STUDIO CITY NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
DRAFT REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, July 22, 2026 @ 7:00 PM
4024 Radford Avenue, MPR-3, Studio City, California 91604 | Hybrid Meeting
DRAFT - SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL

Source note: Prepared from the posted agenda, meeting transcript, appended roll-call voting results, and the meeting audio file. Where the record did not clearly capture a mover, seconder, exact time, or speaker identity, the draft states that limitation rather than assigning one.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

President Jerry Lewis called the regular meeting to order. The exact call-to-order time was not stated in the transcript. A quorum was present.

Initial roll call: Dean Cutler, Andrew Epstein, Jay Friedman, Daniel Fuselier, Lusine Galadjian, Dimitri Gatsiounis, Jeff Hartwick, Jerry Lewis, Richard Niederberg, Laurie Rittenberg, Merci Borden, Kesara Borirak, Victoria Brown, and Kim Clements were present for Roll Call. Matt Thompson and Dimitri Gatsiounis arrived by ~7:15.

The Chair delivered the agenda announcements concerning protected public speech, conduct and access requirements at Radford Studio Center, limits on two-way exchanges during public comment, and timekeeping.

2. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

Brian Handy, a resident near Ventura Boulevard and Vineland Avenue, commented on the new $7 parking fee at Wilacre/Fryman Canyon and requested lower-cost access options. He also raised concern that pedestrian access to the park does not provide a continuous ADA-accessible sidewalk.

3. Announcements by Government Representatives

LAPD Senior Lead Officer Cesar Gonzalez

- Reported a substantial year-to-date reduction in burglaries in the North Hollywood area and described recent arrests connected with a Studio City residential burglary.
- Reported progress addressing encampments along the Los Angeles River and beneath the Colfax pedestrian bridge, including coordination with Council District 4 and Los Angeles County Public Works regarding fencing, locks, and access control.
- Reported that the developer of the former Jinkys property was installing fencing and required trespass signage.
- Answered questions regarding encampment enforcement procedures, sidewalk accessibility, bus-stop access, license-plate-reader technology, a recent homicide arrest, and recovery of stolen property.

Department of Neighborhood Empowerment - Vincent (Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate)

- Advised that the Administrative Packet was past due and that spending was temporarily limited pending submission.
- Reminded all Board members to complete the new City Clerk funding training by August 31, 2026.
- Reported that the 2027 Neighborhood Council election is scheduled for May 6, with vote-by-mail and in-person voting options; the Board will later select a preferred and alternate in-person location.
- Announced a July 29 virtual election information session, candidate-appearance rules, LA28 First Friday sessions, a Planning 101 session, and the Joy Atkinson award nomination process.

5. President's Report

5a. Approval of Previous Minutes

The June 2026 Board Meeting Minutes were approved.

5b. Election of Executive Officers

President: Jerry Lewis - elected by show of hands.

Vice President: Jeff Hartwick - elected by show of hands.

Treasurer: Kim Clements - elected by show of hands.

Secretary: Jay Friedman - elected by show of hands.

Corresponding Secretary: Dimitri Gatsiounis - elected by show of hands.

5c. Financial Officer Positions

First signer: Treasurer Kim Clements, by office.

Second signer / primary cardholder: Jerry Lewis.

Alternate signer: Richard Niederberg.

Second cardholder: Lusine Galadjian.

6. Vice President's Report

Vice President Jeff Hartwick reported no items.

7. Secretary's Report

Secretary Jay Friedman reported that he had formalized an agenda template, intended to circulate voting tallies promptly after meetings, and planned to prepare draft minutes within approximately one week. Committee chairs were asked to route proposed motions to the Secretary.

8. Corresponding Secretary's Report

Corresponding Secretary Dimitri Gatsiounis reported no items.

9. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Kim Clements reported an initial FY 2026-2027 allocation of $25,000 and anticipated approximately $12,000-$13,000 in rollover funds after final audit, for an expected total of approximately $37,000-$38,000.

Motion TR-A: Approve the FY 2026-2027 budget and Administrative Packet, including the officers/signers named within.

Second: Richard Niederberg (as reflected in the transcript, though audio/transcript wording is partially unclear).

Discussion: The Treasurer stated that the initial budget was based on the $25,000 allocation and would likely be revised after rollover funds and pending expenditures were confirmed.

Vote: PASSED, 15 Yes - 0 No.

Action: Submit/finalize the Administrative Packet and budget with the approved financial officers/signers.

Motion TR-B: Approve the Monthly Expenditure Reports for April and May 2026.

Second: Matt Thompson.

Discussion: The Treasurer explained that the reports had been approved previously but had to be brought back because processing was not completed before fiscal year-end.

Vote: PASSED, 15 Yes - 0 No.

Action: Process the approved April and May MERs.

Motion TR-C: Approve up to $100 to Pink's Printing for nameplates for new Board members and officers.

Second: Richard Niederberg.

Discussion: Chip Meehan stated that the prior cost was approximately $35 for about 12 nameplates and that the requested amount included a cushion for price changes.

Vote: PASSED, 15 Yes - 0 No.

Action: Order the approved nameplates and retain required receipts.

Motion TR-D: Approve up to $5,800 for FY 2026-2027 to Web Corner for website hosting, domain registration, Mailchimp, and Gmail Suite.

Second: Richard Niederberg.

Discussion: Board members discussed the scope and cost of Web Corner's services, possible lower-cost alternatives, the contract term, and the need for a detailed alternative proposal. The Treasurer agreed to confirm the contract arrangement; members may bring a researched alternative to Budget and Finance.

Vote: PASSED, 12 Yes - 3 No. No: Dean Cutler, Andrew Epstein, Dimitri Gatsiounis.

Action: Treasurer to confirm the Web Corner contract term. Interested members to research and present specific alternatives to the Budget and Finance Committee.

10. Transportation Committee

Chair Barry Johnson reported that the Committee continued to seek information regarding the funding reduction that led to the $7 Wilacre/Fryman Canyon parking fee.

Motion TC-A: Support Council File 26-0264 concerning a report back on requiring new housing developments, including zero-parking developments, to provide Metro TAP cards or subsidized transit passes; submit a CIS and request at least four weeks for Neighborhood Council review before City Council action.

Second: Committee motion; no separate second was required or recorded.

Discussion: Public and Board comments addressed whether transit passes would meaningfully reduce parking impacts, who would bear the cost, and whether the proposal could provide cover for parking-deficient development.

Vote: NOT PASSED, 5 Yes - 10 No. Yes: Victoria Brown, Daniel Fuselier, Dimitri Gatsiounis, Jerry Lewis, Laurie Rittenberg.

Action: No CIS submitted in support based on this vote.

Motion TC-B: Support Council File 26-0481 requesting analysis and recommendations concerning curb ramps, sidewalk repair costs and standards, LAMC Section 62.104, ADA compliance, cost recovery, and improved program delivery; submit a CIS and request at least four weeks for Neighborhood Council review.

Second: Committee motion; no separate second was required or recorded.

Discussion: A stakeholder cited a Valley Spring Lane location without a sidewalk. The Board briefly discussed the motion's relevance to ADA accessibility and sidewalk delivery.

Vote: PASSED, 14 Yes - 1 No. No: Kim Clements.

Action: Submit the approved CIS to Council File 26-0481.

11. Government Affairs Committee

Chair Barry Johnson reported that $3 million in federal funding had been accepted by the City for the Beeman Park gym project and that construction was progressing.

Motion GAC-A: Support Council File 26-0002-S11 and AB 1941 concerning calculation of metal-theft liability based on the full cost of repair and replacement; submit a CIS.

Second: Committee motion; no separate second was required or recorded.

Discussion: The Board discussed the damage caused by metal theft and the rationale for measuring loss by restoration cost rather than scrap value.

Vote: PASSED, 15 Yes - 0 No.

Action: Submit the approved CIS to Council File 26-0002-S11.

Motion GAC-B: Support Council File 26-0877 requesting a report back on ADU trash policies and procedures, including bin capacity, on-site placement, public-right-of-way impacts, accessibility, and sanitation coordination; submit a CIS.

Second: Committee motion; no separate second was required or recorded.

Discussion: Discussion addressed increased trash-bin demand and sidewalk/parkway impacts associated with lot intensification and additional dwelling units.

Vote: PASSED, 12 Yes - 2 No - 1 Abstain. No: Kesara Borirak, Matt Thompson. Abstain: Daniel Fuselier.

Action: Submit the approved CIS to Council File 26-0877.

12. Budget and Finance Committee

Motion BFC-A: Partner with the American Red Cross to host a community blood drive and authorize up to $250 for marketing materials, printed flyers, and volunteer/donor refreshments.

Second: Committee motion; no separate second was required or recorded.

Discussion: Andrew Epstein reported that a prior drive was successful, that the Red Cross remained in emergency need, and that the Studio City Library could host an October drive. Stakeholders and Board members supported the program and discussed site logistics.

Vote: PASSED, 15 Yes - 0 No.

Action: Coordinate an October blood drive with the American Red Cross and Studio City Library; purchase only approved items and retain receipts.

Motion BFC-B - adopted amended language: Approve co-hosting monthly Studio City cleanups with Volunteers Cleaning Communities during FY 2026-2027, excluding December 2026 and June 2027, with up to $450 for printed flyers and up to $500 total for bottled water, self-contained fruit, and packaged snacks for ten events.

Amendment: Reduce the flyer allocation from $900 to $450 and the refreshment allocation from $1,000 to $500.

Second: An unidentified Board member seconded the amendment; the transcript does not permit reliable identification.

Discussion: Discussion addressed the demonstrated community value of the cleanups, recurring monthly participation, outreach through print and social media, and fiscal oversight. The Zoom connection was briefly interrupted and restored.

Amendment vote: PASSED, 11 Yes - 4 No. No: Victoria Brown, Dean Cutler, Jeff Hartwick, Laurie Rittenberg.

Final vote: PASSED, 14 Yes - 1 No. No: Kim Clements.

Action: Conduct the approved cleanup series; track flyer and refreshment spending within the amended caps.

Motion BFC-C - adopted amended language: Approve a $1,500 sponsorship for one Tujunga Village Holiday Street Fair, rather than $10,000 for four events.

Amendment sequence: The original $10,000/four-event proposal was narrowed to one holiday event for a proposed $1500.00.

Second: The record captures seconds to the proposed amendments, but speaker identities are not sufficiently clear to assign reliably.

Recusals: Merci Borden and Lusine Galadjian recused from the amendment and final vote.

Discussion: Discussion addressed the event's attendance and economic/community benefits, sponsor recognition and booth placement, the value of testing one event before considering additional events, and staffing the SCNC table.

Amendment vote: PASSED, 12 Yes - 1 No - 2 Recused. No: Dean Cutler. Recused: Merci Borden, Lusine Galadjian.xf

Final vote: PASSED, 13 Yes - 0 No - 2 Recused. Recused: Merci Borden, Lusine Galadjian.

Action: Confirm funding eligibility and payment procedure with the City Clerk funding representative before expenditure; coordinate SCNC sponsor benefits and Board staffing for the holiday event.

13. Outreach Committee

Chair Andrew Epstein reported that preliminary outreach for Studio City's centennial had begun, with positive responses from approximately two dozen organizations and individuals. He reported that SCNC ranked second among Neighborhood Councils in Nextdoor posting activity and that impressions had increased approximately 521% since January. Outreach will continue election awareness, event promotion, and social-media development.

14. Public Safety and Homelessness Committee

Chair Jeff Hartwick announced the Committee's upcoming monthly meeting. He highlighted the collaborative work of the Public Safety and Sustainability and Beautification Committees concerning proposed fencing beneath the Colfax bridge, noting Officer Gonzalez's explanation that fencing could improve enforceability when individuals bypass a barrier.

16. Sustainability and Beautification Committee

Motion SBC-A: Request that Councilmember Raman ask the appropriate City, County, and governmental agencies for immediate eradication of Giant Reed (Arundo donax) groves in Studio City and request a report back on timelines, jurisdiction, and status.

Second: Committee motion; no separate second was required or recorded.

Discussion: Scott Mandell/committee representatives described Giant Reed locations along the Los Angeles River, its invasive character, water and fire impacts, and the risk of spread downstream. Barry

Johnson suggested checking for growth on the north side and, if applicable, notifying the representative for that jurisdiction.

Vote: PASSED, 15 Yes - 0 No, per the appended voting results.

Action: Transmit the Request for Action with the referenced locations, photographs, and supporting material; request the specified report back.

Motion SBC-B: Approve a Sustainability and Beautification Lecture Series with funding for refreshments.

Disposition: WITHDRAWN. The Board agreed that the motion required clarification and Budget and Finance review before returning.

Vote: No vote taken.

Action: Committee to revise the motion and route it through Budget and Finance before future Board consideration.

17. Cultural Affairs Committee

The Committee reported that Movies in the Park drew more than 200 attendees and included 11 partner organizations and children's activities. The Committee will consider alternative venues and formats for future movie events. Centennial planning will continue in coordination with Outreach, including possible street-fair and culturally themed event concepts; no specific program or funding plan was adopted.

18. Comments by Board Members on Other Matters

Barry Johnson provided a brief Land Use update regarding a by-right small-lot subdivision at Troost Avenue and Valley Spring Lane. The project would replace one house with four individually owned units and includes parking. The developer voluntarily presented the project to the Land Use Committee.

The Board was reminded that the first Riverwalk Ad Hoc Committee meeting was scheduled for the following Monday at Radford Studio Center.

19. Good of the Order

Board members recognized the increased activity and community reach of the Outreach Committee. The Treasurer requested that Lusine Galadjian, Jerry Lewis, and Richard Niederberg remain briefly after the meeting to sign financial documents.

20. Adjournment

The meeting concluded after completion of Board comments and Good of the Order. The transcript did not state an adjournment motion, seconder, vote, or exact adjournment time.

Action Item Summary

- Finalize and submit the FY 2026-2027 Administrative Packet and approved budget/signatory information.
- Process the April and May MERs and purchase approved nameplates.
- Confirm the Web Corner contract term; route any detailed alternative proposal through Budget and Finance.
- Submit approved CIS statements for TC-B, GAC-A, and GAC-B.
- Coordinate the Red Cross blood drive and the amended VCC cleanup series within approved spending limits.
- Confirm funding eligibility/payment procedure for the $2,500 Tujunga Village Holiday Street Fair sponsorship and organize SCNC table staffing.
- Transmit the Giant Reed Request for Action with supporting locations and media.
- Revise SBC-B and submit it to Budget and Finance before re-agendizing.
- Continue centennial planning, election outreach, and Riverwalk Ad Hoc Committee work.

Prepared by: Jay Friedman, Secretary
Draft date: July 23, 2026