

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,
March 21, 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

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

www.studiocitync.org

The public is requested to fill out a "Comment Card" to address the Board on any item of the agenda prior to the Board taking action on an item. Comments from the public on Agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered. Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the Agenda that is within the Board's subject matter jurisdiction will be heard during the Public Comment period. **Public comment is limited to two minutes per speaker, unless directed otherwise by the presiding officer of the Board.** The agenda is posted for public review at: Studio City Neighborhood Council website (www.studiocitync.org); as well as CBS Studio Center, Radford and Colfax gates; the Studio City Library, 12511 Moorpark St.; the Studio City Recreation Center, 12621 Rye Ave. and at Carpenter Community Charter School, 3909 Carpenter Avenue, Studio City, CA 91604. As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and upon request, will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services, and activities. Sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request. To ensure availability of services, please make your request at least three (3) business days (72 hours) prior to the meeting you wish to attend by contacting the Neighborhood Council Project Coordinator (213) 473-5391 or by e-mail to Thomas.Soong@lacity.org. In compliance with Government Code section 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the Board in advance of a meeting, may be viewed at our website by clicking on the following link: www.studiocitync.org or at the scheduled meeting.. In addition, if you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, please contact office@studiocitync.org.

1. Call to Order & Roll Call. Jeffrey Carter – present, Ben Di Benedetto – present; Pasha Vafae – excused, Remy Kessler - present, Ben Neumann - present, Richard Niederberg - present, Lisa Sarkin - present, Lana Shackelford – present, Gail Steinberg – present, Ron Taylor – present, Rita Villa –present, John Walker – present, Denise Welvang – present. 12 voting members; 7 to pass a motion; 49 stakeholders present.
2. Approval of (February 15, 2012) Board Minutes. Approved in the absence of objection.
3. Comments by the President. The President thanked Michelle's for providing food at a reduced price. He announced the resignation of Wayne Kartin due to medical reasons. He reported that he redistricting is complete for Studio City. Studio City sent in 250 emails. Studio City is 99% whole. He reported that the street banners are up due to the efforts of our outreach committee. We have already started to get emails indicating people want to get involved as a result of the banners. John Walker also reported that the council office is working to enforce the fact that there are restricted speed limits in residential areas. He announced that the Public Safety Committee succeeds the Crime and Safety committee and it will be headed by Richard Adams. There will be stepped up patrol efforts front of Campo de Cahuenga tomorrow. He wants no tickets for CD2.
4. Public Comments on non-agenda items within the Board's jurisdiction. **Richard Adams** thanked the board for the work they did on the redistricting. He appreciates the efforts everyone made. **Arlene Semek** asked Ben DiBenedetto to check with DOT as there are no left turn arrows on Coldwater and Moorpark and they are badly needed.
5. Responses to comments from the Board. **Ben DiBenedetto** said he would check with DOT. **John Walker** thanked Mike Szymanski for getting out the word on the redistricting.

6. Update from Council District 2 by Geoffrey Yazzetta. **Geoffrey Yazzetta** said that the banners look good and the Councilman likes them. He further reported on public safety matters – a domestic dispute resulted in a shooting at the Sportsman Lodge. The lady is recovering. A man murdered his girlfriend in South Weddington Park. These were isolated incidences. Not an indication of an increase in crime. The redistricting process will take 4 to 8 weeks and will be voted on and go into effect immediately. Councilman Krekorian has had many calls about 18 wheelers parking under the bridge at Sarah and Tujunga. The Councilman is holding regional budget hearings 3/18/2 at city hall. The next one starts at 6 PM. You can offer comments and voice your concerns. There are flyers in the back. If you can't attend the hearing you can watch it as it will be streamed over the internet. **Richard Niederberg** said that way at the last meeting everyone can give meaningful input. They will take the information from the budget survey. **Ben DiBenedetto** asked if Geoffrey Yazzetta had gotten the information on the motion from the Transportation. **Lisa Sarkin** said Ben DiBenedetto should send the motion from transportation to Geoffrey Yazzetta. Lana Shackelford asked if the restricted parking would be under the 170 freeway. **Richard Adams** asked a question about redistricting.

7. Special Guest Speaker, Mayoral Candidate **Austin Beutner**. **John Walker** introduced Mr. Beutner. Mr Beutner thanked the SCNC for having him here. He said LA can be one of the best cities in America in the next century. We must do some things differently. His father was an immigrant and his mother was a school teacher. He lived in small town and drove a floral delivery truck. He worked hard and was as part of the Clinton administration he served in Russia. He left public service and started his own business. He broke his neck mountain biking a few years ago. After he recovered he volunteered his time to work for the City of LA. He said in business you must get something done and he felt that did not happen in city hall. He has looked at the permitting process to make it more transparent and accountable. He tried to move the "12 to 2" forward but he discovered that no one was actually working on it. In less than 6 months he cut in half the time it takes to open a restaurant or business. He rode on a fire truck and found that they do not have GPS. 86% of time the fire department got to the scene of an emergency in five minutes five years ago. Now the fire department gets there in five minutes only 59% of the time citywide. In Encino now they get there in five minutes 15% of the time only. He wants transparency and wants us to make better choices. Make LA a place where people can find a good paying job. We need good public schools, good jobs, a good quality of life and together we can engage to make this happen. **Richard Adams** asked how we can bring back jobs with cost of energy and water going up. **Mr. Beutner** said he has cleaned up the DWP. He took \$263 million out of the DWP costs. Next year you will get a monthly bill and it will tell you how to save money. **Ben DiBenedetto** asked what is the largest financial challenge for the next mayor and how would you address it. **Austin Beutner** responded that payroll is the area and the books are not balanced. Law Enforcement officers are given an IOU for their overtime. We need candor and must make informed choices. Selling public parking garages was a big issue. We must have a discussion with labor and not pay in IOUs. We must address the issue and make a choice. **Brandon Hender** said firemen did not have GPS. What are you planning to do about the waste and fraud we hear about on the news like Councilmen going on vacation on the public dole. Our council people are paid more than the Governor. **Mr. Beutner** asked the head of the city's IT department how much business does the city do with Microsoft. The person in charge of IT Department could not say. **Lana Shackelford** asked how can LA be seen as having a highly skilled employee base. **Mr. Beutner** said USC wanted to build a bio-science center and they were told no. We should be trying to help our institutions of higher learning. **Alex Izbricki** asked Mr. Beutner "What are you going to do so that you can be a viable candidate to take on the unions?" **Mr. Beutner** said there are people out there who do not want the same old thing. He said he has some of his own money to invest and he wants to get others involved. He believes he can make a difference. Help him get elected and then stay with him for the next 8 years to get it done. Like it says in the Lorax movie – You can make a difference. **Lisa Sarkin** said we want our voices heard on the SB 1818 issue. She asked Mr. Beutner "What can you do to help us find out what has happened to those units in the two SB 1818 buildings in Studio City?" **Mr. Beutner**

said he would require greater transparency. There needs to be accountability and there should be a consequence. **Arlene Semek** said "You have worked for the Mayor in the past why hasn't the Mayor implemented your ideas?" **Mr. Beutner** said the Mayor makes his choices. The successes were his and so are the failures. **Mr. Beutner** said he quit when he decided to run for office. **Ron Taylor** said the Mayor expended capital trying to gain control of the LA school system. He asked if it is appropriate for the Mayor to do that. **Mr. Beutner** said quality of life, education and jobs are all important. We are not graduating enough of our students. In LA we do a poor job of educating our students. Engage the community in the schools. Why are more people in the LAUSD in nonteaching positions than in teaching positions. **David Ganes** said the city has assets in their parking garages. If you privatize them they will be like Walmart, no benefits and poor paying jobs. **Mr. Beutner** said you can use those funds. You will get a one-time benefit from the sale. He said you need to make choices. **Richard Niederberg** said there are incentives at the state level such as the incentives for the film industry. He asked Mr. Beutner what he would do at the local level to incentivize film making. For example under EB5 – foreign investors can't get their permits because of homeland security. What can you do as Mayor to change that. **Mr. Beutner** said he would return the call of the EB5. **Richard Niederberg** asked how will Mr. Beutner balance the needs of the community with those of the film industry. **Mr. Beutner** said there should be accountability and transparency. **John Waker** said the SCNC Board practices transparency. He said he has found if he asks, people will get involved. He asked Mr. Beutner how he would do that. **Mr. Beutner** said he would use the Bloomberg method. Mayor Bloomberg has his office is in a bullpen. All can access him. He would try to adopt the ideas of the NC's and get them a seat at the table. He would get out there and listen. As a person, his is willing to listen and engage. We have all the promise in the world if we do things differently. He can do this as someone from outside the system.

8. Treasurer's report by **Remy Kessler**.

Motion: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council has reviewed the (March 2012) financial statements and the (February 2012) bank statements and hereby accepts and approves them. Remy reviewed the spreadsheet and said our goal is to spend all our money. 18k of motions and 19k of money left.
Approved in the absence of objection.

9. Budget Committee Report by **Remy Kessler**.

A. Motion: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council approves a funding request of up to \$5,000 to the Studio City Recreation Center (aka Beeman Park) with the funds to be applied towards the 2012 Youth Baseball Program including the purchase of players' uniforms from authorized city vendors. Funding is conditioned on the SCNC receiving appropriate credit including game day outfield fence banners, a daily banner consistent with other park sponsors, and mention in the park's quarterly program.

Richard Adams asked why we are buying uniforms instead of bats and things that last longer. **John Waker** said it is because this is their budget line item being cut. **Julie Monroy**, recreation coordinator, explained the recognition the SCNC would receive for their donation. The SCNC will be included in their marketing materials and there will be a banner displayed at the baseball games. About 2,000 people are in the park each week. The money donated will go for uniforms; **Beth Dymond** of the SCRA urged the board to pass this motion. **John Walker** mentioned their budget was cut \$70,000. **Richard Niederberg** asked why the advertising is not on the uniforms but is on banners. **Julie Monroy** responded that the uniforms are standardized. **Rita Villa** read the motion. **Gail Steinberg** said we should have Melaros Funds to take fund the recreation center. **Jeffrey Carter** said he supports this motion. **Ron Taylor** supports the motion and thinks that uniforms are an important part of the program. **Lana Shackelford** said the approx.

money needed for the uniforms is 11K. Where are they getting the rest of the money. **Julie Monroy** responded that the players pay a registration fee which helps pay for this. **Lana Shackelford** said she teaches cheerleaders and she supports this motion. **Lisa Sarkin** said we send our agendas to the park and asked if Julie gets them? **Julie** asked that the agendas be sent to her at Julie.monroy@lacity.org. **John Walker** reread the motion. **Vote:** unanimous. **Motion Carries.**

B. Motion: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council approves a funding request of up to \$1,000 to the Studio City Beautification Association with the funds to be used for ongoing maintenance and upkeep of landscaping in existing beautification projects within Studio City including but not limited to the grounds of the Studio City Library. Funding is conditioned upon the SCNC receiving appropriate credit consistent with prior funding.

John Walker read the motion. **Vote:** unanimous. **Motion Carries.**

C. Motion: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council hereby sets aside and shall not spend in the current fiscal year (encumbers) \$4,000 from the current FYE 2011-12 budget to pay for election outreach for the next (FYE 2012-2013) elections. The following vendors are anticipated being used: Arnolds Copy and Printing, Walking Man, AAA Banners, Kinko's and Aaron DeVandry (webmaster).

Remy Kessler explained we will need to spend 7 to 8 K on this and the remainder will come from next year's budget. **Richard Adams** said that he supports this measure. **Vote:** Unanimous. **Motion Carries.**

D. Motion: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council approves amending the current SCNC FYE 2011-2012 budget as follows: Thirteen thousand – seven hundred and seventy five dollars (\$13,775) shall be reallocated from Neighborhood Improvement to Outreach effective immediately.

Remy Kessler explained the need for this motion. **Richard Adams** said that he supports the motion. **John Walker** read the motion. **Vote:** Unanimous. **Motion Carries.**

10. VANC Report by **Arlene Samek**. Thanked those who came to the VANC mixer. Over 200 people were there. The awards given out were interesting. An award was given to a neighborhood council that got over 1000 people green cards. She encouraged the board members to attend the VANC meetings once in a while. **Lisa Sarkin** said the redistricting commission was given the Razzie Award.

11. Outreach Committee Report by **Brandon Petton** on behalf of Lisa Cahan-Davis.

A. Motion: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council approves the funding of \$3,000 for the production, installation and removal (designated Studio City locations and dates are TBD) of 50 additional SCNC street banners (equates to 25 poles).

Richard Adams said we should get more banners as they are working. **Ron Taylor** asked if this would eliminate the outreach budget. Response by **Remy Kessler** was yes. **Jeff Carter** asked if this is all the money? If so we will not be able to respond to any other requests. **Remy Kessler** said there is only one more meeting before the spending deadline expires. **John Walker** read the motion. **Vote:** 11 **yes**; 1 **no**. **Motion Carries.**

B. Motion: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council approves the funding of \$5,000 in sponsorship for the 2012 Studio City Chamber of Commerce 4th of July event. The SCNC will have a prominent position at the event and will be represented in all marketing materials.

Brandon Petton explained the motion. **Richard Adams** stated that he supports the motion. **John Walker** read the motion. **Vote: 11 yes; 1 abstain. Motion Carries.**

12. Land Use Committee Report by **Lisa Sarkin**. **Lisa Sarkin** gave the land Use Committee report. She reported that she had a meeting about the Equinox. The owner of the land will not allow a building to be located on part of the land so the owner of the Equinox stated that a new location – the fire station building is being considered. **Lisa Sarkin** also reported that Pet Co wants to add 10 more employees but neighbors don't want it because of lack of parking. She further stated that the Medical Marijuana Dispensary (MMD) committee met and recommendations will be presented next month. Owners of MMDs on the Committee said they think doctors give out bogus prescriptions. One MMD has closed in Studio City. There are 4 different rulings from 4 different judges addressing MMDs. **Richard Adams** said LAPD tracks their statistics almost daily. There are no problems so he supports this motion. **Richard Niederberg** said there is no parking problem. Sammy's has agreed to the volunteered conditions.

Motion: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council supports the upgrade to full line alcoholic beverages for Sammy's Woodfire Pizza, located at 12050 Ventura Blvd., Suite 201 (ZA-2012-0310 and ZA-2012-309-SPP) subject to the additional volunteered conditions set forth in Attachment A. Applicant also agrees that this action applies only to this application and not to any sub-tenants or assignees and further agrees to not have any outdoor noise/music on the patio area at any time.

Here to answer questions on behalf of Sammy's is Jeremy Willard. **Vote: unanimous. Motion Carries.**

13. Transportation Committee Report by **Ben Di Benedetto**. **Ben Di Benedetto** gave the transportation committee report. He said they were asking for what the Council Office has proposed even though that matter did not get on the Board agenda. Speed limits will be in Councilman's newsletter.
14. Government Affairs Committee Report by **Jeffery Carter** and **Rita Villa**. **Richard Adams** asked why the motion was worded the way it was proposed in the agenda. Rita Villa provided an explanation. **John Walker** read the motion.

Motion: The Studio City Neighborhood Council is opposed to political signs that are illegally placed. We request that any candidate who has hired a company to illegally place political signs be banned from participating in debates that are organized by Neighborhood Councils.

There was much discussion and most of the members of the board provided suggested revisions and comments. Remy Kessler proposed the following amended motion:

Motion: The Studio City Neighborhood Council is opposed to political signs that are illegally placed in Studio City. Any candidate who has an illegal sign in Studio City shall be requested to remove that sign before participating in debates that are organized by the Studio City Neighborhood Council.

Moved: RemyKessler; Second: Lisa Sarkin; Vote to accept the amended Motion: Unanimous. Vote on the amended motion; Unanimous. Motion Carries.

15. Cultural Affairs Committee Report by **Richard Niederberg**. **Richard Niederberg** reported that the Republic Pictures sign went to bronze maker. A concrete pedestal will be located in front of the horse for the sign.
16. Crime & Safety Committee Report by **Richard Adams**. **Richard Adams** said the committee has been renamed the Public Safety Committee. It has a new mission statement which he read. He reported that the committee is working on a new flyer for the "move to the right" campaign. The Committee will get it approved by the LAFD and the Studio City Chamber. If the campaign is successful the Committee wants to get it to other NC's. They are also working on a Foreclosure map project. They are developing an ap of foreclosed properties in the area. Senior Lead Officer Mike Lewis and the Van Nuys police division have been contacted to see if they want this type of information. This would be a volunteer effort. The committee is also looking to hold an event on the national night out August 7th at Moorpark and Laurel Canyon. **Lana Shackelford** asked who Smokey the Bear is and who is he a mascot for. **Richard Niederberg** said he already reserved a place in No Ho. **Jeffrey Carter** asked about the new name of the committee.
17. ByLaws & Procedures Committee Report by **Ron Taylor**. **Ron Taylor** said the motion on the residential homeowner seat will be presented next month. He reported that the bylaws revisions were approved by DONE. He stated that he wants to cancel this month's meeting. **Richard Adams** stated that he is in favor of the motion.

Motion: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council accepts and approves the revisions requested by DONE to its Revised Bylaws originally approved at its July, 2011 meeting.

John Walker read the motion. **Vote: 11 yes; 1 abstain. Motion Carries.**

17. Comments from Board Members on subject matters within the Board's jurisdiction. **None**
18. Adjournment. **Moved: Richard Niederberg; Second: Gail Steinberg; Vote: Unanimous. Motion Carries.**