1. WELCOMING REMARKS: 6:00pm –
   
   A. Call to Order

Maebe A. Girl:

Welcome to the second LGBTQIA Advocates Committee Meeting. The mission of the Silver Lake LGBTQIA Committee is to ensure that Silver Lake remains a safe and welcoming neighborhood for LGBTQIA people, businesses, and events, and for the exchange of ideas relating to LGBTQIA matters as they pertain to Silver Lake stakeholders and Angelenos at large. The committee advocates for LGBTQIA people and exists to ensure that LGBTQIA people are fairly represented and considered for every community issue. Meetings are open to the public and to all LGBTQIA people and allies.

B. Self-Introductions of guests:

Maebe A. Girl – Silver Lake Neighborhood Councilmember, LGBTQIA Advocates Committee Lead, Homelessness Liaison, Silver Lake resident
Dylan Thomas Cotter – LGBTQIA Advocates Committee co-chair, Silver Lake resident
Aman Chaudhary – LGBTQ Vertige cover artist, Silver Lake resident
Matthew Farrell – Writer, Marketing, Attends council meetings, Silver Lake resident
Abaldo Scott – LGBT Advocate for immigration, justice and asylum seekers, non-Silver Lake resident
Craig Scott – LGBT Advocate for immigration, justice and asylum seekers, non-Silver Lake resident

2. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS: 6:10pm

Matthew Farrell:
When do we have the agenda posted?

Maebe A. Girl:
The agenda is created 72 hours in advance and posted on the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council Website, and posted at the Silver Lake Recreational Center.

3. MOTIONS & RESOLUTIONS: 6:30pm

Maebe A. Girl:

   A. Discussion and Possible Action on creating goals and discussion topics relevant to the committee, such as partnering with various city and non-profit agencies, compiling LGBTQIA resources for the SLNC website, HIV Outreach, LGBTQIA Homelessness, etc.

Maebe A. Girl:
MOTION TO: Table until the following meeting to allow additional committee members to discuss.

Dylan Thomas Cotter seconded.
All in favor. No objections. Unanimous all in favor.

Maebe A. Girl:

   B. Discussion and Possible Action on assisting in the formation of an LGBTQIA Business Association in Silver Lake in order to support queer-owned and queer-friendly spaces in the neighborhood.
Dylan Thomas Cotter:
I’d like to first address the incident that happened at Las Perlas in downtown Los Angeles on Friday August 23rd 2019 for those of you who may not be aware. I do not know all of the details but what I do know is that a group of transgender women and queer men who work for BIENESTAR were forcibly removed in a violent manner that has been captured on video. There is video and audio footage of non-combative transgender women being placed in chokeholds while repeatedly stating “Stop. Don’t touch me like that.” from Las Perlas an establishment that markets itself as being welcoming and inclusive of the LGBTQIA community. This is disturbing — 1. that it happened at all and 2. that it happened in a very closely neighboring section of Los Angeles. I wanted to discuss this first because while I believe it is important that we create an LGBTQIA Business Association for economic reasons, which I believe was most of our initial intent, I personally also feel in light of this recent incident at Las Perlas, that the committee must also consider it for safety reasons as well to make sure policies are in place so that this never happens again.

Maebe A. Girl:
I agree. I think it is very important for us to protect the safety of our queer community members and our spaces so they don’t dwindle amidst gentrification. Do you think we should create a queer friendly list to let community members know. Do you think we should create a queer friendly list to let community members know or possibly a cautionary list?

Dylan Thomas Cotter:
I am not exactly sure on how to best move forward but possibly focusing on the positive and leading with the queer friendly businesses list might be a good move. I am not certain on how we would qualify or rank them.

Craig Scott:
HRC has a business questionnairie that they send out to businesses. You provide businesses the opportunity to participate and if they choose not to then they would not qualify.

Aman Chaudhary:
The LAPD also has a Safe Space Initiative that businesses may participate in and place decals on their windows to identify as a safe space for LGBTQIA people to patronize and see safety if they feel threatened. I can contact the Senior Lead Officer Bea at the LAPD for more information.

Maebe A. Girl:
Please do and please email Dylan and I more information.

Dylan Thomas Cotter:
Yes thank you that is a great idea.

Matthew Farrell:
It would be ideal to have more of an engagement approach, possibly asking if businesses have an updated code of conduct. Maybe to the effect of, if you consider yourself a LGBTQIA friendly establishment can you incorporate that into your training?

Dylan Thomas Cotter:
I agree.

Dylan Thomas Cotter:
MOTION TO: Table item B. until the following meeting to allow additional committee business members to discuss.

Maebe A. Girl seconded.
All in favor. No objections. Unanimous all in favor.

Maebe A. Girl:

C. Discussion and Possible Action on assisting or supporting LGBTQIA asylum seekers in Los Angeles and determining available resources.

Craig Scott:
We are here to inform the committee of El Jardin de las Mariposa and the work we are doing to help them as they help LGBTQ asylum seekers that are waiting to enter the U.S. Many of these asylum seekers have endured violence, rape and have witnessed friends being murdered especially transgender women. We have been making trips to meet the asylum seekers and are here to reach out for assistance in raising awareness and to find resources and sponsors. We would like to invite the committee to go on one of our trips to El Jardin de las Mariposa in Tijuana, Mexico.

Aman Chaudhary:
That is the shelter that Mitch O'farrell’s office is working with.

Maebe A. Girl:
What other items are essentials for the asylum seekers need for people who may want to also donate physical items?

Craig Scott:
The asylum seekers need clothes, shoes, toiletries. It is hard because we have been bringing everything over and are stopped by Mexican boarder patrol. We are working on having a donation link set up so they can just pick up items. They also need security cameras, computer to set up Skype to hold legal clinic with lawyer about the asylum seeking process and money for their water bill. We just paid their water bill on our last trip. Our second ask is for the committee to please help educate the community on how to help asylum seekers.

Maebe A. Girl:
You said you’re trying to set up a Costco account. How would that work?

Abaldo Scott:
It would go directly to them. We’d like to invite members of the community on a trip. It means so much to the asylum seekers to see and hear from someone in the U.S. The El Jardin de las Mariposa organization is seeking funds and to get security cameras installed. We will provide a donation link for community members that would like provide monetary donations. We are looking for spaces to host community events to fundraise. El Jardin de las Mariposa provides asylum seekers a space to get sober, have food, wait to process through the U.S. Asylum seekers are in what is referred to detention centers but from what we have seen are more like concentration camps. The U.S. and Mexico are actively sending them back to dangerous environments. They are our LGBTQ family and they have nothing.

Craig Scott:
We are also trying to find out status of healthcare, legal services, medical services, barber and makeup services and help for them on how to present themselves to the judge. We do trips twice a month.

Maebe A. Girl:
That is really amazing.

Maebe A. Girl:
Maybe we can have a community fundraiser for El Jardin de las Mariposa hosted by the LGBTQIA Committee, it would have to be approved by the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council. I recommend attending our next Silver Lake Neighborhood Council meeting on September 4th and addressing the council during the public comments section. I recommend using the literature you have provided today, and information on how they may help now as the matter is urgent and where they may donate. I recommend submitting an agenda item for the following meeting and getting in touch with our Latinx Committee lead Dulce Stein so that both committees can work together.

Maebe A. Girl:
MOTION TO: Bring SLNC the possibility of organizing a fundraiser for El Jardin de las Mariposa to benefit asylum seekers, to educate community on how to assist asylum seekers with goal to be hosted by the LGBTQIA Committee with the possibility of being co-hosted with the Latinx Committee.

Seconded by Dylan Thomas Cotter.
All in favor. No objections. Unanimous all in favor.

Maebe A. Girl:
D. Discussion and Possible Action in creating a proposal to partner with the Friends of the Silver Lake Library to create an ongoing series of queer-focused programing at the library, such as drag queen story hour, queer-focused book club, lectures etc.

Maebe A. Girl:
Informed by the Silver Lake Library that they already have existing programming and in light of this would like to table

Maebe A. Girl:
MOTION TO: Table item D. until the following meeting to allow time to compile more information.

Seconded by Dylan Thomas Cotter.
All in favor. No objections. Unanimous all in favor.

Maebe A. Girl:

E. Discussion and Possible Action on having a fundraiser to benefit a local LGBTQIA non-profit organization such as the LA LGBT Center.

Maebe A. Girl:
In light of item C, I move to table item E.

Maebe A. Girl:
MOTION TO: Table item E. until the following meeting.

Seconded by Dylan Thomas Cotter.
All in favor. No objections. Unanimous all in favor.

4. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Aman Chaudhary:
Following up on the LGBTQ themed books, I have placed together a list and have spoken with the city librarian and was informed the selection number for book club varies by location, some 10-15, 24 for Los Feliz. I reached out to other book clubs, compiled the list and spoke with Dulce Stein and Chicano Resource Center for the LA County Library to have books in Spanish.

Maebe A. Girl:
How many people are need to be in a book club?

Aman Chaudhary:
10 minimum.

Maebe A. Girl:
Please send email to me and Dylan to place on the following agenda and select a few so we may vote on asking the SLNC for funding to vote, please include the titles.

Aman Chaudhary:
Rob works for LAUSD and sent me a list of LGBTQ lists for kids, possibly story time as well. I also attend Homocentric a reading series that occurs the 4th Tuesday of every month.

5. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

Items A, B, D and E.

LGBTQIA book titles list to submit to the SLNC to vote on for funding.

6. ADJOURNMENT:
Maebe A. Girl:
Thank you for coming out today.

Maebe A. Girl:
MOTION TO: Adjourn meeting ADJOURN MEETING

Seconded by Dylan Thomas Cotter.
All in favor. No objections. Unanimous all in favor.