

Reservoir Committee Meeting
Silver Lake Public Library, Community Room
June 17, 2019
6-8PM

6:08 Purpose setting

Think about the values that the Reservoir represents to you

Taryn it's a living being

Mike chance for the community to work together on the master plan to improve the environment

Janis – an open space, valuable for wildlife, especially with more development

Sarah – valuable community gathering space

Patty – open vista

?? name Place to both sit and move without encountering obstacles

Great place for recreation

If you have a baby and/or a dog – place to take them and get out of the house

Catherine – community, participation, connection

Patty – observation of the water

Paul – wildlife refuge, urban park space, LA parkspace is really at a premium, that's why people are interested in having more access to the fenced off area. It's also a focus

Catherine – change or transformation as an opportunity

6:15: Taryn will share about the Master Place Work Group

The purpose is to think about how we collectively transform the res

Planning stage for two years before any physical work with take place: to talk, to understand, to plan

First task force group is comprised of various stakeholder groups and activities.

5 – task groups meetings

6 – community outreach meetings

5 groups who will work together:

2 – landscape groups Hargraves (SF plus international) plus Chais Solate (Glendale)

1 - Robert group stakeholder participation

CWE water group

GBA Consulting – biology and historical and cultural resources

Understanding what species are here, are they thriving, what is protected, state and federal level

What we need to do as a community is offer all of the outside firms our Silver Lake perspective. We know what the complex means to us, what our local perspective is

June 27 is the first community workshop – 20 to a table so that everyone gets a voice

If there is something that is not being brought up and discussed, please tell a moderator

Patty / Q: At the first meeting, will it be like this sitting in a circle of will there be information shared?

There will be a slide show presentation from Hargraves, they will show you projects they've worked on, particular ideas that might be able to exist... then the community gets broken up into small groups.

Sarah U: talks about the nature of the six meetings, as outlined on the LADWP public flyer.

Q: what will be the roll of the community organizations at the June 27 meeting?

SNLC and all of the orgs will give a two-page presentation during the meeting:
Silverlake Now, Silver Lake Forward, Silver Lake Conservancy, Wild Life Federation, SNLC

Q: But your role will be to get people to the room, but not running the meeting?

Tarryn: Not sure

Elaine: working group members are leading the tables, may work as facilitators

Our goal is to use our networks to get the community out to come to the meetings, and then help to facilitate

Q: is there are a couple hundred people there how will we fit around tables?

Tarryn: they will need to design around it

Sarah: how is the Master Plan work group's role different from the Task Force – and different than what others will need to do?

Tarryn: When you are the head of an advocacy group, you know where you are going and what you want. When you are representing thousands of people, your job is to listen and synthesize rather than project out. Process things fairly and in a balanced way. It is a bigger job than presenting your view.

Hugh: what I remember about the last big meeting, is that they made speeches and then asked questions in the small circles. There wasn't an opportunity for a public statement.

Tarryn: Only the brave ones got up and spoke and that was it. I'm not a fan of that process.

Hugh: is this one going to be the same process? That there won't be a chance for public comment to the group?

Kathryn: Something that professional community facilitators do is take all of the ideas from the tables and bring them back to the main meeting, so that people can comment on them. They want as many ideas as possible. Not just expressing what the 15 people that speak think and have to say.

And going along with what Sarah said, I think one of the roles of the council and of the professional groups is to think about the other ways, not just the meetings, to get voices from stakeholders who can't make it out to the meetings.

We need a real process that represents the community at large.

Can the council push for polling or a survey of some kind?

Sarah: that's why we want to talk about outreach here, so that we can have an aggressive strategy to reach new people. It's why we have flyers! To get more people out to share their voices.

The role of the committee is to fill in the spaces between the committee meetings

Tarryn: preplanning is powerful! There were some complaints about the process and they shifted it. We can find ways to get the information to the designers.

Janis: the meetings before felt like the key findings weren't reported out from the tables. There was no way of knowing if the input was taken into account.

Tarryn: I'd like to propose to the design team this idea of sharing back what has been said.

Joanna: are there specific ways you [all] would feel like this was happening? [that the information was being shared back appropriately].

Janis: I have facilitated a lot of meetings. Often the moderators will gather the themes and report out in real time.

Patty: at a past meeting, ideas were on pieces of paper, and the community walked around with stickers to give a visual representation of what people thought about the ideas

Kathryn: what's hard, is when there are a lot of people – it's easier to consolidate into themes, or streamline somehow.

Sarah: we are also planning to do recaps of the workshops for the community that will be made public. To make the information available.

Hugh: is there a possibility that this has already been decided upon? Is this just a ritual to calm things down? Are we actually creating a new palette?

Sarah: I don't think so [that this has been already decided upon] for this reason:

- 1) The teams hired are just on the job and are legally required to do a number of studies, for example. Everyone has ideas, but I don't think the feasibility of any has been tested.

Hugh: there was a master plan from EGYPT. People worked really hard to make their points known and so what? Is this the illusion of community working together?

Janis: having gone through the masterplans over the decades, including the last one, [I can say that] DWP hadn't done something like this before. It got into finger pointing and no one wanted to take ownership. There were a lot of lessons learned. Now: BOE is in charge, where before it wasn't clear who was in charge. They hired a consultancy. This seems very well thought through. What I've heard from those involved with the planning, it's a blank slate.

Tarryn: look up Hargraves! Their work is urban wildlife. Heavy biology team.

Paul: I concur with what Janis said, it really did seem like they were open to the community. With the exception of LADWP and the modular offices and the space they want to use for themselves. That it is separate from the Master Plan.

Elaine: point of clarification. Hargraves just finished the LA Historic Park. Only half of their plan was implemented. Also the new bridge in the Arts District. The city likes them! People are working together. The boots on the ground architects live in the community. They were picked because they live here in Silver Lake. They want the same things we do.

5A: discussion about ad hoc committee for the modular offices

Sarah: context – there was a prez to the SNLC at the last meeting. LADWP presented to the council about this construction. From the SLNC perspective it was very informative:

- 1) Construction is modular, prefab and placed on site, parking lot for 30, employees won't be working on res issues but project managers for local construction projects. So, we wanted to open the space up for a possible ad hoc committee based on concerns that were raised. It might be the thing that unites us all!

Janis: Was there a change? My understanding is that the ship has sailed.

Kathryn: not until its built!

Sarah: that's what the DWP presented, but the council would like to see this is an opportunity to action.

Janis: What were the concerns raised?

Sarah: prized habitat that already has shacks but not a lot, lifetime of 50 years for the structures, employees not working on the res

Tarryn: the concern came from the board – why there? If they aren't working on the res, why can't it be somewhere else. Their stated reason is that they are running out of space.

Sarah: reason that its modular is that its zone open space

Patty: to your point Hugh, what role do we have here? I think, speaking for myself, everyone was against it. If there was any support it was to make it look nice. This is the size of Gelsons and parking lot of Trader Joes! I will organize and protest and hell yea for the committee. I don't feel like it's a blank check that we get the plan. We should be furious. I will lead!

Paul: I feel similarly to Patty. The pushback is that it's their land. What? The semantics itself is troubling. It's our land! It belongs to the city. If they need to be there to maintain the res, then ok... but the why isn't strong enough.

Tarryn: and they get saying that it's just their land.

Paul: when we found out there is no need except that they are running out of the space. They are growing... but the only reason they want to do it in this space, is because its theirs. And I think we should push back.

Ilanthe: there is a sense because the council has shifted that this was their chance. There will be some footprint for care taking of the res, but it's a question of how large.

Elaine: 15' tall 150 long 60 wide- temp as in they aren't allowed to build it, but it will remain there. They are trying to sneak it in. When you have a world-class design team hired, they should put new office space as part of the scope.

Kathryn: Don't they have other land?

Hugh: They own a lot of land, staging area for the pipeline

Kathryn: LA has only recently created a registry of the land owned by the city. Each department has its own inventory of property. What analysis has been done to see if there is other space?

There are specific things we can ask for – like an analysis of the space. We are resource rich and resource poor city – but an issue is that we aren't being strategic.

Water and power are separate... this model might no longer be useful.

Sarah: motion to vote on whether an ad hoc committee should exist for the modular offices?

14 YES

0 NO

Sarah : motion to form the committee

Paul: seconded the committee

Paul would like to volunteer to be on the committee and co-chair if necessary.

Sarah: please put together a list of ideas that can be shared at the governing board meeting.

- 1) Go to DWP commission meetings (2nd and 4th Tuesday of the Month at 10-12 PM)
 - a. Each meeting has an e-comment section if you can't make it to the meeting. Comments open on Saturday and close on Monday.
 - i. We can organize people to submit comments. 20 would make an impression.
- 2) Community meetings to rally folks around this shared cause. Council people will come out. We can learn from the refilling of the res.
- 3) Use the inside city access that SLNC has to demand a meeting to DWP to address this issue. GET GRANULAR WITH THE QUESTIONS.
 - a. Exact location of building site? That hasn't been publicly communicated. Can ask to see.
 - b. Alternate access to nursery school? We don't want 100-year olive trees removed.
 - c. To clarify: not SUPPORTING it, but a tactic to get more info

COMMUNITY SHOULD GATHER TO MAKE A LIST OF THE QUESTIONS

We need an analysis of all of the spaces.

- 4) Why was this land exempted from the master plan?
- 5) OP ed.

Janis: when DWP invited SLNC to pitch master plan – the answer to why they kept that land is that they had 100 acres and are only keeping 14.

Sarah: how do we get them to reframe the entitlement to the land. To reimagine and reshape the perspective.

Communication will play an important role in this. How do we spread the word about what is happening?

Ilanthe: petition as a supplement for those who can get involved.

Leslie: I'd like to put in a mention of what if this doesn't work out, what if we can't stop or delay them. Could we have some kind of mitigation. Can we ask for: LEED qualities? Make it more of a green building. Parking lot not as big heat generating space. Could they not change the roof so that it captures rain or is a garden? I am skeptical of them changing their minds. Is there something that can benefit them and their image, while also benefiting the community?

Mike: Mitigation is an excellent point but let's not lead with that

Janis: there is a danger of being too prescriptive. There may be some vision that none of us is thinking of because we lack the vocabulary. Let's distill and clarify the concerns.

Tarryn: could we do some publicity about the other spaces? The nine spaces.

Leslie: They have headworks, not in a residential neighborhood. Its freeway close and 2 miles away. Makes more sense than squeezing into the other.

Sarah: Moving on to outreach for the Community Meeting:

Masterplan Community meeting is on June 27! Please make it your mission to bring 5 friends of more to come to the meeting. There will be a special edition of the newsletter to drive people, we have paid FB advertising, and flyers. We can do know on doors. Sarah would like to if she has an interest. Can drop them off at a business or your business or a coffee shop. Outreach is going to be a large part of this.

Kathryn: drop off at schools! Get parents while they are dropping off. School is out.

BUT! pre schools / Camelot are still on.

People at the reservoir are a good spot.

Let's make sure Dog Park committee looped in.

Digital outreach:

- Next Door
- LA ist
- 5 Every Day
- The Patch

Janis: Put flyers as a "Take-away" along the res.

Kathryn: SL forward, banners have been put up. Can we put one by the dog park?

Janis: the audience that is going to show up are those that show up at the res.

Kathryn: does the council have a column in the ledger?

Sarah: working on that and building relationships with other pubs too. And to make sure to send out on digital newsletters.

And to echo Iathe: we want to reach out beyond just region 6 & 7, we should canvas in other locations, too. Canvassing is powerful and people respond to having you come to their door.

Tarryn: we have 250, can we get more? How can we distribute?

Sarah: here they are, will pass them around. Working on getting one in Spanish.

Committee members will commit to distributing flyers:

Tarryn: Casita Del Campos

Kathryn: Netti pod and Alfred

Janis: Silver Lake Coffee

Leslie: Starbucks Fletcher

Iathe: Good smart, dust muffin, Roo

Patty: Say cheese, Hemmingway and sons, the establishment

Elaine: LA Mill

Sarah: great to have another 500, priority to get a Spanish version (200).

Sarah: last point, a FAQ to distribute to stakeholders. What should it address?

Leslie: [we should answer] why should they care? Why should I care? Make it personal and meaningful. Whatever we decide is what we will live with for the next 50 years. You can make a difference in your experience. Walking around it, over it, enjoying it. How can it be maintained.

Patty: chance to explain – What *is* a master plan? I've heard confusion between planning and building.

Kathryn: why is this happening ... many people don't understand the history of this place.

Janis: who is going to pay for it? How will it impact me?

Tarryn: trees didn't die because of Hugh Kenny!

Janis: no one is in charge of the running path? Who's budget will this come from?

Cindy: Who is managing the process? And who has been hired?

Patty: avoid words like “timeline” and “scope” to make it more accessible to a wider group of people.

Kathryn: my understanding is that funding sources will be identified when the scope of the project is IDed.

Janis: right now when we think of funding, there are schools underfunded and homelessness is really bad.

Elaine: we have to see this plan as its own thing. Not just plan around the other issues. Around water, around green space.

Janis: if there are amenities, will they need to monetize?

Sarah: part of my intention with this FAQ is to help people get the basics, and we don't have enough information yet to answer some of the funding questions.

Kathryn: reason to get involved in the process is to lead what will be paid for.

Elaine: people had expressed concern about other problems that should be prioritize over the res. How can we communicate that this is not a zero-sum game?

Hugh: There are those who want to recreate and those who want to preserve.

Sarah: we aren't trying to sell a vision in this FAQ, but to share facts and get more people to come out and participate. How can we explain because people are confused.

Janis: I have gone to the BOE website and had a hard time finding updates. Not in the update business! Current projects are from 2017!

Kathryn: appreciates the perspective coming from the council about a fact-based approach to sharing out information.

Sarah: any motions for agenda items for future meetings?

Janis: there are some motions from the last meeting. Having a few officials attend. We should look at the past minutes to resurface.

Meeting is adjourned.