

SILVER LAKE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
SPECIAL GOVERNING BOARD VIRTUAL MEETING
Final Minutes
Wednesday, February 3, 2021
7:00pm-10:00pm

Zoom Online Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/91309624810>
or by telephone by calling (669) 900-6833
and entering Webinar ID: 913 0962 4810#

1) Call to Order

The meeting began at 7:03pm with 15 Board members present.

2) Roll Call

Attending Board Members:

Anthony Crump, Co-Chair (left early)
Nicholas Fox-Robbins, Co-Chair
Nora Goudsmit, Vice Chair
Maebe A. Girl, Treasurer
Scott Gamzon
Seth Copenhaver
Samantha Danner
Sarah Ullman
Barbara Ringuette
Imran Syed
lanthe Zevos
Lorraine Getz
Ben Cassorla
Dulce Stein
Lena Najarian Kaderali

Non-Attending Board Members:

Elaine Roark
Jeremy Black
Tina Lin, Secretary
Paul Emmons
Mark Duncan

3) Welcome and Rules for Action on Virtual Meeting

Co-Chair Nicholas Fox-Robbins made opening remarks. “When I ran for neighborhood council in the 2019 election, I campaigned primarily on culture reform. The previous council had a bit of a reputation for toxic exchanges between Governing Board members as well as members of the public. And I think we’ve done a pretty good job of creating an environment where we can passionately disagree on issues and yet treat one another with common decency.

If there’s anything from my two years on this council that I want to stick once I’m no longer a Board member, it’s the arena of civil discourse that we have cultivated. But I feel that this is slipping a bit. There have been some contentious issues that have come to this Council that have triggered the passions of both stakeholders and Board members. Once such exchange occurred at our last Board meeting.

Stakeholders were angry that a motion that was put forth by another stakeholder was on the agenda. They felt that it was a racist motion. They have every right to think that and to be angry about this motion and every right to make their case passionately about why this motion should be rejected by the Council. And most stakeholders did this but then some people started cussing in the chat section of Zoom.

As someone with progressive political views who frankly opposed the motion that was put forth by the stakeholder and as someone who works to dismantle institutionalized white racism and privilege and counter white fragility, I was incredibly disappointed that we didn’t rise to the occasion to defend our ideas with a better argument. But instead resorted to petty profanity and name calling. We can do better.

Maybe some people don’t think sound logic, strongly articulated arguments, and the power of better ideas are enough to make a change in our society and they would rather engage in combat against those they disagree with. That’s fine. Do what you think is best but not here. This room is not an arena for combat and verbal abuse. This room is an arena for civil discourse where the better idea, the better articulated argument wins.

In my very first opening remarks as chair of the Governing Board, I put forward the challenge to every person in this room whether you are frustrated, angry, confused, nervous, offended, or excited, to bring your best and kindest self to this room. That challenge still stands. All that being said, let’s start the meeting.”

4) Rules for action on agenda items and public input

Anthony Crump explained the rules for public comment online or by phone. Public comments and banners displayed do not represent the views of the

neighborhood council as a whole. He noted, however, that the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council (SLNC) did go on record last month to support Black Lives Matter.

Jeremy Black and Tina Lin said they will be unable to attend tonight's meeting. Anthony Crump added that he will leave the meeting early. Vice Chair Nora Goudsmit will assist Co-Chair Nicholas Fox-Robbins to run the meeting after that.

5) General Public Comment (Non-Agenda Items)

Debbie Slater:

I want to speak for the record regarding the public disparaging of me by an officer of this board at the Special Governing Board meeting January 14, 2021. The email referenced was for a specific Old Business agenda item which was subsequently pulled by the motion maker. My comments were twisted to fit a narrative on another New Business item and severely taken out of context. The officer misinterpreted and misconstrued my thoughts and cited me by name unnecessarily. Yes, communication with the board via email is a matter of public record but the accepted norm is not to reference a specific stakeholder unless they request it be included in the public minutes of a meeting.

Susan Winsberg:

She said the gentrification of Silver Lake and the surround areas is sad and misguided. Its ruining our community and way of life. It's ruining life for regular people. All this development is destroying our history, our charm, our character. It's causing homelessness. They'll knock down RSO (Rent Stabilization Ordinance) units to build a luxury tower.

Lisa Hart:

I'm with the Green Committee. We'd requested that an item for an electric vehicle workshop be agendized for tonight. It wasn't included. The motion had said that we'd start promoting quickly and were aiming for a March event so it was time sensitive. I know you have a full agenda and are not always able to get through your agenda. You're all working very hard. That said, it would be helpful to get a response to our request so that we know the status and how to proceed.

Nicholas Fox-Robbins explained that the email with the motion was sent to .or instead of .org so I never received it until today when it was forward to me by lanthe Zevos. I apologize. We would have agendized this. Anthony Crump and I are discussing a special Governing Board meeting mid-February. If so, we will agendize it then. Lisa Hart apologized for the error.

David Wheatley:

I've been attempting to put a motion on the agenda and did but it had to be modified a couple of times. It was promised that it would be on the agenda today. I hope it would allow more than just Board members to post images. I'm very disappointed to see that that agreement was breached and I'd like to know why. Also, the co-chair in the past has censured me for mentioning someone's name, saying it was political. Yet, at the last meeting, when my name was referenced in a disparaging way, the chair said nothing to prevent it. It seems to be related to the topic at hand and not to a principle that should be enforced. The discussion of racism of any kind is also racism. We should appoint a committee to discuss that and come back with results.

Nicholas Fox-Robbins explained that you withdrew your motion to make updates and we never received an update motion from you. We will agendaize your amended motion when we receive it.

Joe Ferrell:

When I was SLNC co-chair along with Anthony Crump, we put consent items on the agenda. They were usually items from committees. That allows you to vote on all those motions as a block to get through more items quickly, he suggested.

Nina Sorkin:

Thank you for the discussion about passion. I feel offended as I participated on committees for over a decade. We really haven't had a meeting to discuss some items on tonight's agenda. The feelings of stakeholders are being discounted and the lack of desire to hear my voice. Don't forget stakeholders. Consider having a goals meeting to hear more from stakeholders, she suggested.

Annie:

She spoke about Transit Oriented Communities (TOC). The more we learn about them the more we realize there are big problems. It's wiping out RSO (Rent Stabilization Ordinance) units and other affordable housing in some neighborhoods. There is a lawsuit because the guidelines are very different from what voters approved in Proposition JJJ. TOC developers are given such gifts from the City and people are given offers that they can't refuse and selling. There are trade-offs don't compare to what's being lost and neighborhood councils need to be aware of that.

Teresa, Hollywood Sunset Free Clinic:

The Clinic is continuing to provide services, although limited, but not tattoo removal or acupuncture. We are open Monday to Wednesday and Saturday to see patients.

Ianthe Zevos:

I'd hoped to get something on the agenda about the data liaison position. Is it an appointment or a vote? I attended the orientation by DONE and the Mayor's Office. It's a very interesting position. I'm interested. Training will be at the end of the month for appointed liaisons. I would love to have that on the agenda of the special meeting.

Sarah Ullman:

My goal is to recruit volunteers for Court Appointed Special Advocates. It's a non-profit that serves kids in the foster care system in Los Angeles. You are a child's advocate. I've done it for 5 years and work with three children. There are hundreds of kids on the waitlist. Please reach out.

Maebe A. Girl:

Next Thursday, February 11, there will be a Zoom panel for Small Revolutions. The focus for the next session will be youth homelessness in Los Angeles. The event is co-sponsored by the Silver Lake, Los Feliz, and Silver Lake Neighborhood Councils. Council Member Nithya Raman will be special guest.

Nicholas Fox-Robbins:

I've been working with a group of passionate high school students. We will bring to the Board an agenda item to start a Youth SLNC Committee for the neighborhood council as a way to get more young people involved. I'm helping them go through the process. Some of them are here today.

There is another motion to encourage neighborhood councils to sign up for certification for the President's Volunteer Service Award. If we get certified, that should increase youth participation. It's a good thing to have on your college applications. I'm very excited.

6) Presentations:

a) Welcome Councilmember Nithya Raman

Anthony Crump announced that Nithya Raman was on the agenda but she's not here. We may need to reschedule that.

b) LADWP Aeration Project - Dawn Cotterell

Dawn Cotterell, *Community Affairs, DWP*, Dawn.cotterell@ladwp.com, 213-367-4208, and Susan Avila, *Department of Water and Power (DWP), Project Manager*, Susan.avila@ladwp.com, (213) 367-4750:

Susan Avila said I was here a couple of years ago with an update. I'm glad to be back.

She said that in April 2017 the reservoirs were refilled. Testing is done once a week in summer and twice a month in winter. This controls algae growth and odor and increases oxygen levels and properly mixes the water.

We have two systems that we are installing. The aeration system design was completed in May 2018. Construction will begin next month. The recirculation system was completed in December 2020 for the Ivanhoe and Silver Lake reservoirs. These systems should be operational by fall 2022. The aeration system will introduce air to the bottom of the reservoir and mix the water.

During construction there will be little to see. The pumps will be 40 feet deep. The Ivanhoe Reservoir will be drained in September. We will refill it in May 2022. The Silver Lake Reservoir will not be drained.

There will be noise reduction measures. Work will begin at 7am. There will be no traffic impact. All of the work will be done within the reservoir.

Nina Sorkin asked will the walking paths be impacted? Susan Avila replied no. There will be no significant impact but it may be closed temporarily.

Debbie Slater asked how deep is the new 1-inch aeration pipe? Will it affect the Los Angeles Fire Department's use of the water. Susan Avila said we anticipate that the pipes will be weighted to the bottom of the reservoir. There will be no impact for the fire department.

David Wheatley recalled that last month, people were concerned about the noise of vehicles backing up. If they complain to you about a thing, what are you doing about it? Susan Avila said she's aware of the noise issue.

Dawn Cotterell said we did receive the letter from the SLNC. A response is coming. I hope that we can all work together on this.

Maebe A. Girl asked about the lifespan of the new aeration system. Susan Avila said she'll have to get back to you with a correct answer.

Sarah Ullman asked how will this integrate into the Master Plan? Also, please consider non-beeping back up trucks. The neighbors would appreciate it. Susan Avila said any work would be incorporated into the Master Plan.

Dawn Cotterell said that the Department of Engineering did consult with Hargreaves, the firm in charge of the Master Plan. It will definitely work together with whatever plan we move forward with.

Sarah Ullman said that Sarah Tanberg is a deputy to City Council Member Nithya Raman, Council District 4, who is assigned to us.

7) Announcements/Updates

a) In Memoria – Former Councilmember Tom LaBonge
<https://www.losfelizledger.com/moretributes-to-tom-labonge/>
<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2021-01-08/tom-labonge-la-city-councilman-dies>

Anthony Crump paid tribute to the outstanding contributions of the late Council Member Tom LeBonge, known as “Mr. Los Angeles”, a true public servant and hometown hero. He read a statement. LaBonge graduated from Marshall High School in Los Feliz and he loved Silver Lake.

Nina Sorkin hopes the that SLNC will honor Tom LaBonge with a bench or plaque near the reservoir. He was a remarkable person who did so much for Silver Lake.

David Wheatley said that he affirmed what Nina Sorkin said. Tom LaBonge was a really good guy. I served on a committee with him at Ivanhoe Elementary. He knew everything about the City. He was an ambassador of good will. A plaque would be awesome.

Mary Rodriguez, a field deputy for Council District 13 offered thanks to Tom LeBonge. He changed my life. He hired me to be his field deputy for Silver Lake. He was an amazing man. I would love to see a plaque at the Silver Lake Reservoir to honor him.

Anthony Crump said at one of the next two meetings, the SLNC will consider ways to honor the former City Councilmember. He took one of Tom LaBonge's famous City Hall tours. He was an incredible person and we do want to recognize him.

d) Office of LA Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell, District 13 (Mary Rodriguez)

Mary Rodriguez, Field Deputy for Council Member Mitch O'Farrell, Council District 13 (CD13), mary.d.rodriguez@lacity.org, (213) 207-301:

Happy New Year! January was a difficult month for the country. I haven't been here recently. My son was very ill for the past three months. During that time, we have been very active with projects here in Silver Lake. I just sent the CD13 newsletters to everyone. It contains information about small business grants, they are open now for everyone.

I've worked with neighbors near the Silver Lake Boulevard underpass to get utility lighting installed on Reno Street. They installed 7 lights. That request came from Barbara Ringuette's neighborhood watch meeting. We hope that that will help to deter crime.

Sunset Triangle Plaza, Phase One, will make the area in front of Yummy.com into a permanent plaza. Phase Two will be the adjacent area. We are moving forward. There will be a meeting with businesses and the community to discuss this by early March.

Two new trees will be planted next to the Silver Lake branch library. Five new trees will be planted near Silver Lake Boulevard and Effie. I would love to do a tree planting on Hoover Street. We'd need funding for that. I'll work with the Green Committee about that.

She's been working with residents regarding the homeless encampment on Myra Avenue underpass and the Sunset and Fountain area. There have been many challenging issues there. There are also concerns regarding an encampment on Riverside Drive between Fletcher and Los Feliz Boulevard.

Susan Winsberg asked about getting on the mailing list. Mary Rodriguez said to send her an email. You can also sign up through the Council District 13 website.

David Wheatley asked about the artists who've been painting the phone boxes. I asked them about how much they are paid. Artists lives matter too. Mary Rodriguez said she doesn't have that information for the traffic utility boxes that are being painted. She doubts that it is a great amount of money.

Sarah Ullman noted in the newsletter that Council Member Mitch O'Farrell wants to work with new Federal Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg

on carbon free transportation. Does that imply the Council Member's support for protected bike lanes on Sunset and Fletcher? It's a bit scary to bike there. Mary Rodriguez said she'll speak with the Council Member and get back to her.

Ilanthe Zevos offered thanks to Mary Rodriguez and a shout out to stakeholders on Parkman who organized and attended the neighborhood watch meeting. There are now 9 lights on Reno. I now feel comfortable walking down Reno alley at night. She will agendize the trees on Hoover for the next Green Committee meeting.

Maebe A. Girl asked about complaints from residents near the Myra Avenue underpass. She lives a block from there and was unaware of the issues. Mary Rodriguez said it's people who are trespassing into private property. More complaints are from the Fountain and Effie encampment and a woman with mental health issues who has made threats. For Myra there is an immense amount of debris despite attempts to keep it clean.

Barbara Ringuette thanked Mary Rodriguez for bringing the Los Angeles Police Department Senior Lead Officer and the Neighborhood Prosecutors to the meeting.

8) Committee Reports and SLIA Liaison Update

Ad Hoc Committee on Police Reform: Seth Copenhaver said the group will meet Monday at 7pm.

Outreach Committee: Seth Copenhaver said we're seeking the best time for a meeting. The focus will be election related issues.

Silver Lake Improvement Association Liaison: Treasurer Maebe A. Girl said they did cash the NPG cheque for power washing the Sunset Plaza Triangle.

LGBTQIA Committee: Maebe A. Girl said that the other co-chair had to step down because he moved out of the area. We will elect a new one at the next meeting.

Budget Advocates: Barbara Ringuette spoke of Mayor Garcetti's annual State of the City report which was released today. There is 100% Federal funding coming to increase Project Homekey. The Housing and Community Investment Department is ahead of schedule for buildings 8,000 units by 2024 under Proposition HHH.

Some 11,000 people received their vaccinations today at Dodger Stadium, including myself. A vaccine super site will open at CSULA (California State University, Los Angeles) on February 15.

Homelessness Committee: Samantha Danner said we have a CIS (Community Impact Statement) on the agenda tonight. We are seeking volunteers for the community fridge in Sunset Plaza. We are working on a volunteer directory for aid groups.

CD13 Alliance: Samantha Danner said they met last month.

Green Committee: Ianthe Zevos said they were working on the leaf blower issues. Separately, there is an Electric Vehicle workshop in March or April. We also did some guerilla tree planting. Our next meeting will be February 18.

Ad Hoc Committee on Housing and Homelessness: Sarah Ullman said I had a meeting with Council Member Nithya Raman. They are thrilled about the produce box distribution program. We're in progress with this.

Election Committee: Nicholas Fox-Robbins said Committee Co-Chair Albert Andrade is running for a neighborhood council seat. So, he stepped down and I was elected as Co-Chair. I'm excited to work with Co-Chair Justine Paragas. There are several items on tonight's agenda. There will be a candidate forum on March 20. The next meeting will be Monday at 5:30pm. Because of pandemic issues, this will be the hardest election for the SLNC to hold so all help is appreciated.

7) Announcements/Updates

e) Empower LA/Department of Neighborhood Empowerment Representative (Jackie Kim)

Jackie Kim, Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate, Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE), (213) 978-1551, jackie.kim@lacity.org:

She mentioned that there will be DONE candidate information sessions on February 9 at 6pm and also February 27 at 9am. She said that your vote by mail applications will be accessible through the website on February 5. Vote sooner than later, she urged.

She warned that neighborhood councils are being targeted by fishing emails asking people to buy gift cards.

Separately, she said that DONE is seeking panelists to work on a regional grievance panel. Applications are due this Friday. She said that the annual Congress of Neighborhoods will be held September 25.

Maebe A. Girl said we received two fishing emails from someone impersonating Anthony Crump asking us to purchase Amazon gift cards.

David Wheatley said I sent a grievance to DONE so that we can have an awesome neighborhood council that has the highest principles in the land.

Nicholas Fox-Robbins said that Jackie Kim is welcome to attend Elections Committee meetings. February 8 is the next meeting at 5:30pm. Jackie Kim said that she will be there.

9) Administrative:

a) (Treasurer) Motion to approve December 2020 Monthly Expenditure Report (MER) (attached)

Maebe A. Girl made the motion. Nicholas Fox-Robbins seconded.

The neighborhood council had a beginning balance that month of \$25,297 and ended the month with a \$21,778 balance.

VOTE
14-0-0
PASSED

Yes Votes:

Nicholas Fox-Robbins
Nora Goudsmit
Maebe A. Girl
Scott Gamzon
Seth Copenhaver
Samantha Danner
Sarah Ullman
Barbara Ringuette
Imran Syed
lanthe Zevos
Lorraine Getz
Ben Cassorla
Dulce Stein
Lena Najarian Kaderali

No Votes:

None

Present, Not Voting:

None

(Note: Anthony Crump has left the meeting. He did not vote.)

b) (Secretary) Motion to approve January 14, 2021 Special Governing Board Meeting Minutes – Draft minutes can be found here - <https://silverlakenc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/silver-lakeneighborhood-council-special-meeting-draft-minutes-january-2021.pdf>

Nicholas Fox-Robbins made the motion. Barbara Ringuette seconded.

VOTE for minutes

14-0-0

PASSED

Yes Votes:

Nicholas Fox-Robbins

Nora Goudsmit

Maebe A. Girl

Scott Gamzon

Seth Copenhaver

Samantha Danner

Sarah Ullman

Barbara Ringuette

Imran Syed

Ilanthe Zevos

Lorraine Getz

Ben Cassorla

Dulce Stein

Lena Najarian Kaderali

No Votes:

None

Present, Not Voting:

None

c) (Treasurer) Financial Picture to Date

Maebe A. Girl said we are in good financial standing. The Elections Committee has \$2,000 for elections this year. Almost all of that money is available. There are several elections related motions coming up.

She discussed NPGs (Neighborhood Purposes Grants), saying there is \$6,888 available. She cautioned that Appleone minute taking expenses had risen to \$4,036 of \$4,750 allocated or 85% already spent for the fiscal year.

Nicholas Fox-Robbins asked didn't we increase the election budget? Maebe A, Girl said yes. But we only spent \$65.70 of \$3,500.

Nina Sorkin wanted to make a comment but Nicholas Fox-Robbins said that in the interest of time and the packed agenda, he won't call on her for this agenda issue.

d) (Co-Chairs) Discussion Only - Outreach for the selection of a Region 7 Representative to fill a vacancy due to resignation. View a map of the SLNC regions at <https://silverlakenc.org/wpcontent/uploads/2015/07/Map-ofSLNC.jpg>. A candidate must prove they are a stakeholder to fill a vacancy on the board.

This for the replacement of Cameron Bard.

There are only 2 people running for Region 7 in the election. Both are unopposed and will win. If they run before the election, there is concern about the implications of placing one of them over the other. We reached out to DONE. The response came after the agenda was set. Jackie Kim said there are no guidelines for this. We can wait or publicize it for the special Board meeting in February.

Ben Cassorla said that he wants continuity. Get someone involved as soon as possible. Seth Copenhaver said to be mindful of DONE thinking of seating all neighborhood councils in June so the person could serve for an extra month.

Jackie Kim said that DONE is leaning toward a uniform seating policy for all neighborhood councils. Nothing is set in stone but they are thinking about July.

Sarah Ullman asked what does that mean? She recalled that the previous Board tried to hold a meeting that was illegal. Jackie Kim answered we're looking at having the current Board serve until June. That gives a buffer period for training and guidance.

Barbara Ringuette said our bylaws require that we publicize the vacancy. What if more than two people show up? Sarah Ullman said it would be great to have another person to fill the vacancy.

Sarah Ullman, a Region 7 representative, said that she wants the additional representation as soon as possible.

Nora Goudsmit asked if the new Board is not seated until June or July, what does that mean for the current Board? Let the candidate know that the position has limited time. Once elections are certificated, the new Board is seated. Jackie Kim said that after the election, you will serve until June. The new Board will be seated thereafter. The specifics haven't been announced. Nicholas Fox-Robbins said we need that information as soon as possible so that we can advertise and fill that seat.

10) Old Business

a) (Ullman) Moves that the Secretary of the SLNC require training for all Committee Chairs about the guidelines and best practices for writing a Committee Agenda. Include information about required elements of agendas, wording of motions, posting, timing of ENS and meeting notification, and providing documentation to support agenda items on the posted agenda so that the documentation is available to the public and not just the Committee.

Sarah Ullman read the motion. Lena Kaderali seconded.

Sarah Ullman said that the writing of an agenda is a real learning process. There is no structure in place to help understand the importance of the process. This is also for current committee co-chairs.

David Wheatley said I'm a stickler for motions. I hope people think through motions. I want motions to work and accomplish goals. He likes links on agendas. They are awesome. Sarah Ullman said I'm open to links. It improves transparency and utility. However, she expressed concern for shareholders who do not have internet access.

Nora Goudsmit is now chairing the meeting as Nicholas Fox-Robbins has stepped away.

VOTE
13-0-0
PASSED

Yes Votes:
Nora Goudsmit
Maebe A. Girl
Scott Gamzon
Seth Copenhaver
Samantha Danner

Sarah Ullman
Barbara Ringuette
Imran Syed
lanthe Zevos
Lorraine Getz
Ben Cassorla
Dulce Stein
Lena Najarian Kaderali

No Votes:

None

Present, Not Voting:

None

(Note: Nicholas Fox-Robbins did not vote. He returned after the vote.)

b) (Co-Chair/Goudsmit) Motion to amend SLNC Standing Rule #33 as described below: PROPOSED AMMENDMENTS TO CURRENT STANDING RULE #33. "Definition of an Advisory Committee Member"

Nora Goudsmit made the motion. Sarah Ullman seconded.

Nicholas Fox-Robbins said we were advised by DONE to hold on to this while they discuss with the City Clerk about how this motion would play out. So, we are not voting tonight. However, we can discuss it.

Susan Winsberg said this would be dangerous and misguided. Land use is a complex topic. It requires a knowledgeable person to vote on it. It invites special interests. It will lead to unbalanced voting. It's risky business.

Joe Ferrell, UDP Committee Co-Chair, made a presentation:

What do we do? We review land use applications. Our role is advisory in nature. We provide recommendations to the City Planning Department related to development and quality of life. There is no law mandating that developers speak before land use committees. This is one of the few opportunities for the community affect change in the planning process. Their other options are hiring an attorney or to go through their Council District.

Projects come to the Committee when they seek special conditions. The Planner is making a determination. These discretionary projects make up

95% of all projects that come to UDP. The others are by rights projects and informational projects.

What gives us authority? We rely on our reputation and our relationships with Planners and others. UDP is highly regarded in the neighborhood council system, with the Planning Department and with consultants. I'm in a unique position as I've been on both sides. I've been on the Committee for 7-8 years and I've also worked as a land use consultant. I've seen both sides of the story.

When we vote on a project, we ask what is the project asking for? It's our job to navigate through the project and find lanes for concessions, improvements, or design changes that meet the needs of the community and Committee.

We also look at the concerns of the neighborhoods and the Committee. We look at zoning laws and codes can we draw from and what is reasonable to request.

Every case is unique. We try align recommendations with zoning codes and building laws. The law determines what can be built.

Why is this motion problematic? The author, Nora Goudsmit, has not attended Committee meetings and has no land use experience. She is not mentioned in the minutes for the past six months.

This may be in conflict with the BONC (Board of Neighborhood Commissioners) policy directive for Planning 101 training. This implies membership. How can this policy apply if anyone who attends a meeting can vote? He said that DONE representative Jackie Kim has similar concerns. This also conflicts with Robert's Rules. How can you have quorum if you don't know the membership?

The Governing Board is doing Committee work. The committees should do all the vetting. By skipping committees, the Board is wasting the public's time.

I've reached out numerous times about having a joint meeting or a discussion and received no response. The authors made no attempt to hear our concerns. Someone with no experience in land use wants to make changes with serious negative implications for the community.

I talked to several neighborhood council planning and land use committees who advised against it, including Venice, Atwater Village, East Hollywood, West Los Angeles, Echo Park, Glassell Park, Studio City,

Eagle Rock, Downtown, etc. Even the director of the Planning Department thought it was ridiculous.

This reduces stakeholder involvement. This is one of the only chances that the community has to vet projects. If anyone off the street comes in, which is easier in the world of Zoom, anyone can vote to push an agenda.

Nicholas Fox-Robbins ended the presentation, saying this presentation is incredibly relevant to hear from the co-chair of UDP about why he disagrees with the motion that will affect the Committee. Anthony Crump and I made this decision. We won't vote on this.

Jackie Kim commented that there is lots of concern with open committee policy. It's hard to track membership. How do you verify stakeholders? Also, there is concern with maintaining a roster of members and enforcing a policy of compliance with Planning 101 training. If there is open committee membership, the entire Board must take the training. We are seeking more information. The policy wasn't explicitly written with that in mind.

Debbie Slater said that Joe Ferrell did good job of explaining the Committee. I've been involved with this Committee for 18 months. This is important to the neighborhood. You need to be committed. You need a knowledgeable body making decisions.

David Wheatley said I agree with UDP. The issue of quorum is a serious problem. This is only opportunity for the public to weigh in to push back dangerous projects. I'm appalled that the person bringing this motion is wasting our time so badly especially when the maker of motion hasn't attended our meetings.

Nina Sorkin said she was concerned that the December joint meeting never happened. In the past decade, I have attended UDP meetings to voice my opinion on projects that concern me. She noted that at the top of page 4 on today's agenda there is a misplaced statement that should be attached to this motion, not others. She noted with concern that this motion was put forward by just half of the co-chairs.

Scott Plante said there are many complications with this motion. It should be vetted in a longer meeting. I urge the Board to attend UDP meetings. He said that he'd sent a letter to explain issues in depth for the last meeting. It was tabled. Please include that in tonight's meeting.

Cliff Towne mentioned volunteerism and praised the Board. UDP has great volunteers too. The expertise from the community is amazing, from

architects and others with years of experience. They are very well educated folks.

Carol Cetrone said I'm an 8-year member of UDP. It's been an honor. And to learn what it means to interface with Planning, developers, and the community. People come because they are concerned, to interface. Sometimes you get neighbors who come to meetings, like that special meeting last summer. This motion opens the door to chaos. This debate is a great learning experience for all of us.

Sarah Ullman asked can we offer amendments? Nicholas Fox-Robbins said we're not voting today. We're waiting for DONE to speak with the City Clerk. We don't have time.

Sarah Ullman said I am a current member of UDP. I've joined twice and attended six plus months of meetings without the opportunity to vote. Representation matters. Silver Lake is 65% renters. The Committee is made up of 16 mostly white homeowners. There are no renters on the Committee.

She mentioned an amendment related to an appointment structure. UDP meets the second week of the month. We can offer an appointment structure. A stakeholder can indicate interest at Board meetings through an agenda item. The Board could vote to approve voting members for the following week.

She noted that the Co-Chairs offered 11 minutes for Joe Ferrell to speak but only 1 minute for us. We have to figure out how to give people more than 1 minute. There are substantive ideas to be discussed.

Nicholas Fox-Robbins said we should have a community town hall or do it in a Committee meeting. It's justified for the Committee co-chair, who hasn't really had an opportunity to finally speak and explain why he disagrees with this to give us an example. I don't agree with everything that he says but we need to move forward with this discussion in a larger setting. I agree that one minute is not enough.

Sarah Ullman said I've been sitting on this amendment for 3 months. Nicholas Fox-Robbins said everybody's frustrated about this and we are too.

Samantha Danner said these requirements imply that UDP is more important than other Committees. Planning issues are not to be taken lightly, the same goes for other committees. The exclusivity of voting privileges in UDP strike me as political patronage primarily benefiting

homeowners. Meanwhile committees that consider enormously complex issues like homelessness, eviction protections, or environmental issues, can only hope that there is an active Council File for which a CIS can be written. In practice this means that UDP can have their voices heard but City Council does not wait to hear from committees on any other matter. The neighborhood council system is meant to empower everyone. I don't believe the current UDP rules effectively do that.

Ilanthe Zevos expressed her frustration. We discussed this at a special board meeting. There are lots of ideas that need to be discussed. Why can't we have a joint meeting?

Scott Gamzon said other neighborhood council planning and land use committee members are appointed. Sarah Ullman's amendment is helpful. It could bring in more renters. It's worthy of discussion.

Maebe A. Girl spoke about including stakeholders. The UDP membership is limited as people have to attend 3 meetings to become a Committee member and the group is composed of almost all white homeowners. This is not a reflection of Silver Lake. I attended a UDP meeting and there was a question about my presence at the meeting. It was not very welcoming. They need to include more members.

Barbara Ringuette said UDP is concerned about the built environment and helps renters understand their rights. At a January 9 meeting of Plan Check, DONE General Manager Raquel Beltrons commented that only a few neighborhood councils have open committee membership. Those neighborhood councils may have to look at Standing Rules and do something different.

Nora Goudsmit said this was a review of Standing Rules and has to do with voting rights and privileges. Potentially hearing amendments like Sarah Ullman's would be nice. Voting rights based on attendance is limiting and is unlike any other committee of the SLNC. Please refer to Standing Rule 32 regarding quorum. It takes 3 people.

Imran Syed said that he is concerned about a lack of diversity and about hearing that Maebe A. Girl felt unwelcome. I would love to hear Joe Ferrell respond to that.

Joe Ferrell responded that no land use committee has an open membership. There are either appointments or membership requirements. There's a reason for that. This will open a Pandora's box. This committee works quite well. We've gotten concessions that are unheard of in other neighborhood councils. We give the benefit of the

doubt every time. Our reputation is what makes this Committee. This motion will destroy it in the blink of an eye. My apologies to Maebe A. Girl. He also said that he is a renter.

Nicholas Fox-Robbins said we need to have a joint meeting. It does sound like there are representation issues in UDP that UDP should address. The alternative is to have the Board appoint members to UDP.

c) (Co-Chair/Goudsmit) Motion to amend SLNC Standing Rule #42 as described below. CURRENT STANDING RULE #42

Nicholas Fox-Robbins said we will vote on five election motions at once as a bundle by consent.

Nora Goudsmit made the motion regarding Standing Rule #42. Nicholas Fox-Robbins seconded.

Nora Goudsmit explained that the idea is to make sure that committee cochair elections will be held. She read the Standing Rule noting that this allows the Standing Rules to include that cochair elections will be held. Supplementary information will be highlighted. It's important for the public to have as much information as possible.

David Wheatley asked what problem is this trying to resolve? Have people been having secret elections? Will it apply to the Board too? Is there documentation for this?

Sarah Ullman said this is not specific. This is a reiteration of the Brown Act. A recent example was when there was documentation from National Mixed Concrete that wasn't given to the public at a UDP meeting. It turned out that the presenters did have an affiliation. We voted the motion down.

Nora Goudsmit explained that this is only for committees because co-chair elections take place within the body of the Board. It's important for the public to know so that's why you want to have supplemental information.

VOTE
14-0-0
PASSED

Yes Votes:
Nicholas Fox-Robbins
Nora Goudsmit
Maebe A. Girl

Scott Gamzon
Seth Copenhaver
Samantha Danner
Sarah Ullman
Barbara Ringuette
Imran Syed
Ilanthe Zevos
Lorraine Getz
Ben Cassorla
Dulce Stein
Lena Najarian Kaderali

No Votes:

None

Present, Not Voting:

None

d) (Co-Chair/Goudsmit) Motion to amend SLNC Standing Rule #44 as described below. CURRENT STANDING RULE #44. Advisory Committee Co-Chairs
Advisory Committee co-chairs must complete the ethics and funding training and sign the Code of Civility.

Nora Goudsmit made the motion. Nicholas Fox-Robbins seconded.

Nora Goudsmit read the motion in its entirety. Nicholas Fox-Robbins said this seems pretty straightforward and self-explanatory.

David Wheatley said that the current standing rule is fine as it is. I object to the tone and hostility of this and to UDP being singled out. It sounds like retaliation to me. Delete all proposed changes. Where does this hostility and anger come from? Can we all get along as Nicholas Fox-Robbins mentioned in his opening remarks? He urged Nicholas Fox-Robbins to enforce that. Nicholas Fox-Robbins said he disagreed with David Wheatley's position.

Nina Sorkin asked on the DONE webpage, where Board members are listed, do you have a tally of who's taken trainings? And, if there is a stipulation that if training is not done will people be removed from the Board?

Jackie Kim noted that on the EmpowerLA pages, it shows a list related to the 30 days that you mention. If the Code of Conduct is not signed within 30 days, a Board member is suspended. Thereafter, if the situation is not remedied, they can be removed from the Board.

For land use committees, we will put a roster of committees with appointed structures on the EmpowerLA website with Planning 101 certification dates. If you are a Board member, you must use a different portal. We can offer training in other ways.

Nora Goudsmit commented that this is taken from our Bylaws. The note is a City compliance regulation for the Planning 101 training.

VOTE for 10.d
Unanimous
PASSED

Yes Votes:

Nicholas Fox-Robbins
Nora Goudsmit
Maebe A. Girl
Scott Gamzon
Seth Copenhaver
Samantha Danner
Sarah Ullman
Barbara Ringuette
Imran Syed
lanthe Zevos
Lorraine Getz
Ben Cassorla
Dulce Stein
Lena Najarian Kaderali

No Votes:

None

Present, Not Voting:

None

11) New Business

b) (Paragas / Fox Robbins) Move that the SLNC create a series of Election Registration Info Sessions on Zoom during the months of February and March to support stakeholder participation in the upcoming election by providing a 10 minute registration info session, 10 minute Q&A session, with the possibility of an additional 10 minute one-on-one break out room for further support.

Nicholas Fox-Robbins said we have high school students here as part of the Elections Committee. So, we will do agenda item 11.b first. It was

not vetted by committee. Then we'll address agenda items 11.c, d, e, and f by consent at once. And end the meeting after 11.a, other agenda items will go to the special Board meeting.

Nicholas Fox-Robbins and Justine Paragas made the motion.

This is for the creation of a series of election information sessions to support stakeholder participation in elections.

Dulce Stein seconded.

Committee Co-Chair Nicholas Fox-Robbins said this supports the process to register to vote by mail. We made a schedule. There will be multiple sessions per week. We need the Board to approve this as an official action.

Committee Co-Chair Justine Paragas said this is the first time that young people will be involved in the voting process. We are the next generation. This is very important to us. We want to make Silver Lake a better place to live in.

Diego Zuniga commented that this motion can help with voter turnout and outreach. Please choose wisely on this.

Nina Sorkin said this will also be available in Spanish. I support this motion.

Samantha Danner commended the students. This is a worthy cause that they initiated. The more information that we can get to stakeholders about voting the better.

Scott Gamzon asked how will you publicize these meeting? How can we be of assistance? Nicholas Fox-Robbins said the game plan is to get an okay from the Board to move forward. We may bring a subsequent motion to support the promotion of this. Justine Paragas added we are reaching out to 55 schools. If you have further ideas, we can use any help we can get.

Eunice Shin noted that there is no cost to this motion. We created an Instagram account for outreach. We're spending our own time online. During the pandemic, the internet is the best way to reach people in Silver Lake. We want to help as many people as we can.

VOTE
Unanimous

PASSED

Yes Votes:

Nicholas Fox-Robbins
Nora Goudsmit
Maebe A. Girl
Scott Gamzon
Seth Copenhaver
Samantha Danner
Sarah Ullman
Barbara Ringuette
Imran Syed
lanthe Zevos
Lorraine Getz
Ben Cassorla
Dulce Stein
Lena Najarian Kaderali

No Votes:

None

Present, Not Voting:

None

Nicholas Fox-Robbins made a motion to extend the meeting for two votes, including the grievance. Nora Goudsmit seconded.

VOTE to extend the meeting

11-1-2

PASSED

Yes Votes:

Nicholas Fox-Robbins
Maebe A. Girl
Seth Copenhaver
Samantha Danner
Sarah Ullman
Barbara Ringuette
Imran Syed
lanthe Zevos
Ben Cassorla
Dulce Stein
Nora Goudsmit

No Votes:

Lorraine Getz

Present, Not Voting:

Lena Kaderali

Scott Gamzon

Consent for all election motions 11.c, .d, .e, and .f as a bundle. Nicholas Fox-Robbins read the motions. Maebe A. Girl said we need to do these motions individually as roll call votes because they are financial.

d) (Election Committee) Motion to approve use of SLNC credit card to up to \$350 towards purchasing a “Sponsored Post Lite” digital advertisement on The Eastsider website, social media accounts, & e-newsletter AND a 60-day banner advertisement on the “Silver Lake Stories” section of the The Eastsider advertising the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council election for an estimated amount of \$297.

Barbara Ringuette seconded Nicholas Fox-Robbins’ motion.

VOTE

Unanimous

PASSED

Yes Votes:

Nicholas Fox-Robbins

Nora Goudsmit

Maebe A. Girl

Scott Gamzon

Seth Copenhaver

Samantha Danner

Sarah Ullman

Barbara Ringuette

Imran Syed

Ilanthe Zevos

Lorraine Getz

Ben Cassorla

Dulce Stein

Lena Najarian Kaderali

No Votes:

None

Present, Not Voting:

None

e) (Election Committee) Motion to approve use of SLNC credit card for a maximum of \$750 towards union printing and implementing bus bench/shelter advertisements through The Bureau of Street Services free "Public Service Announcements" program. Total estimated costs depend on number of available bus ad spaces and therefore number of printed banners."

Nicholas Fox-Robbins made the motion. Maebe A. Girl seconded.

Lena Kaderali asked what is the cost per banner? Nicholas Fox-Robbins said it's free to place. However, we must pay for banners. I don't have that information. Debbie Slater asked didn't Albert Andrade say they cost \$125?

VOTE
Unanimous
PASSED

Yes Votes:

Nicholas Fox-Robbins
Nora Goudsmit
Maebe A. Girl
Scott Gamzon
Seth Copenhaver
Samantha Danner
Sarah Ullman
Barbara Ringuette
Imran Syed
lanthe Zevos
Lorraine Getz
Ben Cassorla
Dulce Stein
Lena Najarian Kaderali

No Votes:

None

Present, Not Voting:

None

f) (Election Committee) Motion to approve use of SLNC credit card for a maximum of \$1000 towards union printing, related posting supplies, and possible hosting costs for displaying 7 vinyl banners at 7 locations (1 for each region - Locations TBD). Total estimated costs for printing 7 - 5'x3' banners are TBD."

Barbara Ringuette seconded Nicholas Fox-Robbin's motion.

Nina Sorkin added an amendment to remove the specificity of size. Banner sizes may differ. She also wanted to add the word "possible" in front of "union printing" and "if available" after. Barbara Ringuette seconded the amendment.

**VOTE to amend
Unanimous
PASSED**

Yes Votes:

Nicholas Fox-Robbins
Nora Goudsmit
Maebe A. Girl
Scott Gamzon
Seth Copenhaver
Samantha Danner
Sarah Ullman
Barbara Ringuette
Imran Syed
lanthe Zevos
Lorraine Getz
Ben Cassorla
Dulce Stein
Lena Najarian Kaderali

No Votes:

None

Present, Not Voting:

None

lanthe Zevos seconded the amended motion.

**VOTE for amended motion
Unanimous
PASSED**

Yes Votes:

Nicholas Fox-Robbins
Nora Goudsmit
Maebe A. Girl
Scott Gamzon
Seth Copenhaver

Samantha Danner
Sarah Ullman
Barbara Ringuette
Imran Syed
Ianthe Zevos
Lorraine Getz
Ben Cassorla
Dulce Stein
Lena Najarian Kaderali

No Votes:

None

Present, Not Voting:

None

c) (Election Committee) Motion to appoint and confirm members of the SLNC Election Committee consisting of seven (7) Stakeholders (one (1) from each Region) for confirmation of the 2021 Election Committee to the SLNC Governing Board: Region 1 - Debbie Slater, Region 2 - TO BE FILLED, Region 3 - Justine Paragas, Region 4 - Teresa Padua, Region 5 - Nick Fox Robbins, Region 6 - Nina Sorkin, Region 7 - Brian Fisher

Maebe A. Girl seconded.

VOTE
Unanimous
PASSED

Yes Votes:

Nicholas Fox-Robbins
Nora Goudsmit
Maebe A. Girl
Scott Gamzon
Seth Copenhaver
Samantha Danner
Sarah Ullman
Barbara Ringuette
Imran Syed
Ianthe Zevos
Lorraine Getz
Ben Cassorla
Dulce Stein
Lena Najarian Kaderali

No Votes:

None

Present, Not Voting:

None

11) New Business

a) Discussion and Possible action relative to Grievance #275 filed against the Silver Lake Neighborhood Council to:

i) Determine SLNC's response to the Grievance, including all information required by the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment's Grievance Response Form; additionally, consider a remedy to the Grievance.

ii) Identify up to three witnesses (if any) to complete Witness Statement Forms in support of SLNC's response to the Grievance.

iii) Designate a SLNC Board Member as the designated representative authorized to submit the Grievance Response Form and Witness Statement Forms to the Department, and authorized to appear and speak on behalf of the Board at the Regional Grievance Panel Hearing for the Grievance consistent with the Board-approved response to the Grievance.

We must decide how to respond, explained Nicholas Fox-Robbins. We were advised that the remedy is to re-agendize the items. We didn't put proper minutes onto the agenda. The proposed remedy is that all decisions made at the December 21 meeting are invalid. We can vote on the items again.

Nora Goudsmit asked can we vote by consent? Would that resolve the grievance? Jackie Kim said she will check into it, assuming no funding issues are included.

Nicholas Fox-Robbins said to include this for either the February special agenda or the March agenda.

VOTE
Unanimous
PASSED

Yes Votes:

Nicholas Fox-Robbins
Nora Goudsmit
Maebe A. Girl
Scott Gamzon
Seth Copenhaver
Samantha Danner
Sarah Ullman
Barbara Ringuette
Imran Syed
Ilanthe Zevos
Lorraine Getz
Ben Cassorla
Dulce Stein
Lena Najarian Kaderali

No Votes:

None

Present, Not Voting:

None

We need a designated member to submit the grievance response form. *Sarah Ullman nominated herself. Maebe A. Girl seconded.*

Nora Goudsmit asked Jackie Kim to clarify the grievance? Jackie Kim explained that the minutes were not included with or linked to the agenda. If they are posted to the website, it should be sufficient. Nora Goudsmit said they were posted on the website before the special meeting. Jackie Kim said that if the grievance is corrected by the Board, it doesn't have to go to the regional grievance panel.

VOTE to approve Sarah Ullman as designated representative for the grievance, agenda item #11.a

**Unanimous
PASSED**

Yes Votes:

Nicholas Fox-Robbins
Nora Goudsmit
Maebe A. Girl
Scott Gamzon
Seth Copenhaver
Samantha Danner
Sarah Ullman

Barbara Ringuette
Imran Syed
lanthe Zevos
Lorraine Getz
Ben Cassorla
Dulce Stein
Lena Najarian Kaderali

No Votes:

None

Present, Not Voting:

None

12) Future Agenda Items

None

13) Adjournment

Nicholas Fox-Robbins requested a moment of silence for late Council Member Tom LaBonge. The meeting adjourned at 10:12pm in honor of Tom LaBonge.