



Building A Better Community



**Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council Executive Committee Meeting  
Thursday September 8, 2022 5:00 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

| 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        | X |   | Irene Sandler, Traffic Committee Chair                  |   | X |
| Timothy Steele, Ph.D., Public Works & Telecommunications Committee Chair | X |   | Andre Stojka, Outreach Chair                            | X |   |

President Longcore called the meeting to order at 5:04 pm, read the perambulatory text, and Secretary Miner called the roll. Member Stojka noted he'll be leaving at 6:00pm.

1. The September 8, 2022 Agenda was approved as moved by Stojka.
2. The August 11, 2022 Meeting Minutes (Attachment) were approved as moved by Wayne.
3. There was no comment from the public on any topic within the Committee's jurisdiction but not on the adopted agenda.

**Reports of Officers**

4. **President** – Travis Longcore: President Longcore related that he attended the meeting on the digital communications policy and provided information on this. He noted that we have some new policies that we will need to adhere to, in a couple of categories: 1) administrative, on how we are supposed to establish, maintain, change ownership of, etc., any digital communication channel, e.g., Twitter, FB, TikTok, our email list, etc., that is a means of communication from the NC on the NC's behalf. Who can do that requires votes from the board, recommendations on what email addresses these get associated with, administrative recommendations to ensure ongoing control over those assets and resources, including our website. He noted that we have already had some discussion for standing rules in regards to this digital communications policy. He asked Bylaws, Rules and Elections Chair Wayne to fashion our standing rules to reflect those policies on the administrative side.

President Longcore provided examples that the policy suggests such as need for a standing item on digital communications to be on our agenda. Discussion was held on this. Longcore recommended that we *not* bring the topic list for the newsletter to the whole board; this will be delegated to Outreach. We will *not* bring administrative details as to who has login to accounts to the whole board unless it is one annual omnibus delegation of authority... He noted that a lot of these things are what we handle in committees, by nature of the fact that we now have a 36-member board. Bringing these to the standing rules will be how we can introduce part of these to the board.

Dr. Longcore noted that the other major piece of discussion was around content, behavior of individual board members, and our freedoms to engage on social media as board members. He noted that there is a serious new law that says you can't comment on another board member's social media post on something that may come to the NC, and thereby violate the Brown Act.

He noted that that is State law that has changed and we will probably need to do some education on what that means... This means that one needs to be careful to not be "liking" any topic of another board member before it comes to the board. The minute you use that social media profile to engage in a topic of the NC, that becomes a public and official act, and that private social media platform is then subject to the Brown Act. If you do so, you would then have to recuse yourself if it comes up in the future. If you just report what is going on at the City, shouldn't be a problem. He noted that he will not engage in social media posts of other board members.

There is also the question of conflicts of interest, in terms of advocacy, e.g., supporting resources for the homeless... when you've publicly pre-committed yourself. Various hypothetical scenarios were discussed.

President Longcore provided guidelines including but not limited to that we cannot use resources for the NC to promote a position taken by the board. You can be there but do not represent yourself as the NC representative; be there as an individual or as an HOA person; speak in your personal capacity.

Asked if we have to recuse ourselves if we cast a vote in another setting, HOA or other meeting, Longcore noted that he had asked the City Attorney and was told if you were appointed to represent an HOA group that you voted on an issue with, that doesn't preclude you from voting at the NC, as you are presumed to be representing the interest of the HOA. Only because of that special relationship between the structure of our board... You are good for committee, and anything you voted on in your HOA. However, Dr. Longcore noted that he would have to ask about WRAC, and was not sure how to answer as to at-large representative, not appointed.

Asked who sets the rules, Dr. Longcore noted that the City Charter empowers DONE to set up the rules for the NC system. In order of things we have to follow: 1) the US Constitution, the first amendment is there, and because we are City officials, if we start conversation on social media and or amongst friends on a topic that will come before us as a NC, we create a 1<sup>st</sup> amendment space, and have to make it a free-speech zone. 2) State Constitution and State Law, where we get regulations about the Brown Act, and then the actual City ordinances that govern the NC system, and then become the rules and regulations that DONE sets up.

Treasurer Levotman asked about how the rules are created, and why we don't have a city email address, to which Dr. Longcore noted that the City is looking into a transition to take over the emails for the NC system. He noted that the executive committee members who are committee chairs will need to keep the committees aware of these developments.

Dr. Longcore noted, as to fairness in political campaigns, Vadim, Nickie and Philip have put together an interesting agenda that includes a line item for the two mayoral candidates, (Levotman added that they will also have Sherriff's candidates) and noted that we can host them but there are specific rules for when you have political candidates at an event: 1) have to invite all candidates for an office, 2) ask them exactly the same questions and give them exactly the same amount of time to respond, treat them equally and do not show favor of one over the other. Caution against this becoming a debate. Levotman noted that they will be given the same amount of time and they will address safety issues. Longcore recommended that the public give public comment before they speak, and have any board questions that you want the reps to address before they speak and give them each equal time to respond to that same input from the board and the public, and not engage in a Q&A session.

**5. Vice President – Operations** – Robin Greenberg reported on upcoming meetings.

6. **Vice President – Legislative Affairs** – Jamie Hall was not present.
7. **Secretary** – Nickie Miner mentioned that there will be a hearing on the proposed hotel in Benedict Canyon, to which Longcore noted that they can prepare a new CIS since we have taken a position on this before, and he will designate someone, either Miner or Schlesinger possibly, to be the representative at the hearing.
8. **Treasurer** – Vadim Levotman noted that we are still awaiting \$10,000 rollover funds to be provided.

### **Reports from Standing Committees**

9. **Planning & Land Use** – Robert Schlesinger has no report
10. **Outreach** – Chair Andre Stojka just left the meeting and Robin Greenberg gave report.

Greenberg noted that there is an upcoming CD5 debate put on by Pico NC.

She noted that the question has been raised if we can keep the recordings of our Zoom on our website. Discussion was held on this.

President Longcore noted that we can choose to record all of our meetings, which currently we do; once we record it, we can decide how long to retain it. It is retained automatically for six months. If someone requests it we have to give it to them. People can ask for the link and we have to provide it; however, we have posted some meetings to a YouTube channel but we don't have a policy of posting all of them. We have *not* been posting committee meeting recordings. He is open to having a policy to post, such as to post all board meetings but *not* all committee meetings, or other, and noted that we will have to be consistent if we have a policy. Discussion was held on this, following which Longcore summarized that we make recordings available upon request.

11. **Traffic** – Irene Sandler
12. **Bylaws, Rules & Elections** – Cathy Wayne had nothing to report.
13. **Budget & Finance** – Nickie Miner had nothing to report.
14. **Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness** – Vadim Levotman gave report on the upcoming meeting, and invited people to attend.
15. **Public Works & Telecommunications** – Timothy Steele, Ph.D. gave update of his efforts to prepare and being in the fact-gathering stage.

### **New Business**

#### **16. Open House/Public Event**

Discussion and possible motion regarding a public in-person event to be held in the Fall for outreach purposes. President Longcore introduced this, noting that this is a social event that we'd need people to take the lead on. Mindy would like to do this before the election; consider October, and we would need to discuss if any content entertainment; consider an outdoor event. Treasurer Levotman recommended using this to acknowledge our 20-year anniversary as a NC.

**Motion** to create an ad hoc committee to create an official 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary reception; a social event that does not violate the Brown Act because we will not talk about business. Agendize this for the next board agenda. This would be a committee to mark the Board's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary and get people together, **moved** by Wayne/Miner. **Approved** by unanimous consent.

**Good of the Order:** Robin acknowledged Queen Elizabeth II, who sadly passed away today.

The meeting adjourned at 6:32 pm to October 13, 2022.