

**SILVER LAKE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
ELECTIONS COMMITTEE MEETING**

Tuesday, January 8, 2019, 7:30pm
SLNC Office 1850 W. Silver Lake Drive L.A. 90026

MEETING MINUTES

Attendees: Eric Kissack, Co-Chair
Nicholas Fox Robbins
Jerome Courshon
Heather Carson
Janis Purins
Abe Furtas
Manuel Celadon
Daniel Berson

1. WELCOMING REMARKS

2. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Discussion regarding the composition of Committee majority/public majority due to attendance. As people entered the meeting, it became a 50-50 split between board and community members. Determined that Janis Purins, Region 7 Representative, can't vote.

Scott Plante: Read a statement to ensure the work of the Committee was not challengeable. Read the SLNC bylaws. Need the Board to appoint a member to serve as representative. Recommend Jerome Courshon. Noted the action will be sent to the City Clerk.

Eric Kissack: Wanted to address Lee's resignation. Lee was unhappy with the Board for a while. He was frustrated. His personal conflicts set the stage. He and Lee disagreed on this. Lee claimed Outreach was interfering; he disagreed. Acknowledged the Outreach response was slow, but it had more to do with Taryn's mom dying and no ill will. He works well with Taryn and Betsy. No reason to be escalated. Lee was also unhappy with response from City.

Jerome Courshon: Surprised at Lee's resignation. Knew Lee was unhappy. Texted me he was resigning after he notified the co-chairs. Christopher Garcia apologized to Lee that he was out sick, and that he would reach out to him.

Nicholas Fox Robbins: Wanted to read what Lee wrote specifically. In October, the Election Committee was directed to seek approval for its promotional material for the Election Committee through the Outreach Committee, although that is inconsistent with past practice and there is no support in the Bylaws or Standing Rules for that position. When Eric did try to work with the Outreach Committee in implementing a social media strategy consistent to what was voted on by the Election Committee, the Outreach Committee has not been open to the suggestions of the Election Committee, and have not implemented a social media strategy consistent with what was voted on by the Election Committee, or held a meeting to

discuss since October. And after the last governing board meeting, Terry told me he wanted to discuss plans to re-allocate the Election Committee's budget away from the Committee. Election Committee funding items were pushed to the February agenda, stating it was not an emergent situation, affecting the mailer. Lee was a welcome member, disappointed he resigned. He has concerns for the Election Committee's independence.

Plante: Budget has not been touched. All work of the Committee can continue. Betsy informed me that everything worked smoothly between Elections and Outreach. We also informed Lee in November that if he disagreed with the suggestions of the Co-Chairs regarding Outreach, he could submit a motion to the board. He didn't, so we assumed everything was fine.

Janis Purins: What did Outreach keep Elections from accomplishing? How were the materials affected?

Kissack: Interaction with Outreach went smoothly. All were great suggestions. Facebook issue was timing. He prefers working with Outreach.

Heather Carson: What about the motions to the board that were not included? The funding motions?

Plante: As soon as Eric told us they were emergent, they were included on the agenda. We didn't have that piece of information until Eric told us.

Courshon: No need to go through Outreach. Fine if Eric wants to work with Outreach. Could go straight to Board.

Carson: Don't want the Board to do Committee work. Minutiae dies in Committee.

Kissack: Kate from Region 5 resigned.

Purins: We are missing reps from Regions 3, 4, and 7.

Carson: 3 open seats.

Discussion ensued on how to fill the open seats: posting on Next Door, the SLNC Newsletter, and outreach to board members in the respective regions.

3. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS AND REPORTS

A. State of the election committee and possible action on filling vacant seats

Noted that it was previously discussed (see above).

B. Election of new co-chair

Kissack noted we need a Co-Chair. Plante nominated Robbins, seconded by Kissack.

Kissack noted Robbins would be great.

Courshon asked if there were any other nominations. There were none, and he suggested Robbins could make a statement.

Kissack: Nick been active since Day 1. Asked if Robbins was interested.

Robbins: Doesn't reject it. Passionate about direct democracy. Passionate about voter turnout.
Happy to work with Eric.

Kissack asked for a vote.

MOTION PASSED: 7Y, 2 PNV

C. Candidate Information Session

Kissack noted the people attending the session: Christopher Garcia (City), John Darnell (City), Darius Derashan (backed out), Terry Jackson, Hannah Anderson.

Robbins clarified this is for representatives to be there to answer questions.

Courshon can't commit tonight, but he might be available.

Purins noted he will be there to talk to people.

Kissack discussed the outline that he and Lee had developed: introduction; a brief overview of the Neighborhood Council system; how the election works; and questions. Some panel questions then turned over to the audience.

Purins asked Abe, a newcomer and guest, what kinds of questions he would like asked.

Furtas: What are the parameters? What does NC focus on? How engage the public?

Robbins noted a good question would be how do you run an NC campaign, but multiple members said that could not be discussed.

Carson noted you can't discuss strategies.

Robbins: I meant more of what you can and can't do. What is permissible.

Courshon: Why should you run? Why should you be a rep in your community? If I get involved, can I make a difference? The whys?

Kissack read some of the questions developed. What is the tangible example of how the NC has helped the community, and what the NC accomplished in the community? How much time do you spend on this? What training or resources are provided to those on the NC? How do committees work? What are the biggest challenges? What possible positions are available? What are guidelines of what not to do?

Kissack thought it could be good to say "I'm on the Green Committee and this is what we accomplished." The idea was to start off with a mini advertising for the NC system, for the good it does.

Celadon thought the Annual Report where what was done for the homeless was good. Creating a more tangible example of what the NC is doing and does and how to do that would make more people likely to run.

Carson asked what member was going to do that? And who would jump in and note the other things done?

Robbins: Would be great if every member of the board wrote a statement noting what they were most proud of accomplishing on the NC and we had a written statement.

Kissack: Can do an email asking for a sentence or two of all board members.

Robbins: This would get a diversity of opinions.

Celadon: And you have the official Annual Report which is like everyone agreed on.

Carson: Can also be used for media outreach as an ad/statement.

Purins: What are the wrong reasons for running? What should people be aware of? No legislative power. Don't get paid.

Carson: Single issue people solve their issue and get bored.

Celadon: Not our job to police and say why you shouldn't run. Note what it is you can do on the board, your platform should say that, and voters will decide.

Carson: There is room for someone to be passionate, "the trees." Definitely room for singular passions.

Purins: Not room for personal agendas.

Dale: The question about what are the biggest challenges of being on the board might be an opportunity to air grievances. A moderator should keep this as constructive as possible. Not devolve into issues.

Purins: Learned you have to be very patient due to the Brown Act. Have to get stuff on an agenda, get them posted.

Carson: A beautiful example of how City Government works.

D. Discussion and possible action on the state of the website.

Kissack noted that it would be great if before the next Committee meeting, members looked at other NC websites to see what they are doing. Anything missing that we feel imperative should be discussed or added.

Carson moved that Elections partner with Outreach on discussing the website. Courshon seconded.

MOTION PASSED WITHOUT OBJECTION

E. Discussion and possible action on further outreach initiatives.

Kissack: Would like everyone there to invite someone to the forum.

Robbins: Picture Show team will promote elections, post about Candidate Information Session. Have a Facebook following of 5,000 connected to Silver Lake.

Carson: Couldn't find the "Save the Date" on the newsletter. Is it possible to do a Newsletter blast? Was the newsletter blast built into your budget? Did the social media plan contain timing for a newsletter?

Kissack: Betsy gets newsletters out every two weeks. No special one yet, not brought up yet.

Courshon: Don't we want a special one to call for candidates?

Carson: Is it in the budget? \$200 a month for newsletters only.

Purins: \$50/100 should not be a problem.

Carson noted that she would like a budget reallocation formalized.

Plante: Noted you can make a 2/3 vote of the room to put this on agenda, as it is not currently.

Kissack: Move to put motion on agenda to reallocate money from the Committee budget for a dedicated email blast for the Candidate Information Forum and the deadline to declare candidacy.

MOTION PASSED WITHOUT OBJECTION

4. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Banners from last election will need patches. Discuss next time.

5. REQUESTS/MOTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

6. ADJOURNMENT