

Contact Information

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Date of NC Board Action: 07/15/2009

Type of NC Board Action: For Proposal

Impact Information

Date: 09/11/2011

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 08-2332

Agenda Date: 09-13-2011

Item Number: 6

Brief Summary: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council supports the Studio City Residential Floor Area (RFA) District as presented by the City Planning Department.

Additional Information:

## SCNC BOARD

Barbara Monahan Burke  
Ezra Dweck  
Victor Helo  
Remy Kessler  
Michael McCue  
Ben Neumann  
Richard Niederberg  
Todd Royal  
Lisa Sarkin  
Jeremy Schwarz  
Gail Steinberg  
Ron Taylor  
Rita Villa  
John T. Walker



# BOARD MEETING FINAL MINUTES

**Wednesday, July 15, 2009, 7:00pm**  
at  
**CBS Studio Center, Building 8, MPR-3,  
4024 Radford, Studio City CA, 91604**

## PRESIDENT

Ben Neumann

## VICE PRESIDENT

John T. Walker

## TREASURER

Remy Kessler

## SECRETARY

Gail Steinberg

## CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Lisa Sarkin

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## Agenda

1. Call to Order 7:00 PM. Roll Call: Victor Helo-present, Remy Kessler-present, Michael McCue - present, Ben Neumann - present, Richard Niederberg - present, Todd Royal- present, Gail Steinberg - present, Ron Taylor - present, John T. Walker-present. Lisa Sarkin -present, Rita Villa - present, Jeffrey Steinberg - present, Barbara Monahan Burke -present, 12 present a quorum is achieved. 7 "yes" votes required to pass a motion. Ezra Dweck -arrived at 7:30 now 13 members present no change in number required to pass a motion.
2. Approval of May 20 and June 17, 2009 SCNC Board meeting minutes And July 17, 2009 special SCNC Board meeting minutes. **Moved:** Richard Neiderberg; **Second:** Lisa Sarkin, **Vote:** Motion passes 11-0-1.
3. Comments by President. **Ben Neumann** reported that the former youth member resigned and Ben has nominated Jeffrey Steinberg. He will be voted in at the next meeting.
4. Public Comments on non-agenda items within the Board's jurisdiction. **Barry Johnson** - A tale of two medians. Gail Steinberg is spearheading the construction of a median on Tujunga Blvd (the good median). The bad median on Ventura Blvd at Colfax. Has now gotten money from the PRB to reimburse it for costs incurred in that median's construction. **Richard Neiderberg** on Sept 12, 2009 on the CBS lot the ovarian cancer run sponsored by the Optimists Club of Studio City will take place. **Mark Batterman** - wanted to acknowledge what Michael Klausman and CBS does for our Community. **Lauren Salman** - volunteer for Christene ESSEL for CD 2 gave the website [www.essel09.com](http://www.essel09.com). **Lisa Caham Davis** - Supports the separation of the committees Environmental and Cultural Affairs as it will improve efficiency. **Victor Helo** - President of Rotary Club is organizing a blood drive on September 15, 2009. Please participate. **Michael McCue** - Reported on the recent successes of grassroots activists in the last year. He announced the he is running for CD2. His political committee is now accepting contributions. He is a green party candidate so takes no corporate contributions. He asked for the support of the Board and Stakeholders.

5. Response(s) to public comments by Board Members. **Lisa Sarkin** asked where the blood drive would take place. **Michael McCue** stated that his research indicated that the median contribution by the SCNC was conditional on their compliance with the conditions be SCNC board imposed. **Lisa Sarkin** stated that the Ventura Street Scape was overruled by the Bureau of Engineering and by the Department of Transportation. The PRB is contributing \$33,000 from specific street improvement funds of \$50,000. **Gail Steinberg** reported on the progress of the Tujunga median and stated that she had gotten civil engineering plans donated for this median. She indicated that she does not believe that the BID should have received funds from the Street Improvement Funds. **Richard Neiderberg** indicated that BIDs should be supported and receive reimbursement for all that they spend to improve the area
6. Report Treasurer: **Remy Kessler** provided a report of all expenditures from last year - committed funds are \$29,000, and the rollover amount is only \$2,603. He read a thank you letter for funds given to the Carpenter Avenue School for their garden. **Michael McCue** asked where the funds for the video were shown and **Remy Kessler** explained it to him.  
**Public Comment:**  
**Barry Johnson** asked if the BID had sent the SCNC a thank you note. He also wondered why the SCNC spent so much of its budget on the median.
7. Report Budget Committee: John T. Walker (5 min).
  - a) **Motion: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council approves a funding request from the Studio City Beautification Association (SCBA) to fund \$4,500 towards the maintenance of trees and landscaping under the jurisdiction of the SCBA including, but not limited to, the trees on Ventura Blvd., the welcoming signs on Laurel Canyon and Coldwater, and the Studio City Library.**  
**Public Comment:**  
**Barry Johnson** asked what the timeframe is for the maintenance and requested that the timeframe be included in the motion.  
**Ron Taylor** asked which year this would go into. **Remy Kessler** responded that it would be about 10% of our budget for the 2020 year. **Lisa Sarkin** asked what the total cost of maintenance will be. **Bill Harmond** responded that it was about 23,000 for next year and stated that the costs will increase in the future because of the number of new projects added this year. **Mark Batterman** acknowledged that the Beautification Committee does good things for our community.  
**Vote:** Motion passes 11-1-1.
  - b) **Motion: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council approves and adopts the following allocation of funds to the following SCNC committees for the 2009-2010 fiscal year (FYE 2010) – in accordance with the SCNC bylaws and within the guidelines set forth by the City of Los Angeles and the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment: The Outreach Committee: \$5,000, The Land Use Committee: \$2,000, The Environmental and Cultural Affairs Committee: \$500, The Transportation Committee: \$500, The Government Affairs Committee: \$500, The Crime and Safety Committee: \$500.**  
**John Walker** indicated that these are starter funds to improve the accounting for funds expended by the SCNC. **Lisa Sarkin** asked that she be advised when something is charged to her committee. **Remy Kessler** and **John Walker** both responded that she should be sent a copy of the invoice and she should know what is being charged before the item is ordered. **Richard Neiderberg** said that the chairs should be given a copy of the invoice so that the chairs will be sure that the charge was proper. **Ben Neumann** said that information is on the Treasurer's report and that is where this information is recorded and it should serve as the basis for review. This will be covered further at the chair orientation.  
**Vote:** Motion passes 12-0-1.
8. Report Environmental & Cultural Affairs Committee: Michael McCue (20 min).

- a) **Motion: The Environmental and Cultural Affairs Committee directs that the President of the Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council establish a separate standing committee to deal with Cultural Affairs issues in Studio City.**

**Michael McCue** reported that the establishment of a standing committee is the prerogative of the President. **Ben Neumann** responded that he believes the board should vote on this.

**Michael McCue** indicated that he is very much in favor of this motion.

**Public Comment:**

**Kris From** – gave an update on Survey LA and stated that a handbook is being prepared.

**Richard Neiderberg** strongly advocates the separation of these committees. **Lisa Sarkin** indicated that Kris will make a great chair as Kris was responsible for History Tour and that was very successful.

**Vote:** Motion passes 12-1-0.

- b) **Motion: The SCNC Board supports the immediate implementation of the recommendations marked 'urgent' and 'necessary' made by the City Controller's Audit of City Passenger Vehicles and Fuel Usage (w/attached Daily news article re: \$250,000 fuel alleged fuel theft by a Street Services employee).**

**Furthermore, beyond the audit's findings and conclusions, we additionally recommend that to save costs, adhere to our laws and city codes, offset the city's budget deficit, maximize our investment, and improve the city's reputation for common-sense efficiency, we urge the Mayor and Los Angeles City Council to establish new policy that...**

**(a)...requires the Municipal Improvement Corporation of Los Angeles (MICLA) to purchase only fuel-efficient vehicles (with a minimum 30+ mpg rating) for any and all future acquisitions of sedan-sized vehicles for the Executive Fleet (for elected City officials) Motor Pool, and/or Departmental assigned vehicles...**

**(b)....establishes a Vehicle Utilization Standard (VUS) policy for all departments, Motor Pool, and Executive Fleet with the goal of reducing the number of underused vehicles in the fleet.**

**Michael McCue** gave background on the audit that gave rise to the motion.

**Public Comment:**

**Barry Johnson** stated that Michael had spoken about the illegal use of fuel. Barry feels that the legal use of the vehicles should also be addressed. City employees should not be allowed to take their cars home for personal transportation. **Michael McCue** responded that one of the recommendations in the audit was to insure that proper approval forms should be completed for home garaging of vehicles. **Richard Neiderberg** indicated that natural gas vehicles are efficient but that the hydrogen powered vehicles used by the City are not efficient due to the manner of their refueling. **Barbara Monahan Burke** reported that she attends as many as 4 meetings a day at times and with that type of schedule she would not want to have to go back to downtown to take the car back at the end of the day. She does not support this motion as it would be a burden on the city employees. **Michael McCue** stated that home garaging needs the proper approval. **Ron Taylor** stated that there needs to be oversight and standards on the use of vehicles. Many corporations give auto allowances and he does not believe that we should make a motion like this.

**Remy Kessler** asked where this motion was going. **Michael McCue** responded that this list was extensive and it has been provided to John Walker already. He stated that this is only for sedans. **Vote:** Motion passes 7-4-2

9. Report Outreach Committee: **Suzanne Ekerling** reported on the activities of the outreach committees. The SNCN sponsored a booth at the July 4<sup>th</sup> event. It was lovely and she thanked those that came and volunteered to man the booth. We got quite a few names and addresses of people who want to receive our information. We gave out fans and the extras will be given away at the farmer's markets. The Oasis project banner prototype was shown. She indicated that Todd Royal gave a presentation on what the Transportation committee

was doing and how the Outreach and Transportation Committees can work together on the Tujunga median. Outreach is working on an up-to-date community groups list. The webmaster came to the meeting to address updating the website. She asked stakeholders to provide comments on what they would like to see on the site. She wants to add a community events calendar to the site. The outreach plan is still in process and should be presented to the SCNC Board in August. **Susanne Ekerling** also thanked Victor for inviting her to the Rotary Club lunch on July 14, 2009. **John Walker** thanked Susann for the efforts she has made to lead this committee. **Todd Royal** said he believes in tangible results so we should do more projects such as the Tujunga median. He suggested that we should establish a 5013c so contributions can be received. **Susann Ekerling** responded that DONE has said the SCNC can't do this. **Michael McCue** stated that we should have host/ambassadors for our meetings to help people to find the meetings and make them more accessible. **Susann Ekerling** stated that we need to discuss this and make recommendations to the board. The next Outreach Committee meeting is scheduled for 8/10/09 at 6:00 PM.

10. Report Land Use Committee: **Lisa Sarkin** gave a land use report. She stated (i) she is now on the PRB and she is working with the accounting that they received and that it appears to contain errors; (ii) She reported that the LUC is working with a group of homeowners from Gentry whose Zoning request has languished for over a year; (iii) Councilman Zine has been appointed to the Planning and Land Use Management Committee (PLUM); (iv) a Pharmacy needs variance to enclose a small portion of their property. Further, Walgreens representatives are here to report on their proposed development at Vineland and Ventura. (v) the Studio City RFA is a proposed reduction in the size of what is allowed under the mantionization ordinance. (vi) the Time Square development was deferred as the applicant could not answer the design advisory committee questionnaire.

a) **Motion: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council supports the building of a new Walgreens Drugstore [DIR-2009-1340-DI-SPP] located at 11000 Ventura Blvd. Studio City as submitted to the City Planning Department. We support the dedication on Ventura Blvd. without improvement of the roadway. We support the dedication on Vineland Avenue with the improvement of the roadway continuing to the alley south of Ventura Blvd.**

**Public Comment:**

**Barry Johnson** – he believes that we need to attend the hearing to be sure that only the cutouts we want are approved.

**Elaine Floss** – indicated that she is happy that Walgreens is coming as it will improve competition. We should be happy to have them.

**Richard Neiderberg** reported that he is satisfied with what they want.

**Remy Kessler** indicated that he believes that the motion is ambiguous.

**Ben Neumann** indicated that Remy Kessler should make an amendment.

**The engineer representing Walgreens** explained the difference between the dedication and actually widening the street. **John Walker** asked for further clarification. **The Walgreens representative** indicated that Vineland would be widened only on Vineland. **Todd Royal** asked when building would commence. **The Walgreens' representative** stated they hope to be open in a year.

**Vote:** Motion passes 11-0-2

b) **Motion: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council supports the Studio City Residential Floor Area (RFA) District as presented by the City Planning Department.**

**Public Comment:**

**Barry Johnson** indicated that we have a hand out from the planning department on this.

**Mark Batterman** acknowledged that the community has been working very diligently on this for over 5 years. He believes that there is strong community support and he is in favor of it.

**Todd Royal** indicated that he had attended the LUC meeting and it was a tough issue and Lisa Sarkin did a good job. He supports it. **Richard Neiderberg** stated he supports this and we should get hillside next. **Ron Taylor** stated that this will prevent the type of development at the corner of Colfax and /Chiquita

**Vote:** Motion passes 12-0-1

- c) **Motion: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council supports the enclosure of the existing portion of the building [DIR-2009-1683-SPP] located at 11914 Ventura Blvd., Studio City.**

**Vote 13-0-0 motion passes**

- 11. Report Transportation Committee: **Todd Royal** reported that speed limits have been increasing and Richard Neiderberg has brought this to the committee. The Mayor is going to try to get 8 measure R projects done in his next term including extending the Greenline into LAX. City Council has authorized the purchase of a piece of property to enable that project to be completed. Transportation funds cannot be raided by the state.

**Motion: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council recommends that the Los Angeles Dept of Transportation extend Preferential Parking District 81 to include Klump Ave. between Valley Spring Lane and Woodbridge Park. The parking restrictions should be a 2 hour maximum parking from 8am-9pm and Permit only parking from 9pm to 8am.**

**Public Comment:**

**Martha Stevens** – spoke in support of the motion and gave the background of the issue/history of her street. A detailed handout on this was provided.

**Connie Czerwinski** lives on Klump and indicated that over the years the traffic problem has increased. She usually would not support preferential parking but this is absolutely needed.

**Bill Scharch** has lived on Klump for 34 years. He says it is so different now because of the changes in the parking restrictions on the surrounding streets. He cannot put out his trash cans. He asked for our support.

**David Nash** has lived on Klump for 15 years. Because of parking restrictions on surrounding streets all the cars are parking on Klump. Therefore, they now need preferred parking on Klump. There are also cars that get dumped on Klump. He indicated that he supports this motion. **Richard Neiderberg** stated that parking districts push the problems to the next street. **Ezra Dweck** asked how the preferred parking system works. **Ron Taylor** stated that he is not inclined to support preferred parking districts in general but the issues here are different and we need to support this. The proposed time limit will protect the park users enabling them to continue to use the park. **John Walker** asked if DOT has been given anything on this issue.

**Todd Royal** responded that some things have been done but DOT now needs to be involved. **John Walker** asked if this is an area that is being pushed because of the domino effect of restricted parking on neighboring streets. **Todd Royal** responded that the real issue is the crime issue. **Lisa Sarkin** stated this is the easiest way to get this done and it is the only way to get this done. **Gail Steinberg** indicated that she empathizes with these people. Everyone in Studio City has 3 or 4 cars. You need 6 consecutive blocks to get permit parking. She supports this motion.

**Vote:** Motion passes 13-0-0

**Lisa Sarkin asked** Todd Royal if the Valley will get any measure R money. **Todd Royal** responded that the Mayor is no longer the chairman of the Metro Board and he expects that they will now be giving more emphasis to the San Gabriel Valley and that the information we were given by Councilwoman Greuel's staff was inaccurate as it related to Valley projects from measure R.

- 12. Report Bylaws & Procedures Committee: **Ron Taylor** reported that Barbara Monahan Burke had gotten us moved into the Valley for voting May 22, 2010. He also stated that he has a polling place suggestion form. He thinks we should continue to use Walter Reed due to proximity of parking. He would like the board to support this. Ron Taylor was excused at 9:10 PM.

13. Report Government Affairs Committee: Barbara Monahan Burke / Rita Villa. **Barbara Monahan Burke** reported that she attended a meeting with assembly persons Fran Pavley and Ted Lieu where she personally made a presentation on the LA RIO. **Barbara Monahan Burke** reported that she is now on a state task force to protect the river and its watershed. The San Fernando Valley was not getting sufficient support for protecting the LA River from the City so these state assembly people have decided that they will focus on this issue. **Barbara Monahan Burke** also reported that the historical designation on a building will no longer automatically apply to the building's interior. She indicated that she believes that the interiors should be protected as well as the exteriors. The Planning Commission is going to look into this further and she stated that the Cultural Affairs Committee should follow this issue. At the CPC last Thursday, the City Attorney asked that the proposal for the convention signage be continued for two weeks. The City Council did not vote to continue this matter. This matter came up in the City Council today and the City Attorney let it be known that the City Attorney does not intend to automatically defer to the PLUM commissioners. Barbara Monahan Burke indicated that she is still active in advocating the enforcement of the intent of the Charter with respect to the advisory capacity of the neighborhood councils.

**Public Comment:**

**Jeffrey Steinberg** stated the he agrees that we must keep up the interior as well as the exterior of the buildings. **John Walker** thanked Barbara Monahan Burke for her attentive work. He has his own reading on the changes on the council but with respect to being an advisory board beyond the City he is not sure where this is going. **Barbara Monahan Burke** responded that upon close reading of the charter and reference to the 912 Commission, we are not being given the full opportunity to give input that we should have as neighborhood councils. She further indicated that she serves on the state task force because the State assembly persons are asking for our input. **Lisa Sarkin** stated that the new City attorney is going to look at things in a very different way. **Richard Neiderberg** stated that he believes you have to protect the interiors. **Barbara Monahan Burke** said the CPC will meet in a week and a half so if you believe that interiors should be protected go to the meeting. **Richard Neiderberg** stated that furniture should also be protected.

- a) **Motion: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council requests that the Mayor make an appointment to fill the vacant seat on the Ethics Commission.**  
**Vote:** Motion passes 12-0-0
  
- b) **Motion: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council requests that the City Council and the DWP establish an independent Rate-Payer's Advocate that will be given unfettered access to the records of the DWP to restore the faith and confidence in the governance and oversight of the DWP and to provide Rate Payers and the City Council with a better understanding of the affairs of the DWP.**

**Board Discussion:**

**Lisa Sarkin** and **Michael McCue** indicated we need this desperately. **Remy Kessler** stated that he supports this but recommends we change "restore" to "maintain"

**Vote: Motion to make the change in wording fails 5-6-1**

**Todd Royal** explained why he opposes this. He wants to open up the union's records. **Michael McCue** indicated that he understands Todd's sentiment but he believes we need the advocate to be established first. **Richard Neiberberg** stated that the incremental payer rate is huge.

**Vote:** Motion passes 11-1-0

14. Comments from Board Members on subject matters within the Board's jurisdiction. **Michael McCue** asked that the chair roster be revised. He indicated that the SCNC should host a debate for the candidates for the special CD2 election. He also stated that the Carmen Trutanich article was great. **Todd Royal** apologized for his comments at a prior meeting about committee chairs. He did not believe they were taken as he meant them. So he

apologized. **Lisa Sarkin** asked us to do something about the lack of a caretaker list. We were not informed as to who would be conducting business or CD2 until a new councilmember is elected. **Gail Steinberg** stated that there is often not enforcement of the preferred parking. **Richard Neiderberg** stated that we are hitting a speed limit issue. Limits can be moved much higher than the engineering would indicate. The Tujunga NC is still fighting to preserve their Verdugo Golf Course. He indicated that we need to continue to support them.

15. Adjournment 9:35 PM. **Moved:** Michael McCue; **Second:** Todd Royal;  
**Vote:** Motion Passed 12-0-0

