



BABCNC Emergency Preparedness Committee Meeting Draft Minutes
Wednesday, May 15, 2019 7:00 pm
Bel Air Ridge Clubhouse - 2760 Claray Los Angeles, CA 90077
ALL ARE WELCOME!

Name	P	A	Name	P	A
Chuck Maginnis, BABCNC EP Committee Chair & At-Large Representative; Bel Air Rd. EP Captain; CERT	X		Michael Schlenker, Bel Air Crest EP Chair; BABCNC EP HCEC Communications Committee Chair; LAFD ACS & CERT		X
Maureen Smith, BABCNC Religious Institutions Representative	X		Ron Cornell, Bel Air Ridge EP Committee, HCEC Ham Radio Group LAFD ACS & CERT	X	
Irene Sandler, BABCNC Bel Air Crest Master Association Representative		X	Dan Palmer, BABCNC Residents of Beverly Glen Representative, EP Chair; LAFD ACS	X	
Jacqueline Le Kennedy, BABCNC Treasurer; Business Representative		X	Hildreth Simmons, Residents of Beverly Glen EP Committee, LA City Community Beautification Dept.	X	
Danielle Cohen, Bel Air Ridge Resident; EPAC Co-chair, Ham/CERT		X	Seema Hassan, Doheny Sunset Plaza Neighborhood Association (DSPNA)		X
Maureen Levinson, BABCNC Bel Air District Representative, C-PAB		X	Rob Farber, BABCNC At-Large Youth Representative	X	

Attendees:

Ben Park, Red Cross Volunteer, with Map Your Neighborhood (MYN)
 Gregory Haller, Stakeholder from South of Sunset
 Luisa Bottari, Doheny Sunset Plaza Neighborhood Assn. (DSPNA) Emergency Preparedness (EP)
 Chris Ragsdale, SLO for Westwood, Bel Air & Beverly Crest Communities, WLA Police Station
 Jackie DeFede, Stephen Wise Temple EP
 Robert Schlesinger, BABCNC and BCA
 Ben Sowers, with Frontline Wildfire Defense System
 Shelly Seltzer, Colina Glen HOA EP Committee Chair
 Ed Cain, Resident of Bel Air Ridge, Chair of their Drought Committee
 Judie Hulett, Brentwood HOA EP Committee, Brentwood Community Council EP, LAFD ACS, Amateur Radio HAM

1. **Call to order** Chuck Maginnis, Chair called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.
2. **Roll Call and Introduction of Attendees:** Those in attendance introduced themselves. There were six committee members present and six absent; no quorum met.
3. **Pledge of Allegiance**
4. **Motion to approve the January 16 2019 & March 20, 2019 Minutes:** Deferred/lack of quorum
5. **Public Comment:**

Hildreth Simmons announced that people may have a free rain barrel from the City.

Chris Ragsdale, SLO, LAPD from the WLA Police Station: Chris gave report, noting that on the crime side, things are down overall; they are still watching residential burglaries trend all over the region, in every city. They had some arrests in the Westwood area, crews run by a task force of the LA County Sheriff's Department. Some of these individuals are flying in to commit the crimes, individuals from Oakland, etc. He noted that security applies to us all. Whether house, apartment or condominium, make sure you have all systems in place for immediate detection, notification and verification. He reiterated that alarms are the lowest priority for their staff.

On the EP side, Chris noted that there is a lot of work to be done, e.g., map overlays. In a disaster, you will lose your fire resources to address different sectors; need to be prepared to be on your own for several days to a week or so. There is a lot we can do around our homes to lower the risk.

Below: Rob Farber, Hildreth Simmons, Dan Palmer, Luisa Bottari, Cathy Palmer and others listen intently as Lead Officer Chris Ragsdale reports crime statistics and EP progress in WLA.



Judie Hulett recommended attending the Safety Fair on Sunday at Paul Revere Charter Middle School in Brentwood. (The Mandeville Fair.)

There will be a Brentwood Run at 11620 San Vicente Blvd from 7:30-8:00 am, on June 9th, with the fair from 9-12 at the San Vicente median between Barrington and Darlington.

Ron Cornell, noted that Sunday, there will be a Mandeville Evacuation Drill, followed by the Mandeville Fair, which Judie mentioned above. He noted that HCEC, the Hillside HAM group, will have a position there during the drill at the Command Center. Michael Schlenker will be at the Command Center adjacent to where the fire department is. We will have people in the Palisades communicating, and he will be with another group in Mountain Gate. They will have an antenna up there communicating with different locations and monitoring what the LAFD is doing there.

Ron noted that Sunday from 2-4 here at Bel Air Ridge, they are having an EP event: “Will You Survive When the Embers Arrive?” They are having Beth Barnard from Topanga Canyon Association EP and someone to talk about if their product is fire resistant to the embers.

Luisa Bottari announced that DSPNA will hold a RYLAN workshop on June 15th at the West Hollywood Library on San Vicente in West Hollywood Park, led by Faye Cousins.

Ed Cain, Resident of Bel Air Ridge, Chair of the Drought Committee, has been instrumental in the mapping process for Bel Air Ridge.

Chuck Maginnis announced BABCNC elections June 2nd – Chuck is running for Member At Large.

Ben Sowers, with Frontline Wildfire Defense System, related that this is an external fire sprinkler system, to survive the embers, which burn slowly, hidden from view and are the leading cause of homes burning down. He noted the primary importance of community preparedness, including sprinklers. The system is exterior, will be installed, concealed under your eaves and roof ridges, connects to your waterline or by a pool as a backup. It runs off the weight of the water, so no electricity required, runs off the pressure of the municipal water system. After it pulls in the water source, it mixes in firefighting foam.

Below: Ben Sowers discusses their external sprinkler system as from left, Ed Cain, Jackie DeFede, Rob Farber and others listen.



Then there are zones, depending on the size of your house, may have five zones to cover the area, it runs in cycles, 10 minutes on and 30 minutes off, until the area has been cleared and you can deactivate the system. It is activated remotely, over a web-based app, and you can turn on the system over satellite. He noted that these are customized systems, to draw from the municipal and then from the pool. He noted that people are considering installing water tanks in their backyards.

Approximate cost is \$4 to \$6 per square foot; \$12,000 to \$15,000 dollars. Without municipal water or a pool, some people would have a 5-10,000-gallon water tanks (looks like a 5' x 5' cube). For well water and pool water, you would need some backup electrical. He noted some organizations put out fact sheets and recommend this. If you add these mitigation measures, you reduce the risk. Ron asked if he has seen insurance rates reduced when people show that they have reduced their risk. He noted that they are working on it. He is meeting with different insurance companies.

6. Map Your Neighborhood & HOA RYLAN Progress (Update & Discussion)

■ Ben Park, Red Cross Map Your Neighborhood (MYN) Volunteer: Ben explained the evolution of MYN. He noted that there is MYN – RYLAN – ARC – SPAN –some of the different programs. The company began with SPAN Disaster in Washington, stopped with MYN, first meeting, then six months later, a Table Top Exercise, then a Walk About Exercise, then Responder 101, then Functional Drills.

RYLAN first does a Map Your Neighborhood meeting, a tool of RYLAN. The LA County chapter of the American Red Cross did a MOU and purchase of materials from Spain in around 2013, who printed their own materials, which the Red Cross purchased. He initially did the RYLAN program and now is with the American Red Cross. SPAN was providing the materials for sale all over the world, but stopped doing that on January 1st. Now you get the materials from LA Emergency Management Department (EMD) for RYLAN materials.

He showed us a map of the BABCNC and associations he has worked with including DSPNA and Colina Glen as well as Residents of Beverly Glen. He also works with Nichols Canyon Association, through the Red Cross. He noted that Colina Glen has already done three MYN blocks, including 59 condominiums, mostly UCLA faculty. He explained that you find out who is who, what skills and/or disabilities. He noted that they held meeting for Benedict Hills Estates and discussed access points, to get in and out during a disaster, and made a tentative breakdown of MYN blocks, 225 homes.

Chuck brought up that we have people here, e.g., Ron and Ed, who are working on the map overlays, which go hand in hand with these neighborhoods.

Ben noted some HOA-specific issues, including:

- Gated, inaccessible homes,
- Absentee owners,
- Language and cultural impediments,
- Indifference,
- Neighborhood conflict,
- Contractors in area at time of event,
- Housekeepers, nannies, gardeners, in the area at the time of event,
- Lack of block captain knowledge re: individual homeowner preparedness,
- 24-HOUR ADT roaming armed security services,
- Status of seismic shutoff devices by home.

The Solution is to work with the neighbors, and these meetings help to bridge the gaps, and develop trust, such as:

- Gated: Share gate codes
- Absentee: Leave a key with a neighbor?
- Language: Who can translate?
- Indifference: Neighborhood feeling is contagious.
- Neighborhood conflict: Can we get along?

Ben noted that seven or eight blocks of the Benedict Hills HOA went through their facilitator training so they could hold a meeting in their homes for their block. DSPNA had facilitator training. Ben noted that they have several groups of blocks within that territory. Luisa's area in DSPNA has blocks of about 20 houses. In the Beverly Glen area, Dan Palmer noted that there are some 650 homes; they have about five areas.

Judie had some questions and Shelley Seltzer explained how Ben and Kristin came out a year ago, and that Ben sent her a timeline in advance of the meeting. She sent many email blasts and pounded the pavement, telling neighbors what they are trying to do. They had a good turnout, of the 58 homes, they had about 50% of their association, about 26 homes; they ended up dividing their entire 58 homes into three blocks. In their meeting, they showed the videos that Ben mentioned. Ben in person showed them, and coordinated this and they had a breakout session, and broke out into what would become their three blocks. They are a small HOA. The breaking into three blocks was to make it easier to do skills inventories: they had easels and a secretary writing and people would copy and add what they had. Ben noted that this is intended to be collaborative work. Shelley noted that one of the blocks has remained a team. She noted that they had several followup smaller block meetings. ... She noted that one block had many over-65 and single parents with children, who were worried as to who would help them. She noted that after the initial hour following the disaster is when you would be going out to do the search and rescue and you would need to know who we are looking for. Getting that information still has not been completed. They ran into privacy issues, and have some unresolved issues. They continue to try to get the information they need for search and rescue. She had trouble convincing the board to allocate money for the purchase of some of their emergency supplies. She wanted 55-gallon water barrels with purification kits, a few tools for search and rescue, small things, generators, five pairs of FRS radios, which they got. Shelley discussed the items that their association purchased for EP. There was discussion as to the classes available to learn to use these radios. Ben did a combo of MYN and CERT drill. Ben noted that MYN is easier than CERT. He demonstrated how neighbors all share.

7 HOA Maps & Overlays (Update & Discussion)

■ Ron Cornell, Bel Air Ridge EPAC, LAFD ASC member & Ed Cain

Ron noted that he is working with Michael on different overlays for the hillside communities, but Bel Air Ridge is moving along. Ron noted that Ed Cain is Chair of their Drought Committee and Chair of their EPAC Committee as well, a long-time member.

Ed Cain noted Ron has been their leader on EPAC for a number of years, and that they recently established a drought response committee. With 377 households, the general attitude is that they want to preserve the community in all its beauty that we see here today. They have the daunting challenge of trying to convince the community that they have to change in a number of ways.

Challenge #1: Their water bills have soared, their largest single budget item, around \$375,000 a year just for spraying the common area, largely because they are spraying plants and foliage that are not indigenous to the area.

#2: The attitude of changing the foliage, they have three mandates: 1) to try to maintain the aesthetics and let's be cognizant about the need for safety, in terms of the fire hazard that they are facing as well as the need for conservation of water. They have begun to identify a few pilot areas, e.g., they have planted drought-resistant plants in front of this building, instead of the annuals that they were pouring water on. They have learned that they needed to get the community to buy it, which has been very difficult.

He noted that this community of 370 households, has never been properly mapped. They do not know what is where: Their water points, gas lines, etc. They have gone to the board to request specific mapping, for various purposes including security issues. They budgeted something like \$10,000 to do this, to include surveying, to start to do overlays, to be able to maintain in real time what are all the infrastructure locations, what are the assets that can be mapped. They are in the early days of doing this digitally. Mapping is #1 priority, #2 is to raise community awareness of the high likelihood that they will have to come together to respond to a crisis in a much more effective way than they are prepared for today.

Below: Ed Cain addresses the group while from bottom right: Luisa Bottari, Cathy Palmer, Maureen Smith, Gregory Haller, Ben Parks, Ron Cornell, Shelly Seltzer, Judie Hulett, Bob Schlesinger, Jackie Defede, Rob Farber, Hildreth Simmons & Dan Palmer listen to Ed.



Hildreth gave thanks to Dan and Tensie, who were supportive as a neighborhood, when they had a river running down Sandy Lane, from the top of Bel Air Road to Beverly Glen, which she called in to the DWP. She noted that the next morning the water was still running and Dan and his wife showed up. She had a river from the top of Bel Air Road down to Beverly Glen. She noted that she as a water conservationist was watching all this water go down. It was very nice to have that support, and that is what neighborhood is about.

Ed continued that the background on the aesthetics, conservation and safety, the three mandates that the Drought Committee has – he would be interested in our feedback: When you look out here there are these high pine trees, eucalyptus, and palms, are all fire torches. He noted that when we had the Skirball fire, and had the wind gone east and any ember caught any one of these high trees, we would have gone up just like the Bel Air Fire in the 1960s. The issue is: How do we start to get back to a much more manageable and less fire vulnerable planting? Chuck mentioned Bill Grundfest's research into this, getting the word out about a fire as soon as possible, before it becomes a wildfire.

Judie noted at their ham radio group, they were talking about setting up a fire watch program, by the end of summer or before. She noted that there is going to be a fire watch implemented in the hills. She is trying to get the canyons west of the freeway involved too, because the fires go across the top.

Chuck noted that he used to be a street captain with the Bel Air Association, and how he got people together to meet their neighbors, with a barbecue, etc. He got the names of everyone on a list, from 900 block of Bel Air to 1900 Block. He has kept up the list and they have about 40-45 homes on the list, with approximately 60 people. He noted that it is crucial to get to know your neighbors. He gave some examples of a construction fire between Bel Air Road and Beverly Glen that a neighbor called in and alerted him, and he alerted the entire group, as well as another fire between Bel Air Road and Beverly Glen again, that was called in and the word was circulated. Judie has a huge email list as well.

8 2019 EP Fire Defense (Update & Discussion)

■ Bill Grundfest, Bel Air Resident - Not present

9. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:46 pm

Next Meeting: Wednesday, July 17, 2019 7:00 pm (3rd Wednesday every other month)