

July 17, 2018 SLNC Election Committee Draft Minutes

The Election Committee held its meeting on Tuesday, July 17 at 6:40 pm at the Silver Lake Recreational Center. Lee Sherman, Eric Kissack (arrived at 6:45 pm), Manuel Celedon, Anne-Marie Johnson, Betsy Smith Isroelit, Jerome Courshon, and Katie Smith.

Co-Chair Elections

Jerome moved to nominate Lee as Co-Chair. Anne-Marie seconded. Lee said he accepted the nomination. Lee discussed the accomplishments of the Election Committee during the last election which included achieving the fourth highest vote among neighborhood councils in the City of Los Angeles. Lee also mentioned the Election Post-Mortem Report, which resulted in changes to the bylaws that included allowing stakeholders to vote by self-affirmation on the day of the Election. Also, the Election Committee, as it recommended in the report, was granted a substantially greater budget to conduct outreach for the next election.

Anne-Marie asked about the document that the Election Committee created for self-affirmation. Lee said that he and Eric created something and sent to Anne-Marie. Anne-Marie said she sent it to the city, but never heard anything back. She said she would double check on that. Anne-Marie also believed the form should be attached to the SLNC bylaws.

Jerome asked what would happen if Lee choose to run for the neighborhood council in the next election. Lee said that as a result of the Bylaw changes that were made, board members are allowed to serve on the committee. However, once they decide to run for election, they can only serve as a non-voting member. Lee said his preference would not to be co-chair if he ran. But he also wanted to make sure the Election Committee was in good hands.

There were no objections, and Lee was elected co-chair by a vote of 6-0 (Eric had not yet arrived).

Anne-Marie nominated Eric Kissack. Jerome seconded. Eric said that he accepted the nomination. Eric discussed his work on the Election Committee for the last election. He said that he learned a lot and hoped to take these learning experiences to improve upon the Election Committee's work from the last election.

Anne-Marie asked what the Committee would do differently. Eric said that based on the research done for the Post Mortem report, direct mailing was found to be an effective way to reach a broader segment of the community. Also, Eric said that he would re-think how the Committee coordinated the candidate forum. Eric said that he thought election day ran smoothly.

There were no objections, and Lee was elected co-chair by a vote of 7-0.

Election Stipulation

Jerome suggested a six hour time period from between 10 am to 4 pm. Lee and Betsy agreed. Anne-Marie suggested 9 am because of concerns with traffic later in the morning, and the completing flea market and farmer's market that occurs on Saturdays. Eric confirmed that the flea market moved to evenings, but that is only during the summer. Anne Marie said regardless of where the election is held that she suggested 9 am to 3 pm for hours on Election Day. There was no disagreement.

Manny asked whether we can do early voting. Jerome said that there is no online or absentee voting. Eric brought up the issues with online voting that occurred during the last election. Anne-Marie said the City Council does not want to do online voting.

Katie asked whether we have analysis of demographics of the community, and asked whether there are certain demographics that are turning out to vote less than others. Betsy said DONE has some demographic data. Manny cited to the census data on Wikipedia. Eric said that the purpose of the direct mailer was to reach a broader segment of the population. Jerome said Regions 2 and 3 typically have lower turnout than other regions. If the Committee does a direct mailer, he asked that it be done in Spanish. Lee and Eric agreed. Anne-Marie said that the neighborhood council's turnouts are on par with city elections. Betsy said part of the issue is that there was limited Spanish speaking outreach. Eric suggested that part of the social media outreach include targeted outreach by demographics.

There was then a discussion of locations for the elections. Lee said that he reached out to John Darnell about whether there was a requirement to hold the elections at an ADA compliant location, considering that the federal, state, and local elections are held at non-ADA compliant locations such as Micheltorena. Lee said he did not hear back. Anne-Marie suggested reaching out to the City Clerk or City Attorney's Office and she offered to do so.

There was concern about holding the election at Micheltorena again because of the Flea Market. Jerome asked whether the Flea Market is held on every Saturday. It is not. Eric said that although the election was held on the same day as a Flea Market, the Committee made it work. Anne-Marie cited to the ADA Compliance and parking issues for the last election, since the school did not allow the neighborhood council most of the school's parking lot. She said she would not support Micheltorena again this year; it is time to give another polling place a try. Betsy agreed parking was a problem, and said it was hot.

Betsy suggested Ivanhoe. Anne-Marie said she would support it, but it may not get board support because it is perceived as not being centrally located within Silver Lake.

Jerome brought up the Holy Virgin Mary Cathedral. Anne-Marie said there were ADA compliance issues and religious symbols. Lee mentioned that Holy Virgin Mary Cathedral was the board's first choice last time, but that by the time the Board was ready to schedule the location, the Cathedral was booked.

Anne-Marie suggested the possibility of two locations. Lee said we can try, but that the Election Stipulation is a cookie-cutter form that does not contemplate the selection of multiple locations. Jerome agreed to try for an extra location in which the Board would pay for the location. DONE could split up their staff in between the two locations, so it would be no extra expense for the city. The idea is to have a southern and northern location.

The committee decided that it would be necessary to do some research both on the issue of ADA Compliance and on the availability and costs of several locations before the August 1 Governing Board meeting where the Election Stipulation would have to be filled out. Anne-Marie said she would look into the ADA compliance issue. Lee and Eric said they would look into availability and costs. The Committee then brainstormed and discussed several possible locations - both ADA compliant and non-ADA compliant.

ADA Compliant

- Ivanhoe
- Citibank
- St Francis
- Silver Lake Community Church (Rowena/Hyperion)

Non-ADA Compliance
-Micheltorena
-Holy Virgin

Out of those options, the Committee decided further exploring Ivanhoe, St. Francis, Silver Lake Community Church, and the Holy Virgin Mary Cathedral as options.

The Committee then considered the question on the stipulation regarding translations. The consensus was to include a translation for Spanish, but not pay for any additional language.

The Committee then discussed the optional election type question of whether the neighborhood council wants to have online or vote-by-mail options. Lee said that this appears to be a hypothetical question, as the neighborhood council is not able to do online voting, and the form asks whether the neighborhood council is willing to allocate \$5,000 for the vote-by-mail options. The consensus was to choose Vote-by-Mail, but say that it was not willing to spend \$5,000 of the board's funds to implement that option.

Community Impact Statement for Council File 18-0467

Lee provided the following background. In the Post-Mortem Report following the 2016 Election, the Election Committee included recommendations to the City to improve voter access for neighborhood council elections. David Ryu's motion for Neighborhood Council Reforms requests that the neighborhood councils provide input and recommendations, and specifically invited recommendations for reforms for conducting elections. Lee said that this is an appropriate outlet to provide the Election Committee's recommendations to the City Council, as suggested in the Post-Mortem Report.

Betsy had some concern because this is a matter that was considered by Government Affairs. Lee mentioned that he drafted, with Eric and Jerome's input, a Community Impact Statement for this Council File earlier in July prior to the last governing board meeting. The matter was then referred to Government Affairs. Government Affairs held its committee meeting on July 13, a Saturday, in which it placed the Community Impact Statement on the agenda. Lee, Jerome, and Eric could not attend that meeting, and at the time of the Election Committee meeting, the Government Affairs' meeting minutes had not been posted. Lee said that the preference was to try to work with Government Affairs on the CIS, and that is what he and Jerome tried to do. Lee talked with David, the Government Affairs Co-Chair, before the meeting asking if the Government Affairs meeting could be postponed to a day where the Election Committee could be present to provide its input. David said he talked with Barbara, the other co-chair of the Government Affairs Committee, and she was not in favor of postponing the meeting. Jerome also talked to Barbara. Jerome said that Barbara did not know about the CIS that had already been drafted. But she did not want to move the meeting or move the item about the CIS to another meeting.

Lee said the Election Committee wants to make sure it has the opportunity to provide its input on this topic. The Election Committee spent a substantial amount of time preparing the Post-Mortem Report, thinking about these ideas, and drafting this Community Impact Statement. He just wants a fair hearing to make sure that the Election Committee's ideas are considered.

Anne-Marie said she had discussed the issue with Scott. She recommended that both committees submit something separately, as she did not think there will be a joint meeting between Government Affairs and the Election Committee before the August 1 board meeting.

There was a discussion on word count of the Community Impact Statement. Anne-Marie said she had to check whether the limit was 300 or 100 words. Lee looked online and it appeared the limit was 300 words.

Betsy said that Ryu's motion did not include language about a memorandum of understanding between city agencies and the neighborhood councils. Anne-Marie agreed that there must be a MOU. She said that this was one of the leading concerns since city agencies do not feel compelled to act without one. Jerome agreed. Some of the introductory language from the CIS was removed to make room for the recommendation that there be a MOU between all city agencies and the neighborhood councils.

With that change, Anne-Marie moved to approve the motion to recommend that the neighborhood council submit the Community Impact Statement for Council File 18-0467. Betsy seconded. There was no objection. The final vote was 7-0.

Adoption of August 8, 2016 Meeting Minutes

There was a motion and second of the August 8, 2016 meeting minutes. The minutes were accepted with 6 yays, no nays, and one present and not voting (Jerome).

Requests for Future Agenda Items

Anne-Marie asked what needs to happen next to fill out the rest of the committee. Lee said that there are two regions remaining - 4 and 6. Lee said that those slots could hopefully be filled at the next governing board meeting. Lee asked whether the Election Committee needed to bring a motion to fill the rest of the committee. Anne-Marie said yes.

Meeting Adjournment

Anne-Marie moved to adjourn. Eric seconded. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.