

**Sherman Oaks  
Neighborhood Council**

CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
CALIFORNIA



**Officers**

Howard Katchen, President, 3-R  
Lindsay Imber, 1st VP, 6-R  
Lielt Endashaw, 2nd VP, 1-R  
Jeffrey Hartsough, Treasurer, 2-CI  
El-Bethel Debela, Secretary, Y

**Board Members**

Levon Baronian, 1-B  
Christy Adair, 1-CI  
Kira Durbin, 2-R  
Ryan Ahari, 4-B  
David Silverman 4-CI  
Sybil Azur, 5-R  
Tom Materna, 6-B  
Devon Jasiukonis, Y  
Harold Shapiro 6-B  
Jeffrey Kalban, 7-CI  
Martin Stahl, 7-R



**Sherman Oaks Neighborhood  
Council**

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

Website:  
[www.ShermanOaksN.org](http://www.ShermanOaksN.org)

*Vacant*  
2-B  
3-B  
5-B  
5-CI  
3-CI  
7-B

**Board Meeting:**

Sherman Oaks East Valley Adult Center  
5056 Van Nuys Blvd

**Minutes**

Monday, May 11, 2026 - 6:30pm

**Public Comments:** Comments from the public on agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered, and prior to voting. Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the agenda that are within the Board’s jurisdiction will be heard during the General Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items within SONC Jurisdiction period. Please note that under the Brown Act, the Board is prevented from acting on a matter that you bring to its attention during the General Public Comment period; however, issues raised by the public may become the subject of a future Board meeting. Public comment is limited to one minute per speaker, unless adjusted by the presiding officer of the Board.

*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, composed of stakeholder volunteers who are devoted to the mission of improving our communities.*

**1. Welcome, Call to Order, and Roll Call**

**a. Call to Order:** Howard Katchen, President, called the meeting to order at **6:39 pm**

**b. Pledge of Allegiance**

**c. Roll Call:** EL-Bethel Debela, Secretary, called the roll

**i. Present:** Adair, Ahari, Imber, Kalban, Stahl, Jasiukonis, Endashaw, Hartsough, Debela, Katchen, Shapiro, Korand, Azur, Khazei **(14)**

**ii. Absent:** Baronian, Durbin, Silverman, Materna **(4)**

## 2. Administrative and Board Initiated Motions – Action Items

### a. From Floor:

*A motion to approve the SONC Board meeting minutes of April 13, 2026.*

*Approval of minutes moved to the next meeting.*

## 3. General Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items within SONC Jurisdiction

*Public Comment from Attendees*

## 4. Comments by LAPD SLOs, Public Agencies, Officials, Staff, and Council District Office Public Comment for Public Agencies, etc.

*-Pursuant to the Brown Act, there will be no discussion/back-and-forth while in session.*

### *Anthony Thornton Field Deputy for Assembly Member Nick Shultz*

AB 2319 the Post-Production Tax Credit has passed out of its first committee.

AB 1603 puts an end to the use of PFAS pesticides in California

The budget is still questionable, but in the works.

Governor Newsome is adamant about balancing the books/budget before the next governor comes into office

Many programs will be cut so please reach out to our office to highlight important programs.

A deficit close to 2 billion dollars has been closed in the past months by a lot of hardwork

### *John Darnell, Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate*

If any people are in need of help with training please reach out.

Don't forget about budget day on Saturday June 27th, breakfast is included!

Registration is open now.

## 5. Scheduled Recess - Meeting called into Recess at—6:53

**Meeting reconvened at — 7:07**

**EL-Bethel Debela**, Secretary, called the roll

**i. Present:** Adair, Ahari, Imber, Kalban, Stahl, Jasiukonis, Endashaw, Hartsough, Debela, Katchen, Shapiro, Korand, Azur, Khazei **(14)**

**ii. Absent:** Baronian, Durbin, Silverman, Materna **(4)**

**6. Presentation Los Angeles County Supervisor, Third district: Lindsey Horvath**

**7. President's Report.**

- **Ad Hoc Committees status: Planning Board Retreat**  
Still Pending
- **Ad Hoc Committees status: By Laws**  
Have been Submitted to DONE
- **Student Committee status**  
No update
- **Vacant SONC Board Seats: Area 2 Business, Area 3 Business & Community Interest, Area 5 Business & Community Interest**  
Come and see Howard if interested!
- **2026 – 2027 SONC Youth Representative Board Search – Six Candidates**  
Looking for a new secretary, can use Sonc funding to pay for a new secretary, or a person may step up to be the new secretary.
- **Sherman Oaks Encino Chamber – Plan celebration(s) 100th Anniversary of Sherman Oaks in 2027.**  
Looking for members of the community to be a part of the committee.
- **Register For Budget Day at City Hall Saturday, June 27th**  
Registration is now open, go to [budgetadvocates.org](http://budgetadvocates.org) and you can register there.
- **SONC Board Meeting Speaker: June 8th Mayor Karen Bass**  
Working on this for quite some time, very pleased that she has agreed to appear at our next meeting.

**8. Floor Motion – Requires a second Council File 26-0600 Budget Proposal Fiscal Year 2026-27 Motion: The Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council (SONC) strongly supports the Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates 2026 White Paper and its recommendations for the Fiscal Year 2026–2027 City Budget. This comprehensive report reflects the voices and priorities of communities across Los Angeles, emphasizing transparency, fiscal responsibility, and equitable allocation of resources. Its focus on core city services—including public safety, infrastructure maintenance, homelessness solutions, and community engagement—aligns with the needs we hear directly from our stakeholders. By adopting these recommendations, the City can strengthen public trust, improve service delivery, and ensure that budget decisions are guided by data, accountability, and meaningful community input. We urge City leaders to incorporate these proposals to better serve neighborhoods like Sherman Oaks and communities throughout Los Angeles.**

**MOVED: Katchen SECOND: Adair**

**YES:** Adair, Ahari, Imber, Kalban, Stahl, Endashaw, Hartsough, Debela, Katchen, Shapiro, Korand, Azur, Khazei (13) **NO: (0) / ABSTAIN: (0) / INELIGIBLE: Jasiukonis (1) / ABSENT: Baronian, Durbin, Silverman, Materna (4)**

**Item 8.a. carries unanimously /13-0-0-1-4**

**9. Planning & Land Use (PLUM) & Vision Committees - Jeff Kalban, Chair. PLUM Meets on the 3rd Thursday of the Month Vision Meets on the 1st Thursday of the Month Council File 25-1083 Impacts of SB 79 (Wiener) / Comprehensive Report / City Infrastructure and Utility Systems (SONC website meeting supporting document) Motion to support if amended: Revision to Yard Setback Standards in the Los Angeles LowRise Ordinance CPC-2026- 1797-CA. Our analysis demonstrates that the density targets established by the Low-Rise Ordinance can be achieved while preserving the prevailing zoning setback standards of a 15-foot front and rear yard and 5-foot side yards. Maintaining a minimum 15-foot rear yard setback provides critical environmental and community benefits, including space for tree canopy, landscaping, and permeable surfaces that support stormwater retention, carbon sequestration, and reduction of the urban heat island effect. These features also contribute to improved energy efficiency and overall neighborhood livability. Additionally, a minimum 5-foot side yard setback is consistent with the fire separation requirements for unprotected openings (e.g., windows and doors) as outlined in the International Building Code, thereby supporting life safety standards without compromising development feasibility. Therefore, we respectfully request that the Low-Rise Ordinance be amended as follows: • Paragraph (iii) Yards b. shall be revised to read: “Side yard setbacks shall be a minimum of 5 feet.”**

**• Paragraph (iii) Yards d. shall be revised to read: “Rear yard setback shall be a minimum of 15 feet from the rear lot line.” • In addition, we request the following: • That all properties impacted by this proposed rezoning be provided mailed notice of the pending changes. • That this SB 79 implementation ordinance be expressly tied to, and automatically updated to reflect, any future revisions to, postponement of, or repeal of SB 79.**

**MOVED:** *Planning and Land Use Committee* **SECOND:** *Comes from Committee*

**YES:** Adair, Ahari, Imber, Kalban, Stahl, Endashaw, Hartsough, Debela, Katchen, Shapiro, Korand, Azur, Khazei (13) **NO:** (0) / **ABSTAIN:** (0) / **INELIGIBLE:** Jasiukonis (1) /

**ABSENT:** Baronian, Durbin, Silverman, Materna (4)

**Item 9.a. carries unanimously /13-0-0-1-4**

**10. Finance Motions & Committee Report Finance Committee - Jeffrey Hartsough, Chair. Meets on the 4th Wednesday of the Month**

**Floor Motions – require a second**

**Make items 10a-10d One Vote; Make these a consent calendar Item**

**MOVED:** *Hartsough* **SECOND:** *Shapiro*

**YES:** Adair, Ahari, Imber, Kalban, Stahl, Endashaw, Hartsough, Debela, Katchen, Shapiro, Korand, Azur, Khazei (13) **NO:** (0) / **ABSTAIN:** (0) / **INELIGIBLE:** Jasiukonis (1) /

**ABSENT:** Baronian, Durbin, Silverman, Materna (4)

**Item 10.a. carries unanimously /13-0-0-1-4**

- a. SONC Monthly Expenditure Report period ending March 31, 2026 Motion to approve the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council's (SONC) Monthly Expenditure Report (MER) for the period ending March 31, 2026. (SONC website meeting supporting documents)**
  
- b. SONC Monthly Expenditure Report period ending April 30, 2026 Motion to approve the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council's (SONC) Monthly Expenditure Report (MER) for the period ending April 30, 2026. (SONC website meeting supporting documents)**
  
- c. The Web Corner Agreement for SONC Web Services Motion to approve the agreement between the City of Los Angeles and The Web Corner to provide the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council (SONC) with web services for FY 2025-2026 and to approve an amount not to exceed \$1,700.00 for those services.**
  
- d. Contribution to L.A. Congress of Neighborhoods Event Motion to approve a contribution of up to \$1000.00 from the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council's (SONC) FY2026 budget to support the City of Los Angeles – Congress of Neighborhoods - Event in September 2026.**

**MOVED:** *Jeffrey* **SECOND:** *Ahari*

**YES:** Adair, Ahari, Imber, Kalban, Stahl, Endashaw, Hartsough, Katchen, Shapiro, Korand, Azur, Khazei (12)

**NO:** (0) / **ABSTAIN:** (0) / **INELIGIBLE:** Jasiukonis, Debela (2) / **ABSENT:** Baronian, Durbin, Silverman, Materna (4)

**Item 10.a - d carries unanimously /12-0-0-2-4**

## **11. Committee Reports with No Motion [2 Minutes for Each Report]**

### **a. Human Services Committee, Sarah Adamski & Pamela Haris, Co-Chairs. Meets on the 1st Monday of the Month**

- June 1st at 6:30 Monday via zoom
- Outreach committee please let us know what Movies are happening this Summer.
- Community Connect day in September or October to higher community involvement
- Looking forward to a busy year with a backpack drive in August

### **b. Outreach Committee - David Silverman, Chair. Meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the Month**

- Movies on June 27, July 25, and August 22nd for the Movies in the Park Summer Series

- Thank you Leilt for creating flyers and graphics that promoted town hall.

**c . Planning & Land Use (PLUM) & Vision Committees - Jeff Kalban, Chair. PLUM Meets on the 3rd Thursday of the Month Vision Meets on the 1st Thursday of the Month**

**d. Public Safety Motions & Committee - Christy Adair & Susan Collins, Co-Chairs. Meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the Month**

- Meeting tomorrow night on zoom, Susan will present crime statistics for our neighborhoods.

**e. Budget Advocates - Howard Katchen, SONC Representative**

- Register and attend budget day!

**F. Green and Sustainability Committee**

- Meet this Wednesday at 6:30 on zoom, covering discussions on community planting, green initiatives, etc.

**g. Gov Affairs**

- Did not meet last month and will meet again soon.

**h. Traffic and transportation**

- Huge success with the town hall, hope to see SONC conduct similar town hall events in the future for more community involvement.

**14. Board Member Announcements Closing announcements from Board Members.**

- We are in need of someone to produce the ziff flyer.
- Mayor Karen Bass will be our Board Meeting speaker next month!

**15. Adjournment**

**Adjournment: Motion to Adjourn approved without objection at 8:28 pm**

Respectfully submitted,

EL-Bethel Debela