

SCNC BOARD

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
Pasha Vafae
Rita C. Villa
John T. Walker
Denise Welvang



BOARD MEETING APPROVED MINUTES

Wednesday,
November 16, 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

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

www.studiocitync.org

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1. Call to Order & Roll Call. Jeffrey Carter – excused, Ben Di Benedetto – present; Pasha Vafae – present, Victor Helo – excused, Wayne Kartin – excused, Remy Kessler - present, Ben Neumann excused, Richard Niederberg - present, Todd Royal – excused, Lisa Sarkin - present, Lana Shackelford – present, Gail Steinberg – present, Ron Taylor – present, Rita Villa –present, John Walker – excused, Denise Welvang – present. 9 voting members; 5 to pass a motion; 35 stakeholders present.
2. Approval of October 19, 2011 Board Minutes. **Moved:** Richard Neiderberg; **Second:** Lana Shackelford. **Vote:** 9 yes, 0 no. **Motion Carries**
3. Comments by the President. **Lisa Sarkin** acting chair of the meeting said there are lots of motions tonight but she will try to move the meeting along. She congratulated Lisa Cahan Davis who was elected budget representative for the Mayors' Budget Committee. She announced that Victor Helo was appointed co-chair of the Crime and Safety Committee. There will be no Board meeting next month. Dean Cutler would like to speak to Ben Di Benedetto regarding the shuttle on Ventura Blvd. Flyers are on the table for the Family Snow Festival. There are also brochures for the Village Gardeners and they need volunteers.
4. Public Comments on non-agenda items within the Board's jurisdiction. **Candice Mack** of the Studio City Library interim branch manager. Infant and toddler story time had over 100 attendees. 49 attendees at the gaming day. WWW.facebook.com-la updated regarding other events taking place and are participating in the Luminaria There are flyers on the table about upcoming events, **Marilyn White-Sedel** said she has been looking for a shredding place. There is one near here and she has a brochure and they are reasonable. **Barry Johnson** said we are getting a Laemmle 7 screen theater on Lankershim in North Hollywood. He does not think people will use the shuttle. Single family neighborhoods are still being overdeveloped because of spec

builders building at or over 60 percent without compliance without provisions of the RFA.

Richard Adams said the new stadium would be used for basketball. The stadium should not get taxpayer funding.

5. Responses to comments from the Board. **Ben Di Benedetto** said if you know of the address where the oversized properties are he would like them. **Barry Johnson** and **Lisa Sarkin** both said there is a list they will give him.
6. Update from Council District 2 by **Geoffrey Yazzetta** (5 min). **Geoffrey Yazzetta** said Councilman has been working on opposition to motion to postpone the NC elections to 2014. He read the statement released by the Councilman today. Asked people to attend the meeting referenced in the statement. Public Safety is the highest priority in the councilman's office. He is working with LAPD on speeding. If there are locations we know of report it and there will be a speed trailer put out and increased policing takes place. They are working on the problem at Radford and Ventura due to the timing of the new signal. There was a water main break again but it was fixed rapidly. Student media festival deadline 1/20/12 and 3/10/12 is event at El Portal. Food Drive – canned goods and other non-perishables drop off at their offices or he will pick up if needed. **Barry Johnson** said that PRB transportation person said the median is too long needs to be shorter so the turn lane could be longer. He also said that people speed in the residential areas and that is the more dangerous. **Doris Mandel** said when you have the trailers for speed measurement does it get the speed of cars in both lanes. **John Macaray** 11900 Ventura Blvd small business owner saw that a police car could not move because of traffic blocking Ventura Blvd. It is not just an inconvenience, it is dangerous. **Gary Hendrickson** said when there is a center median, cars are not required to pull over to the right. Most NC's are against the extension of the NC election process. Should not extend term limits as that is a bad precedent. **Richard Adams** said there is no expectation that City must get there or you cannot sue. **Richard Niederberg** said the signs are just advisory as traffic must go at what is safe for conditions. **Remy Kessler** said there is a selection process for new boardmembers as the City Attorney said there is a way to do it. **Ben Di Benedetto** said there is a caucus possibility and outside supervised method to have the election. City is just trying to save money. **Ron Taylor** said thanks for speed trailer on Colfax. Thanks for Councilman's position on the NC elections. Town hall forum and pulling things out of the hat are not adequate for our level of democracy.
7. Treasurer's report by **Remy Kessler**. **Remy Kessler** said balance is **\$28,090**. If there is no election we may have money for other things. **Lisa Sarkin** read the motion. **Barry Johnson** said we need the money that has been allocated for the elections one way or another. **Richard Adams** said he agrees with Barry. **Richard Neiderberg** said he went to the session put on regarding the elections. The cost to the NC is about 15 per cent of yearly budget.
 - A. **The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council has reviewed the November financial statements and the October bank statements and hereby accepts and approves them. Vote:** unanimous.
8. Budget Committee Report by **Remy Kessler** for **Mark Batterman** . **Remy Kessler** said budget committee recommended \$1,500 for Luminaria **Lisa Cahan Davis** gave more information on the event. Funding is for up to \$1,500. She explained how that would be used. **Barry Johnson** asked the board to support the expenditure. **Gail Steinberg** asked what the Luminiaria was. **Lisa Cahan Davis** explained it a candle in a paper bag.

- A. **The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council approves a neighborhood grant of up to \$1,500 to sponsor the SCNC's community event "The Luminaria Festival" to be held Sunday, December 11, 2011 at Campo de Cahuenga in Studio City. Lisa Sarkin** read the motion. **Vote:** unanimous.

Rick Rabins gave an explanation of the funding request. Funds are for heavy maintenance. Need some specialized brush clearing and hauling. **Richard Adams** discussed this in detail and he feels it is a wise expenditure of funds. Barry and Marilyn attended the quarterly meeting of the LA RIO Cooperative and Rick got their blessing for this project and extending this area. **Lisa Sarkin** read the motion. All plants are on the LA Rio list of approved plants. **Vote:** unanimous. **Motion Carries.**

B. The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council approves a funding request of up to \$800 to the Village Gardeners of the Los Angeles River with the funds to be used to pay Landsco for continuing maintenance and shrub clearance at the Earthday 2008 Event Site located within the Gardener's Studio City portion of the Los Angeles River. Funding is conditioned on the SCNC receiving appropriate credit consistent with previous support.

9. VANC Report by **Arlene Samek**. **Arlene Samek** gave an update and thanked Denise for attending the last long meeting. Addressed the Stone Canyon Reservoir issue. Only City Clerk can run the elections per the current ordinance. She read the VANC proposed ordinance recommendation related to the elections. (Arlene agreed to send the hard copy of what she read.) See Attached. Mike Fuerer asked for support for AB 52. VANC is working on the mentor system. **Richard Adams** said DWP should stop spending money. He agrees about the election. **Barry Johnson** no matter what they do we should have elections. **Ben Di Benedetto** said he was previously speaking about the proposed ordinance.
10. Outreach Committee Report by **Lisa Cahan-Davis**. **Lisa Cahan-Davis** gave an update on the outreach committee activities. Banners cannot be produced until they have the motion passed from the City Council. There will be a City Council meeting in December where they will come up with the marketing plan for 2012. Studio City Farmers Market booth is this Sunday. She thanked those who have volunteered. They will hand out information on the Luminaria event, the Snow Day Event and needs volunteers for all events. Wants eblast for Luminaria event. **Richard Adams** said we are blessed to have a professional running Outreach we should go with her guidance. **Barry Johnson** said in regards to the banners it is disgusting that Studio City does not get to use all the poles as they do in less affluent communities. **Lisa Sarkin** said there are very few board members that show up for the events and please show up for the Luminaria. **Remy Kessler** said get community events in Lifestyle and SC-SO-Encino News for free advertising. **Gail Steinberg** commented about the banners as the contracts are taken up by the movies, Getty Center and other paying organizations.
11. Land Use Committee Report by **Lisa Sarkin**. **Lisa Sarkin** gave report on the Black Market application. The hours of operation of the prior restaurant were to until 10:30 PM. They were closed on Sunday. This is a big change. This restaurant did not agree to the "volunteered conditions." Valet contract - valets can park in any of their contracted restaurants. This is a bar 8 am to 2 am daily. Land Use Committee opposes the extension of the patio unless the all of the volunteered conditions are agreed upon by the applicant. **Remy Kessler** took over as chair of meeting as **Lisa Sarkin** had to leave for a few minutes as she was ill. **Gail Steinberg** read the areas of exception to the volunteered conditions presented by the applicant. 9 of the 21 conditions were struck. **David Carlat** said **Lisa Sarkin** is tough but she was fair and professional in the way she handled this matter. He saw a report on a survey of how many businesses would reopen in California - 85% said would not reopen. He will educate us about the location - legal nonconforming location. Extend an existing patio is what they are asking for. He went through each of the conditions they do not accept and gave the reason why the owners did not accept them. **Arlene Semek** said she used to frequent the Wine Bistro as it is very small. We do not need another bar in this area. We have many bars and restaurant in the area already. Parking is a big problem in this area at this restaurant. **Marilyn White-Sedel** is very concerned as she was out to dinner and came up to see this restaurant at 7 PM. There was such a traffic

jam due to the median and it should be fixed. This frightens her. Sound travels up and there are homes all the way on the other side of the street. These people will be impacted by this area. This is badly conceived as it adversely impacts our community. **Barry Johnson** said let the motion stand and pass it. It is not too much to ask, leave it to the zoning administrator. Every other newer establishment in the area complies with the volunteered conditions. Otherwise sound will go up to the hillside. They are asking for a change in the patio in the parking area. **Richard Adams** said the zoning administrators are taking comments until Friday. Contact them. Patio in a driveway is idiotic. Studio City is a dining area not a night club area. **Lisa Cahan Davis** said she likes to go out and everyone has a right to speak. Sitting outside is a nice part of the dining experience. **Denise Welvang** said you are putting parking and people together what are you doing to protect the people. Cars are valet parked cars so the people will not run into barriers. **Ron Taylor** wants to understand if the owners have future plans. In terms of the hours of operation, are you intending to stay open to 2 am? Response no. Hours will approximate the hours in the conditions? Do you intend to turn this into a club? Response no. Will there be video machines? Response yes. **Richard Neiderberg** said why is it so important to go for the extra patio seating? No real response. **Lana Shackelford** asked if there is anyone else here to speak on behalf of the applicant. Response no. **Lisa Sarkin** said she did not get the paperwork relating to this until the SCNC got the hearing notice and that is why information came to board after the hearing. The South Valley Area Planning Commission has used these conditions for all applications we have submitted. **Ben Di Benedetto** said he was talking about putting tables in the driveway. Valet will take the cars at the sidewalk. **Ben Di Benedetto** suggested that there be compliance with the hours and the parking conditions requirements. **Remy Kessler** asked how many tables. 22 extra seats outside without increasing the legal occupancy of 116. **Lisa Sarkin** said the driveway is used for valet to get the cars off Ventura Blvd. currently. **Remy Kessler** read the motion A. **Ron Taylor** is concerned that they will switch to a more night club usage. He would like to see condition 5 in some form and recommends this go back to committee. **Lisa Sarkin** said it is time sensitive, we have to Friday to answer. There is already a bar on that block and the name of the restaurant is Black Market Liquor Bar. **Ben Di Benedetto** said he would support if number 5 and 13 were in the conditions. **Lana Shackelford** said it has been her experience the conditions are put in place to assist the businesses. It is a shame **David Carlat** is adversarial. **Remy Kessler** is not in favor of limiting a business's operation by moving where the people are sitting. He thinks that 5 and 18 should be included. **Lisa Sarkin** said why go after these 22 seats, it opened the door. This is the opportunity as they are asking for a revision to their CUB. There are so many places with a alcohol licenses and it is a traffic impacted area. Everyone else has agreed to these conditions. **Remy Kessler** said we may be taking advantage as they just want a shift in seating. **Rita Villa** voiced her objection to their failure to accept the conditions. This is a dangerous area. **Gail Steinberg** said all other newer restaurants have these conditions and it has been accepted by the ZA. **Richard Neiderberg** said they have privileges their neighbors do not have they should not take commercial advantage. **Ron Taylor** said every situation is unique. Remy Kessler suggests that the board vote on existing motion and see where we are.

A. The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council opposes the request for additional patio square footage at Black Market Liquor Bar, 11915 Ventura Blvd. (ZA-2011-2067-PAB unless the applicant agrees to the Applicant's Volunteered Conditions on the attached document. Vote: 6 in favor, 3 opposed. Motion carries.

Remy Kessler read the motion B. **Richard Adams** gave the background on this motion. Said there was an effort to balance business property owners' rights and those of businesses and residents in the area. A lot of effort was put into this. This is a dining destination, not a club area. **Barry Johnson** said he believes the guidelines are right for Studio City, please support this. **Arlene Samek** said that restaurant wanted to move seating outside to have more bar space. We do not want bars and clubs. We are a family oriented neighborhood. **Marilyn White-Sedel** agrees. **Remy Kessler** asked how we use these. **Lisa Sarkin** explained the background on the conditions. **Richard Neiderberg** said that he is in favor of conditions. Every applicant

gets the same written conditions. **Lana Shackelford** likes it. **Ben DI Benedetto** said he has a problem with number 3, 8 and 9. So he can't support this. **Ron Taylor** said these must be recommendations.

B. The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council supports the Recommendations for On-Sale Alcoholic Beverages Licenses in Studio City. Vote: 8 in favor, 1 opposed. Motion carries.

12. Transportation Committee Report by **Ben Di Benedetto**. **Ben Di Benedetto** gave an update on the activities of his committee. (Ask Ben to send his written report so it can be included in the minutes.) **Barry Johnson** general public and valets don't understand loading means truck loading. It must say passenger loading if that is what is wanted there. **Richard Adams** said Studio City is not just CD 2 but also CD 4 & 5.

A. The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council requests that Council Districts 2, 4 and 5 launch a public safety awareness campaign addressing the issues of excessive speed and unsafe driving habits in residential neighborhoods throughout Studio City. Vote: Unanimous. Motion carries.

B. The President of the Studio City Neighborhood Council shall write a letter to the owner(s) of Laurel Tavern located at 11940 Ventura Blvd in Studio City requesting that they stop parking cars on the sidewalk.

Barry Johnson said there is a consistent problem in the area with parking parallel on the sidewalk by the Valets. **Richard Niederberg** said Laurel Tavern is very loud. **Richard Adams** said they should include a statement that if there is no voluntary compliance, legal enforcement may follow. **Lisa Sarkin** said they don't park in front of their location they park in front of other locations. **Vote: Unanimous. Motion carries.**

13. Government Affairs Committee Report by **Jeffery Carter** and **Rita Villa**. **Remy Kessler** read the motion. **Barry Johnson** said this is a very important motion. PLUM is preparing to allow a wide variety of murals including on single family properties. **Richard Adams** said public art was a good thing but now taggers just use the murals as a palette for their art. **Ron Taylor** asked for clarification. **Lisa Sarkin** said that the Specific Plan will prevail over the ordinance as long as it is more restrictive. **Vote: Unanimous. Motion carries.**

A. The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council opposes any proposed changes to the LA Municipal Code regarding murals. We request the motion be submitted as a community impact statement file numbers 08-0530-S1; 08-0530; 08-1233-S; 08-1233; 08-0515; 11-0923.

14. Cultural Affairs Committee Report by **Richard Niederberg**. **Richard Niederberg** said **Lisa Cahan Davis** has covered much of the committee's activities. **Remy Kessler** read the motion. **Barry Johnson** said we have nothing to lose by supporting this. He has a lot of hurdles we should support. **Richard Adams** said someone proposed a piece of art for the median in front of his house. He is concerned that it will be a target for vandalism. He supports this as long as not a target for vandalism. The artist, **Michael Culhane**, presented pictures of the art. **Gail Steinberg** asked if there should be 4. **Rita Villa** asked what material it would be made out of. Artist replied aluminum material. **Lana Shackelford** asked if it would have Studio City on it or the artist's name. Response no space for graffiti, his name small at bottom. **Richard Neiderberg** said this artist has done good work in other areas.

A. The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council supports Studio City Artist Michael Culhane's proposal to create, install, mount and maintain two or more pieces of art at his own expense on the Moorpark Bridge that honors the motion

picture history of Studio City per the attached picture. Vote: Unanimous. Motion carries.

15. Crime & Safety Committee Report by **Wayne Kartin & Victor Helo. None. Richard Adams** said there has been no meeting since June. He urged the board to urge the co-chairs to start having meetings.
16. ByLaws & Procedures Committee Report by **Ron Taylor. Ron Taylor** said they did not meet last month will be looking at definitions for all seats. Addressed the City's plans to postpone elections. He is happy with Paul Krekorian's position to oppose the revision to the draft ordinance postponing the elections to 2014. We should get on record tonight and state that we oppose the draft ordinance. **Barry Johnson** elections should be held. **Richard Adams** agrees.
 - A. Presentation, discussion and possible motion related to the Neighborhood Council Election Alternatives Survey and Stakeholder Survey brought by Ron Taylor.

Motion: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council opposes adoption of the proposed amendments to Sections 20.36 and 22.816 of the Los Angeles Administrative Code relating to Neighborhood Council elections, as proposed by the City Attorney on November 9, 2011. Neighborhood Councils should be permitted to conduct and pay for their own elections in 2012. Second: Rita Villa. Vote: Unanimous. Motion carries.

Barry Johnson said we have power and money to hold the election and we should say what they should do. **Richard Adams** said City has money for other things. **Lisa Sarkin** asked for this to be a CIS attached to Council file number 11-0600.

Denise Walvang said at the VANC meeting DONE has funds earmarked to help pay for election oversight. **Richard Neiderberg** said at the meeting he asked if those are the only alternatives and the answer was no. **Denise Walvang** at VANC we were informed that the bylaws of many Neighborhood Councils will have to be changed back.

Remy Kessler proposed the following motion with a second by **Lisa Sarkin. The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council approves the NC Election Survey as completed by the Board on November 16, 2001 copy attached. Vote: 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstain. Motion carries.**

Barry Johnson confirmed it was polls only voting.

17. Comments from Board Members on subject matters within the Board's jurisdiction. **Lana Shackelford** said Walter Reed is having a recycling weekend for electronic waste, November 18-20, 2011.
19. Adjournment (1 min). **Moved: Richard Neiderberg, Second: Ben Di Benedetto; Vote: Unanimous. Motion carries.**



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1. Call to Order & Roll Call (2 min). Jeffrey Carter – excused, Ben Di Benedetto – present; Pasha Vafae –excused, Victor Helo – excused, Wayne Kartin – excused, Remy Kessler - present, Ben Neumann excused, Richard Niederberg - present, Todd Royal – excused, Lisa Sarkin - present, Lana Shackelford – present, Gail Steinberg – present, Ron Taylor – present, Rita Villa –present, John Walker – excused, Denise Welvang – present. 9 voting members; 5 to pass a motion; 35 stakeholders present.
2. Public Comments on non-agenda items within the Board's jurisdiction. **Richard Adams** apologized for his comments about the black market representative if anyone was offended. Their representative was rude to Marilyn at the hearing. **Lisa Sarkin** responded that this was not the first time. Mr. Carlot has been rude and uncooperative before.
|
3. Responses to comments from the Board. **Included in 2 above.**
4. Presentation, discussion and possible motion related to the L.A. RIO Ordinance: **Remy Kessler** read the motion. **Barry Johnson** explained why this was on a special agenda. There was a ZA hearing after the Government Affairs Committee meeting. Barbara Monahan Burk reviewed ordinance and gave us comments on the issues that we have continued to have concerns about over the years as we have followed this. Claire Bowen requested these comments in writing before December 1st. She and the zoning administrator felt our comments were excellent and needed to be submitted. **Richard Adams** expressed his concern that the public gardens should be 100% organic and

should not be allowed to use fertilizer so as not to contaminate the river. He thinks all public spaces should be planted with only natives.

Rita Villa read the **Motion:**

The President of the Studio City Neighborhood Council is authorized to write a letter to City Planner Claire Bowen outlining concerns of some issues that have raised a red flag with Studio City or simply have not yet been addressed by the current version of the L.A. RIO ordinance [CPS-2008-3125-CA and CPC-2007-3036-RIO] based on the points attached hereto.

Item 12 to be added to the points Public gardens should be 100% organic and should not be allowed to use fertilizer .so as not to contaminate the river. **Moved:** Rita Villa; **Second:** Lisa Sarkin; **Vote:** 9 yes; 0 no. **Motion Carries**

5. Adjournment. **Moved:** Ron Taylor; **Second:** Richard Niederberg; **Vote:** 9 yes; 0 no. **Motion Carries**

