

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

11301 Bellagio Road
Los Angeles, CA 90049

Approved

Persons in Attendance

Quorum: 12

2013 Stakeholder Groups with Certified Representatives	Present	
<i>Bel-Air Association</i>		
None		
<i>Bel-Air Crest Master Homeowner Association</i>		
Irene Sandler		X
<i>Bel Air Ridge HOA</i>		
Andre Stojka	X	
<i>Bel-Air Glen HOA</i>		
Larry Leisten (not in quorum)	X	
<i>Benedict Canyon Association</i>		
Alan Fine	X	
Don Loze		X
Nickie Miner	X	
Michael Chasteen	X	
<i>Benedict Hills Estates Association</i>		
Ed Brody	X	
<i>Casiano-Bel Air HOA</i>		
None		
<i>Casiano Estates Association</i>		
Gary Plotkin	X	
<i>Crests Neighborhood Association</i>		
Ron Galperin		X
<i>Employee Associations</i>		
None		
<i>Faith-Based Organizations</i>		
Lonnie Mayfield		X
<i>Holmby Hills Homeowners Association</i>		
Avi Rojany		X
<i>K-6 Private Schools</i>		
Vicki Kelly	X	
<i>K-12 Public Schools</i>		
Carla Cretaro		X
<i>K-6 Private Schools</i>		
John Amato	EXCUSED ABSENCE	X
<i>7-12 Public Schools</i>		
None		
<i>Laurel Canyon Association</i>		
Cassandra Barrere		X
Monica Weil		X
Toni Tucci		X
Gary Gole	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>		
None		
<i>North Beverly Drive/Franklin Canyon Homeowners Association</i>		

None		X
Residents of Beverly Glen		
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		
Jim Nelson		X
GG Verone		X
TOTAL: 14 Board Members present		

ROLL CALL (Agenda Item #1)

- *President Ringler* called the meeting to order
- *Nickie Miner* called roll. The required quorum is 12. 14 Board members were present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (Agenda Item #2)

- ◆ Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

- ◆ Minutes for approval for October 24, 2012 & January 23, 2013 are deferred until the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (Agenda Item #4)

- *Travis Longcore, Ph.D.*, Beverly Glen resident and Professor of environmental sciences, working with Urban Wildlands Group, commented that he is researching the effects of **night-lighting** on eco-systems and people, and has concerns about changes in street lighting by the City of Los Angeles in the hillside communities. Council recommended that he address this at a public meeting with Street Lighting; contact the administrator at *Councilman Koretz's* office to have a meeting for leniency and to inform the community.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Agenda Item #6)

Elections – Update - Ramin Kolahi and Larry Leisten

- *Ramin Kolahi* noted that two candidates have submitted their paperwork to be elected as at large delegates from the outreach. Flyers and yard signs were given to members to place. The Outreach Committee was to continue to reach out for candidates through emails, newsletters and signs, for candidates and for people to come to the March 27th election. *Thomas Soong* from Empowerment will be the Neutral 3rd party for the election. Candidates' applications will be posted in advance. The Board set the **candidate filing deadline** as **March 4th at 5:00 p.m.** (no motion).

BABCNC Authentication of Board members - See Exhibit D (motion) – Andre Strojka

- ◆ **Motion** was made by *Gary Plotkin* that the draft to approve the Annual Board Member Authentication be approved as amended and that *Andre Strojka* be authorized to distribute the documents with description of boundaries within the BABCNC area, with a 3-day request for response to each of the board members. Typo on the form was to be corrected to "complete" from "completed." Motion seconded. Discussion held. **Motion passed unanimously.**

DWP Water Line Project on Coldwater Canyon

- *Robert Ringler* noted that *Jeffrey Ebenstein* CD5 & *Sharon Shapiro* CD4 wanted to be here but were not present.
- *Joe Resong* with LADWP gave an update: Starting on **March 9th** re-striping the Ventura & Coldwater intersection would begin. Traffic limitations and street closures were discussed. *Mr. Resong* had been working with CD2 for a year, with DOT on traffic flow and hiring traffic officers. *Carol Sidlow* and *Larry Leisten* noted that Beverly Glen and Mulholland needed an officer there. *Larry Leisten* noted that DWP had not related to CD5 about Beverly Glen, which was in need of attention in this matter. Weekly email updates would be forthcoming.

Report on School Incident

- *Robert Ringler* notified Council members of a rare incident at the school on the date of the last meeting: At around 9:45, the young lady working at the school (to open and close the facility after the meeting) was approached by individuals in a late model black Range Rover, who drove up, took pictures of her car, asked what she was doing and told her she didn't belong here. The lady has been upset and did not come in to work this evening. *President Ringler* will report this to the School District and to *Officer Chris Ragsdale*, our LAPD Senior Lead Officer.

TREASURER'S REPORT (Agenda Item #7) – Alan Fine

- Alan Fine reported there was no Treasurer's report today due to no recent activity and only just receiving the list from DONE with the balance of \$25,151.00. Alan will have to further reconcile the Visa and checking balances. He noted that as of June 30th, we have to use all our funds or they go back to the General Fund. Next month, he will present the new budget and will need to hear about possible expenditures prior to that. Discussion was held about Apple One's contract policies for the prospective office worker for the Council. Emergency Preparedness was asked if they needed equipment or materials.

PUBLIC SAFETY / DISASTER PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE, PART I (Agenda Item #8) Chuck Maginnis and Officer Chris Ragsdale, Senior Lead Officer,

Emergency Preparedness - Chuck Maginnis

- Chuck Maginnis announced upcoming Emergency Preparedness Committee Meeting for March 6th at 7:00 p.m. at Bel Air Ridge, for homeowner associations to see what they have in place for emergency preparedness, and what they want to do as far as emergency notification. Chuck sent out a survey about waking people up between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m., to include everyone in deciding what constitutes an emergency that they're willing to be awakened for. Nickie Miner asked if Chuck knows NextDoor.com, neighborhood communication system.
- **Note: Discussion of Public Safety is below, following Chris Ragsdale, Senior Lead Officer's arrival.**
- Robert Ringler moved that agenda item #12 on Land Use be presented next.

LAND USE COMMITTEE (Agenda Item #12 – moved up) - – Carol Sidlow & Ramin Kolahi, Co-Chair today

1458 North Blue Jay Way

- Carol Sidlow noted that Lori Drucker and her husband were present, and that the Committee voted to support their request for a variance for an over-height fence at 1458 North Blue Jay Way. Carol described this as in-community character, not controversial and having the full support of the Sunset Hills Homeowner's Association and their neighbors. Carol made a motion that the Board supports the request for the variance.
 - ◆ **Motion** to support request for a variance for over-height fence, gate and hedge at 1458 North Blue Jay Way. Ramin Kolahi seconded. Discussion held. None opposed and no abstentions. **Motion passed as consensus.**

76 Beverly Park Lane

- Carol Sidlow introduced Mr. Chris Parker, who came to PLU about a project in Beverly Park. At issue was the converting of an existing kitchen into a service/caterer's kitchen at 76 Beverly Park Lane in Beverly Park Estates. The PLU Committee voted to support the second kitchen. Ramin Kolahi asked about the issue of party homes that could impact traffic. Nickie noted that even though the issue was two kitchens, BP is a community unto itself with its own rules and regulations, and that they are very strict about whom they admit, and that the Benedict Canyon area does not have a concern about Beverly Park with regard to party houses. Gary Plotkin also noted that the BP HOA is a strong organization.
- Chris Parker noted that an associate met with the HOA and got the architectural approval several months ago; however, he forgot to bring the proof. Gary Plotkin asked to defer the vote until documentation was provided, as it was not properly noticed. Steve Twining and Carol felt Chris Parker's word was good enough, and Steve noted that Mr. Parker was running many of these projects.
- Gary Plotkin stated that, technically, the motion was not properly noticed, and could not be made tonight, per Empowerment (a forthcoming letter would explain the details of the requirements). Ramin Kolahi reiterated that PLU has supported it and would like to make the motion, and that the Board consider whether to table it or not.
 - ◆ **Motion** was made for the Board to approve the Land Use Committee's recommendation to support the second kitchen at 76 Beverly Park Lane. Ramin Kolahi seconded. **2 absentions. Motion passed.**
- Carol Sidlow announced that she had to leave.

PUBLIC SAFETY / DISASTER PREPAREDNESS COMMITTEE, PART II (Agenda Item #8)

Public Safety – Chris Ragsdale

- Chris Ragsdale, Senior Lead Officer, discussed Public Safety issues, including a robbery in our community, wherein a crew with machinery stole the wheels of a Cadillac Escalade, parked in front of the owners house, in the middle of the night. He noted about four incidents on the Westside in recent months involving SUV's with nice big rims.
- Robert Ringler reported to Chris Ragsdale the incident of January 23rd (described above, under President's Report, Agenda Item #6). Chris suggested in the future, they try to get a license plate numbers.

- *Chris* noted that a particularly overzealous Neighborhood Watch has been involved in confrontations and heated exchanges with people they think are suspicious.
- *Chuck Maginnis* notified *Chris* of the March 6th Emergency Preparedness Committee meeting (as noted above).
- *Chris* reported they had been responding to complaints from local residents throughout the hillside area regarding traffic to party houses, a couple of spots where kids congregate to smoke weed, cigarettes, drink, neck, but noted that fortunately, there had not been a lot of crime in the hillside area.
- *Chris* was informed of the planned Coldwater Canyon closures, and plans for traffic flow support.
- *Robert Ringler* asked *Steve Twining* if we could move his item after the bylaws, a pressing item.

BYLAWS & RULES COMMITTEE REPORT– *Larry Leisten* (Agenda Item #10)

Proposed amendments to BABCNC bylaws; Agenda-setting proposal (motion) Exhibit C (Larry Leisten)

- *Larry Leisten* reviewed the proposed amendment to the BABCNC bylaws, regarding agenda-setting and noted the following: Empowerment had advised the Neighborhood Council if the Agenda-Setting Committee and/or the Executive Committee, wish to set the agenda on a monthly basis, it has to occur at an open publicly-noticed meeting and not by telecom. Alternatively the President sets the agenda. The agenda has to be adopted by the Board before the meeting starts or as a first item on the agenda, and only then becomes official. The agenda has to be published 72 hours in advance. The procedure for the President setting the agenda is as follows: The President is required to send an email 7 days prior to the monthly board meeting to each and every board member, soliciting input for the agenda. If someone wants an agenda item included, they have to respond within 48 hours from the time the President’s email was sent out so that the President has a couple of days to get it finalized and posted three days before the meeting. The President can consult with up to two Council members (*Larry* recommended these include either one or both Vice President and/or a Committee Chair) in preparation of published agenda for each Regular Meeting which also needs to be identified in the Standing Rules.) Discussed was that not all requested agenda items will be included on the next agenda, as all items need to be prioritized. At the time of agenda approval, we can remove or table an item, by continuing it or not continuing it, but we cannot add an item without giving public notice of the item. *Robert Ringler* noted another way to have an item placed on the agenda, if not included in that meeting, would be for the person to use Public Comments, up to three minutes, to announce that they called or emailed the President, to place something on the agenda but didn’t get it on, so that it goes on public record, letting the Council decide how to handle it.
- ◆ *Larry Leisten* **moved** to approve this motion to the matter of bylaws, to amend the Duties of Officers, Article 9: *Ramin Kolahi* seconded. Discussion held. **0 Nays. 0 Abstentions. Motion passed unanimously.**

Ethics Exam Requirements, Responsibilities and Penalties for Council members

- *Robert Ringler* asked *Larry Leisten* to prepare a motion for the next meeting addressing the need for members to keep up and pass their Ethics exams in a timely manner, and those who keep refusing to take this exam when up for renewal shouldn’t have a vote on anything on the Council, shouldn’t Chair or Co-Chair or VP any committee. If they can’t pass this exam, they are not qualified to run a committee or vote on any issue before the Council.

WEST LOS ANGELES REGIONAL ALLIANCE OF COUNCILS WRAC – *Steve Twining* – (Agenda Item #9)

Charter Amendment for the City to live within its means. Exhibit B & supporting documents – motion for approval

- ◆ **Motion** was read by *Steve Twining*, as seen on Exhibit B, regarding City insolvency, that “the City Council needs to place on the ballot the Charter Amendment, which will require the City to ‘live within its means.’ This would mandate that the City develop and adhere to a five-year financial plan, pass two-year balanced budgets on generally accepted accounting principals, and over the next 10 years fix our streets and the rest of our infrastructure, and fully fund our pension plans.”
- Issue was taken with the demanding nature of the language that the NC demand the City will do this or that, and it was suggested that the motion should be structured to suggest things be done, such as:
 - In the 1st sentence, change the City Council “needs” to place on the ballot to the City Council “is requesting” to place on the ballot, and change the Charter Amendment “will require” to “that would require” the City to live within its means.
- The motion was amended to read that the “City Council is requesting to place on the ballot the Charter Amendment...” The amended motion was seconded.
- ◆ **Motion as amended was seconded, 7 in favor, 2 opposed and 2 abstaining. Motion passed.**

Second Motion regarding Illegal Digital Billboards:

- ◆ **Motion** was read by *Steve Twining* as follows: “The Board of Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council urges the City of Los Angeles to fully implement the Appeals Court Ruling of the Summit, LLC versus the City of Los Angeles, and to remove 103 illegal digital billboards blanketing our city. We further request that the City refrain

from making any changes to the zoning laws relative to digital billboards until the illegal billboards are removed and any such proposed change has been subjected to an open and transparent outreach process to community stakeholders.”

- There was discussion the Supreme Court of California affirmed it in full (the request for review was denied so the Appeals confirmed) and asked if they wanted to change the motion to include, “as affirmed by the Supreme Court”. Also discussed was the question of who should be responsible to remove the illegal billboards -- the people who are putting them up or the City; that if the responsible parties (*Clear Channel and CBS*) don't remove them then it was felt that the City should.
 - ◆ *Robin Greenberg* seconded the motion. The **motion as amended was passed with 11 in favor and one abstention.**
- *Robert* deferred all the other items on the agenda until next time.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT / UPDATE – *Robin Greenberg* (Agenda Item #11)

No report was given.

COUNCIL DISTRICT 5 REPORT (Agenda Item #13)

No report was given.

COUNCIL DISTRICT 4 REPORT (Agenda Item #14)

No report was given.

TRAFFIC COMMITTEE (Agenda Item #15)

No report was given. As per Agenda, the next LAPD West Bureau Traffic Committee meets Wednesday, March 13th - 8:30 a.m. at the West Los Angeles Community Police Station, 1663 Butler Avenue

PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SCHOOL NEWS (Agenda Item #16)

No report was given.

NEW BUSINESS/GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS (Agenda Item #17)

No report was given.

MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING (Agenda Item #18)

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

NEXT BABCNC MEETING: March 27, 2013

Respectfully submitted,

Nickie Miner