

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Studio City Neighborhood Council

Name: Lisa Sarkin

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Date of NC Board Action: 03/18/2009

Type of NC Board Action: General Comments

Impact Information

Date: 08/08/2011

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 11-0724

Agenda Date: 08/09/2011

Item Number: 5

Brief Summary: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council hereby asks the City Planning Commission and City Council to take the following actions regarding revisions to the City sign code (see other attachments)

Additional Information

SCNC BOARD

David Burg
Barbara Monahan Burke
Ezra Dweck
Victor Helo
Remy Kessler
Michael McCue
Ben Neumann
Richard Niederberg
Todd Royal
Lisa Sarkin
Jeremy Schwarz
Gail Steinberg
Ron Taylor
John T. Walker



**BOARD MEETING
MINUTES**

**Wednesday, March 18, 2009, 7:00pm
at
CBS Studio Center, Building 8, MPR-3,
4024 Radford, Studio City CA, 91604**

PRESIDENT

Ben Neumann

VICE PRESIDENT

John T. Walker

TREASURER

Remy Kessler

SECRETARY

Gail Steinberg

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Lisa Sarkin

4024 Radford Ave.
Edit. Bldg. 2, Suite 6
Studio City, CA 91604
Phone (818) 655-5400
www.scnc.info

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call:**

Barbara Monahan Burke, Ezra Dweck, Victor Helo, Remy Kessler, Michael Mc Cue, Ben Neumann, Richard Niederberg, Lisa Sarkin, Jeremy Schwartz-Lipton, Gail Steinberg, Ron Taylor, Rita Villa, John T. Walker (excused) Todd Royal.

12 voting board members, 7 votes to pass a motion. 50 people in attendance.

2. **Feb 18, 2009 SCNC Board meeting minutes approved.** Sarkin moves 10-1-1

3. **Comments by outgoing President.**

4. **Nominations:** Board of President- Ben Neumann 12-0-0 Vice President- John T. Walker 12-0-0 Treasurer- Remy Kessler 12-0-0 Secretary- Gail Steinberg 12-0-0 Corresponding Secretary- Lisa Sarkin 12-0-0 unanimous 2009/2010 legislative period.

5. **Comments by incoming President.** Ben Neumann

6. **Public Comments on non-agenda items within the Board's jurisdiction.** (see attached speaker cards).

7. **Response(s) to public comments by Board Members.**

8. **Disbanding of old and establishing of new standing SCNC committees.**

Motion: *The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council disbands all standing, sub-, adhoc and advisory committees from the 2008/2009 legislative period and establishes the following new standing committees for the 2009/2010 legislative period: Budget, Bylaws & Procedures, Crime & Safety, Environmental & Cultural Affairs, Government Affairs, Land Use, Transportation and Outreach. Neumann, Walker 2nd*

12-0-0 motion carries

9. **Report 2009 Los Angeles Municipal Election Results:** Michael McCue.

10. **Report Treasurer:** Remy Kessler. (see attached report)

11. **Report Environmental & Cultural Affairs Committee:** Michael McCue.

a) The Environmental & Cultural Affairs Com. recommends the following Board action:

Motion: *The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council approves and congratulates LA City Council in their support of AB 68 requiring a 25 cent charge for each plastic bag used by consumers in the State of California and encourages full enforcement of AB 68 throughout the city of Los Angeles.*

Sarkin states to amend the motion Walker 2nds. –

Motion to read: *submits the following Community Impact Statement with respect to council file # ; The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council approves and congratulates LA City Council in their support of AB 68 requiring a 25 cent charge for each plastic bag used by consumers in the State of California and encourages full enforcement of AB 68 throughout the city of Los Angeles.*

11-0-1 motion carries

- 12. **Report Outreach Committee:** Barry Wise.
- 13. **Report Transportation Committee:** John Walker on behalf of Todd Royal.
- 14. **Report Government Affairs Committee:** Rita Villa/Barbara Monahan Burke. (see attached minutes from the meeting dated March 4, 2009)

Discussion and possible motion with respect to proposed sign ordinance.

Motion: *The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council objects to the fast tract timing of the citywide sign ordinance case number CPC-2009-0008-CA, CEQA No. ENV-2009-0009-ND The Studio City Neighborhood Council opposes the proposed citywide ordinance unless and until the attached recommendations are incorporated.*

12-0-0 motion carries

b) The Government Affairs Committee recommends the following Board action:

Motion: *The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council supports AB 109 (Feuer), which would establish a moratorium on the construction of, or conversion to, new digital advertising displays until January 1, 2012, and would also disallow the conversion of existing static billboards, which would include 877 signs approved for conversion in the City as part of the World Wide Rush v. City of Los Angeles settlement.*

12-0-0 motion carries

c) The Government Affairs Committee recommends the following Board action:

Motion: *The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council hereby asks the City Planning Commission and City Council to take the following actions regarding revisions to the City sign code (CPC-2009-0008-CA):*

1. **Retain the distinction between off-site and on-site signs. Strengthen the off-site sign ban currently in place by severely limiting the City's discretion to grant exceptions in supplemental use districts, specific plans, and development agreements. These exceptions have led to a degrading of the city's visual environment and a crass commercialization of public space.**
2. **Support regulations to limit the height, size, number, and placement of signs to protect communities from visual clutter and blight.**
3. **Repeal the agreement allowing 840 digital signs and prohibit any additional digital signs to protect residents and communities from unwanted light trespass and pollution, potential traffic safety hazards, and excessive energy usage.**
4. **Prohibit signs that cover doors or windows, and limit the size of wall signs to prevent entire buildings from being turned into advertisements with "supergraphic" signs.**
5. **Enact meaningful penalties for illegal signage that will act as a real deterrent to this unlawful activity that is currently blighting our city, and make provision for the recovery of "ill-gotten gains" from companies that reap financial returns from illegal signs.**

6. Establish criteria for sign districts that include a mandatory reduction of billboards and other forms of off-site signage in the community plan area. Include regulations that protect adjacent neighborhoods from any light trespass and other negative effects from the allowed signage.

7. Oppose the “grandfathering” of current applications for sign districts that would allow them to proceed through the approval process under the existing, more liberal provisions that do not include mandatory sign reduction and protections for surrounding neighborhoods.

8. Oppose the establishment of any new sign districts until a definitive ruling has been received from the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in the World Wide Rush v. City of Los Angeles case. Allowing any new sign districts could lead to further injunctions of the sort that have undermined the city’s ability to enforce the current off-site sign ban, and could result in a significant proliferation of supergraphic signs and other types of outdoor advertising.

9. Strengthen our program to inspect billboards. Commence an aggressive effort to cite and remove billboards that do not have current permits or that no longer comply with lawfully issued permits.

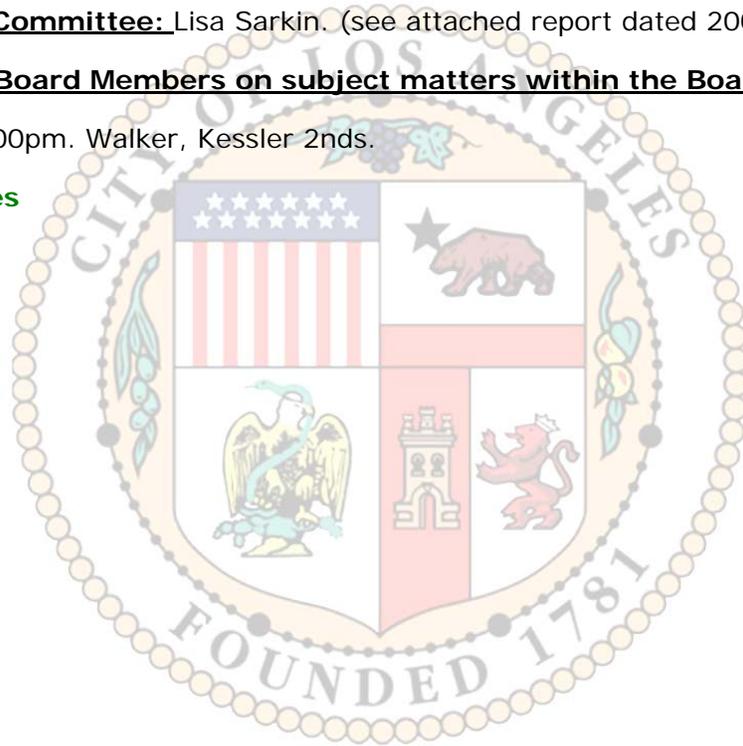
11-0-1 motion carries

15. **Report Land Use Committee:** Lisa Sarkin. (see attached report dated 2008-2009)

16. **Comments from Board Members on subject matters within the Board’s jurisdiction.**

17. **Adjournment:** 9:00pm. Walker, Kessler 2nds.

12-0-0 motion carries



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TREASURER
Remy Kessler
SECRETARY
Gail Steinberg
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY
Lisa Sarkin

March 19, 2009

City Planning Commission
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Sent by US Mail and Email

Re: CPC-2009-0008-CA

Dear Commission Members:

At the regular meeting, March 18, 2009, the Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council passed the following motion:

Motion 2009.3.18.14.c: The Board of the Studio City Neighborhood Council hereby asks the City Planning Commission and City Council to take the following actions regarding revisions to the City sign code (CPC-2009-0008-CA):

- 1. Retain the distinction between off-site and on-site signs. Strengthen the off-site sign ban currently in place by severely limiting the City's discretion to grant exceptions in supplemental use districts, specific plans, and development agreements. These exceptions have led to a degrading of the city's visual environment and a crass commercialization of public space.**
- 2. Support regulations to limit the height, size, number, and placement of signs to protect communities from visual clutter and blight.**
- 3. Repeal the agreement allowing 840 digital signs and prohibit any additional digital signs to protect residents and communities from unwanted light trespass and pollution, potential traffic safety hazards, and excessive energy usage.**
- 4. Prohibit signs that cover doors or windows, and limit the size of wall signs to prevent entire buildings from being turned into advertisements with "supergraphic" signs.**
- 5. Enact meaningful penalties for illegal signage that will act as a real deterrent to this unlawful activity that is currently blighting our city, and make provision for the recovery of "ill-gotten gains" from companies that reap financial returns from illegal signs.**
- 6. Establish criteria for sign districts that include a mandatory reduction of billboards and other forms of off-site signage in the community plan area. Include regulations that protect adjacent neighborhoods from any light trespass and other negative effects from the allowed signage.**
- 7. Oppose the "grandfathering" of current applications for sign districts that would allow them to proceed through the approval process under the existing, more liberal provisions**

that do not include mandatory sign reduction and protections for surrounding neighborhoods.

8. Oppose the establishment of any new sign districts until a definitive ruling has been received from the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in the World Wide Rush v. City of Los Angeles case. Allowing any new sign districts could lead to further injunctions of the sort that have undermined the city's ability to enforce the current off-site sign ban, and could result in a significant proliferation of supergraphic signs and other types of outdoor advertising.

9. Strengthen our program to inspect billboards. Commence an aggressive effort to cite and remove billboards that do not have current permits or that no longer comply with lawfully issued permits.

Please take this issues into account when you discuss and vote on this ordinance. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Very truly yours,



Ben R. Neumann

Cc: Councilmembers Greuel, LaBonge, Weiss

BRN/Is

