



Building A Better Community



**Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council Regular Monthly Board Meeting (Virtual)
Wednesday November 16, 2022, 7:00 P.M.**

DRAFT MINUTES

NAME	BOARD SEAT	Present	Absent
Barondes, Asher	At-Large Youth Rep (2023)		X
Bayliss, Shawn	Commercial or Office (2023)	X	
Cobb, Bradford	North of Sunset District (2023)	X	
Evans, Ellen	Community Interest At-Large (2023)	X	
Garfield, DDS Robert	Casiano Estates Association	X	
Levinson for Goodman	Bel-Air District (2023) <i>(arrived 7:15pm)</i>	X	
Greenberg, Robin	Faith-Based Institutions (2023) <i>(06-22-2022)</i>	X	
Hall, Jamie	Laurel Canyon Association	X	
Holmes, Ph.D. Kristie	Public Educational Institutions (2023)		X
Kadin, David Scott	Benedict Canyon Association	X	
Kwan, Robert (Bobby)	Laurel Canyon Association	X	
Levotman, Vadim	Doheny-Sunset Plaza Neighborhood Assn.	X	
Longcore, Ph.D. 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	
Murphy, Patricia	North of Sunset District (2023)	X	
Paden, Andrew	Bel Air Hills Association	X	
Palmer, Dan	Residents of Beverly Glen		X
Otto for Prothro	Private K-6 Schools (2023)	X	
Ringler, Robert	Residents of Beverly Glen <i>(excused)</i>		X
Sandler, Irene	Bel Air Crest Master Association <i>(excused)</i>		X
Savage, Stephanie	Laurel Canyon Association	X	
Schlesinger, Robert	Benedict Canyon Association	X	
Spradlin, Jason	Holmby Hills HOA <i>(excused)</i>		X
Sroloff, Gail	At-Large Traditional Stakeholder (2023)	X	
Steele, Timothy	Bel Air Glen District (2023)	X	
Stojka, André	Bel Air Ridge HOA <i>(excused)</i>		X
Tanner, Blair	Bel-Air Association		X
Morris for Templeton	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) <i>(excused)</i>		X
Total:		24	9

President Longcore shared preliminary information on the agenda, called the meeting to order at 7:04 P.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Secretary Miner called the roll with quorum met.

1. The agenda was **approved** as **moved** by Wayne/Miner. Member Bayliss reported that he would be recusing himself from item #23 on the municipal lobbying ordinance. Member Hall reported that he would be recusing himself from item #22, on interactive kiosks.
2. The October 26, 2022 Minutes (Attachment A) were **approved** as **moved** by Miner/Steele.
3. There was no comment from the public on topics within the Board's jurisdiction but not on the adopted agenda.
4. **Comments of Representatives of Elected Officials & City Agencies**
Emma Taylor from Council District 4 stood in for Mehmet Berker, who has been promoted in their office to Senior Deputy of Transportation, Infrastructure & Public Space starting on the 21st, and noted that Jorge Plascencia, Field Deputy working in Hollywood, Hollywood Hills & Studio City, will be moving into this area and working with this NC.

CD4 Updates

- Need to be on alert for red flag warnings in light of Santa Ana winds & MySafe:LA is having a wildfire discussion tomorrow 7:00pm. www.mysafela.org.
- CPC meeting tomorrow for the Wildlife Ordinance hearing.
- After upheaval at City Hall, CM Raman moved to create an ad hoc committee to address government reform & charter reform, e.g., redistricting, combatting corruption, whether councilmembers should be overseeing land use decisions, etc., chaired by new City Council President CM Krekorian & CM Raman as Vice Chair. Inauguration of new council members is on December 12th, when new Mayor will be sworn in. She expects changes at City Hall.
- Questions were asked & answered, including from VP of Legislative Affairs Hall, who asked if the ad hoc committee meetings will be public on Zoom, to which Emma noted that all the committee meetings can be streamed on YouTube, and you can make public comment by calling in. Since having the new City Council President, Paul Krekorian, they have gone back to hybrid. Hall noted that the NC experienced much improvement in terms of the input and the number of people who have come, and hopes we can have hybrid. Hall noted, as to reform, reducing or removing discretion over land use decisions scares him. He feels that we should not be throwing out the baby with the bathwater...and is concerned about removing council's discretion over land use decisions completely.

Jarrett Thompson, Council District 5 was not present. President Longcore noted that this would have been his last meeting with us tonight. He suggested that those interested send him an email, and expressed hope that Jarrett lands somewhere in the City family going forward.

Reports of Officers

5. **President** – Travis Longcore noted that we have recognition of the nomination of Wendy Morris based on the recommendation of BAHA, and there was no opposition. She is up to date on all her trainings and would be covering for Patricia Templeton this evening.
6. **Vice President – Operations** – Robin Greenberg related upcoming meeting dates.
7. **Vice President – Legislative Affairs** – Jamie Hall noted that there is now an SB9 eligibility tool in Zimas, an administrative application. You'll see whether or not that parcel is eligible. The DCP has a form for a Biologist's Statement of Habitability. Some parcels will still say additional review needed, which the Biologists will use. He noted that we have received a notice and will be notified and that they are asking for comments.
8. **Secretary** – Nickie Miner announced that in the morning we have the Wildlife Ordinance hearing and Captain Jonathan Tom's swearing in as new Commander of West Bureau.
9. **Treasurer** – Vadim Levotman
 - i. **Motion** to approve the October 2022 Monthly Expenditure Report (MER) (Attachment B) **passed** by 23 yeses, 0 noes and 0 abstentions, as **moved** by Levotman and Schlesinger.

Reports of Standing Committees

Planning & Land Use
Robert Schlesinger, Chair

10. Report of the Planning & Land Use Committee – We have a project for PLU meeting.

Bylaws, Rules & Elections Committee
Cathy Wayne, Chair

11. Report of the Bylaws, Rules, and Elections Committee – Chair Wayne noted that we’ll have meetings between the BR&E and Outreach Committees, setting up processes to expedite the election.

[VP Hall asked that because of the SB9 request if we should create an ad hoc committee. Member Savage noted need to have SB9 on the PLU agenda in December.]

12. 2023 Election

Review of processes, deadlines, and dates for 2023 Election: Our Election Day is March 26th. Registration for at-large and district seats will start on 11-29 and you’ll register for those seats.

Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness Committee
Vadim Levotman, Chair; Nickie Miner, Vice Chair; Philip Enderwood, Deputy Chair

13. Report of the Emergency Preparedness Committee: Chair Levotman had no report.

Outreach Committee
André Stojka, Chair

14. Report of the Outreach Committee – Chair Stojka noted that Member Mann has a project and she will check with Tree People about it.

15. Funding Expenditure for Annual Renewal of Banners

Motion to recommend Board approve an expenditure of \$273.75 to AAA Flag and Banner for renewal of the nonevent street banner program for February 2023 - February 2024. (*Permit fee is waived with City Council motion which will be requested.*) Permit processing fee by AAA Flag & Banner: Subtotal: \$250.00, + Tax \$23.75, **Total \$273.75 (Attachment C).**

Moved by Miner; **seconded**. VP Hall noted that he supports this. In addition, he has seen permanent signs on parking poles that say you are in the Mid-City West NC with their logo, and wondered if we could do the same. Member Wayne noted that Sunland-Tujunga also has them. The motion **passed** by **23 yeases**, **0 noes** and **0 abstentions**. We will reach out to MCWNC and find out about getting these.

Traffic Committee
Irene Sandler, Chair

16. Report of the Traffic Committee – Chair Sandler was not present.

Reports of Ad Hoc Committees and Representatives

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

17. Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety – Chair Grey was not present.

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

- 18. Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Home Sharing & Party House Ordinances** – Chair Evans was not present.

Ad Hoc Committee on the Environment
Mindy Mann, Chair

- 19. Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Environment** – Chairwoman Mann noted that the committee has not met for a while. In regard to the Animal Shelter situation, she had spoken to Jim Bickhart from CD5, and learned that CM Koretz’s office submitted a report to the Mayor and the City in response to the allegations. She thinks it is a good report and worthwhile reading.
<https://councildistrict5.lacity.gov/sites/g/files/wph1761/files/2022-10/Final%20Animal%20Shelter%20Report%20w%20cover%20and%20cover%20letter%20%2810.05.22%29.pdf> She noted that Mr. Bickhart related that everyone is upset that they’re not doing spay and neutering, it is complicated, with the main issue being that there are not enough vets in the City; even if given money they have to wait so long for neutering because they don’t have enough vets.

BABCNC Representatives

- 20. Reports of Representatives of Alliances & Coalitions of NCs (e.g., WRAC, NCSA, Budget Representatives / Budget Advocates, DWP Advocacy and MOU Oversight)**
- **WRAC Representative, Robin Greenberg**, gave a brief update on WRAC, noting that a Mobility meeting is happening now and that WRAC meets next Wednesday at 6:30 P.M.
 - **Sustainability Alliance Representative, Mindy Mann** related that they discussed the Wildlife Ordinance at the last meeting, and had an in-person meeting at a native-plant garden on Westwood Boulevard, at The Westwood Greenway <https://westwoodgreenway.org/> which she urged us to see.
- 21. Reports of Non-residential Stakeholder Members (Public Schools, Private Schools, Business Districts, Religious Institutions, and Open Spaces)**
- **Open Spaces Representative, President Longcore**, related that MRCA will be on high alert & has its own firefighting personnel who will be activated upon red flag warning. He noted that the community’s eyes can help there.

New Business

- 22. Interactive Kiosk Experience (IKE); [CF 22-1154](#): IKE Smart City LLC / Installation and Maintenance / Interactive Kiosks**

Discussion & Possible Motion & CIS to Oppose (IKE) Program

The Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council, at a board meeting held on November 16, 2022, voted to oppose the IKE Program described in [CF 22-1154](#) for the following reasons:

- No environmental review process (CEQA review)
- No financial analysis (CLA or CAO review)
- No competitive procurement process/No RFP issued
- Inappropriate reliance on a competitive bid process undertaken by Houston, Texas rather than by City of Los Angeles
- No public health review
- No traffic/public safety analysis related to digital signage and driver distraction
- Violates the City Charter by bypassing the City Planning Commission
- Privacy right violations – data capture from those passing
- May undermine City authority to regulate all billboards/off-site signage

<https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=22-1154>

[Member Hall recused himself for this.]

President Longcore introduced this item, noting that this is the introduction of a contract for digital billboards at a pedestrian scale... When not serving their primary function, they become digital advertising and are considerable pieces of street furniture. This issue was raised by Barbara Broide and circulated within the community. Member Morris felt the NC should respond swiftly and briskly and Member Wayne noted that Ms. Broide has been trying to get some action on this for a number of years. She supports Ms. Broide's rejection of this and recommended having her speak to us. Member Miner noted that the Hillside Federation held a long discussion on it, and was very much against it.

The above motion was moved by Secretary Miner and seconded by Treasurer Levotman. Member Schlesinger agreed with previous comments and asked why there isn't an environmental report on this. Member Mann thinks it will be a blight on our city. Ms. Levinson noted from her EMT training, you are taught how to put your emergency vehicles on the freeway, and there is something called the "moth effect," where drivers are mesmerized by bright lights and flashing signs. The motion **passed** by 23 yeses, 0 noes, & 1 recusal by VP Hall. Dr. Longcore noted that we can invite Ms. Broide at a later date if that is the will of the Board.

23. Municipal Lobbying Ordinance / Updates Council File 22-0560

Discussion & Possible Motion & CIS: Recommendations for updating the Municipal Lobbying Ordinance (MLO) have been made to the City Council from the Los Angeles Ethics Commission. The Board will review and discuss taking a position on these recommendations, which include amendments to the definitions, registration requirements, disclosure (including to Neighborhood Councils), exemptions, gifts, and enforcement. Please review the report posted here:

https://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2022/22-0560_misc_5-05-22.pdf

Council File:

<https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=22-0560>

[Members Bayliss & Hall recused themselves.]

Dr. Longcore introduced this item and encouraged people to read it over. The motion was moved by Member Stojka and the floor was opened up to public comment. *(There were 22 present at this point.)*

Public Comment:

Heath Kline noted that he is an 18+ year-member of the Woodland Hills Warner Center NC, which passed a CIS in support of this with changes... He shared examples that his NC has gone through with lobbyists, and noted that in their CIS they included amendments to the MLO that took this motion further. He offered to send his CIS to us, and listed some of his NC's additional recommendations, including that they set thresholds for disclosure revenue be much lower, based on nonprofits, and so forth. He noted that Jamie York is a real NC hero... and recommended taking the input from Jamie York.

Jamie York related that she is from Reseda NC spoke in her capacity as an individual, and asked for this NC to support this motion. She provided detailed background information on this, noting issues of transparency, difficulties for Ethics Commission being able to enforce this. She noted that there was an amending motion with what NCs were asking for, including asking that the same be applied to City Council... She noted that as it stands, if this passes it would be one of the most significant ethics reforms without having to do a charter reform. She noted that 42 NCs that have taken a position of support or support if amended, that they have representation across every single council district with this, and she hopes this NC joins as this is a very important topic. *(See attachment on our website under Supporting Docs in Support as well as their CIS in the Council File link above for further details.)*

Tess Taylor noted that she agreed with Mr. Kline and Ms. York. Ms. Taylor related that she is the President of the West Toluca Lake Residents Association and is an elected board member of the Greater Toluca Lake NC, and spoke this evening in her capacity as an individual. She noted that last night, her NC voted by a large margin to approve these ethics overhauls with some amendments to strengthen the already very good and solid proposal. They submitted a CIS, which she also emailed us today, now posted on our website. *(This new CIS re-affirms its position in favor of the motion they filed on October 21st, 2022.)* She thanked Jamie York for all the work that she has done on this, and concluded that she thinks that that our area is susceptible to overreach and lobbying. She opined that the NC system is by and large for people and failure to disclose those special interests does a disservice to our residents and communities, which we cannot be too strong about. *(See attachment on our website under Supporting Documents in Support & their two CISs from October & November in the Council File link for details.)*

Kay Hartman related that she is from Palms NC and speaking for herself as an individual. She urged support of this, noting that with all the corruption we have in the City, the more transparency the better, even for City Council. She noted that we need to know who we are talking to, whether a stakeholder or a paid lobbyist. She recommended we refer to the Toluca Lake CIS and see what Reseda's NC wrote. She noted that Palms NC took the Reseda one and edited it to their own, as they felt that was the most thorough to start with. *(See their CIS in the Council File link above for further details.)*

Rob Quan related that the City Council could be voting on this in the next couple weeks or before recess at the end of the year... He spent the last 4 years focusing on reform at City Hall... and noted that despite all that their Council is considering, that this is the most important, and most overdue; that we have a gaping hole as to who is a lobbyist... He emphasized that there is so much in our law that is tied to who is and isn't a lobbyist, when it comes to reporting of gifts, payments, fundraising, restrictions on contributions, being able to serve on commissions, this impacts a whole network of ethics law. Fixing that hole in the system is important. He noted that CM Raman has introduced a motion that addresses a lot of these things that have been asked for by NCs, and has done an amazing job capturing that voice for demand for change here.

Dr. Longcore shared his screen to point out comments in our supporting documents as well as from the 66-page report from the Ethics Commission and the Council File. He opened the floor to board discussion. Member Schlesinger recommended that the board read the documents and have a special meeting, which Member Savage agreed with.

Dr. Longcore asked Jamie York for guidance, to which she noted that she had sent the wrong attachment, as they were reviewing two items close in subject matter, one a motion related to the Ethics Commission, and she would send us the correct attachment. Further board discussion was held. Secretary Miner would have us study this more before taking a vote, while Member Wayne would like to move on this tonight or tomorrow. Dr. Steele noted that he read the updates to the MLO and thinks it is impressive, cogently put together, something that should be done, and something that is very good for us as it addresses deceptions that can occur in hybrid contexts, like our meetings. Treasurer Levotman noted it was clear that everyone supports this but that we do not know how strong our CIS should be. Longcore read from the template.

Motion to table to the item to a special board meeting **passed** by at least 12, a majority, as **moved** by Levotman and **seconded** by Stojka. **Plan:** Ms. Savage, Dr. Steele and Dr. Longcore will come up with a synthesis of this information and schedule a meeting just for this in the next couple of weeks.

Good of the Order: Robin Greenberg expressed thanks and appreciation of Paul Koretz for his service. Board members wished each other a Happy Thanksgiving, and noted that we have a new Mayor.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:41 pm to meet again for a special meeting, Date TBD, following which the regular board meeting will be on **December 28, 2022.**