



**Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council
Ad Hoc Committee on Environmental Issues Meeting (Virtual)**

Thursday, June 21, 2022 3:30 PM

DRAFT MINUTES

Chairperson Mann called the meeting to order and welcomed the group at 3:37 PM

Roll call: Mindy Rothstein Mann, Chair; Jamie Hall, Robert Schlesinger, Stephanie Savage

Chairperson Mann noted that President Longcore will be joining the meeting at approximately 4:00 PM and member Maureen Levinson has been absent due to a death in the family and will probably be absent for a few more weeks.

Guests present: Patricia Templeton, and Steven Borden, Ellen Evans

The agenda for June 21st, 2022, was unanimously approved.

The minutes from June 16th, 2022, were passed with 1 abstention.

Chairperson Mann outlined the guidelines for the discussion of the agenda items. Each agenda item would be introduced and discussed first by committee members. Once discussion ended it would be opened to non-committee members for questions and comments. Each person would get 3 minutes to speak one time on each agenda item. Additional comments could be entered in the chat or sent by email to Chairperson Mann at mmann@babnc.org. Once each person had their 3 minutes, the committee could make a motion, allow for discussion, and then vote on the motion.

COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA – Member Hall noted that City Planning had just set an Information Session for June 28 and a Public Hearing on July 13th for the revised draft of the Wildlife District.

NEW BUSINESS

6 on the agenda. Member Hall provided a brief discussion of the Administrative Clearances, and the problems that can arise since there is currently no allowance for an appeal in the cases when someone in Planning “screws up”. **He made a motion that the Wildlife Ordinance should include a provision for appeals to administrative clearances. There were no comments from guests on this motion. The motion passed with one abstention.**

#5 on the agenda - Lighting and Windows. By way of an introduction, President Longcore gave a presentation on birds - their habits, and how they interact with lighting and their ability to perceive reflections in glass. Then he spoke more specifically about the different kinds of lighting issues in the urban environment and what types of lighting are least (and most) harmful to birds and wildlife. He did the same with regards to windows, stating that windows and cats are responsible for the greatest number of annual bird fatalities in the urban environment, and showed examples of how windows can be made more “bird friendly”.

LIGHTING

This was one area where there wasn't much objection from stakeholders. Stakeholders, however, felt there would be pushback from residents over a curfew on landscape lighting. In the end committee members decided to let this stand since there is a growing trend to over-light homes in the hillsides at all hours and this is not only unhealthy for wildlife, but also for humans and the environment.

There was a motion made regarding lighting to include the following recommendations: The motion passed with one abstention.

- 1. All lights should be fully shielded to eliminate upward emissions.**
- 2. The maximum restrictions on brightness should be based on total area/size of the lot and not based on brightness per fixture**
- 3. Security lighting should be motion activated & should not be luminated all the time**
- 4. There should be a curfew for both recreational and landscape lighting**
- 5. Planning should provide a definition for what is considered “recreational**

lighting”.

WINDOWS/GLAZING

There have been comments in the past from some stakeholders, and again at the meeting, questioning whether there is really a problem with bird strikes in our hillsides. Several committee members attested to the fact that they have personally had problems with bird strikes. In addition, President Longcore stated that the science is there to prove that this is definitely an issue - the question is simply a political one, and a matter of policy, not a matter of science.

There was a motion to recommend the following for regulations concerning windows/glazing: The motion passed with one abstention.

- 1. No single paned individual window or glazed surface should exceed 24 square feet.**
- 2. Windows shall conform to the standards set forth in Title 24**
- 3. Glass and or window treatments should not have a threat factor exceeding 30 in the American Bird Conservancy data base. (This replaces the need for items listed in h2i a-e)**

MINIMIZE TRIGGERS FOR THE WINDOW PROVISIONS

While the committee members supported the regulations for windows/glazing for new construction on new projects, they also recognized that retrofitting windows on existing homes is very costly and felt that there should be limits on when the window provisions are triggered. Based on the wording, it appeared that replacing a tree could possibly trigger the district wide regulations, and committee members that it was outrageous that this could possibly trigger the requirement to replace all windows.

As a result, the committee made the following motion which passed with one abstention.

The City should limit when window provisions are triggered as follows:

- 1. On additions of 500 feet or more, only the windows in the addition need to meet the provisions**

- 2. On projects dealing with new construction**
- 3. Only for replacement windows in major remodels**
- 4. Only for windows in new construction involved on a lot where a resource buffer is present**

Given that the City is moving forward with hearings and we have limited time to do our due diligence, President Longcore recommended that the ad-hoc environmental committee members join the meetings of PLU ad-hoc Wildlife District committee. Chairperson Mann said she would send Chairperson Evans her notes and this was officially the last meeting of the ad-hoc environmental committee focusing on the Wildlife District.

The meeting adjourned at 5:54.

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