

**Silver Lake Neighborhood Council
Governing Board Meeting
Wednesday, March 6th, 2019**

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Attending Board Members: (15)

Heather Carson
Jerome Courshon
Darius Derakshan (Vice Chairman)
Anne-Marie Johnson (Co-chair)
Scott Plante (Co-chair)
Doug Loewy
Hannah Anderson
Barbara Ringuette
Douglas Reed
Anthony Crump
Bob Lisauskas
David Valdez
Betsy Isroelit (Secretary)
Terrence Jackson (Treasurer)
Janis Purins

Absent Board Members: (6)

Glenn Harrell
Antonio Stifano
Rebecca Ruben
Melissa Samuels
Kate Hudson
Taryn Poole

3. Welcome and rules for actions on agenda items

Co-Chair Anne-Marie Johnson: Welcomed the audience and explained the rules of the meeting to the community.

4. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items (2 mins each)

Jane Cook: She is a private stakeholder in the Silver Lake community, she lives on Westerly Terrace. She expressed anger and concern because the “Slow Down Silver Lake” sign near her home had to be moved to a much less visible spot. She lives at the top curb of her street which is “infested” with unsafe speeding drivers. There have been at least 4 cars totaled on Westerly, including her own, and a fatality. She believed the slowdown sign cannot stop people from speeding but it could give people pause. She was also concerned about the safety of her tenant’s young child and other young children living on the street. A “Slow Down Silver Lake” sign used to be on a large tree on the parkway in front of her home – which made it very visible from the road. But the sign has since been moved and is less visible from the road.

Board Member Janis Purins: He respectfully asked members of the board to address any issues they may have with him in person before posting about it on Social Media. He was deeply hurt recently when SLNC was mentioned a participant in anti-Semitism. In his experience with the board, he has never witnessed that sort of prejudice toward Jews or people of color. There was another recent posting by another board member on social

media about a videographer asked to move to the back of the room at the last meeting and the LAPD had to be brought in. He was not able to attend the last meeting, but he was asked his advice and his opinion was that the LAPD should not have been brought in. But, either way, there was never an awareness that there would be a videographer in the first place nor what race or gender they may be. So, the statement that the LAPD were brought in to force a black woman videographer to move to the back of the room was disingenuous. And being a member of the board, he is included in that accusation. So, he asked that if his fellow board members have a problem with him, to please bring it to his attention and if he does not resolve it then there is the City Attorney's office. But, he said that social media is not the place to resolve those issues.

Board Member Bob Lisauskas: Made an announcement on behalf of the Green Committee: he wanted to make the community aware that they are in midst of a four-part series on climate change as part of a joint venture with the Silver Lake Public Library. The series started in January 2019 and so far there have been two really successful events with great panel speakers. The next lecture is Thursday, March 21st from 6 p.m to 7:45 p.m. This lecture will discuss climate change at a global level with US policies. He hoped to see everyone there.

Board Member Jerome Courshon: Said that the co-chairs of the SLNC have turned the board into an authoritarian regime, "like a microcosm of the Trump administration." There is a great deal of dishonesty and deception. He said that co-chairs Scott Plante and Anne-Marie Johnson have secretly tried to undermine one of his two forms of stakeholder-ships in the Silver Lake community. He said that Scott Plante called the business owner of a community business association that Courshon belongs to and told the owner that "he should kick us out," and that if he did not kick Courshon out then it could be risky for him and his business could be in danger. He said that Scott Plante was not truthful when he denied doing this at a previous meeting. Courshon also said he had proof that such actions were taken. He said the co-chairs use Machiavellian tactics and that the motion to censure him on the agenda is based on a fabricated storyline. He said when the rest of the board participates or supports the co-chairs in their dishonest and, what he perceived as illegal, behavior then they become complicit in their actions. He asked the board to act like how they behave here matters. He asked them to try to set aside previous issues and finish out their terms as amiably as possible.

5. Special Presentations and Reports

a. Presentation: Labor Relations Division: Creating & Maintaining a productive work place Guidelines, good practices, policy and procedures to ensure a safe working environment.

Vivienne Swanigan, Managing Assistant Attorney from of the Los Angeles City Attorney's Labor Relations Division: She explained that Workplace Violence Unit within the Labor Relations Division handles interpersonal relationships within neighborhood council boards. She also introduced **Malaika Phillips**, a deputy who is specifically assigned to work with neighborhood councils. Together, they led a presentation on equity issues, dealing with difficult people and workplace violence. (See attached handout.)

At 8:12 **Anne-Marie Johnson** moved to extend the presentation an extra 10 minutes past it's scheduled 1 hour and 20 minutes. With no objections, the motion passed.

Board Comments:

Jerome Courshon: He thanked them for the informative presentation and commented that a presentation such as this would have been helpful at the beginning of the board member's terms before any interpersonal issues developed. **Vivienne Swanigan:** She said that around 10 years the Labor Relations Division (LRD) advertised and sent fliers to NCs around the city to let them know that their lawyers were available to come give these presentations. However, they did not get much of a response at the time. The LRD has offered and is always willing to come speak to boards. **Courshon:** commented that DONE could potentially be more part of that conversation. He said he reached out to DONE three or four months ago and it did not go anywhere.

Bob Lisauskas: He asked if you perceived a non-physical but harassing threat, such as a threat to your professional career, if that would be an appropriate scenario to contact LRD about. **Vivienne Swanigan:** She said that you could contact LRD, especially if the threat is due to your role on the board, and then the LRD can determine if it is an appropriate scenario for them to get involved with.

John Darnell of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE): He clarified that the Neighborhood Council Advice Division and DONE are two separate entities.

Anne-Marie Johnson: She thanked Vivienne Swanigan and Malaika Phillips for giving the presentation.

6. **Administrative:**

- a. **Motion: To censure At-Large Board Representative Jerome Courshon for his actions during the February 7, 2019 SLNC Executive Committee meeting when he attempted to participate in the proceedings, beyond his rights to speak during the public comment period, by behaving as a voting committee member, objecting to the approval of committee draft minutes, by objecting to the adjournment of the meeting and refusing to adhere to the admonishments of the committee chair. Mr. Courshon's actions also caused the committee members to feel unsafe in their working environment. In doing so, Mr. Courshon's actions violated SLNC Standing Rules #8 and #21, which in turn violated tenets #4 and #10 of the Code Of Civility and Robert's Rules Of Order: Decorum In Debate. Therefore, we move, per Article V, sec 8, that the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council's governing board censure At-Large SLNC Representative Jerome Courshon based solely on his actions during the February 7th Executive Committee meeting. This Censure motion was reviewed and evaluated by the City Attorney.**

SLNC Standing Rules:

#8. Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised

Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised will be followed unless the board has approved specific adjustments.

#21: Limited Number of Board members on Each Advisory Committee*

In order to comply with the City Attorney's interpretation of the Ralph Brown Act, no more than five (5) SLNC board members may vote or participate in any advisory committee, although more may observe. If more than five (5) board members attend an advisory committee meeting, each board member in attendance must declare them- selves as a participant or an observer, and the distinction shall be noted in the minutes. The SLNC Board recommends to Advisory Committee co-chairs that Board members be recognized in theorizer of arrival, unless the committee co- chairs, acting on the will of the committee membership, have a good reason to include a particular Board member. To be an observer means one can only listen, and cannot be recognized by the co-chairs to speak, cannot participate in any discussion, and cannot vote. If the Advisory Committee co-chairs desire to have more than five (5) Board Members participate in the discussion and vote, the advisory committee co-chairs must con- tact the SLNC co-chairs and work to arrange for a joint meeting of the advisory committee and the SLNC Govern ing Board.

**Executive Committee*

Is comprised of the five (5) Executive Officers

Code Of Civility:

#4: Under no circumstances during Neighborhood Council meetings, functions, or events will I engage in or threaten to engage in any verbal or physical attack on any other individual.

#10: I will abide by the Neighborhood Council's meetings procedures or rules in order to create a safe and effec- tive environment for conducting business.

Robert's Rules Of Order Newly Revised: Decorum In Debate pages 391-393

Anne-Marie Johnson distributed copies of both of the censures' "Motion Request Forms" (See *Attachments*) to members of the board. It was also projected for overhead for the audience to see. **Jerome**

Courshon also handed out a document that he would later refer to in his response to the censure. (*See Attachments*)

Anne-Marie Johnson: Since this is the first time the SLNC has dealt with censure motions, she asked to entertain a motion to suspend Standing Rule #4, “Each speaker will be limited to 2 minutes unless adjusted by the co-chairs. The co-chairs have the authority, with the permission of the board, to extend or limit the speaker time if warranted.” To avoid ongoing votes, she entertained that someone move the motion that both Heather Carson and Jerome Courshon be provided 5 minutes a piece to respond – 3 minutes after the report is provided for their initial comments and questions and 2 minutes to rebut any comments made by other board members.

David Valdez moved this motion. **Bob Lisauskas** seconded. With no objections the motion passed.

Anne-Marie Johnson: She also asked to entertain motion to suspend Standing Rule #3, which prevents co-chairs who are part of the authorship of a motion to chair or speak. She asked to entertain a motion to suspend that rule to allow her and Co-Chair Scott Plante to alternate in such a way in that he would handle one of the motions while she would assist Darius with the chairing and parliamentary procedure and then reverse the roles with the second motion.

Jerome Courshon: Point of information – he asks her to clarify if she is referring to point 4 in Standing Rule #3. **Anne-Marie Johnson:** Yes, that is what she was referring to.

Darius Derakshan moved the motion. **Betsy Isroelit** seconded the motion. With no objections the motion passed.

Anne-Marie Johnson: She explained what a censure means. She read SLNC’s bylaws, Article V, Section 8. She explained that with regard to the two censures on the agenda, for both Carson and Courshon, this only rises to the level of one censure for each of them. She told the board to only discuss the content of censures themselves and not to bring up any other past events or other information that was not directly relevant to the censures. She warned that if a board member were to start to talk about something that is not relevant or germane to the motions then she would rule them out of order.

Darius Derakshan read the censure motion. **Bob Lisauskas** seconded the motion.

Darius Derakshan read aloud Exhibit A (#4 and #10 from the Code of Civility), Exhibit B (Article V, Section 8 of the SLNC bylaws), Exhibit C (an excerpt from the Executive Committee draft minutes of 2/7/19), and Exhibit D (SLNC Executive Committee Meeting Report 2/7/19 from Betsy Isroelit)

Mid-way through Exhibit D **Jerome Courshon** made a point of order – he was not given the Exhibit documents until just before the motion was made which he felt did not give him a fair opportunity to prepare a response. Since reading the exhibits would likely take 15 to 20 minutes, he requested 15-minutes to both read his prepared statement and respond to the Exhibits.

Darius Derakshan continued to read Exhibit D from, “then as the situation escalated, Darius suggested that they take the discussion outside...” on. He then read Exhibit E (Report of Executive Committee Meeting from Terry Jackson 2/7/19).

He asked Courshon if he would like 3 minutes to respond to the Exhibits. **Courshon:** said that he thought they just voted that he had 5 minutes. **Anne-Marie Johnson:** Said he could divide the time however he wanted such as a 3-minute response and then a 2-minute rebuttal to questions. **Courshon:** said that if was being asked questions than it should not be part of his 5 minutes to defend himself. **Johnson:** Asked if he wanted his 5 minutes in one chunk or divide between 3 and 2 minutes. **Courshon:** said he would like to use the full 5 minutes but then asked if he would not be allowed to answer the board’s follow up questions. **Johnson:** told him to use his 5 minutes and if there was enough time then he could answer questions.

Jerome Courshon: He said that this was a kangaroo court and that the Exhibit documents were “complete BS” which he could prove with recorded audio of the 2/7/19 Executive Committee meeting. He suggested postponing the vote to make the audio available to the board, the city attorneys, John Darnell and DONE. He said the exhibits were not from the minutes of the executive committee meeting, but rather statements created by the executive committee to assassinate his character with DONE. The statements characterized him as yelling and aggressive but he denied ever yelling or being aggressive during his argument with Darius Derakshan. In Exhibit D, Betsy Isroelit stated that it was dark when she entered the room and that she was startled when he stood up. But, he said his computer was on his lap and while the room was dark the light of the computer lit his face. He was sitting in the corner and she may have been startled but he did not stand up. He said she smiled and laughed and said “Oh hi, how are you?” He admitted to making an inappropriate comment during his argument with Darius but he denied ever yelling and said he was seated the whole time. He said Derakshan physically threatened him “to take it outside,” which he said was not acknowledged in the exhibits. He said Derakshan should be censured for that. He said in the motion against him there were 5 accusations. Accusation 1: “during the February 7, 2019 SLNC Executive Committee meeting when he attempted to participate in the proceedings, beyond his rights to speak during the public comment period, by behaving as a voting committee member.” However, Courshon said that when you have less than 5 board members in a meeting you can participate. There were only three officers there so he participated and no one told him he could not. Therefore, the motion is incorrect. Accusation 2: “objecting to the approval of committee draft minutes.” He said he did do that and that it is his right as part of parliamentary rules. Accusation 3: “objecting to the adjournment of the meeting.” He denied ever objecting to the adjournment and he said his audio recording could prove that. Accusation 4: “refusing to adhere to the admonishments of the committee chair.” He said there were no admonishments from the committee chair, just a heated argument between them. He said people are not convicted in a court of law without evidence and that these statements are false. Accusation 5: “Mr. Courshon’s actions also caused the committee members to feel unsafe in their working environment.” He said that this is a mischaracterization, he has been a member of the community for 30 years and has never physically threatened anyone. He said Terry Jackson said in his statement that he was getting ready because he thought Courshon was going to attack. But Courshon said that he and Jackson had a very nice metaphysical conversation for 5 minutes before the meeting even began.

Courshon moved that the motion be tabled. **Heather Carson** seconded.

Roll Call Vote to Table:

Yes: Heather Carson, Jerome Courshon

No: Darius Derakshan, Anne-Marie Johnson, Scott Plante, Doug Loewy, Hannah Anderson, Barbara Ringuette, Douglas Reed, Anthony Crump, Bob Lisauskas, David Valdez, Betsy Isroelit, Terrence Jackson, Janis Purins

With 13 no votes the motion to table failed.

Public Comment:

Jane Cook: Jerome Courshon’s comments reminded her of something that happened when Clint Lukens was chair of the SLNC, at least 6 years ago. She complained to DONE and the city attorney. A total of 8 people were in going and out of the executive committee meeting because there were only 3 members. She was told then that it wasn’t a problem. **Johnson:** Said they were wrong. She clarified, that the executive committee, like urban design, has 5 assigned voters – the secretary, treasurer, the co-chairs and the vice chair. Regardless of how many executive committee members are at the meeting only executive committee members can participate in parliamentary procedure. Any member can make a comment but non-executives cannot make, submit or challenge motions.

Courshon: Point of information – is it not so that Douglas Reed participated at a executive committee meeting several months ago when only 4 officers were present and that she as co-chair allowed Reed to participate? **Johnson:** She did not know, she would have to look at the minutes.

John Darnell of DONE: He said that he had not seen the communication between the board and Elise Rudin from the Neighborhood Council Advice Division. Did Ms. Rudin approve the language of the censure motion? **Johnson:** Yes.

Board Comments:

Heather Carson: She said she thought it was a lot to get a huge packet in the moment. They could have used some time to reflect and read it calmly and absorb the information. She did not think that does justice to the person they accuse. She also thought it was unusual to include personal statements from other board members as part of the motion. Normally, the members would have been given their 2 minutes on the floor.

Bob Lisauskas: expressed concern about the safety and welfare of this board. He said Courshon has threatened many members of the board over its time. **Johnson:** Reminded him to keep his comments to the scope of the censure motion. **Lisauskas:** Courshon's violent temperament toward Derakshan put the board in a terrible situation.

Terry Jackson: He said he was alarmed at the committee meeting as an observer. In his previous job in a mental health facility, he had seen how quickly something can go from a pleasant philosophical conversation to physical attack in an instant. He had experienced this first hand many times before an he was very concerned at the meeting. He responded quietly to the situation, as he would have at work.

Jerome Courshon: (2 minute rebuttal) He said he has never threatened anyone in his life, before or after joining the SLNC. He said Bob Lisauskas was lying about that and that they had a disagreement in the past. **Johnson:** Reminded him to keep his comments to the scope of the censure motion. **Courshon:** Said his comments were germane, the language of the censure portrayed him as a dangerous person. He said Anne-Marie Johnson is more dangerous and that she threatened him with the LAPD in November, which he has reported to DONE, which did nothing. He has also talked to city attorneys about that threat. He said that a third of the board does not agree with this censure which is why they were not at this meeting and some are planning to resign. He said there is no violation of standing rules 8 and 21 and that Johnson's statements about not being able to speak at executive committee meetings are untrue. He said they are violating the Brown Act and parliamentary procedure.

Courshon moved that the vote on the motion be postponed until next month so that the board can all hear his recording of the meeting. **Heather Carson** seconded.

Board Comments:

Douglas Reed: He said the board would just be postponing an issue that it has already postponed again and again. He did not agree to postpone it once again.

David Valdez: Asked if the executive committee members were aware they were being recorded by Courshon. **Courshon:** Said at one point he did say he was recording, but that any public meeting can be recorded and that the co-chairs were aware that he has been recording meetings for the past few months. He said when Johnson started threatening him with the LAPD, he started having a videographer at the meetings in case something happened. **Darius Derakshan:** Said he was not aware he was being recorded, for clarification.

Doug Loewy: He said an audio recording would not put the board in the room during the incident. Three board members have described their experience and fears. The board can either chose to believe them or not, but an audio recording will not describe what was going on in that room. **Johnson:** She said that she would likely not allow Courshon's audio recording as it was not done by AppleOne or a city official. A recording by an individual can easily be manipulated to support any particular agenda.

Jerome Courshon: Said, with respect, the board can believe "the three people you clearly want to believe," but that the audio recording would show that he was not yelling or demanding to adjourn the

meeting and that everything in this motion is false. He said he doesn't have the votes to stop the censure but he asked the board to use their conscience to "do the right thing to be honest here."

Roll Call Vote to Postpone:

Yes: Heather Carson, Jerome Courshon

No: Darius Derakshan, Anne-Marie Johnson, Scott Plante, Doug Loewy, Hannah Anderson, Barbara Ringuette, Douglas Reed, Anthony Crump, Bob Lisauskas, David Valdez, Betsy Isroelit, Terrence Jackson, Janis Purins

With 13 no votes the motion to postpone the vote failed.

Roll Call Vote on the Censure Motion:

Yes: Darius Derakshan, Anne-Marie Johnson, Scott Plante, Doug Loewy, Hannah Anderson, Barbara Ringuette, Douglas Reed, Anthony Crump, Bob Lisauskas, Betsy Isroelit, Terrence Jackson, Janis Purins

No: Heather Carson, Jerome Courshon

Present, no voting: David Valdez

With 12 yes votes the requirements of 2/3rds carried and the motion passed.

- b. **Motion: To censure At-Large Board Member Heather Carson for her actions, during the December 5, 2018 SLNC Board meeting, based on her admission of removing over 20 SLNC Slow Down Silver Lake yard signs without the granted authority of the board and/or the property owner, and in her refusal to return said signs to the SLNC or to report where she distributed the signs, violating SLNC Standing Rule #16. In doing so Ms. Carson's actions violated tenets #3 and #12 of the Code Of Civility and therefore we move, per Article V, sec 8, that the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council's governing board censure At-Large SLNC Representative Heather Carson, based solely on her actions, admitted to, during the December 5, 2018 SLNC board meeting. This Censure motion was reviewed and evaluated by the City Attorney.**

SLNC Standing Rules

#16 Board Member Use Of Title/Position

No officer or member of the SLNC or any of its advisory committees shall represent him/herself as speaking on behalf of the Council or committee, or act to committing the Council or its' committees to any action, unless s/he has been authorized by the SLNC Governing Board, or by the SLNC Executive Committee when approval by the full Board would not be timely. Members are permitted to do research and make exploratory calls in their official capacity without express approval of the Governing Board, so long as they do not commit the Council to any kind of action. Such authorization may be limited or revoked at any time by the Governing Board.

Code Of Civility

#3. Even in the face of disagreement or differences of opinion, I will demonstrate esteem and deference for my colleagues and the public.

#12. I will seek to present information truthfully, and will not knowingly misrepresent, mischaracterize, or mis- quote information received from others.

Anne-Marie Johnson read the censure motion. **Betsy Isroelit** seconded.

Anne-Marie Johnson: read aloud text of the "Carson Censure Motion", Exhibit C (an expert from the approved 12/5/18 SLNC Board Meeting Minutes), Exhibit D (an email exchange between Heather Carson,

Anne-Marie Johnson, and Betsy Isreolit), Exhibit E (an expert from the approved August 2018 SLNC Board Meeting Minutes), Exhibit F (a PRA Heather Carson requested through the secretary that was then forwarded to the City Attorney), and Exhibit G (the City Attorney's response to that PRA), Exhibit H (a personal statement from Anne-Marie Johnson about a voicemail the board received from Street Services Investigator Lorreto on 3/4/19 at 10:20 a.m. and a summary of Johnson's subsequent conversation with him that triggered a series of events relevant to the censure motion).

Heather Carson: She said that the original motion was to spend \$600 on 105 yard signs. But, only 60 were printed, which is a misrepresentation of the spending of public funds and opens the board up to a Funding violation. The original motion said that each board member was supposed to receive 5 signs to be distributed in their respective region. But the signs were never brought to a meeting or distributed to the board. She said that when she submitted a PRA for those multiple opportunities the secretary admitted that no email had gone out and that it was announced at the meetings. Other board members also said they never heard about the signs. She said that Anne-Marie said the signs were distributed by how many voted in each region and asks "how is that democracy?" She said that was "pay to play." She said that most of the signs were distributed in region 6 and 7 which is where Johnson and Isreolit live. She emailed Isreolit on 8/9/18 about two signs on parkways on Westerly Terrace, with a photo. She received no response to that email. As of last week, the signs were still on the parkways. She told the board at a subsequent meeting that they could be fined for each sign and if a stakeholder that had been given a sign was observed placing it they could be fined \$320. Three months later she still saw signs on the parkways. She said that apparently no one had reached out to people on the distribution list. As a civic agency, she felt that was irresponsible. She saw her sign on the way to this meeting on the parkway. So, after months of seeing them she decided to remove them. She was not representing the board when she did this, she was acting as a stakeholder. She amended a motion to say the signs would be equitably distributed. At a July 2018 meeting the board rescinded that amendment. So here there were now no rules for how the signs should be distributed. She has been repeatedly asked where she put the signs, but she had not placed them. She gave them out at the Farmer's Market and did not keep track of where the signs were – which was never part of the board's motion. She said Barbara Ringuette emailed her to ask for a sign for region 2 because, "they won't give me one." Carson then emailed Isreolit who asked where she wanted to put the sign. Carson did not know where Ringuette wanted to put it, so she emailed her but never heard back. So Carson said, Isreolit said she never heard back from Carson so she would not get a sign. She said she did not like the idea that board members are suspect and could not be trusted to be given signs, to place the signs or keep track of where they went.

Board Comments:

Bob Lisauskas: He said this is a case of a really disgruntled board member trying to destroy a successful project. This may be one of the most successful projects the SLNC has had in 3 years. He did not understand why anyone on the board would try to stop a working project. Seeing them around town, makes him proud. He has one on his street and it works to slow down traffic. He asks if Carson had good intentions why did she not bring back the signs so they could be distributed.

Janis Purins: Regarding the equity situation, he had initially voted to distribute them equitably but at the subsequent meeting the board revisited it because he realized they did not have a solid definition of term "equitably." They did not know what number equitable meant. In terms of 5 signs per board member, his understanding was that was an estimated number based how many signs they could afford. In terms of the parkway issue, the city does not normally act unless there is a complaint.

Barbara Ringuette: She wanted to clarify that when she emailed Carson, her point was they did not have them already in region 2 and people ought to request the signs. That's why she encouraged Carson to get people to request them. All of the signs she had seen were all in region 6 and 7, which she did not have a problem. But when they discussed purchasing additional signs she thought those should be distributed equitably, meaning that more perhaps should be distributed to region 2 and 3 because essentially there were none there at the time.

Betsy Isroelit: Point of clarification - Region 6 and 7 are very large regions. Secondly, when you produce something in an area in the city you have to give anyone who wants it a chance to request it. That is why they posted about it in newsletters and social media. So, everyone had an equitable chance to request a sign. More people requested from one area, but it was not the board's right to deny their request.

Anne-Marie Johnson: Point of clarification - This was a first come, first serve process. The board announced it to the community and when a person requested it they got a sign. She believed Carson misspoke, since she did not base distribution of the signs based on who voted. After the fact, she and Isroelit counted how many signs went to each region and it reflected back the election results. It was consistent with who voted. The overwhelming majority of votes came from regions 6 and 7. Some of the smallest number of votes came from region 2 and 3 which is consistent with the request for signs. And, two of the signs on the parkway that she noticed are on Ms. Carson's street.

Jerome Courshon: He said this is a petty issue for the audience. He said the bottom line is the board authorized and approved the creation of lawn signs. 5 were supposed to be given to each board member. The board voted on that and it was not done which is a violation of the Brown Act and their funding policies. Any stakeholder could file a grievance against the board for that. He said that Johnson and Isroelit send out a newsletter but never informed the board that the signs were ready to be picked up and distributed. Then when the board approved a second round of funding to purchase more signs the board voted for the distribution to be equitable. He said that then, in an illegal violation of the Brown Act, Isroelit and the co-chairs brought the motion back to strike the word "equitable" from the motion.

Jerome Courshon moved to postpone the censure vote until next month. **Heather Carson** seconded.

Public Comment:

Community Member: Point of Order – he asked if a censured board member has a right to speak at a meeting. Does the censure mean you are not allowed to speak? **Johnson:** No. It does in the CA House and Senate, but not in neighborhood councils. Censured board members have to sign a document and the city attorney will respond to the censure. For the first censure they do not lose any privileges whatsoever. It is a warning.

Anthony Crump moved to close debate. **Scott Plante** seconded.

Jerome Courshon objected. **Johnson:** Said he could not object, the motion had already been seconded. **Courshon:** said he objected before the second. **Johnson:** parliamentary procedure – Anthony Crump was recognized, he moved to close debate, it was seconded. You cannot debate a close of debate **Courshon:** point of order – he said he was recognized before she interrupted. **Johnson:** parliamentary procedure – first time speakers are chosen which includes the stakeholders and Anthony Crump is a first-time speaker. He made the motion to close debate, it was seconded, it is not debatable. She asked if there are any objections. **Courshon:** He objected. **Johnson:** Then we immediately go to a roll call vote.

Roll Call Vote to Close Debate:

Yes: Heather Carson, Darius Derakshan, Anne-Marie Johnson, Scott Plante, Doug Loewy, Hannah Anderson, Barbara Ringuette, Douglas Reed, Anthony Crump, Bob Lisauskas, David Valdez, Betsy Isroelit, Terrence Jackson, Janis Purins

No: Jerome Courshon

With 14 yes votes the motion to close the vote passed.

Roll Call Vote to Postpone the Censure Motion Vote:

No: Heather Carson, Jerome Courshon Darius Derakshan, Anne-Marie Johnson, Scott Plante, Doug Loewy, Hannah Anderson, Barbara Ringuette, Douglas Reed, Anthony Crump, Bob Lisauskas, David Valdez, Betsy Isroelit, Terrence Jackson, Janis Purins

With 15 no votes the motion to postpone the vote failed.

Board Comments (on the censure motion, cont.):

Anthony Crump: He said that he was not yet on the board for the equitable debate, but what is now sounded like to him is that despite the board's best efforts the signs were not distributed equitably. He represents Region 3. Region 2 and 3 tend to have lower participation on the SLNC in general. So, when something is sent out on the newsletter people who are already paying attention to the SLNC respond to it. People who are not yet engaged, do not respond. Therefore, you would not a lot of responses from Region 2 and 3 which both have a historical lack of participation with the SLNC. That's not equity. He had mixed feelings because he felt like Carson's intent was good, in wanting to get signs into areas that are historically underrepresented in the SLNC. However, ultimately, he felt that what she did was wrong in his opinion. And the SLNC should not support her actions. He said that during her response she said she was acting as a stakeholder yet at other times she said she was doing it because the board was exposed to potential fines. He felt that her intent was good, but it was not done in an appropriate and proper way.

Scott Plante: Point of information – he said that John Darnell did say at one point that the city would never allow an equitable distribution with taxpayer funds on this issue. **Crump:** He said that it is not necessarily about ensuring an equitable outcome, it making the effort. That's what equity is about.

Jerome Courshon: He said this motion to censure is part of the co-chairs tried to get him off the board, they are trying again. He said they tried several months ago and now they are trying again. These censure motions are about getting him and Carson off the board and about retribution. It is a kangaroo court. Several board members fought for equity, one of which he said resigned due to this and several other issues including anti-Semitism. He thinks the board needs to be accountable. He said the secretary and the co-chairs are doing a disservice to the community.

Barbara Ringuette: She agreed with Anthony Crump. She thought Carson tried to make the situation right but her actions were wrong and regrettable. She did not feel there was any persecution taking place but she she thought the board could all be more sensitive to the issues raised tonight, including the historical underrepresentation in the SLNC.

Heather Carson: (2 minute rebuttal) To Bob's point about why didn't she bring back the signs, she asks why didn't the board email their lists and tell them not to put their signs on the parkways. Equitable to her meant equal in each reason. The motion said each board member would be given 5 signs. Later, in a newsletter it said the same thing. That was the stated intention but that is not what happened. They were not distributed based on voting numbers but once the numbers came in and they realized, it was then stated proudly. To Plante's point that Darnell told the board it can't be equitable, he also told the board it is illegal to place the signs on the parkways. So, this body acts with impunity. The board gets emails with recommendations from DONE and the co-chair says the board does not have to do what they recommend. She emailed Isroelit about signs on the parkway and nobody did anything. She did her part as a board member to protect the board from this and nobody cared.

Scott Plante: Point of information– this issue is about unaccounted city property, the unauthorized removal of city property and no accountability for where that property is. The board had to maintain and provide a list and there are some signs missing. The issue is about that specific action. **Carson:** Heather – the original motion never called for this list, it was supposed to be for each board member to distribute them to their regions. It turned into being controlled by the outreach committee. It was never voted that it would all be controlled by one committee.

Roll Call Vote on the Censure Motion:

Yes: Darius Derakshan, Anne-Marie Johnson, Scott Plante, Doug Loewy, Hannah Anderson, Barbara Ringuette, Douglas Reed, Anthony Crump, Bob Lisauskas, David Valdez, Betsy Isroelit, Terrence Jackson, Janis Purins

No: Heather Carson, Jerome Courshon

With 13 yes votes the requirements of 2/3rds carried and the motion passed.

John Darnell swore in Anthony Crump as a Board Member of the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council

c. Board Approval of February 2019 MER (Monthly Expense Report)

There was an error with this item on the agenda so, with no objection from the board, it was pulled and rescheduled for the April 2019 meeting.

Johnson asked if there were any objections. Hearing none, it was approved.

7. Old Business

- a. **(Elections) Moves that the SLNC approve the updated language for the mailer to inform residents of the upcoming election. All of the changes recommended by the governing board have been made and one additional change (the restoring of the phrase “No documentation is required.”) has been approved by the Election Committee.**

Doug Loewy seconded the motion.

Eric Kissack, chair of the elections committee: He said this is the language approved by the city clerk and asked the board if they had any questions.

Anthony Crump moved to call the questions. **Scott Plante** seconded.

Jerome Courshon: Point of order – this parliamentary does not allow to call the questions before anyone has a chance to speak. **Johnson:** Said that is not true, but so that they do not belabor this she asks Courshon what he would like to say.

Courshon: Asked about a change in sentence in the third paragraph that used to say “No documents are required” but now says “Other than the registration form.” **Kissack:** Said that was a recommendation from the City Clerk’s office to make sure that legally there was no confusion.

Johnson asked if there were any objections to the motion. Hearing none, the motion was approved.

8. New Business

- a. **(Mature Adults) The Mature Adult Advocates recommends that the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council co-sponsor a Meet and Greet with Councilmember Mitch O’Farrell on April 25 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Silver Lake Public Library to discuss concerns on Senior issues.**

Anthony Crump seconded the motion.

Nina ??, The Mature Adults Advocates representative: She said their organization would like to use the SLNC logo on their fliers for the event. She recently had dinner with Mary Rodriguez and she told Nina that Councilmember O’Farrell would like to meet with seniors. The event will have brain teasers and other activities.

Johnson: She told Nina that the board will vote on approving the motion and then will refer the approval of the fliers to the outreach committee which will meet immediately.

Hannah Anderson: She asked if it was a funding motion. **Johnson:** It is not.

Johnson asked if there were any objections to the motion. Hearing none, the motion was approved.

- b. **(E.Kissack) The maker moves that the SLNC spend up to one hundred and sixty dollars (\$160.00), which is well within the budget provided by the SLNC board for the 2019 SLNC elections, to place 3 SLNC Election Campaign Informational Banners on bus shelters within the boundaries of the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council. The banners will be designed to provide information to promote the SLNC 2019 board elections and to encourage Silver Lake stakeholders to vote.**

Darius Derakshan seconded the motion.

Eric Kissack: Asked if there were any questions.

Terry Jackson: Asked if all of Kissack's items fit within the elections budget. **Kissack:** Yes, they do.

Anthony Crump: Asked if they had any locations for the banners identified. **Kissack:** No, the city does not let you specify the location. The city picks locations within the borders of SLNC. **Crump:** These are on bus shelters, not bus benches? **Kissack:** Correct. It is part of a special program for neighborhood councils where the city produces at cost these bus shelter ads.

Anne-Marie Johnson: Asked if outreach had seen the banner itself yet. **Kissack:** He did not believe so but he had a copy with him. **Johnson:** What is your printing schedule? **Kissack:** As soon as possible.

Johnson: Asked for permission of the body to waive the requirement that the banner be vetted by the outreach committee purely of the emergent nature of this issue.

Jerome Courshon moved that motion. **Hannah Anderson** seconded it.

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Heather Carson, Jerome Courshon, Darius Derakshan, Anne-Marie Johnson, Scott Plante, Doug Loewy, Hannah Anderson, Barbara Ringuette, Douglas Reed, Anthony Crump, Bob Lisauskas, David Valdez, Betsy Isroelit, Terrence Jackson, Janis Purins

The motion passed unanimously.

- c. **(E.Kissack) The maker moves that the SLNC spend up to four hundred dollars (\$400.00) to print posters and postcards to promote the upcoming election. The postcards and posters will help us get the word out about the election. Increased awareness of the election engages more people in the SLNC and helps with their activities.**

David Valdez seconded.

Anne-Marie Johnson: entertained a motion to waive elections committee having to bring the text to the outreach committee for approval. **Kissack:** Each of these will be slightly modified versions of postcards that have already been improved. No new language will be added.

Anthony Crump: Asked for an update on where they are ultimately distributed after they are mailed out. **Kissack:** Agreed to keep him updated.

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Heather Carson, Jerome Courshon, Darius Derakshan, Anne-Marie Johnson, Scott Plante, Doug Loewy, Hannah Anderson, Barbara Ringuette, Douglas Reed, Anthony Crump, Bob Lisauskas, David Valdez, Betsy Isroelit, Terrence Jackson, Janis Purins

The motion passed unanimously.

- d. **(E.Kissack) The maker moves that the SLNC spend up to four hundred and fifty dollars (\$450.00) to purchase food and refreshments from Costco for the candidate forum on March 23rd, 2019 at the SIJCC. We will have various items including cheese, crackers, meats as well as vegetable and gluten free options.**

Jerome Courshon seconded.

Terry Jackson: he offered a friendly amendment, since he believed Costco does not take Mastercard, but Smart N Final does. **Courshon:** He said Costco does take Mastercard.

Janis Purins: moved to strike the word Costco. With no objections, it was stricken from the motion.

Betsy Isroelit: She asked what the process was of getting the food they use approved by the city. **Jackson:** As long as it is prepackaged it is fine. **Kissack:** there was a food truck approved for a candidate forum last year. **Johnson:** the distinction is that the board cannot bring in food from their home because they are not licensed chefs, but it is ok if the board goes to an accredited licensed store.

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Heather Carson, Jerome Courshon, Darius Derakshan, Anne-Marie Johnson, Scott Plante, Doug Loewy, Hannah Anderson, Barbara Ringuette, Douglas Reed, Anthony Crump, Bob Lisauskas, David Valdez, Betsy Isroelit, Terrence Jackson, Janis Purins

The motion passed unanimously.

- e. **(E.Kissack) The maker moves that the SLNC spend up to two hundred dollars (\$200.00) to purchase pizza and drinks for the poll workers on Election Day. I believe that the poll workers will be happier and more efficient if they're fed which will lead to a more effective SLNC election. If the motion is supported by the SLNC, I will coordinate with Terrence Jackson to purchase the refreshments at a local pizzeria and bring them to the polls on Election Day.**

Doug Loewy seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Heather Carson, Jerome Courshon, Anne-Marie Johnson, Scott Plante, Doug Loewy, Hannah Anderson, Barbara Ringuette, Douglas Reed, Anthony Crump, Bob Lisauskas, David Valdez, Betsy Isroelit, Terrence Jackson, Janis Purins

No: Darius Derakshan

With 14 yes votes the motion passed.

- f. **(E.Kissack) The maker moves that the SLNC spend up to one hundred and twenty-five dollars (\$125.00) to produce patches with the current election info for the banners that are currently in my possession from the last election for posting within the boundaries of the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council. The banners have been designed to provide information to promote the SLNC 2019 board elections and to encourage Silver Lake stakeholders to vote.**

Jerome Courshon seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Yes: Heather Carson, Jerome Courshon, Darius Derakshan, Anne-Marie Johnson, Scott Plante, Doug Loewy, Hannah Anderson, Barbara Ringuette, Douglas Reed, Anthony Crump, Bob Lisauskas, David Valdez, Betsy Isroelit, Terrence Jackson, Janis Purins

The motion passed unanimously.

- g. **(Urban Design) Move the SLNC support a CUB for the on-site sale of alcohol, in conjunction with an addition to the kitchen, new storage cooler, new outdoor seating, and an ADA-accessible restroom. Recommended hours of operation are: Restaurant: Monday-Friday 10am-2am/ Sat, Sun 9:00am-2:00am. Patio:Sun-Thurs 10:00am-11pm/Fri, Sat 9am-1am**

The restaurant's representatives could not come to this meeting, they decided to come in April instead. So, this item will appear on the agenda for next month's meeting.

9. **Approval of Draft Board Minutes:**

- a. **December 2019 http://silverlakenc.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/SLNC_MEETING-MINUTES_DECEMBER-2018_DRAFT.pdf**

Barbara Ringuette seconded.

With no objections the motion was approved.

- b. **February 6, 2019 <http://silverlakenc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/silver-lake-neighborhood-council-draft-meeting- minutes-february-2019-updated.pdf>**

Darius Derakshan seconded.

Anne-Marie Johnson: She voted no on the bar. She voted yes on the amendment of time, but no on overall motion for the CUP.

Heather Carson: At the top of page 19, "city and state law" supersedes the SLNC's bylaws. On page 28 when they were approving the letters for homeless committee, she said "approval of the letters with the caveat that letters be attached to motions going forward." **Johnson:** Neither committee had the full letter draft letter attached to the agenda, but they have since found out that they are not required to do that and that it can be done in real time in front of the stakeholders. So Carson's correction will be noted, but it is now no longer correct.

Jerome Courshon: On page five, in the second to last paragraph, it says "Jerome Courshon explained that we were a documentation election site." But it should be that "we were a documentation election previously."

With those corrections, the minutes are approved without objection.

10. **Reports of Officers**

None.

11. **Committee Reports**

Dog Park Committee: Mary Rodriguez sent an email to the whole board. It lists a lot of amenities that are accruing at the dog park. It is an encouraging email.

Barbara Ringuette: the budget advocate committee is meeting with mayor on March 14th and will have opportunity to pose questions to the mayor. She asked if you have an urgent budget question to please let her know.

12. **Agenda Items for next board meeting**

13. **Announcements**

14. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:56 p.m.