

# Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council



## "SHERMAN OAKS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL GOVERNMENT REALTIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, August 19, 2004

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m. by Chair Laurette Healey at Associates in Arts,  
5211 Kester Ave., Sherman Oaks.

Present: Ken Gersten, Laurette Healey, Richard Marciniak, Ron Merkin, Carolyn Smith, Maria Stasi.

### I. Committee Membership.

There was a quorum for the existing eight-person committee. Healey introduced Maria Stasi as a potential committee member. Stasi is a homeowner with a business in Sherman Oaks, Area 3. Marciniak moved that Stasi be added to the Government Relations Committee. Merkin seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

### II. Committee Plans for Fall Meetings

Committee decided not to present State Ballot Proposition 62 at the October 11 General Board meeting. Instead Carolyn Smith will furnish printed information on all 16 measures on the ballot for the November Election at the September meeting. In October, the committee will present issues concerning the Van Nuys airport. Carolyn Smith and Neal Roden will plan this presentation.

Ron Merkin agreed to plan the December SONC General Board Presentation on the L.A. Bureau of Street Services plan for Resurfacing and Repaving in Sherman Oaks.

### III. Business Tax Reform

Healey suggested that we table the discussion that SONC support Citizens for Business Tax Reform Now! By joining their association until after we discussed the proposed reforms.

David Phelps, Citizens for Business Tax Reform Now! and VICA, joined us to present the issue. This included:

- A. Greuel-Garcetti Business Tax Reform Package which includes business tax reduction of 5% annually for five years, etc.
- B. Councilmember Greig Smith's Bad Debt Reform Motion giving businesses the ability to deduct bad debts when paying taxes on an accrual basis.
- C. Mayor Hahn's Tax Relief Proposal for businesses with gross receipts under \$100,000.

D.

Marciniak moved that the committee recommend the Board this business Reform package.  
Seconded by Smith.

Marciniak moved that the committee recommend that SONC appoint a liaison to work with the Citizens for business Tax Reform. Seconded by Merkin.

Marciniak moved that the committee recommend that SONC not become a member of an advocacy group external to D.O.N.E. and the City of Los Angeles.

Seconded by Stasi.

All three motions passed unanimously.

(Marciniak agreed to write a bullet point presentation explaining the reasons that neighborhood councils, as city agencies, should not become members of advocacy groups.

#### IV. Committee Issue Presentations

Committee discussed whether lengthy pro and con on important issues be initially presented to the General Board. Or whether the committee should do the research, hear the more intensive presentations, then give the General Board a recommendation accompanied by brief pro and con presentations. We agreed that the second method would better serve SONC.

#### V. Budget

SONC Executive Committee has requested that we submit a budget for about \$800. Vice-Chair Flynn had requested that we budget giving notice to stakeholders when we present important issues. There was debate as to whether this was duplication of Outreach committee efforts for board meetings and/or if it could be important for Government Relations Committee meetings.

We discussed possible budget needs including making copies for Board meetings.

Next Government Relations Meeting -  
Thursday, September 23 at Associates in Art. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

