



General Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 16, 2025 @ 7:00pm

Location: Burton House Hotel, 1177 S Beverly Dr, Los Angeles, CA 90035- Meeting Room

1. Meeting Called to Order at 7:05 pm by Michael Lynn.
2. Pledge of Allegiance led by: Michael Lynn
3. Roll Call

Boardmembers Present: Michael Lynn, Mitch Cohen, Joel Weinberger, Ken Blaker, Barry Levine, Terrence Gomes, Baila Romm, Katelyn Best, Mallory Keller Smith, Laurie Levine, Marlene Katz, Sara Messall, Beth Klein, Margarita Guzman, Joseph Mollaie, Noah Damsky, Eitan Gershov, Jason Plummer.

Boardmembers Absent: Sandy Block, Stuart Weiss, Cheryl Holstrom, Shirley Traum, Holly Hubsher. Quorum was met.

**Eitan Gershov entered the meeting at 7:12 pm
Joseph Mollaie entered the meeting at 7:13 pm.
Noah Damsky entered the meeting at 7:15 pm.**

4. **General Public Comment:**
Public Comment 1-
Public Comment 2-
Public Comment 3-

5. **Brief Board Announcements**

- a. Items for Committee Agendas and other Brief Board Announcements
Michael Lynn mentioned donations underway via emergency order from the city; donations have been underway at several evacuation centers and coordination has been hectic.

6. Community Reports

- a. LA Police Department (Baker) - 39796@lapd.online / (Ojeda) - 36393@lapd.online
- b. LA Fire Department- Battalion 18 lafdbattalion18@lacity.org **Present, gave report.**
- c. Office of Councilwoman Hutt, CD-10 (Guevara) - mayra.guevara@lacity.org **Present, gave report.**
- d. Office of Councilwoman Yaroslavsky, CD-5 (Rodriguez) - cairo.rodriguez@lacity.org **Present, gave report.**
- e. Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (Erving) - commission@empowerla.org
- f. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (Andrews)- dina.andrews@lacity.org **Not present.**
- g. Office of Mayor Bass (Miller) - kenneth.g.miller@lacity.org **Not present.**
- h. Office of County Supervisor Mitchell, 2nd District (Park) - DPark@bos.lacounty.gov **Not Present.**
- i. Office of County Supervisor Horvath, 3rd District (Laflan) - ALaflen@bos.lacounty.gov **Not Present.**
- j. Office of State Assemblymember Bryan, AD-55 (Persoff) -Michelle.Persoff@asm.ca.gov **Not Present.**
- k. Office of State Senator Smallwood-Cuevas, SD-28 (Penilla) - carlos.penilla@sen.ca.gov **Present, gave report.**
- l. Office of Congressman Kamlager-Dove, CD-37 (Benarroch) - Jackson.Benarroch@mail.house.gov **Present, gave report.**
- m. Other Neighborhood, City and State offices

Joel Weinberger left the meeting at 8:16 pm.

7. Board Membership- Selections, Removals, & Resignations Public Comment:

- a. Motion to appoint the At-Large Representative 7 (unfilled Zone 1 Representative- Term expires June 30, 2025) (GB011624-01) **No Applicants; continued to next General Board Meeting without objection**
- b. Motion to appoint the At-Large Representative 11 (unfilled School Education Representative- Term expires June 30, 2025) (GB011624-02) **No Applicants; continued to next General Board Meeting without objection**

8. Committees, Liaisons and Alliances

- a. Liaison and Alliance Representative Appointments
 - I. Motion to appoint SORO NC Secretary (GB011624-03)
Michael Lynn stressed a fifth member is needed; the Secretary would prepare the minutes for the board and executive meeting and the board and development retreat; this person would be the committee chair for this event. With no volunteers, Michael Lynn tabled this item to the next meeting.
 - II. Motion to appoint LADWP Alternate Representative (GB011624-04)
Continued to the next meeting.
 - III. Motion to appoint Budget Advocates Representative 2 (GB011624-05)
Continued to the next meeting.

- b. Committee, Liaisons and Alliance Reports
 - I. Standing Committees: Executive; Education; Land Use; Public Safety; Homelessness; Outreach; Transportation; Leisure Spaces; Business Advocacy & Development; Budget & Finance; Bylaws; Board Development
Margarita Guzman said the Education meeting was set for January 21st .
 - II. Ad-hoc Committees: Tree Removal Notification, Board Selection, 3-on-3 Basketball
Michael Lynn said he would be setting a meeting for the Board Selection Committee next month.
Sara Messall said due to the fires there has been a delay on the 3-on-3 basketball event.
 - III. Liaisons and Alliances: LANCC, WRAC, LADWP, Budget Advocates, City Attorney, Sustainability, District 37 Congressional Council, Homelessness
Michael Lynn made mention of 3 partner NC representatives from WRAC that were in the fire area; made mention of a regional alliance trying to coordinate for donations but said the best bet is to donate directly to the Red Cross or sign up to volunteer for the Red Cross on their website.
- c. Opportunity to Join and/or Change Membership to Board Committees (GB011624-06)
No changes made.

9. Unfinished Business

- a. None

10. Consent Agenda Public Comment: None Items Removed: C, F

- a. Motion to approve the December 19, 2024 General Board Meeting Draft Minutes (GB011624-07)
- b. Motion to approve December 2024 Monthly Expenditure Report (GB011624-08)
- c. ~~Motion for the SORO NC to approve the revised 2024-25 Neighborhood Council Funding Program Fiscal Year Administrative Packet and Budget (GB011624-09)~~
Michael Lynn removes Item C.
- d. Motion for the SORO NC to write a letter to Council District 10 to expedite the fast-track Bureau Of Engineering process for installing safety bollards.
Dear Honorable Councilwoman Heather Hutt,
In light of the recent terror attack in New Orleans where car ramming bollards were not in use, the SORO NC is requesting that the Councilwoman expedite the request for the Bureau of Engineering Fast Track engineering permit process. We are requesting that the Councilwoman make this a top priority due to the FBI report that just came out warning of more car ramming attacks. (GB011624-10)
- e. Motion for the SORO NC to send a letter of support/CIS for CF 24-1600 on budget impacts on service operations of the LAFD. (GB011624-11)
- f. ~~Motion for the SORO NC to fund up to \$1500 to host a Town Hall at the Robertson Recreation Center (time/date TBD) with newly elected DA Nathan Hochman, newly selected LAPD Chief Jim McDonnell, LAPD Captain Gabaldon, and West LAPD~~

~~SLO's Baker and Ojeda to discuss how the new team will affect Public Safety, with the Funding to include Lawn signs, Outreach, and refreshments. (GB011624-12)~~

Margarita Guzman removes item F.

- g. Motion for the SORO NC to host a 2025 First Responders Appreciation Day (FRAD) event at the Robertson Recreation Center on May 4, May 18, or June 22nd. (GB011624-13)
- h. Motion for the SORO NC to fund up to \$200 to host a Catalytic-Converter-Etching / Coffee-with-a-Cop event with LAPD (place/time TBD), with the funding to pay for refreshments. (GB011624-14)

Consent Agenda moved by Baila Romm; Seconded by Laurie Levine; Vote Count 17 yes, 00 no, 00 abstain

Roll Call;

Yes- Michael Lynn, Mitch Cohen, Ken Blaker, Barry Levine, Terrence Gomes, Baila Romm, Katelyn Best, Mallory Keller Smith, Laurie Levine, Marlene Katz, Sara Messall, Beth Klein, Margarita Guzman, Joseph Mollaie, Noah Damsky, Eitan Gershov, Jason Plummer.

11. New Business (*Members of the public can choose to speak on multiple agenda items in this section for no more than one (1) minute total, with the time for each speaker to be determined by- 5min divided by # virtual hands raised*)

- a. Motion for individual SORO NC Boardmembers to be assigned by the Vice-President to make updates on the SORO NC website (GB011624-15)

Baila Romm mentioned there are many things that are out of date on the website; need someone to update the website.

Michael Lynn said they need people to volunteer for this; it would allow anyone on the board to make changes to the website.

Jason Plummer, Sara Messall and Mallory Keller Smith offered to help with the website.

Moved by Terrence Gomes; Seconded by Ken Blaker; Vote Count 17 yes, 00 no, 00 abstain.

No Public Comment.

Roll Call;

Yes- Michael Lynn, Mitch Cohen, Ken Blaker, Barry Levine, Terrence Gomes, Baila Romm, Katelyn Best, Mallory Keller Smith, Laurie Levine, Marlene Katz, Sara Messall, Beth Klein, Margarita Guzman, Joseph Mollaie, Noah Damsky, Eitan Gershov, Jason Plummer.

Item C from Consent Agenda: Motion for the SORO NC to approve the revised 2024-25 Neighborhood Council Funding Program Fiscal Year Administrative Packet and Budget (GB011624-09)

Moved by Michael Lynn; Seconded by Baila Romm

Michael Lynn moves to have amendment saying \$1000 donation to be given to LA Fire Foundation; moving \$1000 from Outreach line item over to Community Improvement Project (CIP) line item .

Moved by Michael Lynn; Seconded by Joseph Mollaie.

Joseph Mollaie asked what would they use the money for.

Terrence Gomes said they would buy equipment the city will not buy for them.

Beth Klein asked how this would impact the Mayor's decision to distribute funds to the Fire Department.

Michael Lynn said it would have zero impact.

Roll Call;

Yes- Michael Lynn, Mitch Cohen, Ken Blaker, Barry Levine, Terrence Gomes, Baila Romm, Katelyn Best, Mallory Keller Smith, Laurie Levine, Marlene Katz, Sara Messall, Margarita Guzman, Joseph Mollaie, Noah Damsky, Jason Plummer.

Ineligible- Eitan Gershov, Beth Klein.

Vote Count 15 yes, 00 no, 02 Ineligible

Motion As Amended

Roll Call;

Yes- Michael Lynn, Mitch Cohen, Ken Blaker, Barry Levine, Terrence Gomes, Baila Romm, Katelyn Best, Mallory Keller Smith, Laurie Levine, Marlene Katz, Sara Messall, Margarita Guzman, Joseph Mollaie, Noah Damsky, Jason Plummer.

Ineligible- Eitan Gershov, Beth Klein.

Vote Count 15 yes, 00 no, 02 Ineligible

Item F from Consent Agenda: Motion for the SORO NC to fund up to \$1500 to host a Town Hall at the Robertson Recreation Center (time/date TBD) with newly elected DA Nathan Hochman, newly selected LAPD Chief Jim McDonnell, LAPD Captain Gabaldon, and West LAPD SLO's Baker and Ojeda to discuss how the new team will affect Public Safety, with the Funding to include Lawn signs, Outreach, and refreshments. (GB011624-12)

Margarita Guzman asked why the funds have to come out of Public or Outreach.

Michael Lynn said it all comes out of Outreach.

Barry Levine asked if any of the invited individuals were going to even show up.

Michael Lynn said that they had not agreed yet.

Ken Blaker asked if the Rec. Center was the only venue available.

Baila Romm said that the high school area was also an option but that a lot of people will not go to that area.

Moved by Baila Romm; Seconded by Terrence Gomes.

Margarita Guzman said she pulled the item because most of the neighborhoods in her area are Latino or Black, a very working class neighborhood. She said many neighbors have come to her knowing she is an attorney and telling her about Police abuse/brutality; furthermore she stated her goal was to have healing on her side of the community and have them participate on their turf, Hamilton High; she concluded by saying most neighbors complain that things are not done on their side of town.

Jason Plummer said Hamilton High is a good location and the school could promote the event.

Joseph Mollaie mentioned that whenever we decide to have this event we should blanket the area with signs, advertisement.

Katelyn Best suggested presenting the language differently; more inviting.

Terrence Gomes said he knew all those neighbors and has not heard anything about police brutality or abuse.

Margarita Guzman said many neighbors have personally spoken to her about these issues; and that for many English is not their first language.

Eitan Gershov left the meeting at 9:01 PM.

Mallory Keller Smith left the meeting at 9:01 PM.

Michael Lynn suggested an amendment naming the Rec Center and Hamilton High as possible locations.

Moved by Mitch Cohen; Seconded by Katelyn Best.

Baila Romm asked if an interpreter could be added.

Michael Lynn said it might be an issue; he said that once this motion was passed Outreach would come up with a flier and the language would be adjusted; this is just to get the ball rolling he added.

**Motion to Amend the language.
Roll Call; Terrence Gomes**

Yes- Michael Lynn, Mitch Cohen, Ken Blaker, Barry Levine, Terrence Gomes, Baila Romm, Katelyn Best, Laurie Levine, Marlene Katz, Sara Messall, Margarita Guzman, Joseph Mollaie, Noah Damsky, Jason Plummer.

Ineligible- Beth Klein.

Vote Count 14 yes, 00 no, 01 Ineligible

Motion As Amended to include Robertson Recreation Center, Hamilton High and a third location.

Roll Call; Terrence Gomes

Yes- Michael Lynn, Mitch Cohen, Ken Blaker, Barry Levine, Terrence Gomes, Baila Romm, Katelyn Best, Laurie Levine, Marlene Katz, Sara Messall, Margarita Guzman, Joseph Mollaie, Noah Damsky, Jason Plummer.

Ineligible- Beth Klein.

Vote Count 14 yes, 00 no, 01 Ineligible.

Michael Lynn added that now that the motion has passed, Outreach Committee needs to work on the details- dates, location, participants and designing the outreach materials.

12. Meeting adjourned at 9:09 PM by Michael Lynn