



General Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 20, 2025 @ 7:00pm

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

1. Meeting Called to Order at 7:28 PM by Michael Lynn
2. Pledge of Allegiance led by Baila Romm
3. Roll Call: Ken Blaker
Boardmembers Present-Mitch Cohen, Baila Romm, Barry Levine, Margarita Guzman, Beth Klein, Joel Weinberger, Ken Blaker, Noah Damsky, Sandy Block, Jason Plummer, Michael Lynn, Mallory Smith, Shirley Traum.

Boardmembers Absent-Cheryl Holstrom, Joseph Mollaie, Terrence Gomes, Laurie Levine, Eitan Gershov, Sara Messall, Caitlin Johnson, Holly Hubsher, Stuart Weiss, Marlene Katz.

4. General Public Comment: None

5. Brief Board Announcements

- a. Items for Committee Agendas and other Brief Board Announcements
Michael Lynn mentioned the upcoming election season, stressed the need for volunteers who are not running for election; he concluded by saying elections will be June 8th at the Robertson Library and the details would be posted soon on the SORO website.

Ken Blaker said they were looking for volunteers from the board to help out for a few hours cleaning up the SORO website; mentioned volunteers would have administrative access.

6. Community Reports

LA Police Department (Baker) - 39796@lapd.online / (Ojeda) - 36393@lapd.online

Not Present.

LA Fire Department- Battalion 18 lafdbattalion18@lacity.org **Present, gave report.**

Office of Councilwoman Yaroslavsky, CD-5 (Rodriguez) - cairo.rodriguez@lacity.org

Present, gave report.

Office of Councilwoman Hutt, CD-10 (Guevara) - mayra.guevara@lacity.org **Not**

Present.

Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (Erving) - commission@empowerla.org **Not**

Present.

- a. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (Andrews)- dina.andrews@lacity.org **Present, gave report.**
- b. Office of Mayor Bass (Miller) - kenneth.g.miller@lacity.org **Not Present.**
- c. Office of County Supervisor Mitchell, 2nd District (Park) - DPark@bos.lacounty.gov **Not Present.**
- d. Office of County Supervisor Horvath, 3rd District (Laflan) - ALaflen@bos.lacounty.gov **Not Present.**
- e. Office of State Assemblymember Bryan, AD-55 (Persoff) -Michelle.Persoff@asm.ca.gov **Not Present.**
- f. Office of State Senator Smallwood-Cuevas, SD-28 (Penilla) - carlos.penilla@sen.ca.gov **Not Present.**
- g. Office of Congressman Kamlager-Dove, CD-37 (Benarroch) - Jackson.Benarroch@mail.house.gov **Not Present.**
- h. Other Neighborhood, City and State offices- LAUSD Boardmember, Sherlett Hendy Newbill, Jewett Walker, Senior Advisor to Sherlett Hendy Newbill **Present, gave report.**

7. Board Membership- Selections, Removals, & Resignations (*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*)

Michael Lynn mentioned that new seats cannot be appointed until August; he asked Boardmembers to please return any SORO lawn signs so they can be collected and used in August

Ken Blaker said there can be no appointments before or after 60 days of the election.

- a. Motion to appoint the At-Large Representative 11 (unfilled School Education Representative- Term expires June 30, 2025) (GB022025-01)
 - Vahid Jebelli
 - Marvell Garrett

Marvell Garrett was not in attendance. Vahid Jebelli introduce himself; he said he has worked with different districts and with different groups and issue such as LA DOT, sidewalk issues, traffic signs, crosswalks and signals; he added he saw a SORO sign and contacted the board to see how he could help.

Michael Lynn clarified after June 30th the at large seat reverts back to a School Education representative.

Mitch Cohen asked Vahid Jebelli if he lived in the SORO area and why he wants to be on the Neighborhood Council. Vahid Jebelli said he has lived in the SORO area for 25 years and wants to contribute to the community.

Baila Romm asked if Mr. Jebelli had time to volunteer; she mentioned that it is important for members to show up at meetings and events. Vahid Jebelli said he is retired and has the time to volunteer and contribute to the board.

Roll Call; Ken Blaker

Yes-Mitch Cohen, Baila Romm, Barry Levine, Margarita Guzman, Beth Klein, Joel Weinberger, Ken Blaker, Noah Damsky, Sandy Block, Jason Plummer, Michael Lynn, Mallory Smith, Shirley Traum. No- 0. Motion Passes 13-0.

Vahid Jebelli joins the meeting at 8:12 pm.

- b. Motion to appoint the At-Large Representative 7 (unfilled Zone 1 Representative-Term expires June 30, 2025) (GB022025-02)
 - Alexander Esparza
 - Miger Diaz
 - Vahid Jebelli
 - Marvell Garrett

Item continued to the next meeting, eligible applicants would need to reapply on the SORONC website.

8. Committees, Liaisons and Alliances

- a. Liaison and Alliance Representative Appointments
 - I. Motion to appoint SORO NC Secretary (GB022025-03)
Continued to the next meeting.
 - II. Motion to appoint LADWP Alternate Representative (GB022025-04)
Continued to the next meeting.
 - III. Motion to appoint Budget Advocates Representative 2 (GB022025-05)
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

Baila Romm of Public Safety discussed the L.A. emergency preparedness program RYLAN; she asked if anyone on the board was interested in spearheading this program in their own local community to contact her.

Mitch Cohen announced he is resigning from Land Use committee and that there is no Vice Chair; the committee will need a new chair.

Michael Lynn mentioned that Outreach would be working on outreach issues for the election during the next few months.

- II. Ad-hoc Committees: Tree Removal Notification, Board Selection, 3-on-3 Basketball
Michael Lynn said the Selection Committee will need volunteers

- III. Liaisons and Alliances: LANCC, WRAC, LADWP, Budget Advocates, City Attorney, Sustainability, District 37 Congressional Council, Homelessness

Michael Lynn discussed how some members of WRAC had been impacted by the recent fires; also said the Council had donated water during the Fire relief; praised the Neighborhood council for stepping up.

- c. Opportunity to Join and/or Change Membership to Board Committees (GB022025-06)
None. Michael Lynn mentioned to the board that if there was a new committee they wanted added to get in touch with him.

9. Unfinished Business

- a. None

10. Consent Agenda

Public Comment: None

No Items Removed.

Moved by Mitch Cohen ; Seconded by Joel Weinberger ;

Roll Call Vote: 13-0. Motion Passes

Yes- Mitch Cohen, Baila Romm, Barry Levine, Margarita Guzman, Beth Klein, Joel Weinberger, Ken Blaker, Noah Damsky, Sandy Block, Jason Plummer, Michael Lynn, Mallory Smith, Shirley Traum. No-0

- a. Motion to approve January 8, 2025 General Board Special Meeting Draft Minutes (GB022025-07)
- b. Motion to approve January 16, 2025 General Board Meeting Draft Minutes (GB022025-08)
- c. Motion to approve January 2025 Monthly Expenditure Report (GB022025-09)
- d. Motion to approve the official Regular Monthly Meeting of the SORO NC Education Committee to be on the third Monday of each month at 7:00PM, online via Zoom (GB022025-10)
- e. Motion for the SORO NC to sponsor an "English Conversation" Meet-and-Greet event possibly at Hamilton High School in late April/early May 2025 with English Learning Students and Stakeholders, with funding of up to \$300 to cover a LAUSD application fee, refreshments, nametags, and flyers (GB022025-11)
- f. Motion for the SORO NC reimburse Boardmember Michael Lynn in the amount of \$13.10 for the purchase of napkins for the December 30, 2024 Festival of Lights event (GB022025-12)

11. New Business

- a. None

12. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm by Michael Lynn