



## Minutes of the Board

August 17, 2005  
(Amended draft)

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

Recording Secretary: Alan Levy

Officers and Board Members Present: 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; Wendy Dio; Art Ginsburg; Lynda Wadler; Polly Ward; Paul Waters

Board Members Excused: Allen Ravert

Board Members Absent: Julian Bull, Vahe Tawilian (Youth Representative)

Meeting called to order at 7:00 by Kuyumjian

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR MEETING**

***2005-8-17.1 Motion to accept the amended July 20, 2005 minutes made by, seconded by 12-0-0, Motion passed***

### **PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS:**

Kuyumjian was sad to inform all that Alvin Gross resigned from the SCNC Board due to personal reasons. Any renter who fulfills the stakeholder requirements can fill out an application for Gross' open seat and present it to the SCNC secretary who will forward to Kuyumjian. Chris Di Matteo resigned as Outreach chair and Levy (board member) was appointed. Di Matteo will continue on as webmaster. Kuyumjian also requested that all Committee Chairs and board members deliver motions to him 7 days prior to the next Board meeting to insure they make the agenda.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

Larry Miner, Zoning Specialist, Wireless Facilities, Inc., 16795 Von Karman, Suite 240, Irvine, CA 92606, spoke to a zoning variance request by Nextel for roof-mounted wireless antenna array (cellular towers) to be added to existing antenna structure and the scheduled Sep. 9<sup>th</sup>, 2005 zoning hearing. He explained the company had been consulting with SCNC LUC member Art Howard regarding the installation along the LA River. Ward asked about variances Nextel was seeking and was told the only variance being sought are adjustments to specific plan for tower height rising three above the current limit of 48 feet. Wadler asked under what grounds these infrastructure improvements can be protested and was informed it must be an environmental protest, not physical one.

Wadler spoke on behalf of Beverly Hadley, SCNC stakeholder, against the Nextel project. Hadley believes these transmitters will block views from across the LA River. Hadley will hold a meeting at her home, 12357 Valleyheart, SC. (W) (818)777-5365, (H) 818-754-8154.

Mikey Maloney, Director of Community and Public Relations, from the Oakwood School, spoke of the school's new attempt to form a coalition to get a crosswalk installed at the corner of Elmer Street and Moorpark Ave. after the Department of Transportation denied a first request. Oakwood's administration, concerned for student safety as parents begin in September using the parking lot immediately across the street from the campus, will press forward again with a second request now with support of the SCRA and surrounding neighbors wanting to relieve street congestion. Oakwood would like a letter of support from the SCNC for the DOT and Councilwoman Greuel also in support of the cross walk and has asked a motion be placed on next month's Board agenda. Batterman stated Elmer and Moorpark is a critical intersection of Studio City and mentioned that DOT believes crosswalks are unsafe and provide a false sense of security.

Lance Mancuso (former Chair of the Animal Welfare Committee) told the Board he had discovered from a 3<sup>rd</sup> party that the Board was informed he had quit in his elected position as Director of Animal Welfare but angrily stated he was fired. Mancuso was informed that he was not "elected" but appointed to the position. Waters asked if the Animal Welfare Committee still existed and Kuyumjian said it did.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Klausman distributed the current budget / accounts and reported that that SCNC has \$60,696 of unallocated funds available.

## **COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT**

Discussion extending the scope of the investigation into allegations of workplace harassment within the Los Angeles City Fire Department. Action, if taken, to be filed in Council File #05-0801.

**2005.8-17.2 MOTION TO ADOPT COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT: *The Studio City Neighborhood Council recommends that the City Council amend this important motion to include the category “sexual orientation” in record-keeping of bias complaints against the Los Angeles Fire Department. According to the Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Gay & Lesbian Caucus, there are currently no openly gay or lesbian firefighters among the 3,382 uniformed LAFD personnel. This lack of proportional representation might reasonably be attributed to fear of harassment, bias in promotion practices and other forms of retaliation based on real or perceived sexual orientation. 2nded by Goodman.***

Wadler and Ward wondered where the motion ended. Burg believes this issue may have merit but is concerned about the appropriate role of neighborhood councils. If NC's weigh in on all concerns, will city government become dysfunctional? Ginsberg agrees. Ward asks to make a friendly amendment to shorten the motion by eliminating all of the text from “According to” on, 2nded by Dio.

**2005-7-17.2a 12-0-0, Motion Passed.**

**2005.8-17.3 MOTION TO ADOPT COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT: *The Studio City Neighborhood Council recommends that the City Council amend this important motion to include the category “sexual orientation” in record-keeping of bias complaints against the Los Angeles Fire Department. 2nded by Goodman. Vote on amended motion: 12-0-0. Motion passed.***

## **WEBSITE PRESENTATION**

Steven Shmerler, SAS Web Design, member of Hollywood Hills West Neighborhood Council proposed a new SCNC website at a cost of \$7,950 that could be up and running in four weeks because Di Matteo has done much of the difficult “content” gathering. A question and answer session followed. Outreach will go back and study the proposal then bring it to the Budget Committee if it believes the proposal should move forward.

## **DISCUSSION REGARDING DWP RATE INCREASES**

**2005.8-17.4 MOTION that the Studio City Neighborhood Council resolves to stand against the proposed 18% DWP water sewer and trash increase. If passed, the SCNC corresponding Secretary will send a letter to the DWP general manager, as well as the Los Angeles City Council, Mayor, Board of water and Power Commissioners, and all other LANC, to vote no on the proposed increase and all future increases for ten years.**

Stakeholder Melanie Winters spoke in opposition to this motion stating that in Los Angeles, we spend less than almost any municipality in the country for water & power. Conservation efforts/new technology will cost money to make effective change and she urges Board Member to vote “no.”

Batterman asked if this motion shouldn't have gone to the Public Works committee first. Kuyumjian informed him the rationale was the SCNC was hosting a town hall meeting August 24 and should have a position on DWP increases. Waters believes a position does the SCNC a disservice – and encouraged a “no” vote. Spirited discussion followed.

**2005.8-17.5 Ward made a motion to call the previous question, 2nded by Ginsberg, 11-1, motion passed.**

**2005.8-17.4 Vote on the motion: 1-9-2, motion fails.**

## **RESOURCE MANAGEMENT BLUEPRINT FOR THE CITY OF LA**

Presentation made by Ward regarding the Resource Management Blueprint for the City of Los Angeles, 2005-2025. Ward spoke about City Councilman Greig Smith's (CD 12) idea to rethink trash as a possible resource. Waters asked board members to educate themselves on this issue.

## **PARKS AND OPEN SPACE REPORT**

Wadler (Chair) updated on the LA River Walk Project progress. The city is now looking into runoff and slippery slime growth. Winters informed the NC that the river walk was now closed between Laurel Canyon & Whitsett due to this hazard but Parks & Rec was working on a solution. Chris Olsen (Field Director, CD2) investigated and there are numerous warning signs and barricades. This committee also voted against folding Animal Welfare under its watch.

## **LAND USE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Kuyumjian thanked LUC Chair Remy Kessler(chair) for his dedication and hard work. He also thanked Batterman for standing in as Acting Chair while Kessler was out-of-town. Kessler expressed concern about the procedures for following up the actions taken by the Board on LUC matters citing as an example the prior motion on the

Moorpark and Elmer crosswalk. Kuyumjian detailed procedures including Corresponding Secretary Carron writing position letters to CD-2, Building and Safety, and the Planning Department as required. Consensus regarding the need to have someone representing the Board, with the President's approval, in attendance of all public hearings on action matters.

The LUC circulated its report to the Board prior to the meeting with background on an application for a zoning variance from C2 to M2 to allow a SC dog grooming business, Chow Bella, to establish an overnight dog kennel business (attached below) and presented the following motion to the Board for consideration (passed by LUC 6-3-0):

**2005.8-17.6 It is the position of the Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council that it supports the Zone Variance, case number ZA-2005-3268-ZV for the business known as Chow Bella to provide overnight boarding of dogs with the following conditions:**

- 1. The overnight boarding of dogs is limited to a maximum of 40 at any one time.**
- 2. Approval of plans will be granted 18 months after commencement of operations. Said review and approval to be handled administratively by the zoning department unless the zoning administrator determines a public hearing is necessary.**
- 3. Owner agrees in good faith to monitor need for possible increase in animal waste clean-up and disposal.**

Concerned discussion regarding establishing the zoning variance precedent, the impact on the neighbors of having up to 40 dogs (noise, etc.), the quality of the kenneling methods, and dog waste clean up and disposal issues. Chow Bella owner/operator TINA ADZHIYAN spoke in support of the variance.

**2005.8-17.6b Motion to move the previous question by Waters, seconded by Goodman: passed 12-0-0**

**2005.8-17.6 Motion passed 5-4-3**

The LUC circulated its report to the Board prior to the meeting with background on a presentation made by Guillermo Gonzales, Project Manager, Viacom/JCDecaux, 1731 Workman St., Los Angeles, CA 90031, and Shannon Eastonson, Senior Management Analyst, Engineering Division, LA City, 600 S. Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90014 on the proposed conversion of five bus stop locations within Studio City into "transit shelters" by Viacom/JCDecaux (attached below), and presented the following motion for consideration (passed by LUC 7-2-0):

**2005.8-17.7 It is the position of the Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council that it opposes the placement by Viacom/JCDecaux of what is known as "transit shelters" at these five locations.**

1. **SE corner of Tujunga and Moorpark (on Tujunga)**
2. **NW corner of Moorpark and Laurel Canyon (on Moorpark)**
3. **NW corner of Ventura and Vantage (on Ventura)**
4. **SE corner of Moorpark and Whitsett (on Moorpark)**
5. **NE corner of Coldwater Canyon and Ventura (on Coldwater)**

Since the meeting was held on Viacom owned property, Klausman recused himself from the discussion and vote. Spirited debate over the position of the LUC on the issue, the plusses and minuses of the transit shelters to SC, impact on local bus riders, city revenue, commercial blight, and the merits of the Viacom proposal in general

**2005.8-17.8 Motion to call the previous question by Goodman, seconded by Waters: failed 3-7**

After further lively discussion:

**2005.8-17.9 Motion to amend the LUC motion to the following: It is the position of the Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council that it opposes the placement by Viacom/JCDecaux of what is known as "transit shelters" at the NW corner of Ventura and Vantage (on Ventura) by Wadler, seconded by Burg: passed 8-2-1-1**

**2005.8-17.10 Motion: It is the position of the Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council that it opposes the placement by Viacom/JCDecaux of what is known as "transit shelters" at the NW corner of Ventura and Vantage (on Ventura): passed 10-1-0-1**

**2005.8-17.11 Motion: It is the position of the Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council that it opposes the placement by Viacom/JCDecaux of what is known as "transit shelters" at the SE corner of Tujunga and Moorpark (on Tujunga) and the NW corner of Moorpark and Laurel Canyon (on Moorpark) by Dio, seconded by Waters.**

**2005.8-1.11a Motion for a friendly amendment to add the following language after "Moorpark and Laurel Canyon (on Moorpark)": the SE corner of Moorpark and Whitsett (on Moorpark), and the NE corner of Coldwater Canyon and Ventura (on Coldwater) by Batterman, seconded by Waters: failed 2-6-1-1**

**2005.8-17.11 Motion passed: 6-4-1-1**

**2005.8-17.12 It is the position of the Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council that it supports the placement by Viacom/JCDecaux of what is known as "transit shelters" at the SE corner of Moorpark and Whitsett (on Moorpark), and the NE corner**

*of Coldwater Canyon and Ventura (on Coldwater) by Kuyumjian,  
seconded by Burg: passed 5-4-1-1*

**COMMUNITY EVENTS COMMITTEE REPORT**

Dio (Chair) discussed the upcoming Town Hall Meeting August 24 hosted with guest speaker Ronald Deaton of the DWP. Trader Joes, Vons, and Ralphs, all of Studio City, are sponsoring the event to be held at Campbell Hall. Ads are in all the local news letters and papers.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:**

Dio spoke about the Griffith Park master plan and informed the Board she has 200 signatures against it.

Wadler spoke of the monthly publication LA DIRECT and putting our SCNC meeting info in it.

Burg talked about the Clean Coalition which will now pull all non-conforming news racks off city streets. News Racks will now be the same color and properly maintained. This is an example of city responding to citizens and we should be proud.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55, 2nded by Ginsberg.