



General Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 20, 2024, 7:00pm

Meetings end at 9:30pm unless the Board votes to end earlier or extend the time.

Location: Virtual (via Zoom) online: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89787982890> and by phone (877) 853-5257 (Meeting ID No. 897 8798 2890)

1. **Meeting called to Order by Chair, Michael Lynn at: 7:02 PM**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance led by: Sara Messall**
3. **Roll Call:**
Boardmembers Present: Joel Weinberger, Baila Romm, Barry Levine, Stuart Weiss, Avihi Youshaei, Jason Plummer, Ken Blaker, Laurie Levine, Marlene Katz, Mitch Cohen, Sandy Block, Sara Messall, Shirley Traum, Jon Liberman.

Boardmembers Absent: Benji Karbon, Eitan Gershov, Joseph Mollaie.

Jon Liberman entered the meeting at 7:18 pm.
Tiffany Miller joined the meeting 8:57PM.
Michelle Frankel joined the meeting at 9:03 PM.
Noah Damsky joined the meeting at 9:10 PM

Sandy Block left the meeting at 9:14 PM.
4. **General Public Comment: None.**
5. **Brief Board Announcements: Michael Lynn mentioned the July meeting would be virtual; the meeting in August would be in person.**
6. **Community Reports**
 - a. LA Police Department (Baker) - 39796@lapd.online / Ojeda - 36393@lapd.online **NOT PRESENT.**
 - b. LA Fire Department- Battalion 18 lafdbattalion18@lacity.org. **PRESENT, GAVE REPORT.**
 - c. Office of Councilmember Hutt (Guevara) - mayra.guevara@lacity.org. **NOT PRESENT, TERRENCE GOMES GAVE REPORT.**
 - d. Office of Councilmember Yaroslavsky (Rodriguez) - cairo.rodriguez@lacity.org. **PRESENT, GAVE REPORT.**
 - e. Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (Erving) - commission@empowerla.org **NOT PRESENT**

- f. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (Andrews)- dina.andrews@lacity.org
PRESENT, GAVE REPORT.
- g. Office of Mayor Bass (Miller) - kenneth.g.miller@lacity.org. **NOT PRESENT.**
- h. Office of County Supervisor Horvath (Laflan) - ALaflen@bos.lacounty.gov
EMAILED REPORT.
- i. Office of State Assemblymember Bryan (Persoff) - Michelle.Persoff@asm.ca.gov
PRESENT, GAVE REPORT.
- j. Office of State Senator Smallwood-Cuevas (Vacant) - Elizabeth.Birks@sen.ca.gov
NOT PRESENT.
- k. Office of Congressman Kamlager-Dove (Benarroch) -
Jackson.Benarroch@mail.house.gov **NOT PRESENT.**
- l. Other Neighborhood, City and State offices Kay Hartmann, Budget Advocates.
PRESENT, GAVE REPORT.

Jon Liberman entered the meeting at 7:18 pm.

- 7. **Presentation: Scott Longhurst, Crown Castle - Upcoming neighborhood communications infrastructure projects. Mr. Longhurst described Crown Castle as the biggest communications company you've never heard of. Crown Castle provides service to major Telecoms carriers through shared communication infrastructure. Mr. Longhurst explained that an increase demand for bandwidth in the city of Los Angeles has forced them to move into neighborhoods that normally did not allow cell towers and cell sites. Small Cells or nodes as he described them are radios, antennas that are attached to existing structures such as street lights, utility poles. Presented a map of proposed areas where small cells would be installed. Also mentioned that Crown Castle**

Jon Liberman asked if Crown Castle was helping people who do not have good access or internet connection. Mr. Longhurst said they were working with carriers to lay down the infrastructure. He also mentioned most of their work is done in areas where the coverage is not very good.

Stuart Weiss asked about the pole locations, if there was competition for owners, companies to make an agreement. Mr. Longhurst said they work with the Bureau of Street Lights, which uses a first come, first serve system for use of poles, and that there are multiple tenants project sites (poles).

Barry Levine asked if there was enough bandwidth for all carriers, if there was a limit of fiber optics. Mr. Longhurst said there was unlimited bandwidth.

Barry Levine asked if there was any thought to have communications upwards and outwards towards to the cars that are moving along. Mr. Longhurst said they are not doing that themselves but it is a possibility with other companies.

Baila Romm asked how big the nodes were going to be? Mr. Longhurst said around 12 inches plus an antenna around 12 inches tall.

Baila Romm asked if there were any concerns with wildlife damaging the antennas

or vandalism? Mr. Longhurst said wildlife has not really been an issue but there have been some vandalism, vaults being broken up to steal copper but it was nothing but fiber optics inside no real value.

Baila Romm asked if the costs for internet would go up because of their work? Mr. Longhurst said It should actually lower the cost, due to the shared infrastructure

Mitch Cohen asked how permanent would the rapid connect be? Could it be damaged through construction etc. Also asked if they were part of the dig alert system. Mr. Longhurst said it is a hurdle, hard to remove and dislodge but said if the city gives them a heads up they can go in and do preventive measures. Mentioned the they were part of the dig alert system and they use GPS readers. Lastly, he said if the city were to accidentally cut the wires, it would be rerouted to a data center and the damage would get fixed later via splicing the fiber glass.

Jason Plummer asked about the revenue like selling or redistributing the traffic data. Mr. Longhurst said they do not, they just provide the infrastructure.

Jason Plummer asked if the space of the light poles are leased? Mr. Longhurst said yes, they have 10 year options, and up to thirty years.

Laurie Levine asked if there were any cancer risks associated with these small towers. Mr. Longhurst said his understanding is that there was to date no link proven between towers and cancer.

8. Board Membership- Selections, Removals, & Resignations

Multiple agenda item Public Comment: NO PUBLIC COMMENT.

- a. Motion to Appoint Michelle Frankel as the At-Large Representative 4 (Term expires June 30, 2027) (GB062024-01)

Moved by Baila Romm, Seconded by Sara Messall

Terrence Gomes raised the concern that Stuart Weiss was already the At-Large Representative 4.

Michael Lynn said it might have just been a typo.

Ken Blaker said it is a practical problem, seats transformed to at-large and many of those seats are expiring in 2027. We have to figure out how we are assigning seats. I do not think there is a serious violation here.

Michael Lynn would like to move.

Terrence Gomes objected; stating it was a Brown Act violation.

Terrence Gomes said he will leave the meeting then.

Terrence Gomes left the meeting at 8:37 PM.

Michael Lynn tabled A to move on to B until DONE NEA Dina Andrews returned to the meeting with advice.

Michael Lynn Motion to Amend Unfilled Organization Rep. One Seat

Moved by Michael Lynn, Seconded by Jon Liberman.

Roll Call:

Michael Lynn-Yes, Joel Weinberger- Yes, Baila Romm- Yes, Stuart Weiss- Yes, Barry Levine- Yes, Shirley Traum- Yes, Ken Blaker- Yes, Avihi Youshaei- Yes, Barry Levine- Yes, Laurie Levine-Yes, Jason Plummer- Yes, Marlene Katz- Yes, Sara Messall- Yes, Mitch Cohen- Yes, Jon Liberman- Yes, Sandy Block- Yes.

15 Yes, 0-No. Motion to Amend Passes.

Michelle Frankel said they are moving to the area soon as a home owner; interested in getting involved in the community; works in non-profit. Attended the First Responders event; saw the signs and decided to get involved.

Sara Messall asked if you could change one thing in your neighborhood what would it be? Michelle Frankel said communication could be improved; looking to find ways of getting everyone together.

Jon Liberman asked what committees she would be interested in? Michelle Frankel stated she was interested in Parks and Recreation as her children play basketball at Robertson Rec Center; she was also interested in education and issues of homelessness as well.

Michelle Frankel joined the meeting at 9:03 PM.

- b. **Motion to Appoint Tiffany Miller as the At-Large Representative (Unfilled Resident Zone 8 Representative - Term expires June 30, 2027) (GB062024-02)**

Moved by Jon Liberman, Seconded by Barry Levine.

Tiffany Miller wants to get more involved in the community, she has lived in the area for 32 years; she said she has attended the SORO festival and is interested in homelessness and transportation.

Laurie Levine asked if she enjoyed participating in the events, how much time would she have on the weekends and evenings?

Tiffany Miller said she is usually free most evenings and Sundays.

Mitch Cohen asked if she had done any other community involvement?

Tiffany Miller said she used to teach ESL at Robertson Rec. Center.

Michael Lynn said Dina Andrews affirmed a motion to Amend Item A was acceptable.

Roll Call:

Michael Lynn-Yes, Joel Weinberger- Yes, Baila Romm- Yes, Stuart Weiss- Yes, Barry Levine- Yes, Shirley Traum- Yes, Ken Blaker- Yes, Avihi Youshaei- Yes, Barry Levine- Yes, Laurie Levine-Yes, Jason Plummer- Yes, Marlene Katz- Yes, Sara Messall- Yes, Mitch Cohen- Yes, Jon Liberman- Yes.

Sandy Block-Absent

**14 Yes, 0-No, 1 Absent. Tiffany Miller becomes a member of the board.
Tiffany Miller joined the meeting 8:57PM.**

- c. Motion to Appoint Noah Damsky as the At-Large Representative (Unfilled Business Representative 5- Term expires June 30, 2027) (GB062024-03)
Moved by Jon Liberman, Seconded by Laurie Levine.

Noah Damsky introduced himself as an owner and resident in South Robertson; works in private equity and ex-employee of the county; wants to get involved and steer some change in the community.

Baila Romm what do you want to change?

Noah Damsky became interested in safety concerns from the community and it was one of the things that motivated him to join.

Roll Call:

Michael Lynn-Yes, Joel Weinberger- Yes, Baila Romm- Yes, Stuart Weiss- Yes, Barry Levine- Yes, Shirley Traum- Yes, Ken Blaker- Yes, Avihi Youshaei- Yes, Barry Levine- Yes, Laurie Levine-Yes, Jason Plummer- Yes, Marlene Katz- Yes, Sara Messall- Yes, Mitch Cohen- Yes, Jon Liberman- Yes, Sandy Block- Yes.

15 Yes, 0-No. Motion Passes.

Noah Damsky joined the meeting at 9:10 PM.

- d. Motion to Appoint At-Large Representative (Unfilled Organization Representative 1 - Term expires June 30, 2027) **No Applicants- postponed to Next SORO NC General Board Meeting**
- e. Motion to Appoint At-Large Representative (Unfilled Organization Representative 3 – Term expires June 30, 2027) **No Applicants- postponed to Next SORO NC General Board Meeting**
- f. Motion to Appoint At-Large Representative (Unfilled Zone 4 Representative - Term expires June 30, 2027) **No Applicants- postponed to Next SORO NC General Board Meeting**

9. Committees, Liaisons and Alliances

- a. Liaison and Alliance Representative Appointments
- i. Motion to appoint LADWP Representative (GB062024-04)
**Jason Plummer self-nominated.
Moved by Jon Liberman, Sara Messall seconded.
Barry Levine asked if Jason Plummer had any specific interest.
Jason Plummer said he wanted to fill the empty position.**

Roll Call:

Michael Lynn-Yes, Joel Weinberger- Yes, Baila Romm- Yes, Stuart Weiss- Yes, Barry Levine- Yes, Shirley Traum- Yes, Ken Blaker- Yes, Avihi Youshaei- Yes, Barry Levine- Yes, Laurie Levine-Yes, Jason Plummer- Yes, Marlene Katz- Yes, Sara Messall- Yes, Mitch Cohen- Yes, Jon Liberman- Yes, Sandy Block- Yes.

15 Yes, 0-No. Motion Passes.

- ii. Motion to appoint LADWP Alternate Representative (GB062024-05)
- iii. Motion to appoint Budget Advocates Representative (1) (GB062024-06)

Postponed.

Sandy Block left the meeting at 9:14 PM.

b. Committee, Liaisons and Alliance Reports

- I. Standing Committees: Executive; Education; Land Use; Public Safety; Homelessness; Outreach; Transportation; Business Advocacy & Development; Parks and Recreation; Budget & Finance; Bylaws; Board Development

Jon Liberman on Education; he mentioned this week the student committee at Hamilton High donated 5 trees to Castle Heights Elementary.

Barry Levine mentioned the tutoring program at Shenandoah is still moving forward, just waiting on the request for a Neighborhood Purpose grant to pay for fingerprinting and then moving on to hiring for tutoring positions and hopefully it will be up and running for next semester.

Mitch Cohen for Land Use mentioned they have had trouble getting quorum. There will be a meeting on July 2nd; asked the members please respond to Land Use Committee emails on whether they can make the next meeting. Baila Romm asked about a 6 story development. Mitch Cohen said they just received that inquiry. Waivers are used, he said, to add low income housing allow them to create bigger developments.

Baila Romm for Public Safety mentioned FRAD event was a success; thanked board members that helped: Laurie, Michael, Stuart and Sara. She mentioned many board members did not even come up to say hello and it made her job harder; could have done a better job if she had more support; hoped the new board members would take an active role. Barry Levine asked how many people did show up. Baila Romm said around 200 guests.

Jon Liberman of Homelessness Committee said he and Terrence Gomes are co-chairs and that there has not been in a meeting in over a year because they were not able to get any cooperation when we were going outside of the neighborhood council to ask for help. Michael Lynn asked if the committee was going to continue. Jon Liberman said he would have a conversation with the chair to see if the committee would continue and report back at the next board meeting. Mitch Cohen mentioned significant backlash against proposed Terraza senior living.

Michael Lynn for Outreach mentioned the shirts were in; he said to email a place and time to pick up for those who have not received their shirts. Michael Lynn continued mentioning the SORO signs were a huge success; 3 zones still need signs to be put out. Jason Plummer said signs have been a good idea, new members have seen these signs. Michael Lynn said that the promotional items did not make it via the budget; also mentioned the Outreach meeting on Monday would be virtual.

Michael Lynn moved to extend the General Board meeting to 10PM. Joel Weinberger objected, requiring vote on Motion to extend the meeting until 10:00 PM

Moved by Michael Lynn, Baila Romm seconded.

Roll Call:

Michael Lynn-Yes, Baila Romm- Yes, Stuart Weiss- Yes, Barry Levine- Yes, Shirley Traum- Yes, Ken Blaker- Abstain, Jason Plummer- Abstain, Marlene Katz- Abstain, Mitch Cohen- Yes, Jon Liberman- Yes. Joel Weinberger- No, Avihi Youshaei- No, Sara Messall- No, Laurie Levine-No.

7 Yes, 4-No, 3 –Abstain. Motion Passes.

II. Ad-hoc Committees: Tree Removal Notification **Barry Levine reported receiving no Tree Removal Notifications**

III. Liaisons and Alliances: LANCC, WRAC, LADWP, Budget Advocates, City Attorney, Sustainability, District 37 Congressional Council, Homelessness
Jon Liberman mentioned WRAC had a successful homelessness meeting.

c. Opportunity to Join and/or Change Membership to Board Committees (GB062024-07)
Tiffany Miller joined Transportation and Homelessness. Noah Damsky joined Land Use.

10. Unfinished Business

Multiple agenda item Public Comment: No Public Comment.

a. Revote of the approved Motion for the SORO NC to write a letter and file a Community Impact Statement (CIS) in support of CF 24-0846, Councilwoman Heather Hutt's motion to ban cashless businesses within the city, recommending for the motion to define these as "all businesses with physical locations" (GB062024-08)

Moved by Jon Liberman, Seconded by Barry Levine.

Joel Weinberger stated the City should not be involved in telling businesses how to run. Sara Messall wondered how this would be enforced.

Roll Call:

Michael Lynn-Yes, Barry Levine- Yes, Laurie Levine-Abstain, Jason Plummer- Yes, Jon Liberman- Yes, Joel Weinberger- No, Baila Romm- No, Stuart Weiss- No, Ken Blaker- No, Baila Romm- No, Avihi Youshaei- No, Sara Messall- No, Mitch Cohen- No, Shirley Traum- No, Marlene Katz- No.

4-Yes, 9-No. 1- Abstain, 3- Ineligible. Motion Fails.

11. Consent Agenda

Multiple agenda item Public Comment: No Public Comment.

Jason Plummer removed E.

Joel Weinberger removed D.

- a. Motion to approve May 16, 2024 General Board Meeting Draft Minutes (GB062024-09)
- b. Motion to approve May 2024 MER Report (GB062024-10)
- c. Motion to appoint Jason Plummer as the SORO NC Transportation Committee Vice-Chair (GB062024-11)
- d. ~~Motion for the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council to oppose the City of Los Angeles Ethics Commission's ability to approve/disapprove Citizen ballot measures (GB062024-12)~~
- e. ~~Motion for the SORO NC to write a letter and submit a CIS opposing Council File: 24-0656 (Title Gaza / Israel / Hamas / Permanent Ceasefire / Peaceful Diplomacy / Humanitarian Aid / Medical Care) (GB062024-13)~~

Moved by Jon Liberman, Seconded by Joel Weinberger.

Roll Call:

Michael Lynn-Yes, Joel Weinberger- Yes, Baila Romm- Yes, Stuart Weiss- Yes, Barry Levine- Yes, Shirley Traum- Yes, Ken Blaker- Yes, Avihi Youshaei- Yes, Laurie Levine-Yes, Jason Plummer- Yes, Marlene Katz- Yes, Sara Messall- Yes, Mitch Cohen- Yes, Jon Liberman- Yes.

14-Yes, 0-No, 0-Abstain, 3-Ineligible. Motion Passes on Items A, B, C.

12. New Business

Multiple agenda item Public Comment:

- a. Motion to approve SORO NC 2024-2025 budget (GB062024-14)

Moved by Baila Romm Seconded by Sara Messall.

No Public Comment.

Roll Call:

Michael Lynn-Yes, Joel Weinberger- Yes, Baila Romm- Yes, Stuart Weiss- Yes, Barry Levine- Yes, Shirley Traum- Yes, Ken Blaker- Yes, Avihi Youshaei- Yes, Laurie Levine-Yes, Jason Plummer- Yes, Marlene Katz- Yes, Sara Messall- Yes, Mitch Cohen- Yes, Jon Liberman- Yes.

14-Yes, 0-No, 0-Abstain, 3 Ineligible.

e. Motion for the SORO NC to write a letter and submit a CIS opposing Council File: 24-0656 (Title Gaza / Israel / Hamas / Permanent Ceasefire / Peaceful Diplomacy / Humanitarian Aid / Medical Care) (GB062024-13)

Moved by Jon Liberman, Seconded by Baila Romm.

Joel Weinberger made a motion to amend this to remove the word jihad. Laurie Levine seconded.

Motion to Amendment the Letter Removing the word Jihad.

Roll Call:

Michael Lynn-Abstain, Joel Weinberger- Yes, Stuart Weiss- Abstain, Ken Blaker- Yes, Jason Plummer- Yes, Marlene Katz- Yes, Sara Messall- Yes, Mitch Cohen- Yes.

Baila Romm- No, Barry Levine- No, Shirley Traum- No, Avihi Youshaei- No, Jon Liberman- No, Laurie Levine-No.

6-Yes, 6-No, 2-Abstain. Amendment Does Not Carry.

Joel Weinberger says it is not right to use religious language in our letter. Marlene Katz does not think a neighborhood council should be weighing in on this. Michael Lynn clarified by saying city council is weighing in on this and the board is weighing in on the city council. Ken Blaker said the letter is overboard; would like to re-write it.

Baila Romm moved to send the item back to the Executive Committee to re-write the letter.

Moved by Baila Romm, Joel Weinberger seconded.

Roll Call:

Michael Lynn-Yes, Joel Weinberger- Yes, Baila Romm- Yes, Ken Blaker- Yes, Jason Plummer- Yes, Marlene Katz- Yes, Sara Messall- Yes, Barry Levine- Yes, Shirley Traum- Yes, Laurie Levine-Yes.

Avihi Youshaei- No, Jon Liberman- No, Stuart Weiss- No, Mitch Cohen- No.

8-Yes, 4-No, 0-Abstain. Moves back to Committee

d. Motion for the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council to oppose the City of Los Angeles Ethics Commission's ability to approve/disapprove Citizen ballot measures (GB062024-12)- **Postponed to next General Board meeting**

13. Meeting adjourned by Chair at: 10:00 PM.