

**SCNC BOARD**

Lisa Cahan Davis  
Jane Drucker  
Jon Epstein  
Remy Kessler  
Brian Mahoney  
Richard Niederberg  
Scott Ouellette  
Brandon Pender  
Lisa Sarkin  
Lana Shackelford  
Shilpa Sayana  
Gail Steinberg  
Rita C. Villa  
John T. Walker  
Denise Welvang



**BOARD MEETING  
APPROVED MINUTES  
Wednesday, December 11, 2013  
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**  
Jane Drucker  
4024 Radford Ave.  
Edit. Bldg. 2, Suite 6  
Studio City, CA 91604  
(818) 655-5400  
[www.studiocitync.org](http://www.studiocitync.org)

**NOTE CHANGE OF DATE**

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](http://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 Ave., 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](mailto:Thomas.Soong@lacity.org). In compliance with Government Code section 54957.5, non-exempt writings that

1. Call to Order & Roll Call. Lisa Cahan Davis – present, Jane Drucker - present, Jon Epstein – present, Remy Kessler - present, Brain Mahoney – present, Richard Niederberg - present, Scott Ouellette – present, Brandon Pender – present, Lisa Sarkin - present, Shilpa Sayana – Joined before item 6, Lana Shackelford – present, Gail Steinberg – excused, Rita Villa – present, John Walker – present, Denise Welvang – present. 12 voting members until item 5; After item 5 - 13 voting members; 7 to pass a motion. 320 stakeholders present.
2. Pledge of Allegiance. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. Comments by the President. **John Walker** thanked Chipotle for providing the food service for the meeting tonight. He acknowledged all of the work done by Richard Niederberg, Lisa Cahan Davis and other board members that helped to make the Luminaria a success. The VANC event is tomorrow night and he urged all board members to please support it. He stated that the purpose of the meeting tonight is to vote on the submission of our response to the Harvard Westlake DEIR. The opinions in support of or opposition to the proposed project are of no consequence for the City at this point. Those opinions will count when the EIR is released. The Board of the SCNC has listened to those in support and those in opposition to the proposed project. All of that was taken into account in the SCNC's response to the DEIR. He reminded the board members that they should not show any body language for or against the proposed project. He requested that the board members keep all personal feelings in check. He stated that there are no minutes to be approved tonight and he reminded everyone that January 4 is the first date to enroll to be a candidate for the board. Jane Drucker is the head of our election council. There is a 30 day enrollment period. Anyone interested in running for a board seat must submit an application by February 3<sup>rd</sup>. You submit an application by going to EmpowerLA.Org. Once your application is

submitted, then you can begin your campaign as soon as your application is accepted. March 20, 2014 is the election for a two year term. **John Walker** advised those present that we have been working with our City Councilman, Paul Krekorian's office on the proposed Harvard Westlake project. There are many speakers here tonight and everyone gets to speak once for one minute.

4. Disbanding & Reinstatement of all Standing Committees, Chairs and VANC Appointments. **John Walker** explained that all standing committees had been disbanded as required by our governing documents and he then reinstated them and named the committee chairs and made the VANC appointments.
5. Public Comments on non-agenda items within the Board's jurisdiction. **Mindy Lake** from Adrin Nazarian's office wished the board and the stakeholders a happy holiday and provided her contact phone number, 818 376-4246. She stated that they will be available over the holiday. **Barry Johnson** stated that he goes through the council agenda items and found a bee keeping ordinance being proposed. He does not think this is appropriate. Bee keeping should be where yards are of an adequate size. Studio City is the only place in the city and valley with 1.50 parking on Ventura Blvd. **Rita Villa** stated we Rock the Spectrum is located at the corner of Moorpark and Tujunga. This business provides a place for children with cerebral palsy, developmental delays, autism and typical children to come together and play on specialized equipment. They provide a safe and unique environment for these children to get their therapy. They also provide a place where the parents of these special needs children can get respite care for their child for up to three hours a week. They also have a retail space where they sell toys and craft items geared to the needs of these children. We Rock the Spectrum is seeking a change in its occupancy permit to E occupancy from retail with demonstration area which is more closely aligned to the services they are providing. The owner of the parking lot (which is normally vacant) behind the Valley Market has filed complaints to block this change. There will be a hearing on December 23<sup>rd</sup> to address this matter. **Rita Villa** asked the stakeholders present to contact our Councilman Paul Krekorian and request that he take any and all actions necessary to insure that this business is allowed to remain in this location.
6. Responses to comments from the Board. **None.**
7. Treasurer's Report by **Remy Kessler** (3 min). **Remy Kessler gave a report on our expenditures.**

**MOTION: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council has reviewed the Monthly Expenditure Report for November, 2013 and hereby accepts and approves them.**

**See Board Vote on Funding Request Form attached to these minutes as Exhibit I.**

8. Presentation, discussion and motion with respect to the Harvard-Westlake Parking Improvement Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report. **Rick Commons**, president of Harvard Westlake, thanked the SCNC for the time they have spent in considering their proposal. He stated that they will work with the stakeholders to be sure they are thoughtful of their needs in the process. **John Amato** VP of Harvard Westlake said he spoke last time. He said that the parking plan was done with community interest in mind. It will improve safety and take parking off the street and the busses. He said they will add 400 trees on site. He thanked the SCNC for the time spent evaluating the proposal. **Edgar Kholation** represents Harvard Westlake as their attorney. He will answer questions. They are committed to working with the stakeholders to develop a great project. **Ann-Marie Whiteman** read a support letter from a resident on Blairwood Drive which stated that the school has taken several demands and produced a solution that will benefit the community at large. **Emily Laskin** said the community has suffered through disruption from the construction on Laurel Canyon. She is a resident of Studio City. She is frustrated that families from other parts of the City should ask the neighbors to suffer more disruption to benefit some 18 year old drivers. **James Chapman** said he lives 2 miles from site and he is a stakeholders concerned about safety. The situation is getting worse. The school's plan addresses safety. It is a well thought out plan. The structure is not overpowering. The school is a responsible neighbor. **Cindy Spitz** is a resident and a parent of a student. She stated that the parking is inadequate and it is a safety hazard. This will benefit the school and the community. **Allan Weaver** read a letter of support from the Sportsman Lodge. They support the Harvard Westlake plan. They are an economic engine for our

community. The parking facility will eliminate offsite parking. **John Ellison** said he usually has to park off campus. There are 27 sports teams and they need the additional field. The structure will be beautiful and it will provide safety. **Josh Rodine** said he lived a couple of miles from the school but now he lives less than a mile. He is an alumni of the school. There is a need for additional parking at the site. Private transportation is a reality and they need a way to have parking at the school and get the busses on campus. He uses the street to commute to work. The benefits outweigh inconveniences. **Laura Cabo** said she is parent and resident. The School is a great neighbor and resident of the community. A beautiful campus has been build. As an architect, she supports the project to satisfy the safety conditions and need for additional playing space. **David Hinden** said he is a teacher at the school and is reading a letter on behalf of Wendy Mitchel in support of the Plan. Wendy has no affiliation with the school. The plan makes good sense and the school should have a proper facility to park and practice. As the closest homeowner she wants to support the schools plan. It will improved safety and take parking off local streets. **Nancy Kaleel** said she is a resident of Sherman Oaks and a parent of a Harvard Westlake student. People are here because of the fear of change. She has fear for the safety of the children. HW has identified a problem and proposed a reasonable solution. **Helene Toomey** is a parent of two HW students. She shares the concerns about the safety along Coldwater Canyon. She is grateful for the plan and she supports it.

**Jason Kelly** said he is reading a letter on behalf of Molly Quinn. She supports the plan. HW has been a good neighbor. She thinks it has long term benefits for the community. She supports the plan to address parking and athletic needs. **Audrius Barzoukas**, a parent of HW and resident of Studio City said he is reading a letter on behalf of Ralphs. They support the parking plan. Parking in lots of business nearby is limited. They are part of the economic engine. The plan benefits the community. **Lori Belateche**, said she is a Studio City resident and she teaches Carpenter. She supports the project because it will remove the traffic of HW from the road. Parking on neighborhood streets will be eliminated. This project will reduce traffic problems. Please approve this plan. **Scott Harper** said he is a charter member of Bellaire Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council and was on the NC when HW on other side of the hill proposed its improvement. The neighbors there are happy with the results. Please support the project. **Darlene Bible** said she is reading a letter from James Frost a Studio City property owner. He supports the plan. It will improve traffic flow and increase safety. As proposed, the project is a thoughtful solution to the problem of parking.

**Kevin Vanderschans** said he is a Studio City resident of 24 years and he has 2 students there. He has seen the congestion and the fatalities. We are talking about the lives of children. Disruption will be short term. **Ben DiBenedetto**, stated that he is the VP of Studio City Business Improvement District here speaking personally in favor of project. There is a problem and safety is huge issue. Students should not be allowed to park on a secondary highway. He asked us to support the project. **Susan Blau** said she is a board member of the Studio City Chamber of Commerce and is reading a letter from them. The fully support the Plan. It will meet the needs of the school and improve traffic. The school is a force for the economy of our community. They conduct business with over 70 local merchants. **Jane Cody** said she has owned her home in Studio City for over 30 years. 60% of the project will be dedicated to landscaping. Most of the trees to be removed will be diseased trees. She supports the HW efforts to make neighborhood better. **Jill Arthur** said she is a resident and she regularly drives over Coldwater. The improvements will help traffic flow. Students will use the structure rather than park on the street.

**Donna Nael** said she is a parent reading a letter from the owner of the Bistro Gardens at Coldwater. They were long time Studio City residents before moving. He supports the plan and thinks the plan is sound. The facility will eliminate offsite parking. Needs of the school have changed over the years. **Jennifer Rothamn** said that they did not send an e-blast to the members of Save Coldwater Canyon asking them to come this evening. She thanked the SCNC for delving into DEIR. She asked us to focus on the alternatives. There are many alternatives to this structure. She urges uses for the site meeting the zoning requirements. **Sarah Boyd** thanked the ad hoc committee. She said that the corner stone of a good education is to dig deeper. She asked the SCNC not to just believe what we are told but to dig deeper. The story is not what is being told by Harvard Westlake. There are real dangers to our biological resources. **Fr. Dan Justin** said he is the rector of St. Michaels. The congregation is opposed to the project He represents over 300 members and many others who oppose the project. He urges uses for the site such as sustainable gardens to feed the hungry. This schools has may resources and could use the resources to benefit the needy. **Bill Calvert** is a resident and parent of a HW student. He supports the project due to public safety. He travels this rout and is concerned about the safety. He urges the SCNC to support the plan.

**Terrenee Barnum** said she is a parent of an HW student and she read a letter on behalf of Craig Weinstein. He is an alum and a resident. The parking structure will benefit the school and the community. He believes the parking situation needs to be improved. The plan will ease the congestion. **Missy Calvert** said she is a

resident of Studio City living less than a ¼ mile from the construction. She supports the plan as it is a community friendly solution. It is a win win. Please support the plan. **Allison Boris** said she lives in Sherman Oaks and she supports the plan for the safety of the children and the long term benefits to the community. **David Weil** an alum of HW and an employee read a letter from Jeffrey Claret who requests support for the project. It will improve safety. It will beautify the lot and the bridge will become a gateway to the valley. Commuters will benefit. Please support it. **Pat Walker** (ARC) represents ARC and HW and supports the project. HW supports ARC with many events being held on their campus. This school has great leadership and a kind heart.

**Gabe Preciado**, employee of HW, read a letter from **Ed Halocho**, general manager of 5 Guys Restaurant. The Plan is reasonable and eliminates offsite parking. The HW needs have changed. Please support the plan. **Marshall Long** expressed support. He is the father of 3 alumni. He supports the planting of trees and the students give back to the community. The school needs additional fields and parking. He urges our support. **Gurilla David** said she lives and works in Studio City. She lives above the site and she supports the plan. It is crucial and it should be allowed to take place. It will ease the traffic flow and will beautify the neighborhood.

**Jim David** said he has been a studio city resident for 25 years. He looks over the site in question in addition to taking cars off the street. It will beautify a blighted area. In the long run it will enhance Coldwater Canyon. HW is a great neighbor and his kids go to Buckley School so he has no vested interest. **Doug Frank** lives in Studio City and uses Coldwater Canyon and he appreciates any project that will improve traffic flow. Please support the project. **Guy Starkman** owns Jerry's Famous Deli and the Bowling Alley. He is impressed with the plan. He thinks this is a forward thinking solution and he fully supports it. **Tim Hyde** said no one lives closer to the project than he and he is a fan, neighbor and a parent of HW students. They have a diverse art program. There has been an increase in student drivers and they need this plan. **Jeremy Rosen** is an alumni and parent of HW. He fears walking down Coldwater. This is important for safety. He thinks the 75 year legacy is to do good in the community. They have made a substantial effort in community involvement. He thinks the community should support the plan.

**Jim Johnson** said he is a 20 year Studio City resident. He does think we are the neighborhood's council and, as such, he hopes we will take into account all views. He needs us to be his voice. He is opposed due to the bridge and increased parking will not be beneficial. He asked the SCNC to recommend against the project. **Parker Andrews** said he is a 35 year resident of Studio City. The proposal addresses a claimed need which is self-inflicted. Programs have increased by design. The site across the street has been in the stewardship of HW since 1982. HW should address all considerations for the project, noise, light pollution and increased presence in the neighborhood. **Alex Izbicki** stated that the Archer School in Brentwood had 20 meetings with the community when they were trying to decide what to do with their campus. No carpooling with young students is misinformation. He requested that all options be reviewed especially carpooling. **Alan Dymond**, president of SCRA, said HW has made generous donations to their organization. There will be a written response but no position will be taken. He will not address the motion before us tonight.

**Sara Rynew** said she lives close to the building site. They expected parents of the school to come and support the school. As residents, they have to work hard to get the story out. There is another side to the HW story. We could be in an awkward situation. Why put students in dirt and pollution. **Arden Rynew** said he lives in Studio City. He likes HW but is concerned about the direction they are taking. A private bridge across this street is wrong. The 750 space parking lot will cause a lot of traffic. The retaining wall will be taller than those in the Sepulveda Pass and they are failing. He wants HW to come up with a better plan. **Heidi Maclsy** stated she has been a Studio City resident for 25 years. She is concerned about the safety of children in the neighborhood and the preschool and HW students. There is large HW support here tonight because of email. The project is opposed by the SCRA, the Santa Monica Conservancy and the Hillside Association. She asked that the SCNC please oppose the project. **Suellen Wagner** said she has lived in Studio City for over 20 years. The independent traffic study points to the core of the matter. There is no need for the project. Parking and traffic can be addressed by bussing and carpooling, offsite parking for special events and taking responsibility by enforcing these programs. **Karen Abrams** said she is a resident of Studio City opposed to the construction of the parking lot. The lanes that the school will create are lanes that lead into and out of the parking lot. This would actually slow down the through traffic. Cars can't make a left turn. People will have to make a u turn jeopardizing safety.

**Doug Arseneault** is here representing the Valley Industry and Commerce. They strongly support the plan to reduce congestion. Parking on the east side of the street endangers students and delays reaching work and homes. The plan will provide safety. The practice field will be an economic engine. **Denise Eliot** said he is a

14 year resident of Studio City. She is aware of the traffic and believes it will improve the flow of traffic and will remove some of the traffic from the trough lanes. It improves safety. **Dana Witt** lives on Potosi and overlooks the campus. She loves the land the way it is. Tearing down trees and putting up cement structures is dangerous as it is a land slide induced area. She demonstrated how the road is sinking.

**Julie Atwater** said she lives 10 houses from the construction site. She is against the project. She hopes we have dug deep. They are the ones who will suffer the most.

**Mariam Dodge** is president of the Hillside and Canyon Association. Like Father Dan she supports the school but not the project. A private sky bridge is a bad idea in a scenic corridor. She urges HW to design a project on the east side of Coldwater respecting the baseline hillside ordinance. **Dominik J. Leconte** said his house is mentioned in the DEIR. He feels he will be the guy that gets screwed the most. The lights from the field presently impact the neighbors as does the noise. He asks that HW control what is on the field right now. On Thanksgiving Day there was play on the field. **Beth Laski** said she is a resident behind the parking structure. This project is scary and damaging to the community. There is a danger of the hillside sliding. This is a flooding area. There are other alternatives. She said HW should build on Ventura and use a tram. She was never contacted by HW with regard to the project. She asks that we consider other alternatives.

Remy Kessler left the meeting. Now 12 board members present. 7 needed to pass a motion.

9. **Preamble:** The SCNC President has appointed an Ad-hoc Committee to put together a written response for the Harvard-Westlake Parking Improvement Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report which represents the SCNC position.

**MOTION: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council supports the written conclusions to the Harvard Westlake Parking Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report from the Ad-Hoc committee, appointed and overseen by the President, as the official position of the SCNC.**

**Vote: 0 No; 1 Abstain. Motion Carried.**

10. Adjournment. **Moved:** Rita Villa; **Second:** Lana Shackelford. **Vote: 12 Yes, 0 No; 0 Abstain. Motion Carried.**

