

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Studio City Neighborhood Council

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Council File Number: 15-0448

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Brief Summary: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council requests that Councilmember Paul Krekorian make a motion to stop the removal of mature parkway trees (defined as being greater than 10 " in diameter by standard arborists' calculation) due to the required driveway apron widening when new construction occurs.

Additional Information:

SCNC BOARD

Lisa Cahan Davis
Jon Epstein
Bill Harmond
Alex Izbicki
Remy Kessler
Brian Mahoney
Richard Niederberg
Steven Quat
Lisa Sarkin
Lana Shackelford
Gail Steinberg
Rita C. Villa
John T. Walker, Ph.D
Denise Welvang



**BOARD MEETING
APPROVED MINUTES
Wednesday, January 21, 2015
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, Ph.D

VICE PRESIDENT
Lisa Sarkin

TREASURER
Bill Harmond

SECRETARY
Rita C. Villa

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1. Call to Order & Roll Call. Lisa Cahan Davis – present, Jon Epstein – present, Bill Harmond – present, Alex Izbicki – present, Remy Kessler - present, Brian Mahoney – present, Richard Niederberg - present, Steven Quat – present, Lisa Sarkin - present, Lana Shackelford – arrived at 7:08 PM, Gail Steinberg – present, Rita Villa – present, John Walker – present, Denise Welvang – present. 14 voting members; 8 to pass a motion. 51 stakeholders present.
2. Approval of December 10, 2014 Board Minutes. **Approved** in the absence of objection.
3. Comments by the President. **John Walker** welcomed everyone and wished everyone a happy new year. Announced that Brian Mahoney is the new Bylaws Committee chair, Bill Harmond is the Treasurer, Steven Quat as the representative to VANC and the Budget Advocate and Lisa Karadjian is now the co-chair of the Land Use Committee. John went to the meeting, Resilience By Design, which was hosted by Eric Garcetti. They addressed preparing a financial plan for retrofitting for earthquakes and finding a way to make it affordable and in effect within 3 to 5 years. There is a website <http://www.lamayor.org/> click on Resilience By Design. At the Government Affairs Committee meeting held in January, there was a question about the number of board members present. The City Attorney explained it was ok if more than 4 were present, as long as they did not speak. John also announced that Bill Harmond has resigned as President of Studio City Beatification Association and Barry Weiss was elected President and Barry Johnson

is now Vice President of the Studio City Residents Association. **John Walker** gave some background on March 22's *CicLAvia - The Valley*. He explained that the route is established and the map is on line.

4. Public Comments on non-agenda items within the Board's jurisdiction. **Stephen Potts** said he has lived in Studio City for 5 years on Sunswept Drive. The bridge by his house was built in the 1950's and it is a magnet for taggers and homeless. The Councilman's office was notified and the police apparently can do nothing because there is no "no trespassing" sign posted at that location. The bridge is an eyesore. He would like some action taken. **Barry Johnson** spoke regarding *CicLAvia - The Valley*. He said it is like "carmagedon" there is fear of a traffic nightmare but that did not happen. He said it is only a 7 hour event and if you don't want to participate just stay away from the area where it is taking place on Sunday afternoon. **Guy Langman** – from FilmLA – caught some illegal filming in Colfax Meadows this week. The filming was stopped. He asked stakeholders to please call him if you suspect filming taking place is illegal. Be sure to let him know. He received an anonymous tip and citations were issued including to the homeowners. **Filiberto Gonzalez**, candidate for LAUSD 3rd District which includes Chatsworth and Granada Hills said he is a parent with two girls in the district. He believes taxpayer dollars are being squandered. He wants the school district broken up into smaller districts. His cell phone number is (818) 963-0801. Call or text him to support his efforts. **Brandon Pender** would like to suggest that the board might want to designate someone to put up the flag. He requests that someone bring the flag and that we say the Pledge of Allegiance before the meeting. **Eric Preven** introduced himself as a candidate for the CD2 seat. He is a long time resident of Studio City - 29 years. He is concerned about the proposed bridge over Coldwater Canyon. It is an outrage that it has gotten this far. He asked that we look at this very closely. He stated that the Harvard/Westlake trustees gave the max to Krekorian's campaign. He is also against the proposal to build the Weddington condos. You can reach him at Ericpreven.com (818)645-2616.
5. Responses to comments from the Board. **Alex Izbicki** asked what bridge Mr. Potts was speaking about. **Response** - It is above Staples, south of Ventura Blvd. going up the hill. He also asked Guy Langman how to identify a filming that is not legal. **Response** - If you live nearby did not get a film notification, it is most likely illegal. Illegal shoots don't have a police presence, or FilmLA representative on site. **Lisa Sarkin** said the issues related to the Sunswept Bridge have been reported. She advised Mr. Potts to go to the Department of Building and Safety on his computer and then to online services and report the violation. **Gail Steinberg** said you can see the bridge on the BID map. She also said that FilmLA and Guy Langman do an amazing job in our neighborhood. **Richard Niederberg** said this bridge is better than the one that fell down. **John Walker** asked if anyone would be responsible for bringing the flag. **John Cameron** said he will bring the flag.

6. **Nominations and Election of Corresponding Secretary.** **Lisa Sarkin** nominated Alex Izbicki. **Lana Shackelford** second. **Approved** in the absence of objection.

Exhibit I Not Used.

7. Update from CD2 by **Courtney Hamilton**. **Courtney Hamilton** stated that Councilman Krekorian just celebrated his 5 year anniversary as our councilman. Highlights of what has been accomplished during the last 5 years were listed. In 2014, 61.19 miles of streets were resurfaced. 7 miles of bike lanes on Vineland were completed. Many bulk items and lots of graffiti was removed. There is a new stop sign at Mound View and Viewcrest. There is a new crosswalk and funding was obtained for flashing signals. Funding of about \$10 million was obtained to build a new recreation center in Studio City at Beeman Park. The design in process and construction is set to begin in June 2015. Cleanups were done along the LA River. She thanked the SCNC for doing the blitz list and for calling 311 or calling her to report bulk items that need picking up or potholes that need filling or tree branches that have fallen down. It is important that we all report the problems. *CicLAVia - The Valley* will take place on March 22. The route is completely in the Valley. The route starts at the Redline Station in North Hollywood and will go south on Lankershim through metro parking lot and will go west on Ventura Blvd to Coldwater Canyon. Laurel Canyon is the only planned crossing point. There will be community meetings to explain *CicLAVia - The Valley*. **Lisa Cahan Davis** asked where the recreation center will be built. **Response** – Beeman Park. The Neighborhood Council and the stakeholders will be asked for community input. **Gail Steinberg** asked if one of the stoplights to be installed will be at Tujunga and Woodbridge. **Response** – yes. Funding has been obtained and it has been prioritized but could be 3 to 5 years before it is installed. **Alex Izbicki** stated that at Gailwood and Ethel an elderly woman fell. **Jon Epstein** asked if the existing recreation center was redone in the last 7 years. **Response** –They need more space at that recreation center. He also stated that at Whitsett and Magnolia they direct traffic southbound into dead end streets. During the rain all the drains are clogged. We need a quick response team to be cleaning drains before the rain. **Bill Harmond** asked about the 311 app. MYLA311. **Eric Previn** raised the issue of Beeman Park. He said the park was redone recently. The playground is new. **Barry Johnson** said the building at Beeman is inadequate and is too small. He said it is time we get a decent size recreation center in Studio City. We need something like they have at North Weddington. Lana said this is absolutely needed.
8. Treasurer's Report by **Bill Harmond**. **Bill Harmond** reported that there is no report this time. **John Walker** tabled the motion.

Motion: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council has reviewed the Monthly Expenditure Report for December 2014 and hereby accepts and approves it. Exhibit II not used.

Adjourn to Special Meeting. **Moved:** Denise Welvang; **Second:** Richard Niederberg. **Vote:** Unanimous. Motion to Reconvene. **Moved:** Bill Harmond; **Second:** Brian Mahoney; **Vote:** Unanimous.

9. Budget Committee Report **Remy Kessler**. **Remy Kessler** stated that there is no report.
10. VANC and Budget Advocate Report by **Steven Quat**. **Steven Quat** stated Grayce Lieu was the main speaker. They spent 2 hours on payments and payment forms. The homeless count was discussed. It is tomorrow night in the Valley. Need to get an accurate count of the homeless. There are estimates of 50,000 homeless in Los Angeles. He reported on activities of the Budget Advocates – There will be a Budget Forum 2.0 with the mayor and budget advocates. There were very few flyers filled out last year. Only 230 were completed out of the entire city. Put 5 things down that are your priorities. There will be 3 dates for meetings in February. He will get email information to us once there are dates. We must be there to have input into the budget. Come to Budget Day. **Eric Previn** agreed that VANC was in the weeds on the budget matters. He would request that the form DONE is releasing should not take the place of minutes. **Lisa Cahan Davis** asked if there should be audio replay on the website. **Lisa Sarkin** said it was very difficult to research matters when we had recorded minutes. **Alex Izbicki** said we are in an area where tech is moving forward and he volunteered to get the recorded minutes on the website. **Lisa Sarkin** asked and **Alex Izbicki** asked if he could write up something about how to do audio minutes with chapters.
11. Outreach Committee Report by **Lisa Cahan Davis or Lana Shackelford**. **Lisa Cahan Davis** stated that there has been a transition in banner vendor and some of our banners may have been taken down prematurely. The city has changed to a 90 day permit process. Outreach is trying to see how best to proceed. We may not get the locations we have had since 2012. She met with representatives at the Park Advisory Board and the Studio City Recreation Center. Movies in the Park will be 6/27/15 and 7/25/15. The two movies will be Jurassic Park and the Box Trolls. We will have sponsorship from FilmLA as they are supplying popcorn. The park and recreation center employees will be doing a barbeque to raise funds for recreation center. **Alex Izbicki** is doing research on a generator. The Green Living Fare has 15 participants. The fare will be held on 4/18/15. We are partnering with the Village Gardeners and two other neighborhood council's to sponsor marketing materials. The Fare will be from 10 to 2. There will be a "Best Baked Pie" contest. With respect to National Night Out they are working toward the first Tuesday of August. The Outreach Committee consensus is that the purpose of National Night Out should be to rally support for

firefighters/police and earthquake preparedness. They may change the vibe from what was done in the past based on manpower. **Barry Johnson** said that the concept for National Night Out is that it is one night for all cities across the country to have it on the same day. If we are participating it should be that Tuesday night. Movies in the Park should include a horror classic from Universal. He asked when were public hearings held for the use of 90 day permits. We should have first dibs at the banner locations. **Brandon Pender** said many organizations do it on Saturday so as not to compete with other things going on that night. **Lana Shackelford** said she spoke to the librarian about screening monster movies from Universal. They are working on this. **Richard Niederberg** said National Night Out is on the first Tuesday of August. The City Attorney wants to do it at that time. **Brian Mahoney** asked if this was open to public comment. **Response** - yes. **Jon Epstein** asked if we could put up art as a banner. **Lisa Sarkin** asked who is responsible for the permits as the City makes money on the banners. NC's do not get a price break and we need to pay the permit fee. August 4th is National Night Out. **Steven Quat** said we should make a motion that NC's should get banner permit fees waived.

12. Land Use Committee Report by **Lisa Sarkin or Lisa Karadjian**. **Lisa Sarkin** gave the Land Use Committee report. The cell tower application has been formally withdrawn. There is now an Advisory Committee to address the issue of cell towers. The motion on the Bellwether's hours of operation will come next month. **John Walker** read the Motion.

Motion: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council supports the request of the owners of 11345 Ventura Blvd. [DIR-97-0069-RV-PA4] for the termination of revocation proceedings or modification and elimination of the conditions of the Zoning Administrator's Determination dated April 15, 2013. The existing conditions relate to a supper club with dining, live entertainment and amplified music. The new use is a general office.

Lisa Sarkin gave background on the use of this building. The change of use and a new CUP means that the existing conditions are not needed. **John Cameron** is here to explain the use as an office building.

Barry Johnson said this is wonderful as this will not be a nightclub. This is a great use because there is not enough parking for the site to be used as a nightclub. It can't revert to a nightclub use. Please support this motion. **Lisa Sarkin** explained that the new use is a commercial office zone. The new tenant has been in for 5 or 6 months. Please vote to remove the conditions. **Lisa Karadjian** said the building has been cleaned up and with the new use not much traffic is created. This is a win/win for the neighborhood. **Jon Epstein** said he had his Bar Mitzvah party at Platinum Live. He asked if there will be vans and shuttles coming and going.

Response by representative of the owner of the building - it is not a logistics operation. Their products will be shipped using the post office.

See Board Vote on Funding Request Form attached to these minutes as Exhibit III.
Motion Carried.

13. Government Affairs Committee Report by **Rita Villa**. **Rita Villa** reported that the board had been sent background on motion A when they were sent the agenda. **John Walker** read motion A. **Barry Johnson** asked for this to be supported as this language was added without vote or support of the people. **Eric Previn** went back to the last item. **Jon Epstein** spoke about the cap and trade system. He is opposed to the motion. **Steven Quat** said when the rest of the world is on board with cap and trade we will get on board. It puts California at a disadvantage. **Lisa Sarkin** was excused to leave the meeting. 13 voting members present; 7 to pass a motion.

Motion A: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council requests that our State Assembly Member Adrin Nazarian and our State Senator Robert Hertzberg take actions to repeal the language that was added to extend the regulations in AB 32 to all transportation fuels effective January 1, 2015.

See Board Vote on Funding Request Form attached to these minutes as Exhibit IV.
Motion Carried.

Rita Villa gave background on Motion B. **John Walker** read Motion B. **Barry Johnson** stated that the GAC has followed this for 3 years and this restates what we have wanted for three years. We are trying to protect our single family neighborhoods. **Richard Niederberg** said 6 is good number.

Motion B: The Board of Studio City Neighborhood Council requests further changes to the Community Care Facilities Ordinance described as "Technical Corrections June 25, 2014 Counsel File Number 14-0118."

The Studio City Neighborhood Council requests the following:

- 1. That the ordinance be revised to prohibit community care facilities serving seven or more residents to be located in low density residential zones and to permit such facilities in multi-family higher density zones (R-3 and higher) only. The current change recognizes this but suggests creating a streamlined public benefit process. Facilities serving seven or more should be allowed only in higher density zones and only after obtaining a conditional use permit subject to public hearings;**

2. **That the ad hoc committee should ensure the new definition of "family" is in compliance with fair housing and privacy laws;**
3. **That the ad hoc committee include the parolee/probationer definitions previously removed; and**
4. **That the ordinance include enforcement of nuisance issues by including the City's nuisance abatement ordinance as a mechanism to address residential nuisances.**

See Board Vote on Funding Request Form attached to these minutes as Exhibit V.

Motion Carried.

Barry Johnson gave background on Motion C. This is an offshoot of the Cantura Trees Motion. Our Councilman did an historic preservation tree protection there but we want this to apply throughout the city. **John Walker** read Motion C.

Motion C: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council requests that Councilmember Paul Krekorian make a motion to stop the removal of all mature parkway trees (defined as being greater than 10 inches in diameter by standard arborists' calculation) due to required driveway apron widening when new construction occurs. Driveway aprons would be allowed to remain their current size if a mature tree would have to be removed because of required apron dimensions. Furthermore, any new construction that would put a driveway on the opposite side of the present driveway and cause a mature tree to be removed, would be prohibited. The owner would be asked to do a mirror image of their blueprint to keep the driveway where it is currently located. Any removal of a mature parkway tree would require a variance.

See Board Vote on Funding Request Form attached to these minutes as Exhibit VI.

Motion Carried.

14. Cultural Affairs Committee Report by **Richard Niederberg**. **Richard Niederberg** stated that there are no requests for money right now. **Eric Previn** asked about the facility next to the YMCA, the Masonic Temple. Is it a historic facility? Response: Yes.
15. Transportation Report by **Barry Johnson**. **Barry Johnson** gave the Transportation Committee report and gave background on Motion A. **John Walker** read Motion A.

Motion A: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council requests that the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) install a left turn arrow signal for eastbound Campo de Cahuenga traffic turning left on to northbound Lankershim Boulevard.

Lisa Cahan Davis supports this but asked if the timing on the intersection could be extended to get through the light. **Steven Quat** said people really don't understand this intersection. Street Services meetings he has attended indicate that the location of this signal will change. **John Walker** said this may change with the bridge. **Barry Johnson** responded that Brian Gallagher knows this will happen only when the bridge is done. **Brian Mahoney** said he supports this motion.

See Board Vote on Funding Request Form attached to these minutes as Exhibit VII
Motion Carried.

Barry Johnson gave background on Motion B. **John Walker** read Motion B.

Motion B: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council requests that the Ventura/Cahuenga Boulevard Corridor Specific Plan Review Board (PRB) fund the installation of a new small median at Radford Avenue and Ventura Place to force right-lane (hard right turn only) southbound Radford Avenue traffic on to Ventura Place as well as elevation of the current signage on Ventura Boulevard so motorists can clearly see the hard right turn only signage from Radford Avenue to Ventura Place.

Gail Steinberg asked if people would stop there and would there be a button to get them there. **Alex Izbicki** asked if you could put plastic guidance things there. **Denise Welvang** said this light is long enough. **Steven Quat** said the sign is too far back. He suggested more tickets there to solve the problem. **Richard Niederberg** asked if this would impact the Farmers Market.

See Board Vote on Funding Request Form attached to these minutes as Exhibit VII
Motion Carried.

Barry Johnson gave background on Motion C. **John Walker** read Motion C.

Motion C: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council requests that the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) investigate the apparent lack of traffic light synchronization on Ventura Boulevard in Studio City from Lankershim Boulevard to Fulton Avenue.

Barry Johnson explained that two board members, Gail Steinberg and Lisa Sarkin, have both asked for this. There are definite problems with the Synchronization in Studio City. 12 yes Brian no.

See Board Vote on Funding Request Form attached to these minutes as Exhibit IX.
Motion Carried.

16. Bylaws Committee Report by **Brian Mahoney**. **Brian Mahoney** reported that Bylaws is not like watching paint dry. The first meeting will be the 4th Tuesday of next month. Will try to remove contradictory language. He is looking to expand the committee.
17. Comments from Board Members on subject matters within the Board's jurisdiction. **Alex Izbecki** asked if they install a light and the light is built and no one is there why doesn't it change. How much does it cost to install a sensor to trip the light. **Steven Quat** said it takes quite a while for the computers to adjust. **Jon Epstein** said you need to stop on the round circle.
18. Adjournment. **Moved:** Lana Shackelford; **Second:** Brian Mahoney; **Vote:** Unanimous.

Council File 15-0448

Additional information:

Driveway aprons would be allowed to remain their current size if a mature tree would have to be removed because of required apron dimensions. Furthermore, any new construction that would put a driveway on the opposite side of the present driveway and cause a mature tree to be removed, would be prohibited. The owner would be asked to do a mirror image of their blueprint to keep the driveway where it is currently located. Any removal of a mature parkway tree would require a variance. See Board Vote on Funding Request Form attached to