

SCNC BOARD

Lisa Cahan Davis
Jane Drucker
Remy Kessler
John Lawler
Richard Niederberg
Scott Ouellette
Shoshana Raphael
Lisa Sarkin
Lana Shackelford
Gail Steinberg
Ron Taylor
Pasha Vafae
Rita C. Villa
John T. Walker
Denise Welvang



BOARD MEETING APPROVED MINUTES

**Wednesday,
April 17, 2013**

4024 Radford Ave., Building 8, MPR 3
Studio City, CA 91604
(818) 655-5400

PRESIDENT

John T. Walker

VICE PRESIDENT

Lisa Sarkin

TREASURER

Remy Kessler

SECRETARY

Rita C. Villa

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Jane Drucker

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

www.studiocitync.org

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 7:09pm

Roll Call. Lisa Cahan Davis - present, Jane Drucker - present, Remy Kessler - present, John Lawler - present; Richard Niederberg - present, Scott Ouellette - excused; Shoshana Raphael - excused, Lisa Sarkin - present, Lana Shackelford - present, Gail Steinberg - excused, Ron Taylor - excused, Rita Villa - excused, John Walker - excused, Denise Welvang - present. 8 members; 5 to pass a motion; 38 stakeholders present.

2. Approval of February 20, 2013 Board Minutes (2 min). 8:0:0 Minutes approved unanimously.

3. Comments by the President (10 min). Lisa Sarkin announced the Mack Sennett event and memorial service for Paul Samek.

4. Public Comments on non-agenda items within the Board's jurisdiction (2 minutes each).

Beth Dymond: Described members and projects of the Studio City Beautification Association (SCBA); distributed SCBA brochures.

Karen Pickard-Four: Librarian at SC Library (new Manager), announced offerings of public library, distributed flyers for specific upcoming events. Assured Lisa Sarkin that SCNC agendas are received and posted.

Marilyn White-Sedell: suggests two more microphones be acquired so that comments can be heard. Lisa Sarkin will ask John Walker about this.

Kiko Rubin: SC resident, When will inspectors come for brush clearance?

Alex Izbicki: Spoke in opposition to Harvard Westlake's proposed construction of 750 space (4 storey) parking garage across the street from the school which would uproot many trees. Lisa Sarkin announced scoping meeting and inclusion on May 8 LUC agenda.

Richard Adams: Opposed unilateral appointment by John Walker of a new Public Safety committee.

5. Responses to comments from the Board (2 minutes each).

Richard Niederberg: assures Alex Izbicki that SCNC is on top of Harvard Westlake project.

6. Updates from CD2 by **Geoffrey Yazetta** (5 min).

Coldwater water main project is on schedule. Exact re-open date will be determined and announced when new trunk line replaces old trunk line. Next leg will be Moorpark/Coldwater, followed by Moorpark/Whittsett.

Barricade behind alley west of Colfax: update to come next week.

LAFD sent out notices for brush clearance; No fee for property owners to submit an affidavit of compliance, but there may be a fee for an inspection.

Denise Welvang: Moorpark/Whittsett has issue with overgrown ivy. Geoffrey Yazetta: has been inspected the area and it will be addressed by Street Services for homeowners to bring into compliance.

Lisa Cahan-Davis: does repair \$ include sidewalk repair? Geoffrey Yazetta: new concrete will not be used, but asphalt will be used to patch.

Remy Kessler: Thank you for taking care of traffic lane painting

Richard Adams: Is area between sidewalk and curb City property or homeowners? Both own that area, City inspectors will require area be brought into compliance

7. Treasurer's report by **Remy Kessler** (5 min).

Motion: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council has reviewed the April, 2013 financial statements and the March, 2013 bank statements and hereby accepts and approves them.

Vote: 8:0:0 Motion approved unanimously

Fiscal Year ends at end of June. Tonight's Special Agenda addresses all but \$5,000 that is being held back for unexpected expenditures between now and June 30.

Adjournment to Special Agenda

Moved Richard Niederberg

Second: Lana Shackelford

Vote 8:0:0 meeting adjourned unanimously at 7:48 pm

8. Budget Committee Report by **Remy Kessler** for **Mark Batterman** (5 min).

9. VANC Report by **Denise Welvang** (10 min).

In response to NC budget future: SCNC's budget for the next fiscal year will probably be cut by 20%. VANC, BONC, etc. help NCs set up. Not all the NC establishment work was performed by D.O.N.E.

DWP: Will not increase rates until 2014

Elysian Reservoir will NOT be covered as previously proposed

1/16 of water bills goes to pay for repair to LA's part in damaging Owen's Lake. Legal action has been filed to stop charging LA for past damages.

Mobility group is supporting housing access, mobility (walking), etc.

AT&T: 2/3 of all telephone customers are now wireless. The company is working on creating and installing better looking cell towers.

"Clearchannel" overtly and covertly supports digital billboards.

D.O.N.E. will run next NC elections.

We need an NC rep and a small business rep on the 20/20 Commission to counterbalance political representation on the Commission.

Richard Niederberg: D.O.N.E. starts the NCs, but does not continue responsibility once each NC is set up.

10. Land Use Committee Report by **LUC Chair Lisa Sarkin** (30 min).

*The portion of the meeting addressing this Agenda Item was Chaired by Remy Kessler

LUC Chair's report:

Lisa Sarkin will attend meeting regarding the changes in the Dept of Building and Planning.

All digital billboards are now completely turned off.

Harvard-Westlake's parking structure proposal will be on next month's LUC agenda.

Motion A: The Land Use Committee passes to the SCNC Board, the Studio City Beautification Association's proposed "Studio City Welcomes You" monument without recommendation.

Remy: This is not a valid motion.

New motion:

Motion: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council supports the monument to be installed at the Studio City Oaks Median on Ventura Blvd and Longridge Avenue.

Moved: Lisa Sarkin
2nd: John Lawler

Presentation:

Barry Weiss: Monument would be in keeping with existing monuments "Studio City Welcomes You". 2600+ emails were sent to local residents and businesses with no pushback. The monument will be paid for and maintained entirely by the Studio City Beautification Association (SCBA).

Public comment:

Richard Adams: opposes the project as not in keeping with "look" of Studio City. Let SCBA use their own money. He polled the issue at 86% opposition to and 14% approval of monument

Carl Johnson: long time SC resident. Supports monument project.

Beth Dymond: personally surveyed businesses and got signatures from all 23 from managers or owners in the immediate Studio City "Oaks" area. All 23 supported monument to help identify where Studio City business district begins. Residents also supported identification of Studio City boundaries by this monument.

Alan Dymond: supports the motion

Board Discussion:

Remy Kessler: Board did get a handful emails in opposition.

Denise W: brought community petition signed by residents of the immediate neighborhood. (32 signatures opposing monument)

Lana Shackelford: Would prefer a "grassy knoll" look to the current arid look and monument.

Lisa Sarkin: Monument would be in median, not in middle of the street. Was not aware of petition brought by Denise.

Lisa Cahan-Davis: the emails that were received once this monument was on the Board agenda suggests that more vetting of the project is called for.

Richard Niederberg: This should be discussed by full Board not just LUC. It affects more aspects of community than just Land Use.

Lisa Sarkin: Only 5 emails were sent to the full Board. Others were received and discussed at the last LUC meeting. Flyers and a great deal of additional outreach was done.

Remy Kessler: Noted a very vocal opposition to this monument being in a residential neighborhood, and it is the neighborhood residents who are expressing opposition.

Barry Weiss: Thousands of emails were sent out. Very low level of opposition.

Vote:

0:6:2 Motion fails

Motion B: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council opposes the construction of a new 32-unit condominium building with 64 parking spaces (per density bonus) located at 4600 Coldwater Canyon Avenue [TT-72101], with three very-low income restricted affordable units.

Presentation:

Lisa Sarkin: Mr. Ron Cargill, the developer's facilitator, never responded and is not present. 16 existing affordable apartments are to be torn down to be replaced by 32 market rate condominiums, including 3 "very-low income" restricted units. Housing Department is very slow to respond to queries about SB1818 affordable units throughout Studio City.

Public Comments

Richard Adams: agrees with LUC that this project is inappropriate and should be halted.

Dave Mintz (resides at 12843 Sarah Street): Lives next to proposed project and opposes project as too large and imposing on neighborhood and adversely affecting home values. Mitigation of same issues by this developer on an earlier project on Coldwater was never implemented. Proposed possible mitigation by articulating upper two storeys

Elaine Mintz (resides at 12843 Sarah Street): Lives next to proposed project and opposes development as currently designed. Feels project will compromise privacy, sunlight, property values, and the safety of mature trees and other landscaping.

Carmen Corasco (resides at 12815 Sarah Street): neighbor and architect. Opposes project as damaging to the character of the neighborhood, privacy, and noise level. Her concerns include density bonus of 9 units, extension of underground parking to property line (likely to damage mature trees). Feels more, not less, open space is required.

Alan Dymond: Supports the motion. Met with Ron Cargill, and suggested pulling back parking from property line to allow for planting of larger trees. Cargill offered to use larger planters, but will not adjust parking to preserve in-ground planting possibility. Alan feels proposed pricing of units does not match the targeted buyers. Suggested that the public should focus on the removal of 16 affordable units to be replaced by only 3. This does not meet the intent of SB1818.

Jeffrey Grunfeld, Studio City resident and real estate broker: opposes project. Supports this motion. Developer has not followed through on promises on previous projects. This project is not affordable to target buyers. As real estate broker suspects that the units will be subject to "straw purchases".

Board Discussion:

Richard Niederberg: Most units are 3bdm/3bath which translates into a lot of plumbing. Feels also that there is not enough parking for the size of the proposed units

Lisa Sarkin: Current State law allows for market rate sales and bonus density "affordable" units. Current City Attorney probably does not support this type of project.

Vote: 8:0:0 Motion passes unanimously

Motion C: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council ~~supports~~ adopts the 'Conditions for On-Sale Alcoholic Beverage Licenses in Studio City.'

Remy Kessler: Friendly amendment to replace the word "supports" with "adopts". ACCEPTED

Presentation:

Lisa Sarkin: City Attorney wants the licenses in Studio City to run with the land. Sarkin appointed an advisory committee about six months ago to look into wording. Current "Conditions..." are identical in content but become requirements rather than recommendations. Condition 19 has been changed to be acceptable to affected businesses.

Public Comments:

Richard Adams: We are a residential community and a dining destination. Development of the list of "Conditions..." was an attempt to balance the needs of the business owners and the residents of Studio City. In order to be able to protect stakeholders' interests, the City Attorney needs these "Conditions..." to be requirements.

Board Discussion:

Richard Niederberg: Making this list mandatory and to run with the land allows the City Attorney to enforce our longstanding policies.

Vote: 8:0:0 Motion passes unanimously

Motion D: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council ~~supports~~ adopts the 'Conditions for Condominium and Apartment Developments in Studio City.'

Remy Kessler: Friendly amendment to replace the word "supports" with "adopts". ACCEPTED

Presentation:

Lisa Sarkin: This is the same as Motion C, but for development. This allows our "Conditions..." to become mandatory and enforceable.

Public Comments:

Richard Adams: feels "Conditions..." are reasonable and vital for the SCNC and its LUC to do the work they are meant to do.

Board Discussion:

Richard Niederberg: This should be worded as "Covenants shall run with the land" in place of "Conditions shall run with the land"

Remy: friendly amendment to change "Covenants shall run with the land" in place of "Conditions shall run with the land" on both documents (to be attached to motions C and D).

Vote: 8:0:0 Motion passed unanimously

11. Government Affairs Committee Report by **Rita Villa** (20 min).

Motion A: The Board of the SCNC advises the Los Angeles City Council that we are opposed to the City Council taking any action, including any action that would provide any form of funding, for the Bay Delta Conservation Plan which includes construction of a twin tunnel project, prior to the release of the full final draft of the plan by the State of California and the related Environmental Impact Report.

Presentation:

Report by Jeff Carter for Rita Villa: Bay Delta Conservation Plan is a joint Federal/State funded project to replace existing Delta pumps with 35 mile tunnels to carry water to farmland. Purpose is to protect fish species. This motion delays discussion and possible approval of LADWP rate increases prior to full discussion and vetting of the plan. The SCNC GAC feels that we should wait to consider any support of this project by the LA City Council until all relevant reports are available for review and discussion.

Public Comment:

Connor Everetts: (Southern California Watershed Alliance and Encino resident); supports the motion. The question is how much would LA pay, and how much water would we get out of it? DWP needs to prioritize investing first in local infrastructure repair and replacement. We are not currently in need of more water.

Alexandra Negey: supports the motion and opposes the tunnels. LA, Long Beach, and Santa Monica are all moving away from purchasing water from out of the area. LA ratepayers will be paying for these tunnels, but we are using less imported water. We need to recycle, clean up, and re-use local water.

Richard Adams: opposes the tunnels; supports the motion

Board Discussion:

Richard Niederberg: Asks Chair to get the file number for the Community Impact Statement.

Lana Shackelford: Where else in the country does such a project exist? NY State

Vote: 7:0:1 Motion passes

Motion B: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council recommends that the City Council include members of the Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates on their newly established LA 20/20 Commission to study and develop a remedy to the City's current financial crisis. We recommend that the Mayor and City Council immediately open up no more than three [no less than two] additional seats on the "independent" LA 20/20 Commission to be filled by representatives of the Neighborhood Councils' Budget Advocates. These representatives should be appointed as full members of the Commission. We request that this action be taken without delay (submitted on behalf of the Budget Advocates).

Presentation:

Brandon Pender: Herb Wesson ran his City Budget meeting with no Budget Advocates included in the discussion.

Vote 8:0:0 Motion passed unanimously

12. Outreach Committee Report by **Lisa Cahan Davis** (10 min).

Movies in the Park: Safety and neighborhood noise concerns are being addressed. Movies will start at dusk and the park will empty after credits role.

Tote bags and t-shirts are being ordered with SCNC logo.

Eight (8) banners went up in shopping district on Ventura Blvd.

Still working on transferring other banners to better locations.

Outreach Committee is working on improving functionality of online/social networking sites (esp FaceBook)

Met with South East Valley Neighborhood Councils, Region 4 to share ideas.

Motion: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council shall host "Movies in the Park" co-sponsored by the Studio City Recreation Center and NBC Universal on Saturdays, June 8 and 22, 2013.

Public Comment:

Richard Adams: supports the motion

Board Discussion:

Lana Shackelford: Do we need to fund this? Lisa Cahan-Davis: no. They have other funding sources.

Vote 8:0:0 Motion passed unanimously

*NOTE: At 9:57, Remy Kessler left. There was no longer a quorum.

13 Cultural Affairs Committee Report by **Richard Niederberg** (5 min).

Mack Sennett event on Saturday will be presented with Outreach.

Brandon Pender: Contacting people who have worked on the lot in Studio City to invite them to celebrate the 50th anniversary of film production in Studio City. Ideas include discussion panel of celebrities, walking tours, etc.

14 Transportation Report by **Scott Ouellette** (5 min).

No report

15 Bylaws Committee Report by **Ron Taylor** (5 min).

No report

16 Comments from Board Members on subject matters within the Board's jurisdiction (10 min).

Lisa Sarkin received a grievance from Richard Adams. She will deliver grievance to President John Walker

17 Adjournment (1 min). Moved: John Lawler Seconded: Lana Shackelford
8:0:0 Meeting adjourned at 10:14 pm

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**SPECIAL BOARD
MEETING
APPROVED MINUTES
Wednesday,
April 17, 2013**

4024 Radford Ave., Building 8, MPR 3
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PRESIDENT
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1. Call to Order & Roll Call (1 min).
Meeting called to order by Lisa Sarkin at 7:48 pm.
Roll Call: Lisa Cahan Davis - present, Jane Drucker - present, Remy Kessler - present, John Lawler - present; Richard Niederberg - present, Scott Ouellette - excused; Shoshana Raphael - excused, Lisa Sarkin - present, Lana Shackelford - present, Gail Steinberg - excused, Ron Taylor - excused, Rita Villa - excused, John Walker - excused, Denise Welvang - present.
8 voting members; 5 to pass a motion; 38 stakeholders present.
2. No minutes to approve.
3. Budget Committee Report continued - Remy Kessler (30 in).

Motion A: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council approves a funding request from the Studio City Chamber of Commerce to fund a sponsorship in the amount of \$2,500 for the Studio City 4th of July Celebration on the CBS/Radford lot with funds to be applied for the purpose of public safety.

Presentation:

Esther Walker: Executive Director of SC Chamber of Commerce: urges a larger donation, if not today will accept next month.

Public Discussion:

Richard Adams: Will email evidentiary photos. Read Bylaws on notice of Special Meeting. Only saw notices at CBS and feels meeting was not properly noticed and should not proceed. Lisa Sarkin disagrees.

Alan Dymond: Supports money allotted for Chamber's July 4th event as way to advertise SCNC

Board Response:

Remy Kessler: Traditionally we have supported the July 4th event. These monies are a sponsorship, not a donation. Sponsorship is required by City. More has been provided in the past when we had more funds.

Lisa Cahan-Davis: Can \$2,500 sponsorship get us visibility? Esther: SCNC logo will be widely used. \$5,000 would also get more VIP tickets, social media exposure, website mention.

Lana Shackelford: Will our funds be earmarked for Security? Esther: SCNC Board determines how the sponsorship funds are to be used.

Vote : 8:0:0 Motion is approved unanimously

Motion B: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council approves a funding request of up to \$2,000 to the Outreach Committee for multiple projects including but not limited to SCNC labeled promotional giveaway items, promotional mailings, flyers and printing.

Presentation:

Remy Kessler: this continues our outreach layout from next month. Outreach is one of our most important functions. This amount represents what is available and appropriate at this time.

Public Discussion:

Richard Adams: Supports Lisa Cahan-Davis and would like her to receive more money. Reiterated his opposition to the continuation of an improperly noticed special meeting.

Board Response:

Lana Shackelford: Would like to see or hear a list of Outreach items proposed.

Lisa Cahan-Davis: listed events to be supported by the allocated funds. Money will also go to flyers, postcards, new and relocated banners, FB fanpage upgrades to functionality, totebags, and t-shirts. Total to date: \$8500.

Lana Shackelford: Won't some of those events occur during our NEXT budget?

Lisa Cahan-Davis: current outreach may announce events that occur after this budget period. We spend low and request more funds as needed through year.

Denise Welvang: We need to take into account that next year's budget will likely be 20% lower

Vote: 8:0:0 Motion is approved unanimously

Motion C: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council approves a funding request of up to \$2,000 to the Studio City Beautification Association with the funds to be used for beautification of the existing landscape on the western side of Whitsett from the Studio City Library North to Sarah Street. Funding is conditioned on the SCNC receiving sole credit consistent with prior funding.

Presentation:

Alan Dymond: City has been issuing citations in this area for overgrown ivy that is impinging on trees. Court hearing is set to address two homeowners' lack of compliance. Studio City Beautification Association (SCBA) and SCNC would take on clearance jointly with sole credit going to SCNC. If SCNC can provide funds, signs will be erected at both ends of the project giving credit to SCNC.

Remy Kessler: Budget Committee felt that beautification projects have an outreach component (via signage)

Public Comment:

Richard Adams: opposes opportunity being given to the City not to do the work that is their responsibility to do. \$2000 will not permanently remove the ivy. Let the City, the SCBA, and the homeowners pay for this project. Reiterated his opposition to the continuation of an improperly noticed special meeting.

Beth Dymond, President of SCBA: Ivy to be removed has been growing for at least 10 years. Has report from the SCBA's landscaper that the ivy can be fully removed from parkway for \$2000. If trees are alive and need further ivy removal, SCBA will fund additional removal.

Board Discussion:

Richard Niederberg: Why was this location selected over other locations? Alan Dymond responds: This is a longstanding issue at this location. Homeowners are being cited by the City and will have to appear in court to explain why they are not in compliance. Geoffrey Yazetta is not sure if homeowners are required to remove ivy from trees or just from the sidewalk. The sidewalk has been cleared.

Denise Welvang: Why are we spending taxpayers' money on an issue that should be taken care of by homeowners? We would be bailing these two stakeholders out of their responsibility.

Lana Shackelford: Was this ivy planted by Conservation Corps? Answer: no

Lisa Cahan-Davis: With respect to all the work of the SCBA, this would be showing preferential treatment to one local over another. This should be handled by the SCBA without the public monies of the SCNC.

Lisa Sarkin: Can we still access this money next month?

Remy: yes

NEW MOTION:

Moved by Lana Shackelford

Second by John Lawler:

The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council agrees to table and send MOTION C back to the Budget Committee.

Vote: 6:2:0 Amended Motion C passes. Original Motion C is tabled and returned to the Budget Committee

4. NC Budget Advocates Report by **Brandon Pender** (10 min).

White Paper on NC Budgets presented today in Mayor's office. Brandon outlined line items from the White Paper. During today's meeting, presentation was made regarding the value and cost effectiveness of the NCs to the City of LA and to its neighborhoods. Brandon supported continued substantial inclusion of NCs in the City's budget. He also supports restoration of original funding to D.O.N.E.

Board Discussion:

Lana Shackelford: Is billing stakeholders who call LAFD for transport to hospital part of the budget remedy? Brandon: yes

Richard Niederberg: regarding D.O.N.E. They are no longer building the NCs. Feels money should go to NCs directly and not be filtered to D.O.N.E. Brandon feels D.O.N.E. can provide support and information that NC Boards cannot address

5. Adjournment (1 min).

Moved: Richard Niederberg

2nd: Lana Shackelford

Vote: 8:0:0 Motion to Adjourn Special Meeting is approved unanimously

Special Meeting adjourned at 8:37 pm