

Emergency Preparedness Committee  
Skirball Cultural Center 2701 N Sepulveda Blvd  
Thursday March 20, 2014 10:30am

**Call to Order & Roll Call:**

10:40am

**Present**

**Affiliation/Title**

Chuck Maginnis	BABCNC Safety Chair, Bel Air Resident
Joan Herman	Bel Air Ridge
Betsey Hely	Benedict Canyon Association
Irene Sandler	Bel Air Crest
Maureen Smith	Bel Air Resident
Dan Palmer	Residents of Beverly Glenn
Hildreth Simmons	Residents of Beverly Glenn
Patricia Bell	Brentwood Resident
Ed Brody	Benedict Hills Estates Association
Judith Dornstein	Benedict Hills Estates Association
Larry Dornstein	Benedict Hills Estates Association

**Introduction to Skirball Cultural Center**

Ben Elisondo, VP Facilities & Operations, was introduced and kicked off the meeting prior to approval of February minutes and other introductions, as he had limited time prior to another commitment. Ben started with discussion on the Center Complex as this would give context to why emergency preparedness was so important to them.

The Center opened in 1995 and was built in 4 phases in the past 19 years as they just finished the last North phase which gives them 5 buildings in 300k sq ft. It is certainly smaller than the Getty but their mission is very similar. There are five galleries with two being permanent exhibitions and three for rotating exhibitions of which these may last two to four months depending on their size.

Skirball Cultural Center also has various programs including concerts, lectures, and films, all of which are open to neighboring communities. Festivals are also hosted along with an outreach department which entertains 50,000 inner city and surrounding school children, who visit each year. Educators and docents often lecture about Jewish history, Jewish contributions in the US and the Jewish culture which is so elegantly displayed.

There are several divisions in the Cultural Center that host around 450 events a year, more than one a day. The events vary in size as there is ample parking at no charge for all situations.

Below, Ben Elisondo addresses Betsey Hely, Larry Dornstein, Judith Dornstein and Ed Brody



using as example, a Police conference for “Mothers against drunken driving,” which had



everyone guessing whether this was a typical day for an abundance of LAPD vehicles and bikes to be parked, which was impossible for anyone to miss while entering the complex. Everyone certainly felt safe and eventually learned it was because of the Police conference and not a daily scene. They also have a division that does hospitality private events like Bar Mitzvahs, weddings, corporate lunches, and celebration of life. This comprises 1/3 of their event activity. School field trips are also popular as are high school proms average 11-20 per year.

Below, Maureen Smith, Joan Herman, Patricia Bell, Hildreth Simmons and Dan Palmer watch as Ben continues his Center introduction.



The personnel are committed and passionate about what their duties at the Center. They want to make sure they are protecting both their staff and neighbors who visit. Ben has been there for 4 ½ years and has worked with Irene Sandler on neighborhood council action groups and Patricia, on the 405 construction impact, which has required steady communications. They are trying to keep transportation to and from the Center, moving as it should be. Prior to Skirball, he was at Cal State Northridge which had that tiny little 1994 earthquake while he was ironically studying civil structural engineering, a subject near and dear to earth movement. This was an important event in his life which lead to his belief in the vital importance of Emergency Preparedness, and why Skirball Cultural Center should excel in this area.

Ben (below left) then introduced the Director of Safety and Security, Mark Canole (center), and then the Security Site Manager, Eddie Hernandez (right), who will provide their Emergency Preparedness PowerPoint presentation.



#### **Introduction of Attendees:**

Everyone introduced themselves, and new at the meeting was Ed Brody, President of the Benedict Hills Estate Association who has had an interest in EP, but like many communities, has had trouble gaining volunteers for consistent support in this area. Judith Dornstein, another BHEA board member with husband Larry, were also in attendance. Betsey Hely, Benedict Canyon Association, who has been actively promoting EP in their association for years, was welcomed back for this meeting.

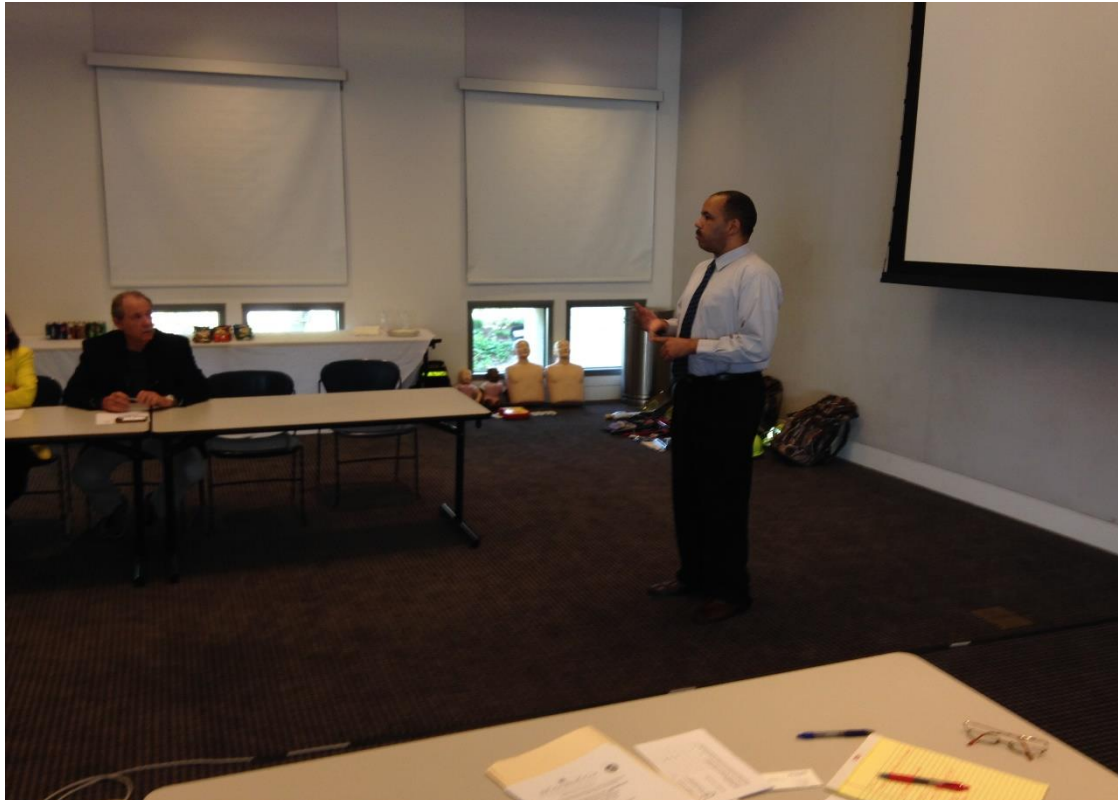
#### **Approval of minutes:**

Maureen Smith motioned to approve the February 19, 2014 minutes, Joan Herman seconded, minutes approved.



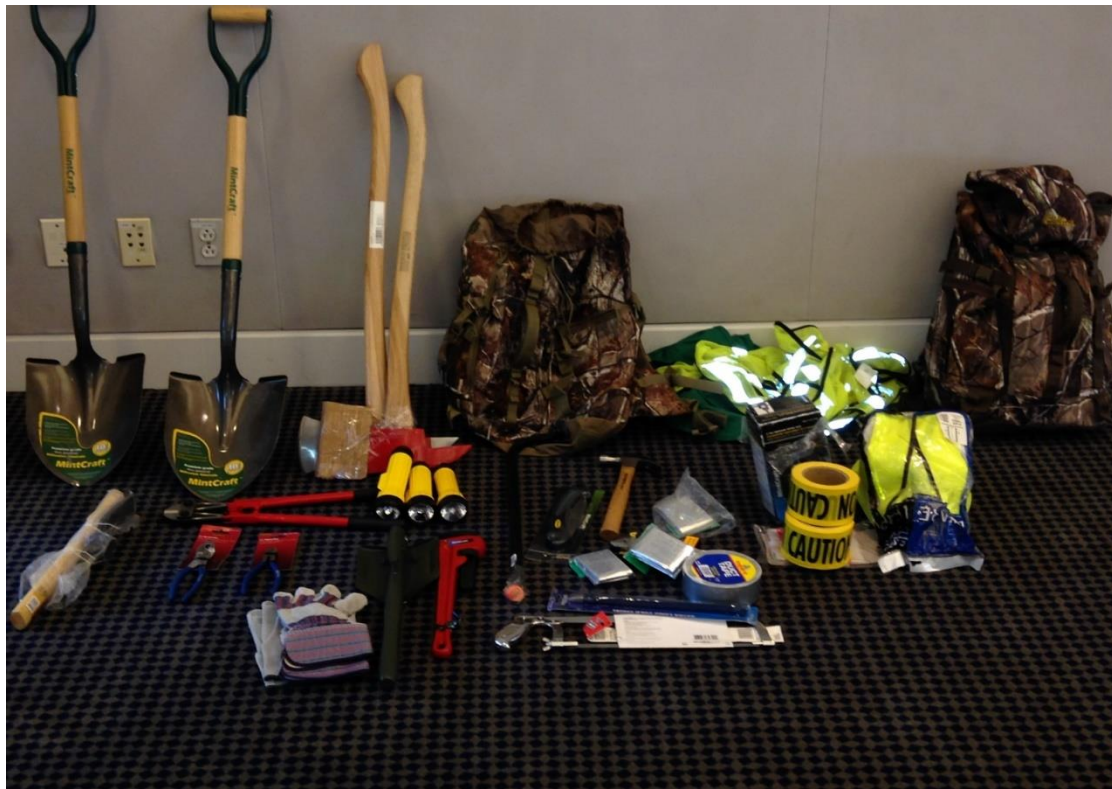
### **Skirball Cultural Center -Emergency Operations**

Mark (below) briefly addressed the committee members regarding different facets of their overall commitment to excellence in EP and the safety of their personnel and visitors, before handing the meeting over to Eddie.



Eddie Hernandez started his PowerPoint presentation by discussing the cycle of their Five Steps to Preparedness: Plan, Organize/Equip, Train, Exercise and Evaluate/Improve. The emergency Management Committee consists of Jill Trakin and Elaine Wior, who in addition to Ben, Mark and Eddie, are responsible for planning. Equipment purchased are CPR, Automated External Defibrillator (AED), CERT, Floor Warden Kits and search /rescue apparatus. There are 7 AED trainers on campus and all full time staff are provided with Safety Preparation Kits. Eddie mentioned that they worked on a triage system for mass casualties which is important for visiting guests considering the large and numerous activities they handle.

Below are displayed samples of their supplies and practice apparatus.



Emergency Communications are handled by a Mitel phone system, a web based messaging system and a public address system. Blackboard Connect is their choice for mass notification for voice, email and text messaging. They are headquartered in Washington DC., having multiple locations. Chuck mentioned that the Skirball notification likely uses the same methodology as BABCNC's Message Broadcast system, employing dialers. The process for recording and sending messages is similar. Guests with planned events are notified via their Reservation ID's regarding emergencies that may affect any forthcoming functions.

On training, Eddie (below) is a certified instructor with the American Red Cross, CERT and has many other qualification certificates, as he discusses his and his staff's credentials.



Almost 80% of the full time staff of 180 individuals are trained on CPR & AED annually , with 25% or 40 individuals CERT certified. Chuck asked if refresher CPR training might be available to neighbors when staff were being trained and Eddie said he would need to check with the Red Cross and get back with us on an answer. When discussing the possibility of gas leaks due to earthquakes, the question was asked whether we should turn off our gas in the event of an earthquake. Mark responded that it probably depended on the severity of the earthquake and if a gas smell could be detected. Patricia added that everyone should have automatic gas shutoffs installed at their homes. Chuck mentioned that there were different opinions on

turning off the gas if there was not an automatic turnoff that could be easily re-ignited by the homeowner. Unless gas is smelled, where turning the gas flow off with a wrench is the smart thing to do, individuals not smelling gas might be waiting for weeks for the gas company to turn the service back on. Warm showers and cooking would be very beneficial for the following days or weeks, if safe. More information is needed on this subject. Eddie emphasized that his and Mark's security section emphasizes training and that other personnel for Noah & family programs, are certified every 2 years. Floor Warden training ensures all floor personnel are prepared for different situations including evacuations. Eddie and Mark emphasized that they have reorganized their evacuation maps to better suit their plans. Patricia asked whether school children would be held or released in an emergency and Mark replied that they had no authority to hold anyone should parents want to take their children. He said this is really up to the school's supervision of the children. Teachers would likely have procedures in place, being that every school's employees are trained on emergency and evacuation procedures.

Training is offered to all in-house staff and citizens in the community, helping LAFD as much as possible. Chuck asked what supplies Skirball might have if it needed to house many people in the event of a longer duration disaster, similar to the Getty having rations for several days. Mark replied that their plan was to cook fresh food that might go bad without electricity, which would also keep food storage fresh. They do not stockpile water or food as their rolling inventory for upcoming events, provide an adequate supply. Search and Rescue training was held at Tejon Ranch last April, 2013. Additional training is provided for suspicious packages and persons, while bomb threat procedures and evacuation are also stressed. Active shooter drills are held to keep personnel aware of riots or other terrorists type activities.

Mark Canole is a Certified Department of Homeland Security instructor teaching classes a SCC. Skirball also participates in "The Great Shakeout," and sponsors an emergency fair each year for outreach. They often have meeting with the Getty, American Jewish University (AJU) and surrounding schools regarding safety and EP. Patricia asked how they compared with the Getty and the answer was that the Getty and 400 security people while they have 40 so their scale is smaller in personnel, territory and budget. But they feel they are very adequately prepared.

Eddie also stressed that practice makes perfect by exercises. An Emergency Operations Center can be set up in a primary or alternate location. The Center takes all aspects of operations, planning, finance, management and logistics into consideration when planning for disasters. Their plan for a major emergency is to set up what they refer to as a "War Room, which has back up generators.

They stress for everyone to prepare for emergencies by having personal plans including out of town family member as a contact point as well as supplies at home and in the automobiles. Above all learn how to turn off the gas.

With all these exercises, Skirball is continually evaluating and learning areas which need improvement, a recipe which is tried and proven. Everyone applauded for the warm reception and informational presentation made by our Skirball hosts. And with a hosted lunch and optional tour, special thanks for suggesting and orchestrating this Skirball event was given to



Irene Sandler (below). Many Skirbell personnel also recognized Patricia Bell.



After a short break with individual questions asked, lunch was served which everyone enjoyed.



The remaining committee attendees then received a wonderful tour of the entire facility from Ben. From left to right is Patricia Bell, Joan Herman, Maureen Smith, Ben Elisondo, Irene Sandler, Hildreth Simmons and Chuck Maginnis



Please note that the PowerPoint presentation will be sent with the draft minutes to everyone on the EP committee list. Anyone else desiring the PowerPoint presentation should request one through Chuck at [cmaginnis@babnc.org](mailto:cmaginnis@babnc.org) Thank you. A few tour pictures are also included as the facilities, the detail and the planning involved in building this campus, was spectacular.

Adjournment at 12:00 noon, prior to the tour

Chuck Maginnis  
Submitted: March 5, 2014  
[cmaginnis@babnc.org](mailto:cmaginnis@babnc.org)



Ben leading the tour....



Inside the new northern Herscher Hall below with everything built to precision, and kept that way....



Herscher Hall ceiling has many lights, electric openings for air and something to behold....



Statue of Liberty in another building and perhaps the actual size (or larger)....





A typical Jewish Immigrant's kitchen....



Just a sample of the many rooms in Noah's Ark.... THE END

