

**Silver Lake Neighborhood Council Homelessness Committee
4/13/2021 Meeting Minutes**

1. WELCOMING REMARKS: (5 minutes)

- A. Call to order
Samantha Danner called the meeting to order at 6:36pm
- B. Self-Introductions of committee members and guests
Samantha – co-chair and outgoing SLNC region 1 representative
James – call in listener
Dylan - from Ktown NC
Sarah - SLNC region 7 rep and Ad Hoc committee on Housing and Homelessness co-chair
Imran - co-chair of homelessness committee, outgoing region 4 rep and new at large rep
Kristen - unofficial/recently elected region 1 rep, missed last month's meeting but excited to hear this month's
Seth G - incoming at large rep, business owner, interested in mutual aid
Jane - co-chair of SELAH Eagle Rock and also ERNC co-chair. Planning homeless count with Eagle Rock and Highland Park
olivia - Joined neighborhood council meetings on police reform and does mutual aid and lives in Silver Lake
Carter – works with United Way

2. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: (5 minutes)

Comments from the public on non-agenda items within the Committee's jurisdiction: to comment via the Zoom app, use the 'Raise Hand' function, or dial *9 via the call-in number (Up to two minutes per speaker)

3. PRESENTATIONS: (5 minutes)

- A. Updates from any City/County representatives in attendance

4. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS: (5 minutes)

- A. Review and Adoption of March 9, 2021 meeting minutes [see attached]

Samantha motions, Sarah seconds

No revisions requested

Votes

Samantha – yes

Sarah – yes

Jane – yes

Olivia – abstain

Seth – abstain

Carter – yes

Dylan – yes

Imran – yes

Kristen – yes

James – abstain

7 yes, 0 no, 3 abstain; motion passes

5. MOTIONS & RESOLUTIONS: (60 minutes)

- A. [Blakemore] *Discussion and possible action* regarding homelessness myth-busting PSA campaign. Topics include but are not limited to content of campaign messaging, public artworks, and funding of advertisements in public spaces, e.g. billboards or bus shelter/bench advertisements.

Samantha motions, Sarah seconds for discussion

Neil – says for the last couple months he’s been interested in making a homelessness myth-busting campaign, through banners, physical space, and other public images geared towards countering animosity toward unhoused people. He’s spoken to SELAH and other orgs, and has a meeting with someone from East Hollywood NC looking for potential resources. Was interested in partnering with NCs because they have access to bus banners.

Samantha – Thanks Neil and wants to clarify the ask – would the NC fund the potential banners?

Neil - That was his intention. Heard that through the city you can post bus banners free of charge, but is open to other opportunities as well

Samantha – understands that ad is no cost but would still need to pay for the actual printing. However, we should be able to help with the printing costs and the visibility as well.

Sarah – notes that the Echo Park Trash Club has recently put up a billboard with an organization that does free billboards. Recommends checking out Echo Park, that might also be a resource. Instagram account for 10k_advertising has examples.

Carter – United Way has a program called Everyone In that has an educational tool kit. Not sure if it covers myth-busting, but encouraged Neil to check out the website.

Imran – Are there links to campaign available? Also, public arts can have funding
Neil – he is just coming up with idea right now, but can provide link to work of graphic designer who will help. He has been engaging on Nextdoor to learn what myths are most widespread, like 'they're not really from here.' For example, many unhoused people have jobs, they just can't afford rent. Another myth is how they all refuse services. Goal is to counter that with first-hand experiences.

Jane – She is really happy that Neil is doing this. She feels it’s so necessary to do myth busting. We are getting pushback from housed residents, assuming all unhoused people are criminals. Better to prevent that kind of hysteria before it becomes very ingrained. There is also the issue of mental health. Jane suggests that getting people housed will help to prevent even worse problems in the future. Appreciates the spirit of this project.

Imran: Culturela.org has application for approval of public artwork, maybe another resource.

Neil: In Echo Park saw lots of opposition to providing services, claiming that helping unhoused people is somehow harmful to low-income families.

Nicole Antoine joined meeting

Samantha: there is a lot of myth busting that needs to happen to counter a lot of fear and anger. There is a lot of opportunity to make progress, but want to avoid this turning into a shouting match. What other options are there for us to scale up outreach and Q&A?

Neil: Notes it is important to acknowledge the feelings people have about homelessness.

Dylan – asked about outreach to newer groups like SELAH. Has worked with some of the groups that have been around for a while like PATH and Covenant House. Also, what happens to the foster kids? Wants to find best and most effective messages to share.

Samantha – motions to send discussion to outreach committee to consider funding printing costs for an outreach campaign. Kristen seconds.

Voice vote is unanimous in favor of this motion.

- B. [Danner] *Discussion and possible action* regarding a mini homeless count of the Silver Lake area. Possible topics include timeline, volunteer management, supplies needed, partner organizations, etc.

Motion introduced by Samantha, seconded by Imran.

Samantha – glad to hear Jane/SELAH Eagle Rock are doing a count there as well.

Jane – That is sponsored by ERNC and HHPNC, and staffed mostly with SELAH volunteers. Silver Lake Count will be on 5/6, Thursday after Eagle Rock count.

Imran - happy to help and wants to recruit

Seth – asked about hours.

Samantha – probably about 8pm, because more people have returned to their dwellings after sun goes down. The count will be done from cars. The event setup will start much earlier, probably around 5. We will set up a line for drive-through assignments. Each census tract should take about an hour but may need some people to count twice. We may go as late as midnight. There will be shifts.

Seth - also wants to help but would like to help on the later end.

Kristen can help

Dylan - interested in talking to Rampart Village and K-town, maybe coordinating with them? Dylan will get in touch.

Samantha – It's not impossible to count more areas but need to think carefully about involvement. Current plan is to count everything that touches Silver Lake, which amounts to 14 tracts, some of which are on the larger side. Another best practice is to have multiple teams count the same tract. If we are already going to plan this, it makes sense to expand to more areas, but without support of a lot more volunteers it will be hard to pull off.

Jane – notes there are areas that can't be accessed by car; in daylight hours will get volunteers to access by foot and count much earlier. They've found census tract maps and will be drawing them out.

Samantha – we also have some areas like that, such as the reservoir, underpass of Silver Lake Blvd., etc. Louis recommended having more experienced outreach workers do those tracts first. We can talk more about this at working group

meetings. Home base location? SLCC is a possibility, but it could be a bottleneck. We need to check if they have meetings on Thursday nights. Dulce Stein is helping and she may also have contacts.

Imran – suggested the Citibank parking lot, it is well lit and empty at night.

Jane - Ivanhoe Elementary? The ER count will start at Eagle Rock City Hall. will have it drive through style.

Carter – When we have a final date/time, United Way can do a social media push.

Samantha – thanks everyone and will follow up with people on email.

- C. [Girl & Ullman] *Discussion and possible action* to send a letter to City Council urging them to establish a Council File and author a motion to officially support CA SB 739, which would pilot a statewide UBI program for Transitional Age Youth in the foster care system. Draft letter attached.

Samantha motions, Seth G seconds.

Sarah learned of this through Court-appointed special advocates (for kids in foster care system). UBI benefits kids transitioning out of foster care system. Lots of kids fall into homelessness because of struggling to find a job or home. There is limited assistance for THP+. This bill is from a state senator who piloted UBI program in Santa Clara. It provides kids with financial resources and gives them money every month to live. This is a good group to pilot with.

imran - strongly supports this. So baffled by kids being out on their own as it's a vulnerable time. Even for people with family support, it's a hard time, and can't imagine trying to do without.

Samantha – thinks UBI is underutilized. What are the funding details, like how many people would receive this benefit?

Sarah – it would give \$1k per month, for 3 years, serving approx. 3000 people per year. This is to establish the program, not sure further details are available.

Dylan - glad to hear Sarah works with CASA. Her question is which agency would be responsible for giving money, and whether there is a commitment to a particular service provider? There are lots of kids who don't have supportive parents, so this might need to tie into a supportive agency.

Sarah – this bill would authorize the Dept. of Social Services to implement services – This sets out structure of program and instructs social services to implement it. Regarding Sam's questions, CA residents over 21 can receive UBI.

Jane – believes there needs to be more offered besides just the money which isn't really enough to live; could the letter reflect something about that? LA City Council could make recommendation to the state, for example for wraparound services.

Sarah - program doesn't exclude them from being in THP+. We could add a line in the letter to encourage state to think about this holistically and to provide other supportive services like housing, counselling, jobs programs, etc.

Dylan - Hopes that people will stop passing this off to other agencies.

Imran - might be good to get other orgs on board like advocacy campaign with social workers, doctors, etc. and do an advocacy campaign for physicians.

Sarah - Samantha shared this with the CD13 alliance, hopes Jane and Dylan will take it to their councils.

Dylan - no coordinated efforts among different agencies.

Sarah – This is addressed to city council specifically, but also cc'ed to board of supervisors.

Kristen – There is a hearing on April 20; is it possible to reach out earlier?

Sarah – the hearing probably won't get a vote right away.

Samantha – is it necessary to CC our particular council members in addition to sending to the whole council?

Sarah - wanted to send as CC to make them pay more attention.

Samantha – recommends friendly amendment to add recommendation for additional wrap-around services, and to move up last two paragraphs.

Sarah agrees.

Neil – asks why this starts with 3000 people?

Sarah – this is a good enough number for a sample size.

Voice vote:

11 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain, motion passes

Samantha motions to extend meeting by 10 minutes. Motion passes unanimously.

- D. [Girl] *Discussion* regarding 'Tiny Homes' housing village in Echo Park. *Eastsider LA* article attached.

Samantha included article about what our community needs in terms of housing. this is not directly in our community but the folks affected are our neighbors.

Carter – says the context of the tiny homes project changes with potential settlement by the city with LA Alliance for Human Rights. That settlement is overwhelmingly about making fast and cheap housing. The positions we take are much larger than just Echo Park.

Samantha - to that point, Bridge Home projects didn't result in a ton of housing and are temporary solutions. There is a need for immediate solutions, but those are not the most forward thinking or long term solutions, so she is conflicted.

Dylan – is a huge fan of tiny homes. Has friends who are affordable housing developers and knows that it's hard to build housing due to state and city zoning and regulations. Now we know Biden act will get rid of exclusionary zoning, but in the meantime, it's not safe for so many people to be on the street and it's very unsafe for women. We have to reorganize the entire model and tiny homes are part of that. They do not have quality of life interventions, but the people who show up for showers would love a tiny home. These are same people sleeping in safe parking lots, they are trying to maintain some stability. Would like to see women-only tiny homes.

Neil – Thinks we have to overhaul zoning laws. If this is an option, it might be helpful.

Samantha – this is an issue we can continue to revisit and discuss in future meetings.

- E. *Discussion of* Silver Lake community fridge. Fridge is operational; discussion topics to include volunteer organization around maintenance and food donation and other relevant topics as appropriate. Volunteer sign-up form available here: <https://forms.gle/BQ8xQNVATRoFczSg7>

Will be considered again in future meetings.

- F. *Discussion* regarding creation of a directory of volunteer opportunities with mutual aid and service organizations supporting the unhoused community
Will be considered again in future meetings.

- 6. **COMMITTEE MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS:** (5 minutes)
 - A. Co-chair or Member announcements
Samantha - welcome to all the new board members and continuing members. Will be in touch with working group updates.
- 7. **REQUESTS/MOTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:** (5 minutes)
none
- 8. **ADJOURNMENT**
Samantha adjourned the meeting at 8:11pm.