

SCNC BOARD

David Burg
Barbara Monahan Burke
Melody Dosch
Jane Drucker
Art Ginsburg
Remy Kessler
Michael Klausman
Rafi Kuyumjian
Michael McCue
Ben Neumann
Richard Niederberg
Lisa Sarkin
Gail Steinberg
Ron Taylor
John T. Walker



**BOARD MEETING
Minutes- 1st draft**

**Wednesday, Nov 28, 2007, 7:00pm
at
CBS Studio Center, Annex 1,
4024 Radford, Studio City CA, 91604**

PRESIDENT

Rafi Kuyumjian

VICE PRESIDENT

Barbara Monahan Burke

TREASURER

Michael Klausman

SECRETARY

John T. Walker

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Jane Drucker

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1. **Call to Order: 7:00pm & Roll Call:** David Burg, Barbara Monahan Burke, Jane Drucker, Remy Kessler, Michael Klausman, Rafi Kuyumjian, Michael McCue, Richard Niederberg, Ben Neumann, Lisa Sarkin, Gail Steinberg, Ron Taylor, John T. Walker (13 present – quorum achieved – 7 votes needed to pass a motion) Art Ginsburg, Melody Dosch – excused absent.
2. **Approval of Oct 17, 2007 SCNC Board meeting minutes:** Kuyumjian asks if there are any corrections to the October 17, 2007 SCNC Board minutes – none offered. Chair calls for the vote.

MOTION: 2007.11-28-07.1: The Board of the Studio City neighborhood Council approves the minutes of the October 17, 2007 SCNC Board meeting – made by Neumann, seconded by Sarkin. Kuyumjian calls for the vote.

12-0-1. Motion passes.

3. **Public Comments on non-agenda items within the Board's jurisdiction:** James Courtright – Kiwanis club rep shares that a Kiwanis organization is starting up in Studio City – asks for approval and assistance from the Board. Carson Shriver has handed out information. Judy Chilnic speaks to the board re: musical instruments and that she is soliciting funds from other councils. Barry Johnson voices his displeasure about how the Walking Men make distribution and that there is so much coming out, people are looking at it as junk. Boni Gellis talks about the Moorpark Bridge and is this the right place to come? Ray Franco starts to speak on an issue that he is told is on the Agenda and it will have to wait.
4. **Response(s) to comments by Board Members:** Sarkin responds to the comment about the Moorpark Bridge project. McCue asks about the money for the instruments. Kessler asks who controls the funds if the money is granted.
5. **Nomination and possible vote with respect to SCNC Board Youth Seat candidate:** President nominates Jeremy Lipton Schwartz as the youth candidate, explains that candidate was previously interviewed by the Outreach Committee. Jeremy stands and tells about himself. Chair calls for the vote.

13-0-0. Nomination accepted. Lipton Schwarz takes his seat on the Board table.

6. **Presentation, discussion and possible motion with respect to NBC/Universal Working Group** (John Walker): David Burg recuses himself and leaves the room. Walker gives report – shows photos to stakeholders – and says that nothing is going to be done till after the EIR – which is expected in early January. Talks about a letter the working group likes and wants to endorse, which was written by Ben Neumann and Ray Franco.

MOTION: 2007.11-28-07.2: The SCNC Board endorses the letter written to MTA/Universal by Neumann and Franco – made by Neumann, seconded by Kessler.

Public comments: Franco speaks about the context of the letter, Thomas Properties and how and why he thinks the SCNC should endorse it. Board discussion: Board members stating their view points for and against the letter. Several Board members requested that the Board produce/writes its own letter instead of endorsing the letter at hand. Chair calls for the vote.

5-6-1. Motion fails.

7. **Election Committee report** (Jim Kaplan):
 - a) ***Motion: EC.2007.11-28-07.3: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council approves the election procedures as presented and empowers or authorize the SCNC Election Committee to make any necessary adjustments or changes such as location changes, typo correction and schedule changes as recommended by D.O.N.E.***

Kaplan says that the committee received language from DONE to be approved by the Board and that upon approval the election is on! Chair calls for the vote.

13-0-0. Motion passes.

8. **Crime & Safety Committee Report** (Andrea Neumann): Neumann talks about the Chamber of Commerce and her presentation and suggestion of collaboration between community organizations, the CPAB (Community Police Advisory Board), of which she is becoming a member, the neighborhood watch program and the great success of the Halloween/Holiday Promotion. The Studio City BID and the NoHo BID established a Crime & Safety section. The SCRA will contribute \$1,000 towards the purchase of a new digital video interrogation system for NoHo Police. Gail Steinberg reads a letter from Carpenter School into protocol with praises Neumann's efforts and the wonderful success of the SCNC Blinker promotion for Halloween. Chair thanks Neumann for her hard work and the successes she has brought to the reputation of SCNC.
9. **Treasurer Report** (Michael Klausman): Klausman gives figures – mentions that we are halfway through our year - and we have a balance of \$34,000 left.
10. **Budget Committee Report** (Richard Niederberg):

Motion: BC.2007.11-28-07.4: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council approves payment of up to \$5,500 for a Digital Video Interrogation System for the North Hollywood police station, subject to reimbursement in

the amount of funds contributed by other neighborhood councils and organizations.

Niederberg talks about the Motion to purchase a digital video interrogation system. Taylor clarifies what the committee's recommendation to the Board is. Officer Andy Neiman of the North Hollywood Police Station talks about the need for the equipment to assist in courtroom convictions and the lack of city money to buy it. Burg asks for a total cost, which is \$6,500 and suggests we pay the entire amount minus any other funds the C&S Chair Andrea Neumann can raise from other organizations. Kuyumjian agrees. Outreach Chair Ben Neumann says that there might be some money for this in the Outreach budget and is offering funds. Burg says he does not understand the current Budget Committee motion as written and wants to correct the motion. Kuyumjian agrees. Niederberg accepts the modifications. Chair calls for the vote.

12-1-0. Motion passes.

11. **Animal Welfare Committee Report** (George Shea): Shea reports on current status of Chow Bella investigation. He says that he went there on Thanksgiving evening to check if the overnight boarding facility was staffed. It was. Staff allowed him to take pictures. Shea hands out pictures of dogs being held in kennels. Says that it is not appropriate to keep dogs in these for extended periods of time. Investigation is ongoing. Kuyumjian asks what will be next steps.

12. **Land Use Committee Report** (Lisa Sarkin): Sarkin reported on the Birdcage restaurant – all requests were denied by zone administrator.

- a) ***Motion: LUC.2007-11-28-07.5: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council, subject to the conditions set forth herein, supports the application of the property located at 11031 Aqua Vista Street, Studio City, CA [TT68363]. The committee seeks to have the following conditions attached to the project by written agreement that runs with the land and is binding on all successors: (1) Two and one-half parking spaces provided for each unit; (2) Balconies to be enclosed or opaque materials used and (3) The SCNC reviews and consults regarding the haul route and landscaping plans.***

Sarkin reports on the 11031 Aqua Vista development, which is currently a single family home, that will be demolished to make way for a 7 unit condo development. This is a street the Board is familiar with because of the many recent developments. Sarkin reads an email from a neighbor asking for help with the haul route and parking spaces. Board discussion follows: Burg suggests change of wording to review and consult. Monahan Burke asks about off-site parking. Sarkin accept Burgs change to motion and responds to Burke that there is no off-site parking. Kuyumjian calls for the vote.

10-1-2. Motion passes.

- b) ***Motion: LUC.2007-11-28-07.6: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council, subject to the conditions set forth herein, supports the application of the property located at 12835 Kling Street, Studio City, CA [ENV-2006-9372 with the following conditions attached***

to the property by written agreement that runs with the land and is binding on all successors: (1) variance applies only to the existing building and (2) no change of height or footprint shall be allowed.

Sarkin reports that the 12835 Kling Street development is a condo conversion which is usually supported by the LUC is requesting a zone variance to double the density allowed by the RD1.5 zone. Board discussion follows. Burg asks why they asking for a variance. Sarkin says the variance is for the # of units above allowable density. Chair calls for the vote.

13-0-0. Motion passes.

- c) ***Motion: LUC.2007-11-28-07.7: The SCNC opposes the Private Street application #1354 for access to 12340 Viewcrest Road.***

Sarkin reports that the 12340 Viewcrest Road request is for a private street, but this request has opened up a can of worms with regard to landslides, water pressure and usage of this property and that this is a land-locked property. Public comments: Greg Taylor representing the developer, commented on the property owner's right to develop and of free choice and that it must be sanctioned by the City. Ellen Little, Hap Pattiz and Sarah Harris, representing the Melanie Reingold family spoke in opposition to this private road. Board discussion follows: Drucker requests that the address of the property be added to the motion. Burg asks about access to the property. Taylor asks about the appropriateness of this development. Chair calls for the vote.

12-0-1. Motion passes.

- a) ***Motion: LUC.2007-11-28-07.8: The Board of the SCNC approves the following Community Impact Statement: The SCNC opposes the Planning Department's proposal to decrease the number of parking spaces required for new apartment buildings that are within 750 feet of a bus or rail line. Studio City is a parking impeded area and further reduction of parking will create more competing for on-street parking. We request the City of Los Angeles develop a realistic plan for onsite parking requirements for developers based on the actual usage of public transportation in Los Angeles, not data from other cities. The severe lack of parking in the transportation corridor areas already impacts the quality of life within Studio City.***

Sarkin reports that a city wide ordinance is proposed by the city planning commission to reduce the required number of parking spaces for new multi-family residences. The LUC proposes to issue a community impact statement. Board discussion follows. Drucker has a friendly amendment to remove the words "not the national average." Burg suggests inserting "data from other cities" instead – Sarkin accepts the amendments. Burg and Kessler ask why we reference both city wide and studio city parking issues. Sarkin explains that the ordinance encompasses City wide parking and this is why the LUC wrote the CIS in this fashion. Chair calls for the vote.

13-0-0. Motion passes.

13. **Presentation, discussion and possible motion with respect to the SCNC issuance of a letter to CD2 Councilwomen Greuel regarding the Ventura Blvd Charette report:** Dale Thrush from Councilwomen Greuel's office was present to give a

report. He said the Councilwomen has instructed her representative that an outline has been created (see attachment) – which he reads to the board. Talks about the research and Q&A about what’s important and the steps that would be taken. After the Q&A a designer would be hired. We then enter the implementation – meaning the property owners would have input on what they want and how they feel about whatever that development is. Kuyumjian opens for comments. Barry Johnson says he is very disappointed in the outline presented this evening. Taylor asks about the Councilpersons thinking regarding housing on Ventura Blvd? It is in the outline because it is allowed by law, Thrush offers. Walker asks about financing this Charette. Thrush says the first two were paid by the Council. He does not know where the money will come from for more. Steinberg asks about an existing Studio City streetscape plan she has that was developed in 2002. Why don’t we know about this? Why is the city so concerned with business centers and seemingly less about homeowners? McCue clarifies the question “why didn’t we know about this”? Thrush explains that there are many independent documents, but nothing that summarizes what is needed. Stu Miller suggests that the Board should ask the Councilwomen for a written response. Drucker asks about the notation of road map (what regulations) and what about the buy-ins? Taylor talks about the housing on the North side of Ventura Blvd – what is the Councilwoman thinking about this issue on Ventura Blvd? Thrush states that the property owners need to be convinced on what the community’s view is. Burke speaks about living in Studio City. Burg asks about the streetscape and what it deals with. Sarkin says that the community would like to have what is there now and does not want big businesses or big developments in the community. Says that the presented time-line is worthless. Stu Miller reemphasizes it has been two years – we must have a written response to this.

- a) ***Motion: 2007.11-28-07.9: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council agrees to mail proposed letter version #2 to Councilwoman Wendy Greuel’s office – made by McCue, seconded by Sarkin.***

Board discussion about the letters follows. Which one to send? Neumann favors version #1. #2 may be worded too harshly. Neumann calls the question on letter #2. Chair calls for the vote.

2-10-1. Motion fails.

- b) ***Motion: 2007.11-28-07.10: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council agrees to send letter version #2 to Councilwoman Wendy Greuel’s office – made by Neumann, seconded by Burke.***

Neumann recommends the 1st letter as it is worded more appropriately. Burke says that there are amendments pertaining to SB1818. She speaks to the language of what it means. Kessler says that the 1st letter has no specific request. Drucker speaks to the letter and says we should not send it out. Kuyumjian suggests sending this matter back to Land Use. McCue says that we should send now. Chair calls for the vote.

7-2-4. Motion passes.

- 14. **Outreach committee report** (Ben Neumann): Chair thanks Neumann for his and his committee’s work. Neumann talks about the Holiday Ad which was created for assorted local publications, the purchase of new banners and a pop-up for the SCNC to use at different events, 21,000 printed SCNC newsletters were distributed successfully, very

positive feedback, the Holiday and tree lighting event and that we will have a London-type bus that the board and families are invited to ride on in the parade. He explains that volunteers are needed at the Whitsett parking lot on Dec 9 by 4pm to help decorate the bus. Talks about the success of the ad for the blinkers promotion. Outreach chair also offered assistance to Colfax School who raised money for the fire victims in Malibu and throughout Southern California. Kuyumjian asks who will be the MC of the parade this year.

- a) **MOTION: OC.2007-11-28-07.11: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council accepts and ratifies the committee chairs manual as presented.**

Neumann explains that especially new or incoming Committee Chairs need training and guidance. He introduces the SCNC Committee Chair Manual and thanks Sarkin, Burke and Walker for their help in creating it. He asks the Board to make the manual official by voting for it. Chair calls for the vote.

13-0-0 motion passes.

15. **Bylaws and Procedures Report** (Remy Kessler for Paul Samek): Kessler informs the Board that we should have a Red Line version of the new bylaws by January and that following that, the committee will be working on the Operating Procedures.

16. **Government Affairs Committee Report** (Barbara Monahan Burke): Burke offers that Rita is the Secretary and is doing a great job. Burke and Burg are scheduling a meeting with Councilwomen Greuel re: the motion of subterranean excavation. GAC meeting on Dec 29 will be dealing solely with SB1818 – planning deputy for Zev Yaroslovsky will be in attendance. Klausman and Burke have been meeting with the RIO committee.

- a) **Motion GAC.2007-11-28-07.12: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council approves the following Community Impact Statement: The SCNC doesn't recommend any Water and Power base rate increases, reliability or deferred maintenance adjustments, surcharges or pass through increases this year. Any transfer to the City should be based upon DWP having excess operating funds, not DWP Bonds. The DWP should implement a department-wide workforce planning system as specified in independent consulting studies. We oppose the department's policy of paying wages significantly exceeding prevailing market rates. We recommend reducing overtime labor costs to less than 10%. We recommend that the City hire a rate payers' advocate to provide advice and counsel furthering the aims of the NCDWP MOU.**

Board discussion follows: A report is offered from Mark Johnson, the representative from our GA committee to the DWP. Report favors opposing the rate increase and offers reasons. Burg offers that we know nothing about the DWP and it's out of our territory – Mark Johnson again offers some statistics that make acceptance of the increase unfair.

9-3-1. Motion passes.

- b) ***Motion GAC.2007-11-28-07.13: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council approves the following Community Impact Statement: Studio City has seen an onslaught of disproportionate overdevelopment. As land values have soared, so have the bulk and height of single-family residences, destroying essential sunlight, circulation, trees, views and privacy. Our laws are inadequate in helping us retain the scale and character of our neighborhoods. Even with the Baseline Mansionization Ordinance, Studio City needs to add our own OVERLAY to preserve our quality of life. It is essential individual communities, not community plans, be able to OVERLAY the ordinance to continue their uniqueness.***

Board discussion begins: Burke explaining the necessity for the CIS. Sarkin tells the Board that President Usher of the City planning commission is not in favor of the current ordinance. View points for and against are exchanged. Chair calls for the vote.

9-3-1. Motion passes.

17. **Discussion and possible motion(s) with respect to reviewing, updating and ratifying the current mission statements for all standing committees:** Chair tables this item until the January 2008 Board meeting.
18. **Comments from Board Members on subject matter within the Board's jurisdiction:** Sarkin wants the record to show that 9 stakeholders showed up to speak on item #13 – but the President did not follow the agenda and it was discussed out of order. They all wanted Letter #2 to be sent.
19. **Comments by the President:** Chair wishes the Board and attending public Happy Holidays.
20. **Adjournment:** Walker moves to adjourn – Neumann seconds. Unanimous vote. Meeting adjourns at 11.37pm.