



General Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 20, 2025 @ 7:00pm

Meetings end at 9:30pm unless the Board votes to end earlier or extend the time.

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 Terrence Gomes
3. Roll Call:
 - Boardmembers Present- Terrence Gomes, Ken Blaker, Margarita Guzman, Beth Klein, Noah Damsky, Baila Romm, Michael Lynn, Stuart Weiss, Jason Plummer, Eitan Gershov, Mallory Smith, Vahid Jebelli, Laurie Levine. Quorum has been met**
 - Boardmembers Absent- Shirley Traum, Mitch Cohen, Sara Messall, Caitlin Johnson, Holly Hubsher, Marlene Katz, Barry Levine, Joel Weinberger.**
 - Joseph Mollaie entered the meeting at 7:09 PM.**
 - Sandy Block entered the meeting at 7:14 PM.**
4. General Public Comment: No Public Comment.
5. Brief Board Announcements
 - a. Items for Committee Agendas and other Brief Board Announcements
 - Michael Lynn mentioned this was the last meeting for Eitan Gershov.**
 - Eitan Gershov thanked the board for the opportunity, said it was a great learning opportunity and he thanked SORO for their work in the community.**
6. Community Reports
 - a. LA Police Department (Baker) - 39796@lapd.online / (Ojeda) - 36393@lapd.online
Not Present.
 - b. LA Fire Department- Battalion 18 lafdbattalion18@lacity.org **Present, gave report.**
 - c. Office of Councilwoman Yaroslavsky, CD-5 (Rodriguez) – cairo.rodriguez@lacity.org
Not Present.
 - d. Office of Councilwoman Hutt, CD-10 (Guevara) - mayra.guevara@lacity.org **Terrence Gomes gave update.**

- e. Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (Erving) - commission@empowerla.org **Not Present.**
- f. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (Andrews)- dina.andrews@lacity.org **Present, gave report.**
- 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 **Present, gave report.**
- 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 **Not Present.**
- l. Office of Congressman Kamlager-Dove, CD-37 (Benarroch) - Jackson.Benarroch@mail.house.gov **Not Present.**
- m. Other Neighborhood, City and State offices

7. Board Membership- Selections, Removals, & Resignations

- a. Motion to appoint the At-Large Representative 7 (unfilled Zone 1 Representative- Term expires June 30, 2025) (GB032025-01)

Moved by Joseph Mollaie; Seconded by Laurie Levine

No general public comment.

- **Ryan Spivey introduced himself said he wanted to be connected to the community; said it was important to use life energy in the best way; he mentioned he has worked as a legal assistant and had been part of the Mayoral campaign in San Francisco.**
- **Laurie Levine asked if there were any committees that he was interested in.**
- **Mr. Spivey mentioned Public Safety as he had an interested in noise pollution and also had an interest in building relationships with the police and also help the community learn how they can be involved with SORO via Outreach.**
- **Joe Lisuzzo introduced himself, said he loved his community and had been a business owner and has contributed to SORO over the years; he said he was interested in community safety highlighting issues with sidewalks; he also said he has worked over the years with various city agencies and knows about political involvements and even ran for senate.**

Ken Blaker mentioned that Mr. Lisuzzo had sold his business and asked how much time did he have to dedicate to the Neighborhood Council.

Mr. Lisuzzo said he was retired and had lots of time to dedicate to the council.

Michael Lynn asked what committees interested Mr. Lisuzzo

Mr. Lisuzzo said he was interested in Transportation and Public Safety. He stated he is a person of action and wants to get things done.

Laurie Levine mentioned that SORO had many public events and asked if Mr. Lisuzzo would be able to show up; she posed the same question to both candidates.

Both candidates said yes.

Roll Call vote;

Baila Romm- Joe, Laurie Levine- Ryan, Michael Lynn- Ryan, Terrence Gomes- Joe, Stuart Weiss- Joe, Margarita Guzman – Ryan, Noah Damsky- Ryan, Mallory Smith – Ryan, Ken Blaker- Joe, Jason Plummer- Ryan, Sandy Block- Ryan, Joseph Mollaie- Joe, Eitan Gershov- Abstain.

5 Votes for Joe, 7 Votes for Ryan, 1- Abstain. Ryan Spivey wins.

Ryan Spivey joins the board at 8:18 pm.

- b. Announcement of the automatic removal of Boardmember Cheryl Holstrom due to 3 consecutive absences. The At-Large seat (previously Organizational Representative 3- term expiring June 2027) will be open for application on August 8, 2025. *In no event shall a vacant seat be filled where an election is scheduled to occur within sixty (60) days of the date that a written application is presented to the Board. (SORO NC Bylaws Article V. Section 6: Vacancies)*

8. Committees, Liaisons and Alliances

- a. Liaison and Alliance Representative Appointments
 - I. Motion to appoint SORO NC Secretary (GB032025-02) **Postponed.**
 - II. Motion to appoint LADWP Alternate Representative (GB032025-03) **Postponed.**
 - III. Motion to appoint Budget Advocates Representative 2 (GB032025-04) **Postponed. Michael Lynn noted another Representative seat will be open next month.**

- b. Committee, Liaisons and Alliance Reports
 - I. Standing Committees: Executive; Education; Land Use; Public Safety; Homelessness; Outreach; Transportation; Budget & Finance; Bylaws; Board Development
Michael Lynn said Land Use will need a new chair and anyone who is currently on the committee should contact him.

Baila Romm expressed frustration that for Public Safety she only received one response to her email about starting the RYLAN project in their neighborhoods.

Ryan Spivey asked what were other neighborhood councils doing to their people involved in RYLAN.

Baila Romm mentioned they had more interest in the program around 2017-2019 but meetings got canceled by City Emergency Management after wildfires.

Terrence Gomes mentioned that other neighborhoods were more organized and involved and had Neighborhood Watch in place and so those communities would branch off from there.

- II. Ad-hoc Committees: Tree Removal Notification, Board Selection, 3-on-3 Basketball

Michael Lynn said Board Selection elections would be held June 8th and that those wishing to apply for candidacy on the soronc.org website and could do so starting April 9th and the end date being May 9th.

Margarita Guzman said for 3-on-3 basketball there has been no progress new, and was not sure if it was going to happen.

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

Michael Lynn mentioned he would send out WRAC motions to appropriate committees.

Michael Lynn mentioned Marlene Katz turned in a Homelessness report and that he would post it online.

- c. Opportunity to Join and/or Change Membership to Board Committees (GB032025-05)

Ryan Spivey joined Public Safety.

Michael Lynn stated that the Brown Act would be followed and that committee meetings could not have more than a majority of quorum at council meetings, so there could not be more than 6 Boardmembers participating in these meetings and that after that any member to shows up would only be able to observe and not participate.

9. Unfinished Business

- a. None

10. Consent Agenda

- a. Motion to approve February 20, 2025 General Board Meeting Draft Minutes (GB032025-06)
- b. Motion to approve February 2025 Monthly Expenditure Report (GB032025-07)
- c. Motion for the SORO NC to send a letter to CD-10 Councilwoman Hutt requesting the opening of the mitigated alley in the 1900 block, between South Sherbourne Avenue and South Bedford Avenue (GB032025-08)
- d. ~~Motion for the SORO NC to fund \$200 to renew one annual Zoom license for the SORO NC President (President@soronc.org) from April 1, 2025 through March 31, 2026 (GB032025-09)~~
- e. ~~Motion for the SORO NC to rescind funding and sponsorship of the 2025 First Responder Appreciation Day (FRAD) event and to return the funding to the Community Improvement Expenditure (CIP) Trees budget category (GB032025-10)~~
- f. ~~Motion for the SORO NC to approve the design and fund up to \$1500 for the printing of 4' tall x 8' long vinyl banners with grommets and zip ties (GB032025-11)~~
- g. ~~Motion for the SORO NC to approve the design and fund up to \$1000 for the printing of 18" tall x 24" wide corrugated lawn signs and metal H stakes (GB032025-12)~~
- h. ~~Motion for the SORO NC to approve the design and fund up to \$1800 for the printing of 4" tall x 6" wide double-sided postcards and distribution to SORO Stakeholders (GB032025-13)~~

Public Comment: No Public Comment.

Items Removed/Removed by: Ken Blaker removes D and E. Mallory Smith removes F, G, and H.

Moved by Baila Romm; Seconded by Laurie Levine ; Vote Count yes- 13, no- 0, abstain- 0.

Baila Romm asked if Item E included tree trimming.

Terrence Gomes said it could.

Joseph Mollaie asked if items F, G, and H had to do with elections.

Michael Lynn said yes.

Mallory Smith asked where would banners and signs be placed.

Michael Lynn said some of the places included at the Rec Center, high schools and parks.

Eitan Gershov asked about online or social media outreach.

Michael Lynn said the Outreach Committee would be in charge of that.

Roll Call Vote;

Terrence Gomes-Yes, Ken Blaker-Yes, Margarita Guzman-Yes, Beth Klein-Yes, Noah Damsky-Yes, Baila Romm-Yes, Michael Lynn-Yes, Stuart Weiss-Yes, Jason Plummer-Yes, Eitan Gershov-Yes, Joseph Mollaie-Yes, Sandy Block-Yes, Mallory Smith-Yes, Vahid Jebelli-Yes, Laurie Levine-Yes.

11. New Business

- a. None

Items Removed from Consent Agenda

- d. Motion for the SORO NC to fund \$200 to renew one annual Zoom license for the SORO NC President (President@soronc.org) from April 1, 2025 through March 31, 2026 (GB032025-09)

Moved by Laurie Levine; Seconded by Joseph Mollaie

Ken Blaker stated how much he hates Zoom but acknowledged it had some good features but countered that with google workspace the board could meet for free however also acknowledged that it may not have the features that the board needs as far as having panelists and non panelists as well as the ability to record meetings; mentioned the free version of google has 1 hour time limit.

Terrence Gomes mentioned that the free version of google indeed only has a one hour time limit and that it is recorded and saved only to the person who has the meeting; if they leave you lose the recording capabilities.

No Public Comment.

Michael Lynn mentioned he found google clunky and not user friendly and that he was against using google and supported renewing with Zoom.

Baila Romm agreed stating it was only \$200, that they should just go for it.

Jason Plummer agreed, that the board should just keep what they have.

Roll Call; Terrence Gomes- Yes

Ken Blaker- Yes, Margarita Guzman- Yes, Noah Damsky- Yes, Baila Romm- Yes, Michael Lynn- Yes, Stuart Weiss- Yes, Jason Plummer- Yes, Eitan Gershov- Yes, Joseph Mollaie- Yes, Sandy Block- Yes, Mallory Smith- Yes, Laurie Levine- Yes.

12- yes-0- no -0- Abstain-3 Ineligible. Motion Passes to stay with Zoom.

- e. Motion for the SORO NC to rescind funding and sponsorship of the 2025 First Responder Appreciation Day (FRAD) event and to return the funding to the Community Improvement Expenditure (CIP) - Trees budget category (GB032025-10)

Moved by Ken Blaker; Seconded by Laurie Levine

No public comment.

Ken Blaker said if someone wanted to actually run the event it could happen.

Roll Call; Terrence Gomes- Yes

Ken Blaker- Yes, Margarita Guzman- Yes, Noah Damsky- Yes, Baila Romm- Yes, Michael Lynn- Yes, Stuart Weiss- Yes, Jason Plummer- Yes, Eitan Gershov- Yes, Joseph Mollaie- Abstain, Sandy Block- Yes, Mallory Smith- Yes, Laurie Levine- Yes.

11-yes -0-no -1 abstain- 3-Ineligible. Motion Passes to rescind.

- f. Motion for the SORO NC to approve the design and fund up to \$1500 for the printing of 4' tall x 8' long vinyl banners with grommets and zip ties (GB032025-11)
Moved by Laurie Levine; Seconded by Eitan Gershov.

Eitan Gershov asked if the banners were reusable and if they would include a QR code.

Michael Lynn said they would not be reusable; as far as a QR code it could be included but could not guarantee that it would work due to size and where the QR was being purchased from.

Mallory Smith said the banner really should have a QR code.

Terrence Gomes mentioned he could ask his communications team at his work to do it for them.

Michael Lynn said the printing of the banners would have to start this week since they would be used for both candidate phase and voter phase.

Amendment to add QR code to the banner.

Moved by Joseph Mollaie; Seconded by Jason Plummer.

Roll Call; Terrence Gomes-Yes

Ken Blaker- Yes, Margarita Guzman- Yes, Noah Damsky- Yes, Baila Romm- Yes, Michael Lynn- Yes, Stuart Weiss- Yes, Jason Plummer- Yes, Eitan Gershov- Yes, Joseph Mollaie- Yes, Sandy Block- Yes, Mallory Smith- Yes, Laurie Levine- Yes.

12- yes-0- no -0- Abstain-3 Ineligible. Motion Passes.

Main Motion as Amended; approve of design, add QR code and funding up to \$1500.

Roll Call; Terrence Gomes-Yes

Ken Blaker- Yes, Margarita Guzman- Yes, Noah Damsky- Yes, Baila Romm- Yes, Michael Lynn- Yes, Stuart Weiss- Yes, Jason Plummer- Yes, Eitan Gershov- Yes, Joseph Mollaie- Yes, Sandy Block- Yes, Mallory Smith- Yes, Laurie Levine- Yes.

12- yes-0- no -0- Abstain-3 Ineligible. Motion Passes.

- g. Motion for the SORO NC to approve the design and fund up to \$1000 for the printing of 18" tall x 24" wide corrugated lawn signs and metal H-stakes (GB032025-12)

Moved by Sandy Block; Seconded by Joseph Mollaie

Joseph Mollaie asked if these banners would have city logos or QR codes.

Michael Lynn said these banners did not have city logos or QR codes.

Stuart Weiss asked if lawn signs used previously had QR codes.

Mallory Smith said the lawn signs more than anything else need the QR code.

**Amendment to add QR code to the lawn signs. Moved by Mallory Smith;
Seconded by Noah Damsky.
Stuart Weiss agreed that the QR code should be on the lawn signs.**

Roll Call; Terrence Gomes- Yes

**Ken Blaker- Yes, Margarita Guzman- Yes, Noah Damsky- Yes,
Baila Romm- Yes, Stuart Weiss- Yes, Jason Plummer- Yes,
Eitan Gershov- Yes, Joseph Mollaie- Yes, Sandy Block- Yes, Mallory Smith- Yes,
Laurie Levine- Yes.**

Michael Lynn- No.

11- yes- 1-no -0- Abstain-3 Ineligible. Amendment Passes.

**Main motion to approve the design while adding the QR code and fund up to
\$1000.**

Roll Call; Terrence Gomes- Yes

**Ken Blaker- Yes, Margarita Guzman- Yes, Noah Damsky- Yes,
Baila Romm- Yes, Stuart Weiss- Yes, Jason Plummer- Yes,
Eitan Gershov- Yes, Joseph Mollaie- Yes, Sandy Block- Yes, Mallory Smith- Yes,
Laurie Levine- Yes, Michael Lynn- Yes.**

12- yes- 0-no -0- Abstain-3 Ineligible. Motion Passes.

- h. Motion for the SORO NC to approve the design and fund up to \$1800 for the printing of 4" tall x 6" wide double-sided postcards and distribution to SORO Stakeholders (GB032025-13)

Moved by Laurie Levine; Seconded by Joseph Mollaie.

Michael Lynn said the City Logo was on this but no QR code.

Laurie Levine asked if the website was on the postcard.

Joseph Mollaie proposed an amendment to put the QR code on the Candidate side of the postcard.

Moved by Mallory Smith; Seconded by Noah Damsky.

Roll Call; Terrence Gomes- Yes

**Ken Blaker- Yes, Margarita Guzman- Yes, Noah Damsky- Yes, Baila Romm-
Yes, Stuart Weiss- Yes, Jason Plummer- Yes, Eitan Gershov- Yes, Joseph
Mollaie- Yes, Sandy Block- Yes, Mallory Smith- Yes, Laurie Levine- Yes,
Michael Lynn- Yes.**

12- yes- 0-no -0- Abstain-3 Ineligible. Amendment Passes.

Main motion to approve design adding QR code to the candidate side.

Roll Call; Terrence Gomes- Yes

**Ken Blaker- Yes, Margarita Guzman- Yes, Noah Damsky- Yes, Baila Romm-
Yes, Stuart Weiss- Yes, Jason Plummer- Yes, Eitan Gershov- Yes, Joseph
Mollaie- Yes, Sandy Block- Yes, Mallory Smith- Yes, Laurie Levine- Yes,
Michael Lynn- Yes.**

12- yes- 0-no -0- Abstain-3 Ineligible. Motion as amendment Passes.

12. Meeting adjourned at 9:12 by Michael Lynn