



General Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, December 21, 2023, 7:00pm

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

**Location: The Residence Inn, 1177 S Beverly Dr, Los Angeles, CA 90035- Meeting Room
(Street Parking or free Self-Parking on level C)**

1. **Call to Order 7:06**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance: Stuart Weiss lead**
3. **Roll Call: (Quorum met 14) Terrence Gomes, Baila Romm, Laurie Levine, Shirley Traum, Stuart Weiss, Michael Lynn, Mitch Cohen, Jason Plummer, Benji Karbon, Ken Blaker, Joseph Mollaie, Joel Weinberger, Daniel Ferszt, Avi Youshaei**

Absent: C. Hayes Blackwood, Sara Messel, Barry Levine, Jon Liberman, Marlene Katz

Sandy Block joined the meeting at 8:20 pm

4. **General Public Comment: None**
5. **Brief Board Announcements**
 - a. Board Retreat – March 17, 2024, at OBKLA Meeting begins at 9:15 am – 1:15 pm. The meeting will include a team-building exercise with a meal prep session led by OBKLA staff from 10 am -12 noon. Baila will send email to board to investigate date and time feasibility. Change the date for First Responders (FRAD) Appreciation Day 2024 to June 9, 2024 from 11 am – 2:00 pm
 - b. Items for General Board Agendas and other Brief Board Announcements: SORO Festival sponsored by Heather Hutt – June 2, 2024
6. **Community Reports**
 - a. LA Police Department (Baker/Ojeda) **Not present**
 - b. LA Fire Department- Battalion 18 **Not Present**
 - c. Office of Councilmember Hutt (Guevara) **Terrence Gomes gave presentation**
 - d. Office of Councilmember Yaroslavsky (Rodriguez) **shut down Pico Drill site.** Overtime for street lighting, Clean team, CNA Town Hall.
 - e. Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (Erving) Not Present
 - f. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (Andrews) Not Present

- g. Office of Mayor Bass (Ensley) Not Present
- h. Office of County Supervisor Horvath (Laflan) Not Present
- i. Office of State Assemblymember Bryan (Persoff) Not present
- j. Office of State Senator Smallwood-Cuevas (Vacant)
- k. Office of Congressman Kamlager-Dove (Riley) Not Present
- l. Other Neighborhood, City and State offices Kay Hartman – Budget Advocate gave presentation.

7. **Presentation-** Future of Fox Lot by Eric Komar and Vicki Curry of FOX Corporation- early stages of planning. Gave Presentation

8. **Board Membership- Selections, Removals, & Resignations**

- a. Announcement of the resignation of Briana Shepard from the SORO NC General Board (**At-Large Representative- Unfilled Organization Representative 1 is open for applications**)
- b. Motion to Appoint At-Large Representative (Unfilled Resident Zone 8 Representative - Term expires June 30, 2027) (**No Applicants**)
- c. Motion to Appoint At-Large Representative (Unfilled Business Representative 5- Term expires June 30, 2027 (**No Applicants**))
- d. Motion to Appoint At-Large Representative (Unfilled Organization Representative 3 - Term expires June 30, 2027) (**No Applicants**)
- e. Motion to Appoint At-Large Representative (Term expires June 30, 2025) (**No Applicants**)
- f. Motion to Appoint At-Large Representative (Unfilled Organization Representative 1 – Term expires June 30, 2027 (**No Applicants**))

9. **Committees, Liaisons and Alliances**

- a. Liaison and Alliance Representative Appointments (continue to next month)
 - I. Motion to appoint LADWP Representative (GB122123-01)
 - II. Motion to appoint LADWP Alternate Representative (GB122123-02)
 - III. Motion to appoint Budget Advocates Representative (1) (GB122123-03)
Postpone to next month
 - IV. Motion to appoint Homelessness Representative (GB122123-04)
Postpone to next month
- b. Committee, Liaisons and Alliance Reports
 - I. Standing and Ad-hoc Committees: Executive; Education; Land Use; Public Safety; Homelessness; Outreach; Transportation; Business Advocacy & Development; Parks and Recreation; Budget & Finance; Bylaws; Board Development;
 - II. Liaisons and Alliances: LANCC, WRAC, LADWP, Budget Advocates, City (Vanessa), Sustainability, District 37 Congressional Council, Homelessness: **Michael Lynn mentioned Vanessa Alvarado was the new City Attorney; with regards to recusal information. Her email address is vanessa.alvarado@lacity.org.**
- c. Opportunity to Join and/or Change Membership to Board Committees (GB122123-05) **Stuart Weiss join Outreach**

10. **Unfinished Business**

- a. None

11. Consent Agenda:

Public Comment: None

- a. Motion to approve October 19, 2023 General Board Meeting Draft Minutes (GB122123-06)
- b. Motion to approve October 2023 MERS Report (GB122123-07)
- c. Motion to approve November 2023 MERS Report (GB122123-08)
- d. Motion to approve the nomination of Michael Lynn as Chair of the SORO NC Outreach Committee (GB122123-09)
- e. Motion to approve the nomination of Jon Liberman as Vice-Chair of the SORO NC Outreach Committee (GB122123-10)
- f. Motion to approve the SORO NC Outreach Meeting Calendar for fiscal year 2023-24: 10/30/2023, 11/27/2023, 1/29/2024, 2/26/2024, 3/25/2024, 5/1/2024, 5/29/2024, 6/24/2024, 7/29/2024 (GB122123-11)
- g. Motion for the SORO NC to fund up to \$2000.00 for the purchase of SORO NC branded promotional items to give away to Stakeholders, including mugs, jellybeans, keychain flashlights, and safety whistles (GB122123-12)
- h. Motion for the SORO NC to fund up to \$750.00 for the purchase of 25 SORO NC polo shirts for Boardmembers (GB122123-13)
- i. Motion for the SORO NC to send a letter to the Zoning Administrator in support of the application for an alcohol license by Ocean Café/Bar, for 850sf unit at 1517-1521 S. Robertson Blvd. (GB122123-14)
- j. Motion for the SORO NC to host a Town Hall on personal and public safety with leading experts. Planning of content to be performed by an ad hoc committee made up of the following Board members: Joseph Mollaie, Jon Liberman, Stuart Weiss (GB122123-15)
- ~~k. Motion for the SORO NC to write a letter to CD 5 supporting the installation of an unprotected bike lane on Doheny Drive from Pico Blvd to Whitworth Drive to connect the Pico area to Burton Way for bicyclists, on the condition it does not remove parking or driving lanes. (GB122123-16) Removed by Terrence Gomes~~
- ~~l. Motion for the SORO NC to write a letter to request LA DOT, Metro, and Street Services provide input on projects, such as protected bike lanes, bus lanes and routes, and car lane expansion, as well as notification of all projects in the immediate future, such as resurfacing or street repairs, so the NC can notify stakeholders. (GB122123-17) Removed by Terrence Gomes~~

Moved: Terrence Gomes Second: Laurie Levine

Vote: 14 yes 0 no 0 abstain

Yes: Joel Weinberger, Baila Romm, Michael Lynn, Stuart Weiss, Terrence Gomes, Daniel Ferszt, Shirley Traum, Ken Blaker, Avi Youshaei, Jason Plummer, Laurie Levine, Mitch Cohen, Joseph Mollaie, Benji Karben

Consent Agenda Passes items a,b,c,d,e,f,g,h,i,j, only

12. New Business

- a. Motion for the SORO NC to elect to use teleconferencing pursuant to Cal. Gov. Code § 54953.8 and notify the city council based on the following justifications: 1) Increases public participation; 2) Solves location issues 3) enables board members with minor children to participate in all meetings 4) meeting location limitations 5) room capacity and meeting time limitations (GB122123-18)
Moved: Baila Romm Second: Laurie Levine
14 yes 0 no 0 abstain
Yes: Joel Weinberger, Baila Romm, Michael Lynn, Stuart Weiss, Terrence Gomes, Daniel Ferszt, Shirley Traum, Ken Blaker, Avi Youshaei, Jason Plummer, Laurie Levine, Mitch Cohen, Joseph Mollaie, Benji Karben
Motion passes

Sandy Block joined the meeting at 8:20 pm

- b. Motion for the SORO NC to send a letter to the Zoning Administrator in support of the demolition of a one-story former bank building and construction of a future school and house of religious study of approximately 9,000sf by Merkaz Hatorah Community Kollel at 9080 W. Pico Blvd. (corner of Pico Blvd. & Doheny Blvd) with 16 underground parking spaces (GB122123-19)
Moved: Baila Romm Second: Terrence Gomes
Public Comment: User-1 11. C- against, User -2 item 11c – against 11- b, User-3 – support Kollel, User-4- 11 b in support, User 4 – 11-c – against
Vote: 12 yes 0 no 3 abstain
Yes: Joel Weinberger, Baila Romm, Michael Lynn, Stuart Weiss, Daniel Ferszt, Shirley Traum, Ken Blaker, Avi Youshaei, Jason Plummer, Laurie Levine, Benji Karben
Abstain: Terrence Gomes, Sandy Block, Mitch Cohen
- c. Motion for the SORO NC to send a letter to the Zoning Administrator to support the demolition of two Single Family Residences on two abutting lots at 1904-1906 Preuss to construct 12 townhomes of approximately 2,400 sf each, including one low income, each with a two car garages (GB122123-20) Small lot subdivision – 12 units single family homes- Affordable unit – 1

- **Terrence Gomes - Recusal LA City Employee**

Substitute motion to write a letter to Zoning Administrator to oppose the demolition of two Single Family Residences on two abutting lots at 1904-1906 Preuss to construct 12 townhomes of approximately 2,400 sf each, including one low income, each with a two car garages (GB122123-20)

Moved: Michael Lynn Second: Daniel Ferszt

Public Comment: User 1-Shelly Y. not affordable housing. User 2: user 3 – Michael F. User 4- 31 new units on the block User 5: Parking, internet, driving limitations, User 6- Morry – parking, User 7- lose their view, lower property value, gray water use, quiet neighborhood, user 8- make money not help the housing crisis in LA. Maximize profit.

Vote: 12 yes 2 no 0 abstain 1 recusal

Yes: Laurie Levine, Shirley Traum, Stuart Weiss, Mitch Cohen, Benji Karben, Ken Blaker, Sandy Block, Joseph Mollaie, Daniel Ferszt, Baila Romm, Avi Youshaei, Michael Lynn,
Recusal: Terrence Gomes
No: Joel Weinberger, Jason Plummer

Substitute Motion Passes

All remaining agenda items carry over to January's General Board meeting under Unfinished Business:

- d. Motion for the SORO NC to send a Letter to CD 10, CD 5, and LADOT to support individual blocks that request the addition of Slow Streets (GB122123-21)
- e. Motion for the SORO NC to support a modified version of WRAC's Parking Space Replacement Request, where "prior utilization" is replaced with "future utilization." (GB122123-22)

Items removed form Consent Agenda

- 11. k Motion for the SORO NC to write a letter to CD 5 supporting the installation of an unprotected bike lane on Doheny Drive from Pico Blvd to Whitworth Drive to connect the Pico area to Burton Way for bicyclists, on the condition it does not remove parking or driving lanes. (GB122123-16)
- 11 L. Motion for the SORO NC to write a letter to request LA DOT, Metro, and Street Services provide input on projects, such as protected bike lanes, bus lanes and routes, and car lane expansion, as well as notification of all projects in the immediate future, such as resurfacing or street repairs, so the NC can notify stakeholders. (GB122123-17)

12. Adjournment 9:29