

Silver Lake Neighborhood Council
GOVERNING BOARD MEETING
(Draft) Minutes
Wednesday, November 1, 2017,
7:00 p.m.
Ivanhoe Elementary School
2828 Herkimer St
Los Angeles, CA 90039

1. Call to Order

The meeting began at about 7pm. These partial minutes begin at about 7:10pm.

2. Roll Call

Attending Board Members:

Anne Marie Johnson, Co-Chair
Scott Plante, Co-Chair
Jerome Courshon, Vice Chair
Terrence Jackson, Treasurer
Betsy Smith Isroelit, Secretary
Hanna Anderson, Assistant Secretary
Douglas J. Loewy
Glen Harrell (arrived late)
Stacey Boucher
Taryn Poole
Rebecca Ruben
Lee Sherman
Kathleen Hudson
Caroline Pham
Melissa Samuels (elected during the meeting)

Non-Attending Board Members:

Heather Carson
Antonio Stifano
Patty Jausoro
Elizabeth Torres
Barbara Ringuette
Rusty Millar
Bob Lisauskas

3. Welcome and rules for actions on agenda items
4. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items *
5. Special Presentations and Reports: City/State Reps reports
6. Administrative:

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

Candidates to replace Rusty Millar in Region 4:

Melissa Samuels

David Jones

Melissa Samuels:

I've lived in Silver Lake for 25 years. She is a homeowner with three children who attend local schools. She'd recently contacted various government agencies about problems with neighbors. The Silver Lake Neighborhood Council helped her when others didn't. It was such a relief. She learned of the open seat that night too.

She's served on pre-school boards. She wants to learn about processes here and have a voice and give back to the community.

David Jones:

He said that Stacey Boucher encouraged him to join the Board. He bought a home in Region 4 in 2004. He lives close to Glenn Harrell. He also has a property across from the dog park at the reservoir. He recently retired after a long career at Kaiser Permanente.

Kaiser is very involved in the community. He helped with their efforts as a marketer. He was a brand manager. As such, he did lots of community outreach.

Years ago, he was a supper club general manager. There, he got involved with the community police advisory board meeting and other organizations. He got involved with several issues.

(Note: Glenn Harrell arrived at 7:22pm.)

Betsey Isroelit said that the committees are very important. Which committees interest you? How much time do you have, she asked the candidates?

Terence Jackson asked them have either of you looked at our minutes?

Melissa Samuels responded that quite a few issues interest me. These include Air BnB laws, schools, the reservoir, safety, community building, and development. She expressed concern about all these weird mansion-y things. She's not familiar with specific committees though. She is interested in any committee that can use me. I am willing to learn. I'm a hard worker.

She's a mother of three and a writer so her hours are very flexible. Yes, she said that she's looked at the minutes.

David Jones said that he is a property investor. He is definitely interested in the future of development in Silver Lake. His concerns include Road Diet, the Silver Lake Reservoir, and the homeless issue. We see it every day. Mental health is paramount at Kaiser. He led much of this effort. Hopefully this will be relevant.

Committees that interest him include those relating to Road Die, the reservoir, urban development and homelessness.

He said that he has lots of time available now that he's three months into quasi retirement. He's a contractor. He's worked with lots of nonprofits. It's time for him to give back. This strikes an emotional cord.

Yes, he's looked at the minutes. He's also been involved in Department of Water and Power Committee meetings. Issues of preservation, development, and homelessness are striking a chord.

Lee Sherman asked David Jones how does property investment impact your worldview? Jones replied that this is all new to me,. He's bought properties organically. Investment is about bringing tenants. He has good relationships with tenants. He's very familiar with guidelines and policies. He's learning the development process. He has a vacant lot where he's trying to do small lot development.

Lee Sherman asked are any of your properties rent controlled? David Jones responded that all of them are rent-controlled.

Melissa Samuels said that I've been here for decades. My house was a probate. No one wanted to touch it. Now it's worth a million dollars. It's a complicated issue. I'm not a huge fan of all the development. I don't see it benefitting the community.

Co-Chair Anne-Marie Johnson explained how the candidate voting process would work. She encouraged the losing candidate to stay engaged and become active in the neighborhood council's 14 committees.

VOTE

Melissa Samuels wins

8-6

Votes for Melissa Samuels - 8:

Anne-Marie Johnson

Hannah Anderson

Doug Loewy

Rebecca Rubin

Lee Sherman

Kathleen Hudson

Betsy Isroelit

Taryn Poole

Votes for David Jones - 6:

Scott Plante

Jerome Courshon

Glen Harrell

Caroline Pham

Stacey Boucher

Terence Jackson

Melissa Samuels now joins the Board.

David Jones said thank you all. It's been an honor.

6.2 Report from the Treasurer

Treasurer Terence Jackson said that about \$6,500 has been spent so far. There are also about \$6,000 of items in process and awaiting approval including the Little Library, homeless kits, and the Shakespeare Company.

6.3 Approval of October MER

We must approve the monthly expenditures report. There's about \$34,000 available to spend through the end of the fiscal year in June 2018.

(Note: Kate Hudson can vote but not Melissa Samuels.)

VOTE
15-0-0
PASSED

Yes Votes:

Anne-Marie Johnson
Scott Plante
Jerome Courshon
Terrence Jackson
Betsy Smith Isroelit
Hanna Anderson
Douglas J. Loewy
Glen Harrell
Stacey Boucher
Taryn Poole
Rebecca Ruben
Lee Sherman
Kathleen Hudson
Caroline Pham

No Votes:

None

Abstentions:

None

Ineligible:

Melissa Samuels

7. Consent Calendar: NONE

8. Old Business: NONE

9. New Business:

9.1. (UDP) Recommend that the City's Department of Transportation preserve the current width and configuration of Glendale Blvd. between Fletcher and Rowena with regards to any project or development that may occur at 2829 Waverly Drive.

Scott Plante offered a correction. The street should be “Riverside Drive” not “Rowena”

Rosa Max offered a correction to note that she did attend that meeting.

Scott Plante expressed concerns about the precision of the language. This could be a loophole for developers. There is a question about sidewalks and future development around the Valero gas station.

Jerome Courshon said this has no bearing on sidewalks, just on the widening of the street. There are multiple properties about the Valero gas station.

Regarding the voting eligibility status of the new Board member Melissa Samuels who has not completed training, Lee Sherman said I’m pretty sure that Rebecca Ruben and I voted on non-funding issues when we joined.

Anne-Marie Johnson said that Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) representative John Darnell didn’t say anything about voting on non-funding issues. Unless we are challenged, Melissa can vote on non-finance issues.

VOTE
15-0-0
PASSED

Yes Votes:

Anne-Marie Johnson
Scott Plante
Jerome Courshon
Terrence Jackson
Betsy Smith Isroelit
Hanna Anderson
Douglas J. Loewy
Glen Harrell
Stacey Boucher
Taryn Poole
Rebecca Ruben
Lee Sherman
Kathleen Hudson
Caroline Pham
Melissa Samuels

No Votes:

None

Present, Not Voting:

None

9.2 (Plante) Recommend support for Jay's Bar's request for extended food service only on their pending application for Plan Approval. Hours of operation would be from 7am to 4 am.

Scott Plante read the motion. The hours would be 7am to 4am. Doug Loewy seconded. Plante added that this was approved.

Gary Benjamin, a consultant in Silver Lake, said that he reached out to Jay to help renew his conditional use permit (CUP). We did get support from the Planning and Land Use Committee. Since then, we heard from Planning that I may not have 4am hours. Then I heard that that was possible.

They are planning to offer alcohol and a full menu of food at Jay's bar, which is already open to 4am. Benjamin noted that the best business for pizza is between 2am and 4am. They are in the same plaza as another restaurant that is open until 4am.. He stressed that they seek to extend food sales, not alcohol sales. He said that he sent out flyers to 471 people within a 500 foot radius.

A Man said this proposal is confusing. I don't mind the food. I am opposed to the liquor. He received the flyer on Monday. That wasn't enough time.

This applicant has been going on for some time with different applications. When I was downtown on October 24 at the City Planning meeting, he heard that the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council Urban Planning and Preservation Committee had approved the project with a vote of 7-3. How could this be approved with so much opposition? Plante explained. The Man replied that something is wrong with the system.

Johnson asked the extension to 4am is just for food? Benjamin said that is correct.

The man said that the State had postponed deciding to allow bars to stay open until 2019.

Tracy Walker said that he was interested in this application. He had been involved in a similar situation. How is it going to impact me? Other bars are open until 4am. There, alcohol is given to you in a paper cup or a milk carton. Food is one thing but if you're out that late, you've probably been drinking. There is a public safety concern. How will that be monitored? Will the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) Vice Squad check to see whether they are secretly serving alcohol. How will that be enforced?

Plante gave a chronology of what happened in with this application in Committee.

Glen Harrell said that if alcohol is being served after 2am, it's illegal. Just pick up the phone and Vice will come.

Taryn Poole commented that more and more bars will seek to serve until 4am. This could force a movement for others to serve until 4am. Such a precedent would not be positive in her opinion.

Courshon said that what Harrell says is true. If Vice gets complaints, they will send in under cover teams and then go in and raid. He saw that happen 12 years ago.

Plante explained that the Committee voted to approve the application in August with a vote of 7-3. There was an issue regarding the timing of the hearing. This was approved for food only. After the vote, Benjamin and the owner, Jay, decided to not go for a 4am alcohol license because Sacramento had voted it down. We approved in September to send a letter.

Benjamin concurred. We reduced the request because of State activity. We submitted an application for 4am to the City. The City hesitated because of state policy. Then they allowed plan approval. It makes business sense to just sell food till 4am.

How will he monitor alcohol, asked a stakeholder. Benjamin has already spoken with Vice. He said that Jay is not a fly-by-nighter. He owns several businesses and lives in Silver Lake. He's invested in the community. This has been open for 5 years without a problem.

Harrell asked why isn't the owner here tonight. This is a big thing. Can we have something in writing from him assuring the neighborhood that he

will be on top of things? We need something in writing and I want to hear from him.

Benjamin explained that Jay's wife is pregnant. They have a class or thing that he is tied up with tonight. We can get something in writing from him. He was already at your Planning and Land Use Committee and at this group so I didn't realize that he had to come again. We can follow up with something in writing.

Johnson lamented that we've received assurances from a myriad of requesters including the Tenants of The Trees. My opinion of any establishment is the Pandora's Box for residents. I've never been to Jays. All good intentions are wonderful when they are requesting. However, once approved, all we get is deaf ears. I'm not speaking about this particular establishment. It's the same problem even if it involves cleaning puppies, she said.

Harrell said I support small businesses and growth but I've had a bad experience with Tenants of The Trees. He urged Board members to please think about this twice. I will vote no.

VOTE
6-9-0
FAILED

Yes Votes

Scott Plante
Jerome Courshon
Hannah Anderson
Doug Loewy
Kathleen Hudson
Caroline Pham

No Votes:

Anne-Marie Johnson
Terrence Jackson
Betsy Smith Isroelit
Glen Harrell
Stacey Boucher
Taryn Poole
Rebecca Ruben
Lee Sherman
Melissa Samuels

Present, Not Voting:
None

9.3. (Johnson/Plante) Request a MOA with LADWP/BOE/BOS regarding Silver Lake Reservoir Water Capture Project

Johnson explained that there are Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) between City agencies and neighborhood councils and between City agencies and City agencies.

We are mandated by the Los Angeles City Charter. It's imperative that the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council (SLNC) be a key factor with anything related to the reservoir.

Council District 13 (CD13) representative Mary Rodriguez' report talked about the current walking path going in. What was missing was the SLNC. We are the only elected body mandated to have open community meetings. To be left out intentionally by CD13, the Department of Water and Power (DWP) and other related government bodies is a travesty, said Johnson. This will sent to all relevant agencies to remind them that we are elected to represent the residents of Silver Lake. This will hurt the community.

VOTE
15-0-0
PASSED

Yes Votes:

Anne-Marie Johnson
Scott Plante
Jerome Courshon
Terrence Jackson
Betsy Smith Isroelit
Hanna Anderson
Douglas J. Loewy
Glen Harrell
Stacey Boucher
Taryn Poole
Rebecca Ruben
Lee Sherman
Kathleen Hudson
Caroline Pham
Melissa Samuels

No Votes:

None

Present, Not Voting:

None

9.4. (Youth) Appointment of a Marshall High School Student as a liaison to the SLNC board.

Rebecca Ruben said that the Youth Committee wants to appoint a Marshall High School student to the Board. We've been in contact with Marshall. We're looking to have some different demographics.

Johnson and Rubin are Committee co-chairs. It would be really nice to have a Marshall student as a liaison to the Board from their student government community. It's like a farm club to bring in new talent, said Ruben.

VOTE

15-0-0

PASSED

Yes Votes:

Anne-Marie Johnson

Scott Plante

Jerome Courshon

Terrence Jackson

Betsy Smith Isroelit

Hanna Anderson

Douglas J. Loewy

Glen Harrell

Stacey Boucher

Taryn Poole

Rebecca Ruben

Lee Sherman

Kathleen Hudson

Caroline Pham

Melissa Samuels

No Votes:

None

Present, Not Voting:

None

9.5. (Executive) Fund up to \$300.00 Holiday Mixer Gathering For Board members and paid supportive staff.

Courshon said there will be a December 6 party. It will be informal. There will be no business to be discussed. After next month's Board meeting. We can walk to the location afterwards. Harrell seconded.

Lee Sherman asked how much have we spent in the past? Johnson replied this is our first in my 7 year experience. Sherman expressed concerns about spending \$300. *He offered a friendly amendment to change the amount to \$150. Courshon doesn't accept the friendly amendment.*

Sherman said that it should instead be a substitution. There is no second for Sherman's motion. We've been very stringent about spending. We should hold the same standard for ourselves, said Sherman.

Harrell noted that people have asked for more in the past. \$300 seems to be the floor, given the number of board members here. Betsy said it will be a nice opportunity to get to know vendors. That's important.

Taryn Poole said that for 21 board members that amount seems reasonable. The overall idea is to foster better relations. This is a good thing.

Terence Jackson said we have an all day seminar hosted by Jay Handal and Ivan Speigel and other DONE representatives for about \$300 or more. We just spent \$300 for Halloween candy. It's not an outrageous amount of money. We may not spend that much.

Plante added that there will be no alcohol. Rebecca Rubin asked are there other opportunities for engagement for new board members? Caroline Pham said \$300 for 21 board members is not a very high amount. Don't minimize the importance of community building. Johnson added that it's also Kenny, Christina, and Doug. They are our support staff.

Courshon said the purpose is community building, to encourage the board to come and communicate with each other. This board has done nothing together in 1.5 years. This can clear grudges.

Kate Hudson said that she would like some Brown act guidance in preparation for the gathering.

Sherman said I agree with community support and showing appreciation. I'm happy to pay for appetizers for myself. I appreciate everyone's comments. Johnson added we didn't do our retreat this year folks so this is it. Betsy Isroelit noted that the \$300 is for appetizers. It doesn't include alcohol.

VOTE for "up to" \$300
12-2-0-1
PASSED

Yes Votes:

Anne-Marie Johnson
Scott Plante
Jerome Courshon
Terrence Jackson
Betsy Smith Isroelit
Hanna Anderson
Douglas J. Loewy
Glen Harrell
Stacey Boucher
Taryn Poole
Kathleen Hudson
Caroline Pham

No Votes:

Rebecca Rubin
Lee Sherman

Present, Not Voting:

None

Ineligible:

Melissa Samuels

Johnson said that the next motions are purely notifications.

9.6. Notification (Bylaws & SR's) Amend Art. XI. New Language regarding the filing of grievances.

9.7. Notification (Bylaws & SR's) Amend Art. VIII sec 3. New Language regarding DONE's posting requirement

9.8. Notification (Bylaws & SR's) Amend Art. VI, sec 3 New Language regarding board co-chair eligibility

9.9. Notification (Bylaws & SR's) Amend Art. XII. New language to include board appointed liaison to City Attorney

9.10. Notification (Bylaws & SR's) Amend Art. V, sec 8 regarding Censure procedures.

10. Approval of October 2017 Draft Minutes. Posted for review at the link below:

For agenda item 10.6 Sherman noted that on page 15 he didn't say "I have no idea what he's talking about". Hannah Anderson seconded.

VOTE for October minutes

14-0-1

PASSED

Yes Votes:

Anne-Marie Johnson

Scott Plante

Terrence Jackson

Betsy Smith Isroelit

Hanna Anderson

Douglas J. Loewy

Glen Harrell

Stacey Boucher

Taryn Poole

Rebecca Ruben

Lee Sherman

Kathleen Hudson

Caroline Pham

Melissa Samuels

No Votes:

None

Present, Not Voting:

Jerome Courshon

12. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Johnson said we'll have a future agenda item about homelessness.

13. Announcements

She also announced that on November 13 at the library from 6-8pm there will be the 3rd installment of Words Can Help and Hurt. This session will deal with LGBTQ issues in Silver Lake. We have a wonderful panel.

On November 18 there will be a homeless hygiene kit drive. We'll be assembling hygiene kits for the homeless from 12-3pm at the Silver Lake Recreation Center. Isroelit said they are looking for donations, small sized items.

14. Adjournment *

Harrell seconded a motion to adjourn.

The meeting ended at 8:26pm.