

## Committee Members

*Green and Sustainability*  
Avo Babian, Chair  
Kira Durbin  
Sidonia Lax  
David Levinson  
Harold Shapiro  
Gregory Wright (Alternate)

CALIFORNIA



## Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council Green & Sustainability Committee

Feb 3rd 2021  
7:30 p.m.

## SHERMAN OAKS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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## Minutes

1. Meeting called to
  - a. Order by Avo, Chair at 7:30 pm
  - b. Roll Call: Avo Babian, David Levinson, Harold Shapiro and Kira Durbin
2. Reviewed and approved minutes of January meeting. Avo moved to amend the minutes to remove the location (the Sherman Oaks Library) and correct the start time to 7:30 pm. David 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion to amend. **Passed Unanimously.** Avo moved to approve the minutes. Harold 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. **Passed Unanimously.**
3. Comment by Public Official
  - a. Alexandria Naseef: the new Field manager for Sherman Oaks, for the office of Nithya Raman introduced herself. She said the field office is still at the same location. She looks forward to working with us
4. Chairs report
  - a. Avo is still looking for a Replacement for Chair of the Green Committee
5. Motions
  - a. To Support Gas Leaf blower ban and write a CIS
    - i) Motion: The Board of the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council (SONC) requests Councilmember Nithya Raman to either support or propose a Motion to amend **or to support any existing motion to amend** and clarify the Los Angeles Gas Powered Leaf Blower Ordinance (LAMC) Section 112. 04 (c) to read, "No internal combustion blower shall be used within 500 feet of a residence at any time," and put an end to loopholes in this ordinance so (LAMC) Section 112. 04 (c) can actually be enforced.

**Public Comment:** Dan Kegel, asked for a slow phase out for Gas Leaf Blowers

**Scott Mendel:** Answered the questions of the Comm. He said there was a law on the books saying "Gas" leaf blowers, but now they need to prove it's gas. So the recommendation is to change it to "internal combustion" leaf blowers. It will lower pollution and noise. Also property owners can pressure landscapers. Harold moved to Amend to add "**or to support any existing motion to amend**" Avo 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion to Amend **Passed Unanimously.** Avo moved to motion to the floor. Harold 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. **Passed Unanimously.**

- b. Support City Council File 20-0492 and write a CIS in support.

Whereas the residents of Sherman Oaks are concerned with the damage to health and effect on climate change caused by burning fossil fuels, and whereas the common practice of investing in fossil fuels contributes greatly to the marketplace dominance of fossil fuels, the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council supports Council File 20-0492 and notes the City should not be supporting investments in fossil fuel companies, and residents shouldn't have to worry about the City's insurance vendors failing due to investments in a declining industry. Therefore be it resolved, that

the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council SUPPORTS the Blumenfield motion in Council File 20-0492, to create a rating system for insurance provider identifying their risk due to fossil fuel investments.

Kathy Schaeffer the legislative coordinator for the SFV Climate Reality Project, and Dan Kegel answered questions from the committee members. Dan said financially speaking, the fossil fuel industry is on a downswing. By 2024 to 2026, electric vehicles will be cheaper than Internal Combustion engines, with no need for subsidy. Investment in gas cars and oil will be a losing investment. So the city should be made aware of these losing investments and hopefully to invest smartly. Kathy said Sherman Oaks is in a high fire zone. Insurance companies who invest in fossil fuel are contributing to climate change and more fires. So this motion can lead to less fires in Sherman Oaks. Harold asked, what about other petroleum products. We need them and don't want the companies to go bankrupt. Dan said only the worst polluters would be graded badly. Also most oil companies are pivoting away. Kathy said that plastics are on the way out. Also this motion is not about divesting. It's about a grading system for bad polluters.

Motion to amend to include only the first sentence by Avo. Harold 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion to Amend **Passed Unanimously**. Avo moved the motion to the floor. Harold 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. **Passed Unanimously**.

6. Public comment on non-agenda items. N/A

7. Discussion items:

- a. Sustainable Garden Promotion Pamphlet: A zoom Garden Tour. Harold has not had any updates. Avo said he will reach out to previous volunteers to see if they will volunteer their homes for a video tour.
- b. Leaf Blower Issue: Raise awareness about trade in, and where to file a violation
  - i) List of Business. How to rank them. Recycling. Upkeep Landscape and energy carbon footprint. Harold said look into LEEDS. Maybe they already have a list of Green businesses. **Public Comment: Martin Stahl:** He mentioned the idea of a ranking business vs education them. Harold mentioned a type of certification.
- c. Welcome to Sherman Oaks Sign: Project Rajan: Avo will follow up with Rajan.
- d. Sidewalk Trees issues: Regarding the Latest CFAC meeting-David. List of Trees in need of removal and replacement David said there are no updates. Someone is trying to sue the city for damage from a tree on the sidewalk. Kira said Sherman Oaks is at the bottom of the list for tree removal or repair. David mentioned the Sunkist project cutting down trees.
- e. LA River: Master Plan Update: Melanie Winter: Update. She said they need systemic thinking and ways to deal with climate changed. But what they said is the river is still a flood control channel. Although those other ideas, rain management etc are good ideas, they are prioritizing the flood control aspect of the river. She said SONC should reach out to our Council member

8. New Business– Committee members and members of the public may bring up new business that they would like the committee to consider. Kira recommended giving the motion about leaf blowers to be presented as a package with extra info

9. Next Meeting on March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30 pm

10. Meeting adjourned at 9:02 pm