

**Sherman Oaks
Neighborhood Council**

Government Affairs Committee

Lindsay Imber, Chair
Howard Katchen
Tom Materna
Stacey Segarra-Bohlinger

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA



**Sherman Oaks
Neighborhood Council**

Government Affairs

Minutes

Sherman Oaks Martin Pollard Branch Library
Tuesday, May 23, 2023, 6:30 pm.



Sherman Oaks
Neighborhood Council P.O.
Box 5721
Sherman Oaks, CA 91413

Website:
www.ShermanOaksNC.org

The Neighborhood Council system enables meaningful civic participation for all Angelenos and serves as a voice for improving government responsiveness to local communities and their needs. We are an advisory body to the City of Los Angeles, comprised of stakeholder volunteers who are devoted to the mission of improving our communities.

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

- a. Lindsay Imber, President, called the meeting to order at **6:37pm**.
- b. Stacey Segarra-Bohlinger, Secretary, called the roll.
 - i. **Present:** Howard Katchen, Stacey Segarra-Bohlinger, Lindsay Imber (3)
 - ii. **Absent:** Tom Materna (1)

2. Administrative Motions -

- a. *A motion to approve the Minutes of the April, 2023 Government Affairs Committee Meeting.*
moved: Katchen **seconded:** Imber
yes: Katchen, Imber, Segarra-Bohlinger (3)
no: (0) absent: Materna (1) abstain: (0)
item 2a approved unanimously

3. Comments by Elected or Appointed Officials, City Agencies, and Staff - none

4. Public Comment - *brief discussion followed*

5. Chairs Report -

Committee Announcements

another committee member needed for better balance / quorum

SONC Elections

complications regarding timing: election results delayed past term endings

how to vote - location, ballot-requests,

6. Action Items

a. Attendance/Quorum/Public Comment at City Council

*The Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council (SONC) respectfully asks the office of Council District 4 (Raman) to consider the following *guidelines with regard to City Council proceedings, with an emphasis on public comment period(s). In addition, we ask that Councilmember Raman present a motion to Los Angeles City Council for consideration including the following parameters and/or similar language with the purpose of ensuring that City Councilmembers have adequate and ample opportunity to be present and actively listening during public comment period; and that Councilmembers give public comment the same reverence, attention, and consideration as they would any portion of proceedings*

**Whereas the purpose of The Los Angeles City Council is to serve the best interest of their constituents, stakeholders, and the public at large; taking into consideration the fact that Council Members and their staff are gainfully employed and compensated through taxpayer funding, it is imperative that council take immediate action to ensure adequate time, resources, and diligence are applied in allowing public comment during Council meetings.*

We ask that The Los Angeles City Council take into consideration the following recommendations:

- 1. Amend Council Rule Chapter II. section 7 regarding time minimums for public comment on agenda and non-agenda items: remove language involving time minimums, add language that requires council to allow any and all members of the public who wish to speak adequate and equitable time to do so.*
- 2. Limit time spent during regularly scheduled meetings on demonstrations and/or presentations that aren't directly related to action items in said meeting (e.g. presentation of awards, staff and member recognition, holiday acknowledgements, etc.) to a cumulative total of fifteen minutes in a single meeting.*
- 3. Confirm Council Rules in Chapter IV sections 25-29 regarding quorum, affirm that they apply to all portions of Council Meetings including and especially public comment on agenda and non-agenda items. Request that the Council President enforce quorum at all times, including and especially during public comment on both agenda and non-agenda items.*
- 4. Implement and allow a "call-in"/remote option for public comment during all public meetings including committee meetings, special meetings, and public hearings.*
- 5. Allow the public to comment on all agenda items outside of the time designated for their comment on non-agenda items during regularly scheduled City Council Meetings, regardless of whether public comment was heard during committee, public hearing, etc. [i.e. members of the public should be entitled to use the entirety of their time during general public comment on items outside of the active meeting's agenda.]*
- 6. Add a provision in Council Rules that prohibits a council member from voting on any item for which they were not present during the entirety of public comment.*
- 7. Apply stringent threshold requirements to closed-session meetings and require that council give the public adequate justification for each closed-session meeting convened*

Moved: Segarra-Bohlinger **Seconded:** Imber

Motion to postpone subject to modifications/further investigation/clarification

Moved: Imber **Seconded:** Segarra-Bohlinger

yes: Katchen, Imber, Garris, Segarra-Bohlinger (4)

no: (0) absent: Materna (1) abstain: (0)

motion to postpone item 6a carries unanimously

b. Emergency items since the posting of the agenda. - *none*

7. Committee Business (*item 7a expedited ahead of item 6 at approx. 6:45pm*)

a. Potential appointment of a committee member.

Introduction of stakeholder *Wesley Garris*

*Motion to approve appointment of Wesley Garris to Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council
Government Affairs Committee*

Moved: Imber **Seconded:** Segarra-Bohlinger

Yes: Katchen, Imber, Segarra-Bohlinger (3)

No: (0) Absent: Materna (1) Abstain: (0)

item 7a carries unanimously

b. Announcements from Committee Members.

Budget Advocates- budget Day, June 17th, budgetadvocates.com

8. Adjournment

meeting adjourned by unanimous consent at 7:54pm

Respectfully submitted

