

**BEL AIR-BEVERLY CREST NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
July 22, 2009
Community Magnet School
11301 Bellagio Road
Los Angeles, CA 90049**

Final

Persons in Attendance

Quorum: 12

2009 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>		
Michael Chasteen	X	
Alan Fine	X	
Don Loze	X	
Paul Rohrer for 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>		
Lonnie Mayfield		X
<i>Bel Air Ridge HOA</i>		
Andre Stojka	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>North Beverly Drive/Franklin Canyon Homeowners Association</i>		
		X
<i>Residents of Beverly Glen</i>		
Ramin Kolahi	X	
Robert A, Ringler	X	

Roscomare Valley Association		
Robin Greenberg	X	
Steve Twining	X	
Santa Monica Mountain Conservancy		
Carolyn Carradine		X
Save Our Strip		
Mark Krajewski	X	
GG Verone	X	

From DONE: None

From CD5 Office: Jeff Ebenstein and Shawn Bayliss

From the Mayor's Office: Jennifer Badger

From 42nd Assembly District – Haeyoung Kim and Ellen Isaacs

Roll Call (Agenda Item #1)

- President Ringler called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.
- Marcia Selz called role. A quorum was present.
- President Ringler stated Ramin Kolahi replaced Pam Cooke

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting (Agenda Item #2)

- ◆ **Motion** to approve the minutes from June 24, 2009. Alan Fine made motion. Motion seconded. **Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.**

- Larry Leisten stated Beverly Glen Park has officially changed its name Bel -Air Glen and should be reflected on future minutes and roll call,

Public Comments (Item #3)

- Public Speaker Kristine Udall passed out two letters dated June 24 and July 19 2009, to the Council regarding the Tier system used by LADWP and the water restrictions. She commented on her concerns with the impact the water restrictions will have for everyone in the NC area. She asked the Council to make a recommendation to DWP and the City Council to change the way in which these allotments are given: 1) to reflect the number of people in a household; 2) adjust for the square footage ration of structures on a property to the lot size; 3) and five credits for water saving implements already in place.
- Steve Twining stated he attended a meeting where LADWP Senior Assistant General Manager, Water System Jim McDaniel, commented on creating a six point plan that will include changes to certain codes for new construction.
- He stated there might be a program to allow gray water to be used for landscaping.
- President Ringler stated Jane Galbraith from LADWP would be presenting information and may be able to answer questions and concerns.
- Public Speaker Robert Davenport spoke regarding vacant land he owns in the NC area and wanting to swap City owned with his properties. He stated the policy would help with consolidation of empty lots and will prevent more homes being built. The City does not currently have a policy in place and he asked the Council for support to contact the City for the need of such a policy
- Steve Twining asked how large the lots were. Robert Davenport stated there were 5,000 sq. ft.
- Ron Galperin stated there are City employees who work on disposition of City properties and asked if the lots were City or County owned. Robert Davenport stated the properties he would like to swap with are in fact City owned.
- Robert Davenport stated the policy would be beneficially to the hillsides and the City.
- Ron Galperin stated he would contact Mr. Davenport regarding this issue.

Guest Speaker Jane Galbraith (Agenda Item #4)

- Jane Galbraith thanked the Council for the invitation to speak at the meeting. She presented information on the LADWP water restrictions and shortage year rates. She stated the water for the City is imported from the Sierra in Northern California. Several legal rulings in Sacramento, water is restricted from pumping in Southern California. 35% of the City's water comes from the import and 65% from the MET Pump Water District. MET has now restricted LADWP's

allotment and purchases and resources are down. LADWP only services the City of Los Angeles, though the need for cutback was required to 15% of allotment per customer.

- She stated two years the Mayor asked everyone for a voluntary cutback by 10%. Only 5% of compliance was met. Another year of drought and MET's reduction of allocation has led to the mandatory cutbacks. The cutback is for the outside usage because between 40 and 70 percent of water is used on landscaping in the City.
- The Shortage Year Rates formula is being implemented per household. The formula uses the figures of six people per household, zip code and lot size to determine the HCF water bill. The Tier One water was reduced by 15%. Water will not be disconnected if a customer uses more than allotted, but they will move beyond the Tier One category.
- She commented on the water restrictions of allowing only two days for watering and the reporting of misuse of water. The City Council approved an appeal process for Parks and Golf Courses.
- Gary Plotkin commented on customers not adhering to the watering restrictions. He asked if there was enough enforcement from LADWP to patrol areas or if the response was only from people reporting misuse. Jane Galbraith stated the department is under staffed, though response to customers can report misuse by phone or email at waterconservationteam@ladwp.com. She also stated that if they are inspecting a site and see other violations, they can issue a citation.
- Vickie Kelly commented on the hillside areas and the need for consideration of water usage in these areas to avoid brush fires. Jane Galbraith stated there are no exemptions for the hillsides and the restrictions are for the entire City.
- Don Loze commented on communication between LAFD's Board of Commissioners and LADWP regarding the hillsides. Jane Galbraith stated hand watering is still allowed 7 days a week.
- President Ringler asked for contact information for questions regarding the restrictions. Jane Galbraith stated she could be contacted at 213-367-8721 or jane.galbraith@ladwp.com.
- Don Loze asked how to find out the size of a lot. Jane Galbraith stated the size of the lot is listed with LA County Assessor.
- Jane Galbraith announced a new program where LADWP will pay customers \$1 per sq ft to take out lawn. She encouraged everyone to visit www.socalwatersmart.com.

President's Report (Agenda Item #5)

- President Ringler announced a meeting with the METRO Board regarding the Long Term Transportation Plan at 1 Gateway Plaza at 9:30 am.
- He asked if anyone seen brown sunglasses with glitter on the side, to notify Marcia Selz. They sunglasses were left at the last meeting.
- Marcia Selz stated she has checked with the lost and found at the school, but the sunglasses were not there.

Treasurer's Report (Agenda Item #6)

- The Treasurer's report was passed out to all Board Members.
- Alan Fine stated the new budget of \$45,000 should have been received on July 1st.
- He stated the pending funds for the Beverly Glen Tree Trimming Project is being processed with the proper invoice.
- He stated the Fire Station 99 funding through the Neighborhood Purpose Grant will be submitted once the paperwork is completed.
- He commented on the need to correct the funding amount for the Community Magnet Schools' Mentoring Computer Software and will wait for Pam Marton to make the correction.

- ◆ **Motion** to approve the Treasurer's report. Alan Fine made motion. Larry Leisten seconded. Discussion was held. **Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.**

Bylaws/ Rules Committee Report (Agenda Item #7)

- Larry Leisten stated he spoke with representative from the City Clerk's Office regarding the Elections Stipulation Procedures Worksheet submitted in May. He was informed that the BABCNC 2006 Bylaws will be applicable for the election, and that BABCNC At-Large Election will be held on a Sunday, April, 11, 2010.

- He stated the Clerk's Office was concerned with the membership count, since the 2006 Bylaws did not include Lookout Mountain Alliance and one less representative for Education Institutions. He explained the situation and was notified that the Clerk's Office would approve the Worksheet subject to discussion with DONE.
- He has communicated with Deanna Stevenson regarding conversation with City Clerk's Office, as well as pending issuance of letter from DONE in response to BABCNC's application to amend its Bylaws back in May.

Planning and Land Use Committee (Agenda Item #8)

- Carol Sidlow reported on two actions made by the committee:
 - Motion to oppose the request for variance at 1426 Queens Rd for a rear set back of 4 to 5 feet in lieu of the 15 feet otherwise required by the Code.
 - Motion to oppose the request for variance at 658 Nimes for a 10 ft height increase
- She updated on the 11025 Anzio Rd hearing later this month and the committee opposed the project in June.
- She stated the applicant for 10501 Seabury Lane has appealed the denial of the variance and the hearing will be scheduled sometime in September. The committee originally opposed the project and can resubmit the letter of opposition if requested by the Residents of Beverly Glen.
- She briefed on an updated regarding the Baseline Mansionization Ordinance with respect to the issue of the "hillside" definition. The subject was discussed at the City's PLUM Committee and held over till September.
- She commented on her request for a Representative from the Engineer Department of LADWP to address the issue of power outages in the hillside area. She asked that Council Members submit questions or concerns to the BABCNC Office with specific dates and times of occurrences.
- Steve Twining commented on his discussion of Mansionization with Marcia Groves of the LA Times and her experience on the issue.
- He asked if anyone has information or the article from the LA Times regarding Gray Water, to please let him know.
- Don Loze briefed on issue of the "hillside" definition with respect to the Baseline Ordinance being discussed by PLUM. Property along Ventura Blvd would be considered "flatland" and the Sherman Oaks area has asked for more time to sturdy the issue.
- Carol Sidlow thanked Don Loze for attending the meetings regarding the Baseline Ordinance.

Mayor's Office Report (Agenda item #9)

- Jennifer Badger commented on the Mayor being sworn into office early this month. The Mayor outlined five policies: 1) job creation; 2) break addiction to coal; 3) public safety; 4) transportation infrastructure; 5) reform failed schools.
- She encouraged everyone to visit the Mayor's website, www.mayor.lacity.org for information as well as Facebook and Twitter for updates. The Mayor is starting a weekly segment, "Ask the Mayor" on his website.
- She announced the Congress of Neighborhoods and Budget Day on October 10th and asked the Council to select 2 representatives to attend.

Council District #5 Report (Agenda item #10)

- Jeff Ebenstein introduced himself as the Field Deputy for Councilman Koretz's office for the NC area.
- He stated he is a Board Member for the Sherman Oaks NC and is aware of the Councils responsibilities. His contact information is 818-971-3088 or effrey.ebenstein@lacity.org.
- Shawn Bayliss introduced himself as the Planning Deputy for the NC area.
- He stated he looks forward to working on the planning issues for the area and can be reached at 818-971-3088 or at shawn.bayliss@lacity.org.
- President Ringler stated the Planning and Land Use Committee is very active and welcomed the opportunity to work on the issue with the Co-Chairs and Committee. Shawn Bayliss stated his goal was to have more presence in the hillside area and attend meetings when possible.

- Mark Krajewski asked if the Councilman would be supportive to the West Hollywood and Sunset Community area. Shawn Bayliss stated the Councilman is aware of the concerns with respect to community and businesses in the area.
- Marcia Selz announced the Homeowners Coalition Meeting on August 8th and Councilman Koretz's attendance. She invited both Jeff and Shawn to attend and asked if any Council Members has any questions for the Councilman, please email them to her.
- Field Deputy Jeff Ebenstein announced District Office hours on 7/23/09 at the West LA office and 7/30/09 at the Valley office from 3-5 pm.

DONE Report (Agenda item #11)

No report.

42nd Assembly District Report (Agenda Item 12)

- Haeyoung Kim introduced herself as the new Field Representative for Assemblyman Mike Feuer and thanked the Council for the invitation to attend the meetings.
- She invited everyone to sign up to receive the Assemblyman's newsletters and passed out recent press releases from the office on current issues the Assemblyman is addressing.
- President Ringler commented on the catering trucks litigation and the concerns of traffic safety. The need for State law to change will help alleviate some of the issues.
- Transportation Deputy Ellen Isaacs commented the State budget cuts and the concerns of those cuts effecting services locally.
- She stated the Metro Board meeting tomorrow will consider to adopt the Long Range Transportation Plan. The vote may move certain projects to the funded portion of the Plan, which includes projects in West LA and the Valley. Support from the West Side is encouraged at the meeting to show the need for the projects to be funded.

Public Safety/Disaster Preparedness (Agenda Item #13)

- Chuck Maginnis commented on brush clearance crews and the concern with fire safety.
 - ◆ **Motion** to approve send a letter to LAFD and other departments regarding brush clearance and the following questions:
 1. What are the Fire Code requirements with respect to brush clearance in High Fire Severity Zones?
 2. How is brush clearance monitored by the LAFD?
 3. What tested fire suppression equipment must be provided during brush clearance?
 4. Do those performing the work need to be bonded and insured?
 5. How are violations enforced?
 6. Has the LAFD investigated a City-wide (24) hour hotline for property owners to notify LAFD within 48 hours of scheduled brush clearance?
- Carol Sidlow made motion. Steve Twining seconded. Discussion was held. **Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.**

[There should be reference here to my "friendly motion" to include increase fire risk due to LADWP recently imposed water restrictions.](#)

- Senior Lead Officer Chris Ragsdale passed out information for the West LA area from 6/21 – 7/18.
- He reported a Basic Car decrease of 14% and the hillsides are doing well with respect to activity.
- He reminded of property crime as an issue and theft of property from a vehicle.
- There is a community alert for street robbery and he passed information of the crime and a description of the suspect.
- President Ringler commented on the non-enforcement of catering trucks and he request for the State law to address the issue. Officer Ragsdale stated because of the litigation, they are not enforcing the time restraint, with the exception of permitted parking areas.

Office Report (Agenda Item #14)

- David Espinoza passed out the new Board Operations Manuel and thanked Marcia Selz for her help with the manuals information. The manuals have the 2006 Bylaws and once the new bylaws are approved, they will be email to everyone.
- Marcia Selz stated the manual is always a work in progress and asked if anyone has their old binders to please turn them into the office.
- David Espinoza updated on the office space. He has continued working with the Mayor's Office, DONE and CD 11 for a space at 1645 Corinth. There is an issue with the NC being in the CD 5 area and seeking office space in CD 11. He has asked Jeff Ebenstein in CD 5 to notify of any office space in the area.
- He stated the office furniture will be in a storage facility during the meantime and a PO Box will be obtained for mail.
- The telephone lines will be transferred to a voice messaging and can be accessed remotely. The goal is to obtain a free office space.
- President Ringler stated Jennifer Badger from the Mayor's office will be having a walk thru at the 1645 Corinth building to see what space is available. He has been in contact with CD 11 to communicate the NC's needs for an office space at the building.
- David Espinoza stated the new tenant for the 1525 S. Sepulveda office will be helping with the move to the storage facility and be taking the space as of August 1. The lease does not end till August 15th and the NC will be given half a month's rent (\$500) for the early departure.
- Don Loze commented if an office space can be found prior to August 15th, the NC should stay till the end of the lease. David Espinoza stated if a space is available at the 1645 Corinth building, there is a process that will take about a month or longer for the approval.
- Marica Selz thanked David Espinoza for his work the office issue.

Outreach Committee (Agenda Item #15)

- Robin Greenberg passed out information from the BABCNC website for everyone to review. There are new pictures on the site of Board Members and some are still missing.

Traffic Committee (Agenda Item #16)

- President Ringler announced the LAPD West Bureau Traffic Committee will be Tuesday, August 11, 8:30 a.m., West Los Angeles Community Police Station, 1663 Butler Avenue and passed out information from Metro.

Public Schools Update (Item #17)

- No report.

New Business/General Announcements (Item #18)

- Steve Twining commented on Councilwoman Hahn's consideration of taxing marijuana dispensaries. He stated the issue should be considered for revenue of the City.
- Marcia Selz stated some of the dispensaries are near school and there is community movement, lead by Jim O'Sullivan to legislate locations and number of these dispensaries.

Motion to Adjourn Meeting (Item #19)

Motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion made. Motion seconded. Meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David Espinoza
Executive Director