

Thursday, 17 May 2018, 7.15PM
Silver Lake Neighborhood Council (SLNC)
Special Meeting
Silver Lake Recreation Center/SLNC Office
1850 West Silver Lake Drive, Los Angeles 90026

1. Call to Order
 - Anne-Marie Johnson called the meeting to order at 7.15PM.
2. Roll Call
 - Sixteen members of the SLNC and two stakeholders were present; a quorum was declared.
3. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items
 - No one had any public comment.
4. Administration: Report by Treasurer regarding remaining unused funds and reimbursements
 - Anne-Marie Johnson reported that agenda item 4.7 could be removed as the signs were not yet available; a sample sign was shown at the end of the meeting.
 - Co-chair of the Budget and Finance Committee (and Treasurer) Terrance Jackson reported that approximately \$3,496 could be spent this evening. Someone in a **denim jacket** mentioned that \$3,506 was available.
 - 4.1 Lisauskas: \$169.57 in refreshments for Green Committee Stairway Event
 - Terrance Jackson made a motion to approve this expenditure; Hannah Anderson seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously with sixteen affirmative votes.
 - 4.2 Derekshan: \$91.84 in supplies for Homelessness in Silver Lake Hygiene Kit Event
 - Terrance Jackson made a motion to approve this expenditure; Barbara Ringuette seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously with sixteen affirmative votes.
5. New Business
 - 5.1 Rescind the board's funding of \$300 for the Arts and Culture Solstice Event
 - Anne-Marie Johnson and Scott Plante agreed to rescind this funding due to ethics improprieties. As this was an unethical concern, they confirmed this with the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE).
 - It was believed that the sub-committee's co-chairs solicited funds for this event, including reaching out to the Grammy Museum. **A stakeholder in a colorful blazer** reported that it was believed that the co-chairs were soliciting donations for the Silver Lake Improvement Association (not the SLNC). She stated that the meeting with the Grammy Museum was on a different issue, including installation of a mural in the Silver Lake area.
 - Anne-Marie added that this information would have been useful four days ago and the SLNC board should have been more involved. As a result, the SLNC will suspend this committee until June whereupon there will be a re-election of the committee co-chairs.
 - Heather Carson added that the SLNC does not adequately train the non-board member committee co-chairs. Per the SLNC by-laws, sub-committee chairs [who are not members of the SLNC board] must take the DONE-issued ethics training. In addition, Heather added that the emails should come from official SLNC email addresses, not from someone's personal email account.

- Anne-Marie asked that all board members immediately stop using their personal email addresses (as spelled out in the standing rules). Otherwise, the City Clerk's office could come down on the SLNC for allowing personal email.
- Betsy Isroelit added that SLNC board members should attend sub-committee meetings; they cannot attend all meetings, but they should try to attend most meetings.
- Anne-Marie Johnson made a motion to approve this agenda item; Darius Derekshan seconded the motion, and it passed with fifteen affirmative votes, and one abstention (by Douglas Loewy).

5.2 NPG Funding of \$620.00 for Ivanhoe Elementary LCD projector

- Ivanhoe Elementary has been very supportive of the SLNC. Principal Rescia requested this projector to be used by all classes.
- Terrance Jackson made a motion to approve this expenditure; Douglas Loewy seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously with sixteen affirmative votes.

5.3 NPG fund of \$500 for the Teen Court Program Parents, Teachers, Educators and Students in Action (PESA)

- Barbara Ringuette and Terrence Jackson will make certain that this NPG is revised.
- Melissa Samuels explained this program that allows for troubled teens to perform voluntary activities and drug and/or alcohol treatment to avoid jail. This program keeps minimally violent youths out of jail to reduce the horrible cycle of jail-release-jail-release.
- David Valdez supports this as it keeps the kids out of jail.
- Hannah Anderson added that Silver Lake does not have its own high school. Perhaps 25% of the Silver Lake kids attend Marshall High School; other students attend Belmont High (at 1575 West Second Street) or Immaculate Heart (at 5515 Franklin Avenue).
- Terrance Jackson made a motion to approve this expenditure; David Grant seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously with sixteen affirmative votes.

5.4 Fund up to \$1,000 for launching a Silver Lake Art Show

- Terrance Jackson made a motion to postpone this agenda item until the 2018-19 fiscal year (beginning July 1) as this event will occur in August 2018. Doug Loewy and Jerome Courshon seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously with sixteen affirmative votes.

5.5 Fund up to \$400 for a professional arborist to conduct training re: the pruning of trees

- A stakeholder mentioned that people really love the trees of LA. Perhaps this workshop could be held here at this Recreation Center, followed by a walk around the reservoir.
- Bob Lisauskas expressed concern about the dying trees around Silver Lake.
- Someone suggested having a city employee/arborist lead this training. However, that could be very expensive consider the potential accrued overtime.
- Jerome Courshon recommended writing a letter to area businesses, urging them to be proactive.
- Bob Lisauskas made a motion to approve this expenditure; Taryn Poole seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously with sixteen affirmative votes.

5.6 Fund up to \$225 for four table top posters: 2 for Adopt-Stairways and 2 for SLNC general information

- Betsy Isroelit made a motion to approve this expenditure (as the current signs are falling apart); Heather Carson seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously with sixteen affirmative votes.

5.7 Fund up to \$200 to complete the Slow Down Silver Lake yard sign order

- As mentioned earlier in the meeting (during agenda item 4. Administration) this agenda item was removed.
- Hannah Anderson asked about a \$2,500 expenditure. \$1,250 of this will be deferred until the next fiscal year.
- Scott Plante made a motion to spend \$1,250 this fiscal year; with the remaining \$1,250 to potentially be spent during the 2018-19 fiscal year; Hannah Anderson seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously with sixteen affirmative votes.

5.8 Fund up to \$100 for purchase of portable microphone and cable for use of SLNC meetings

- This microphone will be very helpful as the Ivanhoe Elementary School Auditorium has poor acoustics
- David Valdez has a background with audio equipment at the YMCA and offered to help with this procurement. However, he expressed concern that \$100 would result in a cheap, poorly performing microphone.
- Taryn Poole recommended that a wired microphone would be better for the audience.
- Jerome Courshon reminded everyone that the microphone could disappear, and wanted to make certain that SLNC did not spend too much money on something that could be easily stolen. He also requested that the SLNC do a sing-off while voting.
- Scott Plante made a motion to approve this expenditure; Darius Derakshan seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously with sixteen affirmative votes.

5.9 Fund up to \$400 for the re-printing of the SLNC outreach and education flyers

- Anne-Marie Johnson asked that if this was removed, would there be money left over for the Budget Advocates; the response was affirmative. She then asked that this be postponed until the next fiscal year, with extra funds earmarked for the Budget Advocates. Jerome Courshon seconded this motion, yet no vote was necessary as the agenda item was postponed.

5.10 Fund up to \$5,000 to the Neighborhood Budget Advocate Fund

- DONE recommends using an exorbitant number, with the preface “up to” to cover any excess funds. Therefore, this is more of a “will” than a “living trust”.
- Barbara Ringuette made a motion to approve this expenditure; Jerome Courshon seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously with sixteen affirmative votes.

Anne-Marie Johnson requested a 2/3rds approval to discuss the Arts Committee

- Anne-Marie, Scott Plante, Betsy Isroelit, Heather Carson, and others have performed their due diligence in investigating the Arts Committee; they are concerned that this Arts Committee cannot explain their funds.
- The Arts Committee is not in compliance as they do not adequately post their agendas and hold their meetings in non-ADA conforming facilities (such as auto repair garages). Heather Carson reported that they have attempted to expand their personal agendas (which is never a good idea); this is highly unethical and could be illegal.

- Anne-Marie Johnson made a motion to suspend the Arts Committee (so they cannot hold a meeting) as well as their funding requests. Scott Plante and Anne-Marie will further discuss this issue during the June SLNC meeting. Heather Carson seconded this morning. However, Anne-Marie withdrew the motion prior to a vote.
- Lee Sherman expressed concern about discussing this issue during this meeting. Jerome Courshon agreed that if SLNC suspends the Arts Committee, that committee should receive adequate notice that their committee has been suspended.
- Jerome also recommended that the SLNC contact the Grammy Museum for an explanation of the Arts Committee funds (which the Arts Committee could not provide). Anne-Marie and DONE stated that the SLNC should NOT reach out to the Grammy Museum.
- It appears that the Urban Design, Homelessness, and Outreach Committees receive a great deal of support and participation from the community; however, the Arts Committee does not receive that same level of support and respect.
- Prior to adjournment, Anne-Marie showed a big yellow and black “Silver Lake | Slow Down” sign.

6. Adjournment

- Anne-Marie Johnson adjourned the meeting at 8.27PM.