



Ad-Hoc Committee on Environmental Issues for the BABCNC – Minutes

Thursday March 7, 2019 11:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Location: Bel Air Ridge Clubhouse - 2760 Claray Los Angeles, CA 90077

1. Call to Order & Roll Call of Ad-Hoc Committee – 11:16 [Members: *Robin Greenberg, Mindy Mann, Jamie Hall, Robert Schlesinger, Stephanie Savage, Nickie Miner, Ellen Evans, Maureen Smith*]

3 present Robin, Mindy, Bob Schlesinger

5 absent: Jamie, Stephanie, Nickie, Ellen, Maureen S.

2. Approval of March 7, 2019 Agenda (per Bylaws, Article VIII, Section 2)
3. Approval of September 24, 2018 Minutes
4. Public Comments on non-agendized items within the purview of this committee:
5. Report, Discussion & Possible Action since last Ad-hoc Committee Meeting

a. Baseline Biological Assessment of the Santa Monica Mountains

Discussion and Possible Action: Approved at the 09/24/2018 Ad-Hoc Committee meeting, and at the 10/24/2018 Board meeting, the Board was in favor of looking into this matter further: To more successfully assess the impact of development in the hillsides currently and in the future, it is imperative that we have a baseline biological assessment of the Santa Monica Mountains to begin at least with area between the 405 and Laurel Canyon. **Need to look into this further.**

- Mindy related that nothing has happened; however, the city is doing a pilot program, from the 405 to either Coldwater and Laurel Canyon, to assess for the planning department, building and safety, to look at incorporating environmental impact and wildlife in the hillsides, to see what they should look at. We will continue to look into this. Mindy will find out people doing the pilot program to see if we can coordinate and support them.

- Irene mentioned the previous I-405 Metro project, and we have yet to get a copy of the study about wildlife traversing the area. Concerned about using wildlife corridors on the Skirball bridge.

- The Naylor's mentioned the developers changing the wiring on telephone poles.

b. MND vs. a CE

Discussion and Possible Action: Approved at the 09/24/2018 Committee meeting, and at the 10/24/2018 Board meeting, the Board voted 27/0/0 to prepare a letter requesting clarification on when a project in the hills is going to get an MND vs. a CE.

c. Changes/Amendments to the Protected Tree Ordinance

Discussion and Possible Action: Approved at the 09/24/2018 Committee meeting, and at the 10/24/2018 Board meeting, the Board voted 27/0/0 to prepare a CIS on this:

(There are no protections for significant non-protected trees, such as within City of Beverly Hills.

The following can be done:

- 1) Pre-application consultation requirement. The first step: Pay a \$500 fee, fill out the pre-application consultation form which will have full cost recovery;
- 2) Budget to hire two environmental planners to be embedded within the Urban Forestry Division to help architects to modify project to avoid removal of trees.
- 3) 60-day notification for tree removal.
- 4) Put trees at the top of the permitting process.

This was moved by Mindy; seconded by Maureen; 5/0/0 passed.

At the 10/24/2018 Board meeting, Jamie noted that CM Ryu introduced a variety of motions last week, which may change how we proceed. He opined that we could do CISs on those.

Motion: That the Ad Hoc Environmental Committee prepare CISs in response to this.

Moved by Jamie; seconded by Larry. 27 yes; 0 no; 0 abstentions; passed

Mindy related that Julie recommended that we take three main priorities, get the other NCs to support us in this, then bring those to the CFAC meeting for their support along with CM Ryu.

Mindy mentioned Ryu's motions on trees, and we could find out what the council files are to do CISs on. Bruno Naylor gave public comment on the relationship between trees and wildlife connection; interconnectedness. Harkens back to the item earlier about wildlife pilots.

d. Scenic Highways: On 09/24, item was deferred as quorum was lost.

Discussion and Possible Action: To set up guidelines, as interim guidelines are not being followed; to encourage Councilmembers from CD4 & CD5 that the city needs to provide funding to adopt the guidelines and to confer with experts.

(Of note, per the 09/24 minutes, Ellen discussed with Nick that the guidelines were extremely old and it was agreed that this is an issue.)

Bring to Board meeting March. Laurel, Coldwater, Beverly Glen, and Sepulveda; (Not BC)

Bruno Naylor gave information on a person who would support, PR, lobbyist.

e. Create an Open Space Committee (Carried over from 09/24)

Discussion and Possible Action: To Create an Ad-Hoc Committee on Open Space with focus on open space element update of the General Plan

6. Discussion, Follow-up & Possible Action on Further Environmental Issues to be Raised and Followed at the Board meetings Mindy time to clear hillsides, two sides to the coin: speak with neighbors, website, newsletter, sensitivity what does it mean to clear your hillsides? Make sure you are careful, don't want to have fires; but on the other hand, people hire people to clear who don't know what they're doing; denude, cheaper that way ; doing it like a buzz cut; rather thin it out, get rid of dead stuff. Be in the spirit of what you need to do. Don't get rid of protected trees. Denuded hillsides lead to mudslides.

Licensing: LAFD brush clearance.

7. Good of the Order

8. Adjournment Meeting adjourned at 1:02 PM

Next Committee Meeting Date TBD