



Building A Better Community



**General Meeting Minutes of November 20, 2013 @ Mulholland Tennis Club (Approved)**

**Present: 13**

**Quorum: 12**

2013 Stakeholder Groups / Certified Representatives	Present	Not Present
<b>Bel Air Crest Master Homeowner Association</b>		
Irene Sandler	X	
<b>Bel Air Ridge HOA</b>		
Andre Stojka	X	
<b>Benedict Canyon Association</b>		
Alan Fine	X	
Don Loze	X	
Nickie Miner ( <b>Notified of planned absence</b> )		X
Michael Chasteen	X	
<b>Casiano Estates Association</b>		
Gary Plotkin ( <b>Notified of planned absence</b> )		X
<b>Faith-Based Organizations</b>		
Lonnie Mayfield		X
<b>K-6 Private Schools</b>		
Vicki Kelly ( <b>Notified of planned absence</b> )		X
<b>K-5 Public Schools – Pending</b>		
<b>7-12 Private Schools</b>		
John Amato	X	
<b>Laurel Canyon Association</b>		
Jamie Hall	X	
Cassandra Barrere		X
Monica Weil		X
Tony Tucci	X	
<b>Members-at-Large</b>		
Larry Leisten	X	
Chuck Maginnis	X	

<b>2013 Stakeholder Groups / Certified Representatives continued:</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Not Present</b>
<b>Residents of Beverly Glen</b>		
<i>Ramin Kolahi</i>	<b>X</b>	
<i>Robert A. Ringler</i>	<b>X</b>	
<b>Roscomare Valley Association</b>		
<i>Robin Greenberg (Notified of planned absence)</i>		<b>X</b>
<i>Michael Kemp</i>	<b>X</b>	
<b>Save Our Strip: Pending</b>		
<b>Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy</b>		
<i>Travis Longcore, Ph.D.</i>		<b>X</b>

**City Officials**

From DONE: *Amber Meshack*, Project Director: Not Present  
 From CD5 Office: *Jeff Ebenstein*, Field Deputy: Not Present  
**Noah Muhlstein, Planning Deputy: Present**  
**Gurmet Khara, Council Deputy: Present**  
*Shawn Bayliss*, Director PLU: Not Present  
 From CD4 Office: *Sharon Shapiro*, Deputy: Not Present

**Guests** present included but were not limited to *Caroline Labiner*, PLU candidate, *Kerry Welland*, active in WRAC and other City organizations, *Janet Glucksman* from Bel Air Ridge, *Valerie O'Brien*, from LCA, *Victor Marmon*, Esq., and Senior Lead Officer, *Ralph Sanchez*.

1. **Call to Order**
  - *Robert Ringler*, VP, stood in for President, *Gary Plotkin*, and called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.
  - *Irene Sandler*, stood in for *Robin Greenberg*, as Secretary, and called the roll.
  - **There were 13 members present. A quorum of 12 was met.**
2. **The Pledge of Allegiance** was recited.
3. **MOTION for approval of the October 23, 2013 Minutes** was made by *Larry Leisten*, seconded by *Andre Stojka*; none opposed; 2 abstained, (*Mike Chasteen* and *Chuck Maginnis*) and the minutes were approved as amended with a minor addition by *Larry Leisten* to Agenda Item J of the 10/23/2013 President's Report indicating there is now a total of 12 members of the Bylaws, Rules and Elections Committee, requiring a quorum of 6, with Chair vote for tie breaking only.
4. **MOTION for approval of the November 20, 2013 Draft Agenda** was made by *John Amato*, seconded by *Andre Stojka*, and was unanimously approved as amended with a slight change with regard one item under Treasurer's Report.
5. **Public Comments** – There were no non-agendized public comments.
6. (Agendas, brochures, & public service handouts were available)
7. **President's Report** – *Gary Plotkin*
  - a. Search for replacement of *Carla Cretaro*, of K-5 Public Schools: None found to date.
  - b. Metro Update on Sidewalks @ Skirball Bridge to Mulholland (per *Jay Greenstein* & *Ayda Safaei* sidewalks will be addressed as part of project) – *Irene Sandler*  
*Irene* gave report on the planned pedestrian sidewalk and animal crossing on the south side of Skirball Bridge. (Robert noted that he believed that the Park and Ride was on temporary hold. This was later confirmed by an email from *Ayda Safaei*, Construction Relations Officer, Mulholland Segment

I-405 Sepulveda Pass Improvements Project) *Irene* passed around a photo of the proposed sidewalk. (Please see updated photo, provided by *Irene*, at the bottom of the minutes.)

- c. Discussion of possible Neighborhood Spring Festival & Celebration (*Outreach*) – Deferred.
  - d. Update on Board Retreat – *Don Loze* – Deferred.
  - e. Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Report – *Travis Longcore, Ph.D.* – Deferred.
  - f. Discussion on E-mail blasts / Switch to dedicated email provider? *Ramin Kolahi & Jamie Hall*
    - Discussion centered on possible need for two-way email addresses. Currently members' [babnc.org](http://babnc.org) addresses are forwarded to their personal email addresses from a list. However, when replying, their personal email addresses are used and seen. *Ramin* presented an option for mailbox setup by hosting with Google Enterprise allowing each person to email out @ \$50.00/yr per email address. This may pertain more to those who feel they have a significant need to email out to others, e.g., Executive Committee, PLU & EP Chairs; however others may like to use this. If so, would need to approve funds at \$50/year for each mailbox.
    - *Jamie* likes Google Apps which the City of LA uses but questions the need for individual members to use it, for the investment required.
    - *Ramin* noted that *Aaron* is frustrated with requests for help with email addresses; he is not our IT support but webmaster, and this would eliminate those calls. *Jamie* suggested setting up an alias; though this could be confusing to the Public.
    - *Larry* asked why we are having problems with hosting and if *Ramin* had considered going with another mail hosting company with our needs for quotes.
    - *Larry* noted that that while *Aaron* hosts the website, he need not also host our mail servers, and *Ramin* added that he is not paid to do so.
    - *Larry* queried why the City of LA doesn't have all NCs on the same system and set up an email forwarding at forwarding at [Lacity.org](http://Lacity.org). *Robert* asked if someone would talk to *DONE* about it.
    - *Ramin* said he will look into it further and try to bring a motion for next time.
    - *Ramin* also asked members to notify him if they are not receiving emails.
8. **Secretary's Report** – *Robin Greenberg* – As *Robin* was absent (accepting a humanitarian award) *Robert* asked *Cathy* for an Administrative Report. She mentioned the importance of accurate vote counts, and the new funding vote count forms, listing categories of yes, no, abstained, recused, absent and ineligible. She also mentioned community impact statements which *Robert* elaborated on.
9. **Treasurer Report** – *Alan Fine*
- **Motion** was made by *Alan Fine* to approve fee of \$170.04 for this evening's site @ the Mulholland Tennis Club; seconded by *Jamie Hall*; 10 yeas (*Andre Stojka, Alan Fine, Don Loze, John Amato, Jamie Hall, Tony Tucci, Larry Leisten, Chuck Maginnis, Ramin Kolahi, and Michael Kemp*). 0 nay; 0 abstentions. 3 members were ineligible to vote, including Acting President, *Robert Ringler*, VP; and 8 members were absent. The motion passed. (Funding Vote Form prepared).
  - **Meeting Site @ AJU**: Noted is that *Amber* let us know on 11/13/2013 that AJU can be paid by p-Card for remainder of fiscal year. Of note, the motion to approve refreshments not to exceed \$200 per meeting at AJU until 05/2014 is covered by the motion below for a limit on refreshments to \$200 which will apply to all meeting sites. (See motion directly below.)
  - **Motion** was made by *Alan Fine*; to approve refreshments at all meeting sites, not to exceed \$200 per meeting; seconded by *Andre Stojka*; 9 yeas (*Andre Stojka, Alan Fine, Don Loze, John Amato, Jamie Hall, Tony Tucci, Larry Leisten, Chuck Maginnis, and Michael Kemp*). 1 nay (*Ramin Kolahi*). 0 abstentions. 3 members were ineligible to vote, including Acting President, *Robert Ringler*, VP; and 8 members were absent. The motion passed. (Funding Vote Form prepared).
  - **Motion** was made to approve the Treasurers Report by *Alan Fine*; seconded by *Andre Stojka*; 10 yeas (*Andre Stojka, Alan Fine, Don Loze, John Amato, Jamie Hall, Tony Tucci, Larry Leisten, Chuck Maginnis, Ramin Kolahi and Michael Kemp*). 0 nays; 0 abstentions. 3 members were ineligible to vote, including Acting President, *Robert Ringler*, VP; and 8 members were absent. The motion passed. (Funding Vote Form prepared).
10. **Public Safety/Disaster Preparedness Committee** – *Chuck Maginnis* (20 minutes)
- Senior Lead Officer 8A29 - *Chris Ragsdale*, WLA Community Police Station – Not Present

- Senior Lead Officer - *Ralph Sanchez*, Hollywood Community Police Station – Present
- **Officer Sanchez** responded to questions beginning with recent spate of swatting incidents, and reports of increase in WLA crime. He stated that due to holidays there is an increase in crime, with opportunities for criminals when you leave the house. Be sure to lock up.
- Beware of magazine subscription sales people who are grabbing mail packages at door steps and there are tandem parking-related crimes. Cars are getting broken into, recently at Runyan Canyon where hikers park.
- Don't leave packages in car and keep eyes open for people waiting to break into car and home!
- There is an increase in valet parking crimes. Use a separate key for valet & keep registration in car but not in glove box, they'll use your personal info to commit further crimes.
- Keep car keys by bedside; use car alarm to scare off intruders if someone is out there.
- Set up cameras to the street, so you can get a license plate number, the vehicle driving or a face.
- Do not leave garage doors open.  
Neighborhood Watches are doing well; 20 in area; upper Nichols Canyon Assoc. mentioned.
- **Chuck Maginnis** gave report on recent EP Committee Meetings through October as there was none in November due to Bylaw meetings. In summary, there has been good attendance, averaging 14 people per meeting, over the last 8 meetings with 40 different individuals attending, which has been good for outreach. The last meeting featured an hour and a half overview of Emergency Preparedness with CERT training from Chief Cooper.
- Early notification system is held up due to asking for City approval of non-disclaimer placed on the enrollment sheet. He has a number of signup sheets and can implement voice notification, but email and text is not yet offered by Message Broadcast, though email notification is now offered by the Emergency Preparedness open listing of all recipients, which list includes 45 people, including Lead Officer *Sanchez*, *Jeff Ebenstein*, etc.
- **Next EP meeting will be December 11<sup>th</sup> at Bel Air Ridge at 7:00 pm.**

**11. Planning and Land Use Committee (PLU) – Michael Kemp**

- Report of PLU Meeting, November 12, 2013:

1. **MOTION to approve *Caroline Labiner (architect)* to the Committee** was made by *Michael Kemp*; seconded by *Larry Leisten*; with 12 yeas, no nays, and none opposed. Motion passed. Congratulations and thank you Caroline from the BABCNC!

2. New Cases: 1875 N. Crescent Heights Blvd. 90069

3. Current Cases (Pending):

944 Airole Way, 90077  
 2166 & 2170 N. Stanley Hills Dr. 90046  
 10453 W. Sandal Lane 90077  
 1602 N. Clearview Dr. 90210  
 11201 N. Chalon Rd. 90049  
 1210 N. Wetherly Dr. 90069

4. Update on Cases from last month's meeting - Council previous Action:

8467 Brier Drive - Council voted to support at Oct. 2013 Meeting. *Michael* stated that *Jamie* was excellent with home owners and applicant, and worked for both. *Jamie* gave update on the process: informal site walk, applicants and neighbors met, then a formal LC meeting with presentation by applicant; questions and answers, concessions made, vote taken, then the ZA hearing: four hearings in 30 days, and all but 5% of residents' concerns were met. *Jamie* says that we can be a facilitator & mediator. Compromises couldn't have occurred otherwise.

- *Michael* is trying to watch/track large house projects where there is no discretionary approval.
- *Michael* noted that *Ramin* has tried to communicate with the Bel Air Association.

5. Proactive Projects: *Michael* is tracking progression of the implementation of the new Building Code for the City of LA, "Re-Code LA" and will be monitoring it.

**12. West Los Angeles Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC)** *Robin Greenberg* is absent. (*Robin & Nickie* called; they attended WRAC meeting today & there were no new motions.) Guest, *Kerry Welland*, active in WRAC, was present; however, no report was made. Welcome back *Kerry*!

**13. Outreach Committee Report** – *Robin Greenberg* - Deferred

**14. Bylaws & Rules Committee Report** – *Larry Leisten*

- *Larry* produced a detailed table for Board members to respond to Empowerment's comments received following submittal of last Board-adopted revisions to Bylaws in May; not to be viewed as amendment to Bylaws, as it requires two-thirds vote and there is no vote this evening. Just discussion to achieve consensus. *Larry* asked everyone to please provide answers to the questions on the right column of the table RE: their respective associations.
- *Jamie* recommended using public selection rather than election. *Don Loze* commented to take the issue directly to Commissioners. *Ramin* echoed *Jamie's* call for public selection at the same time as LCA's annual meeting due to robust turn out v. pathetic turn out for NC elections.
- *Jamie* proposed a caucus (public selection), when the annual meeting concludes, to decide what 1 or 2 people will be appointed to this commission.
- *Larry* noted that notwithstanding *Jamie's* preference for a caucus, there are bound to be restrictions imposed upon conduction of the caucus to comply with the "public" aspect of the selection. They don't know what they are at this time, but they are very difficult, per *Amber's* email, and appear to be a lot of work. He stated that if a lot of work, why not allow public "election"? *Larry* stated that whether LCA (or other associations) are "elected" with 5 votes or "selected" with 25 votes is irrelevant to our goals of complying with City requirements so we can continue as a NC, and operate with a reasonable quorum.
- *Ramin* recommended going with *Larry's* experience and guidance as to what is viable to get approved; that everyone has to think about whether they want to stay a NC. He brought up that the numbers are reduced by half, seat counts are based on percentage representation, and doesn't think two organizations should have more representatives than the others.
- *Larry* requested *Jamie*, and *Jamie* agreed, to come up with detailed vision of what constitutes a caucus for submittal to Empowerment.
- *Irene* commented on the lack of control of who can represent non-residential groups such as schools (public), commercial/business, & faith based institution. Example *Irene* cited employee who pours coffee can become representative. *Larry* responded to *Irene* that if seat is publicly elected, we cannot control. He believes if commercial establishments are not satisfied with who is running to represent their interests on Council, they will draft someone capable & trustworthy to represent their interest. Same goes with respect to public school should dissatisfied, uncontrollable parent choose to run.
- *Chuck* inquired why Bel Air Association (BAA), representing over 2,700 homes, was only apportioned 1 representative under proposed structure described by the table. *Larry* explained, BAA, like SOS, was approached several times to return to participation on the Council, and in BAA's case refused. Had BAA decided to participate, it would be apportioned the same # of representatives as similarly sized HOAs – 4 reps as presently proposed for BCA. *Larry* continued to inform *Chuck* that every other publicly elected residential area is being afforded one representative, regardless of the number of homes. For example, some areas such as Beverly Park-North Beverly Glen-Franklin Canyon and Coldwater-Mulholland-Crest represent a large number of homes are apportioned one representative. *Larry* reminded the Board that our goal is to achieve a reasonable quorum and not to apportion additional number representatives where participation in the past has been non-existent, or in the case of BAA, resistant.

**15. Council District 5 Report** – Planning Deputy *Noah Muhlstein* & Council Deputy *Gurmet Khara*, gave report regarding the following:

Four-Oaks Restaurant in violation of conditions variance. Building and Safety enforces but City Attorney is needed. *Ramin* wants a public hearing process to address safety, parking and others. *Noah* says that the conditions in place are very vague, poorly written and executed.

Curtis School: Hearing to review entitlement package is scheduled for December 19<sup>th</sup>.

1414 Seabright: RE: stairs blocking of public right of way, a survey team was out this week, were limited in what they could do but overall making progress. *Noah* hopes it will be done by end of year.

1775 & 1771 Summitridge: The sober living facility's board president was removed by court order. *Noah* and *Shawn* are talking with *Frank Bush* and newly appointed code enforcement at B&S about the facility, which has new people on their Board. They have offered a shuttle service, so there shouldn't be as many cars. They are a 12-bed facility and the State regulates 6 beds per address. They are looking

to see if they apply for a variance if they remain 12-bed. *Jamie* noted that they have the same issue in LC. *Noah* will follow up.

*Gurmet Khara* stated the Speed Watch program has been cut due to limited resources and liability issues. She is working with City Attorney's office on this. *Robert* said it has to be community driven by us and others; it is represented in the Traffic Committee and, if it's on the agenda, if people are willing to sit down, they can work it out with the Councilman's office. Alternates discussed and motion on enforcement of speed laws mentioned.

*Noah* gave out flyers on upcoming Menorah lighting ceremony at City Hall with the Mayor *Garcetti* & CD5 Councilman, *Paul Koretz*.

**16. District 4 Report** - Field Deputy & Deputy of Housing and Transportation - *Sharon Shapiro*  
No report given.

**17. Traffic Committee Report & Police Advisory Board Report** – *Robert A. Ringler*  
**Next LAPD West Bureau Traffic Committee: Wednesday December 11, 2013 at 8:30 a.m.** at the West Los Angeles Community Police Station, 1663 Butler Avenue.

**18. Ad-hoc "I-405 Sepulveda Widening Improvement Project"** - *Irene Sandler*  
*Irene* gave report of closure on the 24<sup>th</sup> of November, this Sunday. She is working with *Ayda* on this.

**19. Private and Public Schools News** – None.

**20. New Business/General Announcements** – None.

**21. Motion** to adjourn meeting was made by *Alan* and seconded by *Ramin*; approved unanimously and meeting adjourned at 9:21 pm.

**NEXT BABCNC MEETING: December 18, 2013 @ AJU**

— = sidewalk  
= crosswalk

▲ = Skirball Park & Ride  
= animal crossing

