

**SILVER LAKE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
TOWNHALL MEETING**

Monday, May 22, 2017 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Ivanhoe Elementary School, 2828 Herkimer St., LA 90039/Street/parking/Metro 92

DRAFT MINUTES

TIMES ARE FOR REFERENCE ONLY. ITEMS MAY BE ADDRESSED OUT OF THE ORDER LISTED.

ALL AGENDA ITEMS ARE ACTIONABLE UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

1. Call to Order * by Anne-Marie Johnson, Co-Chairwoman at 7:02 p.m.

2. Roll Call *- A roll call was not taken for this meeting but in attendance the following board members introduced their self and were Hannah Anderson, Betsy Isroelit, Terry Jackson, Taryn Poole, Glen Harrell, Doug Loewy, Stacey Boucher, Barbara Ringuette, Rusty Millar, Jerome Courshon and Anne-Marie Johnson].

3. Welcome, introductions and rules –were given by Anne-Marie Johnson, Co-Chairwoman.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS: Discussion Items Only. NO BOARD ACTION WILL BE TAKEN

New Information:

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power will present renderings of the potential South Dam Walking Path. The proposed Tesla/Ivanhoe Walking Path will also be discussed. **The LADWP will provide information, answer questions and hear comments.**

This Town Hall Meeting is being held to provide information only. The goal is to listen to those who are interested in the potential additional walking paths of the Silver Lake Reservoir Complex.

Anne-Marie Johnson, Co-Chairwoman has handed out slips for topics, questions or concerns from the community for discussion. She called the meeting to order and is thanking LADWP for their presence. Giving the rules and asking that the community keep their talk to 2 minutes. She has asked when everyone speaks to speak directly ahead addressing the Board members and no rambling. Susan Roghani, Dawn, and Scott Sayjack from LADWP (Los Angeles Department of Water & Power), are introduced and will answer questions later in the meeting.

Susan Rowghani, with LADWP, spoke about the plans for the development at the top of Silver Lake Dam and describing the view in the pictures brought to the meeting for a visual view of the Dam that would display access to the top of the Dam. LADWP is only funding the mastering plan. Specific things like walkway or fence and landscape. That can all be considered in the Master Plan. Temporary things can go up but be changed later accordingly with the Master Plan. Ultimately the responsibility is LADWP but they work with DSOD (Division of Safety of Dams), and they will have the final word. Regulatory agencies are responsible for this dam.

The following are people of the community who wish to voice opinions, comments and questions:

- a) Dacia is up to speak, she would like to know where is the facilitator we were told that we were getting? Anne Marie addressed this question and said that CD4 and CD13 were invited but unfortunately they are not here.
- b) Hugh is saying he told Mitch O'Farrell as soon as there is a path around the lake it will cut off the ability for the wild life to survive. Who is going to have standing? How will we be notified?
- c) Karen Singer, stated: The Master Plan stipulates the path should be walkable in the grassy area and not a danger. LAPD says this new path will be unsafe for many reasons and there could be muggings. Coyotes also walk this path and would be fenced in. Potential dog conflicts? Walkers, Dogs, Cyclist, skateboarders. This is not the option in the Master Plan. but the tow of the dam is.
- d) Barbara Hoff, states at the last meeting she spoke in favor of doing everything we can with the wildlife in the neighborhood. The need to rebuild and create for the natural habitat she brought pictures of floating islands for the ducks in the water. So they can breed. She agrees that it is very unsafe for the animals that we are exposing.
- e) Amy Hallo, with Silver Lake Now, says having a path with an incline will have issues with mobility, strollers and wheelchairs. She has experienced first-hand being immobile and she asks the council if anyone has heard if CD4 and CD13 has information for these issues. Why haven't they come to these meetings?
- f) Ilene Markeson, finds the fence completely an entrapment. She would not like to see this fence added to the community since it would be an eyesore. She lives adjacent to one of the stairwells and has found drug paraphernalia, and drug deals taking place, also debris thrown into her backyard.
- g) Sargent of Arms, Mike, is not opposed to a path but he is concerned about the animals and the exposure to them. Anything between the people and water has to be 8ft. He said that he witnessed an incident when a young boy's hat flew off. The young boy ran to retrieve the hat and could have gotten hurt going into the dam. Also, if anyone is interested in the Audubon Society he is referring the board to google for the Audubon Society's plan and what is best for the dam. (silverlakewildlifesanctuary.org) for posts from the Audubon Society link.
- h) Leslie Evans, suggests for everyone to go to Lake Hollywood for reference on their pathway with the path they've had for years and their fence is only 4ft high. Leslie says there are animals and a walking path where everyone is walking. This would give good reference to what Silver Lake is asking for, for a long time.
- i) Robert Bullen, says it will change the neighborhood. He is quoting the Master Plan. How are we going to accommodate the rest of the city? Preserve existing homes, he is referring to 5-3 of the Master Plan, to make Silver Lake a destination city. Preserving Silver Lake as it is with the community who live there now.
- j) Wendy Mitchell, says she is in favor of the path and the path on Ivanhoe, she says it is not a new idea, the wildlife has lived in the neighborhood for a long time. Herons (bird) are not as dominant as last year. Lots of people from other neighborhoods will come to walk the path but there are safety concerns, but that is always.

- k) Andrea Harwatt, wants to thank LADWP for continuing to work with the community. She states, at the start of the meeting she believes it should be given the scope of what we are talking about in the beginning. Andrea says it will increase safety, and an example around the basketball courts. There is an asphalt walkway and she doesn't think it will be such an impact.
- l) Michael Masterrson, served on board previously, said he heard about the path on March 22nd his issue is the transparency of the project. He feels the process in the way this has been handled is an issue and feels he is not represented. He referenced the sidewalk and path near the basketball courts and contacted Gary Lee Moore with the city of Los Angeles, Bureau of Engineering and what needs to be done.
- m) Frida, supports the original plan in the Master Plan. She states they have seen the wildlife crossing the path. If there is human activity the animals and birds will avoid the section of the water and we will see less animals in the area. She also brought up a home invasion and compromise of the safety of homes with the path. She wants to fix what they have recommended.
- n) Rick Tuttle, who was previous city controller introduced his sister-in-law, Karen. Silver Lake is a terrific place and he says this path is the cart before the horse. He mentioned a proposal from Karen about the path in the Master Plan.
- o) Robert Soderstrom, co-founder of Silver Lake Forward. He is enthusiastic and supports to open up the walk path. He came across it walking with his daughter. He is awed with the beauty of Los Angeles. He hears the importance of preserving the wildlife and it can come to us in the New Master Plan and he thinks it's a fantastic idea.
- p) Shallen Marks, says this modest project has been a long time in planning. Just speaking of an existing road that will be opened for walking. No one who feels it's unsafe has to use this path. There is good data and 80% say yes when it went out initially. She thinks it is a very modest proposal and doesn't see bad coming from it.
- q) Rick Cosini, long-time resident of Silver Lake, he went this weekend for the opening of the roadway of the Dam. He has lived here 25 years. And it just makes sense to provide an encircled walkway to this dam.
- r) Lori, says most important is the transparency and the conservancy, she says "they know more than we do". She does not believe they know "her". She resents anyone knowing what's good for us. Also, what is this meeting about? The path, Ivanhoe? She would like to see the Master Plan and what we are talking about here. This particular path and how wide is it?
- s) A community member (I did not get the name), went on the path on the South Dam and she had an awesome time. She is thankful. She hopes whatever paths that we can open should be opened.
- t) Jenny Chamberlin, loves going out doors, loves the trees. She was stunned by being on the dam and getting that view of the city and mountains. Have a fence in line, and yes she admits her son did scramble down the dam but he said it was easy getting back up. We have big space and opportunity.
- u) Another community member named Chamberlin, (did not get first name), says he goes to lake Hollywood and the best space and environment is going to the water. He wants an inspirational space in his own neighborhood. That is the kind of neighborhood he wants to live in.

- v) Susan's concern is the process going forward with the LADWP and wants to know the master plan process. Can we go forward?
- w) Catherine, co-founder of Silver Lake Forward. Stated the original Master Plan was conducted in 1990, for a transformed reservoir when the underlined conditions of the reservoir changed. The opportunity to open the south end pass already exists and they will protect wildlife and nature going forward. She encourages everyone to participate in this dialog.
- x) Another community member said her remarks are for those that want a world class destination in Silver Lake. Her concerns are with the wildlife across America that comes through this reservoir. No plan should go forth until we have expert input on wildlife. This is a wild life necessity.
- y) Jeremy, has different views and feels that we are making a lot more out of what it really is. The scope of what we are talking about is impeding resources. We are talking about path ways on the side but right now if people are walking around the reservoir every day, they can get closer to it. He thinks there is an infrastructure that will go a long-way.
- z) Yanis, says it is not apocalyptic but he has attended many meetings and wants to know who is going to make these decisions going forward and what council and entity is going to make these decisions. He is not saying that this is the right decision. He is curious on what are the organizations involved in decision making. This council should be included.
- aa) Linda, she is stimulated about what everyone is saying. If everyone is concerned about getting mugged or if it poses a danger don't use it. As far as transparency goes we don't want to be bogged down another 15 years. She applauded the people who got Councilman Mitch O'Farrell to support it.
- bb) Christie, is thankful for getting the water in, it made her day. She hasn't heard anyone say is there going to be lights, security? Locks on the fence? Coyotes have their meetings up there. She can hear them in the early mornings.
- cc) Joel Schwartz thinks it is important to not make false equivalencies there should be a study done and he is in favor of this and what the neighborhood needs and wants. He wants a scientist to tell him before we say "no" to the green space and availability for the green space.
- dd) Barry, stated panoramic views throughout Silver Lake are most beautiful is in the dam. He thinks security is the issue for people walking across the dam. He wants LADWP to look into the fence to keep people out of the reservoir.
- ee) Steve, wants to know if LADWP will tell us there will be a study by a biologist and if there will be a study for this path and how much difference it is going to be?
- ff) Gerald Harington, is skeptical since the last time and his question is the fences? He is in favor of lower fences and hopes there is no barb wire and if it will be open at night? So that wildlife can continue to flow. Who is going to be opening and closing those gates? He is for the fences and has concerns of wildlife to be addressed. Gerald, walks every day near the dam and now the ducks are back since there is water and he doesn't see the ducks would mind him walking there. He is in favor of a lower fence.
- gg) Howard says the logical conclusion of the loop around the reservoir would be to fence it in. Joggers are out on Silver Lake Drive on the weekends. The fencing was open and since there is no path they are in the street. Everyone in the community has been able to live with 8 ft. or 12 ft. of backyard fencing, what is the harm of a test section for the lower height?

The following are the Neighborhood Council Board who wish to voice opinions, comments and statements:

Terry Jackson welcomes LADWP, he says the community was promised that they will have a specialist to address the Master Plan. If this meeting was not called tonight LADWP would not hear what you have to say. He is pointing out Silver is not the only importance but Gold matters. Hannah Anderson is interested in seeing how the wildlife will be addressed.

Taryn Poole would like to have a facilitator and CD4 and CD13 which are not present at this meeting tonight.

Betsy Isroelit is confused because there are still so many options and would still like to see a professional that was promised.

Glenn Harrell would like to see the changes for the residents. He is here to support those for the dam and those against it and wants to see a facilitator come out. His question for LADWP is why the fence for Lake Hollywood was different? Why was a fence put up in the first place?

Doug Loewy was dreading tonight, from comments and insults that was on social media. A dialog with the different groups is really helping the process. His question for LADWP is, Can they put the d. granite on the path for the loop?

Stacey Boucher has concerns for the viewpoints of the difficulties of people getting around the path with disabilities and looking forward to the process.

Barbara Ringquette, adores the view and loves that LADWP joined the meeting tonight, and would like to hear from a wildlife expert. She wants more information up front before the decision is final to open this path. She is familiar with the liability and would like to address more safety concerns.

Rusty Millar, is glad for the numbers who has joined this meeting tonight and wished everyone would join the regular board meetings like this. He likes that LADWP included the neighborhood council to be a part of this. He wants to thank Susan Roghani with LADWP since he remembers her when the first plan was addressed to the board years ago.

Jerome Courshon, thanks everyone for coming tonight and LADWP as well. He is concerned during nesting season for the Heron birds and says the path should not be open to disturbed them during this time. He is also concerned how they will keep skateboarders out from skating on the dam?

Anne-Marie shows the map of the original Master Plan. This was not part of the original Master Plan. CD4 and CD13 were sent 5 emails and did not respond or show today. She wants to see they get the specialist in and wants transparency, and inclusion. Anne-Marie wants to hold CD4 and CD13 true to their promise.

The following are answers from LADWP (Los Angeles Department of Water and Power)

Will LADWP have security? **NO.**

Inside slope fences will be **4 ft.** and water fence is **8 ft.**

The fence issue will have to be taken back to LADWP.

It is possible for lower fencing but it has to go back to LADWP before they can answer this.

No lights will be added.

Why does Lake Hollywood have a lower fence is unknown but it has been that way since the 20's.

Anne-Marie, co-chairwoman reads Maryann Kuk reservoir issues which will be noted:

My name is Maryann Kuk and I have participated in reservoir issues for 30 years.

I would like to respectfully request that the members of the SLNC who are personally opposed to any community amenities to the reservoir, put aside their personal opinion when speaking on behalf of the SLNC and the community. Primarily because advocating against these amenities is contrary to the wishes of a majority. I'd also like to request that you stop insinuating that there is some sort of back room deal with secret meetings. It is not true and it creates an atmosphere that is corrosive, not collaborative.

For 30 years, the Committee to Save Silver Lake's Reservoirs and the renamed Silver Lake Reservoirs Conservancy has, as part of its Mission Statement that says "SLRC works to reflect community preferences regarding the property and advocates accordingly". I'm proud to say that while those on the SLRC Board may have personal opinions contrary to what is being proposed, those opinions are put aside based on community surveys of hundreds, maybe thousands of people over the years. These surveys have polled new and old residents, those living near the reservoir and far away and those that use the path and the meadow park.

The most recent survey was created and compiled by a PhD who does this work for a living and, while previous surveys weren't as scientific, the most recent one was.

And yet, the SLNC refused to listen to the results of the survey. May I repeat, the SLNC refused to allow SLRC 10 minutes on the agenda to present the results of this survey to the entire Governing Board.

In a nutshell, over these 30 years, the results have been more or less consistent, 10% want nothing done; 10% want everything imaginable; and 80% want some additional access, the fence to be gone and better maintenance.

The same fear mongering objections were made by some when the Meadow Park was being discussed. Rapists, homeless, crime, drugs. And yet, can you imagine how many thousands of people have enjoyed this community amenity over the years.... no one would have had that experience if the fear mongers had won out.

Thank you.

The following are continued answers from LADWP (Department of Water and Power).

Will there be barbed wire used with the fences? **No**

Will there be an environmental impact statement? **Not to put the fences up.**

The intention for the fences up would be prior to the Master Plan process not a permanent fixture.

Will the gates be opened and closed every day? **Yes**, who will be responsible? **There will be an attendant** as with other public space.

Will this fence height be kept in this path plan? **No**

Why would there be a fence in the first place? **Primarily for safety.** There would be a limit for a pathway for people to just walk through.

Can you use decompose granite for the path? **Department of Dam Safety would have to answer this.**

How are we going to get notified for future meetings? **By neighborhood council it will be posted on website and council will notify you.**

Why are the CD officers not attending our meetings? **We don't know,** they were invited 18 days ago.

Will dogs be allowed? Or cyclers? **It would have to weigh in on who will enforce it?**

Why wasn't the south dam tow path maintained? Why was it left so unattended? **It belonged to LADWP and was for their use only.** This toe path is in the Master Plan and was called for opening this path.

Jerome Courshon wants to thank everyone that helped to get the water in the dam a lot faster than it was supposed to be.

Pamphlets from SLNC Stairways are available to everyone to pick up on their way out.

Meeting adjourned by Anne-Marie Johnson, Co-chairwoman at 8:44 p.m.