



**Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council
Ad Hoc Committee on Environmental Issues Meeting (Virtual)
Wednesday, June 1, 2022, 12:00-1:30 PM**

DRAFT MINUTES

Chair Mann called the meeting to order and welcomed the group at 12:05 PM and called the roll with 6 Present: Mindy Rothstein Mann, Chair; Robin Greenberg, Jamie Hall, Wendy Morris, Stephanie Savage & Travis Longcore and 3 Absent: Asher Barondes, Maureen Levinson & Robert Schlesinger.

The agenda and the minutes from March 5th 2021, and Dec 1st 2021, were unanimously approved.

General Public Comment: Wendy commented that she was disappointed that the bio experts had declined the invitation by the ad-hoc PLUC committee. Jamie reported on the status of 2 pieces of environmental state legislation – SB1404 and SB1425. SB1404 died, but SB1425 about open space, passed and Jamie asked if we could send letters of support through our HOA's - he offered to provide a template letter.

Old Business

Loopholes for Retaining Walls – Jamie said that the new Wildlife Ordinance does not address this issue. There was discussion about addressing this through the HCR. Travis has written a letter addressing the changes that need to be made to the current HCR – Jamie and Don will discuss outside of our meeting.

Fees for Parks and Recreation – Stephanie – nothing new to report but Stephanie is continuing to monitor.

DWP – New poles and damage to tree canopy – Mindy is going to speak with Don about setting up a meeting with appropriate DWP and LAFD personnel.

LAFD – policies regarding brush clearance and information regarding nesting birds – again Mindy and Don will speak about setting up a meeting.

New Business

New Draft of Wildlife Ordinance – Don had asked about the purpose of our committee. Travis explained that it was important to have as much input as possible and that this committee would be submitting its recommendations to the ad-hoc PLUC committee.

Mindy commented that we were starting out of order with setbacks and fencing since she thought these seemed to be the most important issues to constituents who were opposing the Ordinance. Jamie disagreed and felt these were the least important issues, or at least not the most important issues – not from an environmental point of view.

The main questions, concerns, and discussion regarding the requirement of a 10' setback in the front yard mainly centered on the following:

Would an additional 5' setback really make that much of a difference in terms of the movement of wildlife?

Would the requirement of an additional 5' setback in the front yard end up with a detrimental effect of pushing houses 5' further into the back yard/back hillside to compensate for the loss of square footage? (It was agreed by that in most cases the backyard is a more sensitive and critical wildlife area than the front yard)

Don also raised the concern that he believes the front setback provides additional safety in terms of passage for emergency vehicles.

Stephanie commented that she constantly encounters egregious situations where homeowner/builders illegally build in the rite-of-way, and believes the intention of setting a 10' setback is to try and avoid the problems caused by people who build illegally and too close to the street.

After much discussion the **motion passed** in favor of *not* approving the 10' setback passed – 4 in favor and 1 opposed.

The discussion ended with a decision to review the % of the lot that can be developed under the new ordinance and take a closer look at the placement as well.

Adjournment at 1:45 and Next Meeting was set for June 9th at 3:30 PM – Mindy promised the meeting would run on a timelier basis.

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