

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,
July 18, 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 – present, Remy Kessler - present, Ben Neumann – will be late, Richard Niederberg - present, Lisa Sarkin - present, Lana Shackelford – present, Gail Steinberg – excused, Ron Taylor – present, Rita Villa –present, John Walker – present, Denise Welvang – present. 10 voting members; 6 to pass a motion; 63 stakeholders present.
2. Approval of June 20, 2012 Board Minutes and Special meeting minutes. **Approved in the absence of objection.**
3. Comments by the President. **John Walker** announced Bong Hwan Kim has resigned and explained how he was a driving force in getting the NC's to where we are today. John Walker will do a letter of appreciation. The Mayor will appoint a temporary person to replace Bong Hwan Kim until a new mayor is elected. SCNC elections will take place in Sept. Candidate applications are available on our web site. Lisa Davis and Ron Taylor working on outreach. **John Walker** announced that the EIR for the Universal Evolution Plan has been released. The ERI contains an option that was not included in draft ERI. This alternative is the no residential alternative. At Universal there will now be some hotels and more theme park attractions. There will be meeting on Aug 14th at Van Nuys City Hall where information on the new alternative will be presented. John gave the internet address for the web site for the EIR can be found. **John Walker** also reported that a design for a pedestrian bridge on Lankershim will be selected using a shortened process. There will be no financial impact to the City due to the construction of the bridge. **John Walker** read the term limit motion response from the city attorney. Ben Neumann arrived. Now 11 voting board members present, 6 required to pass a motion. **John Walker** also stated that he will invite any mayoral candidate back that the board wishes to see again, just send him an email indicating the candidate you wish to hear from again.

4. Public Comments on non-agenda items within the Board's jurisdiction. **Richard Adams** stated that there will be no night out at Moorpark and Laurel Canyon this year but he will try to hold one there in 2013. He also gave the following public safety tips: (i) Don't leave things in car and (ii) Don't open door when someone knocks but make noise inside to let them know someone is home. He also stated that Bong Hwan Kim really cared about the NC system and extended good wishes to him. **Ken Smith** said he is a resident of Studio City. There is a paper alley near his home which is blocked in middle. An apartment building is being built and the developer needs to partially improve the alley to get to the apt building. Residents do not want the barricade removed. It will be hazard for students attending Walter Reed. Many negative impacts would be caused. He submitted a petition to keep the barricade in place. Ben Di Benedetto asked them to contact him and he and the transportation will look into this. **Kara Tolbert** introduced herself. She is the new Miss Studio City, in January she will represent Studio City in the Miss California contest. **Courtney Hamilton of Berman for Congress** introduced herself and stated that she would like to be involved in our outreach events and area would like to be involved in understanding our areas of concern. She left business cards on the table. **Lisa Cahan Davis** reminded people that there will be great information being put out regarding the SCNC elections. Ron Taylor will oversee that process. If you need more information please contact one of them. We have 15 seats with different categories to run in. Look at our website and go to EmpowerLA.Org. The application period will be open through 8/21/12. She asked for everyone present to encouraged people to run for a seat or consider volunteering for a committee. **Brandon Pender** announced that the Hero's Ride will take place on 7/22/12 at 9 am from the Hollywood Bowl to CBS. The funds raised will benefit fallen police and veterans. You can support the event at Herosride.org. He also asked for people to call in to City to get a cooling center to be located in the Studio City/Sherman Oaks/Valley Village area. **Marilyn White Sedel** stated that there is a problem on Woodbridge from Tujunga to Colfax. People are running the stop signs. This puts the neighbors and children in danger. The situation is very dangerous. She asked the council office to please assist us in addressing this problem.
5. Responses to comments from the Board. **Richard Neiderberg** said at the North Hollywood Park National Night out we will have a prime location. We need people to man the table. He Encouraged people to be there 8/7/12 from 3 to 5 PM. **Ben Di Benedetto** invited all people who signed the petition related to the alley barrier to come to the transportation committee meeting 8/2/12 as he will put this item on the agenda.
6. Update from Council District 2 by **Geoffrey Yazzetta**. **Geoffrey Yazzetta** reported that the Council is on recess. The redistricting as of July 1st was complete. Studio City now has only one council office to go to. He also reported that the DWP work at unit 5 on Coldwater Canyon continues so try to find alternate route. s There was a Colfax water main brake due to an old pipe. The break was fixed in two hours. He also reported that the Fire Department is looking for applicants. There is both a written and physical exam but they are looking for good men and women. CD2 has allocated funds for street services. They still have money left. Please let them know if there is a project in need of completion. **Lana Shackelford** said there was a survey taking place on Moorpark near Laurel Canyon and she asked Geoffrey Yazzetta what it was. **Geoffrey Yazzetta** said the Council office will check and get back to us.
7. Presentation of Los Angeles Certificate of Recognition for Al Shelton by **John Walker**. **John Walker** announced we are honoring Al Shelton who is 92 years old and has a store at 12317 Ventura - the artist store opened in 1957. The store is closing 9/15/12. We recognize him for his contribution to our community over these many years. He is a versatile western artist. **Geoffrey Yazzetta** read and presented a certificate of recognition. **Al Shelton** said he was impressed with this. He didn't expect it but he likes it!
8. Presentation of the Los Angeles River Natural Park by **Alan Dymond**. Alan Dymond said he is here as the president of Save LA River Open Space. He stated that the SCNC supported the motion to develop this project. He gave an extensive PowerPoint presentation which he said is

the result of the feasibility study. He asked those present to sign the petition on back table if you support this. **Jeff Carter** asked what would happen to the golf course. **Alan Dymond** responded that the survey which was done showed there was greater support for a driving range and tennis court than a golf course. The Golf course would be gone. There will be an input process once additional funding is obtained. **Ben Di Benedetto** asked about the ownership of the property. **Alan Dymond** said the owners want to sell to developers and we are trying to raise money to buy the property. He said many have asked about use of the eminent domain process to get control of the land. He stated that you can't take a golf course by eminent domain. That is not even a consideration. **Ben Di Benedetto** asked if anyone negotiating with Weddingtons for this purpose. **Richard Niederberg** asked if tennis course could be permeable. Yes was the response by **Alan Dymond**. **Tom Stemnock** passed out a letter and acknowledged that his is a paid lobbyist presenting a letter on behalf of Guy Weddington. He stated that Mr. Weddington was not happy because he was not noticed when land use addressed this issue. **John Walker** asked him to sign on our email list. **Tom Stemnock** stated that the family's position is that this project is commendable but it will take the property off tax rolls. The City will have to pay for the land and the improvements. It will take revenue producing property off tax rolls. The proposed development is a 5 acre senior citizen village. Some water quality improvements will be included. They will maintain 75% of the existing open space in what is proposed. **Jeff Carter** asked how the plan will affect the golf course? **Tom Stemnock** said the golf course would be reduced to 9 holes and they would replace the tennis courts. **Ron Taylor** asked "What do you mean by senior citizen housing." **Tom Stemnock** said you would need to be over 62 or physically disabled. **Lisa Sarkin** said the Weddingtons are on email list and the area around the golf course was flyered with a notice of the meeting. The property is currently agricultural and they pay a much reduced tax rate. She stated and Tom Stemnock agreed that the development would consist of market rate condos.

9. Treasurer's report by **Remy Kessler**. **Remy Kessler** said we are up and running with \$37,000 to work with. We got in our budget early. We have made some expenditures. If there are any community projects that you would like to fund please make an application on our web site and submit proposal. We are one of 5 NC's in the City that aggressively tries to use our funds to benefit our community.

Motion: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council has reviewed the June Bank Statements and the July Financial Statements and hereby accepts and approves them.

John walker read motion. **Vote: 11:0:0 unanimous. Motion Carries.**

10. Budget Committee report by **Remy Kessler**. No report submitted.
11. **VANC** Report by **Arlene Samek**. **Arlene Samek** gave John Walker the model for regional governance. She stated that VANC is not subject to the Brown Act. She stated that candidate applications are available on line. The Daily News ad was successful. She said we should have a candidate forum. She said that Region 4 should run an additional ad. We will need 4 or 5 volunteers at polls on election day. Gracie is trying to get the parking facility at the Van Nuys City Hall to honor our city parking passes. The City Council is deciding how much they will bill us for the election. The Valley Alliance is forming a resource board to help neighborhood council boards with problems. They will provide training. The City wide neighborhood congress will be held 9/22/12. It is a worthwhile event. She reported that Mammoth Lake gates free water from LA and they have asked for 50% more water but city turned them down. She also stated that they have postponed for 4 months the ordinance to make homeowner responsible for sidewalk repairs. **Barry Weiss** explained the legislative position of the sidewalk ordinance. 051853-S1 **John Walker** asked if DONE will approve what VANC is doing about training. Answer by **Arlene** is yes. **Richard Niederberg** said if there is dissension in NC's, the dispute resolution council will visit them and help out. **Lana Shackelford** asked for clarification about the election charge.

12. Outreach Committee Report by **Lisa Cahan Davis**. **Lisa Cahan Davis** reported on the election process and said she thinks we will need \$ 5,000 for outreach efforts. **Lisa Sarkin** asked how much has been saved from the prior year's budget for this purpose. **John Walker** responded \$4,000. John Walker said the Chamber of Commerce had its event at 4th of July and he thanked everyone who manned the SCNC booth and he thanked Lee Davis for all his work on this event. **Lisa Cahan Davis** thanked Lana Shackelford and all volunteers. She noted that the National Night Out will be 8/7/12 and she asked everyone to sign up and participate. At the Outreach meeting they discussed ideas for marketing the elections. She is putting together a marketing plan that includes having a booth at the farmers market on 7/29 and 9/16. The candidate filing window is 7/22/12 to 8/21/12.
13. Transportation Report by **Ben Di Benedetto**. No report
14. Public Safety Committee Report by **Richard Adams**. No report
15. Cultural Affairs Committee Report by **Richard Niederberg**. **Richard Niederberg** stated that the Cultural Affairs Committee has no request for money at this time. The Luminaria event at Campo de Cahuenga is being planned for the first Saturday in December. Also being considered is a presentation on a sound stage of video clips. Please come to the National Night Out – please sign up.
16. Land Use Committee Report by **Lisa Sarkin**. **Lisa Sarkin** reported 31 stakeholders attended meeting the Land Use Committee Meeting. There has been a ruling in favor of the "gentle ban" on marijuana dispensaries. This matter is going to council on 7/24/12. The issue of the Laurelwood potholes was sent to the Transportation Committee. There was a presentation from the Landale neighborhood watch. The committee also discussed the mobility element which replaces the transportation element. Map in back and questionnaire. The Land Use Committee has considered it and now it is going to the transportation Committee. She gave the website address for the mobility element comments which are due 9/1/12. **John Walker** read Motion A. Lisa reported on motion A

Motion A: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council supports the lot-line adjustment for 4525 Agnes Avenue [AA-2012-1399-PMEX] per the attached map.

Vote: 11:0:0 unanimous. Motion Carries.

John Walker. **Lisa Sarkin** reported **Tom Stemnock** representing the land owner is present. She stated that they could build 12 units but are only looking for 9 units. The property is north of the school (Carpenter). One house will be replaced with a 9 unit building. They will remove oak trees. It is a substandard street which is very narrow. The building across the street is abandoned. No neighbors were in favor of this project. Putting a four story building near the school is too dense for the area. The environmental reports are process. The Land Use Committee asked for the applicant to return when the environmental reports are completed. There will be no open space other than on roof and balconies. **Tom Stemnock** stated that he was surprised at the opposition. He stated that the trees removed with a permit from the board of public works. There is no MND. The substandard street and height were the overriding concerns of the committee. **Ron Taylor** said that street is one of the worst in LA. There is no parking for residents in some of the buildings so they must park on the street. Many people come up to park on this street when they are going to the school. He is amazed that there has not been an accident. Pressure on this street from this building will be catastrophic. **Lana Shackelford** asked if there were any historical markers. **Ron Taylor** said no. **Richard Niederberg** objected to balconies looking over the school yard. He is concerned it is a pedophile's delight. **Remy Kessler** recommended changing requires to request.

Motion B: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council opposes the approval of the Vesting Tentative Tract Map for 11912 Laurelwood Drive [VVT-7166] and requests the applicant return to the Land Use Committee when the environmental reports are complete.

Vote: 11:0:0 unanimous. Motion Carries

John Walker read the motion C. **Lisa Sarkin** stated this is the last open space in the San Fernando Valley. Councilman **Krekorian** supports this plan. **Ben Di Benedetto** said this is an item that goes back many years. This is the best alternative to development he has seen. However, he supports the "by right" of property owners. The property is zoned agricultural. When the lease expires he said that the zoning changes. This property is a prime development site. You need a willing buyer and seller. We owe the owner a hearing on his plan. He stated that he does not support the motion. What Mr. **Stemnock** said is what was in the original plans. More people attended the hearings on the saving of golf and tennis than any other issue in Studio City. The golf course is open space. **Rita Villa** expressed her desire to have the SCNC continue to support the efforts of Save LA River Open Space. Only by showing our support for their efforts will they have the ability to get the grants and other funding needed for them to be able to negotiate with the owners of the property and insure that the owners of the property get a fair price for the land.

Motions C: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council supports the establishment of a Los Angeles River Natural Park on the present site of Weddington Golf & Tennis located at 4141 Whitsett Avenue in Studio City.

A roll call vote was requested.

Roll Call Vote: Jeffrey Carter – no; Ben Di Benedetto – no; Remy Kessler – yes; Ben Neumann – yes; Richard Niederberg – yes; Lisa Sarkin – yes; Lana Shackelford – abstain; Ron Taylor – yes; Rita Villa – yes; John Walker – yes; Denise Welvang – yes. **Tally:** yes 8; no 2; abstain 1.
Motion carries.

Motion Pulled - Motion D: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council opposes the Master Land Use Permit Application for Pagliacci Restaurant, 4366 Coldwater Canyon [ZA-2012-1537-CUB] until all recommendations for on-sale alcoholic beverage licenses (see attachment) are completed by the applicant.

17. Bylaws Committee Report by **Ron Taylor**. **Ron Taylor** reported that an ad will run at end of August and before the election. The first ad will promote candidate sign up then there will be two advertisements promoting the vote. It will be on the Patch from 7/20/12 to 9/20/12. He also reported that he visited the independent election administrator. Arlene Samek mentioned staffing and volunteers. We may be able to have volunteers from DONE. The IEA – said we need ten people to be there. The League of Women Voters can provide half that number. **Ron Taylor** explained some of the mechanics of the election process. Our elections will be held at Walter Reed Middle School. DONE will provide us with the voting booths. We need to set up at 1:30, we also need to request the CBS room for ballot counting. **Ron Taylor** walked our IEA through our requirements. When you sign up there is one size fits all but they know exactly what is required by our bylaws. Kevin Taylor is our IEA. The election volunteers will walk through the qualifications. There was a discussion of the supplemental form. **Ron Taylor** will revise the form and send it out to all board members.

Ron Taylor gave background on the motion below. **John Walker** read the motion.

Motion A: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council amends Article Xiii of its Bylaws, by replacing the sentence "A recommendation for amendment of these bylaws shall require the favorable vote of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the member of the full board" with the following:

A recommendation for amendment of these Bylaws shall require the favorable vote of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the board seats that are eligible to vote. (For example, in the situation where the youth representative is less than 18 years old: 2/3rds of 15 voting board members is 10 votes required to pass an amendment. If the youth representative is 18 years of age or older: 2/3rds of the 16 voting board members is 11 votes required to pass an amendment.)

Brought by: Ron Taylor

Seconded by: Denise Welvang

Vote: Yes – 8 no 2 abstain 1.

Motion B: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council approves a \$250 payment to The Patch to provide front page advertising for the upcoming Neighborhood Council elections. The ad is to run 7/20-9/20/2012.

Brought by: Ron Taylor

Seconded by: Rita Villa

Remy Kessler suggested this motion was not needed. **Rita Villa** stated that we should pass this out of an abundance of caution and noted that this is not to be considered a precedent as it is the sentiment of the board. **Rita Villa** called the question. **Vote: 11:0:0 unanimous. Motion Carries.**

18. Government Affairs Committee Report by **Rita Villa**. **Rita Villa** gave background on the motion. **John Walker** read motion A.

Motion A: The Board of the Studio Neighborhood Council requests that Councilmember Paul Krekorian introduce a motion to the City Council to request enforcement of LAMC Section 66.23 – Scavenging Activities Prohibited in LA City Trash containers, and that such enforcement be subject to the provision of A.C.E.

Vote: Yes 10; No 0; Abstain 1. Motion Carries

Rita Villa gave background on the motion. **John Walker** read motion B.

Motion B: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council supports the motion which generated Council file 12-0622: Solicitation/Unwanted Advertisement/Public Nuisance/Enforcement and that this support be documented by the submission of a Community Impact Statement.

Vote to break off discussion. Vote: Yes 11; No 0; Abstain 0. Motion Carries

Jeffrey Carter – yes, Ben Di Benedetto – no; Remy Kessler – no; Ben Neumann – no; Richard Niederberg – no; Lisa Sarkin – yes; Lana Shackelford – no; Ron Taylor – no; Rita Villa – yes; John Walker – no; Denise Welvang – yes.

Vote: Yes -4; No - 7. Motion fails.

19. Comments from Board Members on subject matters within the Board's jurisdiction. None.

20. Adjournment. Moved: Jeffrey Carter; Second: Ron Taylor. Vote: **Yes** -11; **No** – 0. **Motion carries**

