

**BEL AIR-BEVERLY CREST NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
December 17, 2008
Community Magnet School
11301 Bellagio Road
Los Angeles, CA 90049**

For Review

Persons in Attendance

Quorum: 12

2008 Stakeholder Groups with Certified Representatives	Present	Absent
<i>Bel-Air Association</i>		
Eric Ridgely	X	
Andrew Schwartz		X
Paulette DuBey	X	
<i>Bel-Air Crest Master Homeowner Association</i>		
Irene Sandler	X	
<i>Bel-Air Park HOA</i>		
Gary Plotkin	X	
<i>Benedict Canyon Association</i>		
Joshua Berman		X
Alan Fine	X	
Don Loze	X	
Nickie Miner	X	
<i>Benedict Hills Estates Association</i>		
Ed Brody		X
<i>Beverly Glen Park HOA</i>		
Larry Leisten	X	
<i>Crests Neighborhood Association</i>		
Ron Galperin		X
<i>Employee Associations</i>		
Marcia Selz		X
<i>Faith-Based Organizations</i>		
		X
<i>Glenridge HOA</i>		
Jerry Appel		X
<i>Holmby Hills Homeowners Association</i>		
Avi Rojany		X
<i>7-12 Private Schools</i>		
John Amato		X
<i>7-12 Public Schools</i>		
Pam Marton	X	
<i>K-6 Private Schools</i>		
Vicki Kelly	X	
<i>Laurel Canyon Association</i>		
Monica Weil		X
Cassandra Barrère		X
Gary Gole	X	
Jim Nelson		X
<i>Lookout Mountain Alliance</i>		
Christopher Carradine		X
<i>Members-at-Large</i>		
Carol Sidlow	X	
Charles Maginnis	X	
<i>Moraga-Sepulveda Business Area</i>		
Ron Hudson	X	
<i>Residents of Beverly Glen</i>		
Pam Cooke		X
Robert Ringler	X	
<i>Roscomare Valley Association</i>		

Robin Greenberg	X	
Steve Twining	X	
<i>Santa Monica Mountain Conservancy</i>		
Carolyn Carradine		X
<i>Save Our Strip</i>		
Mark Krajewski		X
GG Verone		X

From DONE: Deanna Stevenson

From CD5 Office: Sonia Kwon

From the Mayor's Office: None

Roll Call (Agenda Item #1)

- President Robert Ringler called the meeting to order at 7:23 p.m.
- Irene Sandler called the roll. There was a quorum.

Introductions (Agenda Item #2)

- No introductions.

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting (Agenda Item #3)

- Paulette DuBey made motion to approve the minutes. Alan Fine seconded. Chuck Maginnis commented on a correction of leaving out the "seconded" in the second motion of the Treasurer's Report. Steve Twining moved to approve minutes as corrected. Paulette DuBey seconded. Motion approved unanimously with corrections by voice vote

Public Comments (Item #4)

- No public comments.

President's Report (Agenda Item #5)

- President Ringler updated on a December 10th DWP meeting regarding Stone Canyon Reservoir. He stated the meeting was to gather input from the community members on the tanks at the Reservoir.
- Steve Twining commented he considered the meeting to be attended by residents that are opposed to the buried tanks and the possibility of a park that may attract people outside the community.
- President Ringler stated that the NC was on record supporting the buried tanks. He stated that the concerns at the meeting were: People outside of the community at the park; Fire dangers; Property values going down; and the cost to bury the tanks.
- Pam Marton asked if Federal money was available for the project. President Ringler stated that there is no money available right now.
- Nickie Miner asked for clarification of which Reservoir the Fire Department obtains water for fires. President Ringler stated the Lower Reservoir water is used by LAFD.
- Steve Twining commented that the hiking trails portion of the project were to be created regardless if the tanks are buried.
- President Ringler stated the information was construed negatively to reflect the costs, machinery and length of the project.
- Carol Sidlow commented on the Hollywood Reservoir as an example and the efforts to co-exist with the neighbors in the area.
- President Ringler stated that the project is still in the beginning stages and the Council should voice its opinion as the project moves forward.
- Larry Leisten asked what communities were present at the meeting. President Ringler commented that residents from the surrounding areas were present.
- Larry asked whether the NCs position was final or subject to change (pending newly surfaced opposition).. President Ringler stated that the NC has supported the buried tanks and would follow the project during the EIR comment period.
- President Ringler updated on a town hall meeting on December 11th regarding the deployment of West LA Police Officers to two new substations. There are a total of 16 officers that will be

deployed for a period of about six months. The meeting was well attended by the community and the Police Chief informed that the deployment is necessary.

- Irene Sandler commented that Councilman Jack Weiss was in support of the deployment and was concerned with his position.
- Alan Fine stated the Chief commented on 1,000 new officers, with 500 already in the academy and the other 500 starting the academy. The other information presented was an average response time of seven minutes.
- Don Loze commented on the Councilman Weiss' position of the deployment and stated that a letter should be sent asking the Councilman to change his position.
- Nickie Miner agreed with Don and commented on the Councilman's lack of attendance at the town hall meeting.
- Sonia Kwon, Field Deputy for Councilman Weiss, stated the Councilman was not able to attend.
- President Ringler stated that the lack of the Councilman's attendance did not speak well for the constituents of District 5.
- Don Loze asked what the timeframe of the officers in the academy would be before they are at substations and why the two new substations could not be opened once more officers were available. Paulette DuBey commented that opening the substations is more cost effective than not.
- President Ringler asked that a motion be drafted for the January meeting regarding the deployment of the West LA Police Officers.

Treasurer's Report (Agenda Item #6)

- Alan Fine updated on the payment of the sprinkler system for the Laurel Canyon Beautification. There are three outstanding bills awaiting payment from DONE for the Wonderland School bookcases, stage lights for the Community Magnet School and the Mulholland/Laurel Canyon Land Acquisition.
- Alan stated the Neighborhood Purpose Grant may be available in January for the Mulholland/Land Acquisition.
- Carol Sidlow asked if proposals were still being accepted. Alan said that proposals are always welcomed.
 - ◆ **Motion** to approve the Treasurer's Report. Ron Hudson made motion. Steve Twining seconded. **Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.**

Bylaws/ Rules Committee Report (Agenda Item #7)

- Larry Leisten briefed on the revisions that were sent out to the board members for Draft Revisions Phases I and II.
- He stated the Council has approved some revisions in 2007, such as adding Lookout Mountain and Crests neighborhood, to the Membership, adjusting the representation for Educational Institutions, and creating the positions of Immediate Past President and the President *Emeritus*. The purpose of the discussion is to gather topics for discussion at the next Bylaws & Rules Committee meeting in January.
- Gary Plotkin asked if a motion would be on the agenda in January meeting to pass the revised Bylaws. Larry stated there would be no motion until the revisions have been discussed at the Committee and Board level.
- President Ringler asked if there were any comments on the Revisions of Phases I and II.
- Alan Fine commented that his comments were e-mailed to Larry and discussed his concern with the words "member" and "representative" to describe the individuals on the Council.
- Larry stated that the definitions of such words would be discussed at the next Bylaws meeting and encouraged everyone to attend.
- Deanna Stevenson commented that she would like to attend the meeting and the City may move toward establishing regularized Bylaws for Neighborhood Councils.
- Larry stated the Committee had not moved forward because the Committee was sidetracked last year first by pressing efforts to amend the NCs Elections Procedures & pertinent sections of the Bylaws, then to address denial by the City Clerk to hold the NC's at-large election in 2008, & finally, to create the office of immediate past president & president emeritus. Larry reminded the NC that the Phase I revisions have been in members' possession for sometime, & the

Committee had responded to a NC request for a more comprehensive set of revisions which have been delivered to the NC in November.

- Larry encouraged the Council to provide comments now to avoid an extensive discussion once the motion is set before the Council. He stated that he received the Encino Bylaws sent by Gary Plotkin and incorporated some information into the revisions.
- Gary Plotkin stated his concern with not moving forward with approving the revisions and would like to set a deadline. Larry replied that a deadline of mid-year 2009 had already been established due to the need to submit the Bylaws to DONE for approval prior to year end so that at large elections may be held in 2010, as voted by the NC last year.
- Larry stated that Pam Cooke commented on the lack of movement by the Committee in early 2008 and as result the Committee decided to create the Phases of the Revisions to present to the Council. He stated his concern with presenting the revisions all at once and wanted the Phases to allow comments in each Phase.
- The committee will meet in January to prepare a list of issues for Board discussion of the Bylaw Revisions at the next practicable NC meeting.

Planning and Land Use Committee (Agenda Item #8)

- Carol Sidlow commented that there were several projects in the Laurel Canyon Association and wanted to know the position of the Association on the projects.
- Gary Gole asked that the address be sent to the members of the Association to review the projects to provide a position. Carol stated the information is sent to all members and encourage everyone to please provide any information on the positions of their Associations.
- Carol briefed on the Committee's opposition to a request for a height variance for a fence at 1406 – 1408 Sunset Plaza.
- She briefed on two presentations at the Committee meeting: (1) 10505 Mars Lane for 11 single family lots in excess of 15,000 sq. ft. each. The BAA and the Committee will follow the project and report back to the Council; and (2) 620 Stone Canyon request for a variance to permit construction, use and maintenance of two additional kitchens and seven wet bars. The Committee voted to support the request.
- Information was distributed regarding a project at the Skirball Cultural Center and Carol stated Gary Plotkin will be the contact for the project and information.
- Don Loze updated on the Ridgeline Ordinance and still waiting for information from City staff. He commented that Ridgeline Ordinance should be disconnected from the Mansionization Ordinance and the Council should take the leadership on the issue and approach other NCs for support.
- He would like the Committee to meet with the City staff on the County's exiting Ridgeline Ordinance and discuss the issue.
- Irene Sandler asked for clarification of how many NCs would be approached. Carol stated that all NCs would be approached to push a motion to the City Council.
- President Ringler suggested approaching the Westside Alliance and Councilman Bill Rosendahl regarding the issue.
- Carol stated a letter will be sent to Jane Usher thanking her for her service as President on the City Planning Commission and a letter to the new President, Sean Burton. She stated the Committee supported the Westside Alliance motions that are also on the agenda for a vote.

Mayor's Office Report (Agenda item #9)

- No Report.

Council District #5 Report (Agenda item #10)

- Sonia Kwon commented that she is scheduled to speak to Erik Lopez of the Planning Department in January, regarding the Ridgeline Ordinance and will update the Council at the next meeting.
- She stated that Joan Pelico had meetings with LADOT and Street Services regarding the resurfacing of Coldwater Canyon for the next fiscal year. There are construction issues that are being resolved.

- She reported LADOT completed the plans to install a left turn protected arrow going south bound on Laurel Canyon at the intersection at Crescent Heights. She will update the Council on when the signal will be installed.
- She reported on repeated street work on Mountcrest Ave due to a water leak and DWP will conduct a through investigation for a permanent repair.
- Carol Sidlow thanked the Councilman for the ongoing Sewer Program and the crews that are operating the program.
- Ron Hudon stated water runs down Bellagio Road to Nacanto St. and Ovada Place onto Sepulveda creating holes. He commented that Street Services made repairs several times and still needs attention.
- Carol Sidlow stated the Sewer Program is effective due to the outreach efforts regarding the program.
- Larry Leisten asked when the resurfacing Coldwater would take place. Sonia stated there is no commitment to an actual date; however, Joan Pelico is working on the issue as well.
- Steve Twining asked if there was any information about the landslide on Laurel Canyon. Sonia stated that the issue is in litigation and there should be tarps in the area.
- Carol Sidlow asked about the Billboard motion by the Councilman. Sonia passed out a press release from the Councilman's office regarding the approval of an Interim Control Ordinance to stop the installation of new off-site signs in the City.

DONE Report (Agenda item #11)

- Deanna Stevenson passed out the Community Budget Survey for members to fill out if they have not completed one.

Westside Regional Alliance of Neighborhood Councils (Agenda Item #12)

- ◆ **Motion** to support the Westside Regional Alliance of NC's pledges to make Emergency Preparedness a top priority and to identify resources to help our communities. Steve Twining made motion. Motion seconded. **Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.**
- ◆ **Motion** to support the Westside Regional Alliance of NC's will work together and with other Alliances, Government offices and Agencies to share Best Practices, information and resources. Steve Twining made motion. Chuck Maginnis seconded. **Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.**
- ◆ **Motion** to support the Westside Regional Alliance of NC's will develop a Master Calendar for EP (including choosing evacuation/gathering places and locations to store emergency supplies). Steve Twining made motion. Paulette DuBey seconded. **Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.**
- ◆ **Motion** to support the Westside Regional Alliance of NC's to implement and/or refine the Incident Command Structure so that there is cohesion in all responses throughout the Westside. Steve Twining made motion. Motion seconded. **Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.**
- ◆ **Motion** to support the Westside Regional Alliance of NC's to implement and/or refine the Incident Command Structure so that there is cohesion in all responses throughout the Westside. Steve Twining made motion. Motion seconded. **Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.**
- ◆ **Motion** to support the request that:
 1. Early Notification of all applications to the Department of City Planning, the Bureau of Engineering and to the Department of Building and Safety shall be sent to all impacted certified Neighborhood and Community Councils recognized by their Councilperson (hereafter, "council"), and the applicant shall be required to send notice, by certified RRR mail, to the applicable council, of all subsequent requests for modifications, adjustments, amendments, alterations, or revisions to the application.
 2. Planning and Building and Safety shall review all such applications, and such review shall include, prior to approval, compliance with all relevant Community Plans, Specific Plans, and Overlay Districts.
 3. With respect to all applications to Planning and Building and Safety for which a public hearing is not required, notice shall be sent to the applicable council of the terms of the proposed approval, no later than 10 calendar days prior to issuance of the approval, and

consideration shall be given by the decision maker to any objections, comments, or questions submitted in writing by the applicable council during the 10-day period.

4. Planning and Building and Safety shall each establish an ombudsman or community advocate who is accessible to officers of a council and whose responsibilities shall include facilitating access to Department personnel, procedures, and documents.

Steve Twining made motion. Paulette DuBey seconded. **Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.**

- ◆ **Motion** to support the request that the Los Angeles City Council be requested to supply each Neighborhood or Community Council with an accounting of both 5117 parking funds, and Quimby Funds for its district. Steve Twining made motion. Larry Leisten seconded. **Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.**
- ◆ **Motion** to support the adoption of an Interim Control Ordinance (ICO) / moratorium as proposed by the City Planning Commission temporarily prohibiting the installation of all new offsite advertising signs and supergraphic signs, as well as prohibiting alteration to existing offsite signs and supergraphic signs, until a new offsite sign ordinance can be developed, adopted and implemented. There should be no exceptions that might weaken the enforceability of the moratorium. Steve Twining made motion. Larry Leisten seconded. **Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.**
- ◆ **Motion** to support the request that as gridlock is a major quality of life issue, the City of Los Angeles City Council is hereby requested to implement an enforcement mechanism and fine system to alleviate the constant gridlock in intersections in the City Limits. While the City has found it both effective and profitable to implement "Tiger Teams" to clear "No Parking, Tow Away Zones" during peak hours, the city has been unable to control gridlock. Steve Twining made motion. Larry Leisten seconded. **Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.**
- ◆ **Motion** to support that the Los Angeles City Council be requested to amend the working documents for Neighborhood and Community Councils, thereby allowing N.C./C.C.'s the right to appeal city department decisions. Steve Twining made motion. Paulette DuBey seconded. **Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.**

Public Safety/Disaster Preparedness (Agenda Item #13)

- No report.

Office Report (Agenda Item #14)

- No report.

Outreach Committee (Agenda Item #15)

- Robin Greenberg passed out a media contact list.
- Alan Fine asked if a newsletter would be sent out. Robin stated that one would be created during the New Year.

Traffic Committee (Agenda Item #16)

- President Ringler reported there is no meeting in January.

Public Schools Update (Item #17)

- Pam Marton announced that school would be out soon for the Holiday Break.

New Business/General Announcements (Item #18)

- Steve Twining requested the purchase of a laptop to be used at the Planning and Land Use Committee meetings.
- President Ringler stated the request would be discussed at the Executive Committee.
- President Ringler thanked Marcia Selz for hosting a non-official Holiday Party
- Steve Twining thanked Vicki Kelly for her help with the party.

Paulette DuBey made motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Irene Sandler
Recording Secretary