



**MINUTES Regular Meeting of the Board**

**Wednesday, September 16, 2015 7:00–9:00 P.M.**

**American Jewish University**

**15600 Mulholland Drive, Room 223, Main Campus, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Bel Air, CA 90077**

**Present: 20**

**Quorum: 15**

**ATTACHMENT “A”**

<b>2015/2016 Stakeholder Groups / Certified Reps</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Not Present</b>
<b>Bel Air Crest Master Homeowner Association</b>		
<i>Irene Sandler</i>	<b>X</b>	
<b>Bel Air Ridge HOA</b>		
<i>André Stojka</i>	<b>X</b>	
<b>Benedict Canyon Association</b>		
<i>Matthew Post</i>	<b>X</b>	
<i>Nickie Miner</i>	<b>X</b>	
<i>Don Loze</i>		<b>X</b>
<i>Bob Schlesinger</i>	<b>X</b>	
<b>Casiano Estates Association</b>		
<i>Gary Plotkin</i>	<b>X</b>	
<b>Faith-Based Organizations</b>		
<i>Lonnie Mayfield</i>		<b>X</b>
<b>Holmby Hills Association</b>		
<i>Jason Spradlin</i>		<b>X</b>
<b>K-6 Private Schools</b>		
<i>Teresa Lee (Vicki Kelly alternate)</i>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>7-12 Private Schools</b>		
<i>John Amato</i>	<b>X</b>	
<b>Laurel Canyon Association</b>		
<i>Jamie Hall</i>	<b>X</b>	
<i>Cassandra Barrère</i>		<b>X</b>
<i>Cathy Wayne</i>	<b>X</b>	
<i>Tony Tucci</i>	<b>X</b>	

<b>2015/2016 Stakeholder Groups / Certified Reps</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Not Present</b>
<b>Members-at-Large</b>		
<i>Larry Leisten</i>	<b>X</b>	
<i>Chuck Maginnis</i>		<b>X</b>
<b>Residents of Beverly Glen</b>		
<i>Robert A. Ringler</i>	<b>X</b>	
<i>Dan Palmer</i>	<b>X</b>	
<b>Roscomare Valley Association</b>		
<i>Robin Greenberg</i>	<b>X</b>	
<i>Michael Kemp</i>	<b>X</b>	
<b>Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy</b>		
<i>Travis Longcore, Ph.D.</i>	<b>X</b>	
<b>Bel Air District</b>		
<i>Dan J. Love</i>	<b>X</b>	
<i>Maureen Levinson</i>	<b>X</b>	
<b>Beverly Park Estates</b>		
<i>Maureen Smith</i>	<b>X</b>	
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>6</b>

**Guest Speakers & Guests:**

*Noah Muhlstein*, Planning Deputy, Council District 5

*Matt Gonzalez*, Engineer for DWP’s Western District

*Chris Ragsdale*, LAPD / West Los Angeles Police Station 310-444-0702

*August Cziment*, Director of Operations of Ring.org

Three individuals signed the guest list

1. **Call to Order:** Board President, *Travis Longcore*, called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm and announced meeting procedures including policy on public comment.
2. **Roll Call:** Board Secretary, *Robin Greenberg*, called the roll with 18 present initially (including one alternate) and a quorum met. By 7:14 p.m., 20 were present.
3. **The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.**
4. **Adoption of the September 16, 2015 Agenda.** The agenda was unanimously adopted, as written.
5. **Approval of the July 22, 2015 Minutes** Copies of the July 22, 2015 Minutes (Attachment A) were circulated with the draft agenda. *Nickie Miner* asked that we remove “notified of planned absence” next to her name on page 1. The minutes were adopted as revised by unanimous consent.
6. **Public Comment**

*Bruce Kuyper:* Mr. Kuyper reported that a Verizon wireless contractor wants to put an “above-ground facility” on Moraga Drive on a Public Right of Way in a parkway, sidewalk to parkway and roadway in

front of a couple of homes. There is a U-Permit with the Dept. of Public Works for a height variance. *Mike Kemp* confirmed receipt of the file, and noted that there was a similar situation in the past on Sunset, for which Verizon did presentations for the PLUC and the Board. *Mike* anticipates that they will do another before the PLUC will take any action on this.

## Reports of Officers

### 7. President's Report – *Travis Longcore*

#### a. Representatives of Elected Officials and Agencies (Updates & Discussions)

##### i. *Noah Muhlstein, Planning Deputy, Council District 5*

*Noah* related that there have been complaints about leaking water on Mulholland Drive on Beverly Glen to Nicada and the DWP found waterline issues. Previously scheduled roadwork will be fast-tracked to October and the waterline replaced in the near future. *Noah* introduced *Matt Gonzalez*, Engineer for DWP's Western District, who presented two options for scheduling the work on Mulholland Drive: 1) a one-lane closure from 10/19 to 10/29, M-F 8-4, or 2) full closure Mulholland, Beverly Glen to Nicada 10/16 to 10/18. They are working with LADOT and looking for Board approval. Following Q & A, *Travis Longcore* noted that this was not agendaized; however, a straw poll taken indicated that the Board preferred a three day-closure with a lot of pre-notice, particularly to the schools for parents using the educational corridor.

As to the Ridgeline Ordinance, *Noah* related that there is now funding for a couple of positions beginning in January for six months. He will put together a list of wants/needs for the Planning Dept. for the next fiscal year and work hard to pull ridgeline to the front.

As to the Short-Term Rentals, *Noah* stated that workshops with public testimony to craft the STR Ordinance will be held at three locations: the Valley, WLA and DTLA.

Regarding the BHO/ICO, *Noah* stated that in couple of weeks the Planning Department will release a draft of fixes for both BMO in the flats & the BHO in hillsides including the definition of basements, looking at grading amounts and problematic areas, redefining things to create better legislation. He'll keep us updated.

Regarding San Ysidro haul routes, *Noah* has spoken with the City Attorney's office regarding the letters sent to the Board of Building & Safety Commission, and was told that they are working out details with DOT and Planning and need a time for research. There is no case file assigned on this. He is trying to coordinate with City Attorney, Donna Wong, Board of B&S Commission Chair.

*Noah* agreed to help *Gary* on getting a cutout on the east side of Sepulveda across from the Getty where buses stop, cutting off one lane, creating congestion.

*Irene Sandler* asked if there have been any decisions on truck trips in Bel Air. *Noah* replied there has been no mandate/discussion limiting truck trips/hour on any projects.

- ii. *Chris Ragsdale*, SLO, West Los Angeles Police Station, introducing *August Cziment*, Guest Speaker, giving a presentation on Ring security <https://ring.com/>. *Chris Ragsdale* gave an update on crime, stating he expects the current tick-down on crime to continue and then an increase in property crimes by the end of the year. They're looking at prevention and detection technologies. *Chris* introduced *August Cziment*, from Ring.com to present an example of this technology.

*August Cziment* passed around a sample of the doorbell/security device/wifi-enabled video doorbell/smart video doorbell with motion detection and video recording that prevents especially “knock-knock” type of crimes. They have a program, Ring Neighborhood Watch, which is optional, that might help lead to the capture of the criminals. Purchase price is \$199; he’d give us a \$20 discount. There is an optional \$3.00 monthly fee for additional services. It is dual power, has a rechargeable battery good for 6-12 months and a charger. It has a wide-angled lens. Q&A was held. The Board thanked *Chris Ragsdale* and *August Cziment* for coming and sharing this information.

**b. Appointment of Public Works Liaison to work with Board of Public Works**

DONE and the Board of Public Works is requesting our partnership by appointing a Public Works Liaison to work with the Board of Public Works. See Attachment B for the full description of this role, which will foster greater relationships with city department executives and staff that provide some of the city's basic services. *Dan Love* volunteered for the position and *Larry Leisten* volunteered as alternate.

**Motion:** To appoint *Dan Love* as Public Works Liaison and *Larry Leisten* as alternate PWL. Moved by *Robert Ringler*, seconded by *Tony Tucci*; the appointment was unanimously approved.

- c. **2015 Neighborhood Council Congress** Saturday, September 26, 2015 7:45 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.  
<https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?llr=v6sxvscab&oeidk=a07ebf1z5zh145338bb>

**8. Vice President’s Report – *Nickie Miner***

*Nickie* reported on the EmpowerLA Awards & NC Volunteer Recognition Event with dinner last Friday evening, stating that eight of our Board members attended; we did not win the award; however, there was fine a recognition of *Chuck Maginnis* of the EP Committee, who was highly acclaimed.

**9. Secretary’s Report – *Robin Greenberg***

*Robin* provided an update on *Alan Fine*, per his daughter’s report.

**10. Treasurer’s Report – *Dan Love***

**a. Update from Treasurer (Discussion)**

*Dan Love* explained that we will be voting on two MERs and bank statements for July 2015, the last of the old bank account and the first of the new account, and one for August 2015.

*Gary Plotkin* announced that in October, the additional \$5,000 for the NCs will be available.

**b. Consideration of July & August 2015 Monthly Expenditure Reports (Discussion & Action)**

Copies of the two July 2015 MERs (one for the old bank account and one for the new bank account) and the August 2015 MER (Attachment C) were circulated with the draft agenda.

**Motion:** To approve the two July 2015 MERs (one for the old bank account and one for the new bank account) and to approve the August 2015 MER on the new account.

*Dan Love* moved, *Robert Ringler* seconded; a roll call vote count was taken with 17 yeas from *André Stojka*, *Bob Schlesinger*, *Nickie Miner*, *Matt Post*, *Gary Plotkin*, *John Amato*, *Jamie Hall*, *Cathy Wayne*, *Tony Tucci*, *Larry Leisten*, *Robert Ringler*, *Dan Palmer*, *Robin Greenberg*, *Michael Kemp*, *Dan Love*, *Maureen Levinson* and *Maureen Smith*; 0 nays, and 1 abstention from *Irene Sandler*, who stepped when the item was introduced. The President does not vote except to break a tie. All three Monthly Expenditure Reports were approved.

- c. **Part III of Budget Package due to DONE on September 1, 2015.** (Discussion & Action)  
Board considered approval of the Neighborhood Council Self-Assessment for Fiscal Year 2014-2015 (Attachment D) *Travis Longcore* reviewed the contents with the Board.  
*Cathy Wayne* moved, *Maureen Levinson* seconded, and the motion was approved by unanimous consent with 18 yeas from *Irene Sandler, André Stojka, Bob Schlesinger, Nickie Miner, Matt Post, Gary Plotkin, John Amato, Jamie Hall, Cathy Wayne, Tony Tucci, Larry Leisten, Robert Ringler, Dan Palmer, Robin Greenberg, Michael Kemp, Dan Love, Maureen Levinson* and *Maureen Smith*. The document will be submitted online through DONE's website.

## 11. New Business

- a. **Short-Term Rental** (Update, Discussion & Possible Action) – *Matt Post*

*Matt* described Attachment E which includes a BCA newsletter article on short-term rentals and information about a house on Benedict Canyon Drive used by airbnb as a hotel. He is re-writing a letter to CM Paul Koretz expressing the position that because of safety, these STRs should not be allowed and there is concern that there will be no regulation of these.

*Travis* encouraged the Board that since we have taken a position on this which is in the minutes, members should take the position anytime it comes up. *Larry Leisten* asked what issues we face to become successful. *Travis* replied that running a hotel, rooming house/boarding house is not allowed under single-family zoning and would need revocable CUP with conditions especially in the hillside areas having fire, safety and security issues.

*Cathy Wayne* noted the chronic problem in Laurel Canyon & Hollywood Hills of party houses; said to call the Police when you see a party beginning. *Maureen Levinson* related that it took two hours for LAPD to arrive at a party next to her; owner rented out home before demolishing.

*Larry* asked if this could be handled by CEQA; *Travis* agreed. *Mr. Amato* suggested something like the brothel rules in Boston may be useful. *Mike Kemp* recommended rallying other NCs. *Robin* noted that there will be a motion at WRAC in one month. *Travis* noted that this hurts hotels and screws people who want to buy or rent, and degrades value of property. *Larry* notes the same impacts as with new construction: traffic, noise and nuisance. *Irene* suggested looking beyond ourselves to find reasons. *Gary* noted substandard streets, no place to park in Los Feliz; City looking for revenue. *Nickie* noted construction requirements differ on homes and hotels.

## Reports of Committees

### 12. Public Safety/Disaster Preparedness Committee – *Chuck Maginnis, Chair* (absent)

- a. **Report on September 9, 2015 EP meeting** (Update & Discussion)

*Gary* gave report, stating that this was an excellent meeting with speakers from Topanga and *Grayce Liu*, General Manager of DONE who shared ideas of wanting to take emergency preparedness citywide (among neighborhood councils).

[*Grayce* brought EP representatives from North Granada Hills NC and Lake Balboa NC.

*Chuck* brought two representatives of Topanga Coalition for Emergency Preparedness (T-CEP) and a representative of North Topanga Canyon Fire Safe Council. See 09/09/15 EP minutes.]

*Gary Plotkin* stated that we need more ham radio operators to cover our area and encouraged those interested to get their names in to *Chuck* and sign up by the end of September. They will need to take the course and test. *Gary* will send *Cathy* information on dates to send to you all. *Irene Sandler* reported that this was an excellent meeting with many things said. With regard to “shelter-in-place,” one of the Topanga EP people told her that in the case of a very fast-moving

fire with no time to evacuate, get into a room without windows and hunker down. Regarding roof vents and foundation vents, since embers cause many of the fires, she was advised to **switch from 1/4<sup>th</sup> to 1/8” mesh screens for roof vents and foundation vents.**

### 13. Planning & Land Use Committee Report – *Michael Kemp, Chair*

- a. **Update on August 11, 2015 & September 8, 2015 PLUC Meetings** (Update & Discussion)
- b. **8904 Crescent Drive (Updates, Discussion & Possible Action) ZA 2014-3721 (Attachment F)**  
Demolish existing one story 1200 sf SFD and attached carport. Build a new 3 story 3226 sf SFD with attached 2-car garage, and associated swimming pool on a substandard hillside street, with less than 20’ improved roadway.  
The BABCNC PLU Committee voted at its August Meeting, with 6 yeas, and 2 nays, to oppose the request in the above noted application.  
Mike related that the big concern is substandard street with extreme topography on one side. This went to hearing. Attachment F is the letter Mike sent. Public comment period is still open.

**Motion:** The BABCNC recommends that the City of Los Angeles Zoning Administrator deny the application in case #ZA 2014-3721  
Moved by *Mike Kemp*; no discussion; no objection to calling the question; unanimous.

- c. **1877 Rising Glen Drive (Updates, Discussion & Possible Action) ZA 2015-1846-F**  
A request for an over in height wall and driveway gate. The BABCNC PLU Committee voted at its August Meeting, by unanimous count, to oppose the request in the above noted application. They had a presentation in September, decided to stay with original recommendation. This over-in height wall seemed excessive, especially driveway gate (from 6’6” to 9’6” solid).

**Motion:** The BABCNC recommends that the City of Los Angeles Zoning Administrator deny the application in case #ZA 2015-1846-F. Discussion was held. Moved by *Mike Kemp*, and the Board voted unanimously to deny the application.

### 14. Ad Hoc Committee on Mansionization – *Gary Plotkin, Chair* (Update & Discussion)

- a. **Updates from the Committee – *Gary Plotkin***

*Gary Plotkin* referred back to *Noah’s* report, stating now that there will be funding for additional Planning staff starting in January, we should be moving on these items by the first of the year. Though the funding is for six months, it will likely take a year to complete the Baseline Hillside Ordinance. *Gary* will work with *Michael Kemp* to incorporate items that have not been included, and to be sure that things like not exempting basements and requiring CUPs or at least a hearing for anything over 20,000 square feet be included.

- b. **Update on Ridgeline Ordinance – *Don Loze*** (absent)

### 15. Bylaws, Rules, and Elections Committee – *Larry Leisten, Chair*

- a. **Report on Bylaws, 2016 Elections & Drafting of Standing Rules** (Update & Discussion)

*Larry* reported that two weeks ago, he received the officially-approved version of the Bylaws and sent them to *Cathy*. (Post-meeting, the new Bylaws were uploaded to our website.) *Larry* stated that he has not done anything on the Standing Rules and will have a committee meeting in November. His priority is to begin defining the newly created public districts created by the new bylaws, by streets. *Thomas Soong* will put him into contact with an engineer who has the data.

Once the City puts into motion the elections for 2016, we have a procedure to educate & solicit candidates, so need to have these districts defined. He'll be working on this over the next month.

**16. Outreach and Education Committee – Robin Greenberg, Chair** No report.

**Reports of Representatives**

**17. West Los Angeles Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC) – Robin Greenberg**

**a. Update and Possible Actions from the August 19, 2015 meeting**

*Robin* reported that WRAC met this morning. There were no new actions only verbal mentions of some upcoming meetings: Monday 09/21/15 Santa Monica Civic Center meeting on the “Master Plan” and “Grow America Act.” Monday 09/21/15, a Bel Air Alliance meeting. 09/24/15 “Humanitarian Day,” a NC Coalition will help vets on process of obtaining benefits.

**18. Budget Representatives’ Report – André Stojka & Nickie Miner**

**a. Report from Budget Representatives (Update & Discussion)**

No report. *André* will contact the Budget Advocates whom he has not heard from.

**19. Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Report – Travis Longcore**

**a. Update from Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy (Discussion)**

*Travis* reported that he has received inquiries about fire safety and brush clearance in SMMC land. He explained that not all of the Conservancy’s parcels are contiguous and he has a Google Earth file that you can install on your devices that shows which are owned by the Conservancy. State parks does not do vegetation management on their property; they will not cut down their brush for you while the Conservancy in most instances does do fuel modification. The Conservancy will only respond to a request to clear within 200 feet of a structure if provided the exact assessment parcel number. *Travis* can then send an email.

*Travis* explained that the Conservancy has their own firefighting apparatus. They do fire check patrols on Mulholland actively and are integrated into our entire fire response team here; not just LAFD, but in this territory to a great extent also take advantage of and have integrative response with SMMC, and, active wetlands are managed by Mountains Recreation Conservation Authority (MRCA). They bring their own active resources into our community, tied into all of our surrounding Fire Departments.

*Irene Sandler* asked about protected trees. *Travis* related that the City of LA has a Protected Tree Ordinance that protects walnuts, sycamores, oaks and California bay trees, all of which require permit from Urban Forestry in the City to remove. *Mr. Amato* warned that if you take down a walnut, be sure it doesn’t have “Thousand Cankers Disease” as you would need to have tree incinerated. *Travis* noted that it helps to have an arborist.

The Board next discussed a brush fire on Mulholland and Beverly Glen.

**Good of the Order:** Members of the Board have the opportunity to report any item of interest to the Council.

*Gary Plotkin* would like the flagpoles and signs that we paid for addressed at our October meeting.

*Maureen Smith* attended a “Help House LA Vets” a month ago, a master-planning meeting; they are looking for community input: <http://www.helpouselavets.com/>

*Robert Ringler* related that on Tuesday 10/27/15, C-PAB will resume meetings after several months without any, and will have an election of officers. They are looking for new members to be involved in WLA in partnership with the LAPD. *Robert* had been Co-Chair with former Commanding Officer *Evangelyn Nathan*. On the day of a planned election, *Captain Nathan* made a decision to not have the election but to appoint *Robert*. This resulted in outrage by some members and a complaint was filed with Internal Affairs. The new Captain and Deputy Chief thought it would be prudent to start C-PAB over again.

*Robert* welcomes people who have not been involved before who care about crime and traffic and can get some of those issues back to the community as well as to bring suggestions to the Police Department; there is a lot going on at C-PAB, including speakers, field trips, and a new push for LGBT involvement.

*Travis* inquired as to how *Robert* became co-chair of C-PAB, if we need to formally empower *him* to represent us there and periodically reconfirm. *Robert* would be happy to have formal appointment from the Board. Now that the Freeway work is done, *Robert* would also like to take on bicycle safety issues.

*Mr. Amato* asked *Robert* to have West Bureau look at the issue of school bus safety on Sunset, stating that cars going by buses is major violation; that it is a thoroughfare that the City won't stop speeding on. When flashes go on or paddle goes out you have to stop.

**Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at 8:56 pm.

**UPCOMING MEETING – Wednesday October 28, 2015 at AJU**