

Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA



Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council



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

Website:
[www.ShermanOaksN
C.org](http://www.ShermanOaksNC.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, June 8, 2026, 6:30 pm

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 **6:45 pm**

b. Pledge of Allegiance

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

i. Present: Baronian, Adair, Durbin, Ahari, Silverman, Materna, Imber, Kalban, Endashaw, Hartsough, Debela, Katchen, Shapiro, Korand, Azur (15)

ii. Absent: Stahl, Jasiukonis, Khazei (3)

2. Administrative and Board Initiated Motions – Action Items

a. From Floor:

A motion to approve the SONC Board meeting minutes of the April 13, 2026 and May 11, 2026.

MOVED: Shapiro

SECOND: Kalban

YES: Baronian, Adair, Ahari, Silverman, Materna, Imber, Kalban, Endashaw, Hartsough, Debela, Katchen, Shapiro, Korand, Azur **(14)** **NO:** **(0)** / **ABSTAIN:** Durbin **(1)** /

INELIGIBLE: **(0)** / **ABSENT:** Stahl, Jasiukonis, Khazei **(3)**

Item 2.a. carries unanimously /14-0-1-0-3

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.

Emily Aaronson, Branch Manager of sherman oaks library

- **The library is now open.**
- **HVAC project postponed to June–July; the library will remain open during the work.**
- **Summer with the Library:** Summer Reading Challenge for all ages.
- **Mahjong Open Play and Music Bingo for Adults on June 20**, featuring nostalgic summer hits.
- **Writing workshops** and many more activities throughout the summer.

Jason Buckley Executive Director of Local American Red Cross

- Grateful for a community that consistently shows up to help others.
- Provides assistance after home fires, including emergency lodging, financial aid, and clothing.
- Collects approximately 40% of the nation's blood supply through lifesaving blood services.
- Offers CPR, first aid, and disaster preparedness training.
- Supports military families and veterans with a variety of services.
- Volunteers and donors make this work possible.
- Interested in partnering to better serve local community needs.
- Seeks opportunities to host blood drives and expand community preparedness efforts.
- Encourages community members to volunteer and get involved.

Assistant Fire Chief Joe Everett

- Threat of fires is real and here, they are in our areas
- Be in touch with the weather, national weather service, red flags etc

- Have family and bags packed just incase
- Quicker the evacuation, the better for all of us
- Garden your homes, keep them safe.
- Keep Medications and pet supplies on standby
- Have a plan

Anthony Thornton - Field Deputy for Assembly Member Nick Shultz

- AB 2319 Post-production tax credit has recently passed out of its first committee, Arts and Entertainment.
- IN SACRAMENTO:
- The governors ha proposed a structurally balanced budget
- The LAO has its concerns with this statement/idea from the Governor
- Budget Bill must be passed by midnight

Taleen Keuroghlian - Field Deputy for CD-4

- Requested an update from LADOT on the Magnolia and Tyrone crosswalk; no update was available.
- Funding has been allocated for the Magnolia and Tyrone crosswalk.
- **Football for People** event: June 12 at the Autry Museum.
- **Summer Solstice Hike:** June 20 at Griffith Park.
- **Wildfire Day LA:** June 27 at the Autry Museum.

Paige Hajiloo Field - Deputy for Supervisor Lindsey Horvath's

- May 19th amendment motion was approved by the board of supervisors

5. Presentations of Certificates of Recognition to SONC Youth Representative and Alternate Youth Representative

**6. Sally Sacon - Director of Strategic Marketing and Communications – Update Neighborly Commitment
Submit a form, or email @buckley.org for more information!**

7. Scheduled Recess - Meeting called into Recess at—8:15

Meeting reconvened at — 8:29

EL-Bethel Debela, Secretary, called the roll

- i. Present:** Baronian, Adair, Durbin, Ahari, Silverman, Materna, Imber, Kalban, Endashaw, Hartsough, Debela, Katchen, Shapiro, Korand, Azur (15)
- ii. Absent:** Stahl, Jasiukonis, Khazei (3)

8. Presentation Guest Speaker – Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass

9. President's Report.

- **Public Records Act Request (PRA) May 12, 2026 Status**
Thank the committee for responding promptly to the email
- **City Clerk is funded and plans to hold hybrid, in person and by mail, neighborhood council elections**
- **Ad Hoc Committees status: Board Retreat – proposed date Saturday, July 18th 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**
Sent out a request for peoples availability in July and less than 40% of the board said they were available. Looking for New Dates. Need to have the board retreat, have pushed it back long enough.
- **Ad Hoc Committees status: By Laws changes status BONC hearing.**
All of our bylaws are in the process of being updated and changed
Can select individuals from all areas of Sherman Oaks to fill vacant seats!
- **Student Committee status -2026 – 2027 SONC Youth Representative and Alternate Youth Representative Selection Committee Decision –Devon Jasiukonis will serve as Youth Representative and Ian Nachenberg will serve as Alternate Youth Representative**
- **Vacant SONC Board Seats: Area 2 Business, Area 3 Business & Community Interest, Area 5 Business & Community Interest.**
Send any prospective candidates over to Howard!
- **SONC Secretary position open after June 30th – Need a Board Member to fill the position**
Please reach out to Howard if you wish to take up the responsibility of being Secretary.
- **Sherman Oaks Encino Chamber – Plan celebration(s) 100th Anniversary of Sherman Oaks in 2027.**
Contact Howard if interested.
- **Joy P. Atkinson Neighborhood Council Awards (formerly Empower LA Awards) – Nominations due by June 30th**
Nominations are due by June 30th, please come up with ideas to submit on behalf of our council.
- **Register For Budget Day (budgetadvocates.com) at City Hall Saturday, June 27th**
- **Partner with CD 4 & MySafe LA Wildfire Disaster Preparedness Fair on Saturday, June 27th at the Autry Museum from 10AM-2PM. SONC tabling at the event?**
SONC has been offered a table at the event, and hopefully have some people manning a table on behalf of SONC
- **SONC Board Meeting Speaker: July 13th Councilmember Nithya Raman**
Please continue the good turnout.

10a. President's committee appointment: Motion to approve appointment of Kira Durbin, Public Safety Committee

MOVED: *Katchen*

SECOND: *Imber*

YES: Baronian, Adair, Durbin, Ahari, Silverman, Materna, Imber, Kalban, Endashaw, Hartsough, Debela, Katchen, Shapiro, Korand, Azur (15) **NO:** (0) / **ABSTAIN:** (0) / **INELIGIBLE:** (0) / **ABSENT:** Stahl, Jasiukonis, Khazei (3)

Item 10.a. carries unanimously /15-0-0-0-3

11a. 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

Motion from committee

SUPPORT FOR LA RIVERWAY SEGMENT 7 & COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS: ACTIVE
TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM CYCLE 8 The Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council writes in strong support of the application from the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Engineering to the Statewide Active Transportation Program (ATP) Cycle 8, to design and construct the LARiverWay Segment 7 & Community Connections project. The Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council is an LA City elected board that represents the Sherman Oaks community. The LARiverWay Segment 7 & Community Connections project will deliver significant active transportation infrastructure in the East San Fernando Valley that will improve local and regional safety and connectivity. The project includes more than a mile of Class I multi-use path along the Los Angeles River, nearly two miles of Class IV protected bikeway on Hazeltine Avenue, and numerous community mobility improvements such as three roundabouts, three new signalized intersections, dozens of ADA-compliant curb ramps, and multiple signal modifications. These measures coalesce to create a complete and safe corridor between the neighborhoods, major transit options, and the growing regional LARiverWay bikeway. The project's direct connection to Disadvantaged Communities will provide residents there with the safer, better, and more numerous mobility options they deserve. This project is important to our Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council and the community because we have been working with the Bureau of Engineering for 10 years on this project and look forward to working closely with them on future design decisions for Section 7 and the Community Connections. This investment is well supported and clearly needed. The scope of the project was informed directly by community input over many years of development. Engagement in 2025 and 2026 involving hundreds of stakeholders led to the confirmation of the LARiverWay project scope and selection of the protected Hazeltine Ave. bikeway corridor. Residents consistently express strong support for protected facilities that this project provides to help them feel safe and confident while rolling and walking. Many injuries and deaths will be prevented by funding and building this project. The safety, mobility, and sustainability benefits that this project will bring to our community are numerous and substantial. We respectfully urge the California Transportation Commission to award full funding to the LARiverWay Segment 7 & Community Connections project. Thank you very much for your consideration.

MOVED: Planning & Land Use (PLUM) & Vision Committee

SECOND: Does Not Require

YES: Baronian, Adair, Durbin, Ahari, Silverman, Materna, Imber, Kalban, Endashaw, Hartsough, Debela, Katchen, Shapiro, Korand, Azur (15) **NO: (0) / ABSTAIN: (0) / INELIGIBLE: (0) / ABSENT:**Stahl, Jasiukonis, Khazei (3)

Item 11.a. carries unanimously /15-0-0-0-3

12. Government Affairs Committee - Lindsay Imber, Chair. Meets on the 4th Tuesday of the Month
Motions from Committee

a. CF 26-0489-S6. Ranked Choice Voting. Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) / Approval Voting (AV) / Voting Reforms / City Elections / Charter Reform.

Position: FOR. The Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council (SONC) supports the adoption of Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) in the City of Los Angeles. By providing voters the option to rank candidates in order of preference such that if a voter's first choice doesn't have a chance to win, that voter's voice can still be heard and counted for their next choice, RCV supports more representative outcomes while giving a voice to candidates and voters who might otherwise not have a chance to be heard in a first past the post voting system. RCV frees voters from political games and calculus of considering how others will vote and allows voters to freely vote by preferential order, rather than all-or-nothing methodology associated with the current first past the post voting system. RCV is used in 49 American jurisdictions, including Oakland, San Francisco, and Redondo Beach. RCV should be adopted by the City of Los Angeles as well.

MOVED: Government Affairs Committee

SECOND: Does Not Require

YES: Baronian, Ahari, Materna, Imber, Hartsough, Katchen, Shapiro, Korand (8) **NO: (0) /**

ABSTAIN: Silverman, Kalban, Endashaw, Debela, Azur (5) **/ INELIGIBLE: (0) / ABSENT:**

Stahl, Jasiukonis, Khazei (3)

Item 12.a. carries /8-0-5-0-3

b. CF 25-0002-S100. Secretary Robert F Kennedy, Jr / Gender-Affirming Healthcare Services / Healthcare for Minors / 2025-2026 Legislative Program.

Position: FOR. The Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council (SONC) supports City Council's resolution seeking to oppose federal rules that attempt to deprive young people from receiving medical care that is deemed essential by leading medical and public health organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, American Medical Association, and World Health Organization. SONC opposes the federal government's attempt to discriminate against minority communities, including the transgender community, by engaging in the genocidal act of denying medically necessary and life-saving gender-affirming care and obstructing deeply personal medical decisions that should be between patients, parents, and medical professionals.

MOVED: Government Affairs Committee

SECOND: Does Not Require

YES: Baronian, Adair, Durbin, Ahari, Silverman, Materna, Imber, Kalban, Endashaw,

Hartsough, Debela, Katchen, Shapiro, Korand, Azur (15) NO: (0) / ABSTAIN: (0) /

INELIGIBLE: (0) / ABSENT: Stahl, Jasiukonis, Khazei (3)

Item 12.b. carries unanimously /15-0-0-0-3

13. By Laws Ad Hoc Committee – Recommended Additions and Changes to SONC Standing Rules and Procedures

a. Alternate Seats for Committees (Standing Rule C.4.d) Committee Chairs, with concurrence from the President and approval of the Executive Committee, may appoint a SONC stakeholder(s) to serve as an alternate member of their committee.

b. General Public Comment (New Standing Rule) To the extent practicable, the General Public Comment period shall be placed toward the start of the agenda and shall precede Comments by Elected Officials,

Staff, etc. The Outreach Committee shall be charged with establishing a form on the SONC website through which to receive electronic public comment prior to each meeting of the full council. Where cumulative public comment for a particular item is no more than 10 speakers per item, public comment time offered to each speaker shall be at least one minute in length.

c. Limit Presentations (New Standing Rule) As a guideline when crafting agendas for each regular monthly meeting of the full council, guest speakers or presentations should be limited to one per meeting. This provision shall not be applicable to board member presentations relating to motions appearing on the agenda.

d. Vice and Co-Chairs for Committees (Standing Rule C.4.c) Committees are encouraged to have appointments for no fewer than: One Chair and One Vice Chair; or Two Co-Chairs. **e. Outreach Committee appointments for: (Standing Rule)** Newsletter Editor, Website Admin, Social Media, Photographer **Standing Rule C.1.d:** The Outreach Committee shall appoint from its membership an editor for the monthly newsletter, administrator for the SONC website, manager for SONC social media, and photographer/videographer or archivist to work in concert with the social media manager. The same person may serve in more than one role.

Moved: Shapiro Second: Materna

Executive committee has not met for the needed amount of months this year, Only 2 meetings this year

Agenda item moved for discussion till next month

14. Motion from the floor – requires a second

The Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council (SONC) strongly opposes AB 2624, also referred to as the “Stop Nick Shirley Act”. While SONC agrees with the principle of protecting immigration support service providers, we have concerns about the chilling effect this legislation may have on investigative journalism, particularly investigations that target taxpayer-funded entities. We share concerns expressed by Assemblymember DeMaio of District 75, namely that this legislation may “silence citizen journalists and shield taxpayer-funded organizations from public scrutiny.” We further echo the sentiments expressed by DeMaio regarding “language that would allow individuals affiliated with certain organizations to demand the removal of video recordings — even if taken in public — and even impose costly financial penalties against those who publish the videos online.” SONC is deeply concerned that this bill could be used to block investigative reporting and intimidate journalists, watchdog groups, and members of the public documenting wrongdoing. While SONC supports protecting immigration support service providers, we believe this goal can be achieved without compromising freedom of the press, which is a constitutional right, and essential to democracy.

MOVED: *Materna*

SECOND: *Adair*

YES: NO: Adair, Durbin, Ahari, Silverman, Imber, Kalban, Endashaw, Katchen, Shapiro, Korand, Azur (11) / **ABSTAIN:** Baronian, Materna, Hartsough, Debela (4) / **INELIGIBLE:** (0) / **ABSENT:** Stahl, Jasiukonis, Khazei (3)

Item 14.a. Does not carry /0-11-4-0-3

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

Motion from Finance Committee

SONC Fiscal Year Admin Packet for FY 2026-2027 A motion to approve the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council's (SONC) NC Fiscal Year Administrative Packet for FY 2026-2027. SONC Admin Packet for FY 2026-2027

MOVED: Finance Committee

SECOND: Does Not Require

YES: Baronian, Adair, Durbin, Ahari, Silverman, Materna, Imber, Kalban, Endashaw, Hartsough, Debela, Katchen, Shapiro, Korand, Azur **(15) NO: (0) / ABSTAIN: (0) /**

INELIGIBLE: (0) / ABSENT: Stahl, Jasiukonis, Khazei (3)

Item 15.a. carries unanimously /15-0-0-0-3

16. 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

- The next meeting will be held during the first week of July.
- Collecting backpacks for community distribution.
- Planning a Community Connect Day for September or October to provide resources for unhoused individuals.
- The library continues to offer hygiene kits as a valuable community resource

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

- Movie on June 27th which is Shrek
- Next meeting is on Tuesday the 16th

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

- No updates

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

- The next meeting is on zoom at 6:30 tomorrow.
- Looking for a facility for a blood drive, And wants SONC to sponsor blood drive

e. Budget Advocates - Howard Katchen, SONC Representative

- Please go to budgetadvocates.org and register for the budget day!

F. Green and Sustainability Committee

- The next meeting is on zoom this Thursday at 6pm.

g. Gov Affairs

- No updates

h. Traffic and transportation

- Ongoing discussion on the traffic
- Focusing on the things that the court has passed on parking and traffic safety
- Meets on the first Wednesday of the Month

17. Board Member Announcements Closing announcements from Board Members.

18. Adjournment

Adjournment: Motion to Adjourn approved without objection at 10:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,

EL-Bethel Debela