

**Silver Lake Neighborhood Council Homelessness Committee  
9/8/2020 Meeting Minutes**

**1. WELCOMING REMARKS:**

- A. Meeting Called to order at 6:35pm
- B. Committee Roll Call – all attendees may act as voting members
- C. Introductions:
  - Cathy Takemoto has been with SELAH from beginning, interested in outreach.
  - Dylan Kario organizes with StreetWatch LA. Interested in seeing overlap with Silver Lake, and equity of meetings.
  - Jane Demian works with unhoused, and recently started the SELAH Eagle Rock chapter, and is on the Eagle Rock NC
  - Atom from StreetWatch LA, lives in Silver Lake, is also part of Services Not Sweeps Coalition. Works with various food pantries.
  - Maebe A. Girl is the SLNC region 5 representative and a homelessness liaison. She volunteered in Chicago. Concerned because the city says one thing about homelessness but does another, particularly just getting rid of camps.

**2. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:**

Jane- has been attending meetings with Eagle Rock NC and LAHSA on Zoom to seek solutions for people experiencing homelessness in the Eagle Rock area. They were receptive to ideas from the ERNC and the community and it is a good way to increase communication.  
Atom inquired about lack of chat on meeting.

**3. PRESENTATIONS:**

None

**4. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

- A. Review and adoption of 8/24/20 minutes  
Minutes approved and adopted in unanimous vote

**5. MOTIONS & RESOLUTIONS:**

- A. Silver Lake Community Fridge
  - Samantha went with Alejandro from LA Community Fridge to scout a potential location at the Hollywood Sunset Free Clinic at Sunset and Micheltorena. Potential issues include that there is a storm gutter and an extension cord would be required.
  - Maebe – concerned with accessibility of Silver Lake Community Church. Notes that HSFC is much closer to a large population of unhoused people. She is also concerned with the fridge being hauled away.
  - Jane thinks it's a great idea.
  - Atom mentions idea should be on business or private property , because the city doesn't have a right to haul away things on private property. It should be our job to document and protect the fridge.
  - Maebe inquired about why other fridges have been cited or removed, and suggested we monitor it.
  - Samantha mentioned an overflow issue with some other fridges.
  - Imran is concerned with issues arising from surrounding neighborhood and the area already being unhappy with the homeless population in the area.
  - Dylan asked whether LA Community Fridges provides any guidance on how to set up the fridge.

Samantha mentions best practices such as signs, painting of fridge, stocking and regular maintenance. She mentioned that leveraging existing SLNC relationships with businesses should help.

Atom- Street Watch can help with finding location.

Samantha mentions joining Slack group, accessible through LA Community Fridge Instagram.

Dylan suggests Dream Center as many people that could use the service are already there. Also suggested Sqirl.

Samantha noted that both those locations are outside SLNC boundaries. But there are a few other areas to consider, such as Hoover street where there are businesses, or also near the LA river. Samantha will email more information about how to access the LA Community fridge.

Imran asked do fridges have alcohol?

Samantha mentions that she is not sure but doesn't think this would be something recommended to stock. She said the best practices recommend foods that don't need much prep or already prepared foods.

Imran and Maebe open to checking on fridge daily.

Dylan mentions we should find out why fridges were shut down.

Samantha mentions she will look into this. She added there was interest from HSFC and expects that they will work together with the community. Samantha mentioned weeds need to be pulled.

Maebe asks if we can do fridges in multiple locations.

Samantha mentioned that it is possible. Samantha mentions we should keep this on item on agenda for the time being.

B. NC Elections voter outreach among people experiencing homelessness

Samantha attended Homelessness Liaisons meeting on NC elections and voter outreach for people experiencing homelessness. The meeting was very disorganized. Suggested developing our own plan and outreach strategies because DONE is unprepared.

Jane also attended this meeting and agrees with Samantha. Jane mentions the city can't even get food or bathrooms for unhoused people, so doesn't have high hopes. Jane mentions that it would really be ideal to get unhoused people registered for the November election, and that we need to bring this together soon.

Maebe inquires about how ballots will be mailed out, and whether they will be generic or personalized?

Samantha had the same questions. Samantha also notes that we need a clear, consistent definition of who counts as stakeholders. This is an issue that SLNC dealt with in the past.

Jane mentions it should be in bylaws, and it should be standardized. Jane mentions inequity all around.

Samantha mentions if no definition equally enforced then whole thing is a charade and not worth our time.

Maebe mentions she attended elections outreach meeting and they are pushing to change stakeholder definition and it will likely be more limiting. She will inquire.

Samantha mentioned issues about a broader definition of stakeholders in Koreatown, with people using receipts from local businesses as proof of stakeholder status. This caused some anger in their elections. Samantha believes you should be able to vote if you spend time in community but understands not everyone feels the same. Samantha suggests we write a letter to the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (BONC) and Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE).

After review of SLNC stakeholder definition, the committee drafts the letter.

Samantha and Jane have discussion on stakeholders.

Samantha reads back text of letter.

Unanimous vote to send letter

- C. Other possible mutual aid projects SLNC Homelessness Committee can support  
Dylan works with Water Drop LA. StreetWatch and SELAH have helped with water. They have lots of water. Dylan mentions we may be able to do a more complimentary role including water stations.  
Maebe said lots of orgs reached capacity on their water needs for now, but suggests we can do a donation drive.  
Samantha mentions boosting other efforts in the SLNC newsletter.  
Maebe mentioned she dropped off water at different encampments.  
Jane adds there are a lot of people in Eagle Rock and all over the city who want to help.  
Samantha motions to work with local mutual aid groups like Ktown for All, StreetWatch, SLCC's food pantry committee, SELAH, Ground Game LA, Lifekits, Water Drop, etc. (any group that is non-profit or not a political org) to spread their message through the SLNC social media and newsletter.  
Imran seconds.  
Committee votes unanimously in favor.

#### **6. COMMITTEE MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None

#### **7. REQUESTS/MOTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Samantha – suggests Community fridge should be an ongoing discussion topic