

Silver Lake Neighborhood Council
GOVERNING BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING (APPROVED) Minutes
Thursday, January 3, 2019
7:00 p.m.
Ivanhoe Elementary School
2828 Herkimer St
Los Angeles, CA 90039

1. Call to Order

The meeting began at 7:02pm with 13 Board members present. Seven votes are required for a motion to carry.

2. Roll Call

Attending Board Members:

Anne Marie Johnson, Co-Chair
Scott Plante, Co-Chair
Darius Derakshan, Vice Chair
Terrence Jackson, Treasurer
Betsy Smith Isroelit, Secretary
Antonio Stifano, Sergeant-at-Arms
Jerome Courshon
Barbara Ringuette
Heather Carson
Taryn Poole
David Valdez
Janis Purins (arrived late)
Bob Lisauskas
Douglas J. Loewy
Rebecca Ruben

Non-Attending Board Members:

Glenn Harrell
Douglas Reed
Lee Sherman (resigned)
Kathleen Hudson
Melissa Samuels
Hannah Anderson, Assistant Secretary

3. SPECIAL PRESENTATION: Facilitators: Deputy City Attorneys; Labor Relations Board Presentation: Code of Civility and maintaining a respectful workplace

The speaker had a death in the family so there will be no presentation tonight, said Co-Chair Anne-Marie Johnson. She added that she and fellow Co-Chair Scott Plante had been advised by the City Attorney that any conversation regarding email comments, postings, or general atmosphere of this Board must wait until February. They have to be here to witness it. We will put that on the agenda for February. We offer our condolences.

4. Welcome and rules for actions on agenda items

Johnson explained how the meeting will work.

5. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items

Scott Plante:

The Co-Chair thanked Betsy Isroelit for her beautiful and informative annual report. There was applause. Please go to the website to see the report, said Johnson. It's full of information, she added.

Janis Purins:

He explained receiving the newsletter via email instead of simply going to the website.

Jerome Courshon:

I haven't reviewed the annual report yet. I'm concerned about how it was created and funded. The Board didn't review or fund it or approve it. That concerns me. We didn't review it and it wasn't presented to the Board. That has never happened before. It opens the Board to the possibility of a stakeholder lawsuit.

Treasurer Terrence Jackson explained that while the Treasurer is not on the agenda tonight, no funding was required. It was assembled from existing newsletters. David Valdez and I will review the budget later this month. We may need to reallocate a few items but everything promised should be able to be funded.

Heather Carson said we missed an incredible opportunity to get out the word about candidacy. Why wasn't that in newsletter? Johnson responded that the announcement is on the first page.

Nina Sorkin commented that she gets the newsletters from other neighborhood councils. They actually send out notifications about filing for candidates. I haven't seen anything yet from the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council. Also, there used to be an issues meeting in January or February. That was when we brought up stuff within district boundaries. That hasn't happened in last 3-4 years. Johnson replied we've had them. The last one went in February last year.

Taryn Poole said that the election notification were out in two different newsletters. It's received a great deal of response. Janis Purins explained that some of the regions might have gotten notification earlier because different regions start elections at different times.

Barbara Ringuette, Budget Advocate:

She said they will send out a White Paper in a couple of months. Within next two days, please take the survey, she said Please convey to the City what we think is needed from them. The online survey website link can be found at www.Ncbala.com. The survey only takes 5 minutes. It's important! Betsy Isroelit noted that it's mentioned in the December newsletter. The survey is fun, she added.

6. New Business

a.(Homelessness Comm) Recommends the SLNC provide up to \$1000.00 to fund and sponsor a January community project to bring awareness about homelessness in Silver Lake and to assemble Care Kits to be distributed.

Darius Derakshan made the motion. Scott Plante seconded.

Derakshan explained that this will be our second hygiene kit/care giving drive. The last one was in November 2017,. It was a fun day. The Girl Scouts and other groups and Committees participated. There were about 40 people there. We created care kits. It was a huge success. We assembled about 600 kits that we've used over the past year to engage the homeless. It shows that we are thinking about our neighbors. It starts a conversation to connect them with services.

Last time we asked for \$1,500. This time only \$1,000 as another neighborhood council found a less expensive way to do it. Johnson asked whether this is in connection with the homeless count? Derakshan replied yes. It would happen soon after the homeless count. We can piggyback off that.

Nina Sorkin said I couldn't access the long agenda version of the motion. She said that she's involved with the Compassion Connection, which is partly funded by the East Hollywood Neighborhood Council. They provide showers, socks, soap, etc. In the annual report, it says there are 123 homeless in Silver Lake. Have you identified them? She asked about having a meeting about awareness. The Los Angeles Times discussed this for five days last year.

Does the 123 homeless figure include families, asked Sorkin. The Compassion Connection mainly serves adults instead of families. That is my concern.

Derakshan said we do hear tht there are no showers in this area. The 123 number is based on the homeless count. That's a visual count. SELAH (a coalition of neighborhood councils working on homeless issues) works closely with this neighborhood council. Families do become homeless. There are lots of people living in cars. They are harder to track. Most people we meet are adults, including senior citizens.

Jackson added that I spent a few hours working on the budget. We have the money. Purins asked would there have to be reallocations? Jackson replied we're under on office expenditures. We are okay.

Isroelit said that last year's event was very successful. It was a great learning experience. Heather Carson said I agree and totally support this. However, I was speaking with Melvin in the Funding Office. We can only do this by partnering with a nonprofit and giving an NPG (Neighborhood Purposes Grant). Derakshan said we gave stickers so it was engagement last time.

Johnson said we will continue discussion on this motion. Jackson will submit it to the City Clerk and they will decide whether it's appropriate if approved.

Courshon commented that we have \$1,000 but not \$1,001? No budget reallocation is necessary? Jackson said that is correct.

VOTE
14-0-0
PASSED

Yes Votes:

Anne Marie Johnson
Scott Plante
Darius Derakshan
Terrence Jackson
Betsy Smith Isroelit
Antonio Stifano
Jerome Courshon
Barbara Ringuette
Heather Carson
Taryn Poole
David Valdez
Janis Purins
Bob Lisauskas
Douglas J. Loewy

No Votes:

None

Present, Not Voting:

None

b.(Executive Committee) Reserve the Ivanhoe Elementary School Auditorium for the LMU/SLNC Open Space Study Community meeting for the last week in January. Budget not to exceed \$250.00

Johnson made the motion. Derakshan seconded.

Plante is chairing this item.

Johnson explained the study. It contains 20 questions for residents and stakeholders. The survey has concluded. We will now present it publicly. There will be a question and answer session with the data specialists from Loyola Marymount University (LMU). They said that they exceeded the number of people who actually took the survey. This event will happen during the last week of

January. It will cost \$100 to rent space. The extra money is for flyers, etc.

Carson said we wrote a standing rule about not hearing motions that don't include minutes. Plante asked are you challenging the Chair? Carson said yes I'm challenging that it's even on the agenda. That's required to even be considered.

Purins asked can you explain this? Plante said the minutes are not linked to the motion. So, the motion is invalid, added Carson. Isroelit commented that it was discussed. How would we link the minutes? Carson said we need the minutes of the meeting when it was discussed. It's a Standing Rule.

Derakshan said it seems incredibly procedural. What is the exact concern with the motion? Carson said she had no concern with the motion. Her concern is with ignoring Standing Rules.

Courshon said that it's Standing Rule 46. It's important that this Board be procedural. We are a part of the City Government. We shouldn't violate Bylaws or Standing Rules. Carson makes a valid point here. I don't know that there's a solution considering you want a meeting at the end of January. Maybe have a special meeting later this month to deal with this and other issues that would normally be on the agenda? Carson said I'm not challenging the chair. I'm pointing it out.

VOTE to uphold the rule of the chairs
10-2-2
PASSED

Yes Votes:

Anne Marie Johnson
Scott Plante
Darius Derakshan
Terrence Jackson
Betsy Smith Isroelit
Barbara Ringuette
Taryn Poole
Janis Purins
Bob Lisauskas
Douglas J. Loewy

No Votes:

Jerome Courshon
Heather Carson

Present, Not Voting:

Antonio Stifano
David Valdez

VOTE on original motion

11-0-3

PASSED

Yes Votes:

Anne Marie Johnson
Scott Plante
Darius Derakshan
Terrence Jackson
Betsy Smith Isroelit
Barbara Ringuette
Taryn Poole
David Valdez
Janis Purins
Bob Lisauskas
Douglas J. Loewy

No Votes:

None

Present, Not Voting:

Jerome Courshon
Heather Carson
Antonio Stifano

c.(Plant/Farrell) Reserve the Ivanhoe Elementary Elementary School Auditorium. for the January 9th Hawthorne Presentation. Not to exceed \$150.00

Plante made the motion. Isroelit seconded.

Plante explained that he is the City's chief design officer. We've wanted to get him here for a year. This is the first neighborhood council where he is speaking.

Courshon noted that the money is not in the text of the motion. I recommend that the maker of the motion fix that before we vote.

Was this discussed and voted on? I suggest that sentence be fixed as well if this is just done on behalf of the Co-chairs. This should be done right.

Johnson explained that in the extended supplement version, the funding is explained. So it's not required. It was in the body of the agenda that went to the City's "ncsupport" email address. Do you want to amend or substitute? Courshon said it's required to be in the text of the actual motion. Why don't we make it a motion as opposed to a friendly amendment, suggested Johnson.

Courshon asked is this being made on behalf of the Co-Chairs of the Urban Design and Preservation Committee? Plante said yes. Johnson asked did you discuss the meeting with Hawthorne? Plante said it was discussed several times but there was no Committee meeting in December.

Johnson said that she'd like to break this into two parts: first to amend the text of the motion. Replace "the Co-Chairs of the Urban Design and Preservation Committee recommend" with "The Makers of the Motion Recommend". *Purins seconded Courshon's motion.*

VOTE for amendment
Unanimous
PASSED

Yes Votes:

Anne Marie Johnson
Scott Plante
Darius Derakshan
Terrence Jackson
Betsy Smith Isroelit
Antonio Stifano
Jerome Courshon
Barbara Ringuette
Heather Carson
Taryn Poole
David Valdez
Janis Purins
Bob Lisauskas
Douglas J. Loewy

No Votes:

None

Present, Not Voting:

None

The second half of Courshon's request is to include the amount in the motion to say "...up to \$150." David Valdez seconded.

VOTE for amendment

Unanimous

PASSED

Yes Votes:

Anne Marie Johnson

Scott Plante

Darius Derakshan

Terrence Jackson

Betsy Smith Isroelit

Antonio Stifano

Jerome Courshon

Barbara Ringuette

Heather Carson

Taryn Poole

David Valdez

Janis Purins

Bob Lisauskas

Douglas J. Loewy

No Votes:

None

Present, Not Voting:

None

Jackson seconded the amended motion.

VOTE for amended motion

Unanimous

PASSED

Yes Votes:

Anne Marie Johnson

Scott Plante

Darius Derakshan

Terrence Jackson

Betsy Smith Isroelit
Antonio Stifano
Jerome Courshon
Barbara Ringuette
Heather Carson
Taryn Poole
David Valdez
Janis Purins
Bob Lisauskas
Douglas J. Loewy

No Votes:

None

Present, Not Voting:

None

Purins asked will we need audio visual? The Note taker will be here, said Plante. Taryn Poole asked what are the benefits of this? Plante said he will discuss general goals for the City. He will discuss his ideas. He will discuss design ideas.

Jackson added that this is incredible. Hawthorne was the Los Angeles Times architecture critic for years. It's quite an honor. Courshon suggested that maybe we should get the camera equipment and film it? Put it on the website. He noted Hawthorne's recommendation that the Silver Lake Reservoir should become a park. So, it will be interesting to have him here. Johnson corrected that Hawthorne actually said it was a cement tub and should be developed for homes instead.

VOTE

14-0-0

PASSED

Yes Votes:

Anne Marie Johnson
Scott Plante
Darius Derakshan
Terrence Jackson
Betsy Smith Isroelit
Antonio Stifano
Jerome Courshon
Barbara Ringuette

Heather Carson
Taryn Poole
David Valdez
Janis Purins
Bob Lisauskas
Douglas J. Loewy

No Votes:
None

Present, Not Voting:
None

d. (Co-Chairs) Set the 2019 Meeting calendar

Plante made the motion. David Valdez seconded.

Johnson proposed the SLNC calendar for 2019. She read the Board meeting dates aloud. Purins asked when will the January 2020 meeting date be set? Johnson said that's a good question. It should fall on that Wednesday. Do you want to add an amendment to add January?

Purins, noting that that would place the meeting on January 1, made a motion for January 8. Valdez seconded.

VOTE for amendment
Unanimous
PASSED

Yes Votes:
Anne Marie Johnson
Scott Plante
Darius Derakshan
Terrence Jackson
Betsy Smith Isroelit
Antonio Stifano
Jerome Courshon
Barbara Ringuette
Heather Carson
Taryn Poole
David Valdez
Janis Purins
Bob Lisauskas

Douglas J. Loewy

No Votes:

None

Present, Not Voting:

None

Carson noted that the Bylaws require also setting the meeting location. Meetings must be here and at St. Francis. She suggested to move that location to Mayberry Elementary. We've received a number of emails from them. They are in distress. They've asked for our help.

They have an incredible room. They've been approved to become a communication arts magnet school. That's very exciting! It would be a good thing to go there. We have historically not supported them as much as we've supported other schools.

Courshon asked would this be a permanent move? Carson said that could be part of the discussion? Johnson said that she is ruling it out of order. Is there a location in our Standing Rules? Carson said that sometimes we follow Standing Rules, sometimes we don't. Plante said that it's Standing Rule 10.

Johnson said I will removing the out of order ruling and refer it to the ruling to the Bylaws and Standing Rules Committee and the Executive Committee. **Referrals require a 2/3 vote.** Courshon said the Co-Chairs have the right to refer anything to any committee without a vote. Johnson said I request an on-the-record vote.

Carson noted that the the first part of that is "unless otherwise notified". Johnson said that notification is different. You requested a suggestion to move the location.

Plante asked is Mayberry ADA (Americans With Disabilities Act) compliant? Johnson said we can discuss that with DONE (the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment).

Purins asked can we still discuss the dates separate from the location? Plante seconded that motion to separate the motion.

**VOTE to separate
Unanimous**

PASSED

Yes Votes:

Anne Marie Johnson
Scott Plante
Darius Derakshan
Terrence Jackson
Betsy Smith Isroelit
Antonio Stifano
Jerome Courshon
Barbara Ringuette
Heather Carson
Taryn Poole
David Valdez
Janis Purins
Bob Lisauskas
Douglas J. Loewy

No Votes:

None

Present, Not Voting:

None

VOTE only on calendar dates

Unanimous

PASSED

Yes Votes:

Anne Marie Johnson
Scott Plante
Darius Derakshan
Terrence Jackson
Betsy Smith Isroelit
Antonio Stifano
Jerome Courshon
Barbara Ringuette
Heather Carson
Taryn Poole
David Valdez
Janis Purins
Bob Lisauskas
Douglas J. Loewy

No Votes:

None

Present, Not Voting:

None

Johnson said that she wants the discussion about the referral to be on the record. Derakshan said I object. Chairs have the authority to refer.

VOTE to discuss referral

13-0-0-1

PASSED

Yes Votes:

Anne Marie Johnson

Scott Plante

Darius Derakshan

Terrence Jackson

Betsy Smith Isroelit

Antonio Stifano

Jerome Courshon

Barbara Ringuette

Heather Carson

Taryn Poole

Janis Purins

Bob Lisauskas

Douglas J. Loewy

No Votes:

None

Present, Not Voting:

None

Recusals:

David Valdez

The chairs will refer.

e. (Elections Comm) Motion for up to \$150 to reserve the Jewish Community Center to hold a candidate forum on March 23 for the 2019 SLNC Elections.

Courshon read the motion. Plante seconded.

Johnson said they have to reserve the location by January 30. Carson noted that the text should read the “Silver Lake Independent Jewish Center”.

Nina Sorkin asked which part of the Center will be used? Those rooms can’t accommodate more than 25 people. The auditorium is used for other things. The other rooms are not ADA compliant.

Courshon noted that Eric is not here and Lee Sherman resigned this morning, However, he understands that the main auditorium would be used. It would be the same room used for the Silver Lake vigil after the Trader Joe’s shooting. It’s this size or larger.

VOTE
14-0-0
PASSED

Yes Votes:

Anne Marie Johnson
Scott Plante
Darius Derakshan
Terrence Jackson
Betsy Smith Isroelit
Antonio Stifano
Jerome Courshon
Barbara Ringuette
Heather Carson
Taryn Poole
David Valdez
Janis Purins
Bob Lisauskas
Douglas J. Loewy

No Votes:

None

Present, Not Voting:

None

7. Officers’ Reports

None

8. Announcements

Barbara Ringuette said to please do the survey.

Derakshan said that next Thursday at 6pm there will be a Homeless Committee meeting at the Silver Lake Recreation Center.

Carson noted that it's cold in here. Can we please make sure that we have heat and WiFi? Isroelit said we have WiFi. Johnson said she needs to post the WiFi codes.

Courshon announced that there is a Co-Chair position available on the Elections Committee.

9. Adjournment

The meeting ended at 8:15pm.