



**Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council Monthly Board Meeting (Virtual)**  
**Wednesday September 22, 2021, 7:00–9:00 P.M.**

**Minutes**

Attachment "A"

<b>2021/2022 Stakeholder Groups / Representatives</b>	<b><u>Present</u></b>	<b><u>Absent</u></b>
<b>Bel Air Crest Master Homeowner Association</b>		
<i>Irene Sandler, Traffic Committee Chair</i>	<b>X</b>	
<b>Bel Air Association</b>		
<i>Blair Tanner (Selection on 09-22-2021)</i>	<b>X</b>	
<b>Bel Air District</b>		
<i>Mark Goodman, M.D.</i>		<b>X</b>
<b>Bel Air Glen District</b>		
<i>Timothy Steele (Elected by Board on 09-22-2021)</i>	<b>X</b>	
<b>Bel Air Hills Association (BAHA)</b>		
<i>Robin Greenberg, VP of Operations</i>	<b>X</b>	
<i>Wendy Morris</i>	<b>X</b>	
<b>Bel Air Ridge HOA (Alternate is Ed Cain)</b>		
<i>André Stojka,</i>	<b>X</b>	
<b>Benedict Canyon Association (BCA)</b>		
<i>Robert (Bob) Schlesinger, PLU Committee Chair</i>	<b>X</b>	
<i>Donald Loze</i>	<b>X</b>	
<i>Nickie Miner, Secretary</i>	<b>X</b>	
<i>David Scott Kadin</i>		<b>X</b>
<b>Casiano Estates Association</b>		
<i>Robert Garfield, DDS</i>		<b>X</b>
<b>Commercial or Office Enterprise Districts</b>		
<i>Shawn Bayliss</i>	<b>X</b>	
<b>Custodians of Open Space</b>		
<i>Travis Longcore, Ph.D., Board President</i>	<b>X</b>	
<b>Doheny-Sunset Plaza Neighborhood Association</b>		
<i>Vadim Levotman, Treasurer</i>	<b>X</b>	
<b>Faith-Based Organizations</b>		
<i>Jacqueline Le Kennedy</i>		<b>X</b>
<b>Franklin-Coldwater District</b>		
<i>Steven Weinberg</i>		<b>X</b>

<b>K-6 Private Schools</b>		
<i>Vacancy</i>		<b>0</b>
<b>7-12 Private Schools</b>		
<i>Jon Wimbish</i>	<b>X</b>	
<b>Public Educational Institutions (K-12)</b>		
<i>Kristie Holmes</i>	<b>X</b>	
<b>Holmby Hills Association</b>		
<i>Jason Spradlin</i>	<b>X</b>	
<b>Laurel Canyon Association (LCA) (Alternate is Kris Le Fan)</b>		
<i>Jamie Hall, VP of Legislative Affairs</i>	<b>X</b>	
<i>Stephanie Savage, PLU Committee Vice Chair</i>	<b>X</b>	
<i>Cathy Wayne</i>	<b>X</b>	
<i>Heather Roy</i>		<b>X</b>
<b>Members-at-Large</b>		
<i>Gail Sroloff, Traditional</i>	<b>X</b>	
<i>Mindy Rothstein Mann, Traditional</i>	<b>X</b>	
<i>Bradford Cobb (Confirmed 09/22/21) Alternate for Ellen Evans, Community Interest At Large</i>	<b>X</b>	
<i>Asher Barondes, Youth Seat</i>	<b>X</b>	
<b>North of Sunset District (Alternate is Stella Grey)</b>		
<i>Yves Mieszala</i>		<b>X</b>
<i>Patricia Murphy</i>		<b>X</b>
<b>Residents of Beverly Glen (RoBG)</b>		
<i>Robert A. Ringler</i>	<b>X</b>	
<i>Dan Palmer</i>	<b>X</b>	
<b>Total:</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>8 &amp; 1 vacancy</b>

- 1. Call to Order:** President Longcore called the meeting at 7:01 P.M.
- 2. Flag Salute**
- 3. Roll Call:** Secretary Miner called roll with quorum met; Member Spradlin arrived at 7:38pm.
- 4. Approval of Agenda**  
**Motion:** Approve September 22, 2021 Agenda: Moved by Members Schlesinger & Wayne; approved by acclamation.
- 5. Approval of the Minutes**  
**Motion:** Approve August 25, 2021 Meeting Minutes & September 14<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting Minutes (**Attachments A & A.i.**) approved by acclamation
- 6. General Public Comment**

**Rob Wilcox** introduced himself as a candidate for City Controller in next year's elections, who wants to be a "watchdog with teeth." For more info: [www.robforcontroller.com](http://www.robforcontroller.com)

**David Leonard** introduced himself as a candidate for the Beverly Glen HOA who will speak later on the agenda.

**Wendy Morris** noted that there is something important happening regarding the jet noise situation. Anybody who agrees that the current situation with jets flying over super low all day every day is unacceptable, please send an email to Joe Edmiston [edmiston@smmc.ca.gov](mailto:edmiston@smmc.ca.gov)

prior to October 1<sup>st</sup> to request filing of an amicus brief in support of SOSLA's legal argument be placed on their October 6<sup>th</sup> MRCA agenda as an action item. She would like them to send an amicus brief on behalf of the residents that are suffering to the court. She asks that people who are interested in this request and others show up to the meeting on October 6<sup>th</sup> to make public comment. She'll send to the board a short email about this and anybody who would like more information, please ask.

## **7. Comments of Representatives of Elected Officials & City Agencies**

### **Daniel Skolnick, Senior Planning Deputy for Councilmember Paul Koretz of CD5**

related that he was speaking in the spirit of reconciliation after a very contentious meeting that happened a few months ago regarding the Ridgeline Ordinance. He knows that there were many neighbors, members of the Board and City Staff that were aggrieved about the events that happened. He wanted to recognize the great work by this NC, other community stakeholders as well as by the Department, the Director and Staff. He still has a commitment from the Director to work through this and a commitment from many community stakeholders... and reiterated that we are working together in a spirit of cooperation. He appreciates efforts of those working for this, and the individuals who are concerned. He hopes that we could all have a feeling and spirit of reconciliation from those events and move forward to successfully adopt a Ridgeline Ordinance and Wildlife Corridors Ordinance that balances the desires of this community.

**Janet Turner, Field Supervisor, Office of Congressman Ted W. Lieu** related that she would give her email address to new members. Updates include:

- They are waiting to see how the Build Back Better Plan is negotiated and part of the reconciliation bill, hoping we will have word on that and on the Infrastructure Bill, which they hope will be passed together.
- The Congressman wrote a letter of support to the CA Wildlife Conservation Board in support of a \$20million dollar grant for the Wildlife Crossing in Agoura Hills. He was very pleased to find that the Board voted to provide the funding for the Wildlife Corridor. Announcements about that will be forthcoming at tomorrow's press conference

### **Octaviano Rios from the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment / EmpowerLA:**

- Policies: Draft Visual Communications Policy is still being circulated and BONC is still looking for our feedback from NCs and stakeholders.
- They are still looking for feedback for the Code of Conduct Policy with information sessions for feedback tonight Tuesday 10/19 6:30-8:30, Saturday 11/06 1:00-3:00pm.
- Virtual Meetings: Octaviano noted that the last he heard we will still be allowed to meet virtually up until December of this year, awaiting final messaging from the Department and details related to the State legislation being reviewed by the Governor. They will provide that in writing to all NCs. President Longcore noted the Governor signed AB361, which extends the in-person requirement for meetings until January 2024, during which period any public health official has social distancing recommendations. He believes that covers NCs. Octaviano thanked him and noted that they have yet to include that info in writing.
- Cornerstone: Due to technical difficulties on their end, they're sending an email from the department resetting new user names. Once you receive that email with the new user name, the old name will no longer be valid. If you have any technical challenges, contact them.
- Bylaws Amendments Deadline, changed from April 15<sup>th</sup> (a mistake) to April 1<sup>st</sup> next year.
- NCs need to submit ADA Inspection Forms for eventual allowance of meeting in person for public meetings. President Longcore noted that we have already submitted that form.

## **Reports of Officers**

8. **President** – Travis Longcore: President Longcore related that Teresa Lee, K-6 Private Schools Rep, has tendered her resignation for personal reasons. We'll seek a replacement for that slot next meeting.

**Action:** Correspondence nominating Bradford Cobb as Alternate for Ellen Evans (Member At-Large) subject to confirmation vote of the Board. Bradford introduced himself, noting that he has been attending our meetings as an observer for about 15 months and has enjoyed the process. His interest started out with him joining the DSPNA. Member Evans asked him to be an alternate for two months. Bradford was confirmed by acclamation.

**Announcement:** Selection of Blair Tanner as Representative of Bel-Air Association. President Longcore related that the Bel Air Association selects one member of the board and has through its own democratic processes selected Blair Tanner as its representative. This takes effect by virtue of their appointment. Longcore related that he is here and welcomed to the meeting tonight.

Mr. Tanner and Mr. Cobb were seated and eligible to vote on all but financial matters this evening.

President Longcore further announced that he will call a Special Board Meeting in early November to gather information about the Sepulveda Transit Corridor. The meeting will be dedicated entirely to this project. Metro will send a high-level rep to answer questions, on the record, about the proposals being developed for rail or monorail line, connecting the Valley to the Westside. As a public meeting, it will have time for public comment. We'll take questions in advance that we will ask the Metro team, as questions from the Board. The goal is to provide a neutral public forum where both the Board & Metro can exchange information relevant to our territory, given the potential impacts and opportunities that this project would involve.

9. **Vice President – Operations** – Robin Greenberg announced next week's meetings, Budget & Finance on Monday and Home Sharing on Thursday.
10. **Vice President – Legislative Affairs** – Jamie Hall
- VP Hall related that SB9 was passed and signed by the Governor. He spent the weekend analyzing the impact on the hillsides, prepared a power point presentation that he presented to the Hillside Federation. He would like to do an informational presentation to the Board because it is super important that we understand the implications of this law and what potential exceptions exist. He would like to do that in the next few weeks.
  - The Hollywood Community Plan EIR came out, and that there are some inadequacies as to mitigation measures for biological resources. He would propose that a working group be established to review that and write a letter to the City recommending modifications to the mitigation measures.
  - Member Morris praised Member Hall's excellent presentation to the Hillside Federation and looks forward to having him present this.
  - Member Stojka would like to have Jamie's presentation posted to our website and publicized.

11. **Secretary** – Nickie Miner: No report.

12. **Treasurer** – Vadim Levotman

**Motion:** Approval of August 2021 Monthly Expenditure Report (MER) (**Attachment B**)

**Moved** by Treasurer Levotman; **Seconded** by André Stojka. **18-0-0; passed**

## **Reports of Standing Committees**

**Planning & Land Use**  
Robert Schlesinger, Chair

- 13. Report of the Planning & Land Use Committee:** Vice Chair Savage introduced the following project of 243 Delfern, which she noted was presented to us on August 9<sup>th</sup>. She noted that there was no objection at the PLUC; many questions were asked. The rep is here. The HOA has reviewed the project and has no objection to it.

**14. 243 Delfern — DIR-2020-7965-SPR – (Continued from the 08/25/2021 Board Meeting)**

Project Description: Site Plan Review for a major remodel and addition to an existing 18,187 sq. ft. single-family dwelling. Proposed project will result in 25,925 sq. ft. single-family dwelling in the RE40-1HCR Zone. Revised language entitlement request. Site Plan Review (17,500 sq. ft. or more) per section 16.05 for a new house that will be approximately 25,198 sq. ft. and demolition of the existing 18,187 sq. ft. house.

Applicant: Delfern Park LLC Representative: Nick Leathers, Cyrus Harouni, and David Neman  
<https://planning.lacity.org/pdiscaseinfo/search/encoded/MjQzMtk00>

**Motion:** To approve the site plan review; moved by PLU Committee.

*[Member Spradlin was present at 7:38 pm.]*

Nick Leathers, Representative from Crest Real Estate spoke on behalf of the applicant and was joined by the owner, David Neman. He noted that they met again with Jason Spradlin and Holmby Hills HOA without any more feedback from them. **Public Comment:** None. Member Spradlin related that he circled back with the HOA, he and the HOA spoke with City Office of Historic Resources and corroborated the findings of Mr. Leather and their team. He thinks they mitigated parking and issues the neighborhood had and have no reason to oppose the project. Further Board questions were asked and answered. Vote: **24-0-1** with Don Loze abstaining; passed. Member Loze noted that he abstained based on a historical issue on Ladera, a 1st amendment issue, and referenced a house where Michael Jackson died. Mr. Leathers was asked to coordinate with Mr. Loze for the information.

**Outreach Committee**

Robin Greenberg, Chair

- 15. Report of the Outreach Committee:** Chair Greenberg related that we had another newsletter for September. The Budget & Finance Committee may discuss updating our web. She thanked those who created the September newsletter.

**Traffic Committee**

Irene Sandler, Chair

- 16. Report of the Traffic Committee:** Chair Sandler related that we had two traffic committee meetings because we had not completed the discussion on the Metro proposal on express lanes, which had five choices, nor had we completed the discussion on the station requested by UCLA on Metro's Sepulveda Transit Corridor Project.

- 17. Motion:** That the BABCNC support a station on the UCLA campus as part of the Sepulveda Corridor Transit Project (see WRAC motion for background) (**Attachment C**)

Chair Sandler related that there was discussion that we were voting to support having a station without having any word from Metro on the choices that they would select and where the routes would be. The committee approved the concept of having a station at UCLA which was in concert with the WRAC motion that 10 other neighborhoods have signed on to. President Longcore clarified that there was a recommendation that in the Sepulveda Transit Corridor there be a station at the UCLA campus and that it would connect with the Purple Line.

*[Member Hall left at 7:52 pm.]*

## **Public Comment:**

**Jennifer Poulakidas from UCLA's Office of Government and Community Relations.** Ms. Poulakidas related that she appreciates our consideration of the WRAC motion to ensure that the Sepulveda Transit Corridor (STC) would have a stop on the UCLA campus and that the STC connects with the Purple Line. She noted that while UCLA strongly supports this motion and believes there should be a stop on the UCLA campus, they do so for the benefit of the people who want to access UCLA, e.g., students, patients, visitors, that it provides much better access to the public, LA's only public research university, and feels it should be accessible to the people of LA.

**David Karwaski, Senior Associate Director at UCLA Transportation,** noted that he does not have much to add. If you have questions about data, ridership, etc., he has that information.

Board discussion was held and included but was not limited to that this motion asks that the new line have a station on the campus proper. Requests were made for statistics and estimates on how much extra time it would take a passenger to the Valley who wants to take the Purple Line. Member Bayliss noted that it will be at least two years before any real decisions are made on this project. He appreciates that we will have a special meeting to discuss this in depth. He'd like to kick this motion to that special meeting. President Longcore noted that it takes a 2/3rds vote to close debate, and calling the question failed.

**Motion** to postpone this motion until at or after the special board meeting **moved** by Member Bayliss, **seconded** by Member Stojka. Following discussion, the question was called to vote on postponing to the November special meeting. **10 voted to postpone** and **9 would vote on this tonight**. The motion to postpone until we have a meeting with Metro **passed**. President Longcore thanked those who engaged in this robust debate and provided public testimony.

## **18. Metro Express/Toll Lanes I-405 Sepulveda Pass ExpressLanes**

**Discussion & Possible Motion:** To take a position opposing the proposed Metro Express/Toll Lanes I-405 Sepulveda Pass Express Lanes (based on Alternative #1). (**Attachment C.i.**)

Chair Sandler introduced this motion, noting that the committee looked at the five choices presented by Metro. She provided details of the committee's considerations and noted that we are asking for support of the letter that the committee wrote which supports #1, the no project alternative.

**Public Comment:** Steven Sann had his hand raised and was called upon but was not forthcoming.

**Moved** by Sandler/Traffic Committee; **22-0-0; approved by unanimous consent.**

## **Reports of Ad Hoc Committees**

### **Ad Hoc Committee on LADBS Policies**

Stella Grey, Chair

## **19. Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on LADBS Policies**

- 20. Motion:** To remove the following paragraph from the motion adopted at the previous meeting regarding street width verification by LADBS: "Whereas, during the period between June 2017 and June 2021 Doheny Sunset Plaza Neighborhood Association and Laurel Canyon Association repeatedly notified the Bureau of Engineering about multiple projects where Hillside Referral Forms errors had occurred, but personnel of the Bureau of Engineering did not make any attempts to correct them." (**Attachment D**)

Member Savage related that this is a revision to a proposed motion which became a letter to Bureau of Engineering. The revision is to omit a section of a previously-approved motion. President Longcore noted it was out of an abundance of wanting to follow procedure that we brought this; it was intended to be edited from the motion last meeting. We came back to omits part of the motion. We will be submitting a cover letter that says this was the motion that the board approved. It was approved last time but takes 2/3rds to undo what we did last time.

The above motion was **moved** by Vice Chair Savage/Committee and **passed by unanimous consent by all 22 members present.**

### **Reports of Representatives to Neighborhood Council Alliances**

**21. Report of Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition (LANCC) Representative – Steven Weinberg** was not present

**22. Report of Westside Regional Alliance of Councils Representative – Robin Greenberg – No report.**

**23. Report of Neighborhood Council Sustainability Committee (NCSC) – Member Mann** related that they met last Sunday, with the main topic being something we had in our newsletter, “Cool Blocks.” Cool Blocks involves trying to enlist neighbors to meet weekly to try to reduce their carbon footprint. It was started by David Garrison a few years ago. It is also about getting to know your neighbors. People spoke to the Committee about their experience, showing that people came together and reduced the amount of water or electricity they use monthly & got together as a community regarding emergency preparedness and other issues. They encourage enlisting people to become a Cool Blocks leader. There is a million dollar grant to be given to the cities that reach a certain number of leaders. Contact her or Andy Shrader at Council Member Paul Koretz’s office if you know people who are interested. The NCSC also discussed reviewing their bylaws and the question of whether members can vote before bringing the items to their respective boards.

### **Old Business**

**24. Election to Fill Bel Air Glen District Representative Vacancy:** President Longcore noted that this happened because there was no candidate elected in the most recent election for the Bel Air Glen area. Under our Bylaws, in the event of a vacancy, the board may nominate and shall elect a new board member at the next scheduled publicly noticed meeting of the board or as soon as practicable. President Longcore introduced the process for filling this vacancy including but not limited to hearing from interested parties who would give public comment, the Board would nominate candidates, and we would ask for a statement or two from those who have nominated, then proceed to the election.

### **Public Comment:**

**Maureen Smith** related that she has been a dedicated board member for seven (7) years; shows up for meetings, has a JD to understand and analyze complicated projects, has a California broker’s license when talking about land use issues. She has been volunteering for SoCal Mediation, a California Dispute Resolution Program and the Institute for Nonviolence.

**Timothy Steele** noted that he would like to be considered for this seat. He lives on Angelo Drive on the east side for years. He noted that his neighborhood encourages social exchange and appreciation of the natural world and he would like to encourage this. He would do his best to support the Beverly Glen HOA, and work with the Councilmembers to preserve and advocate for the greater community and City of LA.

**Larry M. Leisten** related that he sent an email to the Executive Committee this afternoon. He explained the reason we are here, revisiting the vacancy, because of confusion that occurred two months ago with the vote. A decision was made by the board back then to table the votes until a subsequent meeting. He noted that he is here to advise the board that the proper procedure, if it wishes to open the election to fill the vacancy, is to vote on that matter first. He noted that the prior action was not to reopen this election to new candidates; prior to that vote, the board sent out solicitations for nominations, names for board consideration to run for this seat, and then the board acted on the candidates that were nominated. He advised that the Chair first submit the issue to the board, whether it wishes to open up the election to fill this seat to new candidates. It pleases him to learn that after so many years we have residents in his old community that now want to serve on the neighborhood council.

**David Van Iderstine** noted that he has known Tim Steele 18 years and thinks he would be a wonderful addition to the board. Mr. Iderstine related that he is a retired attorney; Tim has a first rate mind, a University Professor, who would bring an analytical mind for the issues that come before this board; he has a terrific temperament and would be the kind of presence you would find very collegial, insightful and a tremendous asset. He strongly urges us to support him in filling this vacancy.

**David Leonard** noted that he concurs with Mr. Leisten... he would like to present himself as available. By profession, he is an administrative and trial attorney who has great experience with legislative process and if possible would like to join all of us.

**Philip Enderwood** noted that he would like to run for seat. Mr. Enderwood listed the many issues that he was concerned about that came before this board while he served as the BABCNC Youth Rep. He noted that despite his residency at Roscomare Valley, he knows the area well, has acquaintances there and is well aware of the ongoing problems of the area and the work of the great BG HOA and would like to advocate on their behalf.

**Ms. Liz Rothman** spoke on behalf of her support of Tim Steele, noting that he does research, is thoughtful, is collegial, but he listens and he is persuadable. He would be an ideal person that would sit and deliberate on all the important issues that come before this board. She said that speaking as a land-use and environmental lawyer.

**Mr. Ken Linzer**, President of the Bel Air Glen HOA, related that he believes the successful candidate must be a resident of our community, and that the only supported candidate of those nominated is David Leonard, who has the full support of the Board of Directors, whom the BOD would like to see represent the BAG HOA seat on the NC board.

President Longcore closed public comment for the moment and noted that he has not seen Mr. Leisten's email. He believes Mr. Leisten is saying he believes it would be improper to have nominations tonight without voting to reopen nominations based on the election we had previously. President Longcore related two thoughts on this: One, it was known when he sent an email out a week ago and before that and it was announced at the last meeting that this is how we were going to proceed and there was no objection to it by the board. The timeliness for an objection from the board for that would have been at the last meeting... on the other hand, he could turn it over to us to say "would you like to reopen nominations?" His inclination is to rule that it is an order to make nominations at this point; however, given the possibility that someone could challenge that, he asked if someone could like to make a motion to reopen nominations on this seat.

Members Schlesinger & Stojka **moved** to reopen nominations on the seat. Brief discussion was held. Member Ringler would like to go ahead with the vote of what we have so far, which is an **objection**.



Member Stojka noted that under normal circumstances he would agree with Robert, however, we now have candidates who actually live there. Robert thinks our two initial Candidates are well qualified, and there is a reason of why the additional people all of a sudden want to participate.

President Longcore related that he made clear what the process is: a vote to reopen Yes to take nominations, a No vote you disagreed with what he said last month, overruling the rule of the Chair at that time, and vote on the two Candidates and only those two candidates.

**12 yes; the motion carried and we were open for nominations.**

**Nominations:**

Members Ringler/Wayne nominated **Maureen Smith**

Member Schlesinger nominated **Timothy Steele**

Member Holmes nominated **Philip Enderwood**

Member Bayliss nominated **David Leonard**

Nominations were closed. Each nominee was given a chance to say a few more words following which there was brief board discussion. Member Stojka noted that residency trumps everything else. Member Palmer related that he is a resident of Beverly Glen, and represents the lower part of BG. He was pleased to actually have interest from the people above to put forward candidates and thinks it should be an important part of the equation of whom to vote for. He opined that whomever is endorsed by the HOA, like David is, is to be considered, and though people may have other qualifications, being local, associated with people in the neighborhood would be the right choice.

**Public Comment:** **Larry Leisten** clarified that his position was not to preclude the opening to new candidates, and thanked President Longcore for letting the board make that decision.

Board discussion was opened, with some members noting that Stakeholders who are members of the HOA would trump anyone else, though they appreciate Ms. Smith & Mr. Enderwood. President Longcore explained the voting procedure by Roberts Rules, that you need a majority to be elected. If not a majority on the first vote, then there is a revote. We don't take candidates out. They can withdraw. It does require a majority of the board members voting to elect somebody. If we don't get a majority then we would need to vote again until we do.

**4 for Ms. Smith 3 for Mr. Enderwood; 1 for Mr. Leonard and 11 for Dr. Steele.** President Longcore announced that Timothy Steele is elected, effective immediately. He congratulated and thanked him, and expressed his appreciation to those who were on the council previously and continue to work for this neighborhood.

*[Members Ringler & Mann left at this time.]*

**25. Response to DONE Code of Conduct Revisions**

**Discussion & Possible Motion:** Consider potential BABCNC letter to DONE and BONC. The Board of Neighborhood Commissioners is considering changes to the code of conduct which may have profound effects on neighborhood councils and board members. Among the amendments is one that would allow the general manager of DONE to suspend individual NC board members? The policy also extends to NC committee members who are not board members. No finding of fact would be required to suspend someone. A mere allegation is sufficient.- See numbered paragraph 6 in: <https://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/CODE-OF-CONDUCT-AMENDMENT-07162021.pdf>

Member Stojka drafted a letter that was circulated this afternoon from which he read aloud.

**Motion** is to adopt the letter as the position of the board **moved** by Stojka; **seconded** by Schlesinger;

**Public Comment:** **Larry Leisten** backed up to the prior item to congratulate Tim Steele, and advise him that he should be taking all the requirements, ethics, funding and sign the code of conduct; until he completes that he won't be able to vote on financial matters or move a motion. He feels that the board chose well, and that Dr. Steele will be a tremendous asset as a new addition to the board.

Returning to Agenda Item #25, Member Loze complimented Member Stojka on the letter and suggested that we call to the attention of DONE that our mandate is to advise the councilmember in our district and what they are proposing may interfere with our advice to the councilmembers. He concluded that this mandate is not to be interfered with by DONE. Member Stojka will put that in the letter. Per President Longcore noted that the **motion** is to adopt a position responding to DONE's Code of Conduct revisions that is substantially based on the content of the letter that was circulated, subject to editorial revision for form and spelling and to submit that to DONE. **Passed by unanimous consent by 17 members present.**

## **New Business**

### **26. Merits of Virtual and In Person Neighborhood Council Meetings**

**Discussion & Possible Motion:** The Governor's order that allows neighborhood councils to conduct virtual meetings may expire soon, at which point the Brown Act would require in-person meetings, or that every remote location where a Board member is located be also open to the public. Virtual meetings have positive and negative attributes and a return to in-person meetings must be accompanied by discussion of policies to ensure public health for Board members and attendees (e.g., proof of vaccination, required masking, etc.). Opinions from board members and the public will be solicited on this topic and a possible motion reflecting the position of the Board put forward.

President Longcore introduced this item, noting that we heard from Octaviano early on, and he asked about AB361, which was just passed by the legislature signed by the Governor, that would allow for the suspension of certain elements of the Brown Act when social distancing recommendations are in place that would sunset in January 2024. This would basically give another two years of remote meetings if there are social distancing recommendations from LA County Public Health, which there currently are. However, President Longcore thinks it will be moot after DONE digests what was passed in Sacramento but he would like to gather our thoughts on this or make a motion about our desires to continue to meet remotely or in person, or our assessment of the plusses and minuses of having remote meetings. He opened the floor for any comments on that so we are well informed once we see what DONE says, and so we know what to do going forward, with where the board is on this.

Member Wayne thinks it is an excellent procedure to have remote meetings and that it would be terrific idea to have an occasional gathering but remote allows more people to attend meetings and to have a voice, and we never had as many people attend our physical meetings as we do remotely. It also allows us to not have to spend time in traffic and spend on fuel.

Member Bayliss echoed Member Wayne, noting that he is not sure how he did it before COVID. The remote meetings have been a godsend, as a father of three small children.

Member Cobb echoed Member Wayne, noting he would not have gotten involved or discovered these meetings if they weren't virtual. Having gotten involved in DSPNA, it has been so wonderful seeing people care about the community. It is a sense of community that he didn't have before that. He applauded this board for the work that it does.

Member Schlesinger agreed. We can attend more of meetings and then there may be times when we can't ... there is a large range of capability. Once the pandemic is over things will change for good.

Member Stojka thinks meeting by Zoom is very convenient... it is great. From an outreach point of view, people find us on Zoom, where they never would have gone to a meeting. It involves the community much more deeply and should continue.

Member Wayne would say, have a picnic. She also thinks it would be better to do it every six months, because it would be difficult every quarter, and possibly we could do a Christmas and Chanukah party this year.

Member Miner likes that idea and thinks we need to have a get together to be able to socialize with the new membership; one of the high points of getting together in person; other than that, she doesn't see that we need to do many meetings in person because we have a well-established Zoom procedure but need to do it at least one to three times a year, as soon as possible.

Vice President Greenberg would remind us that we don't own the Zoom account. It is owned by the City of LA, though we love the Zoom.

Member Loze is hearing an echo of his response to Octaviano Ruiz from DONE from earlier in the meeting. President Longcore related that he wanted to know DONE's interpretation of AB 361 because he believes it gives us the framework for remote meetings... He believes the new law allows DONE to continue to support remote meetings for the next two years and during that period, people will recognize the greater outreach, avoidance of traffic, convenience, etc., and the barrier for the public participating is lower rather than higher. He noted that even many of the unhoused have smartphones. He hopes the State updates the open meeting laws, the Brown Act, to enable things like this to go forward, especially the Neighborhood Council, especially at night.

Member Loze would like us to say to DONE that we support the continuation of this at our discretion for the next two years without any counter interference declaration from DONE. He finds the matter that we discussed before from DONE a threatening overreach towards us and thinks it is time that we say specifically what we would like and admonish them not to interfere.

President Longcore clarified, as a **motion**, he would draft an email summarizing the comments that we made, and asking clarification that we continue to hold remote meetings at our discretion, consistent with state law and public health advice. **Moved** by Member Loze; **seconded** by Member Stojka. Member Schlesinger noted that we have all gone from one meeting to another, and during that space of time, we would only make one meeting. **Passed by unanimous consent by 16 voting.**

## **27. Good of the Order:**

Member Sandler would like to have an alumni association who could join us once in a while.

Member Wayne and President Longcore mentioned the Redistricting Commission hearing that we will talk at tomorrow. We'll give input as a taskforce and keep everybody updated at the next meeting.

## **28. Adjournment to October 27, 2021:** Meeting adjourned at 9:42pm.