

SCNC BOARD

Jeffrey Carter
Ben Di Benedetto
Joshua Gelfat
Victor Helo
Wayne Kartin
Remy Kessler
Ben Neumann
Richard Niederberg
Todd Royal
Lisa Sarkin
Lana Shackelford
Gail Steinberg
Ron Taylor
Rita C. Villa
John T. Walker
Denise Welvang



BOARD MEETING APPROVED MINUTES

Monday, June 13, 2011

Meeting 7:00pm

at

**CBS Studio Center, Building 8, MPR-3,
4024 Radford, Studio City CA, 91604**

PRESIDENT
John T. Walker

VICE PRESIDENT
TODD ROYAL

TREASURER
Remy Kessler

SECRETARY
Rita C. Villa

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY
Lana Shackelford

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The public is requested to fill out a "Comment Card" to address the Board on any item of the agenda prior to the Board taking action on an item. Comments from the public on Agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered. Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the Agenda that is within the Board's subject matter jurisdiction will be heard during the Public Comment period. **Public comment is limited to two minutes per speaker, unless directed otherwise by the presiding officer of the Board.** The agenda is posted for public review at: Studio City Neighborhood Council website (www.studiocitync.org); as well as CBS Studio Center, Radford and Colfax gates; the Studio City Library, 12511 Moorpark St.; the Studio City Recreation Center, 12621 Rye Ave. and at Carpenter Avenue Elementary School, 3909 Carpenter Avenue, Studio City, CA 91604. As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and upon request, will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services, and activities. Sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request. To ensure availability of services, please make your request at least three (3) business days (72 hours) prior to the meeting you wish to attend by contacting the Neighborhood Council Project Coordinator (213) 473-5391 or by e-mail to Thomas.Soong@lacity.org. In compliance with Government Code section 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the Board in advance of a meeting, may be viewed at our website by clicking on the following link: www.studiocitync.org or at the scheduled meeting.. In addition, if you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, please contact office@studiocitync.org.

1. Call to Order & Roll Call. Jeffrey Carter – present, Ben Di Benedetto – present; Josh Gelfat – present, Victor Helo – present, Wayne Kartin – excused, Remy Kessler - present, Ben Neumann– excused, Richard Niederberg - present, Todd Royal - present, Lisa Sarkin - present, Lana Shackelford – present, Gail Steinberg – present, Ron Taylor – present, Rita Villa –present, John Walker – present, Denise Welvang – present. 13 voting members; 33 stakeholders present.
2. Approval of May 18, 2011 Board Minutes. Approved without objection
3. Comments by the President. **John Walker** explained the reason for the change of the board meeting date. He also explained the status of the redistricting process. He stated that the Government Affairs Committee will address the present proposal which is to split Studio City north and south of Ventura Blvd into two different districts. He explained the need to create boundaries that make sense for our representation. He asked the stakeholders to go to website listed in the e-blast he sent, review the proposal and submit comments. He asked the stakeholders to please submit their comments directly. This issue will impact all of our lives.
4. Nominations and Elections of Board Officers: John Walker accepted nominations for the positions presented below.
 - a. Corresponding Secretary - **Lana Schackelford**– Nominated by Lisa Sarkin; Second: Jeffrey Carter. **Vote: 13:0:0 Unanimous.**
 - b. Secretary – **Rita C. Villa** – Nominated by Gail Steinberg; Second: Victor Helo. **Vote: 13:0:0 Unanimous.**
 - c. Treasurer - **Remmy Kessler** - Nominated by Lisa Sarkin; Second: Gail Steinberg. **Vote: 13:0:0 Unanimous.**
 - d. Vice President – **Lisa Sarkin** – Nominated by Richard Niederberg; Second: Lana Schackelford. Yes: 11; No 2; Abstain 0. Motion Carries.
 - e. President – **John Walker** -Nominated by Ben Di Benedetto; Second: Lisa Sarkin; **Vote: 13:0:0 Unanimous.**

After the election **John Walker** said that he has been told many times that the SCNC has set a standard in the City of LA for Neighborhood Councils. This has been reiterated to him many times. He feels honored by this. The stakeholder's involvement is essential and he thanked the stakeholders and the board for re-nominating him.

5. Public Comments on non-agenda items within the Board's jurisdiction. **Geoff Yazzetta** – With CD2 announced that the councilman will have an inauguration event on July 2, 2011 from 11 am to 2 pm at the Van Nuys Memorial Park with a barbeque and the SCNC will be asked to set up a booth there. The North Hollywood Food Pantry will benefit from this event so bring food donations to benefit people in the area; **Joe Higgins** extended his congratulations to the board. He reminded everyone that tomorrow is Flag Day. He also said that the flag should be at our meetings. He also said that when we send out the agendas we should also send out the attachments. **John Walker** explained that the attachments are available on the website. **Joe Higgins** also said that at last month's board meeting the board made some changes to an item that had been extensively vetted by a committee. If the board is going to do that they should go to the meetings and give input there; **Marilyn White-Sedel** congratulated the officers on their election. She said we are inundated with illegal signage. It is on every pole. If you see illegal signage you can call DINA at New Directions for Youth at (818) 262-3545 and report where the illegal signage is and they will come out and remove it. CD2 did a good job of having tagging removed from the second house from the freeway. Illegal signage should be removed. We need to take personal responsibility for this.
6. Responses to comments from the Board. **Ben Di Benedetto** asked for and received clarification on Joe Higgins' comment.
7. Treasurer's report by **Remy Kessler**. Gave a brief overview of item 7 and 8 to put things in context. The remaining funds shown on the schedule were \$15,722 but that number is now \$15,022. This is the first time we get no roll over monies. We found that out recently. The City revised the cut-off date for the submission of demand warrants. It was revised to April 15th which as obviously past and the last day for credit card purchases is June 15th. We have therefore had to change our approach to the authorization of funding at this meeting to make sure what we authorize can be purchased on the credit card. We have reallocated the funds we previously authorized for SC Beautification as a result of these changes by DONE. John Walker read Motion A.

MOTION A: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council has reviewed the June 2011 financial statements and the May 2011 bank statements and hereby accepts and approves them. The motion was approved in absence of objection.

John Walker read Motion B.

MOTION B: Pursuant to Article X(F) of the Studio City Neighborhood Council Bylaws, the Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council approves a Motion to amend the Motion passed at the May 18, 2011 Board meeting approving a funding request from the Studio City Beautification Association (SCBA) for up to \$7,000 for the purpose of the maintenance of existing beautification projects within Studio City under the jurisdiction of the SCBA. That motion shall now be deemed to have approved a funding request for \$1,920.

Remy Kessler explained that this money has already been paid out. **Victor Helo** asked if we have to give the money as designated in motion 7C. **Lisa Sarkin** asked if anyone else has come to ask for money. **Victor Helo** asked if we can give money as a donation.

Remy Kessler explained that it must be a specific request to fund a specific thing and not a general donation to an organization. **Richard Adams** said he agrees that all the SCNC's allowed funds should be spent and not go back to the City if possible. **Lisa Davis** said that as money is still left on the table she would like to use the remaining money to

increase the number of banners or postcards we are purchasing. **John Walker** agreed. **Gail Stenberg** commented that the money could be just indicated it is for outreach. Richard Niederberg said he would like to know if there is enough money to purchase the monument sign. **Vote 12:0:1 Motion Carries**

John Walker read Motion C.

MOTION C: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council approves a funding request from the Studio City Beautification Association (SCBA) for up to \$5,080 for the 2011-2012 fiscal year, for the purpose of the maintenance of existing beautification projects within Studio City under the jurisdiction of the SCBA. Lana Shackelford asked if we can have a list of beautification projects. **Bill Harmond** responded that the projects included: maintenance 180 trees on Ventura Blvd. between Lankershim to Fulton which are outside the BID area; maintenance of 8 medians, one on Coldwater, two on Laurel Canyon, one on Ventura Place, the center island at Ventura Place and on Vineland Ave by the Right Aid, maintenance of the Moorpark Parkway across from Moorpark Park and the Oasis; the Radford Project, Anita's Triangle, Laurel Canyon between Oakdale Road and Fryman place, and the Maxwellton triangle. The total maintenance budget of the SCBA is \$23,000. **John Walker** said that Bill Harmond has done an excellent job and he is about to retire. Bill Harmond said he is looking for a replacement. **Vote: 12:1:0 Motion Carries.**

8. Budget Committee Report by **Remy Kessler** for **Mark Batterman**.

a. Presentation, discussion and Motion to accept the 2011-2012 Studio City Neighborhood Council Projected Itemized Budget.

Motion: The Studio City Neighborhood Council accepts the Projected Itemized Budget Attached. Moved: Remy Kessler; **Second:** Lisa Sarkin.

Remy Kessler explained the budget. **Richard Adams** said we have to pass a budget or we don't get anything. **Marilyn White-Sidel** asked about the three motions below and got clarification that this is different from the three motions above. **Jeff Carter** request and got clarification on the ability to move money after the budget is passed. **Ron Taylor** asked if A, B and C below relate to next year. **Remy Kessler** responded, no. **Ben Di Benedetto** asked if these allocations are in the same proportion as in the past, **Remy Kessler** responded yes. **Lana Shackelford** asked about the bolded items on the spread sheet and inquired if those amounts would be returned to the budget. **John Walker** provided clarification. **Jeff Carter** said this is budget to be passed for next year, the motions below are for current year funds. **Vote: 13:0:0 Motion Carries.**

John Walker read Motion A.

MOTION A: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council approves a funding request from the Studio City Chamber of Commerce to fund a sponsorship in the amount of \$5,000 for the Studio City 4th of July Celebration on the CBS/Radford lot with the funds applied for the purpose of public safety. **Melody Dosch** said that this is the largest public event of the year held in Studio City. Several charities are sponsored with the proceeds from this event. **Marilyn White-Sidel** suggested that since DONE has reduced the SCNC's funds for next year all requests should be reduced; **Vote: 13:0:0 Motion Carries**

John Walker read Motion B.

MOITION B: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council approves a funding request of up to \$3,000 to sponsor a meeting of the Boards and Committees of local Neighborhood Councils on the CBS/Radford lot on July 10, 2011 for the purpose of guided discussion and information sharing in an attempt

to achieve consensus within the Neighborhood Councils on the important issues impacting our communities.

Request to modify the motion to add "on or about" before the date. **Vote to amend motion: 13:0:0 Motion Carries**

John Walker read Amended Motion B.

MOITION B: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council approves a funding request of up to \$3,000 to sponsor a meeting of the Boards and Committees of local Neighborhood Councils on the CBS/Radford lot on or about July 10, 2011 for the purpose of guided discussion and information sharing in an attempt to achieve consensus within the Neighborhood Councils on the important issues impacting our communities. Gail Steinberg asked if the SCNC is sponsoring the event. **Victor Helo** said we should sponsor this because we are leaders. **Lisa Sarkin** said only John Walker was willing to commit to the work involved. **Vote on amended motion. Vote: 13:0:0 Motion Carries**

John Walker read Motion C.

MOTION C: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council approves a funding request of up to \$11,000 to the SCNC Outreach Committee for the following: 1) Street banners for Ventura Blvd. and other major local thoroughfares to promote awareness of the SCNC to stakeholders – 2) SCNC marketing and promotional materials including but not limited to mounted posters and handout materials such as postcards and other pre-printed materials. Richard Niederberg said the outreach committee should get more money. **Lisa Cahan Davis** explained she would like more. **Gail Steinberg** requested amendment of the amount to be up to 12,000. **Second: Lisa Sarkin. Ray Cacciuli** asked where mounted posters would be located. **Lisa Cahan Davis** explained where they would be. **Vote on amendment: 12:1:0 Motion Carries.**

John Walker read Amended Motion C.

AMENDED MOTION C: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council approves a funding request of up to \$12,000 to the SCNC Outreach Committee for the following: 1) Street banners for Ventura Blvd. and other major local thoroughfares to promote awareness of the SCNC to stakeholders – 2) SCNC marketing and promotional materials including but not limited to mounted posters and handout materials such as postcards and other pre-printed materials. Vote on Amended motion. 12:1:0 Motion Carries

9. VANC Report by **Arlene Samek. John Walker** indicated that report had been distributed to the board members.
10. Outreach Committee Report by **Lisa Cahan-Davis. Lisa Cahan Davis** said she needs people to sign up to help with 4th of July. John Walker asked her to send out an email with a deadline date. She asked everyone to volunteer and to get their committee members to volunteer. **Lisa Cahan Davis** reported that the creatives for the street banners will be reviewed at the next committee meeting. It will be tight with the 4th of July event so we must move quickly. The draft of the creatives will be sent to the board. **Gail Steinberg** said from past experience we should get a show of hands from the board now as to who will be present for 4th of July. **John Walker** encouraged board members to participate.
11. Transportation Committee Report by **Ben Di Benedetto. Ben Di Benedetto** reported that there had been no meeting this time. He has received feedback from issues being dealt with. The parking tickets given during the Studio City Art Fair are being taken care of. CD2 has sent out an email. He is working with Councilman Krekorian to resolve the problems at the Whitsett

and Woodbridge intersection. Presently they plan to use a speed trailer on and off. The DOT is coming out to look at the red curb space and there will be intermittent law enforcement. **Richard Adams** asked how much of the problem is secondary to the pipeline and how much is just the result of traffic increases. **Ben Di Benedetto** responded that most of the problem is due to traffic which has been exacerbated by the trunk line construction project. There have been 4 of 5 accidents at that intersection in the last 90 days. Part of the issue is that there is no site line due to inadequate red curb. **Lisa Sarkin** said there are a number of places where red curb has been extended such as at the Kraft and Moorpark southwest corner. **Richard Adams** said the trunk line construction on Dickens south to the high school on Coldwater Canyon will be taking place all summer.

12. Government Affairs Committee Report by **Jeffery Carter** and **Rita Villa**.

John Walker read the Motion.

MOTION: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council opposes any reduction in the 911 operator work force as their response time can be a matter of life and death.

Richard Adam said he does not want the 911 cutback. **Richard Niederberg** said that there was a lot of overlap in training because there were two centers running in parallel. He thinks there may be some reason for duplicate efforts. **Jeff Carter** said that he supports the motion. **Remy Kessler** said there is no meat to the motion. There should be more direction. **Ron Taylor** said he would like to know if the response time is in jeopardy. **Ben Di Benedetto** asked for the origin of the motion. **Richard Adams** and **Barry Johnson** both stated that they have experienced delays. **Barry Johnson** said that he was on hold for 5 minutes. Another NC member reported that his had a heart attack and he was on hold for 15 minutes. **John Walker** said that his neighbor told him he was hold for 7 minutes. **Ron Taylor** proposed an amendment to the motion. **Second:** Lisa Sarkin. **Vote on amendment:** 12:0:1 **Motion Carries.**

John Walker read the Amended Motion.

AMENDED MOTION: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council opposes any reduction in the 911 operator work force. The response time currently is dangerously long. Any further reduction in 911 operator workforce will cause additional delay in that response time.

Richard Adams asked if the fire department would be able to respond faster. **Richard Niederberg** said that he has been there when the room is very quiet and the bosses are not taking calls. **Mr. Gelfat** asked if the board has seen statistics on the response times. **John Walker** said he has not seen any statistics. **Victor Helo** said some of the 911 calls are made on a cell phone and it takes longer to get a response. **Vote on amended motion:** 12:0:1 **Motion Carries**

13. Land Use Committee Report by **Lisa Sarkin**. Lisa Sarkin gave a report on land use issues. She said we have gotten no responses from the DWP in 2 months. The Planning Department has Little Dom's on hold. The Zoning Administrator agreed with the neighbors and Lisa Sarkin thinks that the application will be approved with all the LUC committee's recommended conditions. With respect to the Montessori school **Lisa Sarkin** reported that the neighbors attended the hearing. They complained that there is a child at the school that cries all day long. This matter is being held over. The Hearing officer is requesting further investigation of the complaints. With respect to the pot shops in Studio City the community would like to know how many is too many. The art pieces for the bridge were sent out to the board for review. The art work will be on the ramp on the south side of the bridge. Our Council Office is trying to get the sidewalks in. The Administrative Code Enforcement ordinance is moving along. The City Attorney's Office is happy with it. The ordinance will apply to many items in but not building and safety matters. An advisory committee of the LUC has been set up to draft a list of best practices

to be followed for liquor license requests. The Aqua Vista sink hole resulted from an 83 year old sewer line breaking. That line should have been replaced some time ago. It will take the City 3 to 4 months to replace it. **Lisa Sarkin** reported on the façade on the Kinko's building at Laurel Canyon and Ventura Blvd. A better design style will be submitted. **Ray Cacciuli** said he and Jeff Carter had discussed the parking lot. And he would like the parking lot to be improved. **Lisa Sarkin** responded that unless a CUP is required we can't require any improvement in the parking lot. **Marilyn White-Sedel** said she has gotten two bills which were each over \$1,000 because of a leak in the pipes. **Lisa Sarkin** asked if rates need to be raised because of the transfer of employee expense from the general fund to the DWP. **Victor Helo** said the rate increases is for the recycled water program. **Todd Royal** commented that the LA Times had an article about renewable energy concerns and that is why there is a rate increase. It is to get rid of coal. **Lisa Cahan Davis** offered to put this on facebook. The survey should be sent out as an eblast.

John Walker read the Motion.

MOTION: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council opposes all advertising for commercial purposes, including for-profit and/or non-profit, in all parks and recreation areas in the City, County, State and Federal properties within Los Angeles. Further, fines must be levied commensurate with the costs to the City of Los Angeles for inspection and removal thereof. **Richard Adams** said it should say public lands not parks and recreation areas. We have no control over Federal properties or county properties. **Ron Taylor** said this should not relate to baseball backstops. **John Walker** said he recalled his son played baseball and wants to be sure those signs do not get eliminated. **Lana Shackelford** said we need to be more specific. **Ben Di Benedetto** said we should say sponsored so that would eliminate this. **Remy Kessler** said this should be vetted by the parks commission. **Gail Steinberg** said that a group backing this motion came to the last board meeting and they were sent to the LUC. That is why the LUC is bringing the motion. **Vote 10:3:0. Motion Carries**

14. Cultural Affairs Committee Report by **Richard Niederberg**. **Richard Niederberg** gave the background for the motion.

John Walker read the motion.

MOTION: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council approves the funding of up to \$500 to purchase a commemorative bronze plaque to be displayed at the public area adjacent to the "Trigger" statue at the CBS parking lot, recognizing the 75th Anniversary of Republic Pictures, celebrated September 25, 2010 in Studio City, with the text of the plaque clearly stating that the event was sponsored by the Studio City Neighborhood Council. **Marilyn White-Sedel** indicated that she is in favor of the motion. **Lisa Cahan Davis** stated that she is also in favor. **Remy Kessler** said this was brought to the budget committee. The budget committee did not support it. **Lisa Sarkin** asked if we do things on private property. **Lana Shackelford** commented that the major event was on this private property. **Jeff Carter** indicated his support. **Ron Taylor** said he felt this was redundant. **Jeff Carter** called the question. **John Walker** read the motion again. **Vote: 7:5:1. Motion Carries.**

15. Crime & Safety Committee report by **Wayne Kartin**. **Richard Adams** said they want to do a pancake breakfast in support of station 78 with another neighborhood organization.

16. ByLaws Committee Report by **Ron Taylor**. **Ron Taylor** reported on the last committee meeting and thanked Lisa Sarkin for her help. **Jeff Carter** asked if these revisions all come from DONE. **Ron Taylor** responded, no. **Remy Kessler** said that it should say resignations are irrevocable. **Rita Villa** made a point of order with respect to Motion A below. **John Walker** accepted the point. As a result Motion A below was sent back to Committee.

MOTION A: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council adopts the attached version of its Bylaws, which have been reformatted to conform to the 2011 DONE Bylaws Template. (attached).

John Walker read the motion.

MOTION B: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council approves the following revision to Article iii, Section J of its Bylaws to read: "An Official Action occurs only when a Motion before the Board passes with the requisite number of votes." Ron Taylor gave the background for the motion. **Richard Adams** thanked the Board for sending Motion A back to committee and thanked the committee for their hard work. He said if the board approves something it is an act. He supports this. **Richard Niederberg** stated he is strongly in support of this motion. An act should be an act. **Ben Di Benedetto** questioned the fact that the word quorum is now not here. It is requisite number of votes. **Vote: 13:0:0. Motion Carries**

17. Comments from Board Members on subject matters within the Board's jurisdiction. John Walker said that starting at end of June the only minutes requiring posting on the website will be the board minutes. Committees no longer need to put them on the web site. He also said that every board member will be required to assist with the comment cards on a rotating basis at the board meetings. **Ron Taylor** reported that the Tujunga merchants have been hit by a scammer. **Richard Adams** said there are a couple of lawyers that have perpetual victims that file lots of cases and this is an ongoing scandal. **Lisa Sarkin** commented that Gussy Millar and Shoney Crebs will present their "Sidewalks for Safety" motion at the City Council meeting tomorrow. **Ben Di Benedetto** requested that someone from the Budget Committee actually comes to give the report. The report should be given by the chair of the committee occasionally. We should have foreknowledge of what is coming down the pike. **Jeff Carter** asked what triggers the meeting of the budget committee. **Remy Kessler** explained that the Budget Committee only meets when there has been a funding request. He stated that all budget request are sent to all board members. He agreed to advise the board of motions voted down as well as what comes to the board from the committee as a motion. **Richard Niederberg** said this has been the way it has been for many years. **Ben Di Benedetto** said that he has not gotten them. down the pike. **Jeff Carter** asked what triggers the meeting of the budget committee. **Remy Kessler** said that budget contact requests will now be sent to all board members. **John Walker** agreed to test the email system again. He advised the board members and chairs present that if they do not receive the email test by tomorrow then the board and chairs will need to contact John immediately. **Gail Steinberg** drew out that the Facebook request was not a request from the SCNC.

18. Adjournment. **Moved:** Ben Di Benedetto; **Second:** Ron Taylor; **Vote:** 13:0:0. **Motion Carries**