaurants are amused/annoyed by the NC requesting a spread for twenty-five-plus people for only a cost of \$100, and don't want to be bothered. Furthermore, the task of paying for/picking up the food is onerous for Terry. Vikki inquired about the mention of pizza in the motion--does that mean there will be pizza at every meeting? Marj replied that pizza is easy to order, transport, etc. Vikki also wanted to know if drinks, plates and napkins will be provided. She also asked that the NC support a local business, as opposed to a chain. Jon suggested we try to work something out with Dolce Isola, the Ivy bakery, a notion, which while appealing, was quickly quashed due to financial impracticality. Discussion ensued regarding the 'showcase' aspect of the monthly food selection, as part of the problem is that the restaurants feel they're being taken advantage of, not showcased. Terry noted that when he picks up the food, the managers don't have cards, menus, etc., as part of the package, so that the restaurant can be showcased. Adeena mentioned that the Sherman Oaks Homeowners Association allocates a full hour prior to each meeting for a restaurant to provide food, talk about its

menu, etc. Robyn suggested perhaps the restaurant-of-the-month could be mentioned on the website. Marj reminded the Board that the purpose of this motion is to simplify the meal situation, not make it more elaborate. Christine added that she and Marj, as the Outreach co-chairs, are working to get the merchants more involved with the NC, but at this point, our meetings are not heavily attended, and the current meal process is annoying and difficult. Better we revisit the matter when relationships have been established. Terry was of the belief that the motion was unnecessary because the meal 'showcase' time frame had timed out, but Vikki reminded him that a second motion had been passed that was still in effect. Barry moved to approve the motion and Terry seconded. **Vote: 15-Y; 1-N; 0-A. Motion passed.**

- f. **Motion to fund up to \$300 for a SORO NC retreat (Safinia) - Motion GB070908-11.** Sandra asked Marj to confirm that there will be some educational aspect to this retreat, in the sense of a review of the duties and responsibilities of Board members. Marj said that this would be a small component, and that the Brown Act requirements would be reviewed as well. Jon asked if there would be a facilitator, and Marj confirmed that an 'improvisational' facilitator would lead the retreat. The cost breakdown would be \$250 for the facilitator and \$50 for food. Robyn objected to the specific time frame of "half a day", stating that the retreat should take as long as need be. Marj agreed to remove this phrase. Barry asked who the facilitator would be, and Marj replied it is someone she knows. Vikki moved to approve the motion and Roy seconded. **Vote: 15-Y; 0-N; 1-A; Motion passed.** (Bette Billet leaves at this point).
- g. **Motion for SORO NC to formally oppose the passage of Proposition 8, which seeks to reverse the California Supreme Court's decision permitting gay and lesbian marriage (Fitzsimmons) - Motion GB070908-12.** Doug reviewed the Supreme Court decision and the specifics of the motion. While the NC has no power to overrule this initiative, it does affect stakeholders, and Doug felt NC should take a stand. The Silver Lake NC has already taken a position against it; SORO would be the second NC to do so. Doug cited the mission of the NC, to address matters affecting the social well-being of the community. It is important to protect the rights of minority populations. Liz Carlin spoke on behalf of herself personally, to say that as an openly gay person, she urges the NC to approve this motion. Vikki noted that when she was in law school, she focused on gay rights. There are close to 2,000 federal rights that married couples have which same sex couples currently do not. Terry voiced an objection to part two of the motion, which opposed the inclusion of Proposition 8 on the ballot, as he feels that California's initiative process is part of the democratic system, and people should have the right to vote on those items that make it to the ballot. Doug clarified that the reason why the initiative should be opposed is because it is more than a simple piece of legislation; it seeks to restructure the state constitution, and should therefore require a 2/3 approval from each legislative house before being submitted to the voters. Roy, while stating his support of equal rights for all, felt that making judgments on constitutional law is not the role of a neighborhood council. Jon, while disgusted by Proposition 8, also had concerns about the NC approving this motion, as our stand would have no effect on the passage or non-passage of the initiative. Christine reviewed her background working on initiative campaigns and discussed the evolution of Proposition 5. She agreed with Terry that part two should be removed--the courts have not decided whether or not to hear the lawsuit related to Proposition 8, so that portion is not relevant. She also felt that

we have no information about how our stakeholders feel about this issue, and reminded the group that Proposition 22, a 'defense of marriage' act, passed in California by a large majority. She is not in favor of the NC taking a political position on issues that don't directly affect our stakeholders. Rather, we should encourage our stakeholders to become engaged in the process and exercise their own political rights. Robyn, while in favor of Proposition 8, also felt that we are supposed to represent the South Robertson community, and shouldn't be telling stakeholders what their position should be. Vikki noted that, historically, change (for example, the civil rights movement) is pushed through even though the majority isn't necessarily behind it. She feels the NC should be bold and push boundaries, not shy away from controversy. Barry Levin also felt it behooved the NC to take a moral position. Christine asked Doug to strike paragraph two, and Doug agreed. Doug moved to approve the motion and Vikki seconded.

Vote: 8-Y; 2-N; 5-A. Motion passed.

VII. ADDITIONAL ADVISORY REPORTS

DONE - Barry Stone reminded the Board about the beautification grant forms being available. There will also be another Board orientation in August. He also needs an up-to-date roster for the NC with all of the new members' information.

CD 10 - Liz Carlin congratulated everyone on the resumption of the RAL program. There will be a beautification grant workshop coming up. Also, July 26th will be the first Movies In The Park event, sponsored by CD10. Councilman Wesson came up with the idea and during the process of looking for venues, stated his desire to go to Reynier Park first, based on his pleasure on what SORO NC has been doing with regards to the sponsorship of RAL and development of the SORO Walks At Seven program. The first movie in the series will be "The Neverending Story" and hot dogs and popcorn will be served. The cost will run between \$700 and \$1,000 and CD 10 is asking the NC to make a contribution towards this. Outreach will handle the matter. Also, Terry asked about the supergraphic banner for "Journey to the Center of the Earth" on the building next to the freeway offramp. Liz replied that Building and Safety has been contacted.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. **By-Laws:** The most recent meeting had produced a series of motions from Doug and Brian. Doug could not bring his before the Board at this meeting because they had not been accurately described in the Bylaws agenda. Bylaws will meet on the third Thursday of the month.
- b. **Education:** Barry reported that the last meeting was attended by himself and Michele Wytko. Michele would like the NC to provide funding to extend the Beyond the Bell program at Shenandoah Elementary by half a hour. Barry needs to talk to the principal, which he will do in August. Also, there are free afterschool programs at Crescent Heights Elementary and Castle Heights Elementary.

- c. **Green Team:** Vikki reported that she has not heard back from the possible Green Team Chair candidate. It may be time to brainstorm to come up with another possibility.
- d. **Land Use:** Brian reported that, at the last meeting, people from City Planning came to talk about the ongoing work revising the community plan. A working group has been formed to look into the idea of creating a dog park or skate park in the area. If anyone is interested in working on this, contact Brian or Liz.
- e. **Outreach:** Marj reported that, at the last meeting, there was a discussion about how to increase the interest factor at the general meetings, and avoid getting bogged down in discussing minutiae about procedures, or other topics which the public finds less than riveting. Also, they are still working with AAA Flag & Banner to get the street banners up, but AAA keeps filling out the forms incorrectly. For the Movies in the Park evening, Marj would like to have the Ask Me table set up and asked for volunteers to work it.
- f. **Public Safety:** Jon announced that the intersection at Whitworth and Wooster will be getting a four-way stop sign in two weeks, based on his efforts and a passionate letter submitted by Vikki. There is a Park Advisory Board meeting on July 3rd. The Peace Picnic will be on September 21st, and volunteers are needed to work on the committee. A chair is needed as well. The next meeting for that group is July 30th. Summer basketball registration is going on, as well as sign-up for summer camp. The next Public Safety meeting will be dedicated to more discussion of how to get better graffiti abatement in our area.
- g. **Ad hoc Inter-NC Committee:** Doug wondered if someone else would like to chair this.

X. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Last printed 8/11/08 8:49 AM

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PROPOSAL BY: Doug Fitzsimmons on behalf of the Bylaws Committee
DATE: August 13, 2008
TITLE: Motion to amend Bylaws Article XII to clarify the Grievance process

SUMMARY: The motion seeks to amend the SORONC bylaws to clarify the Grievance Panel meeting notices and establish a process for Board response to Panel recommendations.

FULL PROPOSAL: As shown by recent history, the current Bylaws do not clearly delineate whether Grievance Panel meetings are private or open to the public; whether Board members may attend Panel meetings; and how the Board should respond to the Panel's recommendations. Further, the language about Board discussion is unclear, seeming to simultaneously prohibit all discussion and allow limited discussion as pursuant to the Brown Act.

This Motion seeks to resolve those issues and require that the Board respond to Panel recommendations by assigning Committees to make concrete recommendations for change.

Note that per Article XIV, section 14.2, any amendment of the bylaws requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the total number of actual board members, and is subject to approval by DONE.

Pro	Con
The new language makes Panel meetings open to the public and run in accordance to the Brown Act.	Open meetings may discourage frank discussion of the issues.
A response to Panel recommendations is guaranteed by requiring Committees to report back to the Board.	The Panel's report may not include recommendations (particularly if they find no merit to the complaint), yet the Board is obligated to assign Committees nevertheless.
The new language allows for Brown Act-compliant discussion prior to the Board meeting, which enables both faster Board action and a more thoughtful response.	

MOTION for the Board's consideration:

- To amend Article XII, section 12.1.2 of the current SORONC bylaws to read as follows:

The Secretary will coordinate a time and place for the panel to meet with the STAKEHOLDER(s) who submitted the grievance to discuss ways in which the dispute may be resolved. The Grievance Panel meeting will be open to the public and noticed like any regular COUNCIL meeting.

2. To amend Article XII, section 12.2 of the current SORONC bylaws to read as follows:

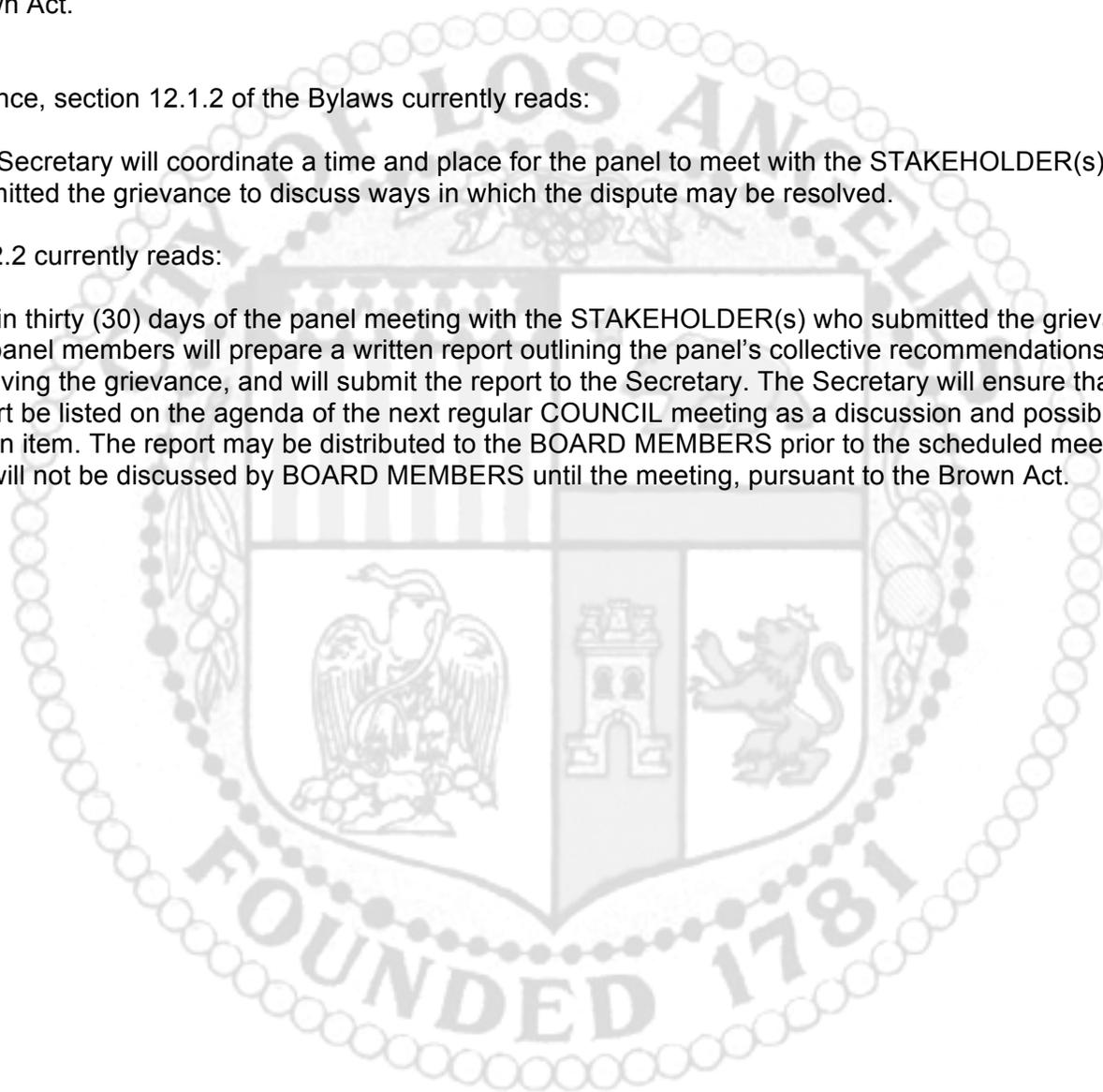
Within thirty (30) days of the panel meeting with the STAKEHOLDER(s) who submitted the grievance, the panel members will prepare a written report outlining the panel's collective recommendations for resolving the grievance, and will submit the report to the Secretary. The Secretary will ensure that the report be listed on the agenda of the next regular COUNCIL meeting for discussion and referral to appropriate committees. The COMMITTEES will report back to the BOARD with recommendations for BOARD consideration. The report must be distributed to the BOARD MEMBERS 72 hours prior to the scheduled meeting. All BOARD discussion prior to the meeting will conducted in accordance with the Brown Act.

For reference, section 12.1.2 of the Bylaws currently reads:

The Secretary will coordinate a time and place for the panel to meet with the STAKEHOLDER(s) who submitted the grievance to discuss ways in which the dispute may be resolved.

Section 12.2 currently reads:

Within thirty (30) days of the panel meeting with the STAKEHOLDER(s) who submitted the grievance, the panel members will prepare a written report outlining the panel's collective recommendations for resolving the grievance, and will submit the report to the Secretary. The Secretary will ensure that the report be listed on the agenda of the next regular COUNCIL meeting as a discussion and possible action item. The report may be distributed to the BOARD MEMBERS prior to the scheduled meeting, but will not be discussed by BOARD MEMBERS until the meeting, pursuant to the Brown Act.



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PROPOSAL BY: Doug Fitzsimmons on behalf of the Bylaws Committee
DATE: August 13, 2008
TITLE: Motion to amend the Bylaws to allow for informational Stakeholder communication from Action Committees

SUMMARY: The motion seeks to amend the SORONC bylaws to remove restrictions on incidental communication from the Action Committee to Stakeholders.

FULL PROPOSAL: The current Bylaws severely restrict Action Committees from communicating with Stakeholders. As they are written now, even informational postings on the website would require Board approval – a situation clearly at odds with the NC’s mandate of open communication.

Note that per Article XIV, section 14.2, any amendment of the bylaws requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the total number of actual board members, and is subject to approval by DONE.

Pro	Con
The new language allows for informational communications while still prohibiting Committees from taking official stands without Board approval.	By allowing Committees to distribute information, the motion does not prevent inappropriate, incorrect or offensive communication by a Committee.
The proposed changes remove the sweeping prohibition on all information and written communications.	

MOTION for the Board’s consideration:

- To amend Article XI, section 11.7.1 of the current SORONC bylaws to read as follows:

The ACTION COMMITTEES have the authority to select and remove a chairperson to oversee the committee subject to approval by the BOARD. They may also convene meetings and investigate concerns. They shall not represent an official COUNCIL position without prior BOARD approval.

For reference, section 11.7.1 of the Bylaws currently reads:

The ACTION COMMITTEES have the authority to select and remove a chairperson to oversee the committee subject to approval by the BOARD. They may also convene meetings and investigate concerns. They may not distribute information, flyers, or any other written communication or represent the COUNCIL without an approval process determined by the BOARD.

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PROPOSAL BY: By Law Committee (Presenter: Doug Fitzsimmons)
DATE: Aug 13, 2008
TITLE: Proposal re changing position of Parliamentarian to that of Parliamentarian/Sergeant-at-Arms
SUMMARY: At the July 16th By Law Committee meeting, consideration was given to changing the duties of this position to add the responsibility for being Sergeant-at-Arms to the position.

FULL PROPOSAL: To change the position of Parliamentarian to that of Parliamentarian/Sergeant-at-Arms. To increase the size of the Executive Committee from 4 to 5 by adding the position as a voting member of the Executive Committee. In view of the change in responsibilities the incumbent (Parliamentarian) may or may not wish to function in the restructured position. Additionally, other Board members may be interested in the position. Therefore, if the motion is adopted, there should be an election for the revised position at the September meeting.

PROS AND CONS, as expressed in committee meetings:

Pro: The skill set is similar and this change permits someone to be responsible for making sure that our meetings are run according to our procedures.	Con: Increased workload for person in the position
Pro: Broadens the expertise on the Executive committee as regards our By Laws and procedures.	Con:
Pro:.	Con:
Pro:	Con:

MOTION for the Board's consideration, as proposed by the By Law Committee

- To change the position of Parliamentarian to that of Parliamentarian/Sergeant-at-Arms. To increase the size of the Executive Committee from 4 to 5 by adding the position as a voting member of the Executive Committee.

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PROPOSAL BY: By Law Committee (Presenter: Doug Fitzsimmons)
DATE: Aug 13, 2008
TITLE: Proposal re Procedural Interpretations at Meetings
SUMMARY: At the July 16th By Law Committee meeting it was felt that there was a need for someone to make procedural interpretations of the impact of By Laws, The Brown Act, and DONE's Rules and regulations on proposed actions at the Board Level and Action Committee levels of this Neighborhood Council. This guideline would allow the Parliamentarian/Sergeant-at-Arms to make an initial determination at the Board meetings. Action Committee Chairs would be permitted to make the same determination at the Action Committee. This would be subject to override if 60% of the Board Members present disagree with the initial determination.

FULL PROPOSAL: To allow procedural interpretations of the impact of By Laws, The Brown Act, and DONE's Rules and regulations on proposed actions at the Board Level and Action Committee levels of this Neighborhood Council. At General Board Meetings the Parliamentarian/Sergeant-at-Arms shall make such initial determination. Action Committee Chairs would be permitted to make the same determination at the Action Committee. These interpretations would be subject to override if 60% of the Board Members present disagree with the initial determination.

PROS AND CONS, as expressed in committee meetings:

Pro: Allows for some clarity of complex issues	Con: The person making the determination may not always be right
Pro:	Con:
Pro:	Con:
Pro:	Con:

MOTION for the Board's consideration, as proposed by the By Law Committee

1. To adopt the full proposal as stated above.

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Jon Liberman
Vice President
Ann Hammond
Secretary
Terrence Gomes
Treasurer

PROPOSAL BY: By Law Committee (Presenter: Doug Fitzsimmons)
DATE: Aug 13, 2008
TITLE: Proposal re establishing Officer Responsibilities for all Neighborhood Council Officer Positions
SUMMARY: At the July 16th By Law Committee meeting, the committee felt that there needed to be some clear definition as to the responsibilities for each officer position.

FULL PROPOSAL: To adopt the attached sheet as the official responsibilities for each SORO NC officer position.

PROS AND CONS, as expressed in committee meetings:

Pro: clarifies responsibilities.	Con: none.
Pro:	Con:
Pro:	Con:
Pro:	Con:

MOTION for the Board's consideration, as proposed by the By Law Committee

1. To establish the respective function for each officer position.
2. To add these to the By Laws as Section 7.7.1

7.7.1 SORO NC Officer Responsibilities:

President

- Set agenda for each NC Board meeting and ensure timely posting
- Facilitate NC Board meetings
- Member of Executive Committee
- Set agenda for each Executive Committee meeting and ensure timely posting
- Facilitate Executive Committee meetings

Vice President

- Assist the President as requested in carrying out the President's responsibilities
- Conduct all responsibilities of the President in the President's absence
- Member of Executive Committee

Secretary

- Conduct all responsibilities of the President in the absence of both the President and Vice President
- Ensure notes are taken of all SORO NC Board meetings, written up in a timely manner, provided to all Board members in draft at least 72 hours in advance of the subsequent Board meeting, and finalized and posted within 72 hours after that subsequent Board meeting
- Member of Executive Committee

Treasurer

- Conduct all responsibilities of the President in the absence of the President, Vice President and Secretary
- Ensure an annual budget is prepared and approved by the SORO NC Board, according to its bylaws and policies and procedures of DONE
- Ensure all debts incurred by the SORO NC Board, according to its bylaws and policies and procedures of DONE, are paid in a timely manner
- Ensure a written report of each month's financial transactions, including commitments and expenditures by budget allocation, and cash balance, is prepared in a timely manner, provided to all Board members in draft at least 72 hours in advance of the subsequent Board meeting, and finalized and posted within 72 hours after that subsequent Board meeting
- Member of Executive Committee

[The next position will be included if the Board adopts a proposed motion:

Parliamentarian/Sergeant-at-Arms

- Responsible for enforcing procedural Rules and Process at General Meetings so that meetings run in an orderly and efficient manner.
- Responsible for making the initial determination or interpretation of our By Laws, the Brown Act and other NC Rules & Regulations if questions arise at General meetings.
- Member of Executive Committee]

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SORO Neighborhoods Council
P.O. Box 35836
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PROPOSAL BY: By Law Committee (Presenter: Doug Fitzsimmons)
DATE: Aug 13, 2008
TITLE: Proposal re: Roll Call Votes
SUMMARY: At the July 16th, By Law Committee meeting a discussion was held as to how we can reconsider votes if we do not record who voted for, against or abstained on each motion. The By Law Committee voted to recommend that all votes be recorded as to how each Board Member voted.

FULL PROPOSAL: To require a roll call vote for every motion.

PROS AND CONS, as expressed in committee meetings:

Pro: Permits us to determine whether we can reconsider a motion.	Con: will take slightly more time to record a vote.
Pro: Promotes transparency.	Con:
Pro:.	Con:
Pro:	Con:

MOTION for the Board's consideration, as proposed by the By Law Committee

1. To require all votes be recorded by a roll call.

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PROPOSAL BY: By Law Committee (Presenter: Doug Fitzsimmons)
DATE: Aug 13, 2008
TITLE: Proposal restating Article 7.7 of the By Laws so that a process can be adopted to remove officers for "Just Cause"
SUMMARY: At the July 16th By Law Committee meeting it was pointed out that SORO NC has a process for removing Board Members for "Just Cause" but no such mechanism for removing an officer for "Just Cause". The Committee recommends that the current Article 7.7 be expanded to include officer descriptions and to include a process for removal of officers.

FULL PROPOSAL: To replace the current Article 7.7 with the proposed Article 7.7.

Current Article 7.7 reads: The EXECUTIVE BOARD will consist of President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary and be filled by a majority vote of the BOARD. Non-executive board officer positions shall be determined by the BOARD as needed and filled by a majority vote of the BOARD. Terms for executive officers and non-executive board officer positions created by the BOARD shall be two (2) years and subject to other terms in these bylaws.

Proposed Article 7.7 shall read: The EXECUTIVE BOARD will consist of President, Vice President, Treasurer, Parliamentarian/Sergeant-at-Arms and Secretary and be filled by a majority vote of the BOARD. Non-executive board officer positions shall be determined by the BOARD as needed and filled by a majority vote of the BOARD. Terms for executive officers and non-executive board officer positions created by the BOARD shall be two (2) years and subject to other terms in these bylaws.

7.7.1 SORO NC Officer Responsibilities:

President

- Set agenda for each NC Board meeting and ensure timely posting
- Facilitate NC Board meetings
- Member of Executive Committee
- Set agenda for each Executive Committee meeting and ensure timely posting
- Facilitate Executive Committee meetings

Vice President

- Assist the President as requested in carrying out the President's responsibilities
- Conduct all responsibilities of the President in the President's absence
- Member of Executive Committee

Secretary

- Conduct all responsibilities of the President in the absence of both the President and Vice President
- Ensure notes are taken of all SORO NC Board meetings, written up in a timely manner, provided to all Board members in draft at least 72 hours in advance of the subsequent Board meeting, and finalized and posted within 72 hours after that subsequent Board meeting

- Member of Executive Committee
- Treasurer
- Conduct all responsibilities of the President in the absence of the President, Vice President and Secretary
 - Ensure an annual budget is prepared and approved by the SORO NC Board, according to its bylaws and policies and procedures of DONE
 - Ensure all debts incurred by the SORO NC Board, according to its bylaws and policies and procedures of DONE, are paid in a timely manner
 - Ensure a written report of each month's financial transactions, including commitments and expenditures by budget allocation, and cash balance, is prepared in a timely manner, provided to all Board members in draft at least 72 hours in advance of the subsequent Board meeting, and finalized and posted within 72 hours after that subsequent Board meeting
 - Member of Executive Committee

[The next position will be included if the Board adopts a proposed motion:

Parliamentarian/Sergeant-at-Arms

- Responsible for enforcing procedural Rules and Process at General Meetings so that meetings run in an orderly and efficient manner.
- Responsible for making the initial determination or interpretation of our By Laws, the Brown Act and other NC Rules & Regulations if questions arise at General meetings.
- Member of Executive Committee]

7.7.2 Upon notification to the Board that "Just Cause" exists for removal of a Board Member from his/her SORO NC Officer position; the Board will consider this matter at the next regularly scheduled General Board Meeting. The matter will be placed on the Agenda of that meeting and will be considered first. The person who is bringing the matter will be allowed to detail why there is just cause to remove the officer. The Officer will be allowed an equivalent amount of time to respond. There will be an immediate board vote. It will take an affirmative vote by 66 2/3 % of the Total Board to remove a Board Officer. At the next scheduled General Board Meeting there will be an election to replace a removed Officer. Note: Removal of someone as Officer does not constitute removal of that person as a Board Member.

PROS AND CONS, as expressed in committee meetings:

Pro: Creates a formal process for handling removal of Officers.	Con: Could cause abuse with numerous allegations of just cause.
Pro: Allows Stakeholders to understand our process.	Con:
Pro:.	Con:
Pro:	Con:

MOTION for the Board's consideration, as proposed by the By Law Committee

1. To adopt the revisions to Article 7.7 and the addition of sub provisions 7.7.1 and 7.7.2.

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PROPOSAL BY: By Law Committee (Presenter: Doug Fitzsimmons)
DATE: Aug 13, 2008
TITLE: Proposal re setting minimum time requirements for Board Notification prior to action needing to be taken
SUMMARY: At the July 16, By Law Committee meeting, the Committee reviewed what should be the minimum time frame that Board Members have to consider motions prior to having to vote on the motion. The Committee recommends that a minimum be established set at 72 hours prior to a General meeting and 24 hours prior to a Special meeting.

FULL PROPOSAL: To require that all Executive Reports (Board Minutes, Treasurer's Report) and all items requiring Board consideration (motions) be submitted to the Board Members at least 72 hours before a General Board Meeting or 24 hours before a Special Board Meeting. This can be done by e-mail. The Committee felt that Board Members need time to consider these reports and proposed motions. This is such an important consideration that if the time limits are not met, the item will not be considered at that Board meeting but will be carried forward to the next meeting that will permit such time for consideration of the item.

PROS AND CONS, as expressed in committee meetings:

Pro: Will permit time to consider the impact of proposed actions.	Con: May cause some motions be carried forward to a later meeting.
Pro:..	Con:
Pro:..	Con:
Pro:	Con:

MOTION for the Board's consideration, as proposed by the By Law Committee

- To require that all Executive Reports (Board Minutes, Treasurer's Report) and all items requiring Board consideration (motions) be submitted to the Board Members at least 72 hours before a General Board Meeting or 24 hours before a Special Board Meeting. If the time limits are not met, the item will not be considered at that Board meeting but will be carried forward to the next meeting that will permit such time for consideration of the item.

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Vikki Karan
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PROPOSAL BY: Brian Bergman
DATE: August 12, 2008
TITLE: Motion to support United Oil's request for a variance for its Castle Heights/National Blvd. facility

SUMMARY: Motion to support United Oil's request for a parking variance (and other) for its Castle Heights/National Blvd. project.

FULL PROPOSAL: United Oil requests certain variances (most importantly a parking space variance) for its Castle Heights/National Blvd. project. The project is a Yoga studio as well as other operations. The Land Use and Economic Development Committee has not provided a recommendation on this variance request. Based on information provided to the Committee, the project is a "model project" for environmental design, but it prevents certain parking issues. The author of this Motion does not support the applicant's current request for a parking space variance.

Pros:	Cons:
The project is a "model project" as far as its environmental design.	The project as currently presented does not adequately provide parking for the project.
The first version of this project was approved by SORONC about a year ago.	

MOTION for the Board's consideration:

1. That SORONC support United Oil's request for a variance for its Castle Heights/National Blvd. facility.

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PROPOSAL BY: Outreach Committee (Presenter: Christine Aghassi/Bette Billet)
DATE: 13 August 2008
TITLE: Motion to request that SoRo Inc. make a donation of \$1000 towards Movies in Reynier Park.

SUMMARY: To request that SoRo Inc. makes a donation of \$1000 to 101 Enterprises Foundation towards the Reynier Park portion of the Movies in the Park event organized by CD-10 and co-sponsored by SORO NC.

FULL PROPOSAL: On Saturday July 26th, CD-10 kicked off its "Movies in the Park" series at Reynier Park within the SORO boundaries. This event was co-sponsored by SORO NC. It is estimated that there were around 400 people who attended the screening. SORO NC was very active in outreach at the event, with both a formal presentation to the crowd, as well as an Outreach table and SOROCARDS. We gathered about 60 new sign-ups for the Be The Change list. Attendee feedback was very positive.

CD-10 has asked whether SORO NC would be willing to make a contribution of \$1000 towards the total costs of the event in Reynier Park. \$1000 represents about one third of these total costs. Since the event is now already passed and SORO NC can no longer fund vendors for the event itself, we propose that instead, SORO NC put forward a request to SoRo Inc. to make a donation of \$1000 to 101 Enterprises Foundation (501(c)3) to help offset the costs of hosting the screening in Reynier Park. (101 Enterprises Foundation is a non-profit working with CD-10 on the film series).

If CD-10 continues with the program in coming years, we hope to encourage continued screenings within our boundaries and SORO NC would hope to continue co-sponsoring future events.

Pros:	Cons:
SoRo Inc. is available for times like this	SoRo Inc. might have other plans for their money
SORO NC stakeholders and CD-10 partners would benefit	

MOTION for the Board's consideration:

1. That we request that SoRo Inc. make a donation of \$1000 to 101 Enterprises Inc. for the Reynier Park Movies in the Park evening.

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Motion #

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PROPOSAL BY: Nahed Guirguis
DATE: August 5, 2008
TITLE: Co-Sponsor a Community World Peace Day Picnic

SUMMARY: This proposal is for SORO Neighborhood Council to Co-Sponsor the Peace Picnic

FULL PROPOSAL: The Peace Picnic was initiated by Guru Ram Das Ashram to bring the community together to celebrate The United Nations International Day of Peace at Robertson Recreation Center Park on September 21, 2008.

The event will include music, arts and crafts, and various presentations provided by community organizations such as the Police Department, the Fire Department, and the City Council's Office.

In 2006, the event brought about 200 individuals from the community to celebrate the occasion, enjoying the music, the food, and the opportunity to know each other. In 2007, an estimated 250 people attended. This year, a larger turnout is anticipated, because it is on a Sunday afternoon, rather than a weekday evening, and it is weeks away from any major religious holidays.

Currently, the event is being supported by local businesses and restaurants. However, additional financial support is needed.

A committee, with representation from the community, initiated the planning process for the event.

SORO Neighborhood Council Co-sponsorship of the event will entail the following:

1. Financial support - \$500.00 for food, supplies, and printing expenses (event budget is attached)
2. Advertisement – through SORO Website and other media resources available to SORO
3. Technical support – sound system

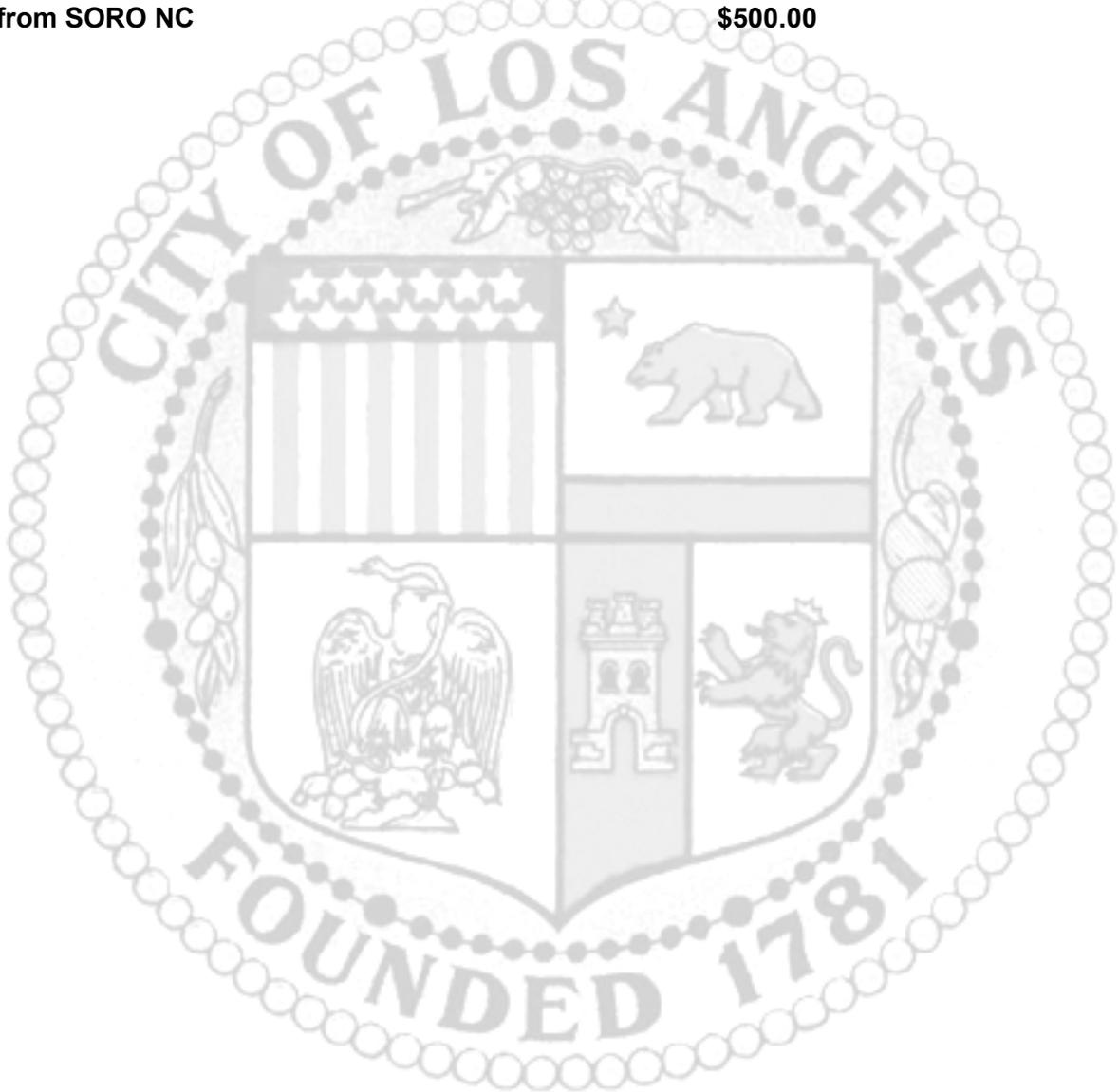
PROS AND CONS, as expressed in committee meetings:

Pro: Outreach between 200-300 individuals from the community	Con: \$500.00
Pro: SORO visibility as a supporter of positive community events	Con: SORO may be contributing a large percentage of the event's total budget.
Pro: An opportunity to recruit board members to fill the vacant seats	Con:
Pro: An opportunity to strengthen SORO relationships with faith-based organizations	Con:

MOTION for the Board's consideration, as proposed by the Outreach Committee: to provide financial support of \$500.00 for food, supplies, and printing expenses for the Peace Picnic, assist in promoting the event with SORO NC resources, and provide a sound system.

Peace Picnic Budget for 2008

Food & supplies	Estimated at	\$750.00
Printing flyers and other related expenses	Estimated at	\$250.00
Total estimated expenses	Estimated at	\$1,000.00
In-kind & cash donations from local businesses	Estimated at	\$500.00
Requested from SORO NC		\$500.00



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Proposal by: Executive Committee (presenter Ann Hammond)

DATE: August 13, 2008

TITLE: Priority Goals for 2008-2009

SUMMARY: SORO NC adopt the attached assignment of Committee responsibility for following-up on top ten issues identified by the community in January 2008 and specific approach described in "notes" in the attached.

FULL PROPOSAL: As agreed at the June 11, 2008, SORO NC meeting, members of the Ad Hoc Board Development Committee, currently comprised of Harold and Ann, prepared a proposed list of Committee assignments for each of the top ten issues identified as priority goals for 2008-2009. Furthermore, it noted that, in almost all cases, what was defined as a "goal" is better characterized as a general desire. Therefore, Committees need to define, prioritize and develop budgets for their objectives for the year. Goals must be measurable and have tasks, assignments and due dates. Projections must also take into consideration staffing resources. Once the initial Committee review is completed, the Board will have to evaluate the total requested needs and allocate available funding. In addition, Harold and Ann noted that, if the goal is not attainable within the plan period, it is not a valid objective for fiscal year planning. We may wish to include longer-term objectives in our vision statement.

PRO: Having actionable items with specific responsibilities assigned is likely to increase the probability of action.

Each Committee would be focused on at least one assignment within its area of interest and expertise.

Committees without assignments would be eager to participate as well.

The community would see action on items important to its members.

CON: Follow-up will take time and energy.

MOTION for the Board's consideration: South Robertson Neighborhoods Council will adopt the attached assignment of Committee responsibility for following-up on top ten issues identified by the community in January 2008, adopt the specific approach described in "notes" in the attached, and adopt the schedule for reporting back with actionable items by the assigned dates.

**SORO NC Priorities for 2008-2009
Proposed Committee Assignments**

Committee	Objective-Goal	Initial Report by
Public Safety	Graffiti removal Gangs Safer neighborhoods Crime report distribution	September September September September
Outreach	More effective community outreach Increase communication between the community-NC Political network development	September September September
Board Development	Better informed, trained Board members Greater Board influence	September September
Land Use	Community revitalization and renewal	September
Executive Committee	Program Management System-measurement of results	September
Green Team	Outreach	September
Education	Tutoring program	September

Committee	Objective-Goal	Initial Report by
Recommended example of what is needed		
Outreach	News letter, \$ 5,000 09 Festival. \$ 8,000 Film night Peace Picnic Etc	Dec. 2008 June, 2009

Notes:

1. Committees need to define, prioritize and develop budgets for their objectives for the year. Some programs may have a multi-year schedule. In almost all cases, what we have defined as “goals” are better characterized as general desires. Goals must be measurable and have tasks, assignments and due dates.
2. Projections must also take into consideration staffing resources.
3. If the goal is not attainable within the plan period, it is not a valid objective for fiscal year planning. We may wish to include longer-term objectives in our vision statement.
4. Once the initial Committee review is completed, the Board will have to evaluate the total requested needs and allocate available funding.

