

Dear Honorable Council Members:

I am writing on behalf of the Studio City Neighborhood Council.

The idea of taking away 20% of our already slashed budgets is absurd! We all know there are other departments and other monies available. This does nothing but weaken the ability of Neighborhood Councils to do the job and fulfill the responsibilities we have been chartered with.

Not only would we like to see no cuts, we would like to see our budgets fully restored to \$50,000. Person for person, our City gets more hours and more productivity from Neighborhood Councils (for free) than any other department within City Hall.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

John Walker
President, SCNC

SCNC BOARD

Lisa Cahan Davis
Jane Drucker
Remy Kessler
John Lawler
Richard Niederberg
Scott Ouellette
Shoshana Raphael
Lisa Sarkin
Lana Shackelford
Gail Steinberg
Ron Taylor
Pasha Vafae
Rita C. Villa
John T. Walker
Denise Welvang



BOARD MEETING DRAFT MINUTES

Wednesday, March 20, 2013

Light Buffet 6:30pm

Meeting 7:00pm

at

**CBS Studio Center, Building 8, MPR-3,
4024 Radford, Studio City CA, 91604**

PRESIDENT

John T. Walker

VICE PRESIDENT

Lisa Sarkin

TREASURER

Remy Kessler

SECRETARY

Rita C. Villa

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Jane Drucker

4024 Radford Ave.
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Studio City, CA 91604
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The public is requested to fill out a "Comment 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 two 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.studiocitync.org); 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 Community Charter 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.studiocitync.org 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@studiocitync.org.

1. Call to Order & Roll Call . Lisa Cahan Davis - present, Jane Drucker - present, Remy Kessler - present, John Lawler - excused; Richard Niederberg - present, Scott Ouellette - present; Shoshana Raphael - present, Lisa Sarkin -excused, Lana Shackelford - present, Gail Steinberg - present, Ron Taylor - will be late, Rita Villa - present, John Walker - present, Pasha Vafae - excused, Denise Welvang - present. 11 voting members; 6 to pass a motion; 48 stakeholders present.
2. Approval of February 20, 2013 Board Minutes. **Approved** in the absence of objection.
3. Comments by the President. John Walker stated that the Neighborhood Council's fight only with the voices of its stakeholders. The budget is being addressed presently. The SCNC has two budget advocates here tonight Brandon Pender and Scott Ouellette. John Walker stated that he wrote a letter asking for our budget to be restored to the pre-cut amount of \$50,000. The NC's work for free. We fight to maintain our quality of life as a suburban area and not be just part of a giant urban Los Angeles. We want Studio City to be livable and we are striving to keep it that way. He has met with people on the Council staff regarding the PRB money. We have a PRB committee that is meeting once every other month. He is asking for accountability of the \$8.6 million that was in the in the street fund that is now down to \$6.2 million. Two accountants will be at the next PRB meeting to address what has happened to the funds. The money is designated to be spent on the specific plan area. He thinks the Specific Plan needs to be re-written as it has many items in it that are open to interpretation
4. Public Comments on non-agenda items within the Board's jurisdiction. **Barry Johnson** said he went to the budget hearing on Monday night and said that the money spent on NC's is the best spent money by the City. **Richard Adams** said the NC;s are effective. The city that has money for bike lanes but not for fixing the roads. Bikes should have fees and licenses as they should pull their own weight or get out of the ways of the cars. **Gary (Stakeholder no last name provided)** stated that people find money for what the city wants. The city is telling the nc's what they think of us by being willing to cut our budget. The bike issue is complicated. Teamsters

were organized trying to get the bikes to pay their fair shares and the teamsters had horses that were paying their fair share.

5. Responses to comments from the Board. **NONE**
6. Updates from CD2 by **Geoffrey Yazzetta**. **Geoffrey Yazzetta** stated that the Councilman has again reallocated \$250,000 for weekend work. Let him know if there are projects to be addressed. With respect to the bike lane, Damian Carol is putting together a working group if we want to take part let them know. The ideas that emerge from there will go to a larger community meeting. The Coldwater Canyon closure is due to a trunkline replacement. They need to take the old pipe out of service which will result in a closure from March 23 to April 25th. Monday through Friday 8:30am to 7:00pm and on Saturday from 8:00am to 6:00pm. He suggests that everyone add half an hour to your planned commute time. Lauren Canyon, Beverly Glen and other streets will be more crowded. There are flyers on the table on the back related to the closure. The City is asking for patience. **John Walker** asked about the committee for the bike lanes. Who will make the decision and how will the public hear about this. **Geoffrey Yazzetta** said that street services are trying to be sure that no other unnecessary projects go on during the time of the closure. **Barry Johnson** said the bike lane working group should not be just people from the bike lane coalition. **Marilyn White Siddel** asked if the 218 bus schedule has been revised. Post master has been asked if someone has coordinated the mail delivery.
7. Special Presentation to Mr. Larry Orr, retired Studio City Postal worker by **John Walker and Geoffrey Yazzetta**. **John Walker** gave background and said his granddaughter though Mr. Orr was Santa Clause. **Geoffrey Yazzetta** read the certificate of appreciation. **Mr. Orr** stated that he is overwhelmed by this. He said the NC has done more for him than anyone else. He felt he had to retire as it had become a stressful working environment. He will miss us.
8. Re-instatement of the Public Safety Committee and the appointment of Brandon Pender as Chair. **John Walker** introduced the new Public Safety Chair. **Richard Adams** read a prepared statement. "The following statement regarding various local public figures and their acts is fully protected by my rights under the 1st Amendment. Any attempt to silence me for making it is a violation of said rights, & will be dealt with as such. What is the place of ethics in public service? Granted, in this day and age, and given the corruption that is endemic here in Los Angeles, and throughout California, one might feel that honesty & integrity are the markers of a long gone era, but not all of us feel that way. Thus, when I had incontrovertible evidence that Wayne Kartin was not the decorated & wounded war hero he had been telling everyone he was for years, I refused to aid & abet his fraud by serving as his "co-chair". I also took my evidence to the LAFD Internal Affairs Department for their use. I even brought the problem to John Walker, since I still believe that the residents that the SCNC serves are entitled to representatives who act with integrity. When it came to my attention that Brandon Pender too was claiming military service, in that his LinkedIn web page states he attended the USNA, from 1969 to 1973, even though the Academy has no record of anyone with that name attending Annapolis at any time, I brought that, and other, discrepancies in his resume, to John's attention, as grounds for his removal. As the Public Safety chair at the time, said permission for removal was not required by our by-laws, but I was trying to be diplomatic. Instead of supporting me, John Walker first assented to Brandon's removal, then ordered his restoration, and then removed me as chair. Tonight, John has appointed Brandon as the new Public Safety chair. What it says about Brandon that he would lie about his background is a commentary on the content of his character. What it says about John that he apparently has no problem with having liars & frauds as chair of the Public Safety committee will be an individual judgment for each of you. What you, the sitting members of the SCNC Board, do about this issue will be an insight into the values that each of you live and serve by. I will continue to do what I see as being right & necessary, no matter how many cherished illusions are shattered or tender sensibilities are offended by the truth. You may consider that as being commentary on the content of MY character. "

9. Treasurer's report by **Remy Kessler**. **Remy Kessler** gave as summary of the SCNC's finances. There will be no funding after May and funding will stop in June for the credit card.

Motion: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council has reviewed the March, 2013 financial statements and the February, 2013 bank statements and hereby accepts and approves them.

Approved in the absence of objection.

10. Budget Committee Report by **Remy Kessler** for **Mark Batterman**. **Remy Kessler** gave background on the motion. **Jeff Walker**, Chair of the City Services Committee, and Dorothy Apple is which him. She handed out a flyer regarding the sign. **Jeff Walker** explained that the primary reason for this is due to rampant speeding problem in Valley Village. They wanted a slow-down radar speed sign. There are only a few of these signs in the Valley. This would only be used to service communities in the North Hollywood Division. **Dorothy Apple** said the cost of the sign is \$18,500. Up to \$7,500 is being contributed by Valley Village, \$5,00 by NoHo Midtown, and \$5,000 by Toluca lake. **Ron Taylor** joined the meeting 12 voting members present; 7 to pass a motion; **Bary Johnson** said our NC falls under DONE and this is for another department in the City but that is how things work. **Gary** thinks our name should be on this. And there should be a tracer on it and we should be updated on where it will be used. **Jeff Walker** advised that usage will be determined by LAPD. It is being donated to the NOHO Division. There will be some physical notation on the sign as to where the funding came from. **Lisa Cahan Davis** asked if we can get better pricing by joining with other units that are purchasing them. **Jeff Walker** advised that we are getting LAPD pricing. **Lana Shackelford** asked how the traffic counter works. **Jeff Walker** said it is not a wireless transmitter but the radar detection counts speed and numbers of cars. It provides empirical data on traffic. **Richard Niederberg** does not like the aesthetics of it. This is like a lit billboard with changeable lettering. **Jeff Walker** said the radar give the ability to say the speed you are going so slow down. **John Walker** read the motion.

Motion A: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council approves a funding request of up to \$1,000 for the purchase of a mobile digital street sign for LAPD's NoHo Station in concert with other Valley Neighborhood Councils. Vote: Yes 12; No 0; Abstain 0.

Remmy Kessler gave background on motion B. The request was actually for more but committee thought additional money can be given if there is money left. **John Walker** read the motion. **Lana Shackelford** said she would like to see a list of those things. **Scott Ouellette** said he assumes this is just a pot of funds that will need to be used. Possibly we should do a similar motion for beautification.

Motion B: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council approves a funding request of up to \$5,000 to the Outreach Committee for multiple projects including but not limited to SCNC labeled promotional giveaway items, promotional mailings, flyers and printing costs. Vote: Yes 11; No 1; Abstain 0.

11. VANC Report by **Denise Welwang**. **Denise Welwang** said there was no meeting in February. We were not approached to support the VANC mixer event. She reported on the event.
12. Transportation Report by **Scott Ouellette**. **Scott Ouellette** gave background on motion A. The parking situation has been made worse due to the painting of red curbs in the area. **Barry Johnson** said we need a city wide ordinance requiring DOT to contact the council office and the community before they do this. He said that he doubted DOT did outreach before doing this. **Chris Murdhy** lives at the intersection at issue. He appreciates Scott and his committee. This is about livability. People need to be able to park near to their homes. There is no history of accidents in this area. There is no residential opposition to the motion before the board. **Charles Ruiz** 3906 Ridgemoor said he did not know Chris before this red curb painting but this issue has

brought them together. Everyone in his apartment building has signed the petition. 8 spaces were eliminated. It is not necessary. No accidents have been at this intersection. It is adversely impacted the quality of life. **John Walker** questioned the lack of outreach. **John Walker** read the motion.

Motion A: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council supports the neighborhood request to remove fresh red paint from approximately 22 feet of the curb at 3883 Ridgemoor Drive and to remove fresh red paint from approximately 85 feet of the curb at 11455 Sunshine Terrace. Additionally, the intersection stop sign limit lines should be refreshed and/or repainted. Jane asked why the curbs were painted out. Question was about visual clearance. Scott said possibly a visibility issue. Vote: Yes 12; No 0; Abstain 0.

Scott gave background on motion B. **Barry Johnson** said bike lanes are painted that are not needed but the repainting of the keep clear signs does not get done. **John Walker** read the motion.

Motion B: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council requests LADOT restore and/or repaint the "Keep Clear" pavement markings at the intersection of Sunswep Drive and Laurel Terrace. Vote: Yes 12; No 0; Abstain 0.

Scott Ouelette gave background on motion C. **Barry Johnson** said they got Beautification's blessing for this. Plants can be planted under the freeway. He recommends not putting in AstroTurf. **Gail Steinberg** said she was impressed as to who was going to maintain the median. They also went to LADWP for irrigation support. **Jane Drucker** said it can't look worse than it does now. The motion was amended to read as follows.

Motion C: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council supports the proposal of the Landale Square Residents to adopt the median on Radford Avenue that extends south from Hortense Street underneath the 101 freeway to Sarah Street. Additionally the board encourages them to consider the use of live plants under the freeway instead of astroTurf. Vote: Yes 12; No 0; Abstain 0.

13. Land Use Committee Report by **Lisa Sarkin**. Denise Welvang gave the report on the visitation from the Toluca baseball diamond advocates. It would take away the open area. The committee voted against this.

Motion A: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council opposes the proposed new baseball diamond requested by Toluca Baseball based on the diminished use it would create for the Island Neighborhood and the negative impact on public access. (John Walker explained that this motion will be postponed indefinitely).

Denise Welvang gave background on motion B. **Barry Johnson** said he wants to be sure this document is overriding and enforceable. **Richard Niederberg** said he got this information from the City Attorney's office and this will be enforceable as long as the conditions run with the land and say must and are not be voluntary. **John Walker** read the motion.

Motion B: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council supports the "Conditions for On-Sale Alcoholic Beverage Licenses in Studio City" (document attached for Board).

Lisa Cahan Davis asked about number 19 on the list of conditions. She wants to know if they pick up trash. **Ron Taylor** asked if the time is appropriate. **Shoshana Rafael** also questioned the propriety of number 19. **Ron Taylor** said the idea of trash accumulating is not good. **Denise Welvang** said the 7 pm to 7 am is important for small children. The sound of the

dumping reverberates. **Richard Niederberg** said the ABC wants the bottles broken so they can't be reused. This is no longer mandatory he was advised by a stakeholder and **John Walker**. **John Walker** asked about the negatives to number 19. **Shoshana Rafael** said businesses are asked not to let trash lying around. Her business does not separate the trash from the recycling. We do not want to be antibusiness. **Rita Villa** expressed concern about number 19. **Scott Ouellette** expressed concern about number 13. **John Walker** said you have to post your business permits. **Scott Ouellette** also questioned number. **Rita Villa** asked to amend the conditions to eliminate number 13 and 19. **Lisa Cahan Davis** asked about number 3. She was not in favor of that item. **Remy Kessler** said the only thing we were doing is to make things mandatory. He gave background on why these are now just being made mandatory so they can be enforced. **Ron Taylor** said whether these have been used or not in the past he is concerned about number 13. He would like to see it to go back to the committee. **Gail Steinberg** said this list was not changed and has been in force. They just changed "shall" to "must". There has never been opposition. **Remy Kessler** suggested that we pass the motion to change the language but the LUC be directed to relook at this. **John Walker** asked if there should be an addendum to the motion. **Shoshana Rafael** asked about when this is enforced. If every restaurant adhered to these rules there would be none in Studio City. **John Walker** advised that this be tabled and sent back to committee. **Richard Niederberg** said this is just to make it mandatory not voluntary.

Lisa Cahan Davis proposed the amended motion below. Second by **Scott Ouellette**. **Vote on amendment: Yes 6; No 6. Motion fails**
Motion B: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council supports the "Conditions for On-Sale Alcoholic Beverage Licenses in Studio City" (document attached for Board) however the board requests that the land use commit revisit conditions 3, 7, 8, 13, 19 and 21.

Vote on the original motion. Yes 5; No 7; Motion Fails.

14. Government Affairs Committee Report by **Rita Villa**. **John Walker** read the motion. **Barry Johnson** said this is common sense. He explained how the curb line on Moorpark has been destroyed and how this has had the impact of reducing parking. When you do this you also lose the parkway. We understand the need and desire to widen streets but we object to the piecemeal approach to it.

Motion: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council requests Councilmember Paul Krekorian to bring forth a Motion to stop "curb cut-outs." Dedications would still be taken, where applicable, but not acted upon until an entire block has dedications taken; and then only acted upon when the area's Councilmember and Neighborhood Council approve the block long street widening. Fees collected from developers are to be held in escrow until the entire block widening is acted upon. Vote: Yes 10; No: 0; Abstain: 2. Motion Carries

15. Presentation, discussion and possible Motion regarding proposed changes to the 2014 Neighborhood Council election funding. (Document attached for Board). **Rita Villa** read the motion.

Motion: The board of the studio city neighborhood council approves the submission of the letter of our President dated March 15, 2013 as a community impact statement. Moved: Rita Villa; Second: Denise Welvang. Vote: Yes 12; No 0; Abstain 0

16. Outreach Committee Report by **Lisa Cahan Davis**. **Lisa Cahan Davis** reported that there are three upcoming events: in April on Sunday April 7th is the 4good event, Sunday April 14th the SCNC will have a booth at LA Heritage day at the El Pueblo Historical Monument from 11am to 4pm and there will be a Cultural Affairs event on April 20, 2013 - Mack Sennette Day.

Lisa Cahan Davis gave an update on the banner program. On 2/28/13 we had a permit for banners but they are off by about a month due to a problem with the check being misplaced at DONE. Studio City working to have a "movies in the park" event. We are partnering with NBC universal to secure a final location. We are looking for a location as original location did not work out. Out of pocket cost will be low as the equipment is being lent to us. Outreach wants to do something to help businesses get through the city licensing process and getting permits she wants to old an "Open a business 101" event. **John Walker** asked if our council office approved this. **Lisa Cahan Davis** said she had attended an event like this sponsored by CD5.

17. Cultural Affairs Committee Report by **Richard Niederberg**. **Richard Niederberg** reported that the next event is the 50th year of CBS being on this lot. On September 15th is the ovarian cancer walk. **Barry Johnson** said the Luminaria could not be on November 30th or December 1st. The 8th is when the SCRA event is. The 15th should be the date.
18. Bylaws Committee Report by **Ron Taylor**. **Ron Taylor** said we are waiting to hear back from DONE on our bylaws revision motions. We will move forward when he hears back from the city attorney as well.
19. Comments from Board Members on subject matters within the Board's jurisdiction. **Ron Taylor** said there is a safety flyers on the table regarding older drivers, please take one.

Adjournment. **Moved** Denise Welvang; **Second:** Scott Ouellette. **Vote: Yes 12; No 0; Abstain 0.**

