STUDIO CITY NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

DRAFT REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, October 28, 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 convened the regular meeting.

Roll call included: Merci Borden, Kesara Borirak, Kim Clements, Dean Cutler, Andrew Epstein, Jay Friedman, Daniel Fuselier, Dimitri Gatsiounis, Jeff Hartwick, Jerry Lewis, Richard Niederberg, and Matt Thompson.

The posted agenda included standard announcements concerning protected speech, Radford Studio Center access, public comment, and timekeeping.

2. Welcome to First-Time Attendees and How to Be Heard

The agenda provided for Secretary Jay Friedman to explain meeting participation to first-time attendees. No Board action was taken on this item.

3. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

Ari Engelberg of Harvard-Westlake School reported that River Park construction was approximately 99% complete. Temporary lane restrictions on Whitsett Avenue were expected to end by October 31, ahead of schedule. Field and tennis-court lighting tests were underway, with shutoff times of 8:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m., respectively. Public amenities were expected to open around March 1, 2027, with community open-house opportunities planned.

4. Announcements by Government Representatives

Council District 2

- Reported rain preparedness, including sandbag availability at LAFD stations and depots at Stations 78 and 86, and encouraged NotifyLA alerts. Announced the November 6 Golden Autumn event at Saticoy Elementary School, a December 12 toy giveaway at Victory Vineland Recreation Center, and November 6 CleanPlus operations near freeway approaches.
- A resident raised recurring flooding and drainage concerns along Chandler Boulevard near the bikeway.

Assemblymember Nick Schultz's Office

- A representative reported nine Assemblymember-authored bills signed into law, highlighting legislation on repeat DUI penalties, PFAS pesticide disclosures, film post-production tax credits, and kinship care. She announced food drives on November 17 and 18 and invited constituents to submit state-agency service requests and legislative proposals.
- Board and public questions focused on Caltrans maintenance, broken fencing, and recurring encampments along freeway rights-of-way near Whitsett Avenue and the Garland Hotel. Office staff described ongoing Caltrans meetings and a possible federal community-project funding route for stronger fencing.

Council District 4 - Won Jung, Field Deputy

- Advised residents about LAFD sandbags and red-flag parking notifications. Reported a new access ramp to the Beeman Park playground, repairs to the Moorpark Park perimeter fence, and an anticipated early-2027 completion for the Studio City Recreation Center project.
- Discussed recreational-vehicle complaints and limits on enforcing 72-hour parking restrictions when vehicles are moved, along with the need for possible policy changes. A proposed fence near the Colfax Avenue LA River bridge remained under discussion.

Mayor's Office

Nico of the Mayor's Office reported year-over-year San Fernando Valley declines of approximately 41% in burglaries, 31% in motor-vehicle thefts, and 21% in robberies. He also discussed efforts to restore funding for nuisance-property abatement and encouraged residents to report properties through LADBS or MyLA311 and follow up on their requests.

Department of Neighborhood Empowerment - Vincent Autiero

- Reported distribution of the 2027 Neighborhood Council ballot voting model and requested that Board members review seat allocations and submit corrections to Election Administrator Lani Basulto by November 30. The model listed four homeowner seats, three renter seats, three business seats, two employee/independent-contractor seats, two service-organization seats, and one at-large seat.
- Announced an LA28 First Friday virtual briefing on November 6 from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.; an emergency-preparedness session on October 29 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m.; and regional homelessness-liaison roundtables.
- Clarified that the Department updates Board training and Code of Conduct records regularly, while the City Clerk separately tracks funding training. The Secretary reported that three Board-member eligibility issues were being worked through and that only a small number of stakeholder-committee acknowledgments remained outstanding. Committee chairs remain responsible for monitoring their non-Board members.
- Responded to a question about homelessness liaisons and offered to follow up if SCNC supplied the names of its liaisons.

Los Angeles Police Department

- Officer Jeffrey Mulheim updated the investigation of the fatal Carpenter Avenue/Ventura Boulevard hit-and-run and sought witness or camera information concerning two other fatal pedestrian collisions in North Hollywood.
- Senior Lead Officer Cesar Gonzalez introduced successor Antonio Canchola, reported a roughly 44% decline in burglaries, and explained limits on towing vehicles used as dwellings absent an enforceable violation.
- Officer Canchola described an arrest after a burglary response near Beeman Avenue and Rye Street involving multiple LAPD units. Gonzalez agreed to review reports of October 23 overnight noise and helicopter activity.

5. President's Report

President Lewis briefly noted an opening for participation on the Budget and Finance Committee and invited interested members to come forward. He requested approval of the September 23, 2026 Regular Board Meeting Minutes. They were approved by a show of hands; the record does not provide a numerical vote tally.

6. Vice President's Report

Vice President Jeff Hartwick reported no additional items.

7. Corresponding Secretary's Report

Corresponding Secretary Dimitri Gatsiounis reported no additional items.

8. Secretary's Report

Secretary Jay Friedman reported that new Board nameplates were in use; Radford technical operations had cleared the proposed wireless microphone system for coordinated testing; and purchase timing would be managed with the Treasurer to preserve a practical return window if equipment proved incompatible.

He described a central tracker for training, eligibility, Code of Conduct, and volunteer hours, reminding members of the 10 annual service hours required outside regular Board and committee meetings. He was also preparing an administrative handbook covering accounts, vendors, and publication procedures, while a website working group identified five priority issues.

Friedman described ongoing LADWP discussions concerning a possible future public presentation on rates, billing practices, and high-bill concerns. He anticipated participation in an upcoming LADWP Neighborhood Council meeting and said LADWP had requested the formal Board designation appearing in Motion SEC-A.

Motion SEC-A - LADWP liaison: Designate Secretary Jay Friedman as the SCNC representative and liaison under the 2023 LADWP-Neighborhood Council Memorandum of Understanding; authorize registration, appropriate information sharing, meeting participation, communication of stakeholder questions, and Board reporting; approve MOU participation if not already completed, without authorizing expenditure or independent policy positions.

Second: A second was voiced; speaker not reliably identified.

Discussion: Members supported the liaison appointment and noted community concern about high bills and announced rate changes.

Vote: PASSED by announced roll call; the numerical tally and voter eligibility remain to be confirmed.

Action: Send LADWP the Board designation, complete liaison registration, and provide updates to the Board.

Motion SEC-B - mixer-to-speaker cables: Authorize up to $125 including tax and shipping for two 50-foot shielded balanced mixer-to-speaker cables, subject to connector verification, available budget, and purchasing rules.

Second: The motion was seconded; Kim Clements was identified during the exchange.

Discussion: The Secretary said the likely cost was below the authorization ceiling. Barry Johnson had supplied temporary extensions and characterized the contemplated purchase as a backup if the new microphone arrangement required it.

Vote: PASSED by announced roll call; exact count requires official tally reconciliation.

Action: Confirm XLR/quarter-inch TRS connections and need before any purchase.

Motion SEC-C - identification badges and lanyards: Authorize up to $145.09 including tax to Anderson Trophy Co. for eight double-sided identification badges with lanyards.

Second: A second was voiced; speaker not reliably identified.

Discussion: Members differed over reusable generic titles versus personalized badges and whether to prioritize active volunteers. The expenditure motion did not settle design or distribution.

Vote: PASSED following a divided roll call. Kim Clements, Dean Cutler, and Dimitri Gatsiounis opposed; numerical totals and eligibility require confirmation.

Action: Set badge design, personalization, and distribution details before placing the order.

9. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Kim Clements reported an FY 2026-2027 opening balance of approximately $38,000, including about $13,000 in carryover. She reviewed commitments for recurring operations, outreach, the Tujunga Village Art Walk, blood drive, library lectures, and meeting audio equipment, estimating approximately $21,000 not yet committed. She noted that the public funding dashboard did not fully reflect Board-approved commitments.

Motion TR-A - Radford location: Approve Radford Studio Center at 4024 Radford Avenue as SCNC's Board and committee meeting, office, and storage location for the remainder of FY 2026-2027.

Second: The motion was seconded; speaker not reliably identified.

Discussion: DONE requested an ADA access checklist and review of Radford parking, routes, restrooms, and facilities before the next meeting, with Radford and Board contacts participating.

Vote: PASSED by announced roll call; exact count pending reconciliation.

Action: Coordinate an ADA walkthrough/checklist with DONE and Radford before the next meeting.

Motion TR-B - monthly expenditure reports: Approve the Monthly Expenditure Reports for August and September 2026.

Second: A second was voiced.

Discussion: A member requested clarification about the $1,500 Tujunga Village Art Walk allocation and the role of Vitello's as the event payment conduit.

Vote: PASSED by announced roll call; exact count pending reconciliation.

Action: Process the approved MERs.

Motion TR-C - Canva: Approve $83.30 for the continued annual use of Canva.

Second: A second was voiced.

Discussion: Andrew Epstein reported continued Outreach use but suggested the Board may later consider no-cost alternatives; DONE's current Canva arrangement was discussed.

Vote: PASSED by announced roll call; exact count pending reconciliation.

Action: Renew the Canva license as approved.

Motion TR-D - refreshments reimbursement: Reimburse Merci Borden $130.52 for pizza purchased through DoorDash for the July 22, 2026 regular meeting when no Board member had a City purchasing card.

Second: A second was voiced.

Discussion: No substantive objection was recorded.

Vote: PASSED by announced roll call; exact count and any required abstention/recusal check remain to be verified.

Action: Submit the reimbursement under City Clerk procedures.

10. Budget and Finance Committee

Kim Clements had no further committee report. A question was raised about the timing of a forthcoming Budget and Finance meeting.

11. Riverwalk Development Ad Hoc Committee

Chair Scott Mandell reported City Council approval of the Riverwalk project on October 21, 2026. Negotiated conditions included 23 additional shade trees, traffic improvements at Whitsett/Moorpark and Whitsett/Ventura, approximately $375,000 for Segment 8 greenway improvements, and $300,000 for Recreation and Parks greenway work. Construction could begin in 2027, with completion around 2033 subject to approvals or litigation.

Mandell cited a Jensen Hughes hillside-evacuation study posted with committee materials. Public and Board discussion addressed the project's 84-foot height, visual effects, and ways to improve public awareness. No motion was taken.

12. Disaster Preparedness and Evacuation Committee

Chair Chip Meehan reported limited participation in the evacuation committee and favored an SCNC webpage linking to current City, County, and Council District resources instead of maintaining separate instructions. He urged advance planning, alternate exit routes, and use of Genasys Protect, Watch Duty, and CAL FIRE tools. Members discussed route uncertainty and potential safe waiting areas. No dissolution vote occurred.

13. Youth Committee

Youth Board Member Jessie Cai reported preparation of a centennial youth arts competition funding proposal for possible November review through Budget and Finance. No motion was presented.

14. Public Safety and Homelessness Committee

Chair Jeff Hartwick announced an upcoming committee meeting at the Radford office location and introduced the agendized nuisance-property motion.

Motion PSH-A - nuisance-property abatement, CF 24-0196-S1: Support release of pending City reports and policy recommendations concerning nuisance abatement and oversight, including assistance for willing owners unable to remedy properties, stronger noncompliance penalties, and potential State-law changes. Submit the position as a Community Impact Statement to Council File 24-0196-S1.

Second: The motion was seconded; speaker not reliably identified.

Discussion: Hartwick cited the long-running Babcock Avenue nuisance property. Public discussion described past enforcement through the City Attorney and the difficulty of identifying responsibility among City departments, Council offices, and the Mayor's Office.

Vote: PASSED by announced roll call; exact count pending reconciliation.

Action: Submit the approved CIS to Council File 24-0196-S1.

15. Government Affairs Committee

The initial consent calendar was narrowed by requests to hear several motions separately. After Transportation motions TC-A and TC-B were removed because they had been brought by a Board member and required seconds, GAC-B was the sole remaining consent item.

Motion GAC-B - detached ADU interim control ordinance, CF 16-1468-S6: Support the proposed interim-control process for detached accessory dwelling units on multifamily developments exceeding 1,200 square feet and request at least four weeks for Neighborhood Council review after the report back.

Second: Consent-calendar motion; no separate second required.

Discussion: No substantive public or Board comment was recorded during consideration of the remaining consent item.

Vote: APPROVED VIA CONSENT CALENDAR by announced roll call; exact count pending reconciliation.

Action: Transmit SCNC support concerning Council File 16-1468-S6.

Motion GAC-A - data center study, CF 26-1284: Support a City study of the utility, planning, construction, and infrastructure impacts of data center development, including a possible moratorium on future projects requiring more than 100 MW, with a four-week review period after any report back.

Second: Committee motion; no separate second required.

Discussion: Members debated the cost of data-center electric infrastructure, whether major facilities were likely in Los Angeles, and the proposed moratorium.

Vote: FAILED TO PASS as announced by the Chair after a divided roll call; the numerical tally remains to be confirmed.

Action: No CIS or advocacy submission should be made on the basis of this failed motion.

16. Transportation Committee

The two Transportation motions were considered separately after the Chair confirmed they were not eligible for consent treatment as presented.

Motion TC-A - abandoned recreational vehicles, CF 26-1399: Support prompt City implementation of AB 647, including procedures for processing abandoned recreational vehicles under the revised $4,000 valuation threshold, and submit a CIS to Council File 26-1399.

Second: A separate second was voiced.

Discussion: No substantive public or Board comment was recorded.

Vote: PASSED by announced roll call; exact count pending reconciliation.

Action: Submit the approved CIS to Council File 26-1399.

Motion TC-B - NoHo2BUR Connect, CF 26-1428: Support LADOT study of a direct North Hollywood Metro Station-to-Hollywood Burbank Airport connection using a reconfigured NoHo DASH line, including route, frequency, terminal connections, operating costs, and feasibility of service across city limits; submit a CIS to Council File 26-1428.

Second: A separate second was voiced.

Discussion: Public discussion covered fare payment for visitors, DASH cash acceptance, and travel usefulness. A Board question clarified that LADOT, rather than Metro, would design the routing of its DASH service.

Vote: PASSED by announced roll call; exact count pending reconciliation.

Action: Submit the approved CIS to Council File 26-1428.

17. Sustainability and Beautification Committee

All four Sustainability and Beautification motions were removed from the original consent calendar and taken individually.

Motion S&B-A - LA River Greenway, CF 26-1471: Support LA River Greenway restoration, beautification, safety, connectivity, and proposed naming of the stretch between Whitsett Avenue and Laurel Canyon Boulevard for environmental advocate Melanie Winter, together with identified funding and public input requests.

Second: Committee motion; no separate second required.

Discussion: Chip Meehan explained the history of the proposed dedication, the involvement of Council District 4, and Winter's work to establish the LA River as a protected navigable waterway. Kim Clements objected to the repeated use of the adverb "enthusiastically" in committee motions. No formal wording amendment was recorded.

Vote: PASSED by announced roll call; exact count pending reconciliation.

Action: Convey the Board's support to the identified City offices and file the appropriate communication/CIS as authorized.

Motion S&B-B - LA River right of entry: Request the right of entry and necessary approvals for volunteer greenway cleanup and invasive-species work between Whitsett Avenue and Laurel Canyon Boulevard.

Second: Committee motion; no separate second required.

Discussion: Members questioned whether a formal right-of-entry motion was necessary and discussed access, City coordination, insurance, and possible later event approval. No expenditure was authorized.

Vote: PASSED by announced roll call; exact count pending reconciliation.

Action: Seek access authorization and separately coordinate any required event, insurance, safety, and City Clerk arrangements.

Motion S&B-C - Ventura Boulevard parcels for parkland: Ask Council District 4 to investigate acquisition or partnership opportunities for parcels at 11575 and 11571 Ventura Boulevard to create parkland and future access to the LA River Greenway.

Second: Committee motion; no separate second required.

Discussion: Supporters described the parcels as a rare potential Greenway access point and emphasized that the motion sought only an investigation. Other speakers expressed concern about encampments and future park management; nearby restaurant and outdoor-dining benefits were also noted.

Vote: PASSED following a divided roll call. Kesara Borirak voted No; numerical totals and eligibility remain to be verified.

Action: Request a feasibility discussion with Council District 4; no property purchase was authorized.

Motion S&B-D - Merrill Gardens landscape plan: Ask Council District 4 to discuss replacement of the planned Chinese pistache trees and Mexican fan palms at 11611 Ventura Boulevard with a safer, appropriate shade-tree palette and include SCNC in the consultation.

Second: Committee motion; no separate second required.

Discussion: Members discussed canopy width, streetscape consistency, maintenance, shade, and fire safety. No amendment was recorded.

Vote: PASSED by announced roll call; exact count pending reconciliation.

Action: Ask Council District 4 to engage the developer and include SCNC in tree-selection discussions.

18. Outreach Committee

President Lewis announced Andrew Epstein's return as Outreach Chair. Epstein reported participation at the Tujunga Village Art Walk, Rio Vista Fall Festival, and a cleanup of 40–45 volunteers, plus a blood drive collecting 16 pints from 18 donors against a 25-pint goal. More cleanups and blood drives were being considered; no motion was presented.

19. Land Use Committee

In the absence of the listed chair, Barry Johnson reported that no new cases had been considered in October. The next Land Use meeting was scheduled for Thursday, November 12 because the usual date falls on Veterans Day.

20. Cultural Affairs Committee

Cultural Affairs discussed Movies in the Park, possible rooftop screenings and food trucks, and centennial events including a festival or parade. Future Budget and Finance review was anticipated; no motion or funding vote occurred.

21. Bylaws and Procedures Committee

Vice President Jeff Hartwick reported that the revised Operating Procedures had been posted to the SCNC website. No additional motion was presented.

22. Comments by Board Members on Other Matters

Members were reminded that the next Outreach meeting would take place on Monday via Zoom and Sustainability and Beautification would meet the following week, with meeting details available on the website. No formal action was taken.

23. Good of the Order

No additional formal business was recorded.

24. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded, and the meeting concluded. The exact adjournment time and numerical vote remain to be confirmed.