

Silver Lake Neighborhood Council Homelessness Committee 10/13/2020 Meeting Minutes

1. Welcoming Remarks

a. Meeting called to order at 6:38

b. Committee Role Call

c. Committee Member Self-introductions

Samantha D. – co-chair of committee and SLNC region 1 rep

Cheryl R. – works with SELAH

Jane D. – doesn't live in Silver Lake but is a community interest stakeholder through SELAH

Maebe G. – Treasurer of SLNC and also involved with SELAH

Cathy T. – Involved in outreach with SELAH

Sarah U. – region 7 rep of SLNC, interested in working on community fridge

Zarinah W. – new to EPNC and interested in joining their homelessness/housing committee

Imran – member of SLNC governing board, committee co-chair

2. Public Comments

Cheryl - Darius (former Homelessness committee co-chair) is collecting things for recently housed people in Silver Lake

Samantha – Streetwatch is coordinating a gofundme campaign

(https://www.gofundme.com/f/family-unhoused-with-newborn?utm_source=customer&utm_campaign=p_cp+share-sheet&utm_medium=copy_link_all) for legal fees an unhoused couple with a newborn who was removed from them by CPS; Ianthe from SLNC Governing Board also sent a news article (<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/new-leaf-project-results-1.5752714>) to share with the committee about direct donations to unhoused people in Vancouver.

Imran – Updates on Kristal who is an unhoused person in his region; she has been taken to a hospital and is hopefully in conservatorship to protect her wellbeing (written about in LA times: <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-10-10/homeless-woman-silver-lake-mental-illness>)

Sarah – recommends sharing stories via an email to committee attendees later

Cathy - meeting with the library reconsidering budget which sunsets in December, but they are stuck with expensive security through LAPD, but want to provide services. Working on master plan. Want to have a mental health person at the library.

3. Presentations

a. Updates from City or County representatives in attendance
None

4. Administrative Items

a. Sept. 8, 2020 Minutes

Samantha makes motion, Imran seconds

No changes, minutes adopted by unanimous vote

5. Motions and Resolutions

a. *Discussion and possible action* to send to the SLNC Governing Board a CIS in support of [CF 20-0769-S2](#)

Samantha motions, Imran seconds

Jane introduces the council file: The idea for the motion, to evaluate which mental health services are available to unhoused people, was brought up by Hollywood Forward. This motion asks the county to provide a report about the status of mental health services for unhoused people. The city is not providing needed services to unhoused people with mental health needs, and the idea to have reports made is good and should be supported but we want these reports done quickly and then for real action to be taken.

Samantha – The article about Kristal mentioned earlier is a great example. Response time is too slow and COVID has made it even worse. More needs to be done for people, for example through something like a mental health emergency room.

Jane – mentions individuals in Eagle Rock with severe mental health issues. Instead of mental health services being provided, they are arrested, and in jail they don't have civil rights or access to mental health services. LAPD is not necessarily to blame but this is not a good way to deal with mental illness. Conservatorship and confinement are also issues. The system is broken.

Samantha moves for vote, motion unanimously passes. Samantha adds that she looks forward to bringing to board.

- b. *Discussion and possible action* to send to the SLNC Governing Board a CIS in support of [CF 20-1179](#)

Samantha motions, Jane seconds

Samantha – introduces the council file which proposes to use the Hollywood Rec center for interim homeless housing. Says that during COVID especially, city buildings should be used at least temporarily for a purpose like housing rather than sitting empty while taxpayers pay for the electric bill. Samantha suggests Silver Lake Rec Center to be used for this purpose as well.

Cathy – asks what happened to the St. Vincent's hospital which had been proposed as a location for homeless housing?

Jane – notes the building is owned by Patrick Soon-Shiong, the owner of LA Times. There was a bid by county to purchase the building, but it was paused during Covid.

Samantha moves for vote; motion unanimously passes.

- c. *Discussion and possible action* regarding maintenance of hand-washing stations and porta-potties at neighborhood encampments in light of complaints from unhoused residents that the City has not maintained these services during COVID-19.

Samantha motions, Sheryl seconds.

Samantha – brought up by Gabriela from Street Watch. Encampment residents complained of not having hand-washing stations or stations were out of soap, also porta-potties are not being serviced.

Zarinah – in Echo Park, bathrooms are being locked at night specifically to prevent unhoused people from accessing the area. She mentioned getting press

involved as tweets can make difference. The image issue does make it easier to get things done

Samantha – asks if anyone who has been on the Nextdoor thread about Kristal can contact Steve Lopez, author of the article about

Maebe – asked Zarinah about lights being shut off at the Echo Park Lake

Zarinah – they were put back on after demonstrations, but only after Street Watch made a lot of noise about it.

Samantha – We should get in touch with reporter

Imran – asked about locations of hand sanitizing stations in Silver Lake

Jane- handwashing and porta-potty cleaning happens on different schedules by different groups

Maebe – motions to draft letter about our disappointment and get board to sign on and send it to representatives

Jane – thinks this is a good idea and seconds

Samantha drafts letter as follows:

Dear CM Ryu and O’Farrell,

The Silver Lake NC is disappointed to hear from our unhoused neighbors in local encampments that hand washing stations and port-a-potty facilities have not been receiving adequate cleaning and maintenance, especially in light of the importance of such facilities during the Covid-19 Pandemic, this year’s devastating wildfires and the ensuing air quality emergency. We would like to see regular maintenance and cleaning of these crucial and life-saving services and we would like this maintenance to be performed consistently at least for the duration of the pandemic. We would further recommend that LA City Sanitation and any other relevant city service providers publicly release a map of available facilities and a schedule for the maintenance and cleaning of these facilities so that they may be held accountable.

Sincerely,

Silver Lake Neighborhood Council

Samantha moves to vote; letter is unanimously approved

- d. *Discussion and possible action* regarding Silver Lake ‘community fridge’ implementation as approved at the September 2020 SLNC board meeting. Possible discussion topics include location scouting, interfacing with business owners/community partners for donations, volunteer organization, and other relevant topics as appropriate.

Motion introduced by Samantha, seconded by Jane.

Samantha – talked to Catherine, a member of LA Community Fridges, who is working with the LA County Dept. of Public Health. The purpose of the meeting was to come to agreement about allowing the fridges to operate safely and legally. The county is aware that taking fridges down will be a bad look, so they are interested in working with the group to find a solution. Relevant laws include the California retail act and the Good Samaritan food donation act.

Maebe – lives near fridge east of Vermont and it seems like it is going very well and that it’s being used heavily.

Samantha – fridges are constantly running out of food, so we know we need them, but the main concern from the public health dept. is that the fridges are outside. Fridges that are inside or in more protected areas are less trafficked. One potential provision that could be made is that they may not allow homemade or prepared food.

Zarinah – one of her friends started a fridge and she would love to learn more about the laws governing community fridges, but when it becomes paper driven, it loses its “get up and go” energy.

Imran – discussed potential location of Hollywood Sunset Free Clinic. He mentioned he gives legal consulting for them.

Samantha – noted potential feasibility barriers with clinic

Sarah – Suggested area near Silver Lake Ramen as potential location

Samantha – noted that nearby there, Café Tropical was a no, but there are multiple businesses nearby that may be willing hosts. Adds that there is a Silver Lake Fridge group on the LA Community Fridge Slack and all are invited to join. Will keep this on agenda for future discussion.

- e. *Discussion and possible action* regarding outreach to mutual aid organizations to highlight their services/volunteer opportunities on SLNC social media channels and in newsletter (as approved at October 2020 SLNC Governing Board meeting)

Samantha – has come up with a list including:

- Waterdrop
- Mutal Aid LA
- SELAH
- Ktown for All
- Silver Lake Community Food pantry
- Eva Woods charity

6. Committee member announcements
none

7. Requests/motions for future agenda items
none

8. Adjournment
Adjourned at 8:05pm