

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Studio City Neighborhood Council

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Date of NC Board Action: 04/19/2010

Type of NC Board Action: Against Proposal

Impact Information

Date: 04/13/2011

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 05-1853

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Brief Summary: The SCNC is opposed to the proposed ordinance repealing Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 62.104, thereby shifting responsibility for sidewalk repair to property owners. In 1974 the city adopted the aforementioned municipal code, recognizing the city's obligation to repair sidewalks damaged by trees planted by the city. The city should not renege on its responsibility.

Additional Information:

SCNC BOARD

Barbara Monahan Burke
Jeffrey Carter
Ezra Dweck
Victor Helo
Wayne Kartin
Remy Kessler
Ben Neumann
Richard Niederberg
Todd Royal
Lisa Sarkin
Gail Steinberg
Jeffrey Steinberg
Ron Taylor
Rita Villa
John T. Walker



BOARD MEETING FINAL MINUTES

Wednesday, May 19, 2010, 7:00pm
at
CBS Studio Center, MPR-9
4024 Radford, Studio City CA, 91604

PRESIDENT

Ben Neumann

VICE PRESIDENT

John T. Walker

TREASURER

Remy Kessler

SECRETARY

Gail Steinberg

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Lisa Sarkin

4024 Radford Ave.

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Studio City, CA 91604

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The public is requested to fill out a "Speaker 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 three 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.scnc.info); 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 Avenue Elementary School, 3909 Carpenter Avenue, 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. In compliance with Government Code section 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the Board in advance of a meeting, may be viewed at our website by clicking on the following link: www.scnc.info or at the scheduled meeting.. In addition, if you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, please contact office@scnc.info.

Agenda

1. Call to Order & Roll Call: Barbara Monahan Burke - present, Jeffrey Carter - present, Ezra Dweck - absent Victor Helo - present, Wayne Kartin - present, Remy Kessler - present, Richard Niederberg - present, Ben Neumann -present, Todd Royal - present, Lisa Sarkin - present, Jeffrey Steinberg - present, Gail Steinberg - present, Ron Taylor - present, John Walker - excused, Rita Villa - present. 13 voting members present. 7 votes required to pass a motion. 91 people present.
2. Comments by President. Ben Neumann welcomed everyone and announced that he will not speak another term as president if he is elected. He thanked the board for serving with him. He has served for 4 years. He acknowledged that volunteer positions difficult but rewarding. He said that we all do the best that we can. He also thanked those who regularly attend the board meetings. He stated that there are certificates of appreciation for the board members from the city of LA and he distributed them to the board members.
3. Discussion and vote on removal of Lisa Sarkin from the Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council based on petition received under SCNC Bylaws Article IX(I): **Ben Neumann** explained the process that would be followed. The Speaker for the petitioners was Scott Oulette - **Scott Oulette** said that he had not planned a presentation. He indicated that he wrote the petition and sought the signatures. He did this due to the RFA. He can't understand how the RFA could get to the point it did without the community knowing. He was disturbed because he felt his and others opposed to the RFA were not having their voices heard. He felt bad because he was giving this speech after the board getting certificates appreciation. He has met amazing people in this community. The people he met were those who do not have time to be involved but they are people who want to be involved and raise their families here. He explained his reason for point number 1 on the petition. He felt there were ethics issues due to using email of SCNC for SCRA issues. He felt all vetting was done by SCRA and that the SCNC did not do any independent vetting. He acknowledged that there were only 2 that spoke against the RFA and he felt people did not know about it. He believes that there is a requirement for the SCNC to be open and evenhanded in the distribution of information. We must have a respect for individual property rights. He felt that the first time there was real discrimination of the facts was when there was a

planning commission meeting. Additional meetings were required. Those at the workshops were 3 to 1 against. The third issues was the March 17th meeting. The letter was a response to a letter in the planning file. He felt that was disrespectful. There was an intolerance of dissent. All voices deserve to be heard. There should be a respect for individual property rights. He thanked Lisa Sarkin for the work she has done for the community.

Lisa Sarkin read her prepared statement.

Public Comment: **Karen Zimmerman** – Stated that she is a board member of Sunland Tujunga and is on their Land Use Chair and she is a member of the Valley Alliance. Her experiences working with Lisa Sarkin have been very positive. The NCs work together and Lisa Sarkin has reached out and connected people. It is hard to get knowledgeable to be involved. You can send out information but can't always get people to show up. **Marilyn White-Sedel** –She stated that she doesn't think many of those who brought this against Lisa know that Lisa picked her up at 7:40 AM for an 8:00 AM meeting downtown. Those who signed the petition will never do what Lisa Sarkin does for us and our community. She has saved us time and time again. She is presently working to get us money back from the DWP as we have been overcharges by being in zip code 91604. Lisa Sarkin works for us and she represents us 24/7. **Mildred Higgins** ----- Stated that she has lived here for 40 years and has raised 2 kids here. She became a member of the resident association. She worked on starting the Neighborhood Council and has started a neighborhood watch. Her lot is 6700 sq feet and she has a house that is the 2700. She has gone to all meetings and she is for reasonable growth. She stated that there have been many meetings. Please do not try to eliminate someone on the board just because they are against the RFA. **Patty Kirby** ----is here speaking on behalf of Lisa. She has worked with Lisa on many issues. Lisa Sarkin has done a fabulous job of communicating in a fair manner. **Laurie Chon** --- - She is speaking on behalf of Lisa. They have worked on many issues. She has fought development trying to maintain our community's scale and character. She supports Lisa Sarkin with her whole being. **John Pooley**---- This is a meeting of the neighborhood council. The RFA should be separate. There is nobody that cares more about our neighborhood than Lisa Sarkin. If you don't like Lisa Sarkin vote her out. But no one has done a better job. **Bill Harmond** – There are certain types of volunteers, some that show one time, some that show more than once and some that show up and work. Lisa has worked on many complex issues and he has the highest respect for her. **Michael DeLazzer** said that he doesn't get to come to many of these meeting. No one has done more for our city and the council than this woman. She is upstanding, works hard and he thinks the motion is ridiculous and urges the motion be dropped for the good of our City. **Ben Forat** --- Stated that he owns a house in Studio City and many businesses. He got rid of old hotels and hookers. He is not here in regards to the RFA. He was not notified so he is surprised. He stated that Lisa has lied and went to the Planning and said twice that the SCNC did not support him and that was a lie. **Ofer Bick** – Stated that he has been directly attacked by Lisa and one minute is not enough time to speak against her. He thinks it is absurd to answer the charges in one minute. He likened Lisa Sarkin to Nixon and said she has used corrupt methods. The SCNC is like a Mafia here because we will only give one minute to speak. Lisa has done character assassination to him. He met with board members and no one said we had done character assassination on him. How dare the board infringe on his rights. Lisa Sarkin can't dictate because she lives in a big house. Lisa has sent out miss information and lies. Lisa will lose 300 sq feet of buildable space and he will lose 1200 sq feet. He would like to go through the motion point by point. He spoke for over 3 minutes. **Karen Camp** – Stated that it is a disgrace and a shame that the petition has been brought. Whether you agree with Lisa or not and whether you love her dearly or not, Lisa has given us our voice and saved us from all the developers in our neighborhood who want to come in and leave. Lisa is an angle for us. She is sad and thanked Lisa for her the help she has given to her family and Lisa is wonderful and ethical. Lisa is a public hero. **Arlene Samek** stated that of all the people who have come on gone on the SCNC Lisa is the best. The people who set up this petition should be ashamed and all they want is money. **Ron Husmann** – Stated that he has lived here since 1976 and there has never been anyone who has carried the ball for our neighborhood like Lisa. She works day and night. He lives next to a monster house. We need to beat back those who want to develop giant hotels that overlook neighbor's yards. Why would anyone do this? **Stu Miller** – has been

around the NC and SCRA and worked with them. This is about the petition to remove her from the board. He can't understand how people did not know. It is because they did not have enough interest. It is a lie to suggest that efforts were not made at outreach. There is a small group of very loud individuals who are ignorant about the process. What about individual responsibility to inform themselves. He read email from Offer and it was full of lies. Please don't vote to remove Lisa. **Jane Drucker** has served as the Chair of grievance committee. It has been expanded to the board and it is on the same points. She thinks nothing should be done on this until the grievance report is issued and accepted. **Kris From** stated that if there ever was an issue that has been vetted before the community this is it. Most of the board campaigned on the RFA issue. Everyone should make the time to be involved. It was vetted by the SCRA over 5 or 6 years. **Charles Schultz** – Stated that he was one of the petitioners. He is not ignorant. He did not sign the petition because he is against the RFA. He feels that there was a lack of transparency. He stated that Lisa Sarkin has criticized Michael McCue and she accused him of derailing the RFA. We should all discuss the RFA openly and honestly. His intention is to live here for the next 40 years. He lives in a house that is 45% it could not be build under the RFA. The RFA process should have been properly vetted. The email from Lisa Sarkin to Michael McCue indicates prejudice. **Eddie Ziv** lived here since 1987. He does not care if Lisa stays or goes. The SCNC should make decisions on plants but not on his rights on his property. if he wants to live in an HOA he would have done so. **Madeline Kelley** ---- she must speak out 2 years ago she met Lliisa when her residence was effected by a land use issue. She is impressed by the passion of Lisa. She wants to live in Studio City because of Lisa. She tries to get others to come to the meetings. She has never seen these people here before. These people are like Henny Penny. **Ben DeBehedeto** stated that he did not just show up. This issue is about vetting. To call a 24 special meeting is a dereliction of duty. The key issue is the way it was done. That is why people are angry. The SCRA has done a good job in representing the City. The duty shifted to LUC of NC when NC was formed. When Golf course was vetted he called 2 special meetings and asked the BID for input. **Alli Spatto** got notice about a massive development. She knew about the meeting because she was at a meeting. **Stephem Cheodo** – Stated he has lived here for 16 years. He only comes when it is very important. He was shocked when Lisa said he was not entitled to an opinion and that he was ignorant. He thinks there should be an apology. He was offended. **Scott Oulette** said his standards must be too high because he spent many years in the police and never got in trouble for excessive use of force. Transparency can't begin and end at this meeting. There needs to be more consensus building. **Judy Price** – Stated that she is the Greater Valley Glen Planning and Land Use Chair. She corrected the gentleman who just spoke. People came and spoke in defense of Michael McCue. She stated that Lisa said to them that "you have not right to speak because you don't know Michael". She was not saying that they had no right to voice their opinion about the RFA.

Board Discussion:

Gail Steinberg said that she wanted to speak to the outreach that our community does. At every meeting that we have for the board and for all committees people are asked to put their addresses on the sign in sheet. There is not a budget for phone banks or mailing for these meetings. We try to reach out to the community. The SCNC gets emails that ask to be taken off the email list because we send too much email. Both the Studio City Chamber and the SCRA are very specific about what they will send out on their email list. She has personally distributed flyers because the SCNC could not afford to use Walking Man. It is wonderful to see all the people here tonight. She asked those present to please stay to the end of the meeting. **Ron Taylor** – He addressed the question of notice. He stated that there has been a flurry of emails about the notice. One of his emails sited many emails by the SCRA about this process. The flyers have landed on those interested and those not interested. People only get involved when they are personally impacted by something. Ron Husmann's precious property rights have been infringed upon because we do not have an RFA. Ron Taylor stated that he does not get what they are talking about when discussing conflict of interest. Lisa's personal interests have been damaged. She is not profiting by her actions. The figures of 3 to 1 show that the majority is in favor and not against the RFA. Many emails have come in that are in favor of the RFA and that are in favor of Lisa. They are from people who know her. With respect to the statement of Ben

DeBenititto, the golf course issue has gone on for much time after Ben left the SCNC. Mr. Bick has never been attacked personally. Ron apologized for a statement he made that may have been harsh. No one else has ever, beside Ben Farat, has said that Lisa lied. **Richard Niederberg** said someone is trying to shoot the messenger by attacking Lisa Sarkin. This is an advisory board only. Barbara Monahan Burke said that the 3 issues in the petition are not valid. Special meetings are allowed and it was held properly. Given the time constraints this happens sometimes. She believes that there should be civility and she thanked Ben Neumann for keeping it. To do with the particular proposal she was the chair of the overlay committee. Lisa has supported all open meetings and they flyer neighborhoods. She had done that herself in the neighborhoods that the complaints are coming from. When she started on the overlay process hundreds of people were asking for the overlay and RFA. **Jeff Carter** Stated that this is the second meeting in a row that there is a removal issue before our board. He believes that the bylaws and procedures are confusing and flawed. Given this and what Miss Drucker said he thinks that someone from the City Attorney's office should have been here tonight. He thinks we need to work on issues. He wishes that we could start over. Everyone should take a step back, withdraw the petition and discuss the RFA later. **Remy Kessler** said that he is a big fan of Lisa and will not repeat the innumerable favorable comments. The board's position and the LUC's positions have been clear. The entire board has done nothing wrong and she has done what could be done. He chaired the 3/17/10. The motion was provided to the stakeholders. He read the motion into the record and told people it was there. It was properly vetted. The board had already taken a position. All the board did that night was to address a letter that had gone out and did not change the board's position. **Todd Royal** stated that he and Lisa have had their battles but they have worked together. They disagreed about the Campbell Hall matter but when we address different matters you must remember that we are allowed to disagree. Being here and serving on the SCNC board has cost him a lot personally. It is important to be able to come to a consensus. We need to try to get along even if you hate someone's guts. Last month Lisa Sarkin made a presentation to the Transportation Committee which was very informative and helpful because of her in depth knowledge of the Specific Plan. Lisa explained how Studio City can get federal moneys. We can disagree but still have a nice friendship. **Rita Villa** reminded everyone that the grievance is against the board and the petition is against Lisa as an individual board member. **Ben Neumann** said that few people in this room have studied the bylaws, Brown Act and operating procedures the way he has had to do during his term as president. During the board meetings he puts his personal opinion on the back burner and listens to others. He has reviewed the petition several times. The issue for the board to consider is "were there any violations of the Brown Act?" He sees no violations of anything. He does not always agree with Lisa. He agrees that Lisa has done many good things but if she had stepped over the line he would not overlook it. He has reviewed the video of the meeting when Lisa made an outburst. It was not directed against an individual and it did not cross the line. This was not the first time but the third time that the RFA came up. **Ben Neumann** then called for a vote of no confidence. For - 0, Against- 10, Abstain 1. Vote did not carry. Motion failed. Note: Lisa Sarkin was not eligible to vote on this matter so only 12 board members voted.

4. Approval of April 21, 2010 SCNC Board meeting minutes. **Moved:** Richard Niederberg; **Second:** Todd Royal; **Vote:** For -11; Against-1, Abstain-0. **Motion carries.**
5. Public comments on non-agenda items within the Board's jurisdiction.
Todd Royal - reported that he is now a board member of the SCRA. If anyone has been involved in the Holiday parade in the past and would like to be again or for the first time please do so. We are in danger of not having the parade this year. If you can volunteer please contact Mark Batterman. He gave Mark's contact information, **Linda Cahlan Davis** --- Stated that there will be an election on May 27 in Beeman Park there are 29 candidates. The vote will be by self-affirmation. Candidates are listed on the web site. We are one of 11 Neighborhood Councils with an election on the 27th. **Marilyn White-Sedel** - Stated that she is glad that the other side is still here. She is the liaison to the 4 public schools in Studio City. She reported that each of the schools has gotten their donation from the SCNC this year. Carpenter got raised planting beds,

Rio Vista got books for their library and Colfax is waiting for the city to release money to the Treasurer, Remy Kessler so they can get their timpani. She further reported that the home hospital school at Rio Vista needs a computer. This will be her next effort. **Wayne Cole** – reported that there has been an application for expansion of a grooming business in addition to the business that is beyond what was allowed under the master plan and under the code for Ventura Blvd. They were turned down in 1997. Over 60 residents have said no. The dogs will be in the neighborhood defecating. The area is not set up to handle that type of business. There should be no variance. He is opposed to that expansion. **Charles Schultz** reiterated that Gail Steinberg made a plea for everyone to leave their email address. He suggested that the LA county bar email gives subscribers an option to get a summary email. You just get one email summary once a week. He said regardless we are to be willing to hear and listen to other sides of an issue. **Scott Ouellette** stated that he respects the decision of the board on item number 3. Good things can happen if we give each other respect. **Sue Taylor** stated that she wanted to made a request. She was looking for the agenda which was not on the website. She could not find it here and we should be more diligent in posting. **Benjamin Lupu** – reported on the Rotary Club program for a Studio City Music Festival to be hold August 7, 2010. It will be fabulous; \$45.20 will be the price of the ticket. Proceeds will benefit schools.

6. Response(s) to public comments by Board Members (15 min). **Victor Helo** stated that if the SCNC put aside \$5,000 for a school the Rotary Club will give \$300. **Richard Niederberg** stated that there was an oratorical contest by the Optimist Club. Students are being benefited by many groups not just one. **Jeff Carter** said that the Pet Co issue should be taken up by the next board. This issue is important.
7. Presentation by RFA opposition with respect to Studio City Residential Floor Area (CPC 2009-3740-RFA): **Scott Quellette** – No request had been made for audio visual equipment. Therefore he passed out the presentation material in paper format to the board and to the stakeholders present. He walked the board through the presentation.

Public Comment: Gus Duffy – stated he is against the RFA. **Karl Johnson** said that he has a foot in both camps. He has a 2000 sq ft. home. The issue is respect for property rights. You should consider the property rights of your neighbor as you pursue your rights. **Charles Schultz** said as he said earlier he is against the RFA. He believes we should consider how we got here. You should consider what you are doing. Neighbors should keep up their home. His fear is that RFA will result in less turn over. Property is selling for less than expected. The loss in value may be due to the RFA. It is going to be a concern for any young family. You are pushing out that demographic. In 1940 and 1950 home size was greater than average in Studio City. Now the RFA will impose a much smaller home. **Eddie Ziv** said the issue was brought to him recently. With respect to the RFA issue he asked: “Does this committee have right to say if he can build on his property?” He then threatened to bring a lawsuit against the SCNC. He feels that the SCNC has no right to do this. **Ofer Bick** – stated that proponents are seeking privacy but the RFA does very little to address privacy. The 33% will still let anti family older people have different needs. There are many people like him. That is why so many are against the RFA. They are not real estate brokers. Neighborhoods are not uniform. His lot is 50 by 125 and not the same size as Lisa’s. It is unfair to apply a uniform law. **Noel Yi** stated that she is a new homeowner. She is not ignorant and she was not told of the RFA. Her house is 800 sq feet but she will only be able to have a 1000 sq feet house. We need a better way to do this. **Susan Blau** said that she has been a real estate broker in Studio City for 32 years. She has sold hundreds of homes. She does not benefit if RFA is turned down. She believes that young family owners will be forced to move. She does not live in the RFA areas. She is here for the young families. People moved in to buy a small home and set roots and grow into their homes. People won’t raise a family in 2000 square feet. People want 3000 sq feet. Bottom line is Studio City is not a draw. You will have flight. **Sue Taylor** – stated that she is opposed to the RFA. She has been involved in a lot of meetings and one at CD2. In her opinion the general consensus was that there is no specific character in Studio City. On Bellingham there has been tremendous redevelopment. She believes that the

RFA will disenfranchise those who have not gotten to add to their homes. She does not think properties will be renovated. Three main issues are character, privacy and light. The RFA does not do anything about 2nd story houses. There are shadows in front and back yard because the houses face east and west. **Ron Husman** said that he has changed his thinking a bit about the RFA but that there must be some way to protect peoples housing using setbacks on high rise buildings. Living next to a monster house is a huge infringement on privacy. You should have a right to say you must put up something like trees to insure privacy. He now has a giant Tuscan villa next to his house towering over his property. There is another one across the street that looks like a hotel. These houses infringe on those of their neighbors. When he asked his neighbors to plant greenery, they laughed at him. He is disgusted. Their houses are too close together. He does not want to live in their house or to have them live in his house. He does not want a great big building, a 5,000 sq foot house towering over him. There is a way to do it. We should be able to restrict and make it possible for neighbors to have input. **Geroge Tawell** - said that he has been a resident of Studio City for 27 years. He is involved. He asked the board to reconsider some of the input we have been given. He believes this matter should be revisited. He agrees second stories are a problem. Many have apartments look into the back yards. He can go out and not up. He is an old family and needs to remodel and must get beyond the 1900 sq foot. We should talk about architectural design. **Ben Forat** -said that he just learned about the RFA. He does not think big houses are taking away privacy are right. Do not take away this right because of others. **Mark Haller** responded to size of Dilling houses and said they would be allowed under BMO.

Board Discussion: **Gail Steinberg** said that clearly this is a heated issue and it would have been great if this had come out al long time ago and there are great points being brought up. We have some neighbors that don't have money to mask what is going on next to them by planting expensive landscaping. CD2 has tried to get people to work together. The City gave us the BMO and then said each community has a right to change what we were given. Don't shoot the messenger. We are still working on it. Yes, you can put up trees. **Ron Taylor:** Thanked Scott for his presentation and said that it has furthered the debate. It is about those that are financially powerful and those that are not. The variance process is not costly unless there is conflict. The RFA will give people like Ron Husman the opportunity to have a chance to have a say in what is being built next to him. Many people who support the RFA have kids, many have families. He is aware that a house was sold at asking price to a young couple by Sue Blau. **Victor Helo** said there has been a lot of opposition and you should listen to everyone and not be closed minded. **Barbara Monahan Burke** said that part of the character of Studio City is the scale of Studio City and no one has been talking about that. To do with the RFA the reason there are not more people here tonight in favor of the RFA is that hundreds of people have already come out and voiced their opinion that they are in favor of it. That has to be taken into consideration. Those people think it has already been decided. **Remy Kessler** asked Scott questions on his presentation. The allegation is that the spearheading of the RFA opposition is by realtors and brokers that stand to make a profit. If it remains the way it is the developers come in, build bigger homes and leave. There are people that oppose the RFA that do stand to make a profit. **Rita Villa** stated that 68 percent of the residences in the proposed district that have sent any form of correspondence to the Planning Department are in favor of the RFA. **Victor Helo** said we should look again. Jeff Carter said agreed with Victor. **Barbara Monahan Burke** said she agree with Rita. 68% is a huge number and she should like the motions and votes to stand. **Ron Taylor** said to Jeff Carter and Victor Helo that their approaches to the opposition are interesting. His neighbor more than doubled the size of his house. The point is that in a fair and reasonable process neighbors and wealthy developers need to work their neighbors. The neighbors need to work together. **Richard Niederberg** said that the SCNC has no power to write or enforce an ordinance. We do not have the power. You are aiming your fire in the wrong direction. **Todd Royal** said that he has voted for the RFA. His reasons are different. As transportation chair he has heard all the problems about the infrastructure. There are a limited amount of resources, resources and space. He has, for 21 months, been dealing with infrastructure issues. The schools are overcrowded if you extend families more and more who replaces the old pipes and small streets. He was told by a fire chief that there is an "f" rating on

Laurel Canyon. The RFA is trying to find a happy medium. He is happy to hear about architecture but no one has addressed the infrastructure issues. **Richard Niederberg** said that he has met many nimbies but they are not on this board and he had heard input for 5 or 6 years. He does not make this up. **Ron Taylor** said there are a lot of conversations underway that could lead to adjustments. **STOPPED**

8. Report Treasurer: Remy Kessler.

- a) **MOTION: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council has reviewed and hereby approves the May 2010 Financial Statement as presented by the Treasurer.**

Report by Remy Kessler: The SCNC has money and it will be fine until the end of the year. All Neighborhood Councils, on a monthly basis, must review the financial statements. That has been done by the SNC since Michael .Klausmann was treasurer.

Ben Neumann read the motion. **Moved:** Remy Kessler; **Second:** Wayne Kartin; **Vote: For – 11; Against -0; Abstain -0; Unanimous** Note: one board member out of room.

9. Report Crime & Safety Committee: Josh Rubenstein's report was read by **Wayne Kartin**, a member of Crime and Safety Committee. They are currently putting together a CERT training class. He will lead it. They are also trying to put together a pancake breakfast for Station 78. The station personnel must buy everything not related to firefighting that is in the station. They need many things as this is a new station. They are looking for a treadmill. They are asking for a donation. LAPD has provided information about crime in vehicles. They have advised everyone not to leave anything visible in your car. There is no safety anywhere. There have been several rapes. If going out at night ladies should not go alone and should stay in lighted areas. The Crime and Safety committee needs active people. There are issues to be addressed in our community besides the RFA.
10. Report Cultural Affairs Committee: **Christine From** reported that this is a hard working committee. April Howard said library hours have been drastically reduced. Monday and Wednesday the library now closes at 6 PM. They will have a motion at the next meeting related to Studio City Beautification's request. She apologized to Bill Harmond, as they discussed the issue of the Pocket Park and sculpture garden and it will be on next agenda. They had report at their last meeting on the plight of WW2 vets. The Idle hour Café on Lankershim and Vineland is a barrel building. There are only 8 remaining buildings of this type. If you want to see this preserved contact her. The big upcoming event is the 75th anniversary of Republic Pictures. They are designing sponsorship levels. The Museum of SF Valley is helping. She needs to find out how to do this. They need volunteers. Lisa Sarkin advised that they get help by going through the budget committee. If you seek money you have to go to the Budget Committee. **Remy Kessler** noted that with the upcoming election everything may change by the next board meeting as to chairs
11. Report Outreach Committee: **Suzanne Ekerling** reported that the elections are coming up. That has been the primary function of the committee over the past several months. There was a candidates meeting here tonight. Candidates spoke about themselves. Outreach had a budget of 7,000 for candidate solicitation and election day outreach. They completed this effort about \$200 under budget. A card was mailed to address in Studio City. People should get this in their mailbox soon. All information is on the card. In addition the Region C councils have collaborated about getting the word out. Everyone designed and approved a full page add and on May 25th and 27th will be in the daily news. In addition, there will be a sponsorship box on the website. We have gotten the word out by postcards, flyers, and news paper adds. They have passed out flyers at the Studio City Farmers Market for last two weeks. They have also contacted neighborhood watch groups. The Rotary Club is getting the word out to their membership and we have reached out to other community groups as well. Please get the word out at as many places as you can. Although Suzanne will not serve as chair of the outreach committee next term, she is still here and will continue to volunteer. **Rita Villa** and **Ben Neumann** both thanked Suzanne and her committee for doing this thankless task. **Gail Steinberg** said one of the goals has been to collect emails. Their goal has been to get 1000 emails. Very few people either

signed in tonight or gave their email address. Please give us your email address so we can keep you informed.

12. Report Bylaws & Procedures Committee: **Ron Taylor** reported that the committee was extremely active in 2008 and 209. This is the trial run of stakeholders voting only in the category in which they are a member. We will go on the honor system and ask people to request only the proper ballot.

13. Report Land Use Committee: **Lisa Sarkin** reported on the questions and answers of Gail Goldberg and Bud Overland. The LUC minutes will be on line after next month's meeting. The DWP rates will change in the next 45 days. We have asked for a rebate. As letter from Building & Safety says that there was an error in the 91602 and 91604 zip codes. The T Mobile antenna hearing was postponed due to the appeal for two months. The Platinum Live building has no water so the building was condemned. The owner was allowed to serve a 3 day notice because of no water. **Gail Steinberg** asked if she is pursuing the rebate. All three of the council offices are trying to figure out how to do this. What about water rates for 91604, 02 and 07. These zip codes are in the moderate rate category. **Lisa Sarkin** stated that she has asked for a report. She knows that our average temperature is 85 degrees. She is waiting and no one seems to know what is taking place. She called the DWP 5 times and got different answers. The rebate will apply to both business and residential. Richard Niederberg asked for clarification about the reason for the three day notice at Platinum Live.

14. Report Transportation Committee: **Todd Royal** reported there may or may not be another meeting in June. He stated that he will not chair the committee in the future whether or not he is reelected. He thanked his committee. This is the second row in a month that 3 motions come out of this committee.

a) **MOTION: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council recommends that the Los Angeles Department of Transportation establish a Preferential Parking District (PPD) to include:**

- i) **Blue Canyon Drive from Ventura Boulevard moving south to Picturesque Drive;**
- ii) **Picturesque Drive from Blue Canyon Drive moving west to the dead-end;**
- iii) **Big Oak Drive from Ventura Boulevard moving south to the dead-end;**
- iv) **Barry Drive from Ventura Boulevard moving south to Sunshine Terrace.**

Ben Neumann read the motion.

Amendment: Moved: Todd Royal; **Second:** Rita Villa;

MOTION: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council recommends that the Los Angeles Department of Transportation establish a Preferential Parking District (PPD) from 10pm to 6 am 7 days a week to include:

- v) **Blue Canyon Drive from Ventura Boulevard moving south to Picturesque Drive;**
- vi) **Picturesque Drive from Blue Canyon Drive moving west to the dead-end;**
- vii) **Big Oak Drive from Ventura Boulevard moving south to the dead-end;**
- viii) **Berry Drive from Ventura Boulevard moving south to Sunshine Terrace.**

Ben Neumann read the amended motion. **Vote:** 12-0-0; **Motion Carries.**

Public Comment:

Fred Godlash stated that the R lounge creates many problems. He enumerated many of them. He has spoken to Senior Lead Officer Mike Lewis and it is a big problem. He has spoken to over 50 households. They have the majority support. 100% of Blue Canyon supports this. He wants partial not full preferential parking. **Gail Steinberg** asked why people signed no. Response by **Fred Godlash** "there are two car dealership owners." There are 48 signatures and only 2 "no's". **Lisa Sarkin** asked if this should say 10 PM to 6 AM 7 days a week?

Jeffrey Steinberg said he agrees that they should get the PPD but wanted to know where the cars will go. Spots are being added and the owner of the R lounge has two lots where the people can

park. They must just pay the valet. **Charles Schultz** asked if the owner had been given a time to respond. Response by **Fred Godlash** "the Owner of restaurant is 100% in favor of the PPD."

Question called: Vote: 8 2 1; Vote on Motion: Yes -8; No: 3; Abstain: 1

- b) **MOTION: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council recommends that the Los Angeles Department of Transportation remove the 2-hour parking restriction on Mound View Avenue between Maxwellton Road and Viewcrest Road.**

Ben Neumann read the motion.

Alex James stated that the 2 hour was in place due to the school. No 2 hour parking on surrounding streets. He keeps getting tickets to park in front of his house. He has had his car broken into three times when he has parked on surrounding streets. **Rita Villa** asked if they have considered the impact of Carpenter parents parking on their street. **Alex James** said yes. **Lisa Sarkin** asked if DOT has asked if that was more than 75%. **Remy Kessler** asked if they have the requisite number of homeowners signatures. **Alex James** stated that they have signatures for 18 of 20 houses. He has 90% of the street saying they want this done. **Barbara Monahan Burke** said that there is another school there as well, Bridges Academy. **Alex James** stated that his neighbors agree. **Vote: 12-0-0; Motion Carries.**

- c) **MOTION: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council opposes all commercial advertising within the Corridors of the Mulholland Scenic Parkway Specific Plan, as these are in opposition to both the spirit and intent of the Specific Plan and its Ordinance, specifically Ordinance 167,943, adopted May 13, 1992. We are specifically concerned about establishing a precedent for commercial advertising along the Mulholland Scenic Parkway, and therefore we request that CD2 Councilman Paul Krekorian direct the appropriate City department(s) to remove the advertising signs from the Metro bus stop #218 at the intersection of Laurel Canyon Boulevard and Mulholland Drive, located within the Mulholland Specific Plan Inner Corridor.**

Remy Kessler read the motion as **Ben Neumann** had left the room.

Public Comment: Alan Kishbaugh – Provided a handout and introduced himself as the chair of the Mulholland Scenic Plan Design Review Board. He reported that West Hollywood and Bellaire have passed the motion. It is their feeling that no commercial advertising should be allowed within the corridor. **Remy Kessler** asked if there was any problem with contracts. **Gail Steinberg** said that usually it is the advertising company that is responsible for where the signs are placed.

Ben Neumann returned to chair the meeting.

Alan Kishbaugh stated that this is known as street furniture and removing the one on Mulholland should not be an issue. **Lisa Sarkin** said she supports this and would like them to be removed from Ventura Blvd as well. **Victor Helo** asked what are the side effects of the commercial advertising? Response by **Alan Kishbaugh** was that there is no other advertising on Mulholland. He further stated that if civic advertising replaces the commercial advertising this is discrimination based on content. He would like it all to be gone. **Todd Royal** said it violates the spirit and intent of the specific plan and violates a specific ordinance. **Remy Kessler** made a friendly amendment.

MOTION: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council opposes all commercial and non commercial advertising within the Corridors of the Mulholland Scenic Parkway Specific Plan, as these are in opposition to both the spirit and intent of the Specific Plan and its Ordinance, specifically Ordinance 167,943, adopted May 13, 1992. We are specifically concerned about establishing a precedent for commercial and non commercial advertising along the Mulholland Scenic Parkway, and therefore we request that CD2 Councilman Paul Krekorian direct the appropriate City department(s) to remove the advertising signs from the Metro bus stop #218 at the intersection of Laurel Canyon Boulevard and Mulholland Drive, located within the Mulholland Specific Plan Inner Corridor. **Ben Neumann** read the amended motion.

Jeff Carter asked if that would include for sale signs. **Richard Niederberg** said when they fix the triangle will this be impacted. **Vote: 12-0-0; Motion Carries.**

15. Report Government Affairs Committee: **Barbara Monahan Burke** gave the report. She stated that at The Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils, Council member Paul Krekorian said he is concerned about the future of the Neighborhood Council system. He was successful in addressing the issue about the NC's budget. Now he is concerned about CDD including DONE within it. He is trying to move this issue out of the budget committee to the Education and Neighborhoods Committee. City Council voted to support that motion. It will be 45 days before this has to be resolved. She is happy that Paul Krekorian is the chair of Education and Neighborhood Committee. At the next meeting the Mayor's proposal will be presented to the committee. The Government Affairs Committee may need to ask for a special meeting to pass a motion on this issue so our voice will be heard. Regarding the DWP **Barbara Monahan Burk** said that she testified at the Energy and Environment Committee to do with the water pipe blow outs. Nothing had been done to rectify the complaints of the people who had damage as the result of those blow outs. We are the rate payers. We are the owners of the DWP, and these ratepayers deserve more than they have gotten and deserve better. Paul Koretz took this under advisement and will address these issues.

- a) **MOTION: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council opposes the baseline hillside ordinance unless the following revisions are made 1. NC's must be notified in the event of deviation discretionary actions and proposed variances by zoning administrators, 2. Provisions for the preservation of ridgelines are incorporated and 3. The provisions for the 20% bonus are eliminated.**

Public Comment: **Scott Olette** stated that he is opposed to this as it is the city's intent to make the city and flatlands equal. If you get the hillsides and flatlands together you will not get the RFA for the hillside. You may get an RFA in the flatlands. This motion does not do any good at all.

Board Discussion:

Richard Niederberg said that he is concerned about the 20% bonus being eliminated because you would be treating the same size of property differently. **Lisa Sarkin** said most of the hillsides have a good portion of their land as unusable. There has been very little opposition. **Remy Kessler** stated that he is concerned on various levels. Why didn't this go through the SCNC Land Use Committee? Has there been sufficient outreach? **Rita Villa** stated that this is coming from the City. This is for the ordinance not an RFA. There has been no outreach by the SCNC on this. **Lisa Sarkin** stated that this is an ordinance and should go through the Government Affairs Committee. If they want an RFA it goes through Land Use. **Remy Kessler** stated that there has been no outreach in his area. **Ron Taylor** said he is not sure there is a definite character in the hillsides. **Todd Royal** said there has been a huge amount of outreach from the City on this. A lot of what is in the baseline hillside ordinance was taken from our overlay. People were allowed to sign up on this and give their comments. If the residents are not aware of this Motion then refer it back to committee. **Richard Niederberg** said that he is only objecting to the third clause. **Lisa Sarkin** stated that if we table the motion we miss our opportunity to have a voice on this issue. **Jeff Carter** stated that he thinks the bigger danger is to make the same error again. We should flyer and vet more. Better to miss the chance than to have a problem. **Motion to return motion to Committee. Moved:** Todd Royal; **Second:** Rita Villa; **Vote: In Favor: 8; Opposed: 3; Abstain: 1. Motion returned to Committee.**

16. Presentation and motion to issue a letter to Councilmember Paul Krekorian with respect to opposing municipal code revisions dealing with sidewalk repairs: Rita Villa gave a report on the issue.

- a) **MOTION: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council authorizes the President of the SCNC to issue a letter, substantially in the form attached here, requesting that our councilman oppose the proposed revision to the municipal code that would transfer responsibility for repair of sidewalks from the City to the property owners.**
Ben Neumann read the motion. **Moved:** Rita Villa; **Second:** Todd Royal; **Vote: In Favor – 9; Opposed: 1; Abstain: 2. Motion Carries.**

17. Comments from Board Members on subject matters within the Board's jurisdiction. **Rita Villa** thanked the board for their service **Ben Neumann** thanked the board for their service.

18. Adjournment. **Moved:** Rita Villa; **Second:** Todd Royal; **Vote:** Unanimous. **Motion Carries.**



SCNC BOARD

Barbara Monahan Burke
Jeffrey Carter
Ezra Dweck
Victor Helo
Wayne Kartin
Remy Kessler
Michael McCue
Ben Neumann
Richard Niederberg
Todd Royal
Lisa Sarkin
Gail Steinberg
Jeffrey Steinberg
Ron Taylor
Rita C. Villa
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Ben Neumann
VICE PRESIDENT
John T. Walker

TREASURER
Remy Kessler

SECRETARY
Gail Steinberg

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY
Lisa Sarkin

May 31, 2010

Honorable Councilmember Paul Krekorian
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Send by Email and FAX

Re: Sidewalk Repair

Dear Councilmember Krekorian:

The SCNC is opposed to the proposed ordinance that would repeal Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 62.104, thereby shifting responsibility for sidewalk repair to the property owner. In 1974 the city adopted the aforementioned municipal code, recognizing the city's obligation to repair sidewalks damaged by trees planted by the city. Now, faced with fiscal shortfalls and concern over liability, the city is attempting to renege on its responsibility with little or no notice to the citizens of Los Angeles.

The issue of sidewalk repair is not new. It has been discussed and debated within the council for several years. In fact, last year the Public Works Committee passed a motion instructing the Bureau of Street Services (BSS) to conduct a citywide outreach. However, the SCNC did not receive notice that such outreach has taken place. Most stakeholders are unaware the City is considering this action.

The proposal before you places the legal responsibility on the property owner without outreach to the community as required by the directive to BSS. Before shifting the responsibility to the property owner, the City of Los Angeles MUST:

- Demand that the BSS conduct a comprehensive outreach effort to ALL Neighborhood Councils in each of the seven City Planning areas. If they listen to Neighborhood Councils, they will most likely discover a sincere willingness to seek and share solutions to this "quality of life" issue;
- Conduct an analysis to determine insurance liability and insurance affordability as both insurance questions relate to property owners and the City alike.

SCNC (cont.)

As you know, the city has a responsibility to conduct public outreach before adopting an ordinance that will radically shift financial responsibility for sidewalk repair from the City to the property owners. Please vote no on the proposed ordinance.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely yours,



Ben R. Neumann, President
Studio City Neighborhood Council

Cc: CD2 Staff, Councilmember LaBonge, Councilmember Koretz

BRN/Is

