

SILVER LAKE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
Special Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 26, 2019 6:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. with 15 members present. 8 votes are needed for a motion to carry.

2. Roll Call

Attending Board Members: (16)

Bob Lisauskas
Doug Loewy
Douglas Reed
Betsy Isroelit (Secretary)
Hannah Anderson
Taryn Poole
Barbara Ringuette
Terrence Jackson (Treasurer)
Scott Plante (Co-chair)
Anne-Marie Johnson (Co-chair)
Darius Derakshan (Vice Chairman)
Melissa Samuels
Heather Carson
Jerome Courshon
Rebecca Ruben
Anthony Crump (*arrived late at 6:48 p.m.*)

Absent Board Members: (5)

Glenn Harrell
Antonio Stifano
David Valdez
Janis Purins
Kate Hudson

3. Welcome and rules for actions on agenda items

Co-Chair Anne-Marie Johnson: She explained the rules and welcomed the audience. She also asked all videographers to set up their cameras in the back of the auditorium because she got a few complaints from board members earlier this month. She asserted that the Brown Act allows this request.

Jerome Courshon: Point of Order - he argued that the Brown Act does not allow that request and that the videographer in question is sitting in the audience and has been instructed not to walk around and will be stationary the entire meeting. He said that this is legal. Johnson said that this request is not debatable and that the videographer must move to the back of the auditorium. Courshon disagreed and said that the videographer will not move – and told the chair to call the police if they want the videographer removed. Johnson said that Courshon must challenge the chair’s ruling or the meeting will take a recess and reconvene once the videographer has moved to the back. Heather Carson moved to recess. Jerome Courshon seconded. But Johnson said that only co-chairs can decide to call a recess and asked Courshon if he was challenging the rule of the chairs. He said he was.

Heather Carson: Point of order – she said that Jerome Courshon does not need the chair’s permission to speak and both she and Courshon asked Johnson to cite the rule that forces the videographer to move to the back. **Johnson:** cites Section 54953.5 of the Brown Act. **Courshon:** point of order – argues that the rule is not actually in the Brown Act.

Johnson: said that it is not debatable and that the board will now go into a ruling via a roll call vote. A vote in the affirmative would mean that the board will uphold the ruling of the chair and the videographer must move to the back of the auditorium. A vote in the negative would mean the videographer could stay where she is.

Courshon: Parliamentary inquiry – He asked again where in the Brown Act it says this is allowed. **Johnson:** said that was asked and answered and that they will now move to a vote.

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Bob Lisauskas, Douglas Reed, Betsy Isroelit, Hannah Anderson, Taryn Poole, Barbara Ringuette, Terry Jackson, Scott Plante, Anne-Marie Johnson, Darius Derakshan, Melissa Samuels, Doug Loewy

Present, not voting: Heather Carson, Rebecca Ruben, Jerome Courshon

With 12 yes votes the motion carried.

Co-Chair Anne-Marie Johnson: asked the videographer to move to the back of the auditorium. But Jerome Courshon said that the videographer will not move and requests that the chair call the LAPD right now. Johnson asks the videographer to move again. The videographer refuses.

Johnson called for a brief recess at 6:37 p.m. and the co-chairs left the room.

At 6:38 p.m the co-chairs returned and Johnson called the meeting back to order.

Two LAPD officers entered the meeting. Johnson asked the videographer again to move to the back of the auditorium. The videographer refused but offered to go half way back. Johnson asked her again to move to the back. The videographer refused. Johnson informed the LAPD officers of the situation and told them that the board would like the videographer removed. The videographer then moved her equipment to the back.

4. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

Jerome Courshon: I want to point out that the day after the last board meeting, one of the officers phoned up our Elections Committee Co-Chair, and gave the Co-Chair significantly changed language that this Board didn't vote on and approve the previous night. So it wasn't inconsequential language, it was a pretty serious difference in language. I have a copy of what that officer gave to our Co-Chair of the Elections Committee.

This speaks to what I think is election tampering that's been going by the SLNC leadership since last fall. And I really have to request that it stop.

One of the reasons that our Board member Lee Sherman resigned... he resigned for a couple reasons. But one reason he resigned was because of the anti-Semitic comment made by one of the Board members here about him. And while he'd been interfacing with the City, and then I had been interfacing with the City... the City was kind of dragging its feet... but I think that the anti-Semitic comment speaks to the kind of dissension and harassment and bullying, not only of the Elections Committee, but of certain Board members.

Now the person who made that anti-Semitic comment is our Secretary, Betsy Isroelit. I'm deeply disappointed by this, I think that this Board needs to reject that kind of language, I think this Board needs to reject this kind of racist or anti-Semitic behavior, as well as the harassment and bullying by a number of people in the leadership, of several Board members.

So I hope that we can move beyond this, but I have my doubts given what has been going on. Not only that, but what I outlined in that PDF that I sent to all of you after the last Board meeting.

5. Administrative

- a. Approval of November 2018 and December 2018 and January 2019 MERs
<http://silverlakenc.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/November-2018-MER.pdf>
<http://silverlakenc.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/December-2018-MER.pdf>
<http://silverlakenc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/January-2019-MER.pdf>

Treasurer Terry Jackson: He said that certain items appear on the MER, such as Facebook, that are never authorized to go beyond \$180. But Facebook bills the board when things accumulate to a certain point as things as changing. So, there may be a \$180 boost for an election ad and a \$80 boost for another meeting and then Facebook bill the board for \$250.74, which he then has to go on Facebook and check. Every other item on the MER is routine operations or another item the board has voted on already. There is nothing in his review of the MER that indicates that there are any issues that need further explanation.

Co-Chair Anne-Marie Johnson: asked if there are any questions about the November 2018 MER.

Jerome Courshon: He asked about a CopyMat receipt for on the November MER. He said that this item was not voted on or approved by the board. He also said that at the last meeting Co-Chair Anne-Marie Johnson referenced a bylaw which stated that the item does not need to be voted on. But, Courshon said that her interpretation of that bylaw is incorrect.

Heather Carson: She also asked what the CopyMat receipt was for. When they discussed the October MER she said she was told by Betsy that it was for agendas. **Johnson:** said that are currently discussing the November MER, not the October MER. She asked Carson to stay on topic. **Carson:** the October MER example speaks to the point that “we were told one thing and it turned out to be something else.” She also asked when the board voted on the Facebook payments in this fiscal year. **Terry Jackson:** When the board adopted the budget, which controls the board’s operational and outreach expenditures, they authorized funds for Facebook for approximately \$2,400. **Carson:** said that the board should be aware that they are currently under a funding audit and said that they cannot spend money on outreach absent a board vote. She asked if she can go have things printed and bring in a receipt as other members of the board have done. **Johnson:** If Carson expended money for an event that was approved by the board then yes, she could submit a receipt and the board could vote to reimburse her or not. **Terry Jackson:** reimbursement requires a specific board vote. He checked the CopyMat receipt and it says “print,” but did not specify what was printed.

Anthony Crump arrived at 6:48 p.m.

Roll Call Vote to approve the November 2018 MER:

Yes: Anne-Marie Johnson, Scott Plante, Darius Derakshan, Hannah Anderson, Doug Loewy, Barbara Ringuette, Douglas Reed, Melissa Samuels, Bob Lisauskas, Betsy Isroelit, Taryn Poole, Terry Jackson, Anthony Crump

No: Heather Carson, Rebecca Ruben, Jerome Courshon

With 13 yes votes the motion carried.

Terry Jackson: commented that in his line of work there is a concept called material - if you spend too much time on small things they drag you down and they bring everything to a grinding halt. When the board argues about a \$28 receipt (the November 2018 CopyMat receipt), then the board has let materiality take hold.

Co-Chair Anne-Marie Johnson: asked if there are any questions about the December 2018 MER.

Heather Carson: Asked about another CopyMat receipt on the December MER. **Terry Jackson:** that was for “Snow in Silverlake” which was a specifically authorized transaction.

Carson: Also asked why the “Unlimited Business Renewal Email” plan for one year had two separate bills. **Jackson:** Because the maximum they can do is \$1,000. GoDaddy does not issue invoices. So he checked with city who told him that he had to separate the bills two parts so that they under \$1,000. **Carson:** Each plan has how many email addresses? **Jackson:** The grand total together is approximately 45 email addresses.

Jerome Courshon: He disagreed with Terry Jackson about the CopyMat receipt. He said it was not approved by the board, rather a \$500 expenditure for the company that brought in the actual snow for the “Snow in Silverlake” event was approved. He said the purchase of postcards from CopyMat, with full-color on one side, was an outreach expenditure that was made without a vote of approval from the governing board. He said this is illegal and a violation of NC funding rules which is why he would vote no on the MER. He urged the rest of the board to think seriously about voting yes on an illegal expenditure, as the board can be held liable and sued.

Betsy Isroelit: She stated, for the record, that this is not an illegal expenditure and that Mr. Courshon’s statement was completely false. According to bylaws, expenditures under \$250 on previously approved general budget items not need to be individually approved by the board. Ms. Carson and Mr. Courshon often bring this issue up, and Ms. Isroelit suggested they read the bylaws and if they have trouble understanding it then they could speak to Treasurer Terry Jackson.
Roll Call Vote to approve the December 2018 MER:

Yes: Anne-Marie Johnson, Scott Plante, Darius Derakshan, Hannah Anderson, Doug Loewy, Barbara Ringuette, Douglas Reed, Rebecca Ruben, Melissa Samuels, Bob Lisauskas, Betsy Isroelit, Taryn Poole, Terry Jackson

No: Jerome Courshon, Heather Carson

Present, not voting: Anthony Crump

With 13 yes votes the motion carried.

Co-Chair Anne-Marie Johnson: asked if there are any questions about the January 2019 MER.

Terry Jackson: commented that the CVS pharmacy receipt was for a 6-pack of beer for an elections outreach meeting. The Epperhart receipt is for the SLNC’s newsletter. The Staples receipt was for purchases for the Homeless Count. The Facebook receipt was for a combination of two outreach posts. The payment to Gary Knowlton was to reimburse him for an expenditure that was approved in a prior period that had to be reaffirmed – the city said we needed an invoice, Gary submitted an invoice before the lecture, the city said we needed to wait until after the lecture then you can submit it. It took Jackson three tries and it finally got admitted. And, N&M enterprises was a re-affirmation of what the board had voted on for the dog signs.

Anne-Marie Johnson: Stated that for the re-imburements they already repaid Bob for the BAC that was approved and Hilltop Nursery with the NPG. She then asked if there any questions.

Darius Derakshan: thanked Terry for showing up at 1pm at a Stable to help get items for the Homeless Count.

Jerome Courshon: For the record, he wanted to state that Article 9, Section D of the SLNC's bylaws talks about expenditures of \$250 or less. The interpretation that leadership is applying to this particular bylaw is an interpretation that has never been made before in the history of the SLNC. That section is about specific expenditures, about generals in the category of operations. Operations does not need to be pre-approved, but anything outside of operations such as outreach, NPG's, and community improvement must be voted on and approved at the governing board level. So, with respect to the secretary's comment that he and Heather Carson were incorrect, "you, madam, are incorrect." The leadership is incorrect about their interpretation of this bylaw. So he said he will be voting present, not voting on the January MER.

Roll Call Vote to approve the January 2019 MER:

Yes: Anne-Marie Johnson, Scott Plante, Darius Derakshan, Hannah Anderson, Doug Loewy, Barbara Ringuette, Douglas Reed, Rebecca Ruben, Melissa Samuels, Bob Lisauskas, Betsy Isoelit, Taryn Poole, Terry Jackson

No: Heather Carson

Present, not voting: Jerome Courshon, Anthony Crump

With 13 yes votes the motion carried.

6. Old Business

- a. (Carson) Move to allocate up to \$50/ month for AppleOne to make any requested corrections to the board minutes.

Rebecca Ruben seconded the motion.

Heather Carson: The idea behind this was to take the burden off of the secretary. As of right now, the secretary corrects the minutes and you have to email her. Carson checked minutes from April 2017, May 2018 and the minutes they just voted on last month and were not entered or were entered incorrectly. The minutes the board just voted on were "sort of corrected" and then a caveat was added that said "the following text was written and transcribed by Carson, from Carson's personal recording of the meeting, not by AppleOne. Carson requested the wording be included in the minutes." She states that this implies that the minutes are "sketchy" and that no point when anyone else had made corrections did they come with a caveat. The board did not vote on that caveat and it is not up to the secretary to add their personal opinion. So, it needs to be removed. The Secretary has demonstrated that she cannot be neutral in these matters by voting against those minutes being corrected and then adding the caveat.

Board Discussion:

Anne-Marie Johnson: For clarification for the board, this motion was submitted to the executive committee which vetted and then voted it down.

Taryn Poole: In terms of minute corrections, many have to do with the minute taker not knowing the board's names very well. What mainly needs to be corrected in the minutes are misspelled names or incoherent sentences.

Terry Jackson: He suggested a potential amendment - that if this motion were to carry, the minutes as taken should stand and the corrections should be inserted with a separate typeface.

Bob Lisauskas: Meeting minutes are meant to be a summary of the meeting, not a verbatim transcript, so this motion was a waste of time.

Scott Plante: He also stated that this motion would be a waste of time and money. It would cost more than \$50. They have to do the note corrections at the AppleOne office so we would be paying for this person to travel to their office. The minutes overall are very good.

Jerome Courshon: He commented that Bob made a good point about the minutes that are meant to be a summary. But the problem is that sometimes things are put in that should not be. Last month, at the January 2019 executive committee meeting “our co-chairs slandered me and Heather Carson and Lee Sherman who had resigned at that point.” He tried to get that removed from the minutes at the February 2019 executive committee meeting and the three officers there tabled until the co-chairs could be present. He believes that if they do summary notes, they should be able to remove things that are slanderous.

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Jerome Courshon, Heather Carson

No: Anne-Marie Johnson, Scott Plante, Darius Derakshan, Hannah Anderson, Doug Loewy, Barbara Ringuette, Douglas Reed, Rebecca Ruben, Melissa Samuels, Bob Lisauskas, Betsy Isroelit, Taryn Poole, Terry Jackson

Present, not voting: Anthony Crump

With 13 no votes the motion failed.

- b. **(Co-Chairs) Move to approve City Clerk’s recommended additional language for clarification to the 2019 SLNC voter mailer and if approved, the election committee will make requested changes and send revised draft to Board co-chairs. Co-chairs will then send to City Clerk for final approval.**

Scott Plante seconded the motion.

Eric Kissack, co-chair of the Elections Committee: asked Anne-Marie Johnson to go through the changes to the mailer.

Anne-Marie Johnson: There are a few minor changes. She referred to a draft of the mailed that was projected overhead for the board to see. “Saturday” needs to be added. Also, the city eliminated “you do not need to register to vote,” and added “When you arrive at the polls you will be asked to complete a Stakeholder Registration Form,” and “You will be asked to affirm that you are stakeholder of the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council.” The city added that language because they just finished making the Stakeholder Registration Form. They also eliminated “additional documentation is not required” because it gave the impression that some documentation is required, which they thought would be confusing. Also, Heather recommended adding an end time to the event. And a link to the bylaws needs to be added.

Eric Kissack: He said that should all work and asked if at the election if they will be asking the stakeholders for any documentation. **Johnson:** They city said they will check on any documentation that after they have received the Stakeholder Registration Forms. **Eric Kissack:** He asked if the city had sent a generic form to the board that the city is making the elections committee order. He wants to make sure it is acceptable because it is not exactly what the elections committee was asking for. **Johnson:** She told him she will check to see if it had been emailed to her. She will ask the city if it can be amended. In which case, Eric would need to call an Elections Committee meeting, review it and get it to the governing board by the March meeting.

Terry Jackson: commented that Eric has done great work battling with the city clerk’s office trying to get their \$75 deposit approved. They have submitted documents to them four times and it is still not approved. There are issues with the system.

Heather Carson: Suggested changing the language to “Documentation is not required” and “its voting by self-affirmation,” because that is stated in the bylaws. She would move to amend the language so that it matches what is said in the bylaws. **Johnson:** She suggested referring that back to the Elections Committee.

Jerome Courshon: The board did not get this language change 24-hours in advance of this meeting which is a violation of the Brown Act. Additionally, the version that the leadership gave to the city clerk’s office is not the version that was voted on and approved by the board in the last meeting. The City Clerk said the language on that previous version was fine. There should have been a reconsideration motion on this agenda for this new language change. This current motion should be ruled out of order and is a Brown Act violation.

Anne-Marie Johnson: For clarification, the corrections were sent to the board from Christopher Garcia And Renee McDade, which was forwarded to Eric. The red markings were done by the City Clerk’s office, not by the co-chairs of this body. Per Brown, with regard to information, the SLNC has been in violation for the past few years as we noticed with the letter from Elise Rudin. In Brown, it is stated clearly that if a majority of the body receives information that information has to be received in front of the stakeholders because these are public meetings. This information is now being received by the board and to the body, we are under no obligation to provide it to the board prior to the meeting. Johnson suggested that the board review the information Elise provided to them.

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Bob Lisauskas, Douglas Reed, Betsy Isroelit, Hannah Anderson, Taryn Poole, Barbara Ringuette, Terry Jackson, Scott Plante, Anne-Marie Johnson, Darius Derakshan, Melissa Samuels, Heather Carson, Doug Loewy, Anthony Crump, Rebecca Rubin

Present, not voting: Jerome Courshon

With 15 votes the motion carried

7. **New Business**

- a. **(Co-Chairs)Waive consideration of the Courshon Grievance #162 and Carson Grievance #163 and request the Department forward the Grievances directly to the Regional Grievance Panel for consideration per Section 22.818, Article 3 of Chapter 28 of the Los Angeles Administrative Code**

Darius Derakshan seconded the motion.

Anne-Marie Johnson: She explained the motion. Two grievances were filed against the board. This motion is to approve the recommendation of the co-chairs that these grievances be sent directly to the regional grievance panel as stated in the letter sent to the board by Mary Lynn.

Jerome Courshon: Point of information – the grievance automatically bypasses the board and goes to the panel. That is in section 3 of the code. So this vote is a waste of time.

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Bob Lisauskas, Douglas Reed, Betsy Isroelit, Hannah Anderson, Taryn Poole, Barbara Ringuette, Terry Jackson, Scott Plante, Anne-Marie Johnson, Darius Derakshan, Melissa Samuels, Heather Carson, Doug Loewy, Anthony Crump, Rebecca Rubin

Present, not voting: Jerome Courshon

With 15 votes the motion carried

- b. **(Co-Chairs) Move to appoint two (2) SLNC Board Member(s) to represent the Neighborhood Council and draft and submit its response to Courshon Grievance #162 and Carson Grievance #163 per Section 22.818, Article 3 of Chapter 28 of the Los Angeles Administrative Code to the appropriate party.**
<http://silverlakenc.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Silver-Lake-NC-Approved-Bylaws-8.1.18.pdf>

Betsy Isroelit seconded the motion.

Anne-Marie Johnson: She explained the motion. When a panel is seating, the neighborhood council is provided the opportunity to respond, elect someone to represent the whole neighborhood council at the grievance hearing if it moves forward. She recommended nominating the co-chairs of the board.

Douglas Reed: Nominated Anne-Marie Johnson and Scott Plante, the co-chairs. **Betsy Isroelit** seconded that nomination.

Jerome Courshon: Stated that he felt it was important to nominate someone who is not running for reelection, because those running for reelection have a bias and conflict of interest in this case. He nominated Rebecca Rubin and Glenn Harrell. **Heather Carson** seconded that nomination. **Darius Derakshan:** Glenn Harrell is not here, so the board cannot accept that nomination. **Courshon:** Point of information – the board has accepted nominations without the nominee present in the past. **Derakshan:** It is irregular, so the board does not accept it at this time. He asked Courshon if there is anyone else he would like to nominate. **Courshon:** Nominated Melissa Samuels. **Darius Derakshan:** Asked if Rubin and Samuels accepted those nominations. Both declined to be nominated. Derakshan asked if anyone else had any nominations.

Rebecca Rubin: In the spirit of forging comradery, she nominated Anthony Crump and Barbara Ringuette. **Darius Derakshan:** Asked if Crump and Ringuette accepted those nominations. Both declined to be nominated.

Heather Carson: Point of information – she asked if it was a conflict of interest for the people named in the grievance to be representing the board. **Derakshan:** There is no one named specifically in the grievance – the board in general is who the grievance is filed against. **Courshon:** the bulk of the grievance is about the annual report that was made and not funded and all the decision making around that was made by the leadership – the co-chairs, and/or the secretary. Given that the grievance is about the leadership's behavior, he did not feel they should represent the board at the panel.

Roll Call Vote on appointing Anne-Marie Johnson and Scott Plante to represent the board:

Yes: Bob Lisauskas, Douglas Reed, Betsy Isroelit, Hannah Anderson, Taryn Poole, Barbara Ringuette, Terry Jackson, Scott Plante, Anne-Marie Johnson, Darius Derakshan, Melissa Samuels, Doug Loewy, Anthony Crump, Rebecca Rubin

No: Heather Carson, Jerome Courshon

With 14 votes the motion passed

8. **Approval of January 3, 2019 SLNC board meeting Draft Minutes**
<http://silverlakenc.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/silver-lake-neighborhood-council-january-2019-special-meeting-draft-minutes.pdf>

Barbara Ringuette seconded the motion.

Heather Carson: At the top of page 6, Jerome Courshon cited standing rule 9 but she believed he meant standing rule 46. **Courshon** agreed. **Carson:** Also reminded the board that they had not yet agendized the December 2018 minutes yet.

Rebecca Rubin: the minutes said that she did not attend the meeting, but that is incorrect, she did attend.

With no objections, the minutes with those corrections were approved.

9. Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned at 7:26 p.m.