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GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

August 27, 2008, 6:00pm
at

CBS Studio Center, MPR 3, Bldg. 8,
4024 Radford, Studio City CA, 91604

PRESIDENT
Ben Neumann

VICE PRESIDENT
John T. Walker

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Lisa Sarkin

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Committee members: Barbara Monahan Burke (Co-Chair), Rita Villa (Co-Chair), Ben Neumann (Ex-officio), Michael Klausman, Michael McCue, Todd Royal and Ann-Marie Whitman.

Agenda

1. Call to Order & Roll Call.
Barbara Monahan Burke - Present
Rita Villa - Present
Ben Neumann - Excused
Michael Klausman - Present
Michael McCue - Excused
Todd Royal - Present
Ann-Marie Whitman - Present
2. Approval of July 23, 2008 SCNC Government Affairs Committee meeting minutes. Ann-Marie Whitman **motion to approve**, Michael Klausman **second**; **Vote:** 4- yes 1-abstain.
3. Comments by the Committee Co-Chair Barbara Monahan Burke. Suggested moving the regular date of the GAC meeting in relation to the SCNC Board meeting. **Motion** to move the regular meeting date for the GAC to the 1st Wednesday of the month at 6:00PM by Rita Villa. Todd Royal – **Second**; **Unanimous**. Note that on Wed September 3rd we will meet at 5:30 PM due to the Transportation Committee meeting that was previously scheduled for 6:30 PM.
4. Public Comments on non-agenda items within the Committee's jurisdiction. **Joe Higgins** – Expressed displeasure at the lack of agendas and minutes on the SCNC Website. He suggested that the agendas be sent to DONE so DONE will post it on the LA City website and will send it to the early notification e-mail list.
5. Response(s) to comments by Committee Members. **Barbara Monahan Burke** indicated that we will be sure this takes place in the future.
6. Presentation by Rick Rabins, President of Village Gardeners, and Barbara Monahan Burke related to proposed "Steps to the Riverwalk" Los Angeles River Entry Project at Valleyheart and Ethel. **Barbara Monahan Burke** introduced Rick Rabins and noted that Lisa Sarkin was present in her capacity as SCNC Land Use Chair and as an adhoc committee member on River related matters. **Rick Rabins** stated that 10/22/08 is the deadline to apply for a beautification grant from the City of Los Angeles. There are no pedestrian access ways at this location. On the west end of Ethel is where the Earthday beautification project was done this year. That area was phase 1 of the improvements planned for this area. LA County is

very supportive of the entire project and the efforts of the Village Gardeners. The Village Gardeners have submitted a partnership agreement to the County to be able to complete the second phase. The project is located on the north side of the river and runs for about 580 feet to Ethel. There is a service road located here but there are no steps. The GAC was shown a photo of the actual location. There is no improved access to the river in this area for miles. A permit has been applied for and is pending. There is no fencing in this area to keep anyone out. **Lisa Sarkin** asked if Rick Rabins had spoken to the City about this project in addition to the County. He indicated that the individual from the County advised him that he would contact the City personnel. **Barbara Monahan Burke** stated that she has notified the City about this as well. It was noted that the Grant application requires that the County give support to the project before the City will approve the grant. **Lisa Sarkin** asked what is on the other side of the River. On the opposite side of the river is the outdoor classroom. There are no other improvements on the other side of the river. **Rick Rabins** indicated that the Village Gardeners will move ahead with this project even if they do not get the grant funds. He stated that he is also a member of the SCRA Beautification Committee and is coordinating with them as well. **Connie Elliot** expressed her support. **Barry Johnson** stated that he feels that this is a great project. He has not been impressed with the other River revitalization people. He feels that we can improve this area ourselves and it is better to do this as a grass roots effort. **Michael Klausman** and **Rita Villa** expressed gratitude and support for the work being done. Rick Rabins further explained that Phase 1 of the project was 250 feet of slope west of Coldwater Canyon. 250 Native California plants were planted during the Earthday event. Village Gardeners is committed to continuing this project. Oleander planting began about 50 years ago. Many of these plants have been wiped out by a disease. Those located between Whitsett and Laurel are getting sick. The Village Gardeners are trying to do what they can to mitigate the problem. Phase 2 has very few oleanders left and as the ones that are left may be diseased, they will be removed. Between Ethel and Fulton the plants are still healthy but they are getting stressed and they may need to be removed if they are diseased. **Barbara Monahan Burke** stated that this area is where Studio City meets Sherman Oaks. The thought is that each of these sections should be locked at night at either end.

Motion:

The Government Affairs Committee of the Studio City Neighborhood Council recommends that the Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council take the following action:

The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council supports the "Steps to the Riverwalk" Los Angeles Entry project at Valleyheart and Ethel. Moved by Todd Royal. Second by Ann-Marie Whitman. Unanimous.

7. Comments from Committee Members on subject matters within the Committee's jurisdiction. **Todd Royal** stated that he is looking to improve the political effectiveness of NC's. He believes that we should consider a borough system. He feels that MoveOn.Org is the most connected and influential political organization. He feels that as NC's are only advisory they need to call for greater power and use the methods of MoveOn.Org. He stated that we must harness the power of our e-mail lists to influence the City's actions. **Barbara Monahan Burke** suggested we have an informal round table. **Todd Royal** requested that this item be placed on the agenda for a future meeting. **Barbara Monahan Burke** suggested that this could go on the agenda for the October GAC meeting.
8. Adjournment. **Motion** by Michael Klausman. **Second** by Todd Royal. **Unanimous.**