

# **SILVER LAKE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

## **GREEN COMMITTEE**

### **DRAFT MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday July 15, 2019 7:30 pm**

**Silver Lake Recreation Center**

1. Call to Order – The meeting was called to order 6:03 p.m.  
Attendance – 8: John Wingler, Elaine Roark, Ianthe Zevos, Jane Cook, Hugh Kenny, Genelle LeVin, Lisa Turallo, Cesar Estrada
2. Public Comment on Non-agenda Item
  - Elaine stated that there would be a new Latinx committee formed.
  - Genelle reported on the upcoming Silver Lake Picture Show
  - Cesar reported on the interest by the All American War Veterans to purchase the property at the southwest corner of Riverside and Fletcher as a park recognizing their service to the nation and recognizing the significance of the removed Pacific Electric rail line viaduct which passed over the area.
3. Presentations - none
4. Administrative Items
  - A. The minutes from the June 20, 2019 were approved as written.
  - B. Discussion of best day to meet, determined that Tuesday was good for most.
  - C. Site visit to proposed art installation “The Monarch”. Jane and Elaine reported that the lower Silver Lake Avenue steps were preferred by the artist. Discussion of the migration of monarchs through the area and need for native milk weed plants. Cesar said that they congregate in Nipomo dunes and offered a field trip to see them. Proposed date to open exhibit is October 2019, so future agenda should consider any funds needed to support and opening day activity and possible gifts for visitors.
  - D. Discussion of status of request to CDs to plant trees in designated locations. Jane said there is a new “tree czar” who would likely be the one to approach for support of the planting of street trees. The Brisbane Box tree (non-native) and the Catalina Ironwood (native) were mentioned as a hardy, drought tolerant trees often used for street shade. It was suggested that we invite City Plants representatives to attend a Green Committee meeting.
  - E. Continued publicity about ban on rodenticides. John showed photos of anticoagulant bait traps seen throughout Silver Lake. It is believed that a city-wide ordinance has been introduced by Mitch O’Farrell. The Assembly bill to ban has passed the State Assembly and Senate and is in the Appropriations Committee. John was assigned the duty to write an article for the next SLNC newsletter informing readers of the dangers of using the poison.

5. Motions and Resolutions

- A. Motion to request funding for opening event for The Monarch art installation on a Silver Lake stairway.

Discussion and vote tabled to future meeting.

- B. Move that the Green Committee develop a procedure for working with the city urban forestry department to anticipate tree removal /maintenance in order to preserve and enhance the city's tree canopy.

Discussion: Ianthe said she had talked with Department of Building and Safety and the Urban Forestry Department about the current process of notification and how it could be adjusted. It happens after plans have been approved on 'by right' developments. One option is to request more than the 3-day notice which is the current practice. Another option is to modify the permitting regulations allowing more time for council participation and review. The objective in either way is to have more timely notice allowing for neighborhood council review in which to consider whether to suggest alternatives to removal. It was suggested that the Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance help with the issue to present more voices requesting a change in procedure or regulations.

John summarized and presented the following wording for the motion:

*Move that the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council request that a 30-day notice be sent regarding any tree removal authorization from Urban Forestry Management to the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment which will forward the notification to the Neighborhood Council.*

Discussion: Genelle suggested that we could not vote on this as it was not stated thus in the published agenda. John said that adding the language of the requested procedure was exactly the intent of the published motion. Jane suggested an amendment to the motion stating that the procedure request also name the development company asking for the removal. As this was information publicly available at Urbanize L.A., Jane withdrew the proposed amendment. Hugh suggested an amendment to request UFD place a notification on any tree slated for removal. The change was acceptable to the mover, and the new amendment reads:

*Move that the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council request that the Urban Forestry Department place a notice on any tree intended for removal and provide a 30-day notice regarding any tree removal authorization to the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment which will forward the notification to the Neighborhood Council.*

Ianthe seconded the amended motion.

APPROVED: 8-0-0

The motion will be presented to the SLNC Governing Board for consideration at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

- C. *Move that the Green Committee propose a gas-powered leaf blower buy back program and ask the Governing Board to request funds from council districts.*

Discussion: Noted that the Silver Lake ban on gas blowers is actually city-wide. Should the motion it specifically state that the program be an exchange (gas for electric or battery)? Do batteries last long enough for a day's work? The motion was considered as stated without amendment.

APPROVED: 8-0-0

The motion will be presented to the Governing Board for inclusion on the next scheduled regular meeting date, with the request that if approved a letter would be sent to the two LA City Councilmembers requesting that discretionary funds be targeted for buying back gas leaf blowers in Silver Lake.

6. Requests/Motions for Future Agenda Items and Next Meeting Date

A. Cesar requested that the committee consider how to support the Veterans' intention to turn the lot above the Ivanhoe restaurant, southwest corner of Fletcher and Riverside, into a public memorial park.

B. The next committee meeting will be Tuesday, August 20, 2019, 7:30 p.m. at the Silver Lake Recreation Center art room.

7. Adjournment – the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.