

**BEL AIR-BEVERLY CREST NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
March 27, 2013  
Community Magnet School**

**11301 Bellagio Road  
Los Angeles, CA 90049**

**SPECIAL TOWN HALL MEETING**

- *Thomas Soong*, our Representative from the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE), agreed to run the election for us as an impartial party. Of note, *Thomas* will be leaving his position with DONE and *Amber Meshak* will be taking his place as our next project coordinator. *Amber* was unable to be here this evening.
- The Town Hall format was used to give everyone in the room – stakeholders, board members & candidates – an opportunity to select the two positions. Previously, we took a vote by a show of hands. The Board modified that to use a secret ballot.

**ELECTION OF ‘AT LARGE’ CANDIDATES**

- Candidates for two seats on the Board were to be elected. *Michael Kemp* and *Lawrence Leisten* were the candidates for an at-large seat. Qualifications reviewed included being over 18 years of age and not being represented by an association. Since *Michael* is a member of the Roscomare Valley Association, he therefore recused himself, and, by default, *Lawrence Leisten* would take that seat, however, per *Thomas*, a vote for this seat would still take place. The only selection would be between candidates *Travis Longcore* and *Chuck Maginnis*, running for the at-large factual basis seat. *Thomas* offered all four candidates a chance to speak. **Motion** to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded and the meeting adjourned. Votes were counted and election results were announced during the Board meeting that followed.

**ELECTION RESULTS**

- *Thomas* announced that *Larry Leisten* has the at-large seat by a vote of 16 to 10. *Travis Longcore* and *Chuck Maginnis* ran for the at-large factual basis seat, with 16 votes for *Chuck* and 10 for *Travis*, *Chuck Maginnis* has the seat. *Robert* thanked everyone for participating in our 1<sup>st</sup> town hall meeting & thanked *Thomas* for running it.

**GOODBYE TO THOMAS SOONG:**

- The BABCNC thanked *Mr. Thomas Soong* for his work with us and wished him the best of luck when he moves on to the Southeast and Southwest Valley.
- *Thomas* mentioned that April is “National Volunteer Month,” and has asked stakeholders to Neighborhood Councils to put their names on a special sheet that he would place City Hall wall to bridge everyone together.

**MINUTES OF THE BABCNC MEETING:**

**Persons in Attendance: 14**

**Quorum: 12**

2013 Stakeholder Groups with Certified Representatives	Present	Absent
<b><i>Bel-Air Association</i></b>		
None		
<b><i>Bel-Air Crest Master Homeowner Association</i></b>		
Irene Sandler	X	
<b><i>Bel Air Ridge HOA</i></b>		
Andre Stojka	X	
<b><i>Benedict Canyon Association</i></b>		
Alan Fine	X	
Don Loze	X	
Nickie Miner	X	
Michael Chasteen		X
<b><i>Benedict Hills Estates Association</i></b>		
Ed Brody		X
<b><i>Bel-Air Glen HOA</i></b>		
Larry Leisten	X	
<b><i>Casiano-Bel Air HOA</i></b>		
None.		
<b><i>Casiano Estates HOA</i></b>		
Gary Plotkin	X	

<b>Crests Neighborhood Association</b>		
None		
<b>Employee Associations</b>		
None		
<b>Faith-Based Organizations</b>		
Lonnie Mayfield	X	
<b>Holmby Hills Homeowners Association</b>		
Avi Rojany		X
<b>K-6 Private Schools</b>		
Vicki Kelly	X	
<b>K-12 Public Schools</b>		
Carla Cretaro		X
<b>7-12 Private Schools</b>		
John Amato	X	
<b>7-12 Public Schools</b>		
None		
<b>Laurel Canyon Association</b>		
Jamie Hall (standing in for Cassandra Barrere)	X	
Monica Weil		X
Toni Tucci		
Gary Gole		X
<b>Lookout Mountain Alliance</b>		
None		
<b>Members-at-Large</b>		
Carol Sidlow		X
Charles Maginnis	(X)	
<b>Moraga-Sepulveda Business Area</b>		
None		
<b>North Beverly Drive/Franklin Canyon Homeowners Association</b>		
None		
<b>Residents of Beverly Glen</b>		
Ramin Kolahi		X
Robert A. Ringler	X	
<b>Roscomare Valley Association</b>		
Robin Greenberg		X
Steve Twining	X	
<b>Santa Monica Mountain Conservancy</b>		
Carolyn Carradine		X
<b>Save Our Strip</b>		
GG Verone		X
Cheryl Parker		X
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>14 Present</b>	

From DONE: *Thomas Soong:* Present  
*Amber Meshak:* Not present  
CD5 *Jeff Ebenstein* Present

**ROLL CALL** (Agenda Item #1)

- *President Ringler* called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm.
- *Nickie Miner* called the roll. 14 members were present and a quorum of 12 was present.
- *President Ringler* noted that the Election of Board Officers is deferred until April.
- *President Ringler* announced that *Amber Meshak*, who was unable to attend the meeting, will be our new liaison, "Project Coordinator," in place of Thomas, from the City and the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment.
- Agenda #12 items were deferred; *Robert Ringler* asked to move Gilcrest Agenda item to after President's report.
- *President Ringler* informed the Board that we used to have an agenda-setting meeting in violation of the Brown Act, as we did it as a teleconference. From this time on, the President will do the agenda, get input from some Board members, and try to be as inclusive as possible. The Board will also **approve the agenda before the start of the meeting**, giving an opportunity for those who didn't get their agenda item in, to address that.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** (Agenda Item #2)

- Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING** (Agenda Item #3)

- Minutes were not available.

## **APPROVAL OF TONIGHT'S DRAFT AGENDA** (Agenda Item #4)

- ◆ **Motion** to approve Agenda as amended was made by *Vickie Kelly*, seconded by *Andre Stojka* and **approved**.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS** (Agenda Item #5)

- *Brandon McMann*, with the West LA Chamber, announced the **Walk for Warriors** taking place on Memorial Day morning, Monday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, on the VA Campus, for **New Directions**, a treatment facility on the VA campus helping vets in need. Handouts were provided. Donations will be accepted at [www.walkforwarriors.org](http://www.walkforwarriors.org).
- *Pam Cook*, Beverly Glen resident, former Planning & Land Use Chair and founding Board member of the Council, asked that we be sure to have traffic enforcement along primary impacted streets for the Coldwater Cyn. closure and commented with regard to Standing Rules, that she felt there was a need for a process for non-Board members to remove Board members who are not acting appropriately. *Gary Plotkin* noted that the Rules were passed and, except for Land Use, at the time of the January or February meeting, she has been so advised. *Larry Leisten* noted that as stakeholders' meetings are concerned, we leave it to each stakeholder to elect or select their representative, and the power to elect or select is the power to remove, that it is up to the stakeholders if they want to recall someone, to work within the stakeholder group.
- *Patricia Hearst*, resident of CD11 in the audience, asked to postpone April's election of the Executive Pool until authentication forms & ethics tests were in. *Pres. Ringler* noted they'd be in by 03/31 and those who hadn't passed the ethics test would be contacted. *Patricia* also inquired about an amount in the treasurer's report for Apple One Staffing for 2012 for \$400+. *Alan* replied that D.O.N.E. informed him of it a few weeks ago. He did inquire about it.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT** (Agenda Item #7)

### **BABCNC Authentication of Board members**– *Andre Stojka*

- *Andre Stojka* provided an update on the re-authentication process to determine who is a member of this Board, if they are truly a representative of the organization or place that they're supposed to be representing. Most of the forms sent have been returned. It was to be assumed that those who did not return them were no longer interested in being on the Council, and we'd have to find some substitute group to have representation.
- *Nickie Miner* asked if substitute members can vote if they haven't passed the ethics test, and *President Ringler* replied that they are, but not a second time unless they take the ethics test. *Gary Plotkin* added they have 60 days, and that the ethics exam takes only a couple of hours.

### **Update on Bylaws on Conflict of Interest**

- *Robert Ringler* read from our own bylaws on conflict of interest. LA Municipal Code 49.5.1, and Federal and State of California Ethics Standards: Board members will recuse themselves for matters in which they have an actual, potential conflict of interest. It will be the responsibility of the Board members to identify such conflicts and to discuss the issue with the City Attorney ...before taking any action." If you think you're going to take an action and you're concerned, you can also discuss it with us.

### **Public Records Request**

- *Gary Plotkin* reported that there were two public requests, from *Carolyn Carradine* & *Patricia Hearst*, related to the February meeting. He had CDs made of January and February meetings that were originally recorded for the purpose of getting minutes made, and provided one to *Carolyn* and has the other. The reproduction fee was approximately \$10.96. *Gary* noted that if anyone wants a copy of something, they will have to pay the actual cost of reproduction, and that the Board will comply with requests and give notification back within the specified time.

### **Approval of General Manager's Special Bulletin: Item on factual basis - "Stakeholders" definition**

- *Gary Plotkin* read a **motion** regarding "Stakeholders" definition as follows:  
*The Board of Neighborhood Commissioners consider recommendations from the Commissions Regional Plan Review Committees, suggesting changes to the stakeholder definition, currently defined as a person who lives, works or owns property in the neighborhood, and any individual who declares a stake in the neighborhood and affirms the factual basis for it. If resolved, the Commissioner recommends the Sections of the City Administrative Code, which touched upon Neighborhood Council Stakeholders, be amended as follows:*
  - 1) *Remove the requirement that the Neighborhood Councils provide Governing Board positions for factual basis stakeholders,*

- 2) Allow each Neighborhood Council to determine the number, if any, of Governing Board seats that they allocate to factual basis stakeholders,
- 3) Remove the current definition of factual basis stakeholder, and
- 4) Allow each Neighborhood Council to adopt its own definition of factual basis stakeholder. The commission, by way of reference, the Commission has laid its vote on stakeholder definition motion, for a period of 60 days until May 20, 2013, in order to give the Neighborhood Councils time to weigh in on this issue. The Neighborhood Council should take a position to send to the Commission for consideration in their April meeting if possible. Please use these opportunities to act decisively to represent your community by polling your stakeholders, agendaing issues and making recommendations based upon Neighborhood Council Board actions.

- ◆ **Motion** was made to support the recommendations made by the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners as read by Gary Plotkin above. **Motion was seconded. Discussion held.** Larry Leisten noted that by endorsing this, the Board of Commissioners is recommending placing the responsibility to decide how we want to craft our neighborhood council representation with respect to the factual basis. Larry raised the question of what's the basis for being a stakeholder, and noted that the core definition has to do with living or owning property or working in an area. **1 opposed; no abstentions. Motion was unanimously approved as amended.**

#### **Approval of Standing Rules Section on Planning & Land Use Committee – Gary Plotkin**

- Gary Plotkin noted that the Standing Rules have been passed except for one item related to Land Use, that we are trying to have a separate section on Rules related to the committees and how they interface with the office. Each committee will have specific requirements to accommodate, and the intent is to draft rules for each of the committees so their work can be facilitated. Gary suggested tabling this item until the next meeting so that Don Loze's recommended changes can be considered. There would be an Ad-Hoc meeting and a Bylaws meeting in the next couple of weeks, and if these issues get cleaned up this can be continued until the April meeting.
- ◆ **Motion** was made to table the above item until April. **Motion was seconded. None opposed. Motion passed.**

#### **Letter to Councilmember Paul Koretz on Street Lighting Options – Travis Longcore, Ph.D.**

- Travis Longcore reviewed the issue of the bright-orangish lights installed in hillside neighborhoods. He contacted manufacturers and found out that there could be warmer lights used. Robert sent out the letter, based on the template approved by the residents of Beverly Glen and Benedict Canyon, to Councilman Koretz's office, to get discussion going about community input on the lights. Larry Leisten noted that had seen these lights in his neighborhood, and that his concern about them had been dismissed.
- ◆ **Motion** was made that, per information provided, similar to that written by Residents of Beverly Glen and Benedict Canyon, that the Neighborhood Council support Travis' request for a discussion to explore whether neighborhoods can have some input on the lighting discussed above. **11 yeas and 1 nay. Motion passed.**

#### **Board Survey:**

Amber Meshak was not present to discuss this.

#### **Election of Officers by Board Members:**

- Robert noted the election of officers is deferred until April.
- Robert moved the agenda items of the Treasurer's report to be next to be followed by 1500 Gilcrest.

#### **Treasurer and Funding Report/Executive Board Report – Alan Fine (Agenda Item #8)**

- Alan Fine presented the Treasurer's Report. An adjustment was made from last July 1<sup>st</sup>, of \$2,800, which reverted back to the City General Fund. DONE will no longer be paying our phone bills and advised us to set up automatic payment by the Visa card. Alan contacted Verizon regarding our delinquent accounts and will further investigate the payment of our bills. Alan and Chuck would discuss Chuck's suggestion if we're not using the bandwidth, to get rid of the phone line and go with a cell with answering service or device. Alan noted our fund balance of \$24,000.00 goes back to the City if not used as of June 30<sup>th</sup>. The deadline for issuance of City checks is May 15<sup>th</sup> and specific requests should be made known to Alan. Nickie Miner suggested the left over money be divided among Fire Stations serving Neighborhood Council and Robert added between Fire and Police departments. Chuck Maginnis suggested, for Emergency Preparedness, equipping HOAs with satellite phones. Alan indicated that he sends quarterly reports to DONE and has e-mailed the Board Members copies of the last two Visa statements. DONE requires that the monthly US Bank Visa statements be presented to and approved by the NC Board each month.
- ◆ **Motion** was made by Robert to approve the Treasurer's Report and US Bank Visa Card Account. **None opposed and no abstentions. Motion passed unanimously.**

**PLANNING AND LAND USE COMMITTEE REPORT** Steve Twining, Acting Chair (Agenda Item #12)

- Project located at 1500 Gilcrest was brought to the BABCNC general meeting of March 27, 2013 following the Planning and Land Use Committee Meeting of March 20, 2013 at which time a motion composed prior to the hearing, having a pre-determined bias, was read to the Committee at the completion of the hearing for both sides, the motion having been written by the Chair of the Land Use Committee not in attendance at the Land Use or general meeting. The motion advocated against the builder in favor of neighbors who brought complaints. Motion was carried as presented, with slight modification.
- Discussion and presentations by the neighbors and by the builder were then brought to and continued at the BABCNC General Meeting. The issues were complex, lengthy, involved and contentious. Two different motions were ultimately made on the same issue, the second to counteract the first. The first favored the builder and the second favored the neighbors. The second motion was determined to be binding and a letter was written to the ZA on behalf of the neighbors.

**PUBLIC SAFETY/DISASTER PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE** – Chuck Maginnis (Agenda Item #9)

- Chuck gave report on the March 6<sup>th</sup> Public Safety/Disaster Preparedness Committee Meeting, beginning by thanking everybody who attended the meeting at Bel Air Ridge, noting that there were about 12 individuals there. He reminded everyone that the success of Emergency Preparedness really depends on how much interest there is from the HOA; that it's really up to us. He briefly mentioned Message Broadcast, a pay-as-you-go type scenario.

**WEST LOS ANGELES REGIONAL ALLIANCE OF COUNCILS (WRAC)** – Steve Twining (Agenda Item #10)

- 1) Community Care Facility Ordinance (motion to oppose Amending Motion 31B, submitted January 30, 2013 to Council File 11-0262.

- ◆ Steve made the motion that the members of the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils oppose Amending Motion 31B, submitted January 30, 2013 to Council File 11-0262, on the following grounds:

1. Lack of sufficient staff support and lack of a funding mechanism
2. Inability to presently enforce codes
3. Anticipated 10% across-the-board budget cuts to all City departments slated for FY 2013-2014
4. Complete lack of transparent fiscal analysis

They further strongly oppose the continued gutting of the R1 and other low-density residential zones in the City of Los Angeles. The General Plan of the City of Los Angeles protects the residential character of these zones. The City is therefore required by law to prepare a General Plan Amendment and to produce a full Environmental Impact Report in compliance with CEQA to establish any ordinance adding boarding houses as a by-right use into low density residential zones.”

**The motion was seconded. Discussion was held. The motion passed with 8 yeas, 0 opposed.**

- 2) The second item: LANCC Suggested Letter to the Mayor and City Council Members Regarding DONE and NC Funding (Motion) was **deferred** until the next meeting due to lack of materials.

**OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT** (Agenda Item #11)

Not reported.

**COUNCIL DISTRICT 5 REPORT** (Agenda Item #13)

Not reported.

**COUNCIL DISTRICT 4 REPORT** (Agenda Item #14)

Not reported.

**TRAFFIC COMMITTEE** (Agenda Item #16)

No report was given.

**SCHOOLS NEWS** (Agenda Item #17)

No report was given.

**NEW BUSINESS/GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS** (Agenda Item #18)

No report was given.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING** (Agenda Item #19)

**Motion** was made to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded and meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Nickie Miner