STUDIO CITY NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
DRAFT REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, August 26, 2026 @ 7:00 PM
4024 Radford Avenue, MPR-3, Studio City, California 91604 | Hybrid Meeting
DRAFT - SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

President Jerry Lewis called the regular meeting to order at ~ 7:06 p.m. A quorum was present.

Board members present: Merci Borden, Kesara Borirak, Victoria Brown, Kim Clements, Dean Cutler, Andrew Epstein, Jay Friedman, Daniel Fuselier, Dimitri Gatsiounis, Jeff Hartwick, Jerry Lewis, Richard Niederberg, Laurie Rittenberg, and Matt Thompson. Jeff Hartwick participated online; the other members were recorded as attending in person.

Board member absent: Lusine Galadjian.

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

Ari Engelberg of Harvard-Westlake School provided a construction update for River Park, including temporary sidewalk and lane impacts, new oak trees and other plantings, driveway paving, tennis-court surfacing, and restoration of the historic golf-ball structures.

Tess Taylor, President of the Greater Toluca Lake Neighborhood Council, asked SCNC to consider its Declaration of Commitment to Representative Government and emphasized the ability of Neighborhood Councils to advocate beyond narrow jurisdictional boundaries.

Kayt Miranda reported a fire and long-standing safety problems at the vacant property at 4343 Babcock Avenue and requested an urgent SCNC letter seeking nuisance abatement and fencing, as well as committee review of the property.

Lionel Mares commented on requests for financial transparency concerning LA28, Police Commission appointments, proposed Climate Emergency Mobilization Commission appointments, and an environmental-justice advisory proposal.

Elizabeth and David Stassen described increased concern about residential and vehicle burglaries in Colfax Meadows, delayed police response, and possible crime-prevention measures, and requested future Public Safety Committee consideration.

Another Farmdale-area resident described a prior burglary and contrasted the handling of prosecutions in Los Angeles and Ventura counties; the speaker also cited delayed action on a fire-damaged property.

Adriana Serrano and Ben Bayouf, residents neighboring 4343 Babcock Avenue, described prior complaints, encampment and trespass concerns, recent fires, and the risk to adjacent homes and children, and requested immediate governmental action.

3. Announcements by Government Representatives

Council District 4 - Jay Anderson, District Director, and Won Jung, Field Deputy

- Acknowledged the long-standing failure to resolve conditions at 4343 Babcock Avenue, committed to meet affected residents the following morning, and reported escalation to Council District leadership and LADBS management.
- Reported that asbestos abatement and demolition activity were expected to proceed at the fire-damaged Veneta Place property.
- Responded to questions regarding vacant properties, LADBS enforcement and follow-up, and Council District 4 encampment policy.

Council District 2 - Denise Schall, Senior Field Deputy

- Announced a September 5 KCRW Summer Nights block party on Magnolia Boulevard.
- Reported that Council District 2 would retain its existing LAMC 41.18 zones and described the new Unarmed Model of Crisis Response through 911.
- Provided updates regarding Universal Studios noise mitigation discussions and the Toluca Lake/Lankershim streetscape planning effort.

Assemblymember Nick Schultz's Office - Anthony Thorne

- Reported on the legislative deadline, pending bills including a post-production tax-credit proposal, community coffee events, and the office's process for following up on Caltrans service requests.
- Discussed weekend Caltrans cleanup opportunities and received requests regarding durable fencing and recurring encampment and dumping conditions along freeway rights-of-way.

Los Angeles County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath's Office - Paige Hodgloo

- Reported County action concerning the proposed Paramount-Warner Bros. merger, continued support for a unified regional Continuum of Care, and the County indoor-heat ordinance scheduled for enforcement in unincorporated areas beginning January 1, 2027.

Department of Neighborhood Empowerment - Vincent Autiero

- Announced an August 31 homelessness liaison meeting, the May 6, 2027 Neighborhood Council election, and the requirement for the Board to select a primary and alternate in-person election location.
- Announced an LA28 First Fridays session and clarified that the agenda motions concerned SCNC Operating Procedures rather than bylaws.

Los Angeles Police Department - Senior Lead Officer Cesar Gonzalez

- Reported that a Ventura Boulevard sexual-battery suspect was in custody and that additional victims had come forward.
- Reported a substantial year-to-date decline in burglaries in the North Hollywood Division and described current use of LAPD drones and other enforcement tools.

- Provided updates concerning Los Angeles River and freeway encampments, 4343 Babcock Avenue, the former Jinkys property, trespass-enforcement requirements, and staffing limitations.

4. President's Report

4a. Approval of Previous Minutes

The July 2026 Regular Board Meeting Minutes were approved.

5. Vice President's Report

Vice President Jeff Hartwick reported no items.

6. Corresponding Secretary's Report

Corresponding Secretary Dimitri Gatsiounis asked motion and Request for Action authors to use concise lead language that can be incorporated into official correspondence.

7. Secretary's Report

Secretary Jay Friedman reported no items.

8. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Kim Clements reported that rollover funds had not yet been received and that SCNC continued to operate from its initial $25,000 allocation, with approximately $12,000-$13,000 in rollover funds anticipated.

Motion TR-A: Approve the revised FY 2026-2027 budget.

Second: Dean Cutler.

Discussion: The Treasurer explained that the revision reflected the prior Tujunga Village funding decision and a specifically described office miscellaneous line; further revisions were expected as rollover funds and expenditures were confirmed.

Vote: PASSED, 13 Yes - 0 No.

Action: Implement the revised budget and continue monitoring the release of rollover funds.

Motion TR-B: Approve the Monthly Expenditure Reports for June 2026 (FY 2025-2026) and July 2026 (FY 2026-2027).

Second: Dean Cutler.

Discussion: Discussion addressed prior Movies in the Park expenditures, the reimbursement process, Board Action Certifications, purchasing practices, and the anticipated cost-sharing reconciliation with the Greater Toluca Lake Neighborhood Council.

Vote: PASSED, 13 Yes - 1 No. No: Andrew Epstein.

Action: Process and upload the approved June and July MER documentation.

Motion TR-C: Approve reimbursement of $50 to Board member Andrew Epstein for professional graphic services by Michelle Vicente for high-resolution file preparation and adjustments for the FY 2025-2026 SCNC Blood Drive flyer.

Second: Not clearly identifiable in the available record.

Discussion: The Treasurer explained the requirements for prior expenditure authorization and separate reimbursement approval, as well as the limits applicable to Board-member reimbursements.

Vote: PASSED, 12 Yes - 2 No. No: Kim Clements and Richard Niederberg.

Action: Process the reimbursement if all City Clerk documentation and eligibility requirements are satisfied.

Motion TR-D: Approve payment of the June 2026 Web Corner invoice (FY 2025-2026) in the amount of $454.20.

Second: Not clearly identifiable in the available record.

Discussion: Board and public comments revisited the cost and scope of Web Corner services, possible alternatives, the City process required to change vendors or services, and the need for a detailed proposal before future action.

Vote: PASSED, 12 Yes - 1 No - 1 Abstain. No: Dimitri Gatsiounis. Abstain: Andrew Epstein.

Action: Pay the approved invoice. Continue research into specific, workable lower-cost alternatives and route any proposal through Budget and Finance.

9. Budget and Finance Committee

The Budget and Finance report was combined with the Treasurer's report; no separate committee action was taken.

10. Riverwalk Development Ad Hoc Committee

Chair Scott Mandell reported that the Committee held its first meeting on July 27 with the developer and substantial public participation. The Committee reviewed previously identified issues and reported that the developer had removed dead palm fronds that presented a fire concern pending eventual removal of the palms. The next meeting was planned for September after coordination with the new Council District 4 field deputy.

Action: Update Council District 4 regarding the Committee's work, continue maintaining the public document repository, and schedule the next meeting in September.

11. Disaster Preparedness and Evacuation Committee

Chair Chip Meehan reported that the Committee was developing an evacuation best-practices guide organized around preparation, information and communication, and early departure. The Committee was also exploring a secure early-evacuation hub, potentially at Los Angeles Valley College, with information, power, restrooms, climate control, and basic support. A fuller report was expected in September.

Action: Draft and publish the best-practices material, review the new LAFD emergency-preparedness guide, seek additional committee participation, and continue discussions with Council District 4 regarding an early-evacuation hub.

12. Bylaws and Procedures Committee

Motion BPC-A: Amend Operating Procedures Article I, Section 3, Paragraph C(3), to require a Board-member nomination and second for qualified vacancy applicants; require at least two nominees for each vacant seat before a vote; and permit Board members and stakeholders to question nominees.

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

Discussion: Members discussed whether the two-nominee requirement could prevent the Board from seating a single qualified applicant when recruitment is difficult.

Vote: PASSED, 8 Yes - 5 No. No: Victoria Brown, Dean Cutler, Daniel Fuselier, Dimitri Gatsiounis, and Laurie Rittenberg. Kim Clements was not present for the vote.

Action: Update the Operating Procedures with the adopted vacancy language.

Motion BPC-B: Amend Operating Procedures Article I, Section 7, Paragraph A, to authorize a Youth Seat serving in a non-binding voting capacity and to provide that the Youth Seat member is appointed under Article III, Section 1, Paragraph O.

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

Discussion: Discussion clarified that the youth vote would be advisory and would not affect the outcome of Board motions.

Vote: PASSED, 13 Yes - 0 No. Kim Clements was not present for the vote.

Action: Update the Operating Procedures with the adopted Youth Seat language.

Motion BPC-C: Amend Operating Procedures Article III, Section 1, Paragraph O, to define Youth Committee membership, require youth motions to be brought by an adult Board member with a second, and establish a rotating non-binding youth liaison selected by the Committee.

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

Discussion: The Committee stated that rotation would provide multiple youth members an opportunity to participate at Board meetings.

Vote: PASSED, 13 Yes - 0 No. Kesara Borirak was not present for the vote.

Action: Update the Operating Procedures with the adopted Youth Committee and liaison language.

Motion BPC-D: Amend Operating Procedures Article III, Section 1, Paragraph K(6), to apply Board conflict-of-interest rules to all Committee Chairs and members.

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

Discussion: The Committee explained that the amendment was intended to prevent conflicts from affecting committee recommendations and motions forwarded to the Board.

Vote: PASSED, 13 Yes - 0 No. Kesara Borirak was not present for the vote.

Action: Update the Operating Procedures with the adopted conflict-of-interest language.

13. Youth Committee

The Board welcomed the Youth Committee and its members.

Motion YC-A: Approve rotating Youth Board Members for three-month terms, beginning with Jessie Cai, followed by Drew Lattuca, Daisy Vigueras, and Sophie Shih.

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

Discussion: Board members welcomed the youth participants and supported the rotation.

Vote: PASSED, 13 Yes - 0 No. Kesara Borirak was not present for the vote.

Action: Seat Jessie Cai for the first three-month term and implement the approved rotation.

Following the vote, Jessie Cai took the Neighborhood Council pledge and was seated as the first rotating Youth Board Member in a non-binding capacity.

14. Public Safety and Homelessness Committee

Motion PSHC-A concerning Council File 26-0906-S4 and CERT training was WITHDRAWN. Chair Jeff Hartwick stated that the City Council had already acted on and amended the matter.

Action: No SCNC vote or CIS was taken on this agenda item.

15. Outreach Committee

The agenda labeled the following item as Motion BPC-A. For clarity in these minutes, it is identified as Motion OC-A because it originated in the Outreach Committee.

Motion OC-A - adopted amended language: Approve a sponsorship amount not to exceed $1,500 to co-sponsor the Tujunga Village Art Walk on October 3, 2026, from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Tujunga Avenue between Woodbridge Street and Moorpark Street. Funds will be paid directly to vendors for event posters, promotional postcards, and residential doorhangers. SCNC will receive sponsor recognition and a complimentary outreach booth. This approval supersedes the previously approved $1,500 sponsorship for the December Tujunga Village holiday event.

Second: The amendment was seconded, but the seconder could not be reliably identified. The underlying item was a committee motion.

Discussion: Discussion addressed stakeholder-engagement opportunities at the daytime Art Walk, the status of the previously approved December event, payment and vendor procedures, and the value of testing one Tujunga Village event.

Vote: Amendment PASSED, 12 Yes - 1 No - 1 Recused. No: Dimitri Gatsiounis. Recused: Merci Borden. Final amended motion PASSED, 11 Yes - 2 No - 1 Recused. No: Kim Clements and Dimitri Gatsiounis. Recused: Merci Borden.

Action: Update the budget and City Clerk paperwork to reflect that the October Art Walk sponsorship supersedes the December event; confirm eligible vendors and payment procedures; coordinate SCNC booth staffing and outreach materials.

Committee update: The October blood drive was moved from the Studio City Library to Emerson Unitarian Universalist Church. Outreach planned a Farmers Market table before the drive and continued election and event outreach planning.

16. Government Affairs Committee

Motion GAC-C was considered earlier in the meeting, out of agenda order, to accommodate the attending stakeholders.

Motion GAC-A: Support Council File 25-0125 and the Bureau of Street Lighting report concerning the maintenance backlog, copper-wire theft and vandalism, system hardening, cost-effective innovations, preventive maintenance, funding, and field capacity; submit a Community Impact Statement and request time for Neighborhood Council review of the next report back.

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

Discussion: Discussion addressed the causes of the streetlight backlog, theft and vandalism, replacement parts, outsourcing, and the purpose of supporting further study and cost-effective improvements.

Vote: PASSED, 9 Yes - 4 No - 1 Abstain. No: Kesara Borirak, Victoria Brown, Daniel Fuselier, and Matt Thompson. Abstain: Kim Clements.

Action: Submit the approved CIS to Council File 25-0125 and monitor the next report back.

Motion GAC-B: Support Council File 26-1053 authorizing transfer of $316,000 in Ventura-Cahuenga Corridor Specific Plan funds for the Studio City Pedestrian Safety Downlighting Project along Ventura Boulevard and Ventura Place; submit a Community Impact Statement.

Second: Not clearly identifiable in the available record. The motion was brought by Jay Friedman.

Discussion: Discussion noted that the Specific Plan Review Board and City Council had already advanced the project and questioned the utility of voting after that action.

Vote: PASSED, 8 Yes - 4 No - 1 Abstain - 1 Recused. No: Kesara Borirak, Andrew Epstein, Jeff Hartwick, and Matt Thompson. Abstain: Kim Clements. Recused: Dean Cutler.

Action: Submit the approved CIS to Council File 26-1053 and transmit SCNC support for the downlighting project.

Motion GAC-C: Affirm the Greater Toluca Lake Neighborhood Council resolution titled “FAST & FURIOUS ROLLER COASTER - PROTECT OUR NEIGHBORHOOD FROM EXCESSIVE NOISE,” support its call for immediate action, and send the SCNC affirmation to Councilmembers Adrin Nazarian and Nithya Raman and the other entities identified in the underlying resolution.

Second: Richard Niederberg. The motion was brought by Jerry Lewis.

Discussion: Toluca Lake and Studio City residents described persistent rider screams affecting homes and outdoor use. Discussion addressed Universal's prior mitigation commitments, the adequacy of current sound barriers, independent sound data, county jurisdiction, and the role of City and County elected officials.

Vote: PASSED, 13 Yes - 1 No. No: Matt Thompson.

Action: Transmit the affirmation and supporting resolution to the identified City, County, and other responsible officials.

17. Transportation Committee

Motion TC-A: Support the request to evaluate and pursue funding for a two-year open-air trolley pilot on Ventura Boulevard connecting the Universal City/Studio City Metro B Line Station with the commercial corridor, using potential Measure M, LCTOP, and Prop C funding and a feasibility study, with a goal of launching before the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Second: Committee motion; no separate second was required. A second was voiced during discussion but could not be reliably identified.

Discussion: Discussion addressed prior shuttle efforts, potential benefits to businesses and visitors, funding sources, whether service should be publicly or privately financed, vehicle appearance, and free rider access.

Vote: PASSED, 13 Yes - 1 No. No: Kesara Borirak.

Action: Transmit SCNC support and continue evaluation of funding, route, ridership, cost, and vehicle design.

18. Sustainability and Beautification Committee

Motion SBC-A: Approve sponsorship of no more than six public educational lectures at the Studio City Public Library from October 2026 through June 2027 concerning sustainability, ecology, wildlife, and natural studies, with expenditures not to exceed $2,000 for refreshments and promotional and printing materials.

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

Discussion: Discussion addressed the Library partnership, potential speakers, community and youth interest, event logistics, promotion, Board participation, and whether the proposed funding level was excessive.

Vote: PASSED, 12 Yes - 2 No. No: Kim Clements and Matt Thompson.

Action: Coordinate the lecture calendar and speakers with the Library, document eligible outreach and refreshment expenses, and staff an SCNC information table at each session.

Committee update: The community cleanup program had collected more than 200 bags, estimated at approximately 8,500 pounds of litter and debris, and engaged approximately 100 stakeholders. Another cleanup was planned for September.

19. Cultural Affairs Committee

Chair Merci Borden reported that the Committee was narrowing a broad list of ideas for future funding, including an international food, music, arts, and dance festival tied to the Studio City centennial; additional movie events and alternative venues; participation in Music in the Park; local art associated with Riverwalk; recurring historical social-media posts; a possible centennial parade; and a centennial gala. No motion or funding request was adopted.

The Board clarified that any cost-sharing amount owed by the Greater Toluca Lake Neighborhood Council for Movies in the Park would be based on actual expenditures rather than the approved budget ceiling.

20. Land Use Committee

The Committee reported that two new cases were expected to be considered at its September 9 meeting. No motion was presented.

21. Comments by Board Members on Other Matters

Board members discussed the length of Board meetings and encouraged earlier participation at the committee level and more selective Board agendas to reduce repetitive discussion.

The Board indicated that the November regular meeting should be held on the third Wednesday because of the Thanksgiving holiday, and requested that the revised date be posted on the website.

22. Good of the Order

No additional formal action was recorded.

23. Adjournment

The available transcript and audio record conclude during Board comments and do not clearly state a formal adjournment motion, seconder, vote, or exact adjournment time.

Action Item Summary

- Implement the revised FY 2026-2027 budget; process the June and July MERs, approved reimbursement, and June Web Corner invoice subject to City documentation requirements.
- Continue development of a specific, workable alternative proposal concerning SCNC website, email, Mailchimp, and related digital services for Budget and Finance review.
- Schedule the next Riverwalk Ad Hoc Committee meeting in September and continue coordination with Council District 4.
- Prepare and publish disaster-preparedness and evacuation best practices and continue work on a potential early-evacuation hub.
- Update the Operating Procedures to incorporate BPC-A through BPC-D.
- Implement the approved Youth Board Member rotation, beginning with Jessie Cai.
- Replace the previously approved December Tujunga Village sponsorship with the October 3 Art Walk sponsorship and complete vendor, payment, booth, and outreach arrangements.
- Submit the approved Community Impact Statements for GAC-A and GAC-B; transmit the GAC-C roller-coaster affirmation to the identified officials.
- Transmit support for the Ventura Boulevard trolley pilot and continue feasibility and funding work.
- Schedule and promote the Sustainability and Beautification lecture series within the approved $2,000 limit.
- Continue September cleanup planning, centennial and cultural-event development, and Land Use review of the two September 9 cases.
- Post the revised November regular meeting date and promptly address the required election-location selection process.

Prepared by: Jay Friedman, Secretary

Draft date: August 28, 2026