



Emergency Preparedness Committee Virtual Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 9, 2020 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

EP Committee Member Name	P	A	EP Committee Member Name	P	A
Chuck Maginnis, BABCNC EP Committee Chair & At-Large Representative; Bel Air Rd. EP Captain; CERT	X		Robin Greenberg, BABCNC President Bel Air Hills Association Representative	X	
Maureen Smith, BABCNC Franklin-Coldwater Representative	X		Ron Cornell, Bel Air Ridge EP Committee, HCEC HAM Radio Group, LAFD ACS & CERT	X	
Irene Sandler, BABCNC Bel Air Crest Master Assn. Representative; Traffic Committee Chair	X		Dan Palmer, BABCNC Residents of Beverly Glen Representative, RoBG EP Chair		X
Jacqueline Le Kennedy BABCNC Business Rep & Treasurer		X	Bill Kabaker, Bel Air Ridge EPAC, CERT Battalion 10, HAM Radio operator, HCEC	X	
Robert Schlesinger, BABCNC Planning & Land Use Committee Chair		X	Luisa Bottari, Doheny Sunset Plaza Neighborhood Association (DSPNA)	X	
Maureen Levinson, Bel Air Association, HCEC Communications; C-PAB	X		Rob Farber, Bel Air Resident, BABCNC Alternate	X	

1. Call to order – Chuck Maginnis, Chair called the meeting to order at 5:07pm, with 7 members present initially; Bill Kabaker arrived at 5:50pm, for a total of 9 present and 3 absent
2. Flag Salute
3. Roll Call of Committee Members
4. Introduction of Attendees:
 - Ellen Evans, BABCNC Outreach Committee Chair, Zoom Moderator
 - Joan Herman, on the Board of Bel Air Ridge (BAR) and on the BAR EP Committee
 - Lisa Shim, Resident of Bel Air Road and Backup Fire Captain for Upper Bel Air Road
 - Paula Janos, Resident of Laurel Hills Subdivision
 - Judie Hulett, Brentwood Community Council (BCC) Safety Committee
 - Walt Young, Mountains Recreation Conservation Authority Director
 - Jarrett Thompson, CD5 Deputy Representative for Paul Koretz
 - Bill Grundfest, Speaker
5. **Motion:** To approve the December 9, 2020 Agenda **Moved** by Maureen; **seconded** by Chuck; **7/0/0; passed.**
6. **Motion:** To approve the September 16, 2020 Minutes **Moved** by Maureen; **seconded** by Ron; **7/0/0; passed**
7. **Public Comment:**

Judie Hulett related that she is on the Brentwood Community Council (BCC) Safety Committee, EP is her thing. She is working on their website, and welcomes comments and improvement. She is a big supporter of Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) & Ready Your Los Angeles Neighborhood (RYLAN). She is a HAM operator and is with the Auxiliary Communications Service (ACS). Judie related that CERT is resurrecting a Neighborhood Team Program (NTP), as an umbrella of various agencies so CERT grads on the Westside can be coordinated and mustered if there is an emergency.

Paula Janos gave public comment regarding fire danger at the Dog Park, being fire season. She noted that the park is supposed to be closed and locked every evening at Sunset and opened at Sunrise. There are cars that come and go in the dark in the dog park, not walking dogs, hanging out at parking lot; concerned about fire danger and overall safety that people are in the park. It hasn't been watered in years.

Walt Young of the MRCA noted the Dog Park is a City of LA Park, and two years ago during fire season concerns were raised; there was no resolution, and Joe Edmiston of MRCA said for one year, during fire season, MRCA at their expense with the city's permission will open and close the gate to give the city time to open and close their own gate. City Fire asked them to do it a second year. Walt noted that they do respond to calls assuming they have a car in the area, when not being used at night. They go even though it is not their park. He hopes the new City Council office will convince Rec & Parks that they need to open and close the gates. Ms. Janos thanked Walt for what they did two years ago, and acknowledged MRCA keeping them safe for three months; said that the neighbors are calling the police hotline.

Walt gave MRCA Ranger Line: 310-456-7049, said he could make no promises; but if available, they'd be happy as an added layer in case they can do some good for the community. walt.young@mrca.ca.gov

8. **Bill Grundfest** gave report on LAFD Chief Ralph Terrazas taking action on Bill's suggestions for freeway brush area Phos-chek and Artificial Intelligence for Power Lines to reduce fires. He noted that the Fire Chief of LA, Ralph Terrazas, is the most open minded responsive public servant he has come across. He has looked into Bill's suggestions all about wildfire prevention. Bill noted that a lot of wildfires begin on roadsides, where cigarettes go out the window, chains drag, vehicles overheat, and collisions cause sparks, and in the 20-foot corridor, the spark hits vegetation, leading to brush fires.

1) Phos-Chek makes the orange stuff that gets dropped also makes nontoxic non-orange substance, which applied once a year to make vegetation highly fire resistant; it withstands rain for a year. The chief sent his support and urged them to Phos-Chek 20 feet or more on either side of major roadways.

2) He is looking into AI coming out of Schweitzer Labs in San Francisco, being used to prevent fires that are started like the ones where a branch hits a power line, sparks fly and we have a fire. This system, not expensive, can tell when a power line is going to spark and shuts down the power in those nanoseconds before it sparks. It shuts down that localized section. He is looking into it with the power utilities.

3) As to Alert Wildfire, an imaging system that can detect wildfires when they are very small, and report automatically to the Fire Department, he has looked into those, and while they are using some Alert Wildfire cameras they are not using the thermal imaging system as it has too many false positives.

4) He also looked into controlled burns, not in favor of, in densely populated areas.

Let Bill know if you have any ideas suggestions to share with the Chief.

Luisa Bottari and Maureen Levinson both expressed concern about environmental impacts of Phos-Chek. Bill recommended looking at the website for environmental impacts.

Ron Cornell opined that the thermal cameras maybe safer in the hillsides. Walt Young noted several Alert Wildfire locations, most recently at Mandeville Canyon, San Vicente Mountain Park, among others. He noted that they have specific prescriptions as to where they place the cameras, e.g., the one on Sage by Rocky Peak can look south of Mulholland. Alert Wildfire provide guidance on this. Walt noted that it is a good program and they support it. Ron wanted to make sure they cover the hillside areas and are thermal sensitive. Bill would want to know whether the automatic sensing and notification without human intervention technology is ready for use yet. Walt believes that it is monitored by people. The technology is not 100% but another step forward. He agrees with the Chief who doesn't want to make a full dispatch based on what a camera says. Judie noted that the cameras are just a first step; we have eight locally; they are checked by human eyes. It is a two-step function; never just taking the word of the camera. Maureen Smith opined that maybe the utilities who have had law suits may pay attention.

Chuck asked, and Bill noted that the Phos-Chek could be used for residential purposes.

Luisa asked if drones are also employed for fire prevention. Bill responded that he understands that drones are used to help with the response to fire as opposed to detecting small fires before they get large. Helping to

track the progress, direction of fires. He noted that helicopters can carry payload that drones cannot yet do. Jarrett Thompson related that the drones are not for 24-hour surveillance.

Bill Kabaker joined the meeting at 5:50pm. He related that BAR spoke to Captain Lasour and Stevens, who have been funded to conduct surveillance to mitigate fuel loads in unincorporated, public parcel areas. He thinks that drone strategy could be implemented.

Chuck noted that Chief Hogan noted that they are putting up cameras in different locations. Chuck thanked Bill for his presentation.

9. **Councilman Koretz's Representative Jarrett Thompson gave updates on Red Flag and No Smoking sign placement in our hills.**

No Smoking Signs: If you have a location, he hasn't received any requests, let him know.

Red Flag Signs: Last week we had a Red Flag day. There are pre-determined Red Flag roads; most of Bel Air Road is a Red Flag road; however, there are no Red Flag parking signs. He and colleague have found locations for signs, poles, locations where parking was an issue. He submitted these but DOT did not approve. He said that they said there are "no parking restrictions." There is also the issue of construction removing signs. If you find a location with no signage, let him know. DOT won't put the red flag signs where there are already parking restrictions. He found a few areas that are missing signage and he has a list to get them submitted. Jarrett also has maps, official fire department maps, to show where red flag signs go.

Luisa asked if there are any red flag zones in DSPNA, to which Ellen noted that there are a few on Franklin. Judie asked about problem of enforcement of construction workers or gardeners who continue to smoke to which Jarrett noted, they would have DOT send a person out, especially for massive properties, and that Parking Enforcement can handle that, but they might go to a site and there might not be a sign. They usually don't do red curbs. If they have no signage they can't issue a ticket. Judie noted where there are no sidewalks, you won't get red curbs. Jarrett noted that it depends on the area. Bill Grundfest related that the construction company advertises their name and phone number on the fence, and he has called the company and said your men are smoking in a no-smoking area, a fire hazard; that he will call the authorities if they don't discontinue.

Maureen noted that there is a difference between a no-stopping zone and a no-parking zone. In the no stopping zone they got towed. CM Koretz putting 4 x 4 signs on gates which construction companies have to pay for. Jarrett recommended that Maureen send an email to him and Daniel Skolnik; that this also pertains to the Ridgeline Ordinance pilot program. Lisa Shim related that she says something if she sees smoking by a worker. She had to call the construction company and finally it stopped. Educating the construction companies from the top, and making them do signage or training, to make it mandatory to tell the workers not to smoke. Jarrett encouraged calling the construction company if LAPD or others cannot respond. Judie encouraged signage as leverage. Maureen L. "make it a big sign." LAPD can issue citations. Only one LAFD person can issue a citation. Judie and Maureen L will work on signage.

Jarrett related to Ms. Janos, that regarding the Laurel Canyon Dog Park, you have a new City Council office next week, and recommended that she introduce herself to them. Discussed possible sources of funding. Judie suggested that Park and Rec Supervisor may be able to help.

Chuck noted, as a resident of Bel Air Road, that the majority of the roads are parked up. He asked about the red flag signs. Jarrett noted that if there are areas with no signage let him know. He will re-look at this tomorrow. He needs specific locations.

Luisa asked for clarification: What determines the necessity for signage? Jarrett related that if you see a gap of road, multiple houses long, where you think there was signage or should be looked at, he'll send it to DOT and they will find the proper location for the sign.

10. MRCA Mountain Ranger Walt Young on Measure HH passage

Walt Young spoke on Measure HH, for which they are very thankful; the previous funding measure is scheduled to fall off the tax roll next year. This doesn't take effect until approximately January 2022. On the public safety side, the community wanted some extra services which they've been able to provide, e.g., rangers 7 nights a week, one east of the 405, between that and the Jerry Daniels Overlook. They promised to do brush to the city standards. Their citations are up 100% over last year, because the bars and clubs are closed. They are overwhelmed but are writing tickets. The measure passed ensures programs on brushing, 24 hour red flag, 7 nights a week, a single car, continues. There were shortfalls so they committed to additional services when the funding kicks in or sooner; they have targeted for a 2nd patrol car, so that if it is busy, on the weekend, if they have staff available, will throw a second car at the problem areas. 2) Both overlooks that we can water, green belt around the roadside overlooks so discarded cigarettes have green to run into rather than dry brush. 3) The issue of roadside clearance along Mulholland: There is a school of thought that the City owns 100 feet of right of way, and the city should be responsible versus property owners to Mulholland responsible for brushing. If there are stretches of Mulholland that need to be brushed and there is a dispute as to who will do it, MRCA will try to make that problem go away; along the roadside in areas that have brush, that are not getting done, MRCA will step in and get things done. This solves the community problem of discarded cigarettes, etc. to stop a fire from starting. He said that they have been true to their word from the previous measure and will continue, e.g., 24-hour cars out; As to homeless encampments, they go out to problem areas, 101 adjacent to Jerry Daniel Overlook, Sepulveda Pass, by Getty, they will check encampments prior to Red Flag days, and if they see a problem area, they'll step in and solve it.

Judie asked what is involved in checking an encampment. Walt noted that they don't have any active encampments. They'll offer services, transport, put them up someplace, and have had very good luck in obtaining voluntary compliance on homeless camps; they have not had camps occupied during red flag events.

Maureen asked if they offer ride-alongs. Walt will talk about this.

Bill Kabaker asked if HH includes water quality issues, e.g., cleaning drain swales full of fungi, bacteria and leaf to not infest downslope creeks. Walt believes that Paul's answer is no, it is a water shed protection as it relates to water quality and not storm drains, a city municipal issue. He'd have to defer to Paul. Bill related that no one is cleaning the drain swales. Walt noted that they were developed with the city with a B permit; the MRCA does not own that property. These are city municipal issues, e.g., street services, etc. Not an interior park issue.

Maureen Levinson noted that Bel Air has drainage ditches, the County had to clean those out.

Bill Kabaker noted that the leaf debris of drain swales pose a fire risk. Walt promised to write to Paul and have him address that issue.

Jarrett noted that the gutters, drainage, are LA Streets' responsibility. They'll send street sweepers out. He has had no issues getting those taken care of. It depends on where the drain swales are. He has worked with Chief Hogan on this. Jarrett will keep you posted on this.

11. Good of the Order: Chuck asked if you have future speakers maybe we can have our next meeting on the 3rd Wednesday in February if available. Maureen Smith suggested Public Health Department on COVID.

12. Adjournment: Chuck thanked everyone for attending, and adjourned the meeting at 6:36pm.

Next Meeting: TBD

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