

Committee Members:

Susan Collins – Chair
Penny Gilbert - Secretary
Christy Adair
Penny Johnson
Barbara McDermott
Thelma Mericle
Jesse Smith
Cissy Varkey-Altamirano

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA



Sherman Oaks
Neighborhood Council



Sherman Oaks
Neighborhood Council
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Public Safety Committee

Meeting MINUTES

Tuesday March 14, 2023 at 6:30pm

In conformity with the 9/16/21 enactment of California Assembly Bill 361 (Rivas) and due to concerns over Covid-19, the Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Council’s Public Safety Committee meetings will be conducted entirely with a Call-In option or Internet-Based Service at this time.

Every person wishing to address the Committee must either dial **1-669-900-6833** and then enter **842 7040 8817** and then press # to join the meeting - or join the meeting from Zoom’s landing page using Webinar ID: **842 7040 8817**. If the public wishes to address the Committee on any agenda item before the Committee takes an action on an item, the Public will wait to be addressed by the presiding officer before commenting. If accessing the meeting by phone, the public is requested to press *9. If accessing by computer, public is requested to click on a “raise hand” button. Comments from the public on agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered. Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the agenda that are within the Committee’s jurisdiction will be heard during the Public Comment period. Please note that under the Brown Act, the Committee is prevented from acting on a matter that the public brings to its attention during the Public Comment period; however, the issue raised by a member of the public may become an item on a future committee meeting agenda. Public Comment is limited to 2 minutes per speaker unless adjusted by the presiding officer.

AB 361 Updates: Public Comment is not required to be submitted in advance of the meeting; only real-time public comment is required. If there are any broadcasting interruptions that prevent the public from observing or hearing the meeting, the meeting must be recessed or adjourned. If members of the public are unable to provide public comment or be heard due to issues within the Committee’s control, the meeting will be recessed or adjourned.

Notice to Paid Representatives

If you are compensated to monitor, attend, or speak at this meeting, City law may require you to register as a lobbyist and report your activity. See Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 48.01 et seq. More information is available at ethics.lacity.org/lobbying. For assistance, please contact the Ethics Commission at (213) 978-1960 or ethics.commission@lacity.org.

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

AGENDA

1. Call to Order at 6:35pm

2. Roll Call – Susan Collins, Christy Adair, Thelma Mericle, Cissy Varkey-Altamirano, Penny Johnson, Jesse Smith, Penny Gilbert
Absent, Barbara McDermott

3. Introductions & City Updates – Committee, City Officials and Staff : None

4. Sherman Oaks Senior Lead Officer Update - None

5. Public Comments –

Alan Scher, CPAB rep, introducing himself

Tip a Cop at Maria's Restaurant

All tips go to LAPD and Special Olympics

May 18 Active Shooter Discussion at the Buckley School

Brian Patton: Assembly Bill 335 reversing prop 57, stops misdemeanors from stacking. (Susan states the correct proposition is Prop 47)

6. Committee Response to Public Comment:

Q: Alan Scher who will participate in Active Shooter Drill?

A: Dept Chief Alan Hamilton and others from Command

To be held at Buckley School May 18 at 7pm, for 1 ½ hrs

7. Guest Speaker –

Jessica West, CA Dept of Fish and Wildlife

Q&A:

Q: Attendee, her neighborhood is having a coyote problem. They are bold and more numerous. Neighbors are upset.

A: Jessica needs to know how long this behavior has been going on. It is mating season so increased there are increased numbers and boldness is not too unusual. Wondering if neighbors are accidentally leaving food around or if there is a den nearby? Suggestion to follow-up with neighbors and CA Dept of Fish and Wildlife.

Q: Attendee: are there more coyotes today?

A: Can't really quantify numbers, just perhaps more visible.

Q: Can you shoot them if they are on your property?

A: In urban or suburban areas, and according to local ordinances.

Q: Committee Member—are coyotes tagged?

A: That is considered lethal management.

Q: Is it illegal to feed stray cats as sign indicates at Van Nuys Court House?

A: Unsure if there is an ordinance to feed cats.

Q: Pair of ducks visiting pools in the area, female looking to nest.

Once eggs are laid and ducklings hatch, can the entire family be moved to a more hospitable location such as the Sepulveda Basin?

A: Jessica indicates there is nothing that can legally be done.

Q: Not experienced with aggressive coyotes, but finds she is sometimes stalked by coyotes while she is walking her dog at night.

A: In Aug, Sept, a coyote may view the dog as competitor, intruder or as a reaction to their being close by the coyote's den and escort or shadow a person or dog away. The action can be interpreted as stalking. If a coyote will not move away after being yelled or hazed, a person should just move away, back away slowly.

Q: Is there a deterrent spray for coyotes?

A: Nothing for coyotes but for bears. Some say actual coyote urine will keep them and other critters away. There is no proof of this being true.

Q: Is there a way to remove them if they are on a property, living there?

A: Animal Control might assist.

8. Final Committee Business and Announcements:

Susan - Reminds everyone to join SONC Board. Talk to friends and neighbors to join Neighborhood Council,

Christy - Suggests sending friends/neighbors to SONC website to join SONC. There is a listing for all the necessary docs to join the Board.

Christy - CERT training at the Galleria begins May 2nd for 7 weeks, 20 seats left. Sign up on Evenbrite: Disaster Preparedness Fair March 25 at Pierce College

Cissy - Asks if there is a kid version of CERT?

Christy- There is a teen version taught in schools

Christy - Meetings next month might be in-person meetings.

Thelma - Crosswalk at Kester in Ernie's Walk, has asked Ryan Ahari to work with DOT.

Penny Johnson - Responds to Thelma Mericle, there was a crosswalk approved before COVID in this location, but now DOT HAS no money for crosswalks.

Cissy - says the cost to install crosswalk lights at a crosswalk (per Ryan Ahari) is an estimated \$1 million, there's not enough funding, so DOT removed crosswalks to prevent safety hazards in certain places.

Lindsey - SB411 passed regarding public meetings.

9. Adjourn: 7:57pm

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE RESOURCES:

- For **LAFD CERT** information, check the www.CERT-LA.com website
- For Emergency Preparedness Continuing Education classes, sign up at join.ntp-la.org
- For **Map Your Neighborhood**, contact Barbara at Barbara.McDermott.Sonc@gmail.com
- For **Neighborhood Watch Groups**, contact Cissy at Cissy.Altamirano.Sonc@gmail.com
- To **SUBSCRIBE** to receive monthly meeting announcements and agendas, contact: SoncPScommittee@gmail.com
- For **Neighborhood Watch** info, contact your local Senior Lead Officer (“SLO”). To find your SLO: <https://www.lapdonline.org/> | Your LAPD | Find Your Local Police Station
- For **LAPD volunteer opportunities**, contact Officer Jason Jimenez in the Community Relations Office at 38903@lapd.online, or call (818) 374-5420.

ONGOING RADIO COMMUNICATIONS PRACTICE OPPORTUNITIES:

Weekly Walkie-Talkie Radio Check-In: Every Sunday at 10am: Channel 20 (or Ch 16 if 20 is busy), we check-in around the Valley to see how far our voices can be heard. We practice checking-in, moving locations around the home until someone can hear us. Simple radios are a good source of emergency communication with your immediate area which could help if we experience a valley-wide disaster. The PSC suggests you pull-out a walkie, put in fresh batteries, and listen to next Sunday’s net to see if you can hear anyone.

Weekly Sunday Morning Lake Balboa Amateur Radio Net: Every Sunday at 9am on Simplex 145.570 we have a weekly net for Ham Radio Operators transmitting around the SF Valley and beyond. It is a formal, but friendly, net where information is exchanged on a variety of topics. It is especially great net for NEW Hams.

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PUBLIC ACCESS OF RECORDS

In compliance with Government Code section 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the board in advance of a meeting may be viewed at our website: www.ShermanOaksNC.org or at the scheduled meeting. In addition, if you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, please email the SONC Secretary at: stacey.segarra.bohlinger.sonc@gmail.com

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Sherman Oaks Public Library, 14245 Moorpark Street, SO, CA 91423 and www.ShermanOaksNC.org

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RECONSIDERATION AND GRIEVANCE PROCESS -- For information on the NC's process for committee action reconsideration, stakeholder grievance policy, or any other procedural matters related to this Council, please consult the NC Bylaws. The Bylaws are available at our Board meetings and our website www.ShermanOaksNC.org.