

Minutes of the May 6th, 2018 Board Meeting of the Sycamore Square Neighborhood Association (SSNA) – Submitted the 21st of May, 2018 as recorded by Conrad Starr

Call to Order:

SSNA Secretary, Joshua Kirchmer, called the meeting to order at 10:07am. Mr. Kirchmer agreed to chair the meeting for purposes of cross-training.

Additional board members in attendance were Conrad Starr (meeting secretary, also cross-training), Steven Senigram, and Daniel Brook. SSNA member Jacob Ali (Orange Dr.) joined as a first-time attendee.

Approval of Minutes:

The April 15th, 2018 minutes were unanimously approved as submitted by the Secretary and edited by Mr. Starr.

The March 2018 minutes were still outstanding from board member, Sarah Cohen, who was not in attendance.

SSNA Treasurer's Report:

Mr. Senigram again agreed to reach out to former board member, Sue Horwitz, for a replacement to an old check from Ms. Horwitz which was never cashed or deposited by SSNA.

SSNA Land Use Committee Report:

No report was submitted (committee chair, Giorgio Bosso, was not in attendance).

SSNA Citrus Traffic Committee Report:

No report was submitted (committee chair, Joy Calisoff, was not in attendance).

Mr. Senigram said that he had witnessed at least four cars crossing Olympic from the 1000 Block of South Citrus to the 900 block, in violation of the new "right turn only" sign, which occurred at approximately 4:15pm on Thursday, May 3rd.

Mr. Starr said that the no-left-turn sign to prevent eastbound Wilshire Blvd traffic from crossing westbound Wilshire at the Highland/Wilshire Shopping Center's southern driveway had not been replaced as promised by Mr. Rider at LA Department of Transportation and that he would follow up prior to the June SSNA meeting and provide an update.

SSNA Communication Committee Report:

Mr. Kirchmer noted that additional neighbors had joined Nextdoor and the SSNA Facebook group. Mr. Kirchmer also reminded board members to use appropriate subject lines in emails and to start a email string where necessary. Mr. Brook asked whether the Board conducts annual outreach to encourage sign ups to social channels, and Mr. Kirchmer noted that Nextdoor allows members to send postcards to addresses not currently represented on the app.

Board members agreed to look for ways to increase outreach.

Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council (GWNC) Board Meeting Report:

No GWNC Board meeting took place since the April 2018 SSNA Meeting so no report.

Mr. Senigram explained that the Sycamore Square Alternate on the GWNC Board, Sue Horwitz, is no longer able to serve, and that we should look into a replacement.

Mr. Starr agreed to ask Ms. Horwitz to tender her official resignation in accordance with GWNC Bylaws.

GWNC Outreach Committee Report:

Mr. Starr reported on the revised date(s) and format(s) for earthquake preparedness events at GWNC.

LAPD Community-Police Advisory Board (C-PAB) and Crime Report:

Mr. Starr provided the following report from the April 19th C-PAB meeting, which was received by the Board:

- The top crime in the LAPD Wilshire area is theft, followed by burglary from motor vehicles, followed by home burglaries.
- The most common day for crimes is Wednesday, then Monday, then Sunday.
- The most common time for crimes, based on LAPD shift data, is from 12-6pm, then from 6pm-12am
- There has been a reduction in “unsecured” crime, where doors were not locked. 2018 year-to-date percentage is in the low 30’s, as compared with 43-44% in 2017.
- Three juvenile suspects were caught on 4/17/18 and charged for the 4/16/18 carjacking of a resident in the 700 block of Mansfield. The suspects were allegedly involved in a collision on 4/17/18 after which they were identified by the victim, who also identified one or more of the knives used in the 4/16 carjacking. The suspects were all residents

of a youth group home outside of the Sycamore Square area and were placed in alternate care pending their court dates.

Mr. Starr submitted the following recent crime reports for Sycamore Square, according to Crimemapping.com (website), which were received by the Board:

1. 4/7/18 - VEHICLE, STOLEN - OLYMPIC & LA BREA
2. 4/7/18 - THEFT FROM VEHICLE - OLYMPIC & LA BREA
3. 4/14/18 - BURGLARY - 5200 BLOCK W OLYMPIC BL
4. 4/16/18 - ROBBERY - W 8TH & S MANSFIELD
5. 4/22/18 - BURGLARY - 900 BLOCK S CITRUS AV
6. 4/27/18 - BURGLARY - 800 BLOCK S SYCAMORE AV
7. 4/27/18 - THEFT FROM VEHICLE - 8TH ST & CITRUS
8. 4/28/18 - SPOUSAL (cohab) ABUSE - AGGRAVATED ASSAULT - 5200 BLOCK WILSHIRE BL

Mr. Senigram reported that John Burroughs School was burglarized twice during or around the 2018 Spring Break period.

Unfinished Business:

Streets and Sidewalks:

Mr. Brook submitted the following report to the Board by email on 5/2/18:

"I spoke with different people at the Bureau of Street Resurfacing including a supervisor involved with the Cool Asphalt project we spoke about last meeting.

1. There is currently no funding to repair concrete streets as concrete. Though there are some efforts to get funding.
2. The Bureau is interested in having "model" neighborhoods for the Cool Asphalt. However, our streets would first have to be resurfaced with regular asphalt for two years. After two years the asphalt's oils are reduced/changed so that it can properly hold the coating. So if we go in that direction it will be a long process. (Though they are working on a Cool Asphalt formula that can absorb sooner.)
3. I have put in requests for our streets to be added to the lists for repair. I am also maintaining contact with the supervisor downtown. Currently all funding for street repair with asphalt is already allotted for the next 18 months or so.
4. If we want to view some of the Cool Asphalt streets there are a few of them around LA.
5. Research does show that both regular concrete and Cool Asphalt streets are much cooler than regular asphalt - a big consideration as we go forward.
6. If possible getting the concrete streets repaired as concrete would be great - we'll see if that ever becomes a possibility. I'll keep checking on it on a regular basis."

At the May 6th SSNA Meeting, Mr. Brook said he was in contact with Craig Shaw at Bureau of Street Services.

After some discussion, **Mr. Starr moved for the Board to instruct Mr. Brook to represent the Board in pursuing cool asphalt for 8th Street, emphasizing the availability of Sycamore Square as a “model neighborhood” or “test case” for this new type of surfacing. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.**

The Board also expressed general agreement that it should continue to ask for concrete repaving for existing concrete streets, though, in the interim, temporary repairs with asphalt would be acceptable to address potholes or other safety hazards. The increased ambient heat from asphalt was identified as a reason to resist conversion of concrete streets to traditional asphalt.

Mr. Brook agreed to request a meeting with Rob Fisher of CD4 to discuss. Mr. Starr agreed to be a part of the discussion.

Illegal Yard Sale Sycamore at Olympic:

Mr. Kirchmer said that he observed the illegal vending on Saturday, May 5th, 2018. Mr. Senigram noted that they were no longer placing items on school property. Mr. Ali mentioned he had been bitten by a dog (NEED REMINDER OF CIRCUMSTANCES)

BRE/Essex Ordinance, Funding:

Mr. Starr said that the Board had not yet received a response from CD4 listing the types of improvements that could be funded by the remaining funds in the Essex settlement.

Mr. Starr agreed to follow up with Rob Fisher and Catherine Landers on items still outstanding from the April 10, 2018 meeting at CD4, which was also attended by Giorgio Bosso.

Proposed Change to Bylaws: Two (2) Signatures for Developer Agreements:

Mr. Bosso will present his motion in June 2018.

New Business:

No new business was included on the day's agenda.

Board Comments and Announcements:

Mr. Starr announced a May 23rd date for the City Council vote on Sycamore Square's new zoning for single-family homes on Citrus Ave. and Orange Dr.

Mr. Starr invited board members to consider spearheading a Sycamore Square Yard Sale or other community-building activity.

Mr. Starr agreed to send Mr. Kirchmer some ideas for a new flyer designed to increase neighborhood engagement, which Mr. Kirchmer agreed to help design for approval by the Board and distribution in Sycamore Square.

Public Comments:

During the Citrus Traffic Committee discussion, Mr. Ali asked about Metro bus stop relocations during Purple Line Extension lane closures. Mr. Starr explained that the relocation of Metro Rapid (720) stops to Cloverdale for eastbound traffic will be in effect until the Center Opening enclosure is removed, estimated by end of February, 2020.

Scheduling of SSNA June Meeting:

The board agreed to schedule the next meeting for 7pm on June 7th, 2018.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 11:22am.