

Silver Lake Neighborhood Council  
SPECIAL GOVERNING BOARD  
APPROVED MINUTES  
Wednesday, January 3, 2018  
7:00 p.m.  
Ivanhoe Elementary School  
2828 Herkimer St  
Los Angeles, CA 90039

1. Call to Order

The meeting began at 6:59 pm with 13 Board members present. 7 votes are required to carry a motion.

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  
Patty Jausoro  
Douglas J. Loewy  
Bob Lisauskas  
Stacey Boucher  
Lee Sherman (arrived late)  
Kathleen Hudson (arrived late)  
Melissa Samuels  
Caroline Pham  
Antonio Stifano

Non-Attending Board Members:

Elizabeth Torres  
Glenn Harrell  
Heather Carson  
Barbara Ringuette  
Taryn Poole  
Rebecca Ruben

3. Welcome and Rules for actions on agenda items

Co-Chair Anne-Marie Johnson appointed Antonio Stifano as Sargeant-at-Arms. He's been doing it for past few meetings, she explained. This is a designation and a recognition for the duration of his term.

(Note: Kate Hudson arrived at 7:01pm. There are now 14 board members here. 8 votes are needed to carry.)

Kate Hudson asked what a Sargeant-at-Arms does. Johnson explained the role.

#### 4. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

*Beverly Gale, LA Works, [www.laworks.com](http://www.laworks.com):*

She said that she brought brochures. LA Works is a non-profit organization that recruits volunteers for over 100 nonprofit organizations in the Los Angeles area.

They are now seeking volunteers over age 55. You can try out different nonprofits to see which one fits you and meets your schedule. They are government funded. We want the world to know that people over 55 are vibrant and participating in their communities, she said.

She mentioned one big event that will require about 100 senior citizen volunteers at Lincoln High School.

(Note: Lee Sherman arrived by 7:07pm.)

*John Paul Drayer:*

H said that he is a neighbor of recently deceased former Board member Rusty Millar. He said that he's not sure who replaced Millar on the Board. Johnson said that Kate Hudson and Melissa Samuels are his representatives.

He said that he has concerns about sidewalks and potholes. Because of them he was recently injured. There is now fluid on his knee. Safe passage for kids and people in wheelchairs is a concern. We need to understand the current situation of sidewalks in the City.

He said that he wants to find creative ideas to fix the sidewalks before the Olympics and before others are hurt.

Johnson responded that these issues will be dealt with at next the next Transportation Committee meeting. See Doug Loewy, Co-Chair of the Transportation and Neighborhood Safety Committee, she advised. The more we pressure the city, the faster things will be fixed, she added.

Co-Chair Scott Plante said that the City is doing temporary fixes for asphalt. You can pay to get your sidewalks fixed in front of your house this year. That is a new program.

*Julia Contreras:*

She has a small company and wants to get more involved with the community. Their specialty is face painting for events. Betsy Isroelit said to contact the Youth Committee. Johnson said to contact the library. Stacey Boucher said to contact the Rose Sharlin pre-school.

*Doug Loewy:*

He said he has a question relating to the Department of Water and Power (DWP). Was there an explanation for the New Year's Eve power outage? It happened about 7:30pm and lasted for 3 hours. Lots of restaurants were affected.

Johnson replied saying that the DWP hasn't sent notification to the Board. I'll check with Dawn (a DWP representative) and ask.

Vice Chair Jerome Courshon noted that maybe we're at the 6 month mark so have DWP come for a presentation. Six months go they said they'd have the Silver Lake power grid fixed within a year. It's time for a 6 month update.

#### 5. Special Presentations and Reports: City/State Reps Report;

*Seamus Garrity, Field Representative for State Assemblywoman Laura Friedman, 43<sup>rd</sup> District:*

The former Silver Lake Neighborhood Council Board member said that State Assemblywoman Laura Friedman became Assistant Speaker Pro-Tempore today. There was applause.

She has chaired a Subcommittee about sexual harassment and discrimination. That's breaking news.

The legislative session began today. We are going through constituent communication to create the legislative agendas. The deadline for new legislation is the end of February.

He announced that Friedman's office will have a coffee get together or town hall with stakeholders every month. The next one will be January 18. The topic hasn't yet been determined. He'll email Secretary Betsy Isroelit with details. However, it may be a workshop on how to get involved with politics.

Courshon added the sooner you know town hall topic, the sooner we can include it in our newsletter. He asked whether the single payer health insurance proposal will be on the Assemblywoman's legislative agenda? Garrity said that she is a member of that Working Committee. The group's last meeting was in December. They are looking at a single payer system for California.

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

He handed out pens for board members to celebrate the 15 year anniversary of the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council. He presented a plaque to the group which then took photos.

He mentioned the City Hall podcast program. He urged board members to listen and gain in-depth exposure to policies.

*Adam Miller, Neighborhood Advocate for Council Member David Ryu, Fourth District (CD4) ([adam.miller@lacity.org](mailto:adam.miller@lacity.org) 323-957-6415, 213-473-7004):*

Millar is not here but Johnson read his New Year's greeting letter. In it he said Happy New Year! He expressed the hope that in 2018 Silver Lake will remain a safe and inclusive place for all people.

*Mary Rodriguez, Field Deputy for Council Member Mitch O'Farrell, Council District 13 (CD13), [mary.d.rodriguez@lacity.org](mailto:mary.d.rodriguez@lacity.org), (213) 207-3015.*

Mary Rodriguez is not here. Isroelit read her letter to the group. In it she mentioned upcoming street work. She also warned that at some point they will close both dog parks to insert new viral fencing.

## 6. Administrative

## 6.1. Report from Treasurer

Treasurer Terrence Jackson said that if people don't provide documentation, I will not chase them. He explained the new City payment system for neighborhood councils. He noted that there is about \$29,000 remaining in the neighborhood council's annual budget.

## 6.2. Approval of November MER

**VOTE**  
**15-0-0**  
**PASSED**

Yes Votes:

Anne-Marie Johnson  
Scott Plante  
Jerome Courshon  
Terrence Jackson  
Betsy Smith Isroelit  
Hanna Anderson  
Patty Jausoro  
Douglas J. Loewy  
Bob Lisauskas  
Stacey Boucher  
Lee Sherman  
Kathleen Hudson  
Melissa Samuels  
Caroline Pham  
Antonio Stifano

No Votes:

None

Abstentions:

None

## 7. Consent: None

None

## 8. Old Business

## 8.1. (Outreach) Updated Website Access and Use Policy

Secretary Betsy Isroelit thanked Jerome Courshon and the work group members who created the new policy. Now our policies are current.

Courshon read the motion from the Outreach Committee and from the working group. Johnson seconded his motion.

Courshon explained that there are two parts to this: the website and the supplemental documents. We think it's comprehensive. We spent 4 meetings to create this, which deals with social media access and website access. This is much more comprehensive than what was there before. All board members can be on the social media account. Ask the administrator to add you.

**VOTE**  
**15-0-0**  
**PASSED**

### Yes Votes:

Anne-Marie Johnson  
Scott Plante  
Jerome Courshon  
Terrence Jackson  
Betsy Smith Isroelit  
Hanna Anderson  
Patty Jausoro  
Douglas J. Loewy  
Bob Lisauskas  
Stacey Boucher  
Lee Sherman  
Kathleen Hudson  
Melissa Samuels  
Caroline Pham  
Antonio Stifano

### No Votes:

None

### Abstentions:

None

## 8.2. (Outreach) Social Media Access and Use Policy 9. New Business:

*Courshon read the motion about website social media policy from the work group and the Outreach Committee. Johnson seconded.*

Isroelit commented that this is an alien world to me. It's such a great tool. We should submit the work of these two committees to DONE to assist other neighborhood councils who are facing the same concerns. DONE representative John Darnell said that would be great.

Isroelit said it's hard to find social media policy for neighborhood councils. Darnell said not every neighborhood council has standing rules regarding this.

Isroelit noted that not everyone on the Board has access to the website. Courshon said to go through the Secretary for that. However, everyone can post on the Facebook page.

**VOTE**  
**15-0-0**  
**PASSED**

Yes Votes:

Anne-Marie Johnson  
Scott Plante  
Jerome Courshon  
Terrence Jackson  
Betsy Smith Isroelit  
Hanna Anderson  
Patty Jausoro  
Douglas J. Loewy  
Bob Lisauskas  
Stacey Boucher  
Lee Sherman  
Kathleen Hudson  
Melissa Samuels  
Caroline Pham  
Antonio Stifano

No Votes:

None

Abstentions:

None

9.1. (Executive Committee). Draft Letter to Councilman O'Farrell regarding the SLComplex Master Plan and SLNC Version 3.7.17

Johnson explained that this came from the Executive Committee. She read the rough draft for upcoming Silver Lake master plan process. This is addressed to Council Member Mitch O'Farrell and his Council District 13.

There is concern about the new height of the fence around the Southern Reservoir walking path. We'll hold community meetings for every phase of the process. We want all of the information shared. The goal is to avoid arbitrary and non transparent actions. The reservoir affects quality of life for our constituents, said Johnson.

A Woman named Frida said that she wanted the new language reread from the draft. Johnson reread that section. Frida thanked the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council for being our voice. She said she'd sent an email to the Board about this. Height wasn't the issue. The issue was the lack of transparency and inclusiveness in the process. She thinks the letter is wonderful.

She wants letter sent to both Council Members and to other relevant elected officials. She noted that it's disturbing that the SLNC sent a Community Impact Statement (CIS) regarding the storm water recapture process and there was no reply. I'd like that to not happen, she said.

Barbara Noble said that she's alarmed that the Brown Act has been violated. The letter is not strong enough. It's too sweet. It needs to be more specific. She said that she is concerned about the legal ramifications about changing the height, throwing material into the lake, and the health of the ecosystem. The City made this change without consultation or public notice. That's a violation of the law. The letter has to be stronger and more specific.

A Man said the City announced in February that they would go forward. He mentioned the history of related meetings. Council Member O'Farrell had an open house in May. Mention of the 4 foot fences was a surprise. O'Farrell Field Representative Mary Rodriguez wrote a letter and lied to me. She'd said they'd had meetings, he said.

June Cook added that the process isn't transparent referring to the decision about changing the height of the fence. What is the impact of a 4 ft fence versus an 8 ft fence? When you shorten the height of a fence in a highly populated area that can be a very bad decision, she said.

Paul Feldman said that the letter is candy coated. Call a spade a spade and call a weasel a weasel. The letter should point out the lack of transparency and the Brown Act violation. Council Member O'Farrell should have personal liability if someone is hurt. A Woman urged to add that O'Farrell is being put on notice.

Kate Hudson noted that there is a typographical error in the letter. Terrence Jackson commented that we can get harder tone toward the issue later. Courshon said that people feel, whether or not there is evidence, that Council Member O'Farrell doesn't care about neighborhood councils.

Johnson said we will attach documents. Without the height concern, the letter would not have been written. We will highlight the breach of the Brown act. Isroelit thanked the people who spoke out and for coming this evening. What is the process for adding language, she asked. Johnson explained.

Patty Jausoro asked how is this a violation of the Brown Act? Johnson replied that the Brown Act is very clear about equal access at the same time. Several violations took place. Council District 13 recognizes the slippery slope of having an open house and making decisions there. Those are not considered as community meetings.

Jausoro said that the DWP did present at the meeting. It's in the minutes. Johnson replied that there was no definitive decision that a 4 ft fence would be installed. We'll check the minutes, she added.

Courshon noted that there was a comment from the May meeting minutes where a resident discussed Lake Hollywood. Isroelit said we found out about the 4 ft fence by happenstance.

**VOTE**  
**14-1-0**  
**PASSED**

Yes Votes:  
Anne-Marie Johnson  
Scott Plante  
Jerome Courshon  
Terrence Jackson  
Betsy Smith Isroelit  
Hanna Anderson  
Douglas J. Loewy

Bob Lisauskas  
Stacey Boucher  
Lee Sherman  
Kathleen Hudson  
Melissa Samuels  
Caroline Pham  
Antonio Stifano

No Votes:

Patty Jausoro

Abstentions:

None

10. Approval of December 2017 Draft Minutes: Posted at [www.silverlakenc.org](http://www.silverlakenc.org)

**VOTE**

**15-0-0**

**PASSED**

Yes Votes:

Anne-Marie Johnson  
Scott Plante  
Jerome Courshon  
Terrence Jackson  
Betsy Smith Isroelit  
Hanna Anderson  
Patty Jausoro  
Douglas J. Loewy  
Bob Lisauskas  
Stacey Boucher  
Lee Sherman  
Kathleen Hudson  
Melissa Samuels  
Caroline Pham  
Antonio Stifano

No Votes:

None

Abstentions:

None

13. Announcements

Patti Jausoro read a statement of resignation:

“When I ran for a seat on this board, I was part of a slate of 21 candidates. Although we held different viewpoints on some issues, I believed that together we could support our constituents without acrimony.

As a life long volunteer for various causes – People living with HIV, Children’s Literacy, and over the past several years - seniors, I looked forward to serving. I was thrilled to start the 50+ committee, only the second group in the entire NC system focused on issues of Aging.

Silver Lake is blessed to have a very active volunteer community. Some groups have been in existence for decades. Their accomplishments are as diverse as the people they represent. We should be proud of them.

My beliefs in the ability of this board to function without acrimony were challenged from early on. There were arguments, threats, and an ever growing power concentration which ultimately caused me to resign from the executive committee as treasurer.

So At the same time that I was losing hope as a board member, I began to seek out those other groups of volunteers and found that many hold a negative view of this council. They feel thwarted, not supported, and as a result have found various ways to accomplish their goals without the NC involvement.

The Neighborhood councils are to act as an advisory board to the city of Los Angeles and its many varied entities. Despite being the only “elected” body in comparison to these other volunteer groups, the board does not represent the sole voice of Silver Lake constituents, nor does the board’s representation overrule the voices expressed by these other groups.

Because the acrimony is not just internal but also indicative of how we treat parties who reach out for collaboration, and because I know I can better serve my constituents elsewhere, I resign effective immediately.

Thank you.”

Johnson said that on January 18 at the Silver Lake Library the SLNC will host the 4<sup>th</sup> installment of the discussion series Words Can Help and Hurt. 6:30pm. This session will be in honor of Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King during the celebration of his birthday. The topic will be diversity in the Trump Era.

Courshon said since we just learned about Patty Jausoro's vacancy, there will be a vote for a new Board member at our next Board meeting. She was an at-large representative so you can live anywhere in Silver Lake to seek this position.

#### 14. Adjournment

The meeting ended at 8:09pm.