

Name of Neighborhood Council:

Bel Air Beverly Crest

This Nomination is for:

Describe the project, initiative or meeting operations:

The Emergency Preparedness Committee, under the auspices of Chuck Maginnis, met every other month during 2018 at the Bel Air Ridge Clubhouse from 7:00-9:00 PM.

At the January 17, 2018 meeting, details of the city's and the stakeholders' response to the Skirball Fire of December 6, 2017 were discussed:

Greg Martayan, CD5 Councilman Paul Koretz's Chief of Public Safety, noted that Chief Hogan did an amazing job as commander. 1600-1900 homes were evacuated, 270 officers were deployed.

Chief Armando Hogan pointed out that there were 3 fires going simultaneously. He handled the Skirball, where 20 homes were damaged, and six were partially or completely destroyed, mostly on Linda Flora, Casiano and Moraga Drive. Hundreds of LAPD cars and 120 firetrucks from outside of the city had to be managed. In response to the question "why we don't use fire roads during evacuation", Chief Hogan said that they don't know when the road was last used and if they are closed off because of a private gate.

Michael Schlenker, BABCNC Communications Chair for Emergency Preparedness, related that they had 18 ham radio operators, and that 7 out of 11 ham radios, bought with money donated from the Bel Air Association and BABCNC were used during the Skirball Fire. An emergency alert system that Michael had instituted, combined with Notify LA notification system, were used in coordinating canyon communities.

Jacqueline Le Kenndy, BABCNC Board Treasurer, noted that the request for four reps for the EMD got pushed out of the budget. Greg Martayan promised that they are pushing hard for EMD's budget.

At the March 21, 2018 meeting, Ben Park, RYLAN representative contracted by the LA Neighborhood, discussed "Ready Your LA Neighborhood".

Michael Schlenker, BABCNC Communications Chair, discussed the LA Resilience Plan.

A motion was made to convene a 7 week CERT class as a BABCNC Outreach event.

At the May 16, 2018 meeting Chuck Maginnis introduced Ben Park, RYLA Representative, who has returned to the committee for the third time. Ben presented two five minute videos on Ready Your LA Neighborhood program. He gave a sample of a Map Your Neighborhood, which connects your house with your neighborhood. Ben showed a pre-release screening of the EMD program. It includes Map Your Neighborhood. Ready Your LA Neighborhood starts by helping you get to know your neighbors. You will determine a gathering place where you'll meet after a disaster. You'll learn a simple response plan for the first hour following a disaster. About 15-20 single family homes and the entire building if

you live in an apartment or condo, or maybe just your floor in a large building, should be the right size. The city wants you to hold a Map Your Neighborhood meeting, most likely in your own home. You need a tv and video or projector to show the videos that the city provides, along with facilitator support. Shelley Seltzer, of Colina Glen, related that she had a meeting at her home for 50 people, using the template that Ben Park gave her.

Mitch McKnight, who is a training leader for CERT, discussed the CERT program. Mitch does a power-point presentation, teaches people how to use fire extinguishers, how to do basic medical care, "triage", how to do very light search and rescue. He would like a minimum of 20-25 people. There is no cost. If you miss a class, you can make it up at another location. If you make all 7 classes, you get a certificate by the Mayor and Fire Chief stating that you have completed the course. A motion was passed to have the CERT meeting begin July 20, 2018.

The July 18, 2018 meeting included guest speakers on RYLAN (Ben Park) and CERT. Ben discussed having helped Shelley Seltzer's group. They split Shelly's area into 3 groups. Shelley related that Seema and Luisa from the Doheny-Sunset Plaza Neighborhood Association had 69% attendance at their meetings.

Chuck related that the CERT class, started a couple of weeks ago, had 25 individuals at each meeting.

Bill Grundfest spoke on weed wackers. Chuck related that the BABCNC had taken a vote on the city's recommendations at the June 27, 2018 meeting. They voted to support the LAFD's Chief's recommendations with the exception of the requirement in #2 and #3 for separate safety personnel, because of additional costs involved in that, and expressed concern about #6 and #7, that there be actually 2 required fire extinguishers for any brush clearing operation. Chuck noted that Greg Martayan told him that the draft ordinance of the weed wacker measure will be going to the Council of the Public Safety Commission where it will be approved and then to City Council.

Tim Pershing, representing Assemblyman Richard Bloom, recommended writing a letter requesting that Richard Bloom create statewide legislation banning metal blades, which would fix the spark problem. A motion passed to write a letter to Richard Bloom requesting a state ban on metal blades, also a letter to Paul Koretz regarding a city ban on metal blades and to Sheila Kuehl, requesting a County ban on metal blades.

Bill Grundfest added that we recommend that everyone install ember resistant products in attics and gutters.

On September 12, 2018 the BABCNC made a request of city, county and state elected and non elected officials regarding council file 09-1977-S2 to draft a document amending or adding ordinances to regulate unwanted fire ignitions by use of metal cutting blades.

At the Thursday, September 13, 2018 meeting UCLA medical center directors of emergency management Art Kirkland and Kurt Kainsinger spoke on UCLA's emergency preparedness plan. Ben Park spoke on RYLAN, Michael Schlenker and Chuck Maginnis spoke on weed wackers, CERT and HAM.

At the November 13, 2018 meeting LAFD Captain Kevin Johnson, EMS Resilience Officer, spoke on LA Resiliency and why Angelenos need to be prepared. Michael Schlenker and Ron Cornell spoke on 2019 goals, a mission statement and a resilience plan.

Describe how this nomination promoted civic engagement in government and/or made government more responsible to local needs:

Notice of all of the emergency preparedness meetings were posted on our web, sent to all our stakeholders as an email blast and posted in the five locations in our neighborhood. The Bel Air Ridge Neighborhood, a member of our neighborhood council, has a sophisticated email system of notifying all the members of the community. The speakers who come to the emergency preparedness meetings send notices to their constituents of their attendance at our meetings.

All attendees of the emergency preparedness committee meetings learn about civic engagement through the neighborhood council process of providing agendas and minutes, holding seats on the committee, speaking according to Robert's Rules and gaining insight into the manner in which government works through participation in it. All stakeholders are encouraged to participate, and the Community Center at Claray holds a lot of people.

Additional Comments:

The Emergency Preparedness Committee sets an example of one man's dream being executed and grown and developed. The members of the emergency preparedness committee and the guests in the room never go home without having gained valuable insights into the city's preparedness for a disaster, whether it be fire, flood or terrorism. Neighbors learn to work together to benefit each other.