



General Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 19, 2025 @ 7:00pm

Location: Burton House Hotel, 1177 S Beverly Dr, Los Angeles, CA 90035- Meeting Room

1. Meeting Called to Order at 7:08 PM

2. Pledge of Allegiance by: Terrence Gomes

3. Roll Call:

Boardmembers Present-Michael Lynn, Laurie Levine, Terrence Gomes, Stuart Weiss, Mallory Smith, Noah Damsky, Jason Plummer, Ken Blaker, Barry Levine, Marlene Katz, Baila Romm, Margarita Guzman, Joel Weinberger

Boardmembers Absent- Ryan Spivey, Vahid Jebelli, Beth Klein.

Joseph Mollaie entered the meeting at 7:10 PM.

Mitch Cohen entered the meeting at 7:15 PM

Sandy Block entered the meeting at 7:20 PM.

4. General Public Comment: None

5. Brief Board Announcements

a. Items for Committee Agendas and other Brief Board Announcements

Michael Lynn announced that next month the present meeting room would not be available; mentioned that the meeting may be held virtually or moved to the following week; more information to come. Further, he added a tally of board accomplishments this year: 11 outreach events, 7 outreach items, 8 CIS, 15 letters submitted and from the General Board actions 10 from Outreach, 8 from Transportation and 5 from Education.

6. Community Reports

Michael Lynn noted due to the Juneteenth holiday there would be no city officials present at this meeting.

a. LA Police Department (Baker) - 39796@lapd.online / (Ojeda) - 36393@lapd.online **Not Present.**

b. LA Fire Department- Battalion 18 lafdbattalion18@lacity.org. **Not Present.**

c. Office of Councilwoman Yaroslavsky, CD-5 (Rodriguez) - cairo.rodriguez@lacity.org **Not Present.**

- d. Office of Councilwoman Hutt, CD-10 (Guevara) - mayra.guevara@lacity.org **Not Present.**
- e. Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (Erving) - commission@empowerla.org **Not Present.**
- f. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (Andrews)- dina.andrews@lacity.org **Not Present.**
- g. Office of Mayor Bass (Miller) - kenneth.g.miller@lacity.org **Not Present.**
- h. Office of County Supervisor Mitchell, 2nd District (Park) - DPark@bos.lacounty.gov **Not Present.**
- i. Office of County Supervisor Horvath, 3rd District (Laflan) - ALaflen@bos.lacounty.gov **Not Present.**
- j. Office of State Assemblymember Bryan, AD-55 (Persoff) -Michelle.Persoff@asm.ca.gov **Not Present.**
- k. Office of State Senator Smallwood-Cuevas, SD-28 (Penilla) - carlos.penilla@sen.ca.gov **Not Present.**
- l. Office of Congressman Kamlager-Dove, CD-37 (Benarroch) - Jackson.Benarroch@mail.house.gov **Not Present.**
- m. Other Neighborhood, City and State offices

7. Board Membership- Selections, Removals, & Resignations

- a. None

8. Committees, Liaisons and Alliances

- a. Liaison and Alliance Representative Appointments
 - I. Motion to appoint SORO NC Secretary (GB061925-01)
Michael Lynn said some of the duties for Secretary included compiling minutes and posting, responsible for attendance records and chair the Board Development Committee and retreat, as well as dividing up duties and would be a member of the Executive Committee.
Postponed until next month.
 - II. Motion to appoint LADWP Alternate Representative (GB061925-02)
Postponed until next month.
 - III. Motion to appoint Budget Advocates Representative 1 (GB061925-03)
Postponed until next month.
 - IV. Motion to appoint Budget Advocates Representative 2 (GB061925-04)
- b. Committee, Liaisons and Alliance Reports
 - I. Standing Committees: Executive; Education; Land Use; Public Safety; Homelessness; Outreach; Transportation; Budget & Finance; Bylaws; Board Development
Terrence Gomes of the Budget and Finance Committee said the 2025/2026 fiscal year budget has been approved though it is still possible to change; currently \$24,000 left over.
Michael Lynn said there will be openings for Chairships for some committees; voting would occur in July.
 - II. Ad-hoc Committees: Tree Removal Notification, Board Selection
Jason Plummer of Board Selection thanked board members for volunteering; he reported that 84 ballots were cast with 2 spoils;

encouraged the board and public in a post election discussion to send comments and recommendations.

Barry Levine asked how much was spent for elections.

Michael Lynn said around 3-4 thousand, maybe.

Terrence Gomes said there were 23 candidates.

Michael Lynn added that while other neighborhood councils saw a dip in turnout; SORO saw an increase.

Ken Blaker mentioned now is a good time to think of ways to improve things for the next time.

- III. Liaisons and Alliances: LANCC, WRAC, LADWP, Budget Advocates, City Attorney, Sustainability, District 37 Congressional Council, Homelessness
- Terrence Gomes said LANC will be dark due to the 4th of July holiday, there will be no meeting in July but will meet again in August.**
- Michael Lynn said WRAC will be sending information to committees; he mentioned in July there will be an event called Breakfast with the Mayor; WRAC has asked for 2 questions to pose to the mayor; he mentioned to email himself or Jason Plummer with proposed questions.**
- Terrence Gomes brought up the issue that the Mayor sent out emails to board members and some received them in their personal emails; he wondered how she got access to these.**
- Marlene Katz said Homelessness committee would be meeting on Tuesday.**

- c. Opportunity to Join and/or Change Membership to Board Committees (GB061925-05)
No Changes.

9. **Unfinished Business**

- a. Motion for the SORO NC to write a letter to Mayor Bass, CD 5 Councilwoman Yaroslavsky, and CD 10 Councilwoman Hutt regarding budget items to implement HLA and generally safer streets (GB061925-06)
- Joel Weinberger said safer streets are required to be implemented by the city however the city is going through a budget crisis and many cuts are being made; however the proposed letter is to explain why this should still be done; we're requesting things to make it easier to make HLA requirements, he said.**
- Joseph Mollaie asked what HLA requires.**
- Joel Weinberger said safer streets program involves improvements to sidewalks, turn signals, implements to be made and it is legally binding for the city to make them.**
- Laurie Levine said this requires DOT employees and that there have been significant cuts to staff, there is no money right now to hire more DOT people; she asked if there was a fund for HLA.**
- Joel Weinberger said there was no explicit budget for safer streets but that HLA was mandated by law.**

No Public Comment.

Barry Levine asked if HLA is not enforced will the city be liable, what are the costs if they are sued.

Joseph Mollaie wondered how much a letter from the board would actually affect the city's decision.

Joel Weinberger said several neighborhood council budget advocates have been pushing for this.

Joseph Mollaie said the city has no money plus shortfalls; he said it seems what they are asking for in this letter seems like a luxury.

Joel Weinberger stated he felt this was important in a revenue neutral way.

Barry Levine said their role as a council is an advisory role to the city council; he added that our people are looking to implement these changes, it is what the people want.

Laurie Levine said the letter itself was a bit strange in our wording, the letter seems like it is telling the city what to do.

Joel Weinberger said we needed specific suggestions that can help the situation.

Laurie Levine asked if there were less accidents in bike lanes.

Ken Blaker mentioned that sidewalk safety is mentioned a lot by constituents.

Moved by Laurie Levine; Seconded by Ken Blaker

Roll call:

Yes- Stuart Weiss, Mallory Smith, Noah

Damsky, Jason Plummer, Ken Blaker, Barry Levine, Marlene Katz, Margarita Guzman, Joel Weinberger, Mitch Cohen, Sandy Block.

No- Terrence Gomes, Michael Lynn

Abstain- Baila Romm, Laurie Levine, Joseph Mollaie.

11 Yes, 2 No, 3 Abstain. Motion Passes.

- b. **Motion for the SORO NC to fund up to \$20,000 for the manufacture and installation of the previously approved SORO NC Medallions (GB061925-07)**

Michael Lynn said 5 years ago SORO approved the design of the NC medallions and where they would be installed; CD 10 and CD 5 had promised to match what SORO put out; now CD 5 has said they will not be matching while CD 10 will still abide.

Jason Plummer asked what these medallions were for.

Terrence Gomes explained they were monument signs placed on light poles welcoming people to the SORO neighborhood.

Barry Levine asked if the council had given money to the city hold.

Terrence Gomes said yes and there was a round 25 thousand dollars.

Jason Plummer asked how much had been spent so far.

Michael Lynn said around \$400 for design.

Margarita Guzman asked how many medallions were placed.

Michael Lynn said more than 25.

Mitch Cohen asked if we needed city approval from public works.

Baila Romm said they had 20 medallions.

Stuart Weiss asked if the money had already been approved could SORO go back and ask if CD 5 would participate again and contribute.

Michael Lynn said CD 5 had already told him there was no way they could afford it.

Jason Plummer asked what the signs were made of and if there was a risk of theft, and what was the purpose.

Terrence Gomes said they were made of steel, enameled and that they were placed 15 feet high.

Michael Lynn added the purpose was to build neighborhood cohesiveness.

Moved by Joel Weinberger; Seconded by Sandy Block.

Public Comment 1-

Jason Plummer said he had reservations about using this money from our budget.

Michael Lynn said this money was from this years budget not next year; said in total the cost was around 80-90 thousand dollars.

Roll call:

Yes- Stuart Weiss, Terrence Gomes, Michael Lynn, Jason Plummer, Ken Blaker, Barry Levine, Marlene Katz, Baila Romm, Laurie Levine, Joseph Mollaie.

Mitch Cohen, Sandy Block.

No-Noah Damsky.

Abstain-Joel Weinberger, Margarita Guzman, Mallory Smith.

12 Yes, 1 No, 3 Abstain . Motion Passes.

- c. **Motion for the SORO NC to fund up to \$1000 for the purchase of (approximate) 10.5" x 13" x 5" reusable shopping bags (GB061925-08)**

Baila Romm said she thought this time around it would be a nice idea to make a tote bag instead of a shopping bag.

Stuart Weiss wondered if the design could be changed on these new bags.

Margarita Guzman asked what they would be used for.

Michael Lynn said they would be given away at events; he asked Terrence Gomes with the Council's credit card being cut off the next day could a \$1,000 purchase be funded.

Terrence Gomes said it could.

Moved by Baila Romm; Seconded by Laurie Levine.

Jason Plummer said he preferred the shopping bag size.

Motion to send back to Outreach by Terrence Gomes; Second by Joseph Mollaie.

Roll call:

Yes- Michael Lynn, Laurie Levine, Terrence Gomes, Stuart Weiss, Mallory Smith, Noah Damsky, Jason Plummer, Ken Blaker, Barry Levine, Marlene Katz, Baila Romm, Margarita Guzman, Joel Weinberger, Joseph Mollaie, Sandy Block.

No-Mitch Cohen.

15 Yes, 1 No. Motion Passes.

- d. Motion for the South Robertson Neighborhoods Council (SORO NC) to fund up to \$500 for the purchase of 2 SORO NC branded 8-foot tablecloths (GB061925-09) **Michael Lynn said these were not fitted tablecloths and that the top and front would have the SORO logo.**
Moved by Terrence Gomes; Seconded by Sandy Block.
Michael Lynn said the tablecloths could be 8-foot or 6-foot.

Noah Damsky moves to amend motion to strike 8-foot tablecloths and insert 6-foot tablecloths; Seconded by Laurie Levine.

Roll call:

Yes- Michael Lynn, Laurie Levine, Terrence Gomes, Stuart Weiss, Mallory Smith, Noah Damsky, Jason Plummer, Ken Blaker, Barry Levine, Marlene Katz, Baila Romm, Margarita Guzman, Joel Weinberger, Joseph Mollaie, Sandy Block, Mitch Cohen.

16 Yes, 0 No. Motion Passes.

Motion As Amended

Roll call:

Yes- Michael Lynn, Laurie Levine, Terrence Gomes, Stuart Weiss, Mallory Smith, Noah Damsky, Jason Plummer, Ken Blaker, Barry Levine, Marlene Katz, Baila Romm, Margarita Guzman, Joel Weinberger, Joseph Mollaie, Sandy Block, Mitch Cohen.

16 Yes, 0 No. Motion Passes.

- e. Motion for the SORO NC to write a letter to Mayor Karen Bass and all City Councilmembers; CCing General Manager Carmen Chang, City Controller Kenneth Mejia, and Chief Administrative Officer Matt Szabo; requesting that the Mayor and City Council restore the amount annually allocated to at least the current \$32,000 and supports the rollover of all unexpended funds from this fiscal year to next year, as proposed in the Mayor's Budget. Also, the SORO NC requesting that the proposed cuts to the five Department of Neighborhood Empowerment Project Coordinator, Class Code 1537 positions, be restored as well; and to submit a Community Impact Statement (CIS) in Council File 25-0600, Budget Proposal Fiscal Year 2025-2026 "against, unless amended" with the following summary text:
"The South Robertson Neighborhoods Council (SORO NC) requests that the Mayor and City Council restore the amount annually allocated to at least the current \$32,000 and supports the rollover of all unexpended funds from this fiscal year to next year, as proposed in the Mayor's Budget. Also, the SORO NC requesting that the proposed cuts to the five Department of Neighborhood Empowerment Project Coordinator, Class Code 1537 positions, be restored as well; and to submit a Community Impact Statement (CIS) in Council File 25-0600, Budget Proposal Fiscal Year 2025-2026." (GB061925-10)
Joseph Mollaie asked where does this money come from.
Terrence Gomes stated budget cuts; rollover.

Moved by Laurie Levine; Seconded by Sandy Block.

Michael Lynn Moved to amend; to change council file to 25-0600-S7 and remove section about DONE position restorations .

Roll call:

Yes- Michael Lynn, Laurie Levine, Terrence Gomes, Stuart Weiss, Mallory Smith, Noah Damsky, Jason Plummer, Ken Blaker, Barry Levine, Marlene Katz, Baila Romm, Margarita Guzman, Joel Weinberger, Joseph Mollaie, Sandy Block, Mitch Cohen.

16 Yes, 0 No. Motion to Amend Passes.

Joel Weinberger said he was not inclined to vote on this.

Michael Lynn said the board has had rollover before; this money is needed to get info on the neighborhood council out to the community; the question is do we want to be that partner in outreach events that can contribute and be part of the community.

Ken Blaker mentioned the impact on SORO whether they could plan a SORO festival or not.

Joel Weinberger said events are worth investing in but asked in what other ways could the board save money; he asked if the board needed to meet in the room they are meeting in or if food was necessary.

Michael Lynn said the board had to have 1 in-person meeting by law.

Roll call:

Yes- Michael Lynn, Laurie Levine, Terrence Gomes, Stuart Weiss, Mallory Smith, Noah Damsky, Jason Plummer, Ken Blaker, Barry Levine, Marlene Katz, Baila Romm, Margarita Guzman, Joel Weinberger, Sandy Block, Mitch Cohen.
No-Joseph Mollaie.

15 Yes, 1 No. Motion as amended Passes.

10. Consent Agenda

- a. Motion to approve May 15, 2025 General Board Meeting Draft Minutes (GB061925-11)
- b. Motion to approve May 2025 Monthly Expenditure Report (GB061925-12)
- c. Motion for the Soro NC to cancel the previously approved English Language- Meet and Greet Event, and return the unspent \$300 funds back to the outreach category of the budget (GB061925-13)

Stuart Weiss asked what the back story was for item c.

Michael Lynn said the event did not happen so the funds are released back to outreach.

- d. ~~Motion for the SORO NC to submit a (CIS) in support of the motion in Council File 25-0002-S19 (SB 79 Weiner / State Zoning Standards / Train Stations / Major Bus Stops / 7-Story Multifamily Housing / Municipality Exemption / Housing Element) and write a letter to all City councilmembers with the following text: *The SORO NC supports the proposed resolution in CF 25-0002-S19. We agree with the resolution's perspective that municipalities must retain the power to manage urban development in light of all the ancillary effects of such developments.* (GB061925-14)~~

Motion to approve Consent Agenda

Moved by Laurie Levine; Seconded by Sandy Block.

No Public Comment

Items Removed (Item/Boardmember): Item D removed by Barry Levine

Roll call:

Yes- Michael Lynn, Laurie Levine, Terrence Gomes, Stuart Weiss, Mallory Smith, Noah Damsky, Jason Plummer, Ken Blaker, Barry Levine, Marlene Katz, Baila Romm, Margarita Guzman, Joel Weinberger, Joseph Mollaie, Sandy Block, Mitch Cohen.

16 Yes, 0 No. Consent agenda Passes.

11. New Business

a. None

Item d from Consent Agenda

Motion for the SORO NC to submit a (CIS) in support of the motion in Council File 25-0002-S19 (SB 79 Weiner / State Zoning Standards / Train Stations / Major Bus Stops / 7-Story Multifamily Housing / Municipality Exemption / Housing Element) and write a letter to all City councilmembers with the following text: *The SORO NC supports the proposed resolution in CF 25-0002-S19. We agree with the resolution's perspective that municipalities must retain the power to manage urban development in light of all the ancillary effects of such developments.* (GB061925-14)

Michael Lynn said a yes vote supports the city's resolution to oppose 79.

Moved by Stuart Weiss; Seconded by Noah Damsky.

Laurie Levine asked if the city was not involved than who would be.

Baila Romm said the governor.

Joel Weinberger added that the state would set the zoning rules.

Michael Lynn reiterated this vote would be in support of the city.

Baila Romm said this has resulted in new developments being constructed with no obligation to include new parking.

Mitch Cohen mentioned a new 6-story building on Pico with 25 bicycle spaces and zero parking; mentioned that Land Use cannot review these developments prior.

Joel Weinberger said the bill did not mention anything about parking spaces.

Mitch Cohen said this kind of construction is destroying our neighborhoods; new buildings do not make up for stress on sewer systems; he added that there could be certain areas designated just for new housing.

Joel Weinberger agreed that the city should fix this and require new buildings to pay for sewers and other maintenance that taxes existing infrastructure.

Noah Damsky said the city is jamming this down our throats.

Baila Romm said there is a large movement to destroy single family homes and to get rid of traditional neighborhoods.

Mitch Cohen said the economic reality is that there is no financial incentive to buy a building in a mixed community.

Jason Plummer made the point that the city is in a housing crisis; single family owned homes are a tax drain; he said he did not buy the depreciation argument, single family homes are a tactic to keep certain people out of those areas.

Joseph Mollaie said it was an overreach for the State government to dictate zoning.

Joel Weinberger felt the state needs to get involved; the bill creates 3 tiers of transit hubs; not eliminating single family homes.

Roll call:

Yes- Michael Lynn, Laurie Levine, Terrence Gomes, Stuart Weiss, Mallory Smith, Ken Blaker, Marlene Katz, Baila Romm, Sandy Block, Mitch Cohen.

No- Barry Levine, Joel Weinberger, Margarita Guzman, Noah Damsky, Jason Plummer, Joseph Mollaie.

10 Yes, 6 No.

12. Meeting Adjourned by Chair at 9:06 PM, without objection.