

## SCNC BOARD

Jeffrey Carter  
Ben Di Benedetto  
Remy Kessler  
Ben Neumann  
Richard Niederberg  
Lisa Sarkin  
Lana Shackelford  
Gail Steinberg  
Ron Taylor  
Pasha Vafae  
Rita C. Villa  
John T. Walker  
Denise Welvang



# BOARD MEETING APPROVED MINUTES

Wednesday, April 18, 2012

Light Buffet 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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1. Call to Order & Roll Call (2 min). Jeffrey Carter, Ben Di Benedetto, Remy Kessler, Ben Neumann, Richard Niederberg, Lana Shackelford, Gail Steinberg, Ron Taylor, Pasha Vafae, John T. Walker, Denise Welvang.
2. Approval of (March 21, 2012) Board Minutes (2 min). Approved Unanimously.
3. Comments by the President (10 min). Elections will be held in three months, so the President will not have Jane Drucker seated for this short time period. Mayor's Budget Committee met tonight at 5 p.m. and would like to get his RAIL TRANSIT BUDGET APPROVED. A motion can be withdrawn, without a vote taking place unless there is an objection. There is NO such thing as a friendly amendment. Had lunch with Jan Perry – who will be candidate for Mayor- and will be at our next meeting.
4. Public Comments on non-agenda items within the Board's jurisdiction (2 minutes each)

Mike Szymanski (Patch) is also a Vice President of the Valley View PTA (25% students are Studio City residents) and on Apr. 29, there will be a Pirate themed at North Weddington Park all are encouraged to attend and enjoy the day and help raise funds for the school.

In addition, The Patch will host a party with the "PATCH Dog" and Piper Reese – a young celebrity interviewer will do the Red Carpet Arrivals – read more details on PATCH – the date is set for May 6, 2012.

Richard Adams – commented on the Sales tax bond for the rapid transit is now being subjected to a 10 year bond and is very unhappy about it.

5. Responses to comments from the Board (2 minutes each). None.

6. Update from Council District 2 by **Geoffrey Yazzetta** (5 min).

Councilman Paul Kerkorian is nominated to chair the regional budget committee hearings and this will begin next Thursday. There is a document that he will share electronically if requested to do so by anyone who asks him to sent it to them. The deficit is down from 250 million '11-'12 budget is still balanced.

FYI – North/South bound travelers on Whitsitt - will pick-up construction to Trunk line on Coldwater which is still on Schedule.

The Colfax Avenue area by Studio Village: The curb is being painted gray by someone unknown and that is illegal – the curb should be red...it will be painted red again and we will hopefully find out who is doing this... There has been \$250, 000 put into the city for tree and stump removal and sidewalk repairs - White paper – ask John? When will coldwater be done? In about a year that work should be done. The entire project should be done by 2015. They are really threading a needle with this difficult task. Why do the city workers work when there is traffic as compared when there is no traffic? Answer by Mr. Yazzetta: it has proven to not be economically feasible...

7. Special Guest Speaker, **Ron Galperin**, Candidate for City Controller (20 min).

To bring dollars and common sense back to LA. Background: Bel-Air Beverly – NC member (NC budget Advocate Private Real Estate Attorney, Journalist for LA Valley edition, Broker's, served as a Cantor in the LA area State of the City Address: Too many problems have manifested themselves in many examples, housing ,building and safety and fuel, and the convention center...

The amt of money we are missing and dwarfing is a considerable

First born citizen in his family in the US –

(Ben Neumann just arrived at 7:30p.m.)

Solutions: - 175 miles of paving for a city of a much larger size and

100's of millions of uncollected funds on the book and created commission that issued a Blueprint of non-tax receivable with 65 specific recommendations. In the second phase issued another 8 reports: Procurement (only 16% from businesses in the city of LA) ; 40% of revenue comes in from inter-governmental transfers...; reviewed 100 properties in the city that rent for \$1.00 a year and most are very questionable and still others no upkeep.

Visit the website: [www.ronforla.com](http://www.ronforla.com)

- Demand Accountability i.e. with the parking operations/structures
- Survey reaped 115 responses with 10's of millions of \$\$'s a year in savings.

We need new leadership.

All the different studies that he had developed are as an unpaid position.

Upgrades and updates will assist with cutting costs.

Many reports do not get heard – it's about making those reports public, how do you fix the problem before it's out of control.

How do you get around Political interference?

Create a win-win situation, and use negotiation skills – and consider how the charter may tie the hands with making changes.

With some of these not beneficial practices, who is winning with the practices that have evolved by accident or by design? Most likely the businesses that are cheating the city are winning and some cases are obvious and some are not.

Regarding the Assembly Bill about sidewalk repair – with all the money the city of LA could be bringing in and is ultimately responsible for doing so those funds could be found. In closing, thanks for listening, and not all voters pay attention to the position of controller, and I'm doing this because I have come to understand the finances of the city. We are at a precipice.

8. Special Guest Speaker: Laurette Healey, Candidate for the 46th Assembly District – Ms. Healey did not make the meeting.

9. Special Presentation of the Metro Express Lanes Program, **Stephanie Wiggins** (20 min). Stephanie Wiggins was not at the meeting but someone else was sent to make the presentation. Packets were distributed by the Metro Express Lanes Representatives and one will be available in the Office for Reference for anyone who needs to review it. Cathy McGuin – Metro Express Lanes Program made a presentation of an overview of the Metro Express Lanes program – the program will be implemented on 10 freeway and converts 25 miles of HOV lanes to Metro Express – High Occupancy Toll lanes. This will introduce congestion pricing into LA County. Will be implemented on October 2012 on the 10. Customer Service Center will be open in June for people who will be interested in getting a transponder. \$.25 - \$1.40 per mile. Enforcement will be in place to issue tickets for violators. Two other places use this system Atlanta and Miami. This system is 24/7. Goal is to move more people, not more vehicles and will measure traffic and occupancy, speeds to see if they reach their primary goals – all this data will be sent to the commission that issued the grant to see if they will continue. All this is possible by Federal Dollars. Existing CHP officers will be the enforcement on the road along with video surveillance. The Metro Express Lane Program is working on getting Transponders into rental cars for car rentals. Serge Delpierre – what other test programs were there in the country and how successful are they.

10. Treasurer's report by **Remy Kessler** (5 min).

**Motion: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council has reviewed the (April 2012) financial statements and the (March 2012) bank statements and hereby accepts and approves them.** Approved Unanimously.

11. Budget Committee Report by **Remy Kessler** or **Mark Batterman** (5 min). No Report.

12. VANC Report by **Arlene Samek** (10 min).

Ms. Samek sent an electronic report to committee members

- Elections – scheduled for August and Sherman Oaks would like to do it in September, look on the city website for election details – Need an election committee of at least 3

people – Timing is an issue and ours will be one of the earlier ones and ballots will be printed by DONE . DONE will pay for everything except local area outreach. DONE will also pay for city-wide outreach.

No-opt out option. There is talk for another big Forum November 8, 2012 for Valley Alliance for the Educational Workshop and our budget will be cut between 6 and 12%. There is discussion afoot that the NC's can raise money. There is a mentoring system in place and would like all 34 councils be able to help each other out. Stakeholders would be able to utilize a printable ballot with a mail in option deadline. We could request a change. Three weeks that are unassigned for the elections.

Studio City is in zone 4 with our neighbors (Sherman Oaks, Toluca Lake). Go to EMPOWER LA for more information. It was suggested that an election committee be assembled tonight.

Ron Taylor has contacted the League of Women Voter's and asked them to participate with our elections as an elections committee and will explore the costs with them and share with the council.

There is talk about changing R1 to RZ and will destroy new development.

13. Outreach Committee Report by **Lisa Cahan-Davis** (10 min).

Follow-up on the Mayor's Day of service – gave away 150 fruit trees and many organizations that discussed healthy eating, helpful planting and growing tips. The 93 Street Banners have been installed. And how do we measure the success of this awareness? We will be apart of the GREEN CITY FAIR on May 5 with Tree People to man a booth. Announcements and sign up form will be sent for volunteers. Budget Advocate group was successful and put together a 21 point plan to share with the other member NC's in the area and would appreciate our council to support it with a letter of recognition

14. Transportation Committee Report by **Ben Di Benedetto** (10 min). No report.

15. Government Affairs Committee Report by **Jeffery Carter** and **Rita Villa** (15 min).

**Motion A: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council requests that Paul Krekorian introduce a motion for the City Council to update the outdated Garbage Container Placement and Timing for Placement Ordinance with respect to the time for placement to 9am the day before collection and removal of the containers to 11pm the of collection. Enforcement of this ordinance should be made part of ACE. Defeated 4-5.**

**Motion B: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council requests that the Planning Department revise the parking requirement for all medical service professionals including Philanthropic Institutions as defined in the proposed ordinance from one space per 500 square feet of floor area to one space per 200 square feet of floor area to be consistent with the parking requirement for clinics and hospitals. Tabled until next meeting so that the committee will be able to include the specific details with this motion for consideration.**

**Rationale:**

**Medical Service Professionals usually have at least one staff member and more if there is more than one Medical Service Professional in the office.**

**Motion C: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council requests that Paul Krekorian introduce a motion to the City Council to adopt a No Door Spam Ordinance modeled on the one adopted by the City of West Hollywood.** Withdrawn by GAC representative due to concerns in how it was crafted

**Motion D: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council requests that Paul Krekorian introduce a motion to the City Council to require all city agencies including the DWP to remove the tree stump from any tree which it cut down within one business day of the tree being cut down.**

Richard Niederberg offered the amendment to change the one day business rule to a more lenient five (5) day business day window. Gail seconded. Jeff Carter asked for a Roll Call.

Roll call: Jeffery C – Y, Ben Di Benedetto – Y, Remy – Y, Ben N. – Y, Richard N.- Y, Ron T. – Y, Gail S.– Y, Lana S.- Y, John W. – Y , Denise S. –Y

Another amendment was suggested by Lana Shackelford to include language regarding health and safety concerns, but after discussion was withdrawn by her based on the premise that as the motion reads, the stump should be removed based simply on the shortened timeline suggested in this motion.

Second Roll Call: Jeff Carter – y , Ben Di Benedetto– Y, Ben Neumann– Y, Remy Kessler– Abst – Gail Steinberg Y, Ron Taylor – Y, Denise Welvang– Y, Lana Shackelford – Y, John Walker – Y, Richard Neiderberg - Y

**Passes with amendments: the revised motion is below:**

**MOTION D: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council requests that Councilman Paul Krekorian introduce a motion to the City Council to require all city agencies including the DWP to remove the tree stump from any tree which it cuts down within five (5) business days of the tree being cut down.**

16. Land Use Committee Report by **Lisa Sarkin** (10 min). No report.
17. Cultural Affairs Committee Report by **Richard Niederberg** (5 min). The Republic Pictures 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Plaque will be mounted soon. A discussion was had whether to have to have a ceremony for its unveiling. This date and the details of the ceremony are yet to be decided.
18. Public Safety Committee Report by **Richard Adams** (5 min).  
Would like the President of SCNC to move the report up on the agenda so the public would be informed. Most is breaking into cars seeking things that are visible and another technique is knocking on door – Also there are people stealing cooper wire from City

Lights, please report any suspicious activity of unmarked trucks with people working on the lights.

Alcoholic Licensing – most important to keep the process of renewing the liquor licensing.

Ron Taylor says it is our obligation to be responsive to stakeholder concerns as opposed to stirring up stakeholders concerns.

19. By-Laws & Procedures Committee Report by **Ron Taylor** (5 min).

Referred to Arlene's report held a lot of details from DONE about the Elections.

DONE must wait until this motion is passed until they are able to proceed with a timeline.

We must be ready with two committees: which we have Outreach and Elections Committee.

Next by-laws meeting is Monday 23, 2012. Do we have any previous policies and procedures that are helpful to us with these upcoming elections requirements for our council?

Ron will get an email out to the LA Women League of Women Voter's for an estimate of the costs and will get it to the council members for their considerations.

When the city clerk oversaw the last election, there were requirements to prove stakeholder status to run for an officer. And I believe this may revert back to DONE.

How many of the current council will be termed-out in this election? It is limited to three terms.

DONE has no term limits, we go by our SCNC By-Laws.

Visit the website to see the new by-laws on the website from the pull down menu. The committee has also been working on the stakeholders submissions and this motion represents the final definition of those stakeholders' definitions.

**MOTION: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council adopts the following definition of its stakeholder category, Residential Homeowner: "A Residential Homeowner shall be any person who is deemed by law to have an ownership interest in residential property located in Studio City and who regularly resides at such property. Owners of multi-unit rental buildings who regularly reside at that property are included within this definition."**

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- Richard Adams – there was a lot of whaling and gnashing of teeth in the committee discussing and acceptably inclusive to adopt the motion that is presented.

Richard Niederberg recommended a change in the language from the use of "rental" to residential" Ben Neumann seconded an amendment to change "rental" to "residential."

The board unanimously passed the amended motion below:

**MOTION: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council adopts the following definition of its stakeholder category, Residential Homeowner: "A Residential Homeowner shall be any person who is deemed by law to have an ownership interest in residential property located in Studio City and who**

**regularly resides at such property. Owners of multi-unit residential buildings who regularly reside at that property are included within this definition.”**

This motion will provide a lot of choice for the voter’s. There are four residential owners seats to be filled.

20. Comments from Board Members on subject matters within the Board’s jurisdiction- (10 min). Jeffery Carter noted that we as a community lost an icon today, Dick Clark who was a great American Entertainer, Businessman and Neighbor.

21. Adjournment (1 min). We adjourned on the memory of Mr. Dick Clark at 10:32 p.m.

