



Building A Better Community

www.babnc.org



General Meeting Minutes Approved

Wednesday, February 26, 2014 7:00-9:00 p.m.

American Jewish University 15600 Mulholland Drive Bel Air, CA 90077

Present: 16

Quorum: 12

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

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

City Officials

From DONE:	<i>Amber Meshack</i> , Outgoing Project Director:	Not present
	<i>Thomas Soong</i> , Incoming Project Director:	Not Present
	<i>Alisa Smith</i> , Elections Advisor:	Not Present
From CD5 Office:	<i>Jeff Ebenstein</i> , Field Deputy:	Not Present
	<i>Noah Muhlstein</i> , Planning Deputy:	Not Present
	<i>Gurmet Khara</i> , Council Deputy:	Not Present
	<i>Shawn Bayliss</i> , Director PLU:	Not Present
From CD4 Office:	<i>Sharon Shapiro</i> , Deputy:	Not Present
From WLAPD:	<i>Chris Ragsdale</i> , Senior Lead Officer:	Present

Welcome to Stakeholders & the Special Guests Present:

Andrew Macpherson, Joanna Parol & Alex Rose, from "Save Sunset Boulevard"
Bruce Kuyper, from Bellagio Road
David Kadin, from Benedict Canyon
Bob Tourtellotte, from Laurel Canyon with "No Gates on Cole Crest"
Annie Yu & Yuri Yabuki, students from UCLA working on a City Planning project for school
Sam Levitt, American Jewish University

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. **Call to Order:** Council President, Gary Plotkin, called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.
2. **Roll** was called by Secretary, Robin Greenberg, at 7:10 p.m., with 15 present, and a quorum of 12 was met. Another member arrived at 7:27, for a total of 16 members in attendance.
3. **The Pledge of Allegiance** was recited.
4. **Approval of January 22, 2014 Minutes:** Larry Leisten moved, Chuck Maginnis seconded, none opposed, no abstentions, and the 01/22/14 Minutes were approved.
5. **Approval of February 26, 2014 Agenda:** Larry Leisten moved, John Amato seconded, none opposed, no abstentions, and the agenda was approved.
6. **Public Comments**
 (a) *Alex Rose & Andrew Macpherson* represent "Save Sunset Boulevard" (SSB).
 - *Alex Rose* introduced "Save Sunset Boulevard," a newly formed 501(c)3 made up of concerned neighbors who want to maintain the standards of the neighborhood, north of

Sunset & west of Laurel Canyon Blvds. They have regular meetings, a charter with the goal to preserve what is worth preserving on Sunset Blvd., and would like seat on the Board.

- *Alex* noted, people from West Hollywood and areas south of Sunset, are not part of SSB's governance, only regarding the 8150 Sunset Boulevard project.

- *Gary* directed *Alex* to work on this with Bylaws Chair, *Larry Leisten*.

- *Larry* will provide a map of the area defining the territory claimed by Save our Strip for *Alex* to compare territorial boundaries of SOS with territory claimed by SSB.

- *Nickie* pointed out the importance of Sunset Blvd. which we all use, which impacts everyone, welcoming SSB's participation. *Cassandra Barrere* noted that the Board chose north of Sunset as our boundary because we are hillside specific. She noted that Sunset is within our jurisdiction and SOS is the overlapping boundary.

- RE: 8150 Sunset, *Alex* noted there are a lot of deficiencies in the proposal, waivers, etc.

- *Andre* asked if SSB would have other NC involvement; *Alex* replied, no, only BABCNC.

- *Gary* again referred this to *Larry Leisten*, to report on at the March Board meeting, under Bylaws Committee Report. **Members are encouraged to send questions to him.**

(b) Bruce Kuyper, homeowner/resident at 11805 Bellagio Road, RE: 11767 Bellagio Road. - *Bruce* is working with *Mike Kemp* and PLU, regarding 11767 Bellagio Road's application for a tentative subdivision tract under the Small Lot Ordinance.

- *Bruce* is a point person to the neighbors. He reported on a hearing today, where 25 neighbors, *Mike Kemp*, *Noah Muhlstein*, and *Paulette & Ron* of Bel Air Association spoke in opposition, and that 25 written comments in opposition were rec'd by Planning Assistant.

- *Michael* will report in March, after the 03/18/14 Special PLU meeting. (See PLU below.)

7. (Agendas, brochures, & public service handouts available)

8. President's Report – Gary Plotkin

- The group photo planned for this evening was deferred to March due to absences.

- *Gary Plotkin* applauded *Michael Kemp* and the PLUC for working with Bel Air Assoc.

- *Gary* noted that *Thomas Soong* will be our DONE representative.

- **The Board thanks Amber Meshack for her work with the Board. We will miss her and appreciate all of her efforts on our behalf.**

FAST TRACK – REPORTS:

a. BABCNC acknowledged stakeholder selection of *Kerry Welland* as Alternate Representative, representing Benedict Canyon Association, *Janet Glucksman* as Alternate Representative, representing Bel Air Ridge, and *Sam Levitt* as Alternate Representative to the Faith-Based Seat, to serve under *Lonnie Mayfield*. BABCNC welcomes them, and will send the ethics and funding training links to them all.

b. Vacant Seats: Public Schools K-5 Rep & Business Rep: No change in vacancy status.

c. Request by "Save Sunset Boulevard" for a seat on the Board was referred to *Larry Leisten* for an agenda item at the March meeting. (See Public Comments above)

9. Secretary's Report – None.

10. Treasurer's Report & 2 Funding Expenditure Requests – Alan Fine (absent)

[Board members who did not vote for the Treasurer's Expenditure Report and the following funding expenditure motions were *Irene*, *Nickie* and *Lonnie* in addition to the President.]

MOTION that BABCNC approve Monthly Expenditure Report of January 2014, moved by *John Amato*, seconded by *Andre Stojka*, 11 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstentions, and was approved.

2 Funding Expenditure Requests

(1) Dedicated Email Service for Gary Plotkin:

MOTION that BABCNC approve \$50.00 a year for *Gary Plotkin* to have a dedicated email address with Google Apps, moved by *Cassandra Barrere*, seconded by *Larry Leisten*, 11 yeas, 0 nays, 0 abstentions, and passed.

(2) Outreach Expenditure for Reusable Grocery Bags with BABCNC Contact Info:

MOTION that BABCNC approves expenditure of \$481.75 to re-order 250 reusable grocery tote bags for outreach purposes, with BABCNC logo, web & phone number, was amended to not to amount not to exceed \$600, moved by *Robin Greenberg*, seconded by *John Amato*, 10 yeas, 1 nay (*Michael Chasteen*), 0 abstentions, and passed as amended.

11. Public Safety/Disaster Preparedness Committee – *Chuck Maginnis*

Senior Lead Officer - *Ralph Sanchez*, Hollywood Community Police Station

Senior Lead Officer 8A29 - *Chris Ragsdale*, WLA Community Police Station, gave report RE: Police issues in the region:

- Officer *Ragsdale* discussed a past post-Grammy's party on Antelo with which officers, agencies and divisions, including Van Nuys, WLA & Wilshire as well as CHP were tied up for 3-1/2 hours,. Mulholland was impassable, a dozen cars were impounded and the party was cited. The Neighborhood Prosecutor, *Claudia Martin*, is filing this as a misdemeanor, and restitution for the resources used will be sought.
- *Chris* met with members of BCA regarding an event planned for Oscar's night, on Tower, noting Benedict Canyon has the most party houses. This will have privately hired traffic control officers and big name performers, a DJ, etc. There will be a Fire Marshall. The planners have permits from B&S for structures going up; safety will be monitored.
- *Tony Tucci* asked about the upcoming SLO Summit in June for WLA. Officer *Ragsdale* encouraged using this as opportunity to work with your SLOs to address ongoing issues.
- Officer *Ragsdale* reported burglaries have occurred in Coldwater Canyon; otherwise, no trends or patterns; burglaries are down substantially; however, construction site burglaries have increased. He recommended calling 911 if you see anything suspicious: Say you believe a burglary is going on & mention *Chris Ragsdale*.

(a) Report on February 2014 EP Committee Meeting – *Chris Maginnis*

- *Chuck Maginnis* discussed escape routes for communities in case of an emergency. He will email the escape route map.
- *Irene* stated that the Captain said to not rely on this; that there will be people who won't leave when they're supposed to. Areas where people might go who are trapped, and that he emphasized not to wait for them to tell you to evacuate.
- *Cassandra* disagreed with *Irene's* position, stating in the past, they always got the map from the LAFD regarding ingress/egress but the FD does not want to give them the maps for that reason. She noted LC has a greater transient population than Bel Air; they have

“box canyons,” and not everyone knows where to go in case of an emergency.

- *Chuck* mentioned Laurel Canyon’s involvement in EP, in CERT, and doing things for their community. He mentioned *Johnny Green’s* Red Flag Warnings. He also mentioned *Ron Cornell*, head person at Bel Air Ridge, whose wife died this past week.

- **The next EP meeting will be held at the Skirball Cultural Center, Wednesday, 3rd week of March, on “Communications and Emergency Preparedness.”**

(b) Update on “NextDoor” ”getting to know your neighbor” – None.

Bylaws, Rules & Elections Committee Report - *Larry Leisten*

- *Larry* indicated, per *Thomas*, residential Stakeholder Groups with multiple seats on board no longer need to provide @ least one seat selected through an Open Access process. Each is free to select all its representatives as it has in the past. The Open Access requirement will be fulfilled by providing adequate publicly elected At-Large seats throughout the Council’s territory.

- *Larry* reiterated that apportionment of seats due to a reduced Board size has resulted in less seats apportioned to some of residential Stakeholder Groups previously with more than one seat on the Board. Present discussions and understandings have resulted in an apportionment of 4 seats to BCA, 3 seats to LCA, and 2 seats each to RBG and RVA. Residential Stakeholder Groups that have pulled out of the Council, such as BAA and SOS, who’ve had multiple seats in the past, will be apportioned one publicly elected seats under the newly proposed Bylaws.

- *Larry* informed the Board that such re-apportionment was based upon residential unit count, with BCA representing over 2,400 homes, and LCA representing approximately 1,600 homes.

- *Jamie Hall* commented that LCA never agreed to apportioning 4 seats to BCA. *Larry* replied none of the proposed apportionment is final, and is up for Board to approve.

- *Nickie Miner* commented that BCA’s 4 seats were not based upon dwelling units, but on retention of all seats previously held by BCA. *Larry* replied that the reapportionment of seats, leading to reduction in seats among some of the larger residential Stakeholder Groups was based upon an equitable apportionment of seats based purely upon relative dwelling units represented by such residential Stakeholder Groups having seats on the Board.

12. Outreach Committee Report: – *Robin Greenberg*

- **Form Ad-Hoc Committee:** *Robin* noted that the Board previously had a committee for outreach, and over the past few years successfully put up banners on Sunset Blvd., bought yard signs and purchased first aid kits and flashlights for outreach.

MOTION BAB CNC approves forming an Ad-Hoc Committee to set up ideas for outreach, so moved by *Robin*; seconded by *Nickie*, and passed unanimously.

Expenditure Motion: See Agenda Item #10(2), where the Board approved an Outreach Expenditure for reusable grocery bags with BAB CNC contact info not to exceed \$600.

13. **West L.A. Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC) – Robin Greenberg**

a) Update on 02-19-2014 WRAC Meeting:

- *Robin* noted that *Travis* came to the WRAC Meeting and spoke about the trees that we spoke about at the last meeting, and that he was well received.

b) Motion carried from 01-15-2014 WRAC Agenda:

MOTION: BABCNC approves Housing Unit Audits: WRAC requests the City Controller, The Housing Department and the City Council audit all income-restricted units built under SB 1818 and all RSO units and buildings that replace pre-1978 buildings. [Passed by 9 NCs] – **TABLED** - *Robin* will provide background info.

14. **Planning & Land Use Committee Report – Michael Kemp**

- *Tony Tucci* mentioned *Bernard Parks*' motion on earthquake retrofitting and improving older residential structures. He provided the Council file link here:

<http://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=13-1357-S3>

- *Michael* spoke on the application for a “**Tentative Subdivision Tract under the Small Lot Ordinance**” (see 6b. Public Comments above) which involves six townhome-style houses, up to 42 foot height on a lot with a single family house at 11767 Bellagio Rd.

- *Michael* will hold a Special PLU meeting On March 18th at AJU to discuss this project. Bel Air Association will be participating; they expect up to 60 people to attend this important meeting. Possibly of using the Bel Air Bar & Grill discussed but subsequently it was decided to hold the meeting at AJU meeting space.]

- The Regular PLU meeting would still meet on March 11th at the regular location.

(1) **MOTION:** 10615 W. Bellagio Road, 90077, ZA2013-3596-CE: To oppose a variance to allow an over-in height wall in the front yard setback: **TABLED**

(2) **MOTION:** 616 N. Nime Road, 90077, ZA-2013-3701-ZAA. To oppose a variance to allow an over-in height wall in the front yard setback: **TABLED**

- *Tony Tucci* encouraged Board to attend Dept. of City Planning's “**7 Community Planning Forums to Give Feedback on 3 Citywide Initiatives**” as noted in the handout. See the following websites for information.

- **Plan ReCode LA:** www.recode.la **

- **Plan for a Healthy Los Angeles:** www.healthyplan.la and

- **Mobility Plan 2035:** www.la2b.org

** On April 2nd, there will be a regional forum of Re-Code LA for W.L.A. at United Methodist Church @ 10497 Wilshire Boulevard.

15. **Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Report – Travis Longcore, Ph.D. (10 minutes)**

(a) SMMC Report

Travis reported that SMMC met Monday, and 1) approved \$200,000 to develop a plan for an overpass and underpass to connect the SM Mountains with mountains to the north, to connect our wildlife to the rest of the state. 2) SMMC approved a comment letter re: “Citywide Cat Program” in response to legalizing feeding feral cats outdoors, which

commented that this should not go on in sensitive ecological areas, such as Griffith Park & Encino Reservoir & recommended one-mile border around these locations.

(b) Update on LAFD's Tree Trimming/Canopy Foliage Removal in Canyons

- *Travis* reported that following the series of tree removals in Beverly Glen, change in the standard implemented was brought about by members of this Board & Residents of BG.
- *Travis* would like to inquire of the City, how the curb to sky project came about as it was confirmed to not be based on State law.
- Per *Gary*, *Travis* will investigate this on behalf of the Board, but is not to invoke any law, and *Travis* is to send a copy to the Councilman's office and City Attorney's office.

16. Ad-hoc "I-405 Sepulveda Widening Improvement Project" & Metro Update on Sidewalks @ Skirball Bridge to Mulholland – Irene Sandler

- *Irene* noted that the "Jamzilla" worked out well; however, there are more closures yet to come, and everyone is encouraged to please sign up for daily updates. She was told there would be substantial completion of the 405 widening project by late spring, and there would be some work that would continue to the end of the year.

17. Newly Established Committee's Reports (1/22/14 to 1/22/15): (Report & Update)

- Ad-Hoc Committee for a Red Flag Alert System – *Chair, Hillary Slevin, President BCA*
 - No report. *Cassandra* noted that she would like to participate in this.
 - Special Committee on Use of Financial Surplus Before End of the Fiscal Year – *Jamie Hall, Chair & Alan Fine, Treasurer*
 - *Jamie* had no report but reminded the Board to be forward thinking on use of these funds.
 - Los Angeles 2020 Report Standing Committee – Monitoring City's Solutions & Actions – *Andre Stojka, Chair & Tony Tucci, Co-Chair*
 - *Andre* encouraged the Board to look at the report; he and *Tony* are on the mailing list and will get information as it comes in.
 - One issue noted in the report was that our role as a Neighborhood Council is lightly defined, and that we are underutilized.
 - *Tony* sent a link from Michael Bonin FYI: [CM BONIN responds to 2020 Commission](#)
 - Ad-Hoc Transit Committee – *Ramin Kolahi, Chair was Absent* – No report.
- 18. Council District 5 Report** – Planning Deputy, *Noah Muhlstein* & Council Deputy, *Gurmet Khara* - No report.
- 19. Council District 4 Report** – Field Deputy & Deputy of Housing and Transportation, *Sharon Shapiro* - No report.
- 20. Traffic Committee Report & Police Advisory Board Report** – *Robert A. Ringler*
Next LAPD West Bureau Traffic Committee: Wednesday March 12, 2013 at 8:30 a.m.
at the West Los Angeles Community Police Station, 1663 Butler Avenue.

21. Private and Public Schools News – No report.

22. New Business / General Announcements:

(a) City Council Resolution to Enforce Prohibition Against Rave Parties – Plotkin

MOTION: BABCNC moves to seek City Council resolution to enforce prohibition against rave parties, both civilly & criminally, in the Bel Air Beverly Crest area.

Reason for Motion: Disturbance of neighbors & health & safety issue.

Reason Against Motion: None provided. **TABLED**

(b) Proposed Gates at Cole Crest -- Jamie Hall (Motion & Discussion)

Special Guest Speaker, *Bob Tourtellotte*, from LCA, with “No Gates on Cole Crest”

ORIGINAL MOTION ON AGENDA: BABCNC supports the request by Laurel Canyon Association and “No Gates on Cole Crest” that the City of Los Angeles take all steps necessary to ensure that no gates are installed at 8580 Cole Crest Drive/1900 Blue Heights Road, L.A., CA 90046.

Reason for Motion: This is an access point connecting Sunset Plaza to Laurel Canyon, and is one of two exits out of the Kirkwood Bowl.

Reason Against Motion: None provided.

Jamie Hall made the motion, Larry Leisten seconded; 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, motion passed as amended, per Resolution submitted to BABCNC by Laurel Canyon Association as follows:

“**WHEREAS**, the new owners of 8580 Cole Crest Drive/1900 Blue Heights Drive, have expressed their desire to install gates at the end of Cole Crest Drive that would prevent residents and public service vehicles from accessing Blue Heights and Sunset Plaza from the “Kirkwood Bowl”, and, **WHEREAS**, residents, public service vehicles (including school buses) and the general public have utilized the road that runs across this parcel for over 100 years for both day-to-day and emergency purposes, and,

WHEREAS, this portion of Cole Crest is the critical access point that connects Sunset Plaza to Laurel Canyon and is the primary emergency exit out of the Kirkwood Bowl, and,

WHEREAS, installing gates creates an undue public safety threat, and,

WHEREAS, three private easements have been recorded over the years granting access to both neighbors and City services, and,

WHEREAS, in addition to private easements, both residents at-large and the City have obtained a prescriptive easement as a result of their continued use of the road for more than 25 years, and,

WHEREAS, in conjunction with the Laurel Canyon Association a group of concerned citizens have formed “No Gates on Cole Crest” dedicated to preventing the construction of gates on Cole Crest and preservation of the easement that has been used by the community and the City,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bel-Air Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council supports these efforts and urges the City Attorney to take all available legal actions to advance public safety in this regard.”

Discussion was held.

- *Jamie and Bob Tourtellotte* introduced discussion, noting that “No Gates on Cole Crest” is looking for a long-term solution, for the City support us to take all necessary steps to prevent the gate from being installed.
- *Bob Tourtellotte* introduced himself as a neighbor intimately involved with this issue.
- *Cassandra* related that that the Fire Department has indicated that the area in question is a direct

overlay to Oakland, and what happened in that fire would happen to them, that people will be in their cars with no way out.

- *Gary* asked if we support the motion, what do you intend to do to enforce the non-construction of the gate? *Bob* answered that the next step is to engage the owner in conversation, and talk about a wider issue, a prescriptive easement.

- *Tony* related that the Planning Deputy from *Tom LaBonge's* office has given a negative report, that their position is that this is a private dispute, and that it would be important to have City Attorney, *Mike Feuer*, involved.

- *Larry* asked, to obtain an easement by necessity, do they need the City or why not have the Association file a private action against the property owner in a California State court?

- *Jamie* believes there is a benefit to have the City as co-counsel.

- *Chuck* related there was an identical situation where he lives, where developer put up a gate, and people moved out of upper Bel Air Road.

- *Cassandra* stated that that they have spoken with the family for a win-win, that it's not over, and that there is a need to put these support systems in place.

- *Larry* agreed that it makes sense to go for a permanent solution.

(c) Pothole Repair Blitz, Part II, & Submittal to Council – *Andre Stojka*

- *Andre* asked everyone to please identify the most important pothole in your area that you would like to address, fill out the form and send it in as soon as possible.

- *Larry* has noticed potholes in lower Beverly Glen and asked if the City was going to be repaving the section of Beverly Glen, Nikata, past the Four Oaks.

- *Gary* noted that there was a discussion with Joan Pelico about this. *Gary* recommended Mulholland, Antelo and the road going to the Valley; *Chuck* recommended Sunset around Veteran.

(d) Set Date for Election of 2014-2015 Officers – *Gary Plotkin*

The Board discussed having the election in March or April, favoring March.

- *Larry Leisten* read from the draft Bylaws stating that "Each officer shall be elected by majority vote of the Board present by written ballot at a Board meeting held during the first quarter of the calendar ... Newly elected officers shall assume office immediately following the meeting..."

- Board members were asked if anyone wanted to announce their candidacy, all offices are open for election, and to communicate it to *Cathy*, Administrative Assistant.

(e) L.A. City Central Collections System - *Don Loze* - Absent - TABLED

(Council File #: 14-0600 (FY2014-2015 City Budget Proposal))

24. Adjourn meeting: *Cassandra* moved, *Chuck* seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 9:00.

NEXT BABCNC MEETING: March 26, 2014 @ AJU