

**BEL AIR-BEVERLY CREST NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING
August 26, 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>		
Steven Rosenwasser for 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>Bel-Air Glen 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: Not Present

From CD5 Office: Jeff Ebenstein

From the Mayor's Office: Not Present

From 42nd Assembly District: Not Present

Roll Call (Agenda Item #1)

- President Ringler called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.
- David Espinoza called role. A quorum was present.

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

- ◆ **Motion** to approve the minutes from July 22, 2009. Alan Fine made motion. Motion seconded. Larry Leisten commented on the need for the following revisions in the Bylaws Agenda Item:

- 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.

David Espinoza noted Irene Sandler was not at the July meeting and her attendance should be corrected. Motion to approve the minutes as amended. Larry Leisten made motion. Andre Stojka seconded. **Motion approved by unanimous voice vote.**

Public Comments (Item #3)

- Public Speaker Kristine Udall commented on three letters that she has submitted to the Council regarding LADWP's water restrictions in the area. She commented the issue being a money raising tactic and asked what the NC will do to assist with those concerns.
- President Ringler stated there is a group meets regarding issues and advised Kristine Udall meet with the group to help facilitate communication with DWP at a different level. He stated there is an ongoing effort regarding the issue.
- Steve Twining commented on DWP's budget and stated he would discuss the information with Kristine after the meeting.
- Ramin Kolahi stated the rate increase was proposed from the City Council and should be addressed with the Councilman's Office.
- Don Loze stated there is discussion with Councilman's Office regarding water restrictions in the hillside areas.
- Larry Leisten asked how Kristine concluded the issue was money raising and not conservation. Kristine stated the rate increase due to conservation does not need approval from the Public Utility Commission.
- Ron Hudson commented on DWP filling dry lakes with water. Steve Twining stated DWP is required by law to fill the dry lake in question.
- President Ringler suggested a forming a committee to address DWP issues for the NC. Steve Twining and Ramin Kolahi stated they would serve on the Committee.

- Public Speaker Shirley Cohen commented on the Upper Stone Reservoir Canyon Project. She commented the project is to conserve the Canyon and claimed there is support from the Council Office and neighbors in the area. President Ringler stated there will be a discussion on the Project next month and the NC will invite representatives from DWP and other groups to participate.
- Public Speaker Mark Krajewski commented on project on Olive Street. The project is in West Hollywood and will demolish the House of Blues and build 4 high rise building, two on Sunset and two on Olive Street. The hearing is September 3rd and he asked for the Council's support against the project.
- President Ringler asked that the project be followed and the Council could vote at the next meeting on the project.
- Carol Sidlow stated the project will be on the Planning and Land Use Committee agenda next month. She stated if there is action needed before the hearing, to advise the Committee and a conference call can be requested.
- Public Speaker Robert Davenport updated his land swap concept and the Councilman's Office involvement with the issue. His properties are located in the Resident of Beverly Glen.
- Ramin Kolahi invited Robert Davenport to the Resident of Beverly Glen meetings to address the issue as well.

Guest Speakers – LAFD Battalion Chief Charles S. Butler- Fire Prevention
Trish Steele – Presentation Regarding Safe Passage (Agenda Item #4)

- Chuck Maginnis introduced Chief Butler and thanked him for attending the meeting to address Fire Prevention.
- Chief Butler stated he represented Battalion 14, which includes the Southeast San Fernando Valley, as well as Fire Station 108 and 97.
- He stated LAFD has different programs for Fire Prevention. The Red Flag Program is initiated by winds of 25 mph or higher during high temperatures and conditions. Fire Stations will raise a Red Flag during those days or individuals can call 311, check LAFD online to find out if it is a Red Flag Day and sign up to receive notifications. Additional resources are deployed to fire stations during Red Flag Days.
- Another program is the Brush Clearance, which is year round, with parcel inspections beginning May 1. There are 132,000 parcels in the high fire zones, 13 full time inspectors and 40 firefighters who assist with those inspections. If the property is not cleared, a notice to clear the property within 15 days is issued. A second inspection will be done after 15 days and if not cleared, a fine of \$300 is assessed, along with beginning a bid process for the brush clearance by a third party contract. A final inspection is done after the bid process is complete and if the property is still not cleared, a contractor will clear the brush. The property owner will be assessed an additional \$1300 administrative fee, plus the cost of the brush clearance.
- He encouraged everyone to view the LAFD website to find out all the information on brush clearance requirements and commented on ornamental vegetation, which is a concern due to the danger during a wind driven fire.
- Gary Plotkin commented on the concerns with the brush along the Mulholland Corridor. Chief Butler stated the property is State owned and LAFD has limited authority to enforce requirements to the Mountain Conservancy.
- Larry Leisten asked if there was a State Authority that could enforce the brush clearance. Chief Butler stated there the Mountain Recreation Conservation Authority does enforce regulations, for State and Federal property. The Authority does contract with LA County for brush clearance, however he did not have information on the standards used at that level.
- Don Loze stated there are properties along the Corridor owned by the City and asked how those properties are identified and cleared. Chief Butler stated the Fire Code only address brush clearance 200 ft from any structure. If the land is City owned and within the guidelines for brush clearance, the clearance begins in January to address those City owned properties.
- President Ringler commented on brush that is not within the 200 ft from a structure and therefore not regulated for clearance.
- Carol Sidlow asked if there was a way to work with the City and County on homes that are in tax default in need of brush clearance. Chief Butler stated LAFD does send out a contractor to clear those properties.

- She asked what tested fire suppression equipment must be provided during brush clearance by the property owner. Chief Butler stated if the property owner hires a contractor, there is no requirement for the equipment. LAFD is working with the City Council to revise the Fire Code to change the “no requirement”.
- She stated the revision is needed and there is a need to educate the public on the importance of the fire suppression equipment.
- Alan Fine asked if the Department was going to be affected by the City cutbacks. Chief Butler stated LAFD has a budget shortfall of between 40 – 50 million dollars. The cuts are being addressed by daily closures of 15 fire stations on a rotation cycle.
- Ramin Kolahi commented on the brush clearance inspector in the Beverly Glen area and thanked him for his hard work. He asked if it was illegal to smoke inside your vehicle with your windows up while driving through high fire zone areas. Chief Butler stated there is no smoking in those areas, however inside a vehicle with the windows up, is hard to enforce.
- He asked if there was any programs with the local fire stations to help enforce the “no smoking” in the areas, since there are commuters driving through the canyons. Chief Butler stated to contact the local fire station, however the enforcement is through LAPD. He encouraged working with both agencies.
- Don Loze suggested replacing the “No Smoking” signs throughout the canyons and placing a sign prior to entering the canyons. Chief Butler stated he would pass the information to the Fire Commission Bureau.
- John Amato asked why the parking enforcement during Red Flag Days starts at 10 am and not sooner. Chief Butler stated the most critical times are from about 11 am to 3 pm.
- President Ringler stated there is a concern with the properties that are not within the City’s jurisdiction and the importance of educating everyone and working with all agencies for brush clearance.

Presentation Regarding Safe Passage

- Trish Steele thanked the Council for the invitation to speak at the meeting and passed out information regarding Safe Passage, a Non-Profit 501(C)3 Corporation to shelter, educate, equip and direct women and their children to safety and survival of domestic violence. Ms. Steel is the founder of the organization that began ten years ago. She provided a video of the organization and its accomplishments.
- The program services the entire Los Angeles area and the women who are living in shelters. Once the time limit has ended to live in the shelters Safe Passages assists with education and reestablishing the women into new homes and jobs. The goal is for self-sufficiency and the organization assist the women with meeting those goals.
- The organization has developed a team of experts such as doctors, dentist, life coaches, beauty consultants, therapists, interior decorators and more professionals donating their time and services to women and children in need.
- She encouraged everyone to pass out information and educated their communities and schools regarding Safe Passage.
- She asked if anyone would like to contribute to the organization to please contact their office.
- Steve Twining asked if any Neighborhood Councils have contributed to the organization. Trish Steele stated other NCs have contributed with computers, grants and other resources.
- President Ringler thanked Trish for attending and presenting information to the Board. He encouraged everyone to share the information with their organizations.

President’s Report (Agenda Item #5)

- Steve Twining updated on the Subway Extension meeting. The subway will be built in four phases. The first phase will built to Fairfax Ave; second phase to Westwood/UCLA; third phase to West Hollywood; and fourth phase to the Sea. Subway locations is an issue and information was passed out regarding the project.

Treasurer’s Report (Agenda Item #6)

- The Treasurer’s report was passed out to all Board Members.
- Alan Fine stated the new fiscal year begun in July and there is \$66,000 in the budget. He will distribute a new budget next month.

- He stated he needed an updated request from Pam Marton regarding the Community Magnet School's request for funding the Mentoring Computer Software. The request needed to reflect \$2,500.
- There are pending projects related to Fire Stations 37, 71 and 99 and he will update the Board with any new information.
- He asked the Board Members to suggest what events should be the BABCNC Calendar that is sent out every two weeks. He commented on several past calendars that contained information on events outside the BABCNC area.

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

Planning and Land Use Committee (Agenda Item #7)

- Carol Sidlow reported on the following actions made by the committee:
 - Motion to oppose the request for an adjustment regarding a 0 front yard setback and encroachment into the public right of way at 8558 Crescent Drive.
 - Motion to support the RVA Architectural Committee and does not oppose the applicant's request to have a maximum height of 40' in lieu of the maximum permitted height of 36'.
 - Motion to support the Bel Air Association in their position which supports the applicant's request for the increase in height for the fence and gates at 1211 Casiano.
- She stated the representative, Chris Parker, for 760 Lausanne, 1524 Stone Canyon and 1150 La Collina briefed the committee on the projects and will attend the next meeting with more information. The committee asked for the list of neighbors that are in support of the project at 1150 La Collina.
- The committee voted to oppose a request for a haul route hearing and haul route in connection with 2244 Stanley Hills Drive and be denied or postponed until the foregoing objections are satisfied and adherence to the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy specifications for a wildlife corridor/conservation easement is formally agreed upon.
- The committee has opposed the project before and cited the following reasons for the recent opposition:
 1. 2244 Stanley Hills Drive has received no ZA determination with regard to the project and therefore, material facts and conditions necessary for determining the appropriateness and feasibility of a haul route are not available for consideration.
 2. A request for a waiver of a public hearing as a result of a private agreement resolution is contrary to public policy for transparency, and particularly when so many surrounding neighbors have expressed their opposition which would be a potential denial of due process.

◆ **Motion** to support the Committee's opposition to the project and send a letter to the ZA with the information referenced above. Gary Gole made motion. Steve Twining seconded. Discussion was held. 17 Yeas; 0 Nay; 1 Abstention (Ramin Kolahi). **Motion passed.**

Bylaws/ Rules Committee Report (Agenda Item #8)

- Larry Leisten reported DONE has not issued a letter in response to BABCNC's application to amend its Bylaws back in May.
- He has contacted both DONE and Deanna Stevenson regarding the application and their response. He stated Deanna emailed him early this evening that a response will be received next week.
- He stated once the letter is received, the committee can meet and present the information to the Board or the entire Board can review the letter and discuss at the next meeting.
- He stated the City Clerk's Office sent a form soliciting suggestions for polling sites for the At-Large Election. The form was sent out to all Members that must be approved by the NC, though the deadline to return the form was last week. He sent a letter to the Clerk's Office stating the time line wasn't sufficient for the NC. They responded the deadline was extended until Friday.
- He asked for suggestions for polling sites.

- Gary Plotkin suggested the Jewish American University.
- Alan Fine suggested the Wonderland School.
- President Ringler suggested Les River Community Center located 10409 Scenario Lane, the Bel-Air Ridge Club House,
- Steve Twining suggested the Bel-Air Association.
- Larry Leisten suggested the Bel-Air Glen Club House.
 - ◆ **Motion** to approve the following tentative sites: BABCNC Board Member Gary Gole's residence at 8436 Allenwood Road, Bel Air Association Club House, Bel-Air Ridge Club House and the Jewish American University. President Ringler made motion. Ramin Kolahi seconded. Discussion was held. **Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.**
- Larry Leisten commented on a form from the City Clerk's Office to approve a map with the NC boundaries as received by DONE and the BABNC's approved bylaws.
 - ◆ **Motion** to approve the map sent by DONE with the appropriate NC boundaries. Larry Leisten made motion. Alan Fine seconded. Discussion was held. **Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.**

Mayor's Office Report (Agenda item #9)

No report.

Council District #5 Report (Agenda item #10)

- Jeff Ebenstein thanked Carol Sidlow for driving him and Shawn Bayliss along the BABCNC's Eastern boundaries. Steve Twining will conduct the ride along for the Western boundaries at a later date.
- He reported a constituent contacted the office regarding support for a bus stop on the 218 line at Kirkwood Drive and Laurel Canyon Boulevard. The office will have Metro and LADOT to provide an updated cost analysis.
- Ramin Kolahi asked a bus line through Beverly Glen. President Ringler stated he is aware of the request and will update on the issue.
- Jeff Ebenstein stated the Councilman pushed through a moratorium for no new billboard in the City.
- He announced District Office hours on 9/3/09 at the Encino Office, 15710 Ventura Blvd, Suite 1020 from 2-4 pm.
- Carol Sidlow asked what committees the Councilman is serving on. Shawn Bayliss stated the Councilman sits on five Committees: Audits and Governmental Efficiency, Personnel, Budget and Finance, Energy and Environment, and Transportation.
- Shawn Bayliss stated he is no longer on the Planning and Land Use Committee and Councilman Zine replaced his seat.
- Gary Plotkin asked when the Councilman would be able to attend a BABCNC meeting. President Ringler stated he has spoken to the Councilman and would like to invite him early next year.
- Gary Plotkin commented on the brush along the 405 near Mulolland. President Ringler suggested emailing the Council Office with the information.
- Don Loze asked for an update on the PLUM hearing regarding the Baseline Ordinance and definition of Hillside. Shawn Bayliss stated the issue was pulled from the hearing's agenda due to concerns from the Sherman Oaks NC. The Baseline/Hillside Ordinance must be signed by June 29, 2010.
- Done Loze asked that President Ringler contact the Sherman Oaks NC President to reiterate the importance of the Ordinance moving forward. President Ringler stated he would call the President and discuss the issue and asked that a letter be drafted to send to the NC.

DONE Report (Agenda item #11)

No report.

42nd Assembly District Report (Agenda Item 12)

No report.

Public Safety/Disaster Preparedness (Agenda Item #13)

- Senior Lead Officer Chris Ragsdale passed out information for the West LA area from 7/26 – 8/22.
- He reported on a couple of burglaries from vehicles in the Beverly Glen area and stolen vehicle in the Benedict Canyon area several months ago.
- He stated the bulk of the crime is in the area of Westwood and south of Wilshire.
- Steve Twining asked about new task force in the area. Officer Ragsdale stated there is a new task force to address criminal homeless activity in the area. The task force works with local outreach centers to offer services to the homeless.
- Gary Plotkin commented on the start of school in the area and asked for continued patrol of those areas.
- Don Loze asked about noise abatement and enforcement. Officer Ragsdale stated the Traffic Division would have more information on the issue. Officer Sanchez stated the common concerns are with motorcycles and vehicles with modified exhaust systems, which are difficult to identify.
- Ramin Kolahi asked about a fire incident in the Beverly Glen area. Officer Ragsdale stated LAFD Arson Division investigates fires and would have more information on the specific details.
- Officer Ralph Sanchez reported on burglaries from vehicles and racing in the canyons resulting in fatalities being concerns with his area.
- He stated if there is any suspicious behavior is noted, to report the behavior ASAP. He stated the information is useful to the officers.
- He stated if anyone observes drivers smoking with their windows down in the canyon area, to record the license number and send the Lead Officers the information. The officers will follow up with the information and give warnings to the individual, after the fact.
- Andre Stojka asked if there was any information on home burglary on Glen Tree Street in the Glenridge area and increased graffiti in the area. Officer Ragsdale stated graffiti should be reported to 311 and can be photographed and emailed to him to determine the graffiti. He did not have any current information on the home burglary.
- Mark Krajewski asked about house parties in the West Hollywood area. Officer Sanchez stated when reported the officers respond as soon as they can. He stated to provide him with the information and he will follow-up the next day if officers were not able to respond that evening.
- Gary Gole asked about “team criminals” and “DWP or Gas Company” impersonators. Officer Sanchez briefed on how the criminals work in teams. One criminal will pretend to be a DWP worker and lure the home owner to the back yard, while another criminal enters the home to burglarize. He advised to contact the Agency if anyone suspicious shows up at their door when they were not called or call LAPD to investigate.
- Officer Ragsdale also advised to avoid emails and phone calls that scam the individuals.
- Chuck Maginnis stated he would request a written response from Chief Barry’s Office regarding the letter submitted by the NC regarding brush clearance.

Office Report (Agenda Item #14)

- David Espinoza reported the Mayor’s Office and DONE have informed that an office space at the 1645 Corinth City building may be available for the BABCNC in September. He will update the Board when a lease is completed.

Outreach Committee (Agenda Item #15)

- Robin Greenberg passed out information from the BABCNC website for everyone to review.

Traffic Committee (Agenda Item #16)

- President Ringler announced the LAPD West Bureau Traffic Committee will be Tuesday, September 8, 8:30 a.m., West Los Angeles Community Police Station, 1663 Butler Avenue.

Public Schools Update (Item #17)

- Pam Marton stated school begins September 9th.

New Business/General Announcements (Item #18)

- ◆ **Motion** to form a subcommittee to assist with issues related to LADWP. Larry Leisten made motion. Motion seconded. Discussion was held. **Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.**

- ◆ **Motion** to appointed Steve Twining and Ramin Kolahi as Co-Chairs of the Committee and Kristine Udall as a member. Robert Ringler made motion. Larry Leisten seconded. Discussion was held. **Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.**

- President Ringler appointed Steve Twining and Ramin Kolahi as Co-Chairs of the Committee and Kristine Udall as a member.

Motion to Adjourn Meeting (Item #19)

Motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion made. Motion seconded. Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David Espinoza
Executive Director