

Silver Lake Neighborhood Council – Homelessness Committee 10/15/2019 Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Darius Derakshan, Nithya Raman, Cathy Takemoto, Samantha Gordon-Danner, Chelsea Strough, Joshua Haglund, Maebe A. Girl, Caleb Crowder, Enrique (Kike) Velasquez, and Angie Aramayo

Meeting called to order at 6:04 pm

1. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

Comments from the public on non-agenda items within the Committee's jurisdiction (Up to two minutes per speaker)

- Samantha – Joined the newly formed CD13 neighborhood alliance, wants to get community buy-in from CD13 constituents and bring feedback to Mitch O'Farrell.
- Nithya: Tomorrow is the Safe Parking Meeting at Edendale Public Library, members of this committee have been attending meetings for over year there and hopefully this is the last meeting.
- Cathy: The Source is the third Thursday at the Edendale Library, Angie the head Librarian a doing wonderful job.
- Maebe A Girl: Attending an event called the National Sleep Out, November 22nd, to experience what it's like for homeless individuals. Maebe serves as the Homeless Liaison for Silver Lake and they are having a quarterly meeting, October 29, hoping to set up a Homeless Advocates group and get 30 minutes in front of the Mayor every year, similar to Budget Advocates.

2. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:

A. Review and Adoption of 8/23/2019 Homelessness Committee Minutes

<https://silverlakenc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/SLNC-Homelessness-8-22-2019-DRAFT-Minutes.pdf>

Introduced by Darius, seconded by Nithya, no changes. Approved unanimously.

3. PRESENTATIONS: (40 minutes)

A. David Ryu CD4 – Catherine Landers, CD4 Director of Special Projects, Los Feliz Riverside Dr. Bridge Housing Project Update

- House 100 people, 2/3rds men and 1/3rd women, with men's side divided into two areas, with cubicles for each person and common area in between for meal service.
- There will also be an office building where case managers and service providers can meet with clients
- There will be a restroom and shower building
- There will be a pet area aka Dog Run
- There will be storage on site, for residents living on site
- No walk up or drop-in services provided
- Hoping to break ground by the end of the year or January, will all bridge projects opened by June 2020
- Bridge Home Sites are looking to shelter folks who live nearby, which for this site it would be a lot of folks from the river and other nearby sites in Silver Lake, Los Feliz, and Atwater Village.
- Sits on land owned by the LA Department of Parks and Recreation
- Funding motion has been submitted, came out to (approximately) \$4.6 million, will be heard in Budget and in Homelessness and Poverty committees (not sure which order)
- Samantha: How long will the site be active for? Landers states that each site will be operational for 3 years. This site in particular sits on LA Parks and Recreation land, which means no permanent housing, only temporary things are okay.
- Cathy: Which services providers have big? Landers states that PATH, Volunteers of America, LA Family Housing, and Salvation Army are currently in the mix, and open to suggestions as well, so we should suggest.
- Nithya: How long to people typically stay in the bridge housing? Landers states that this is hard to say, varies greatly depending on region and other long term solutions available, services providers are better equipped to answer, but typically takes 3 months, but can be much longer.
- Nithya: Is stepped enforcement part of the plan for this bridge housing in terms of people living nearby? Landers states that this site is unique, not a lot of residential or commercial space nearby, currently no special enforcement zone planned as of now. Also, moving to the CARE enforcement model.
- Ben: Anything that could stop this project, or anything needed from this committee to make this happen? Landers states that currently there is a lot of support from the council, from groups like SELAH, from LFIA, and many others, so it looks like this on track and should come on line shortly.

- Maebe A. Girl: Any considerations for folks who are non-binary or trans? Landers states that residents will be able to choose based on which gender they identify as.
 - Cathy: What type of oversight will be on the program? Will the public have access to this? Landers states that LAHSA is the granting authority and will evaluate the success of the program annually and provide oversight.
 - Ben: Is the councilman creating any other sites in the district? Landers states that CD4 Councilmember Ryu opened the LGBT Center, the Gardner Library, a VIVA Family and Children Services serving transitional aged youth as well as women with their children, a PSH approved in Sherman Oaks, another HHH project on Westerns with 65 units, along with a few more potential sites. Scarcity of buildable land on CD4 makes things extra difficult to the Catherine Landers.
 - Chelsea: How can we get folks that we know into this bridge housing? Landers, Raman, and Derakshan advise submitting LA-HOP requests and working with the individual to submit CES Application
- B. Mitch O'Farrell CD13 – Councilmember or deputy's report Echo Park Homeless Housing Project – NOT PRESENT, CONTINUED**
- C. Mayor Eric Garcetti – Central Area Deputy Angie Aramayo, Discussion new CARE Teams Homeless Outreach Program**
- Let the Mayors team know if sanitation is passing by sites without addressing it
 - Sam: Who has the contract for the mobile hygiene sites? 5 Keys
 - Nithya: How will the showers be deployed throughout the city? Daily schedule for showers will be determined by staff daily.
 - Ben: What will take place in terms of workforce training? Formerly homeless individuals will be working to maintain the showers.
 - Sam: Illegal dumping enforcement, how will that be enforced? Stepped up enforcement, sanitation and LAPD will be on the lookout and will also try to educate business
- D. Everyone In Campaign Introduction: Caleb Crowder and Enrique Velasquez**
- According to Caleb Crowder, Everyone In is team of 14 organizers working to build relationships with community leaders and stakeholders to build a movement to advocate for developments. Kike does what SELAH does but at a citywide and countywide level, including in Sherman Oaks in partnership with CD4.
 - Darius: How do we get an Access Center (aka Navigation Center) built here in Silver Lake? We have been asking for years, put together our own list of suitable sites, but it has stalled. Velasquez states that for building supportive housing and other projects, there are many developers, many approvals needed, funding RFP's submitted, and so forth, it is very difficult but to start somewhere. LA Voice, Everyone In, and others can help find actual locations
 - Ben: What do you once you have these sites? Should we bring it to the developers directly? Velasquez states that the Midtown Homeless Coalition worked with CBRE to identify sites.
- E. LGBTQIA Advocates Committee Partners w/ Homelessness Committee to address LGBTQIA Homelessness (Maebe A. Girl)**
- Maebe is partnering with a couple of guys who are working with an organization El Jardin De Mariposas, LGBT focused, doing a fundraiser at the Lyric Hyperion, bringing items to donate such as money, electronics, gently used clothing items, tickets sales will go to this center.
 - Sam asks if they need hygiene kits. Maebe states yes, they need everything a typical shelter might need.
- F. No Parking 2 am to 6 am Situation on Riverside, North of Fletcher (Paul Emmons) NOT PRESENT, CONTINUED**
- G. SELAH Neighborhood Homelessness Coalition (Darius Derakshan) CONTINUED**

4. MOTIONS & RESOLUTIONS: (20 minutes)

- Discussion and possible action item to ask the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council to send a letter asking CD4 Councilmember Ryu and CD13 Councilmember O'Farrell to commit to opening a permanent, full time Homelessness & Poverty Alleviation Access Center within Silver Lake that will assist our neighbors experiencing homelessness as well as vulnerable and rent-burdened members of our community. The facility will provide a select number of shelter beds/cubicles, showers, kitchen, and mail service along with dedicated case managers/service-navigators, all on site. The facility will also serve as a conduit between housed and unhoused neighbors to build a sense of community and mutual understanding.
 - Introduced by Darius, seconded Sam
 - Sam: Will this be the actual text of the letter? Darius states yes.
 - Nithya: Similar to the letter that was sent before? Darius states yes, but more descriptive, and directed and sent directly to councilmembers.
 - Moved by Darius to a vote, passed unanimously.

- Discussion and possible action item requesting the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council to host dinner service every first Wednesday at SELAH's Wednesday Night Shower and Potluck, in conjunction with Silver Lake Community Church's Food Bank, from 4:30 pm to 6:15 pm, where council members, committee members, and community members will bring prepared food items, serve dinner, and engage with their neighbors experiencing homelessness.
 - Introduced by Darius, seconded Nithya
 - Maebe: Thinks this a fabulous idea, ideal since it is near the street. How many people show up to eat? Is there any funding? Darius states there is no funding, currently none is needed since it is a potluck, we could consider funding requests in the future but for now none needed.
 - Sam: Consider holiday type events which would align better with outreach funding
 - Nithya: Could also include in the newsletter
 - Maebe: How will you guarantee that it takes place every month without a gap in dates so that homeless neighbors don't show up and leave hungry? Darius states that if approved by the council, the Homelessness Committee will ensure that the potluck takes place and that food is served, with SELAH stepping in should there be a lapse.
 - Moved by Darius to a vote, passed unanimously.

5. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS: (5 minutes) NONE

6. REQUESTS/MOTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: (5 minutes) NONE

7. ADJOURNMENT at 7:28 pm