

Silver Lake Neighborhood Council
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
(Draft) Minutes
Wednesday, September 6, 2017,
7:00 p.m.
Ivanhoe Elementary School
2828 Herkimer Street
Los Angeles, CA 90039

1. Call to Order

The meeting began at 7:04 pm with 14 Board members present.

2. Roll Call

Attending Board Members:

Jerome Courshon, Vice Chair and Acting Co-Chair
Scott Plante, Co-Chair
Terrence Jackson, Treasurer
Betsy Smith Isroelit, Secretary
Hanna Anderson, Assistant Secretary
Patty Jausoro
Douglas J. Loewy
Elizabeth Torres
Rusty Millar
Glenn Harrell
Barbara Ringuette
Heather Carson
Rebecca Ruben
Lee Sherman
Kate Hudson (elected to the Board during the meeting)

Non-Attending Board Members:

Caroline Pham
Antonio Stifano
Anne Marie Johnson, Co-Chair
Bob Lisauskas
Stacey Boucher
Taryn Poole

3. Welcome and rules for actions on agenda

4. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

Vice Chair Jerome Courshon said that the Ivanhoe Reservoir will be drained for work in 10 days for a 2 month period and then it will be rebuilt. Secretary Betsy Isroelit added that this is planned work. She cited State regulations. The reservoir filled faster than expected. When the reservoir needs water, it will be fed from Silver Lake. So, don't panic when you see it empty.

Courshon mentioned that a DWP (Department of Water and Power) representative came to the Transportation and Public Safety Committee meeting about power outages. There have been more than 15 power outages in Silver Lake this year so far.

In Region 6, West of the Reservoir, much of the cabling underground must be replaced. This will be completed by September 2018. There will be lots of upgrades elsewhere too, explained Courshon. Isroelit noted that they did a special presentation for the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council. We will post that on website tomorrow and will be in newsletter too.

Courshon said that the LAPD (Los Angeles Police Department) has proposed a drone program for police work. They had a public meeting about this a couple of weeks ago. There were many complaints. As a result, they are seeking comment. Send your comments to: fuaf@lapd.online for opinions.

Isroelit said that two power outages were related to parties and balloons that float into wires and blow transformers. It's still legal to have mylar balloons but they are really harmful.

Andrew Said, Los Angeles City Attorney's Office:

He said that he is the Neighborhood Prosecutor for the LAPD's Rampart Division. He is responsible for half of your neighborhood council area: everything South of Sunset Boulevard.

We focus on quality of life issues and crime. We work with the police not for them. When crimes occur we can craft solutions that prevent crime from recurring. We are only able to do this if we are communicating with the community. You must let us know what's happening. For example, let us know when crimes are being committed on vacant properties, public or private. He added that Gabrielle Taylor is his counterpart for the Northern half of Silver Lake.

Madeline Merritt, Divest LA:

She said that she lives on Manzanita in Silver Lake.

She discussed Divest LA, a movement that came out after Standing Rock. We want the City to divest from Wells Fargo. The City has investments with Wells Fargo. We don't want to do business with banks that are too big to fail and that are corrupt and that engage in discrimination against communities of color.

With our public dollars we want control over public investments. We want Community Impact Statement (CIS) letters from neighborhood councils in support of Divest LA. An initial \$40 million was withdrawn from Wells Fargo. We want alternatives. We want to put forward a responsible investments ordinance. We want that on the agenda.

Co-Chair Scott Plante said that there was such a statement. We think we've already addressed this. Rusty Millar asked didn't the City already do this? Madeline Merritt replied that 800 City bank accounts remain with Wells Fargo.

Carol Kravits, another member of Divest LA who is representing Anne Cleary, said that this is an amazing group. Thanks to their efforts the language in City Hall has changed. Officials are looking at this differently.

Divest LA has created a way to grade banks in Los Angeles. The City finance department doesn't have one. Wells Fargo is creating car loans and modifying mortgages. We are looking forward to your report.

Alex De O'Campo, Candidate for Special Election in State Assembly District 51:

He said that he wants to contest the special election in assembly district 51. His parents immigrated here from the Philippines in the 1970s. They struggled. His neighborhood was full of gangs. However, because of public education I was able to thrive. He got into the Youth Entertainment Summer program and now works for the Saban clinics.

He wants to be your next assembly members. We want prosperity. We need to make sure that our voices are heard. Please vote on October 3. For more information: www.alexdeocampo.com

Luis Lopez, Candidate for the State 51st Assembly District Special Election:

He was a founding member of the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council in 2003 and served for 4 years. He still owns property at Sunset Junction. I serve you as President of the East Area Planning Commission. He added that he is also on the board of the Eagle Rock Association.

We must respect the integrity of neighborhoods. He also wants to address the affordable housing crisis and homelessness and healthcare. These are his top issues. For more information: www.Luislopez.org is his website.

Galdy Stephenson:

She said that she lives on Edgecliff. She travels via Uber. She suggested that it would be great if there was a crosswalk there. People take that turn really quickly. This is next to the yoga studio at the intersection of Lucille and Hoover.

5. Special Presentations: City/State Rep reports

John Darnell, Neighborhood Council Advocate, Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE), (213) 978-1551, john.darnell@lacity.org:

He mentioned the annual Congress of Neighborhoods. This is an annual event where 1,000 neighborhood council members come to City Hall this Saturday. Everyone is welcome.

Separately, there will be an event that day for the SLNC. Senior fraud will be the issue of this panel that afternoon.

He noted that because of the work of the neighborhood councils and the innovation coming out of Los Angeles, Los Angeles is civically engaged. The City Council and Mayor Garcetti have declared September as Civic Engagement month.

DONE is conducting a demographic survey of neighborhood council members. About one-third of neighborhood council members are women. He is conducting this survey with the SLNC Board members tonight.

Seamus Garrity, Field Representative for State Assemblywoman Laura Friedman, 43rd District:

He thanked the SLNC for the CIS regarding AB1000. While the legislation didn't make it through the State Senate Appropriations Committee, it is not dead. It could still be pushed through before September 15.

By September 15, we'll have better idea of what legislation passed and didn't pass. We are working to secure funding for projects in the Silver Lake and Atwater Village areas via the SE 1 Fund.

The City Council on Friday will still hear a resolution of support for AB1000. The DWP unanimous supports this water project in the Mojave desert. We want stronger environmental regulations.

Rusty Millar:

He said that last Saturday he went to the monthly DWP meeting on water issues. They talked about proposed tunnels to connect water south from Sacramento underneath the delta to southern California.

The two proposed pipelines would cost \$18-\$26 billion, an average cost of about \$1.73 per person. This will be reflected on your bill. It will require about 17 years of construction to bring water from Lake Shasta. Currently, lots of water that we use comes from the Metropolitan Water District via the Colorado River and Lake Oroville. The Rate Payers Advocate did calculations.

Barbara Ringuette, Budget Advocate:

There was a training session for Budget Advocates. DONE representative John Darnell did a video that will be posted. She said that she is on the video. This will be linked to 10 pages of training documents that tell how the City functions. If it's not in the budget, you don't get the services.

There will be a workshop at the Congress. This is such an opportunity to learn how neighborhood councils work and about the budget.

She suggested that people walk the walkway between City Hall East and City Hall. There are posters and photos of neighborhood council activities. It's really neat. It's on the bridge. She's in a photo with Mayor Garcetti.

6. Region 4 Board Seat Election: When there is a vacancy on the Board, the Board will fill the vacancy by appointment. SLNC Bylaw Article V, sec 6

Jerome Courshon said that Tracy Woolfolk is now off the Board. He is no longer a Silver Lake stakeholder so he had to give up his seat. As a result, we have an open seat in Region 4. Elections are tonight.

Kate Hudson:

She said that she lives in Region 4. I want to join the Board because I had a problem last month and the neighborhood council really helped me resolve it. As I learn about the neighborhood council the more I'm excited. I was at the LA DWP meeting last night. It was great. It's a powerful organization and I'd like to be a part of it.

She said that she's worried that traffic studies haven't been done for large new buildings. She wants to help protect the neighborhood. The reservoir is special and it's our duty to protect it. She is concerned that it may not be here in 20-30 years.

Rusty Millar commented that this announcement is about Terry Woolfolk. There has been no announcement to the community. There should be a 30-day notice for this seat. I am not able to vote for this person. This seat has to be open for everyone. We need to advertise for this seat.

Plante said we've never done that. Millar said yes, we have. Heather Carson asked what's the rule? Courshon, citing the by bylaws, said that it's on the agenda that was provided to the Board in advance. Proper notice has been given.

Carson said I hear you Rusty (Millar). Region 4 has been woefully underrepresented. However, she said that she is happy to welcome a new member with enthusiasm.

Lee Sherman said that while I'm happy that you're running. However, he has concerns. You were representative for your region before the election. You came to the first Election Committee meeting and then we didn't see you again. I cannot point to anything that you did. Frankly, it made the job much more difficult for everyone else.

I'm all for rewarded people who go through the committee system. I hope that you prove my concerns unwarranted.

Kate Hudson said that that is a valid concern. It was a bigger time commitment than I expected. She apologized for biting off more than she could chew. However, she said that she is in a different position now.

Glen Harrell asked, moving forward, will you attend meetings? Your statement was fantastic. Will you stand up for your region? Hudson said yes, she will. She has 15 years experience in marketing. She wants to help with outreach.

Ringuette said I was impressed with her statement. I want to see participation in committee activities. Have you gone to an outreach meeting? Or to other committees? Hudson responded that I went to a Transportation Committee meeting last night.

Betsy Isroelit, Co-chair of the Outreach Committee, said that she likes her experience. It would be very helpful. We need help.

Courshon asked you live in Region 4? Kate gave her address in region 4. Plante asked her about funding training? Hudson said that she's already taken ethics, but not funding.

Courshon read Article 5, Section 6 of the Bylaws regarding filling Board vacancies.

VOTE for Kate Hudson
12-2-0
PASSED

Yes Votes:

Jerome Courshon
Scott Plante
Terrence Jackson
Betsy Smith Isroelit
Hanna Anderson
Patty Jausoro
Douglas J. Loewy
Elizabeth Torres
Glenn Harrell
Barbara Ringuette
Heather Carson
Rebecca Ruben

No Votes:

Lee Sherman
Rusty Millar

Present, Not Voting:

None

(Note: Kate Hudson now joins the Board. There are now 15 Board members present.)

7. Administration:

7.1. Treasurers Report and Approval of August MER

Treasurer Terrence Jackson discussed the new City Clerk system for funding and reports. There were no expenditures in July because the budget hadn't been passed. So July is showed \$0 spending with \$42,000 left.

August will be an automated report. He handed out the monthly summary. For office expenses there is over \$9,000 plus left to be spent by June

2018. For outreach more than \$17,000 for outreach. For Community Improvement Project there is about \$4,700 left and about \$2,500 left for Neighborhood Purposes Grants.

VOTE
14-0-0-1
PASSED

Yes Votes:

Jerome Courshon
Scott Plante
Terrence Jackson
Betsy Smith Isroelit
Hanna Anderson
Patty Jausoro
Douglas J. Loewy
Elizabeth Torres
Rusty Millar
Glenn Harrell
Barbara Ringuette
Heather Carson
Rebecca Ruben
Lee Sherman

No Votes:

None

Present, Not Voting:

None

Ineligible:

Kate Hudson

7.2. Report on On Going Board expenses: Payment to Ivanhoe Elementary School and Reimbursements to Board Members

Jackson said there are two other related items related to the new payments system: If we pay by credit card, we simply upload the credit card receipts. You can see the budgets and expenditures for all neighborhood councils.

We can't write cheques anymore. We must submit a request to the City Clerk to request payment. There are two areas where it's acceptable for cheques, that includes payments to schools. *Jackson made a motion to pay \$100 for Ivanhoe Elementary Auditorium rental. Millar seconded.*

VOTE
14-0-01
PASSED

Yes Votes:

Jerome Courshon
Scott Plante
Terrence Jackson
Betsy Smith Isroelit
Hanna Anderson
Patty Jausoro
Douglas J. Loewy
Elizabeth Torres
Rusty Millar
Glenn Harrell
Barbara Ringuette
Heather Carson
Rebecca Ruben
Lee Sherman

No Votes:

None

Present, Not Voting:

None

Ineligible:

Kate Hudson

The other area where we can issue cheques is to Board members for reimbursements. Jackson said that he is requesting authorization to make payments to board members for a maximum of \$125 for reimbursements. This would only be for things already voted on.

Courshon posed a situation. What if an expense is approved, say \$300, but there is an issue because it's over \$125? Jackson said it would have to go to a vote. Courshon asked should we raise the limit? Jackson said if something costs \$300 you know where to find me.

Isroelit said the other option is that the Treasurer does those things via credit card for expenses over \$125. Jackson said we can do multiple reimbursements.

VOTE
14-0-0-1
PASSED

Yes Votes:

Jerome Courshon
Scott Plante
Terrence Jackson
Betsy Smith Isroelit
Hanna Anderson
Patty Jausoro
Douglas J. Loewy
Elizabeth Torres
Rusty Millar
Glenn Harrell
Barbara Ringuette
Heather Carson
Rebecca Ruben
Lee Sherman

No Votes:

None

Present, Not Voting:

None

Ineligible:

Kate Hudson

8. Consent: NONE

9. Old Business: NONE

10. New Business

10.1.(Homelessness) Funding of up to \$2,000.00 for Hygiene Kits for those who are homeless in Silver Lake

Plante read the motion. Patty Jausoro seconded.

A representative said that SLNC has joined with other neighborhood councils including Atwater Village and Echo Park. Every two weeks we visit neighborhoods experiencing homelessness. We take them coffee and get them services. It's easier to have a conversation if you have something to offer. Hygiene kits are a great thing to offer.

We want a day when the community can come together to learn how to take action and help. That is the goal. There is also work with the 50-Plus Committee and Youth Committee. This is an intergenerational initiative.

Rebecca Ruben said we are looking forward to this with the new Youth Committee. We want to do educational panels. We want to bring the committee together on an issue that it's concerned about.

Jausoro thanked the committee for spearheading this action. The 50-Plus is excited to be a part of it. Lee Sherman said I support this. Which committee does this come from?

Jackson said this is a classic CIP. This is an event that we will be responsible for. An event must be approved before expenditures can take place. Rubin asked who is the best person to speak to to plan the event? Who is the point person? Jackson replied that DONE tells you step by step what to do. Jausoro said that we partner with another 501c3.

Plante asked about the date? The representative said early October. Plante said our next meeting is October 6. Is that too late? The representative said no.

Courshon asked is there an issue? Carson asked doesn't it take 30 days to get an event approved?

Betsy Isroelit asked what defines an "event"? This sounds like a group is coming together to assemble hygiene kits to later give away. This sounds like a work group. Jackson said it is a gathering of people. Jausoro said every gathering is an event.

VOTE
14-0-0-1
PASSED

Yes Votes:

Jerome Courshon
Scott Plante
Terrence Jackson
Betsy Smith Isroelit
Hanna Anderson
Patty Jausoro
Douglas J. Loewy
Elizabeth Torres
Rusty Millar
Glenn Harrell
Barbara Ringuette
Heather Carson
Rebecca Ruben
Lee Sherman

No Votes:

None

Present, Not Voting:

None

Ineligible:

Kate Hudson

10.2.(Urban Design) LA Express Car Wash. Request for extended hours of operation

Millar seconded the motion.

Lee noted that the Urban Design and Preservation Committee vote on this project was 5-4. What were the issues and contentions? Plante explained that it was noise issue. He then asked whether there were any neighbors present.

VOTE

15-0-0

PASSED

Yes Votes:

Jerome Courshon

Scott Plante

Terrence Jackson

Betsy Smith Isroelit

Hanna Anderson

Patty Jausoro

Douglas J. Loewy

Elizabeth Torres

Rusty Millar

Glenn Harrell

Barbara Ringuette

Heather Carson

Rebecca Ruben

Lee Sherman

Kate Hudson

No Votes:

None

Present, Not Voting:

None

10.3. (Urban Design) Jay's Bar. Renewal request for a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for a full line of alcohol sales.

Ringuette seconded.

Gary, a representative for the applicant, said that we're just asking for the renewal of the existing Conditional Use Permit. We're keeping the same hours.

This is a 1,500 square foot restaurant. It's in a strip mall at Sunset and Foundation. The area is segregated from residential use. It's a busy intersection. This is a gastropub. He noted that Jay Batton, the owner, is here.

Jausoro asked about the 7am opening time. Gary explained that they did have brunch service. There is a full food menu. It opens Saturdays and Sundays at 11am said owner.

Glen Harrell said I support them. I respect how you run your operation. There have been no complaints. I am 100% in support.

VOTE
15-0-0
PASSED

Yes Votes:

Jerome Courshon
Scott Plante
Terrence Jackson
Betsy Smith Isroelit
Hanna Anderson
Patty Jausoro
Douglas J. Loewy
Elizabeth Torres
Rusty Millar
Glenn Harrell
Barbara Ringuette
Heather Carson
Rebecca Ruben
Lee Sherman
Kate Hudson

No Votes:

None

Present, Not Voting:
None

10.4 (Urban Design) L&E Oyster. Request for a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) for a full line of alcohol sales.

Jausoro seconded Plante's motion.

Gary, the representative, said that this is one of the top oyster bars in the entire country. They only want to upgrade to full line of alcohol service. Their hours are to remain the same. The restaurant hasn't generated any complaints. He noted that Justin Lankershim, the restaurant owner, is here.

VOTE
15-0-0
PASSED

Yes Votes:

Jerome Courshon
Scott Plante
Terrence Jackson
Betsy Smith Isroelit
Hanna Anderson
Patty Jausoro
Douglas J. Loewy
Elizabeth Torres
Rusty Millar
Glenn Harrell
Barbara Ringuette
Heather Carson
Rebecca Ruben
Lee Sherman
Kate Hudson

No Votes:
None

Present, Not Voting:
None

10.5. (SLIA) Request \$400 for support of 23rd Annual Music Box Steps Day.

Genelle LaVin, Silver Lake Improvement Association (SLIA), said that the event will happen October 21 at Laurel and Hardy Park.

Millar seconded the motion. Ringuette said that she is recusing herself because she serves on the Board of the SLIA.

LaVin said that the funding would pay for postcards. These will be updated. The sponsors will be printed on the back. This is the 23rd annual event. The attendance will be up to 400 people. The money pays for postcards and flyers that are distributed to schools. She noted that veteran actor Dick Van Dyke attended the event last year

Isroelit said that it is a great event. They do an excellent job. LaVin said there is free food and entertainment. There are Laurel and Hardy imitations. Rubin also said that it's a great event. She asked about online outreach?

Jausoro said that Outreach really needs to focus heavily on this. So many people don't know about the event. We need targeted ads. Jackson said that if we simply pay for things, we can spend \$400 on your behalf. LaVin said that's what you did last year.

Vote for 10.5

13-0-0-2

PASSED

Yes Votes:

Jerome Courshon
Scott Plante
Terrence Jackson
Betsy Smith Isroelit
Hanna Anderson
Patty Jausoro
Douglas J. Loewy
Elizabeth Torres
Rusty Millar
Glenn Harrell
Heather Carson
Rebecca Ruben
Lee Sherman

No Votes:

None

Present, Not Voting:

None

Ineligible/Recusals:

Barbara Ringuette
Kate Hudson

10.6.(Kendall) Change committee name to Silver Lake Animals Committee.

Isroelit seconded.

VOTE
15-0-0
PASSED

Yes Votes:

Jerome Courshon
Scott Plante
Terrence Jackson
Betsy Smith Isroelit
Hanna Anderson
Patty Jausoro
Douglas J. Loewy
Elizabeth Torres
Rusty Millar
Glenn Harrell
Barbara Ringuette
Heather Carson
Rebecca Ruben
Lee Sherman
Kate Hudson

No Votes:

None

Present, Not Voting:

None

10.7. (Friends Of SL Animals) Update the SilverLakeNC.org website to include list of resources related to pets and wildlife.

Courshon read the text. Doug Loewy seconded.

Hannah Anderson asked are they going to write a list of things? Courshon replied that they will complete that information and give it to us.

VOTE
15-0-0
PASSED

Yes Votes:

Jerome Courshon
Scott Plante
Terrence Jackson
Betsy Smith Isroelit
Hanna Anderson
Patty Jausoro
Douglas J. Loewy
Elizabeth Torres
Rusty Millar
Glenn Harrell
Barbara Ringuette
Heather Carson
Rebecca Ruben
Lee Sherman
Kate Hudson

No Votes:

None

Present, Not Voting:

None

11. Approval of August 2017 Minutes.

Courshon seconded.

Jausoro noted that on page 4 she “asked” whether committee meetings must not be in churches, not that she “said”. Jackson noted that the word “consistency” was left out of the Treasurer’s report.

VOTE

15-0-0

PASSED

Yes Votes:

Jerome Courshon
Scott Plante
Terrence Jackson
Betsy Smith Isroelit
Hanna Anderson
Patty Jausoro
Douglas J. Loewy
Elizabeth Torres
Rusty Millar
Glenn Harrell

Barbara Ringuette
Heather Carson
Rebecca Ruben
Lee Sherman
Kate Hudson

No Votes:

None

Present, Not Voting:

None

12. Officers Report

Courshon commented on the SLNC social media posting policy. We need one more member for a work group. There will be 1-2 meetings. Kate Hudson volunteered.

Carson said we never got an email but suddenly I was unable to post. There was no explanation. Do we really want less going out? Courshon said I wasn't involved in that decision.

Isroelit explained that there were concerns about posting. We looked at policy. It only speaks to the website. We need a proper social media policy about who can post, etc.

Carson said we used to post on the website. It says that all Board members can post on the website. We did vote on this. Co-chairs would be the administrators and everyone would have the right to post.

Plante referenced events back in 2013 and 2014. Carson said I don't see the point of stopping all that. Isroelit said send your posts to right person and they will do it for you.

Jausoro said that currently posts are from a few members of the neighborhood council. The policy should be put on the webpage so people realize that only a few members have access to post.

Courshon said that the work group first meeting will probably be within a couple of weeks. Hopefully we can get it all done in one meeting. If you want to post send it to Isroelit or Hannah Anderson at the moment. There is confusion about whether Twitter and Instagram can be launched and by whom.

Isroelit said that social media has changed the world for everyone. The various neighborhood councils have very different communities. Some

neighborhood councils allow anyone to post. Some use moderators. Courshon noted that anyone can attend the workgroup.

Jackson announced that there will be a budget committee meeting at the Recreation Center on September 26.

Plante mentioned a 10-page report related to the Micheltorena Elementary School:

13. Committee Reports

a) Youth Committee

b) Outreach Committee

14. Items for Future Agenda

None

15. Announcements

Sherman spoke about elections. There was a vote by City Council to postpone elections to 2019. However, neighborhood councils can have elections next year if they want. Is that accurate? Darnell said it hasn't been moved yet.

Courshon said I was at the committee meeting. They voted out of committee for elections in 2019. Later there was an amendment that a neighborhood council could opt to do a 2018 election but then must have another election in 2019. The City was to vote on this today but postponed the issue to September 26. Our elections will be 2019.

Darnell mentioned a budget for translations, like what the Echo Park Neighborhood Council wants. We will probably reopen bylaws. The deadline will probably be April 1 next year.

Sherman said that he wants to volunteer to be on the working group.

Isroelit mentioned a second community discussion on the word "ageism". It affects people's ability to get care, fair housing, etc. That event will happen this Saturday at the library. This may be a very spirited conversation.

16. Adjournment

The meeting ended at 8:44pm.