



Building A Better Community



**Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council Regular Monthly Board Meeting (Virtual)
Wednesday June 22, 2022, 7:00 P.M.
MINUTES**

NAME	BOARD SEAT	Present	Absent
Barondes, Asher	At-Large Youth Rep (2023)	X	
Bayliss, Shawn	Commercial or Office Enterprise Districts (2023)	X	
Cobb, Bradford	North of Sunset District (2023) <i>(arr. 7:15 P.M.)</i>	X	
Evans, Ellen	Community Interest At-Large (2023)	X	
Garfield, DDS, Robert	Casiano Estates Association	X	
Goodman, MD, Mark	Bel-Air District (2023)		X
Hall, Jamie	Laurel Canyon Association	X	
Holmes, Kristie	Public Educational Institutions (2023)		X
Kadin, David Scott	Benedict Canyon Association	X	
Greenberg, Robin	Faith-Based Institutions (2023) <i>(06-22-2022)</i>	X	
Kwan, Robert (Bobby)	Laurel Canyon Association <i>(Excused)</i>		X
Levotman, Vadim	Doheny-Sunset Plaza Neighborhood Assn.	X	
Longcore, Travis	Custodian of Open Space (2023)	X	
Loze, Donald	Benedict Canyon Association	X	
Mann, Mindy Rothstein	At-Large Traditional Stakeholder (2023)	X	
Miner, Nickie	Benedict Canyon Association	X	
S. Grey for P. Murphy	North of Sunset District (2023)	X	
Paden, Andrew	Bel Air Hills Association	X	
Palmer, Dan	Residents of Beverly Glen <i>(arr. 7:30 P.M.)</i>	X	
Prothro, Steven	Private K-6 Schools (2023)	X	
Ringler, Robert	Residents of Beverly Glen	X	
Sandler, Irene	Bel Air Crest Master Association	X	
Savage, Stephanie	Laurel Canyon Association	X	
Schlesinger, Robert	Benedict Canyon Association	X	
Spradlin, Jason	Holmby Hills HOA	X	
Sroloff, Gail	At-Large Traditional Stakeholder (2023)	X	
Steele, Tim	Bel Air Glen District (2023)	X	
Stojka, André	Bel Air Ridge HOA <i>(Excused)</i>		X
Tanner, Blair	Bel-Air Association		X
Templeton, Patricia	Bel Air Hills Association	X	
Wayne, Cathy	Laurel Canyon Association	X	
Weinberg, Steven	Franklin-Coldwater District (2023)	X	
Wimbish, Jon	Private 7-12 Schools (2023)	X	
Total:		28	5

President Longcore introduced agenda information on public comment and AB 361 updates, led the pledge of allegiance to the flag and called the meeting to order at 7:04 P.M.

President Longcore related that the Bel Air Hills Association (BAHA) had recently removed Robin Greenberg and Wendy Morris as their appointed representatives to the board, noting that Robin has been serving as VP of Operations and has graciously agreed to continue as a stakeholder volunteer to run our video conferencing system. He expressed great appreciation to both Robin and Wendy for their work on the board. President Longcore noted that the BAHA has appointed Andrew Paden and Patricia Templeton be their representatives on the Board, and noted that the Board does not need to take action to ratify their appointment. Their names will be called on the roll and they will be able to vote on all but funding motions until their trainings are completed. President Longcore noted that Jacqueline Le Kennedy has resigned from her Faith-Based Institutions seat as she has been extremely busy working on her Ph.D. dissertation.

Secretary Miner called the roll with 25 present and quorum met. Members Cobb & Palmer arrived at approximately 7:15 & 7:30 P.M. respectively, with 27 present. Robin Greenberg was elected as new Faith-Based Institutions Rep., and was reinstated as VP of Operations later in the evening, with 28 present. David Kadin stepped out briefly during the meeting as planned.

1. The agenda was approved, as moved by Ringler.
2. Approval of the May 25, 2022 Minutes (Attachment A) was deferred to next month.
3. There was no general public comment from the public on topics not on the agenda.
[Brad Cobb was noted to have arrived at approximately 7:15 P.M.]
4. **Comments of Representatives of Elected Officials & City Agencies – Special Guest Presentation by Ulises Gonzalez & Craig Weber from the LA City Dept. of Planning on the expansion of the Hillside Construction Regulations (HCR).**

Mr. Gonzalez gave a PowerPoint presentation on the expansion of the Hillside Construction Regulations (HCR), a Supplemental Use District (SUD). He noted that the HCR was first established in 2017, and has been applied to the Bel Air-Beverly Crest, Laurel Canyon and Bird Streets neighborhoods in the Santa Monica Mountains. Today, as a request by a Council motion, they will be applying the HRC SUD to Mount Washington, Glassell Park, Franklin Canyon, Coldwater Canyon and Bowmont-Hazen areas in the Santa Monica Mountains.

He reviewed existing guidelines which will be applied to the new geographies. The provisions only apply to lots that will build single family homes. The intent of regulations is to regulate hillside construction to reduce construction impacts by limited grading, haul routes, construction hours and require large homes to obtain site plan review. Examples of regulations include grading is limited to 6,000 CY, and 4,500 CY on substandard streets; it limits haul routes to no more than four per hour, and prohibits truck convoys on the streets. Construction hours are limited Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 6:00pm, and only interior construction is allowed on Saturdays between 8:00am and 6:00pm. Floodlight illumination is prohibited after 6:00pm. Homes larger than 17,500 square feet will have to obtain site plan review. He noted that this is a 9-month process, and today we are in Step One.

Public Hearings: Open House/Public Hearing (Summer 2022); City Planning Commission Hearing (Fall 2022) and PLUM and City Council Hearings (Fall 2022)

Mr. Gonzalez showed a map of the proposed geographic boundaries and invited input, noting that they hope to have an ordinance by the year's end. For information on the HCR see: <https://planning.lacity.org/plans-policies/hillside-construction-regulations> He can be reached at ulises.gonzalez@lacity.org (213) 978-1205.

He was available, along with Mr. Craig Weber, for questions which were asked and answered. Some comments included that enforcement will be done by Building & Safety (LADBS) and the HCR will add some provisional protections to your neighborhood. They have received our letter with recommended changes, some of which have been incorporated including the boundaries.

Mr. Weber noted, as to enforcement, that they have our June 6th letter, and are faced with wanting to advance what is an "unfunded work program" to expand some existing regulations in our community and on the east side. Beyond the geographic extension, they are asked to look at expanding changes to the HCR itself. Currently, the work program is identified as just about mapping these new areas but they are aware 1) that there may be tweaks to help the ordinance be implemented more clearly and smoothly, and 2) there may be some changes that require a lot of coordination as this is a tool mapped across multiple neighborhoods. He noted that they will have to discern quickly what if any of these recommended changes, while maintaining their timeline, include new neighborhoods, and what changes they can potentially take on that don't require a years' worth of continued engagement to these different neighborhood groups that touch this ordinance. He believes it would be best to reflect all of that in their eventual staff report to the City Planning Commission that can articulate what changes were made, if any, and then hopefully could at least advance recommendations on how to pursue more comprehensive changes to the HCR regulations themselves. He noted that there are real challenges as to how these ordinances are implemented and enforced, and they while mindful of the practical limitations in applying the rules that they already have, they want to be mindful of creating future mandates... before working out details with the various departments, e.g., Transportation for issues related to parking, and Building & Safety... They want to make whatever sensible changes they can at this time.

PLU Chair Schlesinger stressed that BABCNC wants its all borders to be included, whether there are HOAs or something else, we'd like the entire boundary of the NC to be included. Mr. Gonzalez responded that he believes all lots in the hillsides which already extend to the flats in Hollywood, are already included or will be in the HRC, with the exception of the neighborhood he showed us on the map or will be included in the HRC. Member Schlesinger thinks that there were some areas in the NC not included. Longcore related that this is something to note to discuss.

Member Weinberg related that the resolution was passed by City Council in 2020 and it's now 2022 and asked, as to the geographic expansions of Franklin & Coldwater Canyons, what is taking so long and how is this differs from that for the Bird Streets. Mr. Weber noted that this legislative process is the same for but Council often entertains and adopts motions asking to establish land use programs but those don't always coincide with resources for these work programs. Planning tries to work closely with Council to find ways to bring in resources or if resources become available, such as we have today, they are limited as to resources with the department.

Member Cobb related that the southeastern corner of the BABCNC needs to be included. President Longcore noted that this is something we can address and comment on going forward.

Ms. Grey noted that certain terminology and paragraphs in the existing HCR require clarification, and that it is impossible to enforce where it says only interior work is allowed on Saturdays, which is interpreted differently by different people. She'd like to know if they can clarify existing verbiage in the HCR, remove uncertainties and add clear definitions of what constitutes exterior and interior work, for example, to not leave it up to inspectors. *[Member Palmer arrived at approximately 7:33 P.M.]*

Mr. Weber agreed with need for clarification in the language and B&S has also identified that as a concern. He thinks a preferred option would be to seek that clarification within the ordinance itself to the extent they are able to take on amendments that they'd be addressing, and, secondarily, B&S has the ability to promulgate administrative procedures to clarify how they interpret certain things but it may be that they could look at some amendments to the ordinance to clarify that particular issue. They're happy to look at further input on the topic.

President Longcore thanked the presenters and noted that we know we can send input to them, and may direct our stakeholders to providing their input.

Vishesh Anand, West Area Rep for Mayor Garcetti: Vishesh provided updates including but not limited to 1) LADWP has new water restrictions now in effect. For more info: www.ladwp.com/wateringdays and for rebate opportunities of appliances leaning towards water conservation go to: www.ladwp.com/save. 2) Fireworks Season: Go to: www.mysafela.org or the F/X Reporter app to report any illegal fireworks you might see within the City or call 311. Only call 911 if it a life-threatening emergency or fire. For other instances of illegal fireworks, use the F/X Reporter app or 311. 3) His update website is www.tinyurl.com/westarea22 where links, updates and ongoing initiatives from the City and events for West area are found. Send flyers for Board events to vishesh.anand@lacity.org

Mehmet Berker, CD4 gave updates: They had a good meeting with Stella on the HCR expansion; he gave kudos to this NC for our advocacy on it and to CD5 for taking the ball when CD4 was districted out. 2) On the Wildlife Ordinance, keep eyes peeled for an FAQ they asked Planning to develop to introduce to those who don't know about it. 3) They had two motions in May in economic development: a report back to look at more employee ownership in City & local businesses & to implement a community development tax incentive for the City. 4) Clothing drive July 9th at 10:00 AM at Notre Dame High in Sherman Oaks. Mehmet.berker@lacity.org

Jarrett Thompson, Council District 5 noted that there will be an informational session on June 28th on the Draft Wildlife Ordinance in preparation for a hearing. Reminder: Brush Clearance is here. If you see a dry parcel take a photo and send it to him. And, there are a lot of infrastructure projects currently going on and coming this summer. They just finished resurfacing on Stone Canyon, repaving, got some speed humps coming, some signs and other mitigation efforts. Reach out to him with your questions at Jarrett.thompson@lacity.org

Janet Turner, Congressman Ted Lieu: Janet noted that our Congressman in the House of Representatives is very concerned about the inflation and a lot is being done: 1) The House passed the Consumer Fuel Price Gouging Prevention Act as many oil companies are announcing record profits when a lot of us are suffering. This would bring a crackdown on price gouging and excessive price increases. President Biden is calling a special meeting of the Oil Companies to discuss their justification for these high prices. 2) A bill will hit the floor of the House to lower grocery prices that affects unfair anticompetitive prices by the powerful meatpacking conglomerates, who have been driving up meat prices; a bipartisan bill, just out of the Ag Committee and will lower prices at the grocery store. 3) The American Competes Act is in reconciliation mode, designed to help fight inflation, will invest billions in the production of chips here in America. It will give a great deal of money to address supply chain issues, as well as to invest in American research to encourage entrepreneurs to build and create more jobs, and manufacture more things here in America. The house passed the Protecting our Children Act: The Congressman is very concerned about the continued gun violence... Their office is open. Reach out to her at janet.turner@mail.house.gov

Rachel Sherrell, Representative of Supervisor Kuehl: Her written report is posted to the website under Supporting Documents for this meeting.

Octaviano Rios, Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate (NEA) from the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) was present and will send us a post-meeting report.

Reports of Officers

5. **President** – Travis Longcore encouraged everyone to be concise and focused in comments this evening. Be prepared to stick around and keep us a quorum until we get done.
6. **Vice President – Operations** – Vacancy
7. **Vice President – Legislative Affairs** – Jamie Hall noted that we have been laser focused on the wildlife ordinance, two committees have been meeting regularly since the last NC meeting, doing a deep dive on each section, and have received a lot of community input. Motions deliberated and adopted, work product will be brought to PLUC; hearing date is July 13th. Public comment period ends July 22nd. Of our two committees, the ad-hoc Environmental Committee will cease at this point and the ad-hoc subcommittee will continue. He noted that they have made great progress.

Public Comment was given by **Steve Borden** who asked that we send a letter to Planning requesting additional hearings. He expects that there will be an extensive number of people with an extensive number of comments, and that notice that the population got from Planning did not give the people enough time to go through this, noting a testament to how much work is being done by the committees and that it is onerous to ask the community to get through it and have the understanding they will need. He noted that one of the reasons for the unprecedented participation from the communities is due to the massive opposition to the ordinance as currently drafted. He'd like more public hearings not just one.

Alison MacCracken echoed Steven Borden’s comment that we request a delay or to add information sessions & public hearings, as thousands of homeowners have never received any information on this ordinance that will affect them.

8. **Secretary** – Nickie Miner: No report.
9. **Treasurer** – Vadim Levotman reported that we have reached the fiscal year’s end. The May 2022 Monthly Expenditure Report (Attachment B) was **approved** by 21 yeses, 0 noes, 0 abstentions, 6 absences & 1 vacancy, 5 ineligible to vote, as moved by Miner.

Reports of Standing Committees

Budget and Finance Committee

Nickie Miner, Chair

10. Consideration of Budget Package for FY 2022-2023

The FY 2022-2023 Budget Administrative Packet (Attachment C) was **approved** by 21 yeses, 0 noes, 0 abstentions, 6 absences & 1 vacancy, 5 ineligible to vote, moved by Miner.

11. Purchase of a New Office Laptop

The purchase of a Lenovo - Ideapad 1 15.6" FHD Touch-Screen Laptop - Ryzen 7 5700U - 12GB Memory - 512GB SSD - Cloud Grey Model: 82R4002PUS SKU: 6502660 (Attachment D) for a total of \$666.49 (taxes included) was **approved** by 21 yeses, 0 noes, 0 abstentions, with 6 absences & 1 vacancy, and 5 ineligible to vote, as moved by Miner.

Planning & Land Use

Robert Schlesinger, Chair & Stephanie Savage, Vice Chair

12. Report of the Planning & Land Use Committee:

13. Report of the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Proposed Wildlife District, Ellen Evans, Chair

We are meeting tomorrow, 29th 30th and 1st at 5:30

1. ZA-2022-1226-ZAD, ENV-2022-1227-CE 1001 N Bel-Air Road 90077

Project Description: Demolition of (E) SFD and Construction of a new 14,317 SF SFD with 1980 sf basement fronting a substandard hillside limited street that is improved to a roadway width of less than 20’ width, and haul route for export of 2800 CY (per LAMC Section 12.21C10(i)(2) and LAMC Section 12.24X28) (**Attachment E**)

Applicant: 1001 Bel Air Holdings LLC

Representatives: Benjamin Eshaghian and Tony Russo of Crest Real Estate

<https://planning.lacity.org/pdiscaseinfo/search/encoded/MjU1Mjk50>

PLU Motion to 1) support the requested relief from widening the road along the property frontage, and 2) to have a condition as to the bulking and fluffing factor, that the grading quantity is reviewed and, if incorrect, support should be withdrawn.

Stella Grey noted that calculations need to be reviewed, and that she & Tony had a discussion. She would hold off on a vote at this time. Tony noted that he is confident of grading being compliant to the BHO and would like us to decide whether to support the

project with the grading condition. He intends to continue discussion with Stella and notes it has to involve the City as it is a City policy.

The PLU Committee motion was moved by Member Bayliss/Committee, and board discussion was held.

Member Loze noted that there is an additional subject mentioned which Mr. Russo was very forthright about, of an alleged policy of Building and Safety (B&S) to ignore any preexisting retaining walls on a project, so that, in this case, this project would end up with four instead of two retaining walls as required by the Retaining Wall Ordinance. He'd postpone this item for clarification on this, noting that we also have a possible motion later on the agenda (#27) to challenge B&S's ignoring preexisting of retaining walls. He would postpone to have this resolved until the next PLU Committee meeting, pending decision of the Board. He doesn't believe there is any evidence in any record that B&S has authority to modify the Retaining Wall Ordinance.

Motion to commit the main motion back to the next PLUC meeting, was moved by Loze and seconded.

Member Bayliss provided some background, noting that the request is for not widening the street – this is where Bel Air Road and Bel Air Court split off – the request is to not widen the Bel Air Court side of it, which is functionally a driveway; all of the homes down that street are owned by a single owner, not the applicant before us, and he has spoken to the applicant's reps, and they do *not* want their driveway widened. He therefore noted that the association is less concerned with the request knowing that the only person affected by it does *not* want it; that is why BAA is okay with the request in general.

Mr. Russo noted that there is guidance from the City on the issue, noting that the Retaining Wall Ordinance passed in March 2005, when they created the regulation that we have now, one 12-foot and two 10-foot retaining walls max allowable. He noted that in December of that year, there was an interdepartmental correspondence from the Chief DA at the time and the Zoning Engineer to Planning Staff regarding retaining walls and how this code section was being interpreted on pages 240 & 241 in the Zoning Manual. He noted that the final clarification is that retaining walls which are issued building permits prior to the effective date of this ordinance are exempt from this ordinance so any existing legally-permitted retaining walls prior to 2005 do not count towards your max allowable. Member Bayliss suggested holding up this request because we don't like the City policy and he doesn't know why to kick it back to PLUC.

Member Miner asked Mr. Russo if there is a hearing scheduled, and was told there is no hearing. Hall believes it is within our rights to disagree, and he would support the commitment motion to further evaluate this.

Member Palmer noted that there seems to be two separate cases: 1) we want to challenge an interpretation of LADBS from in 2005, and 2) we want to depend upon them changing that to know how to address this one project. He thinks that is unfair and that this would affect projects in the past. (Longcore noted this item is the last on the agenda.)

Member Loze clarified that we only see projects that are discretionary and have seen hundreds in the existence of the NC. He believes that this is the first time we've ever seen this issue in this manner. He would support the request to move this to next month, and Hall's position is that we have a responsibility to do that.

Member Templeton asked for clarification if the retaining wall issue was discussed at PLUC and the motion was sent to the board without mention of this retaining wall issue. Member Loze noted that the retaining wall issue was not considered last time, and President Longcore noted that we talked about it after the motion was made and passed.

Member Evans noted that the next PLU meeting will include an agenda item on the Wildlife Comment letter and would discouraging adding other agenda items.

The vote to send it back failed by **10 yeases** from Members Mann, Loze, Hall, Ringler, Sandler, Sroloff, Miner, Weinberg, Wayne & Garfield, **12 noes** from Members Spradlin, Bayliss, Wimbish, Evans, Palmer, Barondes, Prothro, Steele, Templeton, Grey, Levotman & Savage and **1 abstention** by President Longcore.

Member Palmer asked what limit of yardage can be moved offsite to which Schlesinger and Mr. Russo provided a detailed response. Member Spradlin noted that while Bayliss and Bel Air seem to agree with sending this back, and though he agrees that we don't agree with the City's position, he doesn't think it is fair to hold up the project.

The vote on the main motion from the PLU Committee carried by **19 yeases** from Members Grey, Spradlin, Palmer, Weinberg, Wimbish, Wayne, Steele, Bayliss, Evans, Hall, Cobb, Templeton, Levotman, Prothro, Ringler, Schlesinger, Miner, Savage and Garfield, **0 noes**, and **1 abstention** from President Longcore.

2. **ZA-2022-1422-ZAA ENV-2022-1423-CE 2558 Benedict Canyon 90210**

Project Description: Zoning Administrators Adjustment to allow an over-in-height fence and hedge fencing, in conjunction with a pool addition within the front yards for an existing single family dwelling located in the RE20-H-HCR Zone (per LAMC Section Sections 12.21 C,1 (g) and 12.22 C,20(f))

Applicant: Andrew Tansey [Stanley Street Trust]

Representative: Samira Squires [Kimberlina Whettam & Associates]

<https://planning.lacity.org/pdiscaseinfo/search/encoded/MjU1NTA10>

PLU Motion: Deny the entitlement request with regard to the over-height fence and hedge due to concerns regarding the species type, the placement of the trees in the public right of way, and overall concerns regarding safety impacts associated with the over-height fence, including line of sight issues of entering and exiting the property. Further, we support the request to place a small pool in the front yard of the parcel.

PLU Committee Vice Chair Savage introduced this item, noting that there was much discussion, no public comment, and the rep mentioned that there was support from six neighbors. There was a motion to deny, an amendment motion, and then to substitute. The PLUC motion was **moved** by Savage/Committee; there were no questions of the applicants. The applicant's representative Samira Squires asked if there was an opportunity to amend the motion that was made considering the over height fence at 6' and noted that they didn't point out that it is a mesh fence that would be transparent.

Ms. Squires noted that the fence is also set back 16 feet from Benedict Canyon Drive; cars would pull out of the driveway and have visibility. She asked if we would reconsider the fence as there will be no visibility issues.

Member Wayne reinforced that cypress trees are inappropriate for a canyon environment and this must be stressed within the motion. Member Mann asked about the mesh fence. Loze would like clarification recalling intent to put the trees on City property but she is saying the fence is back 16 feet. He asked if the 16 feet is east of the City property or on the City property lawn. Longcore clarified there is a difference of where the road is and where the City property ends. Ms. Squires verified this and showed visual of Benedict Canyon Drive, pointing to public ROW area and to the fence. She noted from the drive to the fence is 16 feet, the driveway comes out 16 feet as well, and that there wouldn't be any visibility concerns with this fence. Mr. Loze disagreed, noting the difference between the edge of the drive and the front of the trees is not 16 feet and depending on what you use for trees, you'll be cutting back into that portion. She agreed, and noted that they may project about four to five feet, reducing that visibility from 16 to about 12 or 13 feet; however, they are reevaluating tree species with Urban Forestry, considering concerns heard at our last meeting as to this being in a high fire severity zone.

Ms. Squires noted that without addressing the trees at this time, because that was denied, they want to get approval for the over-height fence at this meeting. She also showed us the next slide and to address the question of transparent metal mesh fencing. Members Mann and Hall asked about the fencing, to which she noted there will be fencing around the property; there is a chain-link fence around the property, however, she doesn't know about the distance from the main street. She thinks it looks a little close from driving by, and believes it will be set back further. The mesh fence will be 6' in height. She believes that surrounding fences are 6-8' in height.

Patricia Templeton asked if she is not putting the trees on the property side of the fence because it is too close to the pool, to which Ms. Squires noted that the pool is back (pointing) and in terms of the tree positioning, thinks it was due to spacing concerns because of the driveway in the back. They wanted it on the other side on the PROW, which is why it was presented this way.

Member Ringler asked if she has a fence around the pool that the City requires, to which she noted there is a perimeter fence that would take care of the City's requirement. Member Levotman related that the reason for the height limit is for first responders to hop over.

Member Weinberg asked if the fact that it is a mesh fence is a new fact that wasn't previously presented to the PLU, to which Longcore noted that he doesn't believe it was emphasized or discussed though it may have been on the drawings. Member Miner related that she believes we examined this very well at the PLU Committee, had a concern about height obstructing the view down narrow treacherous canyon roads and would like to go forward with the PLU recommendation. President Longcore noted that a yes vote is to go with the PLU motion as on the agenda. The motion **passed** by **23** **yeses**, **0 noes**, **4 abstentions** from Members Schlesinger, Cobb, Sandler and Longcore.

Bylaws, Rules & Elections Committee

Cathy Wayne, Chair

14. Report of the Bylaws, Rules, and Elections Committee: Chair Wayne related that the bylaws are with the BONC, and we are awaiting a meeting with them soon. The Standing Rules are in development. The Election Committee met with the City and they are presenting us a form that we are filling out, discussing what we felt had gone well and wrong at the last election. Longcore expressed appreciation for Chair Wayne's leadership on this committee.

15. Update on 2023 Election

Discussion and Possible Motion: The Department of Neighborhood Empowerment has requested input on an elections handbook (**Attachment F**). The Board will discuss this item and make take action on comments regarding the handbook. **No action was taken.**

Emergency Preparedness Committee

Vadim Levotman, Chair

16. Report of the Emergency Preparedness Committee Chair Levotman introduced item #17 noting that law enforcement needs our help to let the community know how to report. He would like to put an informational seminar together, separately or part of the board meeting, to involve the LAPD and FBI, who have dedicated units.

17. Public Forum on Hate Incidents and Venues for Reporting and Response

Discussion and Possible Motion to organize and host a webinar on the increase in hate crimes and hate incidents and the venues for reporting both to the appropriate authorities for investigation and action was moved by Levotman and seconded. Ringler suggested as part of the forum to invite some organized groups directly affected, and Schlesinger reminded him that he has the long email list from former Chair Maginnis to include. The motion **carried** unanimously. Miner & Ringler volunteered to help with this.

Outreach Committee

Robin Greenberg, Chair

18. Report of the Outreach Committee: Longcore reported on the excellent newsletter produced monthly under the committee's leadership, which is greatly appreciated.

Traffic Committee

Irene Sandler, Chair

19. Report of the Traffic Committee: Chair Sandler noted at the recent public meeting held by Metro that she attended, there is still no resolution on having an express lane or toll lane..., and it is very difficult to understand what is happening with the freeway. She noted that the 2,000 page report talks about express lanes and toll lanes. They announced they have over 3,000 individual responses. She thinks we have a chance to have input but noted that we are currently fractionalized on what BAA wants and their push for having no underground train in the Bel Air area that has drowned out other voices. She noted that she is loath to take a position when we haven't taken a position. She noted that one of six choices as to stations is still to be made, including but not limited to Getty and UCLA. She is trying to fill us in but wishes that she had more information for us. She did note that Sherman Oaks Homeowners

Association (SOHA) sent a letter disputing things mentioned at the meeting; she doesn't know its veracity but thinks there is has been a problem with Metro having no transparency. She noted that they are now going to work on a draft EIR, and if we have comments related to an EIR, they haven't invited the public but we can start making some comments, if we want certain things included in the draft EIR. Longcore noted that we have done that already, to which Sandler noted that they are starting that again.

Reports of Ad Hoc Committees (Items #20 through #21 were deferred due to time.)

Ad Hoc Committee on Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety
Stella Grey, Chair

20. Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety

Ad Hoc Committee on Home Sharing & Party House Ordinances
Ellen Evans, Chair

21. Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Home Sharing & Party House Ordinances

Ad Hoc Committee on the Environment
Mindy Mann, Chair

22. Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Environment: Chair Mann related that they had four very long meetings; she will be giving her report to the PLU Committee's Subcommittee on the Proposed Wildlife District, and thanked the committee members for their work on this.

New Business

23. Election to Fill Religious Institutions Representative Vacancy

Any Board member may nominate, and the Board will elect with a majority vote, a replacement to fill this vacancy. Nickie Miner **nominated** Robin Greenberg. There were no other nominations for this. Robin Greenberg was **confirmed unanimously by acclamation.**

24. Election of Vice President – Operations

Any Board member may nominate, and the Board will elect with a majority vote, a replacement to fill this vacancy. Gail Sroloff **nominated** Robin Greenberg, who was **confirmed unanimously by acclamation.**

Election of Standing Committee Members and Chairs

BABCNC Bylaws specify that committee members are to be elected during the second quarter of each year. As a reminder, 80% of the members of the Budget and Finance, Planning and Land Use, Bylaws, Rules and Elections, and Neighborhood Purpose Grant Review Committees must be Board members and 50% of all other committees must be Board members. The limit on the number of regular members of each committee is 15. Committee members are only elected with a majority vote of all members present. The Chair of each committee is nominated by the President and confirmed with a majority vote of members present. Previous standing committee membership was as follows:

Planning and Land Use: Former Chair Schlesinger **nominated** Greenberg, Loze, Bayliss, Stojka, Wayne, Levinson, Grey, Miner, Hall, Spradlin, Evans, Weisberg, Schlesinger & Savage, *and* for the 15th member, Schlesinger **nominated** Steven Weinberg to add to this list, noting that Coldwater Canyon has not had any representation as long as he has been on the NC. He thinks we need one person from Coldwater Canyon. There were no members who would not want to serve at this point. Longcore asked if there was a motion to remove somebody and substitute someone else. Patricia Templeton expressed interest in being on the PLU Committee, having participated on ad-hoc committees with a deep knowledge of the Wildlife Ordinance, as a lawyer who understands some of these ordinances. She has been a member of the Traffic Committee for four years, had been the BAHA board for five years, currently termed out. She works hard.

Asked, Patricia Templeton noted that she'd **nominate** herself and replace someone. President Longcore noted that she can nominate herself, and if so, there would be 16, and per Roberts Rules we'd have to take a voice vote on each person, and those with the most votes go on.

Roll call vote was taken for Bayliss who had **25 yes** votes from Evans, Steele, Savage, Wimbish, Weinberg, Mann, Wayne, Grey, Sroloff, Greenberg, Loze, Schlesinger, Barondes, Cobb, Templeton, Spradlin, Miner, Levotman, Hall, Kadin, Palmer, Bayliss, Ringler, Sandler, and Longcore (Dr. Garfield stepped away). Hands were kept up for the following, counted as follows: Evans unchanged (**25 yes**); Greenberg **24 yes** (all but Templeton); Hall **25 yes**; Loze **24 yes** (all but Templeton); Miner **24 yes**; Savage **25 yes**; Schlesinger **25 yes**; Spradlin **25 yes**; Stojka **25 yes**; Wayne **25 yes**; Grey (stakeholder) **25 yes**; Levinson (stakeholder) **25 yes**; Weisberg (stakeholder) **25 yes**; Templeton had **9 yes** votes from Cobb, Spradlin, Kadin, Palmer, Bayliss, Templeton, Paden, Savage and Wimbish. Longcore then announced that the result of the election was that **the slate nominated by Bob Schlesinger will be on the PLU Committee:** Bayliss, Evans, Greenberg, Hall, Loze, Miner, Savage, Schlesinger, Spradlin, Stojka, Wayne, Grey, Levinson, Weisberg and Weinberg. Longcore nominated Bob Schlesinger as Chair, which was **approved** by unanimous consent.

Bylaws, Rules, and Elections: Former Chair Wayne **nominated** Schlesinger, Greenberg, Bayliss, Sroloff, Evans, Miner, Wimbish, Maureen Smith (stakeholder), Larry Leisten (stakeholder), and Wayne. Patricia Templeton nominated herself for which there was no objection. There was no objection and **the slate was so ordered** and Longcore's **nomination** of Cathy Wayne to continue as Chair was **approved** unanimously.

Budget and Finance: Former Chair Miner **nominated** Garfield, Levotman, Wayne, Greenberg, Ringler, Miner, with the addition of Stojka (for NPG review) **approved** by unanimous consent along with President Longcore's **nomination** of Miner to continue as Chair.

Traffic: Former Chair Sandler **nominated** Templeton, Levinson, Weisberg, Miner, Garfield, Pierson, Schlesinger, Greenberg, Barondes, Sroloff, Smith, and Sandler, plus Graham Green. Longcore **nominated** Sandler to continue as Chair. The board **approved** this slate and Sandler as Chair by unanimous consent.

Emergency Preparedness: Levotman **nominated** (read off by Longcore): Greenberg, Holmes, Levotman, Miner, Palmer, Sandler, Schlesinger, Levinson (stakeholder), Smith (stakeholder), Farber (stakeholder), Cornell (stakeholder), Enderwood (stakeholder), Kabaker (stakeholder) and Longcore nominated Levotman as Chair, all **approved** by unanimous consent.

Outreach: Former Chair Greenberg nominated Miner, Mann, Schlesinger, Stojka, Smith (stakeholder), and Greenberg, and Longcore nominated André Stojka as Chair, approved by unanimous consent. Stojka was willing and accepted though not present tonight. Later in the evening, under Good of the Order, a motion was made to reconsider the outreach committee membership, and Patricia Templeton was welcomed to join the committee.

Neighborhood Purpose Grant Review (*Once bylaws revisions go through, this will disband.*) In the absence of Stojka, Longcore nominated Evans, Greenberg, Levotman, Miner, Mann, Schlesinger, Stojka, plus Wayne & Cobb who self-nominated. Longcore nominated Stojka to continue as Chair. The vote was unanimously approved for the slate and Chair.

Public Works & Telecommunications: Longcore called for nominations: Members Evans, Mann, and Dr. Steele self nominated. Longcore added Enderwood and Leisten, stakeholders most recently on this committee, and if not interested, they can resign: Longcore nominated Dr. Steele to Chair this reconstituted PW&T Committee: Approved by unanimous consent.

25. Effect of Water Restrictions on Hillside Vegetation

Discussion and Possible Motion: To send a letter to the Mayor requesting a review of the implications of water restrictions on fire safety and vegetation health in the hillside zones (**Attachment G**).

Mr. Loze introduced and moved this motion to ask the Mayor to form a Blue Ribbon Committee to review water regulations for the future, and to bring together a list of parties who may have some understanding on the differences between the flats and the hills. That is the purpose of this motion to send a letter to the Mayor to do that. The motion was seconded by Schlesinger.

Member Kadin asked and Longcore will cc the letter to all City Council members. Mann would like a time frame, wanting a response now, which Loze accepted in concept, as he thinks we would like to have a report by the next end of March 2023 so there can be some preplanning... Member Wayne suggested possibly addressing it in November after we know who the Mayor and City Council people are. Loze was hoping that this would be one of the items handed over to the new Mayor, and that if we ask for a report by March 2023 will give them the time needed.

Amendment: To send the letter now and to send it again in November to the new Mayor so there isn't any question of what we are requesting moved by Wayne & seconded. Member Loze accepted the amendment to circulate the letter twice and the motion passed by all 27 present.

26. Grandfathered Retaining Walls

Discussion and Possible Motion: To challenge a purported LADBS policy to disregard retaining walls built on a site prior to adoption of Retaining Wall Ordinance and to allow additional retaining walls on the site in conformance with the provisions of the Retaining Wall Ordinance (**Attachment H.i. & H.ii.**).

Member Loze would like to have the board provide authorization for an ad hoc committee to prepare a challenge to the opinion of the City Attorney which was given to clarify the Retaining Wall Ordinance, which was not passed by City Council, after all the hearings that we went

through. He thinks it is time to challenge it since it is the first time we have seen this in a discretionary manner come to our attention.

Longcore asked and Loze feels it would be appropriate to commit this to the Ad Hoc Committee on LADBS to take up and construct a position to bring to our City officials; this was **moved** and seconded and there was no objection to doing so. This is therefore committed to the LADBS Committee.

Patricia Templeton noted that the motion could be more nuanced. Stella Grey noted that a similar issue would apply to other metrics applied by the HCR, etc., and sees this as a broader issue, and would be a broader conversation. PLU Chair Schlesinger noted that he thinks this is apropos for Stella Grey to handle.

Good of the Order

Brief comments of Board Members on items not on the agenda.

It was noted that Sheila Kuehl's report is now on our website under Supplementary Documents.

Octaviano Rios gave his support from DONE.

Robert Ringler welcomed the new members and encouraged their participation, thanked everybody for hanging in there, providing a variety of input, and feels that this is the best NC in the city which has incredible leadership. Longcore noted that is because of our past leadership, noting Robert was a past president.

President Longcore welcomed new board members Patricia Templeton and Andrew Paden, both of whom gave a few words about themselves.

Andrew Paden noted that he works for an environmental and engineering consultancy firm, with educational background in biology with an emphasis in environmental science. He got an MBA recently in design strategy. He has lived here his whole life and the two lenses he uses on think about the issues are: 1) In Bel Air Crest seeing a whole mountain top get completely graded and shaved off in a cut and fill operation got him into environmental science. 2) Witnessing his parents go through an evacuation during the Skirball Fire, and the various pressures of going through dementia as they aged. He sees things through those two lenses: his love of the environment and wanting to consider the needs of the stakeholders.

Patricia Templeton noted that she is from NYC, and has been here since 1988, had lived in Laurel Canyon before living in Bel Air Hills. She was Traffic Committee and Security Committee chair in her association, and BAHA chose her to be on the NC with hopes of her being on the PLU Committee due to her concern about the Wildlife Ordinance. She is also concerned about the hills and everyday homeowners. She is interested in outreach to help people know what the NC is.

Added Motion to Reconsider Outreach Committee. There was no objection to reconsidering the Outreach slate, and adding Patricia Templeton to the Outreach Committee.

Asher Barondes related that Saturday night his home was invaded by two people, noting there has been an increase in crime off Sunset Plaza in the Bird Streets. Fortunately, he and his mother

were okay. The police came. They didn't catch the guys. He encourages you all to lock your doors; install fencing if you need to. This is their second home invasion.

Longcore recognized and thanked Wendy Morris for the service she put in with this NC; she was active on committees, brought her heart and soul to these issues, e.g., air noise and planning and land use issues. He also acknowledged the great job that Robin did, and is glad to have her back. He noted that there is a lot behind the scenes and Robin has done this for years. Longcore noted that we are happy to have her back.

Longcore thanked everyone and their families for the extra hour, noting that we are doing our very best to represent all of the neighborhoods.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 pm, to return on July 27, 2022.