



Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council
Virtual Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday January 7, 2021 5:00 pm to 6:30 pm

Name	P	A	Name	P	A
Robin Greenberg, Board President & Executive Committee Chair	X		Robert Ringler, Current Board Secretary, Past President	X	
Ellen Evans, Vice President of Operations & Outreach Chair	X		Jamie Hall, Vice President of Legislative Affairs	X	
Jacqueline Le Kennedy, Treasurer	X		Nickie Miner, Asst. Treasurer & Budget & Finance Chair	X	
Robert Schlesinger, Planning & Land Use Committee Chair	X		Larry Leisten, Bylaws, Rules & Elections Chair	X	
Chuck Maginnis, Emergency Preparedness Committee Chair		X	Irene Sandler, Traffic Committee Chair		X
Patricia Murphy, Public Works & Telecoms Chair		X			

1. **Call to Order & Roll Call** – Robin Greenberg, Board President & Chair called the meeting to order and called the roll at 5:01 pm at which time there were 7 present; Jacqueline arrived at 5:21 for a total of **8 present** and **3 absent**. Stephanie arrived shortly after the start of the meeting and was a nonvoting participant throughout.
2. **Flag Salute**
3. **Motion:** Approve January 7, 2021 Executive Committee AGENDA Larry **moved**; Robert R. **seconded**; **7/0/0 passed**
4. **Motion:** Approve December 3, 2020 Executive Committee MINUTES Larry **moved**; Robert R. **seconded**; **7 yes; 0 no; 1 abstention**: Ellen; **passed**
5. **General Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:** Wendy Sue Rosen requested that the BABCNC agendize policy issue regarding the Berggruen Institute Project which has issues similar to the Benedict Canyon Hotel, to change the Specific Plan in high fire severity zone (HFSZ), to bypass general codes of the Baseline Hillside Ordinance (BHO), including safety codes. If this or BC Hotel project is adopted, it would set precedent. She thinks that the City is on a new course to allow specific plans to change codes. WRAC, Hillside Fed are taking it up. **Public Comment is closed.**
6. **Reports of Officers**
 - a) President – Robin Greenberg related that we have just lost Don Loze’s spouse, Ann, who has been in our lives for many years.
 - b) Vice President of Operations – Ellen Evans wants all committee chairs to find a host for their meetings.
 - c) Vice President of Legislative Affairs – Jamie Hall – Jamie related legislative items we are following:
 - 1) Amendment to the Tree Ordinance which passed, adding Mexican elderberry and Toyon, will be in effect soon.
 - 2) Hollywood Community Plan Update had 1st public hearing before year’s end and will be before hearing officer.
 - 3) Vacation Rental Ordinance will come for a final vote before City Council. A lot of issues associated with home sharing are applicable to VRO.
 - 4) Jamie is monitoring new legislation similar to highly controversial legislation that did not pass in prior sessions. Jamie concluded that despite being in a pandemic, there is a lot of legislative activity, much on a path to adoption, and that we still have to monitor what’s happening at city hall and participate.
 - d) Secretary – Robert Ringler – Nothing new to report. January 21st is the next CPAB meeting.
 - e) Treasurer – Jacqueline Le Kennedy – No report
 - f) Assistant Treasurer – Nicole Miner – No report
7. **Reports of Committee Chairs**

- a) **Bylaws, Rules & Elections Committee** – Larry Leisten, Chair
 - Larry gave update on work done on the tri-fold brochure, targeted at solicitation of candidates and providing important NC Election dates. He and Robin worked adding to the information that Ellen already put in to alert the receiver of the brochure to the election and the candidate filing period which begins February 6th. We will include the rest of the key dates and identify seats up for election. We will refer them to our election page on the babnc.org website which Ellen has already set up, with phone number and link.
 - The city is having Candidate Information seminars. First session is tonight.
 - Next Candidate Info Sessions: Saturday January 16th and Saturday January 30th @ 9:00 a.m.
- i. **NC Elections:**
 - Candidate Filing Period Begins Saturday February 6, 2021
 - Region 11 BABCNC Election Date is Tuesday June 8, 2021
- b) **Outreach Committee** – Ellen Evans, Chair
Next meeting: Monday January 11th @ 12:00 Noon: We will be talking about the newsletter and website.
- c) **Planning & Land Use Committee** – Robert Schlesinger, Chair or Stephanie Savage, Vice Chair
Next meeting: Tuesday January 12th @ 5:00 PM – Stephanie related that we had a lot of people who wanted January but now they don't so don't have projects; so we could discuss other topics, like state bills and LADBS and BOE procedures. Robert & Nickie would like to have the meeting. Bob suggested discussion on lot split versus lot consolidation. Ellen mentioned Policies & Procedures Ordinance webinar, changing with the ZA, probably worth learning about. Another item: Pallet Shelter Tiny Homes.
[5:21 Jacqueline arrived.]
- d) **Emergency Preparedness Committee** – Chuck Maginnis, Chair – **Not present**
- e) **Traffic Committee** – Irene Sandler, Chair – **Not present**
- f) **Budget & Finance Committee** – Nickie Miner, Assistant Treasurer & Chair – **No report**
- g) **Public Works and Telecommunications Committee** – Patricia Murphy, Chair – **Not present**
- h) **Ad Hoc Committee on Environmental Issues** – Mindy Mann – **Not present**
- i) **Ad Hoc Committee on Home Sharing & Party House Ordinances** – Stephanie Savage & Ellen Evans
Next Meeting: Thursday January 14th @ 12:00 Noon. Ellen gave report noting she has made public records request and got information on all of the home sharing and denied home sharing permits in the area. None have been revoked during this period. She will make that information available to stakeholders.
- j) **Ad-Hoc Committee re: Continuing Teleconference Meetings after Safer-At-Home Order - Hall No report**

New Business (Discussion, Updates & Possible Motions)

- 8. **Discussion and Possible Motion:** Tree removal notification: “if the removal is for 1 or 2 trees, the UFD prefers that Neighborhood Councils raise objections within 3 days”. Respond that we oppose to the 3 days.
 - Robin related that we received a notification. She attended Urban Forestry meeting today, and the question of number of days of notification prior to hearings was the last item on the BPW agenda that was not heard. Cathy P. noted that this has been an ongoing item on CFAC’s agenda for a long time and suggested checking with our new CFAC reps.
 - CD4 CFAC Rep, appointed by Councilmember Ryu in late 2020, is Katherine Pakradouni. cd4.cfac.rep@gmail.com
 - CD5 CFAC Rep and current Chair of CFAC is Shelley Billik. cfac.chair@gmail.com
- 9. **Discussion and Possible Motion:** Creation of an ad hoc committee of up to two board members authorized to respond to tree removal notifications on the behalf of the Board. Any objections should be send to the Chief Forester David Miranda at David.Miranda@lacity.org as well as the Council District Field Rep.
 - If removal is for 3 or more trees, the Board of Public Works will conduct a public hearing for the removal of the trees.
 - Nickie recommends Mindy Mann who is very involved in trees and Jamie noted that Wendy Morris did a great job responding to the notification. **No Action Taken / Place on Board Agenda**
- 10. **Discussion and Possible Motion:** SB44 seems tailored to allow the proposed rail project through the Sepulveda Pass to avoid CEQA. Send a Request of Elected Officials to our council members to say that we want CEQA.
 - **SB-44 California Environmental Quality Act:** streamlined judicial review: environmental leadership transit projects. (Senator Ben Allen) https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220SB44
 - **SB-288 California Environmental Quality Act: exemptions: transportation-related projects (Weiner)** (Act to Amend) https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200SB288
 - Robin noted that these two items go together. Jamie will contact the person, noting that this comes at a huge cost to the environment. Need to separate whether or not the project is a good or important project or whether or not it requires CEQA. Larry read the bill and noted that it is very brief. *(Jamie was asked to agendize this and said he would.)*

11. **Discussion & Possible Motion:** Brad Fingard previously at CD4 is now the Mayor's Westside Representative. The Mayor is requesting a revised proposal from Council that includes funding a pilot for a 24/7 unarmed crisis response program for those nonviolent calls as well as intervention and prevention workers that can help de-escalate conflict in communities. Mayor's Letter: https://clkrep.lacity.org/online/docs/2020/20-0600-s83_rpt_MAYOR_12-21-20.pdf
Budget Council File # 20-0600: https://clkrep.lacity.org/online/docs/2020/20-0600-S83_rpt_CAO_12-03-2020.pdf
- Robin related that Brad is asking for us to support the Mayor.
 - Jamie fully supports this, noting that we need to be able to respond to mental health crises; you don't want a police officer with guns to arrive which could escalate the situation if someone is having a mental health crisis. It's a pilot program; will have to work out the kinks. This is what people have been asking for, for years now.
 - Pros and cons were discussed, including but not limited to the question of how they define "nonviolent."
 - Other comments included that the Captain in Hollywood supports this; there are too many variables, e.g., asking an operator to make a judgment who to deploy; there are dangerous calls that you didn't know the outcome. An argument has been made by a woman who was a victim of domestic violence; they were saying that sometimes you have to get an officer out there because it could be when a woman or man sees the social worker it doesn't lead to escalation or arrest but once the social worker leaves the violence happens.
- Motion:** To go forward with bringing this matter to the board: **6 yes:** Jamie, Stephanie, Nickie, Robert Ringler, Jacqueline, Robert S. Agendize]
12. **Discussion and Possible Motion:** Possible enhancements to the neighborhood council Zoom usage to submit to Raquel Beltran @ DONE. They are collecting these recommendations now. Detailed discussion was held:
- Robin related that she attended a Zoom meeting with Raquel Beltrán, regarding creating enhancements for Zoom usage. She had 58 representatives from NCs on that call. Robin reported that the most important concept for her was that when we vote it's not easy to use your real hand, or blue hand, etc, and she would like us to make a list of things we'd like to improve on the Zoom calls.
 - Bob asked if it's legal, according to Robert's Rules of Order, to get a vote by just asking for the negatives, e.g., nays and abstentions. Cathy, the meeting minutes taker, noted that when that is done, she doesn't always know by deduction how many yeses were voted for, as people may not be voting, may have stepped away from their computers, etc. Larry agreed with this concern.
 - Larry would like to get input from NC leaders. Robin related that, per the meeting she attended, the consensus is that they like Zoom; it saves time and has a positive influence; people can go to multiple meetings, etc. Robin also noted that Raquel said that DONE will be hiring the president of Zoom to talk about how they can improve Zoom for us. Further committee discussion was held including but not limited to the following:
 - Larry thinks Zoom meetings are great especially for committee meetings but if he was drafting legislation, he says we could allow this but limit it; e.g., the neighborhood council, for example, cannot have more than one Zoom meeting a quarter, or the like. It's convenient but we still meet in person, because there is a lot of nonverbal communication that is not picked up on Zoom.
 - Jamie Hall noted that this is a balancing act. He opined that it does disadvantage certain members of the population to have exclusive virtual meetings, e.g., P.B. Hearst, who does not do emails, who has volunteered thousands of hours. Jamie acknowledged Larry's suggestion about maybe putting some limits to that, and feels that needs to be vetted. He noted that what he wanted to do was at least encourage our decision makers to pursue maybe some sort of pilot working groups, as this needs to be deliberated and evaluated. He doesn't think that we want to go back to the status quo once everyone gets vaccinated, though thinks reforms are necessary. He does not feel we want to go back to exclusive virtual; rather maybe have an in-person meeting quarterly.
 - Bob, as PLUC Chair, agrees that maybe we'll have an actual meeting once every quarter, so people can physically show up; otherwise, we could be losing membership in that respect.
 - Asked by Larry, what impact the Zoom meetings have on his PLUC meetings, Bob noted that one pro is that we have been able to acquire plans, etc., electronically, and Jamie noted that we have good Power Point presentations from applicants. Bob noted that we have a responsibility to reach HOAs and tell them so people can show up to a Zoom meeting. Jamie added we are missing out on the personal interaction with constituents that we used to have at our in-person meetings. He noted that some people won't ask questions within the Zoom format but might do so at a public hearing. Jamie noted that he is happy not to drive and multiple that by all the people driving up to the meetings.
 - Nickie described Zoom meetings as nebulous, with people coming and going; putting up their pictures, walking around, etc. She feels that the time we save by not driving, we could use to have a regular substantial vote, since the votes we take are what is important, and there is no point in trying to get around having the yea, nay and abstentions as if we were in a room in person. This is one thing we can and should do virtually that we do in a room full of people.

- **Public comment** was given by Dr. Whitford who affirmed recommendation for in-person meetings once a quarter and that people may miss the sense of community fostered by seeing each other in person at the meetings.
- Bob noted we could also change meetings from in-person to Zoom depending on what will be considered at a meeting.
- Jamie noted that we need to always allow members of the public to participate, listen or view meetings from the comfort of their home, without attending in person.
- Larry noted that the Governor's Executive Order amending the Brown Act to allow for teleconference meetings which had previously been prohibited by the Brown Act according to the City Attorney, initially required public posting, three days in advance, at each location at which the teleconference meeting would be accessible. We want to be sure we don't have to have public notification for each location and that there will be one location.
- Jamie recommends finding a sponsor in Assembly or Senate to sponsor Brown Act amendments that we propose.
- Ellen noted that we have a scarcity of meeting space in our area, that Zoom is much easier.
- Nickie noted that Zoom is a very useful adjunct, especially for committee meetings, but with certain meetings, you sit there and wait hours to have your two minutes, and then you're talking to your computer screen. There comes a point where the situation becomes Big Brother. She hopes we don't get to a point of not having in-person meetings.
[Midway through the above discussion, at 5:56 pm, we had 7 voting members present + Stephanie who is not voting.]

13. **Discussion and Possible Motion:** To ask City Council to introduce and pass a motion in OPPOSITION to new SB 9 (Atkins) and SB 10 (Wiener) respectively, which are the return of SB 1120 and 902 (housing density bills that failed to pass in the legislature by a narrow margin last year)
http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220SB9
- Robin noted need to support Councilmember Koretz's resolution for Council to OPPOSE Senate Bills 9 & 10.
- No Action taken / Agendize at PLU Committee then Board**

14. **Discussion** on agenda for January 27, 2020 Board Meeting
15. Confirmed speaker for January 27, 2020 Board Meeting: Nithya Raman, CD4 Councilmember Elect 10 minutes to speak and 10 for Q&A
16. Choose Best Months for Possible Future Speakers:
- Mas Dojiri, Biodiversity Team Leader at LASAN, re Biodiversity Initiative
 - Greg Good, Department of Public Works President & Adel Hagekhalil, Bureau of Street Services (StreetsLA) Executive Director and General Manager
 - Robin suggested having Assemblymember Laura Friedman and Scott Weiner on separate dates.

Announcements:

17. **Ridgeline Ordinance:** LA City Planning has prepared a Frequently Asked Questions sheet
18. **NC Funding (Neighborhood Purpose Grants) Workshop** Online on Zoom: Thursday, January 7th 2:00-3:30
<https://clerk.lacity.org/neighborhood-council-funding/funding-trainings-and-workshops>
19. **LA County WiFi** <https://lacountylibrary.org/Wi-Fi/> LA County residents who lack reliable internet service at home can park in a designated parking spot of participating libraries or sit within 25 feet of the library to use the WiFi network.
20. **COVID-19 Safety Compliance Certification Course:** <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/covid19cert.htm>
LA County is providing no-cost online training course which business owners, once they have received a certificate, can post as a window seal to reassure employees and customers that the business is following COVID-19 infection control
21. **Good of the Order:**
- Empower LA email came out 8-12 pages long, they want us to 1) take board action to recommend one board member to serve as a panelist to sit on a regional grievance panel. Provide contact info by February 5th.
 - Larry recalled having been appointed years ago for the Grievance Panel as Representative City West Area Regional Peer Grievance Panel. He is willing to do it again. **Will Agendize**
 - Larry noted that we are not managing and pursuing attendance. Cathy needs to send a friendly reminder to those with long absences saying you'll be in default. If so, can't vote, or we will have to initiate proceedings to have you removed. We don't want to do that. We cherish and covet each and every board member. *(Send a note in writing asking if the persons not attending want to resign; then the board can appoint someone else.)*
 - Robin related that Raquel Beltrans would like video stories on how our NC took action to support those affected by COVID-19. Robin noted that we have our mask signs & we have had blood drives. Raquel also brought up the STAP.
22. **Adjournment:** Robin adjourned the meeting at 6:28 pm in memory and honor of Ann Loze.

Next Executive Committee Meeting: February 4th 2021 @ 5:00pm

<https://www.babcnc.org/>
council@babcnc.org