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**SILVER LAKE NEIGHBORHOOD
COUNCIL**

Serving the Silver Lake
Community Since 2003

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SILVER LAKE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL BOARD MEMBERS

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**URBAN DESIGN AND PRESERVATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES - APPROVED**

Wednesday September 9, 2015 6:30 pm

Citibank Community Room
2450 Glendale Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90039

1. CALL TO ORDER

Attending Committee Members:

Scott Plante, Co-Chair
Joe Ferrell, Co-Chair
Leni Fleming
Carol Cetrone
Karina Andrade
David Modern
Craig Collins
Genelle LeVin
Heather Carson
Jerome Courshon

(Note: The minutes begin at 6:51pm when Item 3 begins. The note-taker was involved in a Metro bus accident. His arrival was delayed.)

2. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

3. MOTIONS & RESOLUTIONS – Discussion and Possible Action

A. Digital Billboards

Johnson / Millar

CIS Statement Regarding Council File Number 11-1705

Send a letter regarding the potential proliferation of digital billboards

Co-Chair Scott Plante said that many billboards in Silver Lake are illegal and would have to be grandfathered in. The statement tries to eliminate this grandfathering.

The school is committed to improved community relations. Several school officials are here.

Stakeholder Trupio Nardonne, who lives down the street from the school on the east side of Lakeview, said that he likes the idea. He has lived there over 25 years. He said he views it as a positive aspect of living in Silver Lake. He said he wanted to hear other modifications in the presentation. There seems to be an expansion of the hours of operation. More school events are conducted on weekends, which can be raucous sometimes.

Alexander said we made the proposal to be easier for us. We can consider a modification of hours. Specific modifications can be determined. We are flexible.

Another stakeholder commented that the proposal seems like a drastic expansion since 1987. Alexander said we drafted the update based on current practices, not old practices. One modification was there are no more Saturday activities in the yard. There is no music in the yard. This was drafted to reflect what we are currently doing. We've addressed cutting off all activities on Sundays, she noted. This is in our handbook now.

Miguel, a neighbor within the 3,500 ft radius, said that the biggest concerns are the hours, up until 5pm. That's more than what used to happen. I support the school but I think those are concerns. The way it's written, "up to once a month" is a slippery slope for night-time activities. Also, the permit should not be for 20 years.

Alexander said the modification in hours to 5pm doesn't change the hours of school activities. We have plays, community events, maintenance, activities that don't involve the entire school. We felt that it would be prudent to reflect this in the documents. The school is open from 8:30am to 12:30pm. There are minor changes in the school day.

Plante asked are you spending more time with students now, compared to 1978?

Gabriella Padilla, Administrative Director and Teacher at the school, said that it's a licensed school facility and cooperative activities. We're trying to figure that out, whether they are all regulated the same way. We don't have documents reflecting how things were done in 1977 and 1987.

A school representative named Hullabaloo said this will be a make or break year for our fundraising event. It's in the conditional use permit (CUP) though. We're trying to adjust. We are not looking to do more. The hours will be Monday to Friday from 8:30am to 5pm. Keeping in mind Tuesday standing flavors that ends at 5pm, 8:30am to 12:30pm are school hours, and after 12:30pm, we're not adding time to school activities.

Jillian McLane, another school representative, said we're cleaning the school and it's a pretty mellow time. 8:30am is the set up time. Parents are on the yard. Some of the weekend hours that we added are for setting up events. There are things that happen where we need access to the school for preparation and clean up for events.

Stakeholder Juliette Giordano said that Rose Scharlin is a community school. It's nice to hear the voices of children.

When the CUP was issued in 1977, the density of the community was considered. There were 2/3 fewer neighbors at that time. The school hours were restricted to 12:30pm. You have so many more neighbors now. They hear noise.

The new CUP can't be expanded. It should be cut back. Maintenance time is quiet time. I don't see why your hours should be expanded. Schools don't have birthday parties on campus. This disturbs the community and people living around the school. Stick to your 1977 hours.

Padilla said there are more neighbors but we are held to 24 children in the yard. That would not change in the new CUP. That number stays constant. We rent another facility for meetings, in consideration of our neighbors. We are competing with places like Ivanhoe.

We are not necessarily asking to do more until 5pm. We don't want a planning committee meeting at 4pm and be told that we're in violation of hours. We are not adding more families. We want to avoid conflict, said Padilla. Alexander added that we are looking for greater transparency. We are happy to change the language. School is in the morning. Other events are in the afternoon.

John McDowell, who lives 4 doors away, said both of his daughters attended the school. It's a jewel in our community. However, we share the concern about the way that it continues.

He said he has two issues not previously addressed: when we were there, most families came from the immediate community. Now it seems like you don't draw so much from that community as you used to. We did take into consideration our neighbors. You may have lost some of that spirit.

When someone flies in at 15-20 mph dust flies up. There is a lot of traffic back and forth. There shouldn't be traffic there. I would like to see that diminish. Parents shouldn't block driveways when they drop off kids, said McDowell.

Alyssa Carlton, whose son attends that school, has lived in the neighborhood for 5 years. Her son just started school. It's wonderful to have something in the neighborhood that I could do with my young son. I feel like being a new member parent, the work that Rose Scharlin does to communicate repeatedly, they have really done a lot of work. Also, they only allow driving in one direction. Carlton said she wanted to speak up in favor of the leg work they are doing to work with the community.

Padilla said the kids grew up but the parents didn't move. She added that the cost of living in this area has increased so not all families can volunteer and still make a living. We give greater consideration to closer families now. That's the new policy, which wasn't previously written down.

Mike Bayliss, who's lived on Riverside Place for the past 10 years, said that last year his child didn't get into Rose Scharlin. However, he reapplied this year and got in. He said that he and his wife are very happy. Rose Scharlin is changing, just as we are. They were willing to modify things. They are working on it. It seems like a good cooperative environment.

The school's chair in charge of curriculum said she lives in Silver Lake. She wanted to attest to the school's community commitment to respect neighbors. She offered a clarification of activities until 5pm. We don't want to be there until 5pm but we want to be there legally.

Plante asked can you use this space (where we are meeting now) for events after 5pm? Padilla said this space is too small. We have also considered the library. Plante suggested to try the Russian church.

Beth Bone, who has lived next door to the school for 29 years, said we love the school. We really enjoyed it. As time went on, memberships rolled over. The institutional knowledge goes away. Then it becomes a group that wants to do whatever it thinks is important at the time. We knew the school was breaking rules.

I want to thank the school for the hard work done over the past two years. People are really working and trying to care. The bottom line is that there was a CUP in place and the school refused to follow it. Now they want a CUP that allowed all of their bad behavior. It includes many items that neighbors have complained about for years.

The problem with the original CUP is that the review says the area is incredibly dense. The CUP can be modified. There are 9 new homes directly near the school. People now have multiple cars. The street is narrow and windy. Parking is only on one side. Some areas are without sidewalks. For the school to

extend its time frame, to add more traffic and density is very difficult. We have seen fire trucks and ambulances have difficulty moving through our neighborhood.

When the school is having their sessions, there is confusion about the difference between the coop and Rose Scharlin. My understanding of the CUP is that it covers everything happening on the group. What I loved about the old CUP was that it was very specific about guidelines to follow.

We think wow this is a great group of parents, how can we keep them for next 20 years? There will be new parents with new points of view. We want the CUP to be really specific about how neighbors are impacted. I run an agency out of my home office. There are many things I can't do while school is in session.

This year and last year, we've had a really wonderful relationship with the school. She expressed concern with hours and turnover. We've not just lived next to the school, we've contributed to the school.

We worked to get a retaining wall for the school. It was falling down. The cast iron fence was just chicken wire. There was a grant. We sought approval from all neighbors. We paid for rat abatement for the school. We personally care for this school. I want consideration. I want to have a business and a personal life.

Padilla said we are working to renew the CUP. There are other governing documents that get passed on in the community. We're taking information that we're getting from neighbors. We're implementing it internally so there will be policies to be followed even as people come and go. She said she's been at the school for 10 years. We are now seeing these things being done.

A man named Ken said the school's enhanced communication right around the time of the CUP renewal is more than coincidental. How do these notes become action? We want to see that in writing. Define the hours and there will be more comfort in the neighborhood. He said he lives across the street.

A woman said we get the Canyon Effect. I travel. I come home and find the party in my living room. I feel assaulted by the music and the sounds of amplified music. That's really important.

Another woman said the Ivanhoe Elementary School event mentioned earlier can't be compared to your commercial event. Ivanhoe has no immediate neighbors. It's quiet there after 2:45pm. We are small and residential. Birthday parties and fund raisers are not held at that school after hours.

Scott Baker said I really support the school. However, he has concerns about the length of the CUP. This is so dramatic compared to the old CUP. A good way to go would be to reduce renewal time to 3 years. You can't really foresee the future.

Jenny Gao, a realtor in the area and a neighbor, said that the school is an amazing thing to have in the neighborhood. But it should be truly a neighborhood school. My concern is that the old CUP was a wide area. Why a wider area for only 24 kids?

My neighbor's kid was not accepted. She added that driving conditions changed only because of a lawsuit. It's definitely a neighborhood benefit if it's truly a neighborhood school. Padilla said we have 9-10 out of 26 kids from the local neighborhood.

Another woman, who said she lives on Lakeview, asked can you stagger pick up and drop off times?

A woman named Diane showed photos of the neighborhood over the years. Many houses have been built, including lots of duplexes. For this CUP we had one community meeting last time we were here. Then school had another community meeting. They listened but didn't have a real discussion. They talked at us. There is a public hearing next Thursday. That's a significant factor. She said there would be an MMD. Alexander said I never said that.

Diane said we've been lied to. I didn't expect an MMD. You've been out of compliance for 28 years. We didn't know. If there is no public hearing next week, where is the city planning notice saying there is no meeting?

Padilla said we have cut down on events in the yard. We are looking at stepping away from weekend birthday parties. We still have the hullabaloo. For other events, there will be ample notice. We sent out a calendar about potential activities and dates. A woman said she never received it.

Joy, another school representative said we have a tentative calendar but haven't had neighborhood input. We are hoping to have approval from neighbors for the calendar. Padilla said she wants to send it out as a mailing and on website.

Alexander commented, regarding the territory of students, we are comfortable going back to the 1977 boundaries. But we don't want limitations for students from outside of that area.

This is a not-for-profit school. There is a concern about being put out of business if we can't find enough students. We are happy to change the language to say that new enrollment will be focused on immediate area. However, it won't work to have strict limitations.

Padilla said that parking is staggered. We've not formally staggered it though. We're really pushing how to utilize the parking that we do have so that no one area is being impacted. There is no formal staggering. We are a cooperative.

That needs to go to the board and the general membership. Communication comes to a halt over summer. We have yet to have that meeting with the information that we're discussing with you. We will have that in two week about improved procedures.

Alexander said the hearing date is being postponed. There is no new date yet. Padilla asked you never got any information? Plante said no.

Jerome Courshon said there are two issues. Many people appreciate the school but lot of neighbors expressed many problems happening for years. Your community meeting in May, I was there. There was input from neighbors about what could and could not be done.

Here we are four months later, a week before the hearing. I'd like to see all the stuff from that meeting for you to sit down with Board meeting to determine what you're willing to do. There are city laws about amplified music.

The handbook idea is a great idea. Must have CUP. Regarding the directional traffic: the thing about documents, we didn't receive anything from you. I've never seen the actual CUP. Alexander emailed the documents to Plante, who never saw it.

A 5-year CUP is standard. I will not support a CUP in excess of 10 years. I want to see consensus on major issues. I want to see that in writing in the CUP, said Courshon.

Padilla said we hope to have a meeting September 26. We weren't aware that the hearing would be scheduled. When was hearing come up, we weren't ready. There will be a general membership meeting on October 3.

Craig Collins said there's been action to acquire the Red Corralitis property. You have a history of parking issues. The school has shown interest in that property. Is Rose Scharlin in support of public ownership of the Corralitis property? Padilla said yes. There is support to turn it into a public park instead of a development (condos).

Heather Carson said 9 or 10 out of 26 students are from the immediate neighborhood. Padilla said that's the number within walking distance. Another representative said that it's tough to determine whether someone is in the neighborhood.

Carson said that speaks to traffic. The original CUP calls for 10 vehicles. That should be cut in half. What are the criteria for getting into the school? A single parent needs the pre-school the most. Why was a single parent turned away before?

One of parents has to work one day a week at the school. That eliminates a pool of residents. We've since then expanded that definition so grandparents and nannies can do the volunteer work. It does require two committed people to do this.

A woman asked about a discount. Padilla said you can pay more tuition to eliminate the work day. It's a buyout but not offered in first year. Alexander said we don't want a numeric limitation for the CUP.

A man asked will you come back to us and tell us what you'll do about our concerns? You said with all things equal, you will accept a local resident, what does that mean? All things are equal. Padilla said they must meet the volunteer requirement. Everyone has to get along. If one candidate must drive, they are not preferred. This is now in our handbook.

Alexander said the new enrollment efforts will prioritize the immediate area. We're willing to add that to our proposal. Plante said there will be a community meeting on October 3. We want to return to this committee after your October 3 meeting. This has become a community meeting tonight.

Alexander asked we can submit our proposal to this group? Plante asked you want to have the community meeting in October when we normally meet. Why? Alexander said we want this group to hear the resolution of these issues.

Plante said I don't want this to become another community meeting for 1.5 hours as tonight has become. There are so many concerns here. It will be problematic for us to have such a meeting again. There are a ton of issues that will require resolution so that we can vote on it.

Courshon added that for your community meeting, we are happy to help facilitate that meeting. Let's see if we can find middle ground on these issues. Leni Fleming suggested to maybe have just one spokesperson. It would be more efficient.

Padilla expressed concern that people won't be happy with compromise. Plante said nobody is ever happy. Courshon said this should be hammered out.

Plante said this became a discussion period of things that hadn't been addressed or processed. We've exhausted this topic for the night.

A Woman who has a child at the school said we can't have parties in the school yard. There is no insurance for that. There are outside forces that require change. We only have a license to operate the school until 12:30pm.

Plante made a motion to table the discussion.

VOTE
Unanimous
PASSED

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting ended at 8:31pm.