

SCNC BOARD

Lisa Cahan Davis
Jon Epstein
Bill Harmond
Alex Izbicki
Remy Kessler
Brian Mahoney
Richard Niederberg
Steven Quat
Lisa Sarkin
Lana Shackelford
Gail Steinberg
Rita C. Villa
John T. Walker
Denise Welvang



PRESIDENT
John T. Walker

VICE PRESIDENT
Lisa Sarkin

TREASURER
Bill Harmond

SECRETARY
Rita C. Villa

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY
Alex Izbicki

4024 Radford Ave.
Edit. Bldg. 2, Suite 6
Studio City, CA 91604
(818) 655-5400

www.StudioCityNC.org

**BOARD MEETING
APPROVED MINUTES
Wednesday, March 18, 2015
Light Buffet 6:30pm
Meeting 7:00pm**

at

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

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. 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 Studio City Neighborhood Council Vice President, Lisa Sarkin (818) 655-5400 or by e-mail to lsarkin@studiocitync.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.

1. Call to Order & Roll Call. Lisa Cahan Davis – present, Jon Epstein – present, Bill Harmond – present, Alex Izbicki – present, Remy Kessler - present, Brian Mahoney – present, Richard Niederberg - present, Steven Quat – present, Lisa Sarkin - present, Lana Shackelford – excused, Gail Steinberg – present, Rita Villa – present, John Walker – present, Denise Welvang – present. 13 voting members; 7 to pass a motion. 45 stakeholders present.
2. Pledge of Allegiance. The Pledge was recited.
3. Approval of February 2015 Board Minutes. Approved in the absence of objection.
4. Comments by the President. **John Walker** welcomed everyone. Shared that at a recent commission meeting Mike Schewel, general manager of rec and parks, came to the commission that John Walker serves on and agreed that no cell tower will be allowed in a park if the community is opposed to it. The white paper written by the budget advocates have several good ideas. There should be a commission on the 20/20. **John Walker** asked stakeholders to take 10 seconds to express a gripe with the community. Stakeholders listed the following items: Trees in front of DWP on Ventura Blvd. need to be trimmed, Blvd Hotel extension concerns, sprinklers on public property running too long and people do not pick up poop from their dogs, unclean sidewalks, condos should have curb cutouts required, metered parking should be until 6 pm only, increases in crime and car theft are a concern, the rest of City of LA should be like Studio City, concerned about the crowds in front of the marijuana dispensaries, bulk items should be picked up more quickly.

Lisa Sarkin said we are not in favor of curb cutouts. **Lisa Cahan Davis** said the sustainability committee could look at the sprinkler issue. **Alex Izbicki** said there will be a new technology so if someone is ringing your doorbell it will ring on your phone. **Brian Mahoney** and **Lisa Sarkin** said use the 311 app for bulky item pick up. **Richard Niederberg** said he wants public entities to follow the same rules as people have to follow about watering and not watering the sidewalk. **John Walker** said the city is considering artificial turf to replace grass at the little league parks. **John Walker** said we have always had a youth board member but this is the first time our youth board member has the obligations of a board member and Jon Epstein is now on the Budget Committee.

5. Presentation of new Board Members: **Lisa Karadjian** to fill the open Business Representative seat and **Emily Hibbard** as our new Renter Representative. **Lisa Karadjian** addressed the board. She stated that she has lived in Studio City for 3.5 years. She started her activism by working on local land use issues. She has been serving on the Land Use Committee for some time. Her passion is to make Studio City a wonderful and better place and would like to do that as part of our board. **Emily Hibard** addressed the board. She stated that she has lived in Studio City for 2 years. She has had her master degree for two years. People in her apartment complex are from 20 to 30 years old and they have no idea what is going on in the City. She wants to bring energy and excitement to our committees. She is interested in the Outreach Committee.
6. Public Comments on non-agenda items within the Board's jurisdiction. **Greg Bartz**, from LADWP brought a hand-out for the board members. He said it has lots of information. Please review it as the items in it are topical and informative. The 2014 briefing book lists the major initiatives the DWP is involved in. It also summarizes the 2014 accomplishments. There is a flyer listing the customer service Saturday hours. He invited us to call him and he will try to handle our issues. There is also a flyer with contact information for their security department. Water conservation information is there also. The City is asking everyone to conserve and he addresses what the department is doing about conservation at its facilities. A solar presentation is also in the packet. Emergency preparedness is included – it indicates what the DPW is doing to be prepared. There is also a list of work done since the Northridge quake. Water main breaks and the water infrastructure plan is also in the packet which he provided to the SCNC secretary and the 2015-2016 budget. Benchmarking is addressed in that packet. They have an exhibit group which will be at the SCNC Green Living Fair. They provide drought resistant landscape workshops. **James Ewing, Niederlander Group** representative, said that the rec and parks department put out an RFP as the current contract for managing the Greek Theater expires soon. Another firm was selected- Live Nation in the RFP process. Many NC's objected to the selection of Live Nation and the manner of its selection. The matter went to the Rivers Committee and the Rec and Parks Department selection of Live Nation was rejected. That selection was also rejected by the City Council. As a result the RFP's were thrown out last week by Rec and Parks so they are back to square one

with respect to selection of a manager for the Greek Theater. The 2015 season has been announced. They will be doing city events. **Dana Saffron** said she is speaking for Ms. Neil who is out of town on business. She purchased a home on Vineland south of Ventura Blvd. Just became aware of the expansion of the Blvd Hotel. She would like to know if the height will be increased. **Stacy Marbel**, the new director of public affairs of Harvard Westlake School, said that she was with Tom LaBonge's office for 14 years. Her position was created by the head master to improve community relations. She attended Valley schools and currently lives in Toluca Lake.

7. Responses to comments from the Board. **Remy Kessler** asked if the DWP program to take out lawns is still in effect. **Response:** yes and the rebate has been increased. Many people in the Valley are taking advantage of the program. Green Gardens and Turf Terminators are two companies that do this type of work. **Lisa Sarkin** explained that the current hotel is not expanding. The motel next door is being replaced. The hearing for that is Friday at 2 PM. **Alex Izbicki** asked if the replacement of turf rebate applied to multifamily buildings. **Response:** It can apply. Please send him an email and he will look at the specific situation. **Alex Izbicki** asked how can landlords make tenants be responsive to conservation. **Response:** it would have to be addressed at the policy level. **Brian Mahoney** said there have been alerts that people are falsely stating they work for LADWP and then commit a crime. LADWP should distribute a photo of an authentic LADWP badge. **Brian Mahoney** asked if Harvard Westlake would still be a closed campus. Response by Stacy Marbel was yes. **Richard Niederberg** said they just replace the football field at the optimist high school and that school got lots of money back in rebates.
8. Update from CD2 by **Courtney Hamilton**. **Courtney Hamilton** stated that the main thing they are focused on is CyclAvia. There will be a photo booth and DJ across from their office and a booth at Universal City/Studio City Redline Station. The BID will have booth at PINZ. She reminded everyone that all cars must be off the road by 8 am Sunday. Please have any businesses along the route with problems for parking for their employees on that day to call them. **Richard Niederberg** asked how many minutes open and closed would there be at each designated crossing. **Response:** it will depend on the traffic backup. Colfax Avenue and Laurel Canyon will have signage – closed to nonresident traffic. **John Walker** has prepared and wants to know how long the rout will be. **Richard Niederberg** said Laurel Canyon and Mulholland will have no signage. **Lisa Cahan Davis** said there should be a sign there more importantly than at some of the smaller streets. No turns will be allowed at Mulholland onto Laurel Canyon. Stakeholder asked if the event is funded by a federal grant. **Response:** MTA has given a grant. **Gail Steinberg** thanked Courtney for going above and beyond for a sanitation issue in her neighborhood.
9. Treasurer's Report by **Bill Harmond**. **Bill Harmond** gave background on the motion **John Walker** read the motion. **Bill Harmond** explained that the February

financial report did not get on the agenda and a special agenda did not get posted on time. Therefore the February financial report will be approved at the April meeting along with the March financial report. He thanked people for attending the funding training. The SCNC is solvent but as we come to the end of the year, if all motions pass tonight we will have only \$1,600 left. We need to get the budget to DONE by July 1 so it needs to be approved at the June meeting.

The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council approves moving \$3,750.00 from Community Improvements to Neighborhood Purpose Grant fund and to move \$250.00 from Community Improvements to Operations.

Moved: Bill Harmond; **Second:** Denise Welvang

See Board Vote on Board Vote Count Form attached to these minutes as Exhibit I.
Motion Carried.

10. Budget Committee Report by **Remy Kessler**. **Remy Kessler** gave background on the activities of the budget committee. He disclosed that the street banner motion did not pass the budget committee. Movies in the Park passed but it will be on the next board agenda. **John Walker** read Motion A. **Lisa Cahan Davis** gave background on Motion A.

Motion A: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council hereby approves a funding request for up to \$800.00 for advertising and marketing materials and event activities for the 2nd Annual Green Living Fair presented by the SCNC.

Lisa Cahan Davis said everyone should be there. 4 NC's will participate and are sharing the costs. Midtown North Hollywood, Sherman Oaks and Studio City will all participate.

See Board Vote on Funding Request Form attached to these minutes as Exhibit II.
Motion Carried.

John Walker read Motion B. **Remy Kessler** gave background on Motion B. We have always funded this event. There are many perks for funding this event.

Motion B: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council approves a funding request for \$3,000.00 to sponsor the annual 4th of July festival to be held on the CBS Studio Center Lot.

See Board Vote on Funding Request Form attached to these minutes as Exhibit III.
Motion Carried.

Brian Mahoney said we are lost in the fray. If we are doing this next year we should have goodies to give out. **Gail Steinberg** said this is also a form of

goodwill to CBS as they let us use this facility and others whenever we ask them. We are using this for outreach to people and the community. We need people to man our booths at the farmers market and 4th of July event at CBS. **Lisa Sarkin** asked if we need to say who gets the check. **Esther Walker** said we will get advertising we did in the past. **Richard Niederberg** said the Chamber of Commerce is across the hall and if we were not happy they would know about it.

John Walker read Motion C. **Remy Kessler** and **Lisa Cahan Davis** gave background on Motion C.

Motion C: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council hereby approves a funding for up to \$450.00 to produce marketing flyers and handouts as submitted at events and meetings to promote SCNC committees, as well as the SCNC's contact information and annual events.

See Board Vote on Funding Request Form attached to these minutes as Exhibit IV.
Motion Carried.

11. VANC & Budget Representative Report by **Steven Quat**. **Steven Quat** reported on VANC mixer. It was a big success. We were recognized as best role model for land use issues. There are 37 NC's in VANC. He mentioned the white paper from the budget reps. They met with the mayor and delivered the white paper. The Mayor said it was the best he had ever seen. Most people are in agreement with the whitepaper recommendations. They met with the deputy mayors as well. There was a radio show with budget advocates. **Brandon Pender** was thanked for producing it. Ncbala.com will have all the shows up. You can see the meeting they had with the mayor. Other interesting items addressed were the infrastructure, 60% of the budget is allocated to police and fire pensions and 30% is public employee payroll. The balance 10% is the amount that is left for everything else. There is a shortfall in the budget. **Alex Izbicki** said his question is now that the whitepaper has been released - What is the pathway to getting to a working city? The Airport, Ports, DWP, Building and Safety and Planning Depts are all self-funded departments. They are funded by permits and fines. He wondered if that is a conflict because they have to have issue permits and fines to continue to be funded. **Richard Niederberg** said there is an RFP for electronic means of voting but he thinks there is a flaw in the procurement process.
12. Outreach Committee Report by **Lisa Cahan Davis or Lana Shackelford**. **Lisa Cahan Davis** gave a report on the activities of the Outreach Committee. The Campo will allow us to put out our flyers. We have 6 dates for the farmers market. On June 21st we will need to walk the farmers market. The Green Living Fair is coming up - Who is excited? It will be great this year. Our partners are the Village Gardeners. 40 non-profits will be on hand for interactive lessons. There will be recycling. Bring your pie to the contest. The bike training was postponed. Plan ahead for 2015-2016. Chairs should plan their events and work with outreach and include the dollars that will be needed. June 9th is the budget meeting. The street banner program will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Steven Quat said he has solar panels and you can stop and see them during the Green Living Fair.

13. Land Use Committee Report by **Lisa Sarkin or Lisa Karadjian**. **Lisa Sarkin** said their meeting was related to the Baseline Mansionization Ordinance. 65 people showed up. The Residential Floor Area can't be changed at this time but if the BMO is fixed it will cover us in our RFA. The Interim Control Ordinances were passed. This month there will be hearings on Sportsmens' Landing and Blvd Live Hotel. Land Use distributes the flyers to the 500 feet radius around applications. If you want them to be 1000 feet you need to help distribute them, that is four times the number of properties. The Blvd Live Hotel exceptions were due to the zoning which was not correct. **Lisa Karadjian** gave a report on the forgotten end of Ventura Blvd. Karo Torossian met with Lisa Karadjian and they drove up and down Ventura Blvd and addressed the facades and things that need to be followed up upon. He is excited about working with Lisa Karadjian on this project. There is an advisory committee. Lisa Sarkin said that she will adjust the advisory committee since Lisa Karadjian is now on the Board. **John Epstein** asked what kind of changes are they looking for. **Response:** they will put picture boards together to address the suggested changes.
14. Government Affairs Committee Report by **Rita Villa**. **Rita Villa** requested that that Motion A be tabled until the next meeting.

Motion A: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council requests the City Council to address the issue of retirement security for city employees, and consider that all future City employee hires are hired with a 401K plan (with a city matching formula at parity with the private sector) instead of a pension plan.

John Walker read Motion B. **Rita Villa** gave background on Motion B.

Motion B: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council supports Mayor Garcetti's initiative to lower the civilian injury-leave pay for City employees to 66% of base pay from the current 90% of base pay.

See Board Vote on Board Vote Form attached to these minutes as Exhibit V.

Motion Carried.

John Walker read Motion C. Rita Villa gave background on Motion C.

Motion C: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council supports the City Attorney report and the proposed ordinance relative to amending Section 56.11, Article 6, Chapter V of the Los Angeles Municipal Code to prohibit the storage of personal property in public areas. This Motion should be submitted as a CIS to [CF 14-1656].

See Board Vote on Board Vote Form attached to these minutes as Exhibit VI.

Motion Carried.

John Walker read Motion D. Rita Villa gave background on Motion D.

Motion D: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council requests that the proposed ordinance be amended to include a provision requiring that the applicants for registration as a beekeeper be required to complete a course in beekeeping and that all beekeepers show proof of insurance at the time they apply for registration as a beekeeper. Additionally, a provision should be added to the ordinance establishing a registry of beekeepers qualified to collect or destroy swarms when they occur. This Motion should be submitted as a CIS to [CF-12-0785].

See Board Vote on Board Vote Form attached to these minutes as Exhibit VII.

Motion Carried.

15. Transportation Committee Report by **Barry Johnson**. **Barry Johnson** absent so no report at this meeting.
16. Bylaws Committee Report by **Brian Mahoney**. **Brian Mahoney** gave a report on the first meeting of the Bylaws Committee and distributed and reviewed the 16 board seats and their definition. **Remy Kessler** said we represent those in the category we represent. **Denise Welvang** said we also represent everyone unless detrimental to those in the category we represent. **Steven Quat** said we can't just represent our category we represent everyone. **Alex Izbicki** said first and foremost we must work for those in our category. **Richard Niederberg** said we represent everyone but have a duty to represent and inquire of those we represent. **Brandon Pender** said we have more homeowners than membership organizations and should have more renters represented. **Brian Mahoney** asked for us to send in our comments to bylaws.
17. Cultural Affairs Committee Report by **Richard Niederberg**. **Richard Niederberg** said they have already done the budget and motion for Luminaria for next year. **John Walker** asked Lisa Cahan Davis which committees she has not heard from.
18. Comments from Board Members on subject matters within the Boards jurisdiction. **Lisa Sarkin** asked if the community liaison from Public Works could come to speak to us. We are the only people that are elected by all stakeholders not just residents of the city. **Bill Harmond** recognized the passing of Marilyn White Sydel and all that she did for our community. **Rita Villa** asked we adjourn in her honor. **Steven Quat** asked for a moment of silence in her honor. **John Walker** allocated that time. **Alex Izbicki** said we need a Bylaws class. Issues regarding CEQA will be coming up and we will have entities that will be impacted CF14-1606 will change how much heat we will take from the public. **Denise Welvang** said that we have a homeless individual that is a registered sex offender in the neighborhood. **Lisa Cahan Davis** welcomed the new board members and asked

that the new members be added to board at scnc.com email address. **Lisa Cahan Davis** said she wants to hear something educational from speakers. Topical subjects should be presented. **Lisa Sarkin** said we want a public works document like the DWP liaison brought tonight.

19. Adjournment in honor of Marilyn White Sydel. **Moved:** Rita Villa; **Second:** Richard Niederberg; **Vote:** unanimous.



