

Studio City Neighborhood Council

Minutes of the Board

Wednesday, June 15, 2005

Location of the meeting: CBS Studio Center, Annex 1 Meeting Room

Recording Secretary: Alan Levy

Officers and Board Members Present: Rafi Kuyumjian (President), Joe Goodman, (Vice-President), Michael Klausman (Treasurer), Alan Levy (Secretary), Jessica Carron (Corresponding Secretary) Mark Batterman; David Burg; Art Ginsburg; Alvin Gross; Michael Allen Ravert; Lynda Wadler; Polly Ward; Paul Waters

Board Members Absent and Excused: Julian Bull, Wendy Dio, Vahe Tawilian

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING

2005.6-15.1 Motion to accept the May 18, 2005 minutes made by Klausman, seconded by Goodman. 15-0-0. Motion passes.

REVIEW OF AGENDA

Batterman asks that the Treasurer's Report come before the scheduled Budget Committee report in order to have more information about budget committee motions. Kuyumjian allows. Agenda item 14 becomes 11.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Stakeholder George Shea spoke out against sticky glue mouse traps contending they are cruel versus the readily accessible snap trap. He asks that the SCNC send letters to sellers asking they not sell this item in Studio City. Ravert suggests this is not a city issue within our jurisdiction.

Stakeholder and LUC member Marilyn Seidel spoke of local overdevelopment, upset no SCNC members spoke out against it at the Studio City Residents Association meeting held Tuesday, June 14, 2005. Seidal asks what the NC's position on growth is? Batterman insists he did speak up and Seidal stands corrected. Ward contends the SCRA meeting was not an SCNC forum. Gross agrees that Studio City is being overbuilt. Ravert believes the SCNC should come up with a position regarding local development. Ginsburg suggests the NC represents all of Studio City, not just residents and renters. We also represent the developers.

Stakeholder Gary Watts asks that the SCNC consider a resolution that Councilwoman Greuel supply the SCNC with the number of permits pulled last year effecting Studio City. BTC (the city of Los Angeles' outsource mailing house) is not giving proper notifications per legal requirement to those most effected. Batterman agrees.

Stakeholder Charlotte Laws says members of the Valley Glen Neighborhood Council recently passed a detailed response to inclusionary zoning that she will forward to the SCNC. Laws also agrees with Shea about the cruelty of mouse glue traps and asks that this be agendized and sent to SCNC Animal Welfare Committee chaired by Lance Mancuso.

Stakeholder Melanie Winters spoke about how impressed she is with the growth of the SCNC. She moved on to discuss the Tujunga Watershed Project, of which SCNC member Ward is also a participant. Winters asks that one new member from the SCNC join. She also expressed concern about the 4th of July fireworks celebration at CBS Radford and its detrimental effect on new plant-life when groups gather along the river to watch and wonders if some form of policing might be possible. Goodman agrees this needs addressing.

Stakeholder Judith Bustany wondered what to do about construction crews beginning work too early in the morning and knocking over trees. Chris Olsen, district representative for Councilwoman Greuel rose and asked he be called immediately when this takes place. Batterman also suggested calling Building and Safety to cure the situation. Spirited discussion followed as to if they would actually come.

Stakeholder Don Busteny (not related to Judith) commented on old trees sadly being cut down due to sidewalk improvement. Burg says the planting of certain trees years ago was short sighted. Ravert says public oaks may not be removed by anyone.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Kuyumjian wants to be clear that the Neighborhood Council represents all stakeholders. He spoke about two recent meetings. The first with the SCNC Executive Committee and Councilwoman Greuel, and the second between the President's of the SCNC, SCRA, BID, and Studio City Chamber of Commerce. This was the first time such a meeting was held. All are concerned with growth and hope to hold a joint leadership meeting monthly.

LAND USE COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Chair Remy Kessler updated the Board on the last LUC meeting. The committee now has 13 members, 6 of whom sit on the Board. The LUC has come up mission statement regarding competing interests between residents and business.

OUR MISSION AS THE LAND USE COMMITTEE IS TO ADDRESS LAND USE ISSUES IN A FAIR AND BALANCED APPROACH WHICH SERVES THE NEEDS AND CONCERNS OF ALL STAKEHOLDERS IN STUDIO CITY

Kessler would like to see more press regarding meeting dates. He then introduced BARBARA BURKE who heads up a developing overlay plan for Studio City for the SCRA. Burke, a 29 year resident and business owner, has been working on the plan with others for over a year wanting to establish new alternatives with better balance between competing interests.

Ginsburg asked if any property owners serve on her committee. The response was “yes.” After spirited discussion, Burke agreed to receive input from the SCNC, BID, and Chamber before presenting to Councilwoman Greuel. Batterman informed all in attendance that any SCRA member may join Burke’s committee. Ravert said the invitation was made to all in writing. Levy questioned the use of the word “balance,” suggesting the BID, Studio City Chamber, and SCRA not be on equal footing. The people who live in Studio City are affected by growth most. Burg disagreed believing the SCNC must consider the issue from a city standpoint and business growth is important. Levy agrees those interests are important but not at the expense of residents.

2005.6-15.2 Motion made that it is resolved that the Studio City Neighborhood Council wishes to communicate to all governing organizations that we are concerned with the controlled growth, planning, and development of Studio City. It is our intention to present you with a complete and balanced view of the needs and desires of all stakeholders in our community as to these issues. We will work together with organizations representing residents, business, and community. It is our intention to see that Studio City remains an extremely desirable location for all potential stakeholders. We request that you allow us to share our input with you in the coming months before making any changes or general determinations regarding our land use, controlled growth, and planning restrictions. Seconded by Klausman. 13-0-0. Motion passes.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT:

Committee Chair Christopher De Matteo presented the new interim logo to the Board. When asked for a website improvement update, De Matteo said he would have that information at the next SCNC Board Meeting. Klausman, SCNC Treasurer, asks that this committee submit a detailed budget as soon as possible.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Klausman reports that the city’s fiscal year ends tomorrow so any bill submitted after tonight will not be paid this quarter. The SCNC spent \$54,000 this past year. \$42,000 is left which will roll over into next year’s account.

BUDGET COMMITTEE

Committee Chair Lynda Wadler presented the SCNC budget for the coming year. Batterman stated his appreciation for the work the committee has done but has major objections with the process. He asks that from now on sufficient notice be given prior to a meeting date. Ravert agrees and suggests that tonight we only vote on the total budget as the inner-workings are not set in stone. Ravert objects to all budget committee motions believing they are not specific and possibly against SCNC bylaws to vote on due to their being presented with no backup documents for examination.

2005.6-15.3 Motion made by Burg to add an additional \$5000 in the proposed SCNC budget toward community improvement projects, seconded by Ward. 11-2-0 Motion passes.

2005.6-15.4 Motion made by Burg that we approve \$92,000 for the SCNC's 2005-2006 fiscal year budget. Seconded by Waters. 13-0-0. Motion passes.

Bruce Nicholas, incoming president of the Chamber, came on to make a presentation for the Studio City 4th of July celebration held at CBS Radford Studios by the Chamber of Commerce assuring that for an SCNC contribution, the SCNC would receive maximum exposure. Ward asked what the event would net? Nicholas believed approximately \$26,000 split between the Chamber and Olive Crest charity. Ginsburg asked what the \$5,000 would pay for. Nicholas replied the SCNC would become a partner in the event. Ravert, current board member and founder of the Studio City 4th of July event said he could not support any of the proposals. He ran for SCNC to get more out of City Hall, not spend tax dollars on parties. Goodman countered these are all good causes so more people will be aware of who and what the SCNC is. Batterman spoke in support of the 4th of July event. Ravert suggested we hire a liaison instead for the SCNC office. Chamber members recused themselves from the vote due to conflict of interest issues at the recommendation of D.O.N.E.

2005.6-15.5 Motion to recommend the allocation of \$5,000 for the Studio City Fourth of July celebration at CBS Radford Studio put on by the Studio City Chamber of Commerce to go toward security and public safety. 8-0-0. Motion passes. Klausman, Ravert, Ginsburg, Kujumjian, Waters recused.

Presentation made by Melanie Winters regarding the Nature River Gardener's Project.

2005.6-15.6 Motion to recommend \$6,000 annually at \$1,500 per quarter for the Nature River Gardener's Project. 11-1-1. Motion passes

Presentation made by Melanie Waters regarding Sycamore Pocket Park and how SCNC support will be combined with other financial resources. Total cost of the project will be approximately \$100,000.

2005.6-15.7 Motion to recommend allocating \$10,000 for construction of the Sycamore Pocket Park. 11-2-0 Motion passes

Presentation made by William Todd on behalf of the Studio City Beautification Association regarding tree maintenance. SCRA members recused themselves due to conflict of interest issues at the recommendation of D.O.N.E.

2005.6-15.8 Motion to propose \$8,000 annually at \$2000 per quarter to the Studio City Beautification Association for tree maintenance. 4-0-0, Motion passes. Goodman, Levy, Carron, Batterman, Burg, Ginsburg, Ravert, Wadler, Ward recused.

Paul Waters, Executive Director of LA/VALLEY PRIDE (also an SCNC Board Member) expressed his gratitude to the Budget Committee for allowing his event to be brought before the Board. He stated that any funding amount the Board authorized would be greatly appreciated. Waters also introduced a print reporter from *IN LA* magazine sitting in the audience there to cover the meeting.

2005.6-15.8 Motion to recommend \$3,000 to the LA/Valley Pride Festival for a portion of security and janitorial, including a booth and signage at the event.

Motion moved to further discussion. Batterman asks Waters if he draws a salary from the event. Waters says he is a volunteer and earns nothing.

2005.6-15.10 Motion made by Ginsburg for SCNC to participate in the amount of \$75 towards the event. Seconded by Ward. Waters recuses. 1-11-0. Motion fails.

2005.6-15.10a Friendly amendment made to the above motion to increase the SCNC participation amount to \$500, seconded by Kuyumjian. 10-2-0, motion passes. Waters recuses.

Presentation by Goodman made on behalf of the Studio City Foundation for Children. Batterman believes that though worthwhile, this would be giving money to a charitable event. Burg suggests establishing a community events fund.

2005.6-15.11 Motion made to recommend \$5,000 for a Studio City event with all the proceeds going to the Studio City Foundation for Children. Goodman, Klausman recuse. 0-6-2 Motion fails

2005.6-15.12 Motion made to accept the SCNC 2005-2006 operating budget of approximately \$92,000. 13-0-0. Motion passes.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE PRESENTATION

Committee Chair Waters asks that due to time constraints, this be re-agendized at the next SCNC Board Meeting. Kuyumjian agrees to do so.

SURVEY REGARDING THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS

Presentation made by Mark Elliot regarding the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding that was signed by representatives of the Board of Public Works, and the Neighborhood Councils of Studio City, Greater Toluca Lake, Valley Village, and Mid-Town North Hollywood. He asked Board Members to take a quick survey (provided) on their knowledge of the topic and return the questionnaire when finished.

PARK & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE PRESENTATION

Chair Lynda Wadler made a presentation saying that the feelings of local residents were not being addressed when it came to concerns about improvement along the LA River. Wadler makes presentation. City Parks Department has insisted the paths along the LA River be asphalt which is slippery, thus dangerous. She asks the SCNC take an involved position as this project continues.

2005.6-15.13 Motion that the Parks & Open Space committee will develop a listing of pet friendly businesses in Studio City with their policies and will reference relevant municipal code sections. 13-0-0. Motion passes

2005.6-15.14 Motion that Prop K LA River funds should not be expended on the Whitsett to Coldwater Canyon segment of the LA River until such time as the future disposition of the Sportsman's Lodge and its parking easement have been determined. 13-0-0. Motion passes.

2005.6-14.15 Motion that the SCNC supports use of Prop K LA River funds to be directed instead towards developing the LA River Greenway north bank between Colfax and Tujunga. 13-0-0. Motion passes.

2005.6-15.16 Motion that any LA River Greenway project developed with City funds within the SCNC boundaries shall be developed through a collaborative process with the SCNC. 13-0-0 Motion passes

2006.6-15.17 Motion that the SCNC does not support the use of asphalt along any LA River greenway in Studio City. 13-0-0, Motion passes

COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Wadler asks that Board Members looking to work on a committee join her on Parks and Opens Spaces.

Gross asks that a letter from a stakeholder regarding gardening blowers be published in the minutes.

Carron thanks Chris De Matteo for creating the SCNC business cards.

2005.6-15.18 Motion to adjourn by Wadler, seconded by Goodman. 13-0-0. Motion passes.

Meeting adjourned at 10:29 PM.