

SCNC BOARD

Barbara Monahan Burke
Jeffrey Carter
Ezra Dweck
Victor Helo
Wayne Kartin
Remy Kessler
Michael McCue
Ben Neumann
Richard Niederberg
Todd Royal
Lisa Sarkin
Gail Steinberg
Jeffrey Steinberg
Ron Taylor
Rita Villa
John T. Walker



BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, March 17, 2010, 7:00pm
at
CBS Studio Center, Building 8, MPR-3,
4024 Radford, Studio City CA, 91604

PRESIDENT
Ben Neumann
VICE PRESIDENT
John T. Walker

TREASURER
Remy Kessler

SECRETARY
Gail Steinberg

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY
Lisa Sarkin

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Agenda

1. Call to Order & Roll Call. At 8:20 PM. Barbara Monahan Burke - present, Jeffrey Carter - present, Ezra Dweck - arrived at 8:33 Victor Helo - excused, Wayne Kartin - present, Remy Kessler - present, Michael McCue - present Richard Niederberg - present, Ben Neumann -excused, Todd Royal - present, Lisa Sarkin - present, Jeffrey Steinberg - present, Gail Steinberg - excused, Ron Taylor - present, John Walker - excused, Rita Villa - present. 10 voting members present. 6 votes required to pass a motion. 33 people present. 8:33 now 11 voting members present and 6 needed to pass a motion.
2. Approval of Feb 17 and Feb 23, 2010 SCNC Board meeting minutes. Motion to postpone. **Moved:** Richard Niederberg; **Second:** Barbara Monahan Burke; **Vote:** 10 yes. Unanimous.
3. Comments by President. **Remy Kessler** reminded all stakeholders that the SCNC elections will take place on May 27, 2010 and Susan Ekerling will report on that. Deadline for filing is March 30, 2010 to be on the ballot. If not, up to April 27 you can file forms to be a write in candidate. We would like as many people to run as possible.
4. Public Comments on non-agenda items within the Board's jurisdiction. **Arlene Samek** gave copies to board of letter by Jill Barad regarding the merging of CDD and Done. **Mark Haller** mentioned that the illegal use of email addresses has been glossed over. Our email addresses have gotten out to pornographers. The record should be clarified to indicate that no public money was spent on the email of the RFA motions. Email situation is not a joke. We should take this to a computer specialist. **Marlin White-Sedel** reported that she distributed the newsletter from Rio Vista on the March 26th event. The SCNC donated 400 books to the new library at the school and the PTA matched the donation. She went to Angels flight today and it was a fun day and beautiful area. **Barbara Monahan Burke** echoed what Arlene Samek said about the Valley Alliance. **Barbara Monahan Burke** stated that she is working on the charter and what is legal for NC's. Turtanich's office is looking into this as well. The entire NC system is at stake. **Barry Johnson** stated that he would like to make it clear that nothing improper was done by the SCNC related to the RFA and emails. He reminded the board that the strategy of those opposed to the RFA is to delay the RFA indefinitely. They achieved that exact goal tonight. He is in a 1700 sq

foot home. 2800 would be allowed under the RFA and he should not have to live in a cave by being surrounded by giant houses. He has a right too. **Barbara Monahan Burke** thanked Barry Johnson for bringing this up and stated that we should be strong and united on this. Todd Royal stated that he did not respond to the allegations from that gentleman as he did not present any hard evidence. Therefore he did not respond. There was no proof. **Lisa Sarkin** said it was the city's website that can't screen emails. She does not think anyone can hack into it just for this. He did not bring any evidence. No SCNC money was spent. She reported that she attended the Carpenter garden declaration. **Jeff Carter** said, in immediate response to the public comment by Barry Johnson to the effect that the Board had been diverted by the public commenters during the Special Meeting, that he did not believe that such was the case and that whatever facts the public commenters may have regarding emails had been requested from the public commenters who had made the allegations during the Special Meeting. Jeff Carter had indicated to the public commenters that they, if they wished, could send any information they had regarding emails to him whereupon he would forward it to the appropriate officer of the SCNC. **Michael McCue** said that questionable emails were sent by board members in the past and he was given proof which he believes violates the state ethics laws. **Richard Niederberg** said he thought it was important to verify the credibility of those. **Jeff Steinberg** said if they are fake emails they should be discarded. **Remy Kessler** said the SCNC email list has not been used for inappropriate emails. **Remy Kessler** clarified that we all have SCNC email addresses that go through the CBS router to us. The SCNC does not utilize city funds for its emails. **Rita Villa** clarified that she did respond to the allegations and said that the SCNC had done nothing that was improper.

5. Response(s) to public comments by Board Members. **Included in number 4 above.**
6. Report Treasurer: **Remy Kessler** reported on the spread sheet distributed to the board. Requests related to our rollover funds have been submitted including the Tympanis and the SC Beautification funding. He said all demand warrants must be submitted by April 15th. He is contacting DONE to find out how to get the ongoing bills paid. We still have \$13,000 in the budget for this year. Aside from operational matters we still have funds available for community projects. **Lisa Sarkin** asked if she can still spend the money from her budget. **Remy Kessler** replied that she could. **Barbara Monahan Burke** said all NC's should spend their funds. They will probably not use demand warrants in the future and they are probably going to be using the credit cards. **Wayne Kartin** asked what would be an appropriate project for funding. **Remy Kessler** said community improvement expenditures need to go to the budget committee first and then to the SCNC board. They seem to be changing what they have as policy. He questioned the \$50 for water for each board meeting. **Remy Kessler** explained that there is a convenience factor. Richard Niederberg said even if demand warrants are cut off we can still use the credit card. **Remy Kessler** explained that there are lots of things that we can't use the credit card for. **Public comment from Barry Johnson.** He asked why monthly vendors can't bill in advance. We are getting ripped off by the water. We are paying 6 times what it should cost. The third Wed. is April 21 the day before the CPC hearing. Lisa Sarkin said the convenience is why the water is delivered. **Jeff Steinberg** said he can get the water at Cosco. Michael McCue said we can't allow for anything to jeopardize our ability to function in the next term.
7. Report Budget Committee: **John Walker was not here so no report was presented.**
8. Report Crime & Safety Committee: **Josh Rubenstein was not there so no report was presented.**
9. Report Cultural Affairs Committee: **Christine From.** Asked for board members to help her find people to lead the neighborhood "walk abouts". She reported about Heritage Day the museum of the SF Valley is letting us use half of their table. There is a lot of support for the Republic Studio event. Can't go forward and use republic pictures photos without approval from the Paramount lawyers. Her committee has put on facebook - "Studio City Buzz". At this site you can post what is happening in Studio City. Ben Neumann posted a notice of this meeting there. A.C. Lyles a paramount historian may be willing to help if included. Richard Niederberg made a comment regarding CBS, Paramount and Viacom.

- a) Report Environmental Affairs Committee: **Michael McCue** waived presentation of his committee report including the leaf blower PSA video.

10. Report Outreach Committee: **Suzanne Ekerling** reported all election outreach all the time is what their committee is working on. They have a great strategy for getting the word out and there is a link from our website to the city site to where the forms are located. This has gone out to the Chamber distribution list, the BID distribution list and the SCNC list. The Rotary Club is going to distribute it as well. Flyer distribution opportunities are available to all of us. The SCRA is distributing to their email list by the end of this week. That is about 2000 plus contacts. Each of the council offices representing a portion of Studio City have been contacted and asked to make the information available. Postcard mailing for candidate solicitation has not been agreed to by the NCs of Region C. Outreach is still deciding if a Studio City specific postcard should be designed and sent for candidate solicitation. We can do such a solicitation for the actual voting. Needs volunteers for flyer distribution at the Farmers market. She sent out an email and asked the board to sign up to help at the various events. **Lisa Sarkin** asked how many people are available for this weekend and next. This Sunday she has 3 and next Sunday she has 2. She needs one more for this Sunday and 2 for next Sunday. **Michael McCue** said that the link was not working. He has been doing voter registration at farmers market on Sundays and has been telling people about the elections. **Suzanne Ekerling** explained how to use the hyperlink. Todd Royal said use Google. **Richard Niederberg** said three people showed up to learn how to handle challenges. **Barry Johnson** said the regular filing deadline is in less than two weeks so no postcard should be sent now. Look at alternatives so something goes out by the weekend. **Suzanne Ekerling** responded that the postcard was to be for all the NC's in Region C. Since December we have been getting the word out, by email, flyer, distribution at farmers market and other ways. Outreach has put in hundreds of volunteer hours. If there is something else that should be done please do it or advise the outreach committee. **Lisa Sarkin** said we need to be careful but we no longer have any support from DONE. The City clerk is not doing anything. We need to each do something to get the word out. **Suzanne Ekerling** said we can use the flyer we have designed to distribute the flyers using walking man. **Remy Kessler** asked if any election related expenses have been incurred. Funding was for a postcard and a walking man distributed flyer. Outreach has done the best they could, there is no joint region C postcard at the present time. Maybe hire walking man this week. **Remy Kessler** says that Walking Man should be used to get the word out before the March 30 filing period ends. **Suzanne Ekerling** needs more help. **Remy Kessler** suggested that outreach get the flyer out before the month's end and it should be professionally distributed. **Arlene Semek** said that it would cost more than 2,000 to do it. **Suzanne Ekerling** said it will take time to design something. **Remy Kessler** said there is money available to do outreach. **Suzanne Ekerling** said the walking man flyer will be done. **Michael McCue** asked if we have enough candidates to fill all the seats. **Ron Taylor** said he will get a report by Friday and will distribute it to the board. **Barbara Monahan Burke** said the postcard had to be sent - mailed. We are having problems with the RFA because Planning did not do their notice properly. **Taylor** said he will get a report by Friday and will distribute it to the board. **Barbara Monahan Burke** said we could have problems because of not sending the postcard. **Ron Taylor** said we should use the workshops for another distribution venue for flyer outreach. **Suzanne Ekerling** said the idea of the postcard was to try to save money on mailings by coming together. To her knowledge no other region has done a mailing. They are expensive and time consuming. The intention was for the postcard to be collaborative. **Remy Kessler** said we need to do the best we can. The City used to do it. The postcard is not the only way to do outreach. The flyer can be mailed. **Suzanne Ekerling** said please make distribution of flyers and send out emails.

11. Report Transportation Committee: **Todd Royal** went straight to the motion and asked for it to be read. **Remy Kessler** read the motion.

- a) **MOTION: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council supports Council File Number: 09-2140, dated September 1, 2009, a motion brought by Council members Dennis P. Zine & Paul Koretz and seconded by Bill Rosendahl. The City Attorney and Los Angeles Department of Transportation should report to the City Council with an analysis of the effects of the Lone Star Security and Video, et al. v. City of Los Angeles decision from the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit on the legality of a ban on mobile billboards in the City of Los Angeles, and to present a draft ordinance to effectuate such a ban. The draft ordinance should include a ban on any mobile billboard placed unattended on a city street for more than two hours with the intent to advertise. The Department of Transportation should fine and tow any mobile billboard that violates such conditions.**

Todd Royal reported that the SCRA voted last night to unanimously to support this. He asked our council man if he thinks this is a good motion and is it needed. **Paul Krekorian** responded that he wants more arrows in his quiver. These are a hazard as they can roll into the public right of way and block traffic. **Barry Johnson** stated that we should give what our councilman said weight as we vote. Also Mrs. Krekorian saw one blow over. **Vote 11 -0- 0. Motion Carries**

- b) **MOTION: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council supports a freeze on all rail expansion projects and real estate developments on property owned by the Metro Transit Authority (MTA) until the MTA can close the projected shortfall of operating funds of at least \$251.3 million by the end of the 2011 fiscal year.**

Remy Kessler read the motion. **Todd Royal** explained that this motion was brought back to committee for further deliberation. He read part of an article in the Daily News 2/27/2010 and a quote from Wendy Gruel. A LA Times article was presented stating that ridership is down and is expected to decline. Aug 14th 2008 LA Daily News . leading experts in the country. LA Weekly dated 10/10/2007 related to development on top of Metro. Kato Institute US bureau of trans sated that light rail uses more energy than an automobile. If you are going to build it you need to be able to pay for it. The last thing on line is that the china town light rail is 400 million over budget. Expo line is 600 million over budget. Anyone can go to metro website and find these facts. This motion is to go to General Manager of Metro and Zine. Revenue from Metro will be much less than anticipated. **Ron Taylor** said that the problem is that we have a subway but not a subway system. The city had public transportation in the past. He does not think we should summarily stop development when we are on a way to development of a system. The reason these things are so expensive is that the environmental impact reports take so long and union contracts are expensive. He does not think we should build when ridership is down. Don't need to build to keep up with population growth. **Jeff Carter** supported the motion as originally presented – but not as amended. He said that, for better or worse, the City would likely never have a subway system like New York or London given the reality of the automobile culture here; and that a message should be sent as to spending. **Wayne Kartin** called the question. **Barry Johnson** was allowed to give his public comment. He said no money should be given until the Metro has its house in order. We need more rail. He suggested we need to stop nonvoter mandated funding. A friendly amendment was proposed by **Richard Niederberg**. He said it is expensive to shut down current projects. So this should apply to future projects only. **Michael McCue** agreed that it should be future projects only.

Amended Motion:

The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council supports a freeze on the spending of nonvoter mandated funding of all rail expansion projects and real estate developments on property owned by the Metro Transit Authority (MTA), which are not already in process, until the MTA can close the projected shortfall of operating funds of at least \$251.3 million by the end of the 2011 fiscal year. Moved: Lisa Sarkin **Second:** Richard Niederberg. **Michael McCue** believes that we need a good mass transportation system but the MTA must be accountable for their spending. We are going through social change and the mass transit created now will be used in the future. There must be accountability first. He supports the motion. **Vote: 9- 1- 1**

12. Report Land Use Committee: Lisa Sarkin (40 min).

MOTION: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council requests Councilmember Paul Krekorian to locate and make public, information regarding the electric and water rates for the years 2008, 2009, and 2010 for the SCNC area. The SCNC requests an explanation of any rate changes and supporting documentation therefore. The SCNC has sought this information for 2 years to no avail. Until such time as this information is made available, all homes and businesses in the SCNC area shall be charged at the lowest prevailing

DWP rates. The SCNC requests Councilman Krekorian to prepare a motion for submission to the City Council to this effect within 30 days.

Lisa Sarkin reported on the meeting that Todd Royal, Ben Neumann, Lisa Sarkin and Rita Villa had with Paul Krekorian. **Remy Kessler** read the motion. **Lisa Sarkin** reported that Paul Krekorian was flabbergasted during the meeting about this issue. As of 7/1/2010 tier 3 is what we believe we will be charged, we could be paying as much as \$5.91 which is twice as much as we were paying a year ago. Karo Tarrazian, Paul Krekorian's deputy helped us draft the motion. The motion put forward by Wendy Gruel in June 09 has not gone forward. **Barry Johnson** stated that he thinks Paul Krekorian is on board with this and the motion will be a reminder that he has committed to look into this. He thinks the DWP feels that this is a way to stick it to Studio City. **Barbara Monahan Burke** stated that the MOU and Advocacy committee are aware of this. PA Consulting made a recommendation to look at the tier structure. She met with the CLO and CLA on this. She supports the motion. **Richard Niederberg** believes the lowest rate is the rate charged to the schools. If they use solar panels the rate will be raised. **Ezra Dweck** called the question. **Vote 11 0 0.**

13. Report Bylaws & Procedures Committee: **Ron Taylor** indicated that he had no report.
14. Report Government Affairs Committee: **Barbara Monahan Burke** stated that she represented the SCNC at the mayor's budget meeting last Saturday. It was the first time that the NC's were asked to present at the same time as the mayor's staff and were formally on the agenda.
 - a) **MOTION: The board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council opposes the baseline hillside ordinance unless the following revisions are made (i) Neighborhood Councils must be notified in the event of deviation discretionary actions and proposed variances by zoning administrators, (ii) provisions for the preservation of ridgelines are incorporated and (iii) provisions allowing for a 20% bonus are eliminated.**
Remy Kessler read the motion. **Richard Niederberg** is concerned about the equal protection issue. He thinks the flatlands and the hillside should be the same. He supports the ridgeline idea. **Lisa Sarkin** stated that hillside property has much unusable space. The lot is huge but the usable space is much less. **Barry Johnson** stated that the bonus on the flatlands is meaningless and building and safety does not police it. He thinks the 20% bonus is a boondoggle and we do not need to duplicate it in the hillside. We should not have it in our flatland RFA. He agrees with what Lisa said because it is not the same on the hillside as the flatland. **Barbara Monahan Burke** said planning should not propose ordinances when we are trying to control the outrageous size and they are giving the 20% bonuses. **Vote: 8- 3-0**
15. Comments from Board Members on subject matters within the Board's jurisdiction. **Lisa Sarkin** said some committees spend many hours in committee and we have motions at the end so many stakeholders do not get to hear what the committees are really doing. There was much inaccurate information given related to the RFA by those opposed to it. It is inappropriate that emails are sent to her that are personally deriding her. **Michael McCue** commented that the President came back from the leave of absence and now and has missed 50% of the meetings since then. **Remy Kessler** asked that this be held until Ben Neumann is here to respond. **Jeff Steinberg** said with respect to meeting length, possibly there should be meetings twice a month so people can get out by 9:30. GAC and LUC should be heard with at a meeting in the first half of the month and then the other committees matters can be heard with at a second meeting. **Ezra Dweck** said that is there is no reason to have every board member speak on every issue.
16. Adjournment. **Moved:** Todd Royal; **Second:** Richard Niederberg; **Vote:** 11 0 0.