



**Sycamore Square Neighborhood Association
Session Meeting Minutes
March 23, 2021**

The meeting was called to order by President Conrad Starr at 7:02 pm

Board members present included Conrad Starr, Veronica Matos, and Lane M. Jonah Bliss joined the group at 7:20 pm. Apologies from Jason Donnelly and Joshua Kirchmer.

Guests present: Wilshire Division SLO Schube

Approximately 5 stakeholders were present during the meeting.

1. **Call to Order** (President)
2. **Roll Call** (Secretary): No quorum; any items requiring voting will be put on hold.
3. **Special Guests:** Wilshire Division SLO Schube, responsible for part of Sycamore Square (7A33 region), gave a presentation on some of the issues facing Sycamore Square and our adjacent neighbors. SLO Schube has been on the force for 25 years. She was the Field Training Officer for 18 years in the Wilshire Division, before becoming SLO for A733.
 - The emergency shelter set up at Pan Pacific Park to assist the homeless during COVID 19 will remain in operation until 5/31/2021. There has been an increase in the number of homeless individuals congregating and camping in the parks around the greater Wilshire area. LAPD will be working with CD4 to provide these individuals with support services when the shelter closes.
 - Regular protests from anti-maskers, originally confined to the Beverly/Grove area (focused on Erewhon), are moving around and targeting the Ralph's stores at 3/LA brea and Hauser/Wilshire.
 - Increase in crimes of opportunity, many of these with armed perpetrators; widespread issue with catalytic converters in all makes of cars being stolen.
 - SLO Schube shared some general advice: if confronted, give up all your belongings; do not leave the keys in the car, especially when parking in tandem spaces; don't leave anything of value in the car. If you see a crime in progress please call 911.
 - Question from landlord on Mansfield regarding homeless woman who has been trespassing and squatting on the second floor. SLO Schube responded that any trespasser on a property is subject to arrest. If the residence in question is vacant, it is the owners responsibility to lock up property and put up no trespassing signs. While you can always use 877-ASK LAPD, if you want someone off your property, you need to call the police. It is important to keep in mind that, due to pandemic restrictions, these kind of offenders are not spending any time in jail.
 - Questions regarding the general rise in traffic violence and the perceived lack of enforcement of these traffic issues. SLO Schube shared that LAPD resources are way down and they have less officers than in the last few years. Due to limited time, traffic issues are not being prioritized by officers.
 - Request for advice from a Sycamore Ave neighbor who was assaulted by a neighbor using a motorised scooter on the sidewalk, with a large off-leash dog. This neighbor has

a history of disregarding safety, using his scooter on the sidewalk, not leashing his dog and being verbally aggressive and abusive to (mostly women) who speak to him. There is a shared sense of frustration, as there seems no resource for the resident regarding this individual. Residents were advised to follow-up with SLO Cordova, who has some knowledge of the situation and has spoken to the individual regarding his behavior on two occasions.

Quorum reached at 7:20 pm

4. **Approval of Minutes:** February , 2020. Moved by Vero M, seconded by Lane M. Approved with no objections or changes.

5. **Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items**

- No public comments

6. **New Business (Discussion and Possible Action)**

- a. SSNA Annual Meeting & Centennial celebration: Conrad suggested the creation of a committee to steer and facilitate these celebrations. Conrad, Lane and Vero are interested in being part of that committee. Conrad moved that a committee be appointed as Ad Hoc 100th Celebration & Annual Meeting Committee, seconded by Jonah. Unanimous consent. This is seen by most members as a great opportunity to do outreach to Sycamore Square neighbors and involve others.
- b. LA Sanitation presentation on Waste, Recycling and Composting: As per the neighborhood survey, the topic of waste and recycling was one of the top interests shared by Sycamore Square residents. Lane M agreed to the idea of facilitating a plan to have LASAN provide Sycamore Square residents with a presentation on waste, recycling and composting. Lane made a motion to have SSNA invite LASAN to meet with the Sycamore Square for a waste and recycling presentation. Seconded by Conrad, approved unanimously.

7. **Unfinished Business (Discussion and Possible Action)**

- a. Board Vacancies for 2019-2021 Seat - Call for Nominations. No action
- b. SSNA Survey: Conrad shared the results of the SSNA survey. There were a total of 22 respondents. The survey results were shared with all interested neighbors via website. There was a lengthy discussion around issues to improve Sycamore Square. Some issues were familiar, like permit parking, and there were few volunteers to lead campaigns on the issues. Bulky items has become an issue for many residents and the issue of holding neighbors accountable for nuisance issues like bulky trash. There was a feeling that the survey elicited a very low response, given the density of the neighborhood. There was a discussion on how to increase neighbor involvement, including the idea of an outreach campaign focused on the use of the adjective "Squares" to describe our residents (Hello Squares!; Are you a Square?). Like so many non-profits, as an entity, SSNA is challenged by the lack of resources for effective outreach and marketing. There was a discussion on the limited forms of outreach currently being done. It was agreed that there is a need to create an outreach action plan outside of the Board meetings. It was suggested that the 100/Annual Celebration Committee be tasked with developing an outreach plan that the Board could approve.
- c. Purple Line Extension First/Last mile Survey - Closes April 2. Conrad will be very active in sharing the Metro Survey with Sycamore Square residents, in an effort to have Sycamore Square well represented in the survey. Some of the issues identified

by the SSNA survey might be better addressed by the proposed Metro community improvements.

- d. SSNA Delegation of Duties - discussion tabled.

Quorum lost at 8:01 pm: Losing quorum brought up the issue around the scheduling of the monthly board meetings. Board to consider alternating monthly meetings between a weekday evening and Saturday mornings. As the city continues to open up, the Board agreed to work on a meet and greet with the neighbors to discuss this and the other survey issues.

- e. Traffic Mitigation funds - currently, the Department of Transportation has \$84,000 in an account earmarked for Sycamore Square to use in traffic mitigation projects. SSNA must partner with CD4 in working with DOT. Conrad read email communication with CD 4 on the proper use of these funds. Based on the results of the SSNA survey, possible matches include: tree trimming; curd painting, painting of cross walks, re-stripping.
- f. Safety for Pedestrians - issues similar to the aforementioned issue with the hostile neighbor riding a motorised scooter on the sidewalk will be addressed as safety issues by SSNA Board
- g. San Vicente Bike Lanes - Jonah will be attending an upcoming workshop scheduled to continue gathering community input on the plan. He will report back at the next Board meeting.
- h. All Season Brewing Co. - Conrad and Vero to meet with Steve, manager at the All Season Brewing to follow-up on post-opening issues and community feedback.

8. Officer and Committee Reports - No reports

9. Community Meeting Reports

- a. GWNC Elections: early results in.
GWNC Transportation Committee - will host an E-bike Town Hall meeting on March 25, 2021. Panelists will present options for residents to move around the city.
- b. Community-Police Advisory Board - Community Walk coordinated by Wilshire Division. LAPD sponsoring an opportunity to enjoy an evening walk with your neighbors and your local police officers. March 24, 2021, 6:00 pm; Poinsettia Park.
- c. Lane is looking at several green issues, including waste, recycling and composting, to share with the neighbors, with the goal of having Sycamore Square work towards becoming an example of a sustainable neighborhood. Examples include the Water for LA program, with the goal of getting residents aware and savvy regarding water conservation; and, the South Coast Air Quality Management District's Lawn Incentive Program to get battery operated machinery for property owners. Board members are encouraged to send announcements to the President or Secretary, in order to share with all neighbors by post/email.

10. Board Comments & Announcements

- a. Board Members Change in Stakeholder Status - Conrad will work with Jason to confirm his status.
- b. CD4 Call for Public Art and Blank Space <https://airtable.com/shr9NLOUT1kk9u3ZT>
CD 4 has asked for community assistance in promoting their events. SSNA will keep promoting the event to all residents
- c. Lane suggested that a letter be sent to CD Raman to thank her for her participation in the SSNA February meeting. Conrad to send the letter. Lane also followed-up on the plan to send a thank you letter to CM Ryu. Lane will send a draft to Vero, who will edit the draft and forward to Conrad for his signature and personal note.

11. **Scheduling of April 2021 Meeting:** meeting for April was not scheduled.
12. **Adjournment:** Meeting was adjourned at 9:25 pm