



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

Monday February 17, 2020 3:30pm to 4:30pm

Location: Bel Air Association Office 100 Bel Air Road, LA 90077

1. Call to Order and Welcome to the Group: Mindy called the meeting to order at 3:35 pm
2. Roll Call of Ad-Hoc Environmental Issues Committee – *Mindy Rothstein Mann, Chair + Jamie Hall, Stephanie Savage, Maureen Smith, Ellen Evans, Wendy Morris, André Stojka & Robin Greenberg.*
6 Present: Mindy Mann, Robin Greenberg, Jamie Hall, Stephanie Savage, Ellen Evans, André Stojka
2 Absent: Wendy Morris, Maureen Smith
3. Introduction of any non-committee member attendees:
 - Marcia Hobbs
 - Bob Schlesinger
 - Justin Chow
4. Approval of February 17, 2020 Agenda: Moved by Robin, seconded by André; 6/0/0, approved
5. Approval of October 18, 2019 Minutes: Moved by Robin, seconded by André; 6/0/0, approved
6. Public Comments on non-agendized items within the purview of this committee

Justin Chow, a teacher, who is involved with the Sunshine Movement, talked about organizing people to vote and strike for the Green New Deal. He is hoping that people from the community will get involved and join him in spreading the word on the Green Deal and environmental issues. He commented that thus far he hasn't been successful in finding people in the Bel-Air area who have been open or interested in his message and he was hoping to broaden his constituency.

Jamie Hall brought up the issue of the Protected Tree Ordinance, specifically, the amendment which would protect the Toyon and Mexican Elderberry bushes. He believed this was so close to being approved and then got held up because of nit-picking arguments over the size of the shrubs which would determine when it would be protected.

Motion: Recommend that the BABCNC Board take the following action: To authorize a letter to City Council, Public Works, and the Gang Reduction Committee urging quick consideration of the Protected Tree Ordinance and Strengthened Enforcement. **Moved** by Jamie; **seconded** by André; **6/0/0; approved.**

Ellen Evans brought up the meeting that had just been held at CD4 and said that one of the questions that came up was about eliminating single-use plastics. Ellen felt that was a very worthwhile issue for us to support – Ben Allen had a bill as well which we could support.

Motion: Recommend that the BABCNC Board take the following action: To write a letter to support the ban of single-use plastic water bottles in the city of Los Angeles. **Moved** by Ellen; **seconded** by Mindy; **6/0/0; approved.**

Updates/Status of Old Business

7. Retaining Walls – Jamie, were you able to work on writing the motion to amend the existing ordinance? Jamie did not have the chance but he and Stephanie agreed that they would work together on the various issues and present a more comprehensive motion to the Planning and Land Use Committee.
8. Gas Blowers – Ellen, were you able to write something on gas blowers to place on your website? If not, is there any material you need to get the word out? Ellen asked if someone could provide her with some background material that she could use as a jumping off point – Mindy said she would send a previous article to her.
9. Environmental Check List for Planning & Land Use Committee – Stephanie, were you able to get started on putting together an environmental check list for everyone on the Planning and Land Use Committee? Stephanie explained that the instructions for entitlements were removed and that they were trying to find out why – and to get them reinstated.

New Business – Discussion & Possible Motions to Recommend to the BABCNC Board:

10. **Discussion & Possible Motion** about the mountain lion that was recently killed in the Santa Monica Mountains because it attacked someone's livestock. Recommend that we write a Community Impact Statement letter to support of the resolution written by Councilmember Paul Koretz.
See the article in the L.A. Times
<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2020-02-12/los-angeles-leaders-want-to-end-killing-nuisance-mountain-lions>
See the Council File: State Law Amendment / End Issuance of Depredation Permits for Mountain Lions / Establishment of Indemnity Fund / Individuals Affected by Animal Loss to Mountain Lions
<https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=20-0002-S20>
See Paul Koretz' Resolution: http://clkrep.lacity.org/online/docs/2020/20-0002-s20_reso_02-11-2020.pdf
(There are no CISs in the council file thus far.)

Motion: Recommend that the BABCNC Board take the following action: To write a letter supporting the resolution proposed by Councilpersons Koretz & Ryu, to include in its 2019-2020 State Legislative Program SUPPORT or SPONSORSHIP of legislation and/or administrative action to amend state law and end the issuance of depredation permits for mountain lions and establish an indemnity fund to reimburse any affected individual who loses an animal to a mountain lion. Furthermore, to emphasize the need to support the listing of the Southern California/Coastal Mountain Lions as an "evolutionary significant unit" that is threatened. **Moved** by Mindy; **seconded** by Jamie **6/0/0; passed.**

11. **Update/Possible Motion on "Wildlife Corridor Ordinance" & "Wildlife Pilot Study" – Mindy Mann**
 - Per CD5's Andy Shrader, we can write a letter to Planning Director, Vince Bertoni and Mayor Garcetti to not wait for more development to close off access for our wildlife.
 - Per Tony Tucci of CLAW, the city is crafting the ordinance already. There is a time frame on it. It is documented under the "Wildlife Pilot Study," which is the work-product of what will be the ordinance. It is in a writing phase and will go into a scoping phase. It is on the Planning Department's website.
 - Stakeholders will need to talk about what we like or don't like about the ordinance.

Original City Council File on Wildlife Corridors:

<https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=14-0518>

Original Resolution by Paul Koretz: http://clkrep.lacity.org/online/docs/2014/14-0518_mot_04-23-14.pdf

BABCNC CIS from 2014: http://clkrep.lacity.org/online/docs/2014/14-0518_cis_7-28-14.pdf

About the Wildlife Pilot Study:

<https://planning.lacity.org/odocument/d1552e61-18c3-44be-9f8e-b9c967246cbb/StudyBoards.pdf>

There seemed to be confusion about this issue and why Andy asked Mindy to write a letter asking for the Wildlife Corridor Ordinance to be expedited when it is currently being handled through the Wildlife Pilot Study. It is believed that Andy feels that the process of the Wildlife Pilot Study is taking a very long time and in the meantime large developments are closing off access for animals.

Motion: Recommend that the BABCNC Board take the following action: To update the CIS to urge the Planning Department to implement the Wildlife Pilot Study as soon as possible. **Moved** by Jamie, **seconded** by Mindy, **6/0/0; passed.**

12. Presentation on Process of Donations to the Laurel Canyon Trust – Jamie Hall

13. **Discussion Regarding Possible Beautification:** Garrett Carlson, longtime BCA resident and landscape architect has planted a portion of upper Benedict where trees were removed. Discuss possible public locations in the BABCNC territory that are eyesores that would be prime areas to be re-landscaped.

Mindy brought a proposed landscape plan which she shared with the committee and asked if there was a way to use some of the discretionary funds rolled over from last year towards this project. The cost without irrigation was estimated at \$6,400.

The committee members wanted more details – 1. Who owns the land? 2. What about irrigation? 3. Who will maintain and pay for irrigation? Mindy agree to get more information.

14. Good of the Order

15. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 4:52 pm

Next Committee Meeting Date TBD

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