

## 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  
Rita C. Villa  
John T. Walker  
Denise Welvang



# BOARD MEETING APPROVED MINUTES

Wednesday, June 19, 2013

Light Buffet 6:30pm

Meeting 7:00pm

at

**CBS Studio Center, NEW LOCATION,  
MPR-9,  
4024 Radford, Studio City CA, 91604**

## 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

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1. Call to Order & Roll Call. Lisa Cahan Davis - present, Jane Drucker - present, Remy Kessler - present, John Lawler - arrived shortly after roll call, Richard Niederberg - present, Scott Ouellette - present, Shoshana Raphael - present, Lisa Sarkin - present, Lana Shackelford - present, Gail Steinberg - present, Ron Taylor - present, Rita Villa - present, John Walker - present, Denise Welvang - present. 14 voting members; 8 to pass a motion; 58 stakeholders in attendance.
2. Approval of May 15, 2013 Board Minutes and Special Meeting Minutes. **Approved** in the absence of objection.
3. Comments by the President. **John Walker** made mention of upcoming events including the national night out and the free movie night at Beeman Park. **John Walker** acknowledged the birthday of stakeholder Marilyn White Sedel. He recognized those board members who set up the room, Lisa Cahan Davis and Jane Drucker. He stated that the SCNC ran an advertisement in the Daily News and received 300 responses and there many additions to the email list. **John Walker** recognized the special guests from the City Planning department. He thanked Pizza Rev who provided the food this evening. There has been a positive response from the community to this. He also thanked Barry Weise. The article from Officer Lewis regarding car break-ins was read by John Walker. He stated that we need volunteers to help with various SCNC events he suggested that we can use young people from regional center who are eager to work.
4. Public Comments on non-agenda items within the Board's jurisdiction. **Rick Rabins**, President of Village Gardeners, shared that the SCNC has supported the Village Gardeners over the years. On July 13 there will be a ground breaking for the North Valley greenway project between Coldwater and Fulton. He thanked the SCNC for its support over the year and introduced the stakeholders to the mural project proposed. It will be a three de project. **Melanie Winter**, director of the River Project, stated that they are working on a Water LA project which is presently focused in Panorama City. A small version of that project will be coming to Studio City using a grant from DWP. There was a climate symposium regarding impact of global weather changes on the LA

weather. Beginning on July 14<sup>th</sup> and going through the end of August, every Sunday at 6:30 PM in the Radford screening room they will be screening series of documentaries about water. There will be a panel of experts at the screenings. California has the greatest need for updating our water infrastructure of all the states. **Alex Izvicki** shared that he just came back from Europe. He noticed that a lot of things had not changed there. Everyone works within the buildings that exist. Open areas and green areas are preserved. The developers are doing away with our green spaces. He thinks we need to preserve our green spaces. We need to think about the few green spaces we have left. Any attempt to change the Weddington Kirkwood area should be prevented. We need to fight to preserve what we have. **Barry Johnson** stated that he was pleasantly surprised when he left the Hollywood and Hightland Metro station that he saw a sign that said next stop Universal City/Studio City station. He was pleased as the main sign will soon be installed. The map boards have now been revised as well. **Howard Peterson** said he lives at 1154 Ventura Blvd. He attended the Land Use meeting last week. He now knows how much time we spend on these things. He was pleased with the presentations especially with respect to parking issues. It is easy to say there is an agreement to provide parking somewhere but there should be proof. Neighbors and businesses were there to speak to the issue. He is sorry he is often negative but they need to be given time to respond. **Dora Esparza** introduced herself and said that she works for Adrin Nazarin. Her office secured a freeway sign from Cal Trans as request by the neighborhood council. On November 20, from 5:00PM to 8:00 PM there will be a holiday open house at Adrin's office. They will be collecting cans and unwrapped gifts at the district office in Van Nuys. Their phone number is (818) 376-4246. **Richard Adams** said those with small children should keep watch on them. A 10 year old girl and 8 or nine year old female came to his door to sell lemonaid this evening. He called the police. It took them at least 1 and a half hours to respond. He also stated that the City Council has banned plastic bags but reusable bags have been proven to increase deaths from food poisonings. It is not a green measure as the reusable bags need to be washed every time they are used.

5. Responses to comments from the Board. **None.**
6. Updates and presentation from CD2 by **Geoffrey Yazzetta**. **Geoffrey Yazzetta** reported that the City Council has passed the budget. Funding for graffiti abatement was maintained. There will be about 300 new police cars and there will be a contribution to the budget stabilization fund. The trunk line between Bloomfield and Valleyheart North has begun. It will be finished in December 2013 or Jan 2014. The Gas Co is inspecting pipes at Ventura and Laurel Canyon. Natural gas will be released into the atmosphere. Beginning at 7 am and concluding at 5 pm. They have sent a notice to people within 500 feet of the area. Transportation updates - Ventura Blvd. beginning at Tujunga was resurfaced and has already been restriped. There are mark-outs for the sidewalks. They should be painted in in the next week. The Colfax and Landale signal will be installed within the next couple of weeks. **Lisa Sarkin** asked if there would be any tearing up of the streets for the gas line repair. **Jane Drucker** asked about the resurfacing of Carpenter and Recklaw Drive. She requested that they please do that intersection. **Richard Niederberg** asked about Fryman Road. He stated that a 20 inch line was being worked on and was concerned. **John Walker** tried to look at the budget. He wanted to know how much money has been allocated for infrastructure. **Geoffrey Yazzetta** responded that 800 miles of street preservation is budgeted. He also reported that he is in the process of getting pathway lighting for the Oasis Pocket Park. A stakeholder wanted to bring attention to the fact that resurfacing of Ventura from Tujunga to Vineland is needed. **Geoffrey Yazzetta** stated that CD 2 moved office to 5240 Lankershime Blvd. Suite 200 above Chipotle.
7. Special Presentation, with Q&A to follow, from Deputy Director of Planning **Lisa M. Webber** on combining Planning and Building and Safety into one city department. **John Walker** read the motion moved by Paul Krekorian and Mitchell Englander which has been approved by city council that will be effective January 2014, which proposes the streamlining of the planning process. See attached.

**Gail Steinberg** left the meeting now 13 members present 7 required to pass a motion. **Lisa M. Webber** gave a power point presentation. **Escamaine Milian** will be overseeing this process as well. Lisa Webber explained who oversees all the development processes. She has been there for one year now. She came from Santa Clarita where they have a holistic approach to the entitlement process all the way through the enforcement process. Development reform has been in process for years within each individual department. This will be a dramatic change. They are in the beginning stages of the projects. A consultant will be brought in to help. Departments of City Planning and Building and Safety will be integrated and will also pick up some functions of the fire department, Public Works (engineering department) and DOT. Community plans are being updated. A complete rewrite of the zoning code is also being done. Technology is being used -Build LA and Electronic Plan submittal and review. It will create transparency to track projects as they move through the entitlement process. A hand out was provided of how things will be moved within the departments. This integration is a logical thing. It will be a challenge due to the size of LA. There will be a customer service approach. There will be greater code enforcement. A Condition Compliance Unit has been formed. That department needs to grow. They want to create efficiency using a clear transparent and predictable process. They want to be sure the voice of the community has not been lost in the process. There will be an early zoning review, and a seamless, linear and logical permit process. They are wanting accountability and transparency and implementation of true performance measures. The system should go live January 1, 2014. Pieces of DOT, the Bureau of Engineering and part of the fire dept. will be added to planning and building and safety. The consultant team will guide the city through the process. The CAO will coordinate the consolidation process. They want to determine how they can they get the biggest bang for the buck. Chicago and NY have done this successfully. They want to build upon the 2011 Development Reform Strategic Plan to implement the consolidation process. The consultant will be looking at the mission statement and defining what customer service means. They will come back in a few months to update us on the progress. There is a comprehensive report on the department of city planning website. **Howard Peterson** said that he thinks that this consolidation is a big mistake there should be a clean up of building and safety alone before they consolidate anything into it. Building permits generate \$12,000 of which \$10,000 goes to the school districts. Barry Johnson thanked her for coming and he will hold her to the promise to insure community participation in the department. He also asked that the new department please stop using the word entitlement. Please use the word variance. There is enough brain power in the City of LA so that we should not need to use consultants and spend money on them. **Lisa Sarkin** asked how the hearing process will be handled? She asked if there will still be empty chairs. **Response** – that is a pet peeve of hers as they should not have to put subject to the satisfaction of the departments that are not at the hearing. She thinks having a land development committee sit with the developer early in the process. **Ron Taylor** said he is happy to hear they want to improve the system of community outreach. They need to make people aware of the impending development process. It is hard to get the word out. As you go through introspection remember that the community should be involved early. **Lisa Cahan Davis** said the outreach committee met with Krekorian's office to see how to get a small business seminar on how to go through the review process. **Lisa M. Webber** said consolidation will be a lengthy process they will implement some quick revisions in the first 6 months but then they will be approaching the long term goals including increased transparency by using the new website. There should be no more planning by variance. **Scott Ouellette** said he thinks this is great. This should result in better economic activity and less broken promises. An efficient process will be good. **Richard Niederberg** asked if there will be a revision of the zoning code, how will we make sure that the RFA and other restrictions stay in place. He wants to be sure that the community plans and specific plans are preserved. The phantom code is full of inconsistencies. There will be clean up that should reduce the need for variances. CPIOs reflect a zoning pallet for a specific community. Consistency would neutralize some of the specialties of individual areas. **John Walker** asked why Mr. Peterson is not in favor of this. **Mr. Peterson** responded that San Diego tried this and failed because they were too big. Los Angeles is also too big.

**John Walker** introduced Thomas Soong with DONE. **Thomas Soong** explained who they are and what they do. Each NC gets \$37,000 of city funds. He recognized Remy Kessler for always getting the paperwork in on time. The fiscal year closes this Friday. Starting July 1 there will be no more demand warrants. That process took too long. They have instituted a checking account process. There is no live training plan for the valley but there will be a webinar. They are asking that all board members all take the first 20 minutes of the training. The deadline is July 12<sup>th</sup> for submitting the budget and the deadline for the training is July 8<sup>th</sup>. This should be more efficient. The new process will take about 6 months to learn. Elections will be held in March 2014. He asked for 10% of the budget to be allocated for the election process. He suggested that we designate an elections chair by the next board meeting. **John Walker** thanked Thomas for being here this evening.

8. Treasurer's report by **Remy Kessler**. **Remy Kessler** explained that we were cut off from spending our money last week. We ended with \$250. Lisa Cahan Davis and John Walker helped spend about half of the entire budget in the last 30 days. Some outreach efforts have already spent some of the budget for next year. There will be a budget committee meeting next week. We have only had two treasurers. Mike Kaufman with the assistance of Sandra Reed Funnel and Remy Kessler. **John Walker** thanked Remy Kessler for doing a great job. **John Walker** read the motion.

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

**Amended Motion: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council has reviewed the June, 2013 financial statements and hereby accepts and approves them.**

**Approved** in the absence of objection.

9. Budget Committee Report by **Remy Kessler** for **Mark Batterman** . No report.
10. VANC Report by **Denise Welvang**. **Denise Welvang** gave a report on the VANC meeting last Thursday. She indicated that Rocketdyne cleanup 451 acres of land may now be sold by the government. The land is surrounded by 250,000 acres. Boing wants to give the land to the national parks service. The bureau of Indian affairs is interested in preserving this area. VANC passed a motion to support the giving of this land to the National Parks service. She also reported that Gracie Liu talked about the money and the bank account. We must take a seminar or we will not be able to vote on budget items. There may be a reception for newly elected people. She stated that there was a discussion of the factual stakeholder seat. That seat is not needed if you have an at large seat. Mike Feuer wants to know what we would like from the City Attorney's office. We can submit input as individuals or as a neighborhood council. They are looking for nominees for the Empower LA awards. **Barry Johnson** thanked Denise for going to the meetings and bringing us back information from other NC's. Thomas Soong said you can nominate A neighborhood council.
11. Land Use Committee Report by **Lisa Sarkin**. **Lisa Sarkin** gave a report on the last land use meeting where 75 stakeholders attended. They discussed the Millennium Project. There is now an advisory committee for developing the design guidelines for Studio City. If you see a home being torn down send the address to Lisa Sarkin and she attempt will be sure the RFA is enforced. Discussed increase in medical marijuana dispensaries we now have 14 in studio City. They supported the design of the restaurant Lemonade. At Platinum Live many conditions were added to the property. The people who inherited the property wanted all conditions removed. A committee has been set up to work with the owners regarding the use of the property. **John Walker** read motion A. **Lisa Sarkin** reported that they want a zone variance regarding parking being by contract. **Barry Johnson** asked why they should have a contract instead of a covenant and what are the long term ramifications of that? **Lisa Sarkin** stated that the contract method is

being used at the request of CBS. **Denise Welvang** said we should require notification if the contract is to be revised or terminated.

**Motion A: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council supports the application for 12059 Ventura Blvd. [ZA-2013-0889] as presented, with the inclusion of the SCNC Conditions for On-Sale Alcoholic Beverage Licenses in Studio City.**

Motion to amend Motion A - **Moved:** Lisa Sarkin; **Second:** Rita Villa, **Vote to accept amendment:** 13-Yes; 0-No; 0-Abstain. **Motion Carried.**

**Amended Motion A: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council supports the application for 12059 Ventura Place. [ZA-2013-0889] as presented, with the inclusion of the SCNC Conditions for On-Sale Alcoholic Beverage Licenses in Studio City. [If the contract for parking is rescinded, revoked or amended Joan's on Third and CBS shall notify the neighborhood council in writing within 30 days.]**

**Vote on amended motion:** 13-Yes; 0-No; 0-Abstain. **Motion Carried.**

**John WALKER** read motion B.

**Motion B: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council supports the application for 11548 Ventura Blvd. [ZA-2013-1407-CUB-SPP] as presented, with the inclusion of the edited SCNC Conditions for the On-Sale Alcoholic Beverage Licenses in Studio City. The parking lease shall be presented to the SCNC Board when confirmed with the Certificate of Occupancy.**

**Lisa Sarkin** said this property is located in the enterprise zone so they only need to have 5 parking places and one handicap space. This business will be located where the goodwill building currently is located. The parking will be off Big Oak. There are only two houses on that cul de sac. There is a paper alley located behind the building. **Barry Johnson** expressed his concern about the retaining wall. He is afraid they will move the current retaining wall back and that will cause the grade to be steeper. They are proposing to move the wall five feet back. **Lisa Sarkin** said she addressed this with the planning department. **John Lawler** said he is concerned about the limited parking and the valet activity that will have to be increased because of the limited parking. He can't support this. **Shoshana Raphael** said that regardless of the parking if someone is willing to invest in this blighted area she does not see how we can withhold support for this. She would rather see a restaurant that more blight. **Scott Ouellette** said he agrees with Shoshana. This is an area of Ventura Blvd. that needs some life. The parking problem will cause neighborhood intrusion. We need to push for more city parking lots overall. The city of LA is doing a poor job. **Richard Niederberg** said he does not like enterprise zones. He thinks the city would have required more retaining wall if the slope was too great. Lana Shackelford asked about the parking and the apartment building behind the property. **Remy Kessler** asked where the valet would be located. **Lisa Sarkin** said it would be in the lot. **Jane Drucker** asked in terms of the parking is there a way we can encourage the city to do something about the parking situation. **Lee Davis** asked about the height of the retaining wall which appears to be higher than the 6 feet proposed. It looks like 12 feet.

**Vote:** 13-Yes; 0-No; 0-Abstain. **Motion Carried.**

12. Government Affairs Committee Report by **Rita Villa**. Rita Villa reported on the mural ordinance and the fact that there is a Plan A and a Plan B being proposed, with and without single family home murals, respectively. She also reported on the need for CEQA to be stronger as that is what Cal Trans has said. Cal Trans indicated that the traffic counts used in the Millennium Project documents are wrong. **Barry Johnson** said the planning director was horrified by the fact that there could be so many overlays and that we need to prevent them in certain areas.

Bylaws & Procedures Report by **Ron Taylor**. **Ron Taylor** gave background on the neighborhood council coalition. He said if you have looked at the bylaws and charter it is just another layer of NC activity. It is trying to report to city council and to the stakeholders. VANC already is a forum for NC's to share their views. He stated that he brought this motion as an individual. This is the creation of a confusion layer. This is creating a super organization and that includes people from nonelected bodies and that this organization seeks to advise the city. This is what the neighborhood councils already do. He does not support this. **Barry Johnson** said he agrees with Ron and the City charter does not sanction this. NC's should speak for themselves. This is too far sweeping.

**Motion: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council opposes the creation of the Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition (LANCC), which would be a new advisory forum encompassing non-elected and elected civic organizations. We therefore oppose adoption of the proposed LANCC Charter and Bylaws.**

**Moved:** Ron Taylor; **Seconded:** Rita Villa

**Jane Drucker** requested the amendment of a word in the motion. **Richard Niederberg** said VANC is good enough. **Lisa Chan Davis** said having non-elected members of LANCC is reason enough for her not to support it. **John Lawler** said this would homogenize the NC system.

**Shoshana Raphael** left the meeting. Now 12 voting members present 7 required to pass a motion.

**Vote: 12-Yes; 0-No; 0-Abstain. Motion Carried.**

13. Outreach Committee Report by **Lisa Cahan Davis**. **Lisa Cahan Davis** thanked everyone who helped with the movies in the park. June 22 is another event. The set up will be at 3:30PM. We want a good showing as a representative of Universal will be there and there will be a couple of Minions there until 8:15. Proceeds from the food sales go to support the recreation center. There will be cadets on site and some fire department personnel. Activities for next 12 months are being planned. On July 4<sup>th</sup> there will be the annual fireworks event at CBS. The volunteer list will be sent out soon. We have tote bags to distribute. Remy, Scott, Ron and Rita volunteered to help set up for the movies in the park. The SCNC has purchased T shirts for the board and committee members. Committee chairs should contact John Walker and he will come to the meeting and pass out the t shirts. The outreach committee is working on retractable signage. **Richard Niederberg** said CBS will be closing all gates at 2:30 on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.
14. Transportation Committee Report by **Scott Ouellette**. **Scott Ouellette** stated that they are continuing to push the gripe list. He explained why we are revisiting the previous Motion on the Traffic Sign.

**CURRENT LANGUAGE:**

2.3 To the extent practicable, the LAPD shall endeavor to accommodate specific requests by the Neighborhood Councils to deploy the VMS Trailer/Sign to address particular areas of concern or events occurring in their neighborhoods.

2.4 To the extent practicable, the LAPD additionally shall use its best efforts to accommodate specific requests by the Neighborhood Councils to receive reports generated by the data collection/traffic unit of the VMS Trailer/Sign and/or to deploy the VMS Trailer/Sign to requested locations for the purposes of obtaining such reports and data. Further, upon request, the LAPD shall cooperate with the Neighborhood Councils in "certifying" as authentic any reports generated by the VMS Trailer/Sign to the extent deemed necessary or convenient by the Neighborhood Councils, including, without limitation, in connection with the submission of such reports by a Neighborhood Council to any local, state or federal agency.

**PROPOSED REVISION: Moved:** Scott Ouellette; **Second:** Rita Villa. **Vote to consider revision: 12-Yes; 0-No; 0-Abstain. Motion Carried.**

2.3 To the extent practicable, the LAPD (**may**) endeavor to accommodate specific requests by the Neighborhood Councils to deploy the VMS Trailer/Sign to address particular areas of concern or events occurring in their neighborhoods.

2.4 To the extent practicable, the LAPD additionally (**within its discretion may**) use its best efforts to accommodate specific requests by the Neighborhood Councils to receive reports generated by the data collection/traffic unit of the VMS Trailer/Sign and/or to deploy the VMS Trailer/Sign to requested locations for the purposes of obtaining such reports and data. Further, upon request, the LAPD (**within its discretion may reasonably**) cooperate with the Neighborhood Councils in "certifying" as authentic any reports generated by the VMS Trailer/Sign to the extent deemed necessary or convenient by the Neighborhood Councils, including, without limitation, in connection with the submission of such reports by a Neighborhood Council to any local, state or federal agency.

**Remy Kessler** asked who is requesting the verbiage. He feels the new language gives them absolute discretion. They already had discretion. **Scott Ouellette** responded that we can't have control and we should trust the police department. **Richard Niederberg** said it sounds like bait and switch. This is a bad idea. **Denise Welvang** said she wanted the original language as that is what we agreed to. **Lisa Sarkin** said she is not in favor of changing this. **Scott Ouellette** said we participated at a lower level than others and our councilman has requested that all CD2 NC's give \$1,000. **Barry Johnson** said we should not agree to this change. **Lee Davis** questioned the motivation. **Brandon Pender** said we should use specific words. The motion should use the words "will" and "shall" and should specifically instruct as to what we want done. He is not in favor of the proposed revision. **Denise Welvang** reiterated that our councilman requested all NC's to give \$1,000. **Ron Taylor** said he agrees with Scott's initial statement and that we need to trust the police department.

**Vote: 6 Yes; 6 No. Motion Fails.** **John Walker** will send a letter to the other NC's letting them know that our motion was rejected by the captain and our NC would not accept the revised motion. So at this time no money will be given unless the other NC's come back to us with a revised request.

15. Public Safety Committee Report **Brandon Pender**. **Brandon Pender** said Officer Lewis was at the meeting and that the lead traffic enforcement officer was there as well. They talked about the problems they have with pedestrians crossing and not being given the right of way. The Fire Department brought the battalion and they spoke about working with us in the future. They are looking for volunteers to do maintenance at the fire station. **Brandon Pender** also reported that there are problems with transients coming into the area and committing crimes. He suggested that motel owners give a notice to people who are registering that they are subject to having their license plates run. His committee is also getting ready for the national night out. **John Walker** stated that he is not comfortable with asking Motel owners to notice people who are registering that they are subject to having their license plate run. That is profiling and he does not support that. **Remy Kessler** asked where the crosswalk sting is taking place. **Brandon Pender** responded that it will be at Laurel Canyon out of the Vons parking lot. It will also be on Coldwater Canyon. **Barry Johnson** said bikes should be following the rules of the road. Bicyclists are not abiding by the traffic rules. **Richard Niederberg** said he is concerned about people crossing the street. **John Lawler** said valets should be investigated.

16. Cultural Affairs Committee Report by **Richard Niederberg**. **Richard Niederberg** reported that there are no requests for money and no events updates at this time.

17. Comments from Board Members on subject matters within the Board's jurisdiction. **Lisa Sarkin** said the grievance panel is about to issue their report. **Scott Ouellette** and **Ron Taylor** both said they had not been contacted by the grievance panel. **Lisa Cahan Davis** asked if we had success about recruiting new board members from the e-blast that was sent out. **John Walker** stated that he will allow candidates to come to speak and we will vote by email.

18. Adjournment. **Moved:** Rita Villa; **Second:** John Lawler. **Vote:** 12 **Yes**; 0 **No**. **Motion Carried.**

Adjourned at 10:47 PM.

*The Studio City Neighborhood Council would like to publicly thank Pizza Rev in Studio City, for donating a Tasting Menu for tonight's meeting and invite all of our local eateries to be part of our community by offering portions of their Menu's for our future Board Meetings. If interested, please reply: [jwalker@studiocitync.org](mailto:jwalker@studiocitync.org)*

