#### **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

Wednesday, September 21, 2011 Light Refreshments 6:30pm Meeting 7:00pm

at

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

PRESIDENT

John T. Walker

VICE PRESIDENT Lisa Sarkin

TREASURER

Remy Kessler

SECRETARY

Rita C. Villa

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Lana Shackelford

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- Call to Order & Roll Call. Jeffrey Carter arrived a few minutes late, Ben Di Benedetto 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 excused, Rita Villa –present, John Walker present, Denise Welvang present. 12 voting members; 7 to pass a motion; 45 stakeholders present.
- Approval of (August) Board Minutes. Approved without objection.

## Adjourned to Special meeting at 7:10 PM

- 3. Comments by the President. John Walker stated that we had a successful event a week ago Saturday night which was well attended by representatives from other valley neighborhood councils, the Studio City Chamber of Commerce and the Studio City Residents Association. Several invited speakers came to address the group including our Councilman, Paul Krekorian, Assemblyman Mike Feuer, City Attorney Carmen Trutanich, City Controller Wendy Greuel and DONE representative, BongHwang Kim. He hopes that this event will increase our collective voice in who becomes Mayor.
- 4. Public Comments on non-agenda items within the Board's jurisdiction. Geoff Yazzeta of CD 2 welcomed Pasha Vafaee to the SCNC. Geoff Yazzeta then reported on the accident that took place in front of Campbell Hall School this week. A sophomore was crossing the street just south of the 101 on Lauren Canyon. The student is in the hospital but he believes the student will be ok. Representatives of CD2 and Campbell Hall met this morning to discuss ways to increase safety. There will be an increased police presence there and in front of Harvard Westlake where a major trunk line project is under construction. There has been graffiti on the new Colfax Bridge and in Woodbridge Park around the children's playground. Vitellos is hosting a fundraising association for police. The trunk line project on Coldwater Canyon is scheduled to be finished in January or February of 2012. Those responsible for that project have been asked to increase

safety measures in the construction zone. **Stan Snyder** said it is great that the DWP project was addressed by CD2 but he believes that a DWP representative should have been at the meeting to update the community. He is concerned about the upcoming electric rate increase. He wants the Studio City NC to support a rate increase but ask for DWP for something that will specifically benefit our community as a quid pro quo. As to renewable energy, he is happy to give a copy of the presentation he made to another group last week to the SNCN. **Mike Szymznski** stated that the Studio City Patch is about to be a year old. They are going to have a party on Monday and he invited all of the board and the public to attend. It will take place at the Federal Bar. Candice Mack, interim branch manager of the Studio City library, stated that the week of 10/17 there will be a library card drive, story time and other events at the library. She left a flyer with a list of the September library events on the table. **Andrea Alpert**, representing residents on Vantage on the Cull De Sac by Moorpark, stated that a large apartment is scheduled for construction at that location. They already have parking issues and she is concerned about the strain on parking this building will bring. She would like to know if there is anything she can do to protect the neighbors' rights. **Geoff Yazzeta** said that no permits have been pulled for that project yet. **Lisa Sarkin** explained that anything being built on that street will have to go before the Land Use Committee. Ben Di Benedetto asked if the buildings that were being replaced were single or multifamily. Andrea Alpert responded that they were multifamily but small. Lisa Sarkin said that there was supposed to be a signal where the student was hit on Laurel Canyon. Richard **Niederberg** said we should take a different approach to increasing safety as police enhanced enforcement was short lived where Conner Lynch was killed by Notre Dame. There are crossing quards at that location now but increased police enforcement has there was short-lived. Geoff Yazzeta said there was one guard and now there are two guards. Lana Shackelford asked if the student was crossing Laurel Canyon legally. Geoff Yazzeta said yes and the investigation is ongoing as to the cause. Gail Steinberg asked about the Colfax Bridge - she said that when you cross the footbridge there are people camping there. Geoff Yazzeta said that additional fencing will be put up. Todd Royal asked Stan Snyder what the cost of the renewals he referred to would be. How much is the renewal energy charge impacting our electric bill. Stan Snyder responded that solar is 10 to 12 cents per kilowatt hour. Wind is even more. Ben Di Benedetto asked Mr. Snyder to work with the SCNC on the DPW issue. Lisa Sarkin said that Winnifred Yancy from the DWP was here in April. She was asked many questions and she did not answer them. She has not returned to the SCNC to follow up on items she could not answer when she was here last even though that opportunity was made available to her. Mr. Snyder again suggested that we support the rate increase and ask for something in return. Lisa Sarkin said we have had many motions on rate increases and NC's don't support any rate increase until the ratepayers advocate is appointed. Lana Shackelford invited Mr. Snyder to come to the SCNC board meeting more often as the DWP has been here many times.

- 5. Responses to comments from the Board. Included in number 4 above.
- 6. Presentation by Studio City Beautification on projects. Bill Harmond gave an overview PowerPoint presentation on the Studio City Beautification Association. See presentation attached. Richard Niederberg said foliage is covering the sign at Campo de Cahuenga. John Walker asked "Why hasn't anyone from the SCNC been asked to join the Beautification board?" Bill Harmond said there will be two openings on the board and asked for someone to volunteer. Ben Di Benedetto asked if the BID has given anything to Beautification. Bill Harmond responded no. Ben Di Benedetto suggested that Beautification contact Lorena Parker of the BID for potential joint projects. A stakeholder asked why there was a project called Anita's Triangle. Bill Harmond said it is named after Anita Herch as she brought the idea forward and she is the getting funding from the neighborhood to assist with its completing. Richard Niederberg asked "What is the name of the project at Lauren Canyon and Valley Heart?" Bill Harmond responded that area is called Sycamore Pocket Park. John Walker asked how the trees by the Colfax Bridge are being watered. Bill Harmond responded that it should be the City with watering trucks.

- 7. Presentation by Department of Sanitation, **Roger Shimatsu.** The presentation was actually given by **Daniel Hackney** from the Bureau of Sanitation. He stated that he has worked for 22 years with the City of LA. Formerly he was a senior policy analyst with Mayor Villarogosa and his predecessor. The Bureau of Sanitation is one of 38 agencies in the city. He thinks it is the best agency in the city family. The Bureau has three core programs, (i) solid resources - make the trash disappear. LA recycles 65% diversion. He will take another opportunity to discuss scavenging from blue cans. (ii) Storm water control - react to environmental mandates from the federal government. There are 67 mandates that cost 8 billion dollars a year for the City of LA. (iii) Waste water program - The most critical piece of the waste water program is the infrastructure comprised of 67 hundred miles of sewer lines and 4 treatment plants. The Hyperian Plant was voted one of the 10 greatest projects in the last century. He explained that sewer rates for 14 years have not gone up. In the last 6 years your rate on your DWP bill - the rates went up to take care of sewer spills which were occurring at the rate of 2 a day. LA was sued by the Federal Government and had to put \$550 million into the sewer system as a result of the settlement of that suit. They try to run Bureau as a business. They have not asked for a rate increase because the economy sucks. As there is no end in sight to the current economic downturn and because there has been no rate increase, they have borrowed money. The Bureau has over \$2 million in debt. The average Angeleno spends about \$30 per month on their sewer bill. In terms of inflation we are paying less than we were paying in 1992. They pay triple in Georgia, San Francisco pays \$84 per mo and San Diego pays over \$40 per mo. Our rate will double over the next ten years to about \$55 per mo. Bonding companies project that every city will have to raise rates at least 7 1/2 %. The sewer system is aging. If there is no increase the rates, infrastructure failures will increase. The cost of correcting a failed line is much more expensive than fixing them on a planned schedule. **Daniel Hackney** explained that he is here to share information and not ask for a motion of support. Richard Niederberg asked what expansion plans are for the sewer treatment plants. IRP was developed with NC support. The life span of a treatment plant is 30 years. All plants need to be remodeled and updated. Lisa Sarkin asked about information we were supposed to get about the proposed project on Ventura **John Walker** asked if the 7 1/2 % was from existing rates? **Daniel Hackney's** response was no. The increase is projected to be 4 ½% the first three years and then rates will increase more and will phase in. Lana Shackelford asked who is the liaison to board of public works? Daniel Hackney responded that his liaison is Councilman Allercon. At the end of 10 years time they will be on the right schedule for replacement of sewer lines on time. Richard Niederberg said we control our sewer feed by the water use. The sewer bill will be lower if we lower our usage. However, he noted that San Francisco went to ultra low flow toilets and did not have adequate flow to move the solid waste. Has LA considered this? Daniel Hackney explained that LA is on the cutting edge of technology for these projects.
- 8. Treasurer's report by **Remy Kessler** (5 min).

MOTION A: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council has reviewed the (September) financial statements and the (August) bank statements and hereby accepts and approves them. Remy reported that we have 33,441 remaining. He reviewed the bank statements that were previously distributed to the board. John walker read the motion. Approved in the absence of objection.

- 9. Budget Committee Report by Remy Kessler for Mark Batterman. NONE
- 10. VANC Report by Arlene Samek. NONE
- 11. Outreach Committee Report by Lisa Cahan-Davis. NONE
- 12. Transportation Committee Report by **Ben Di Benedetto**. **Ben Di Benedetto** reported that there had been no meeting but stated that he is looking into a situation where an individual has 7

cars parked on the street. It is legal to have them there but each vehicle must be moved every 72 hours. He suggested that we call DOT and ask for the parking enforcement officer to come out and mark the tires. Cars will then be towed if they have not been moved. There is a number to call. The other issue he is following relate to the paving on Viewcrest. The paving work being done relates to the three new homes on that street. There is a large scale repair project scheduled for that area Laurel Hills Woodhill Canyon and Moundvills which will be done in the next few months. **Gail Steinberg** asked about the big trucks that drive and park in the median at the bridge and stated that it is dangerous. **Ben Di Benedetto** said he will look into it. **John Walker** asked if the people on Viewcrest know about the proposed work. **Ben Di Benedetto** said he is going to tell them.

13. Government Affairs Committee Report by **Jeffery Carter** and **Rita Villa**. **Rita Villa** provided background on each of the following motions.

MOTION A: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council objects to the use of illuminated signs on public transit buses (and taxi cabs) for the purpose of advertising as has been approved as a pilot program in AB 607 (Brownley). Such advertising represents a dangerous distraction to motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians and is another form of visual pollution.

Discussion:

Lisa Sarkin said 607 relates only to buses. Todd Royal asked how Santa Monica reached. Rita Villa responded that she did not know. Richard Niederberg and Lisa Sarkin both noted that Santa Monica buses travel on LA city streets. Richard Adams said that to pay for new buses they want to sell advertising on Liquid Crystal Displays. The human eye is attracted to motion so moving advertising on busses is a dangerous idea. Richard Niederberg said going down Ventura he saw a taxi with advertising on top of the taxi. He would like motion to be amended to say this should not be on Cabs either. John Walker read the motion. Vote: yes: 10; no: 1. Motion Carries

MOTIOIN B: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council is opposed to any legislation, which grants exceptions to CEQA. Further, we specifically object to the proposed law being backed by Sen. Alex Padilla of Pacoima and Assembly Speaker John Perez, which would fast-track court challenges to AEG's Environmental Impact Report on the Downtown NFL stadium. This fast tracking process fundamentally weakens the CEQA and robs the public of its opportunity to have meaningful input.

**Richard Adams** – said CEQA needs to be rewritten and fixed but we should not go around making exceptions. Imagine if CEQA was not required on the Universal Evolution project and the Metro Universal project. We still have time to get this before the Governor. Without CEQA we have no protections. **Richard Niederberg** said he does not agree with the middle statements. **Ben Neiman** said he thinks the first sentence is ok but not the rest of it. **Remy Kessler is** opposed to the way it is worded. This issue came up with the specific plan. We should know what the exception is. **John Walker** said he had read the legislation. He feels that the appeals aspect must be resolved within 180 days. **Rita Villa** stated that she would take this back to the committee for further considertion.

14. Land Use Committee Report by **Lisa Sarkin**. **Lisa Sarkin** reported that there are 3 properties being investigated for non compliance with the Baseline Mantionization Ordinance. Three pot dispensaries have been cited to close. She also reported that Wallgreens had agreed to make a path when they agreed to take out the trees. The BOE now does not want to approve any of those items. She indicated that the Ventura Specific Plan Review Board has determined that the sidewalks are the things they are going to focus on now. Funds for those inprovements will come from the 8 million dollars the PRB has. Very few people showed up to complain about filming

when film LA came to the Land Use meeting. Lisa Sarkin gave background on the following motions.

MOTION A: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council supports Total Woman Gym & Spa, 12050 Ventura Blvd., Suite B211 (DIR-201102288-SPP) change of use from retail to a gym with shared on-site parking and 21 off-site parking at Chase Bank, the signage at both entrances to the parking lot as well as above the escalator at the entrance to the gym. Marisa AHO and another representative were there on behalf of Total Woman Gym. John Walker read the motion. Vote: yes 12; No: 0. Motion Carries.

MOTION B: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council supports the concept of "The Nursery on the Roof" on the upper uncovered level of the Studio City Parking Structure located at 12225 Ventura Blvd., Studio City. With a proposed Community Impact Statement attached to Council File No. 08-0832. Lisa Sarkin said that Mark Galfat is here to speak on this. John Walker expressed his concern that Mark has not met with the Council Office. Mark Galfat responded that the Council Office would not meet with him but advised him to go out and get community support. A retail plant nursery would be on the roof. Todd Royal called the question. Vote: yes: 11; no: 1. Motion Carries.

MOTION C: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council supports Community Conservation Solution's proposed project for the Los Angeles River Greenway between Coldwater Canyon and Whitsett Avenue. The project will consist of a pedestrian trail, 3,000 native trees, shrubs and flowering plants, bio-filtration swale, public access and seating. The LUC requests the SCNC President write a letter of support, as attached, to the California River Parkways Grant Program.

There was a request for the deletion of the reference to the LUC. Vote on amendment.

Unanimous. John Walker read the revised motion below

MOTION C: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council supports Community Conservation Solution's proposed project for the Los Angeles River Greenway between Coldwater Canyon and Whitsett Avenue. The project will consist of a pedestrian trail, 3,000 native trees, shrubs and flowering plants, bio-filtration swale, public access and seating. A letter of support, as attached, shall be sent to the California River Parkways Grant Program.

**Lisa Sarkin** gave background and **Alan Dymond** said the letter is needed to get the grants a Cal Trans grant and a River Parkway grant. The organization, Community Conservation Solutions, is leading this project not the SCRA. There is a lot of competition for this money. **Jeff Carter** asked if this project will impact the golf course or tennis course. **Alan Dymond** said: no it will not physically impact those areas. **Jeff Carter** asked if there is a sketch to see what is proposed. **Alan Dymond** said no as engineering studies need to be done and they need the grant first. **Lisa Sarkin** stated that in the Land Use Committee this motion was approved 8 to 0. **Jeff Carter** called question. **Vote: yes:** 11; **no:** 1. **Motion Carries.** 

MOTION D: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council supports the Studio City Beautification Association adopting, landscaping and maintaining the existing concrete median fronting 10730 Ventura Blvd., between Lankershim Blvd., and Campo de Cahuenga Way and the asphalt triangle forming the

southwest corner of Laurel Canyon Blvd., and the Valleyheart Drive north both under the LA City's Adopt-a-Median Program.

**John Walker** read the motion. **John Walker** requested confirmation that this has nothing to do with funding. **Bill Harmond** said this is procedural. **Vote: yes:** 12; **no:** 0. **Motion Carries.** 

- 15. Cultural Affairs Committee Report by **Richard Niederberg**. **Richard Niederberg** said that on Sunday December 11 they are trying to get Campo de Cuenga to have a luminaria in the garden area. **Jeff Carter** asked what is in that area now? **Richard Niederberg** provided an explaination
- 16. Crime & Safety Committee Report by Wayne Kartin. NONE
- 17. ByLaws & Procedures Committee Report by Ron Taylor. NONE

Adjourn to special meeting. Return from special meeting.

16. Comments from Board Members on subject matters within the Board's jurisdiction. **Gail Steinberg** thanked John Walker for hosting the recent neighborhood council event. **John Walker** thanked Pasha for joining our board. Remy Kessler asked when will the by-laws revisions go through.



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Jeffrey Carter Ben Di Benedetto 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



# **SPECIAL BOARD MEETING** APPROVED MINUTES

Wednesday, September 21, 2011 **Light Refreshments 6:30pm** Meeting 7:00pm

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

PRESIDENT John T. Walker

VICE PRESIDENT Lisa Sarkin

TREASURER Remy Kessler

**S**ECRETARY Rita C. Villa

**CORRESPONDING SECRETARY** Lana Shackelford

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- 1. Call to Order & Roll Call. Jeffrey Carter present, Ben Di Benedetto 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 - excused, Rita Villa -present, John Walker - present, Denise Welvang - present. 12 voting members; 7 to pass a motion; 45 stakeholders present.
- 2. Approval of Board Minutes. NONE
- 3. Comments by the President. John Walker explained that the Youth Board Candidate being introduced tonight is the best of the best.
- 4. Public Comments on non-agenda items within the Board's jurisdiction. NONE
- 5. Responses to comments from the Board. **NONE**
- 6. Presentation of new Youth Board Member Pasha Vafaee. John Walker introduced Pasha Vafaee. Pasha Vafaee said that his goal is to give a voice to people who are marginalized in society. He felt the SCNC would be a good organization to join to accomplish this. He stated that he goes to school in Studio City and his family wants to move to this area. welcomed Pasha to the Board and Pasha took his seat. Adjourned to Regular meeting.

Returned to special meeting from regular meeting at 9:30 PM.

7. MOTION: The Studio City Neighborhood Council opposes the adoption of the revised citywide sign ordinance now pending before the City Council PLUM Committee because the revisions to the ordinance would allow a proliferation of commercial advertising on both private and public property without a significant reduction in existing billboard and signage blight. The revised ordinance would also allow new electronic signage without addressing energy use, light pollution, traffic safety, and other issues that could negatively affect communities throughout the city.

Moved: Rita Villa; Second: Lisa Sarkin. Richard Adams said we know where he stands on advertising. He stated that he is very concerned as they want to raise rates for energy but they are approving lighted signage all over the City of Los Angeles which will increase billboard blight and waste energy. Richard Niederberg said that he has a problem with the wording of the motion. He is concerned with saying you can't have signs visible from public right of ways. Lisa Sarkin said there was a man who went to City Council to ask for lighted signs on 4 sides of his building. He said he thought "Bladerunner" was a great movie. Lisa Sarkin said the biggest problem with this type of signs is that there is not enough energy now. Additionally, by grandfathering the sign districts they skirt the EIR process. She said that we need to pass this motion. Jeff Carter said he does not understand why advertising is not done on the inside of the subways like they do in other cities. He supports this motion. Vote: Unanimous. Motion Carries.



