



Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council Executive Committee Meeting
Thursday August 11, 2022 5:00 P.M.

Name	P	A	Name	P	A
Travis Longcore, President	X		Robert Schlesinger, Planning & Land Use Committee Chair	X	
Robin Greenberg, VP Operations; Immediate Past President	X		Jamie Hall, VP Legislative Affairs		X
Nickie Miner, Secretary; Budget & Finance Committee Chair	X		Cathy Wayne, Bylaws, Rules & Elections Chair	X	
Vadim Levotman, Treasurer; Emergency Preparedness Committee Chair (arrived at 6:00 PM)	X		Irene Sandler, Traffic Committee Chair		X
Timothy Steele, Ph.D., Public Works & Telecommunications Committee Chair	X		Andre Stojka, Outreach Chair	X	

DRAFT MINUTES

President Longcore called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, and noted we had six members present, awaiting one other to make quorum. Member Miner arrived a few minutes later, and quorum was met. Member Levotman arrived at 6:00 PM.

1. The August 11, 2022 Agenda was adopted unanimously.
2. The June 9, 2022 Meeting Minutes (Attachment) was approved as moved by Wayne.
3. **General Public Comment: Mindy Rothstein Mann** noted that she and Member Hall attended a PLU Committee meeting in Studio City regarding the Wildlife Ordinance, for which they spoke in favor of adding woodlands as resource. There were a lot of people there from the opposition of the ordinance. There was a formal presentation by the Planning Department who had sent out an email a few days earlier with a long list of resources used for their research on the draft Wildlife Ordinance, which they referred to in their presentation. They approved a motion on behalf of the ordinance, which goes to their board next week.

Reports of Officers

4. **President** – Travis Longcore 1) spoke to concerns about personal liability for issues that may come up and has removed the two pictures with the CLAW logos from our website that could be perceived as an endorsement. 2) Updating the website, Longcore asked that members have a bio and headshot on the website, and noted that committee chairs can recommend updates to the text on their committee pages. 3) Dr. Longcore explained how to set up a committee meeting, for Dr. Steele's benefit, that 1) he find a time when his committee can meet that doesn't conflict with any other NC meetings, as we have one Zoom license; 2) his is a standing committee, which he would want to have meet every month. 3) Let Cathy Palmer, Travis and Robin know what date he would like, and Robin will set up the Zoom, with committee members and invites. When he has an agenda we can give him an MS Word template, to create a draft agenda, which he would then send to Travis and Cathy, who

will see that it gets sent out to the website, committee and City. When he wants to take over posting to the website, etc., he can do so. This is the pathway to calling a meeting.

5. **Vice President – Operations** – Robin Greenberg commented on the calendar.
6. **Vice President – Legislative Affairs** – Jamie Hall was not present.
7. **Secretary** – Nickie Miner had no report.
8. **Treasurer** – Vadim Levotman was not present at this point in the meeting.

Reports from Standing Committees

9. **Planning & Land Use** – Member Schlesinger asked if we could have a drop box for PLU Committee, and discussion was held on options, including creating a section on the committee page.
10. **Outreach** – Member Stojka opined that we have to work more on the website and on expanding the mailing list. Any ideas for that would be welcome as well as ideas for the newsletter.
11. **Traffic** – Irene Sandler was not present.
12. **Bylaws, Rules & Elections** – Cathy Wayne noted as to the Bylaws, she has been delaying discussion on this until after the summer and because of the Wildlife Ordinance. She will be scheduling for September/October. Elections are going to be coming up in March 2023. She noted that Travis, Robin and she had their last meeting with Octaviano and a few others from the City, where procedures for the upcoming election were discussed. Nothing has been changed as yet.
13. **Budget & Finance** – Nickie Miner had no report.
14. **Emergency Preparedness** – Vadim Levotman was not present at this point.
15. **Public Works & Telecommunications** – Timothy Steele, Ph.D. had no report.

New Business

16. Animal Welfare and City Shelters:

Discussion & Possible Action. The Board has approved a letter to the Mayor expressing concern about the conditions at City animal shelters and the Board may wish to have further engagement on this topic. The Committee will discuss the possible avenues for such involvement and may make a recommendation to the Board regarding next steps, which may include the establishment of an ad hoc committee.

President Longcore introduced this, noting that our letter has been sent. He noted that he has been the Animal Services Liaison, has reached out and has heard nothing back from that department for several years. He wants to be sure that whatever we do is sustainable and efficient, whatever form any long-term engagement takes, depending on the type of committee. He noted that Animal Services may not even have enough staff to answer emails.

Public Comment: **Linda Whitford, Ph.D.** expressed her feeling that this NC is well placed to have an effect on what's going on with our existing relationships with Councilmember Paul Koretz, Chair of the Animal Welfare Committee, and his staff. She has ideas on what could be done, and thinks meeting with Paul Koretz and staff is something that this NC is well placed to do. She noted that the City's shelters are dependent upon the volunteer workforce and feels that the volunteers should be included as part of addressing the problems and listened to.

Dr. Longcore noted that right now, he wants to work on the format of engaging, noting we could make appointments and potentially pursue and report back as to how you fix this. Some of Dr. Longcore's ideas include 1) doing an ad-hoc committee, investigate, have public meetings, invite volunteers from the City Shelter system, then come up with a report to advise the city on the solutions, because we listened and they haven't, and do hearings. 2) Have an amendment of the

scope of the committee on Environmental Issues that would also cover animal issues, noting that these two options require leadership from someone on the board. Dr. Whitford recommended asking for consideration that Ron Galperin issue a report.

Member Wayne thinks it is important to meet with Councilmember Paul Koretz and ask him if we could have a meeting with the Mayor. Dr. Whitford related that CM Koretz convened a special meeting of the Animal Welfare Committee a few weeks ago with over 100 volunteers from the shelters who came to speak, and a second meeting would be occurring next Tuesday. She is concerned that without the volunteers participating in the process, they are looking at things that will not be so helpful.

Member Wayne reinforced idea of need for the meeting with the Mayor. Greenberg thinks finding organizations who have the funds would be helpful, to which Dr. Whitford noted it isn't always helpful.

Dr. Longcore noted that he heard we should meet with the Mayor and Paul Koretz, and get more information and perhaps hear directly about some things and the question is how should we go about doing that? We could schedule a meeting and put in a request, and first find out who would be available for that. He noted that he is in agreement with PETA, often not in complete alignment with some of the other animal groups in the City, and agrees there is not strong leadership at the Dept. of Animal Services but there is very little we can do about that with an outgoing Mayor and Councilmember. Robin and Mindy are volunteering.

Motion that we put this on the agenda to add to duties of the Ad-Hoc Committee on Environmental Issues was moved by Wayne and seconded by Schlesinger. There was no objection from any committee members that animal shelters be placed under the auspices of the Ad-Hoc Committee on Environmental Issues.

Discussion was held on trying to get a meeting on the books ahead of time. It was noted that Deputy Chief of Staff David Hersch is important in the office on animal issues; email Joan and see if they want to invite the Mayor's office; we want to convey the position of the board in person and get some information on what's going on. Ellen may be interested. Nickie Miner would like to be a part of this but is so overly sensitive about the animals and their welfare. Linda noted that Irene Sandler is very interested in this issue. Dr. Longcore will try to get this started and if other members want to join, then we can add them to the meeting.

Dr. Whitford thanked everyone for caring so much about this issue and their willingness to go the extra mile. She wanted to put on the record that she disagrees with Travis's viewpoint, about the cause of the problems in the City shelters, and noted that this is another instance where the volunteers have valuable input; the City is refusing to address that inevitable increase and cause a constant stream of intake of animals. The volunteers recognize that this stream of incoming animals has to be stopped, and they have ideas of what is necessary.

Linda sent an email to leadership of WRAC, giving them a copy of BABCN's letter and links to the LA Times articles. Robin asked Linda to send that same information to the Hillside Federation.

The meeting adjourned at 6:34 pm to September 8, 2022.