



Building A Better Community



**Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council Regular Monthly Board Meeting (Virtual)
Wednesday January 25, 2023 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) <i>(arr: 7:54pm)</i> | X | |
| S. Grey for B. Cobb | North of Sunset District (2023) | X | |
| Evans, Ellen | Community Interest At-Large (2023) | X | |
| Garfield, DDS Robert | Casiano Estates Association <i>(arr: 9:04pm)</i> | X | |
| Goodman, Mark M.D. | Bel-Air District (2023) | 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 | |
| Kris LeFan for Bobby Kwan | 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 (2023) <i>(arr: 7:33pm)</i> | 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 |
| Prothro, Steven | Private K-6 Schools (2023) | | X |
| Ringler, Robert | Residents of Beverly Glen <i>(left at 8:07)</i> | 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 <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 | 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: | | 27 | 6 |

President Longcore shared information on the agenda, called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M., and led the Flag Salute. He called the roll with quorum met and welcomed this evening's special guest, Congress Member Brad Sherman, who spoke mid-way through Agenda Item #5.

1. The Agenda was **adopted** as **moved** by Members Stojka and Schlesinger.
2. **Approval of three sets of November Minutes:** President Longcore introduced a motion to approve the **November 10, 2022** Special Board Meeting Minutes (**Attachment A**), the **November 16, 2022** Regular Board Meeting Minutes (**Attachment B**), and the **November 30, 2022** Special Board Meeting Minutes (**Attachment C**). Member Levotman gave a correction on the 11/30 minutes: p.3, para 2, sentence 3: he stated that limited liability does *not* have officers, instead they have members & managers. Member Evans noted that Steve Borden was listed twice on the 11/10 minutes, under public comment, to which Dr. Longcore noted he'd given Mr. Borden another chance to speak. The three sets of minutes were unanimously **adopted** as corrected by all 23 members present & voting.
3. **General Public Comment**
BABCNC welcomes comment from the public on any topic within the Board's jurisdiction but not on the adopted agenda.

Timi introduced herself as being with the Valley United Community Group, **SoCal-SFV** <https://www.socalsfv.com>, fighting for responsible aviation, especially for the Santa Monica Mountains. She noted, to Representative Brad Sherman, that he had championed CBP Custom Services at Van Nuys, which she feels has been a detriment... in that Van Nuys is now serving the 1% of society at the expense of the rest. She related that some council members are putting together another expansion proposal seeking City Council approval. She will send us information on the bond expansion proposal, and asked that we ask City Council to reject this expansion. She noted this will introduce more corporate jet ambitions with Helinet as its face.

Adriana De La Cruz, introduced herself as the **Region 11 Budget Advocate** for our area, newly assigned this month. She would like to send her information to President Longcore and copy the Board. She looks forward to speaking to the Board in the future.

Ed Allen would like to talk Mission Canyon Park Project, if anyone on the NC is following or aware of any changes in permit status or funding since the last public posting on their website almost a year ago. President Longcore noted that we have considered this in the past and if anyone has information, email that to him, and he'll get it to Mr. Allen. Mr. Allen also wanted to see if the council has interest in supporting a bioscope at the entrance on Mulholland, if unable to secure funding of the Sepulveda entrance of the proposed park. Dr. Longcore noted we cannot discuss as it is not agendized and provided his email address.

Jacqueline Garay, Angelenos for Clean Air Coalition introduced herself noting that they are providing educational workshops and tools to advocate for clean air in apartment buildings and invited us to share their information on their coalition with the community, which can provide them with training, resources and tools to look at different data.

Alonzo Wickers introduced himself as running uncontested for the BABCNC Youth Seat. President Longcore congratulated him.

Jamie Hall noted that he has received emails regarding an auction of 250 acres at Senderos Canyon, closing March 15th, is important environmentally sensitive vacant land and a huge opportunity. He feels sending emails to City Council members to come up with a solution will not get us to the finish line; rather, it will take someone to put together a coalition and gather the money to make a bid before March 15th, before the land is bought up for development.

4. Comments of Representatives of Elected Officials & City Agencies

Mehmet Berker, Council District 4 mehmet.berker@lacity.org – Mehmet noted that he is Transportation and Infrastructure and Public Space Deputy and covers some field area but not in the BA-BC area. Next month he'll introduce our new field rep.

Updates:

Celebration of Life for P22 on February 4th.

Storm Update: In the BA-BC area of CD4, they have two closures on Mulholland. Emergency funding for both projects have been approved, are moving along, until mid-Feb to early-March.

Cole Crest in Laurel Canyon: They're working on a final recommendation, and incorporating the failure area; would have to be a new bid or incorporate it into a project nearby; and, Crescent Drive in Laurel Canyon saw sink holes and mud slides...

Merrywood Drive in Laurel Canyon is closed to cars on emergency basis, indefinite, rolling 30 days. You might find cars parked on LC just north of Lookout Mountain as they are creating some designated spaces for those residents.

Upcoming Event: 02/16 10-11 a.m., a ceremony with LA Park Foundation & City National Bank to formally open their new shade structure pergola and dog watching station at the Laurel Canyon Dog Park, which is already up and running.

New Committee Assignments for the Councilmember: Chair of Housing & Homelessness Committee, two committees combined; on the Energy-Environmental Committee with CD5 Councilwoman Yaroslavsky, on the Public Works Committee and Transportation Committee; Vice Chair on Ad Hoc committee on City Government Reform.

Organic Waste: Now you can put your organic waste into the green bin, kitchen compost. They are giving away the kitchen pale; pick one up on the 29th. Go to website for more info.

https://www.lacitysan.org/san/faces/home/portal/s-lsh-wwd/s-lsh-wwd-s/s-lsh-wwd-s-o?_afzLoop=1350779396309082&_afzWindowMode=0&_afzWindowId=null&_adf.ctrl-state=h8li2mhbw_1#!%40%40%3F_afzWindowId%3Dnull%26_afzLoop%3D1350779396309082%26_afzWindowMode%3D0%26_adf.ctrl-state%3Dh8li2mhbw_5

They have an Organic Waste Virtual Town Hall January 30th.

Homeless Count Location will be done in Hollywood tomorrow: www.theycountwillyou.org.

Metro has a virtual open house on the Sepulveda Transit Corridor tomorrow.

Jarrett Thompson, Council District 5 jarrett.thompson@lacity.org Jarrett noted that he is staying on with Councilwoman Yaroslavsky as Hillside Deputy and taking on all transportation work in CD5. Reach out to him with these and other issues. He was watching Street Services clean up various areas; reach out to him about those. They'll be fully staffed by early February; reach out for contacts. Committees: Katy Yaroslavsky is now Chair of Energy & Environment Committee, on PLU, on Budget & Finance, on Transportation, and Ad Hoc for the Olympics.

Octaviano Rios, Department of Neighborhood Empowerment gave report.

In-person meetings. The Department is working on developing protocols and putting together information for board members to share; planning mid-or late-February info session/training to help board members transition smoothly to in-person meetings in March. They are looking for everyone's concerns, needs for clarity, suggestions, recommendations to the Department to help inform this information session.

Legislation: They passed two pieces of legislation last week advocating with the State for flexibility to keep our NCs and other decision-making bodies in the City allowed to meet virtually:

CF#23-0002-S16 & 23-0002-S17 for the City's State legislative program.

<https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=23-0002-S17> and

<https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=23-0002-S16>

Upcoming Elections: He checked the final candidates list from City Clerk's office. They are

available to attend our Outreach & Elections meetings to contribute.

Elections tools: He suggests using NextDoor, Canva, and USPS bulk-mail service, easy ways to help promote NCs, elections and meetings.

EmpowerLA has a webpage dedicated to elections: <https://empowerla.org/elections/> and the City Clerk has an elections page: <https://clerk.lacity.gov/clerk-services/elections> with a page for NC elections: <https://clerk.lacity.gov/clerk-services/elections/nc-elections>

Reports of Officers

5. President – Travis Longcore

Return to in-person meetings in March, 2023: President Longcore gave report on this.

Selection of an in-person meeting site, including **possible motion** to negotiate terms for meeting location.

President Longcore related that, as he understands it, we will be having an in-person board meeting in March. He noted that we have been working on this with the Executive Committee, with Vice President of Operations Greenberg and Member Mann doing outreach. One option is the meeting room at Bel Air Ridge, which VP Greenberg spoke on. Dr. Longcore noted that another option is the Leo Baeck Institute, as well as other places that are cost prohibitive.

Dr. Longcore noted that we have expressed our interest in becoming part of the hybrid program; however, it is unclear that it will be ready for the first meeting in March. When set up with equipment, we'll do that (*if Item #21 below is passed this evening, which it did.*)

Motion: Member Wayne **moved** to authorize Dr. Longcore on behalf of the BABCNC make an arrangement with Bel Air Ridge in order to schedule that first meeting in March. Following discussion (noted below, upon the conclusion of Representative Brad Sherman's presentation), the motion was **seconded** by Member Templeton, and **passed** unanimously.

Some comments are included here, beginning with those from Member Wayne who noted that that Mulholland is closed between Laurel Canyon and other spots along the way, so everyone would have to go down to the flats, and come back up the canyons in full traffic. She expressed concerns associated with traveling to in-person meetings, including that it is time consuming for the board members, expensive in gas, time and effort, doesn't allow our constituents to participate; that we had really great participation from our constituents via the Zoom option which we did not have when meeting was in person. She wanted those officials present this evening to realize that if the reason for the NC is for the constituents, in-person meetings for us do not allow that to happen.

Member Ringler raised a historical note that all the HOAs in the community met at that community center to form this NC and he has always advocated for BABCNC having a location between the east & west boundaries, and would like to be able to meet at **TreePeople**. Dr. Longcore asked Member Mann, who has reached out to them about our upcoming town hall, noted that if there will be an exception made to a rule, we could look into meeting there.

This discussion was **tabled** briefly, and attention turned to **Item #4** to hear from Representative Brad Sherman. Some of his comments are noted here.

Guest Speaker, Representative Brad Sherman, CA 32th District introduced himself, calling from Washington DC. He noted that as of January 3rd, he represents two dozen communities and as of January 3rd including Bel Air-Beverly Crest. He noted with him on the line was Sean Reagan of his Constituent Service Office. He invited us to **call Sean at 818-501-9200** with federal matters.

Passports: If less than a year of validity renew it because the whole system is broken down in the last couple of years. If you are an emergency, and need a passport right away, give Sean a call.

Town Hall: On February 2nd at 7:00 pm, they are having a **Town Hall, Call-in #: 855-920-0548** or

RSVP and suggest a question at www.bradsherman.house.gov. <https://sherman.house.gov/townhall>
Some issues that affect the community:

- 1) the possibility of monorails or subways through the Sepulveda Pass, of which Metro is the ultimate decision maker. He encouraged us to comment to Metro Thursday 6-8pm virtually.
- 2) Airport noise: He noted that this has affected all the communities he has worked for during his 26 years in office, whether fighting for a curfew for Van Nuys Airport, trying to prevent additional noise from Burbank and helicopter noise issues.
- 3) Government in Washington DC: Representative Sherman noted that the minimum standard for this government should be that we *not* default on our debt and *not* have a government shutdown.
- 4) Community Projects: He noted that in the last couple of years, his office has gotten community projects funded and welcomed us to reach out for charitable transportation and small projects that can help the community.
- 5) Committees and Expertise: He has served on the Foreign Affairs Committee & Financial Services Committee; can answer questions in areas of economics of the country and foreign policy. Following comments and questions from the board and public, President Longcore thanked the Representative for coming this evening.

At 7:54 PM, attention was returned to **Agenda #5, President's Report**: Further discussion was held on returning to meeting in person.

6. **Vice President – Operations** – Robin Greenberg gave report on upcoming meeting dates.
7. **Vice President – Legislative Affairs** – Jamie Hall had no report.
8. **Secretary** – Nickie Miner had no report.
9. **Treasurer** – Vadim Levotman
Motion To approve the November 2022 Monthly Expenditure Report (MER) (**Attachment D**) and the December 2022 Monthly Expenditure Report (MER) (**Attachment E**) **moved** by Treasurer Levotman and **approved** by 22 yeses, 0 noes, 3 abstentions, 1 ineligible, and 7 absences.

Reports of Standing Committees

Planning & Land Use Robert Schlesinger, Chair

10. **Report of the Planning & Land Use Committee**: Chair Schlesinger mentioned notices of demolition at 940 North Stradella Road, 10542 West Vestone Way, 138 North Mapleton Drive, 1812-1824 Rial Lane, 1800-1810 N. Rial Lane, two projects at 10980 Verano Road, and 15529 W. Casiano Court.

[Robert Ringler left the meeting at 8:07 pm.]

11. **ZA-2020-6626 ZAD, ENV-2020-6627-CE 9839 /9837/ Easton Drive 90210**

Project Description: Demolish (E) SFD and construct a 7,257 SF SFD with attached garage and remodel existing detached garage. Request relief from public improvements for sub-standard hillside street & CPR (per LAMC Section 12.21C10(i)(3) & LAMC Section 12.24X28)

Applicant: William Driscoll, Jr. wnd2@aol.com **Reps**: Vladimir Elmanovich, VEA-Architects vladimir@vea-architects.com Sergey Lipsky; Ken Sampson, bdsconstructioninfo@bdsconstruct.com

Attachments Link: <https://planning.lacity.org/pdiscaseinfo/search/encoded/MjQxNzcy0> Please Click on “Initial Submittal Documents” to the find 5 documents. In addition, Mr. Elmanovich provided additional submittal documents:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/2e3e4zuiuqccc6ee/AACJibcD2q5CoKQfchVJfopba?dl=0>

Motion: To recommend that the project be denied based on the outstanding concerns related to the scope of the project, the size of the project and its impacts during construction. Specifically, the

finding of fitting in the neighborhood is *not* met and that the mitigation for the loss of the walnut woodland is *not* appropriate. A mitigated negative declaration (an MND) is required for the project due to the acknowledged impacts to flora and fauna, and the City should require mitigation for the oak-walnut woodland in the form of “area” as opposed to “tree replacement.” Additional concerns include:

- * No outreach to neighbors impacted on the narrow street, with no turnaround for large vehicles. Vehicles will have to back up to the site and block road while hauling or offloading material. Road width is 15’ wide, per provided survey.
- * Questioned accuracy of declared grading amount and if any available storage onsite (along with any parking).
- * No required dedication procedure or road improvement to widen frontage. BOE requires 13’ from centerline for roadway.
- * Plans show structure, stairs and driveway within the public right of way and no dedication, therefore making a worse condition and needed revocable permits.
- * Parking of vehicles during construction - only provided plan (for cars) for after concrete foundation and walls completed, no staging for materials or proposed significant grading storage.
- * Building appears to be 50’ in height, based on elevations.
- * Building SF (7257 sf) not compatible in size with other houses on continuous narrow street. Applicant stated (2) of the 40 houses on the street are over 7000 sf yet they were originally built (in the 1960s) before hillside codes existed.
- * Environmental reports state walnut woodland needs further consideration. .

This item was introduced by Travis Longcore and **moved** by Schlesinger/Committee.

The Applicant was invited to speak on any differences on the project from what was heard previously. Vladimir Elmanovich introduced the owner, William Driscoll who spoke on why he is doing what he is doing, concluding that he intends to build efficiently. Ken Sampson commented on parking and construction, and responded to previous comments on the turnaround and house being set back. Mr. Elmanovich asked if we could approve the project and if that is not possible to be able to make recommendation that instead of denying, state that it is not compatible.

President Longcore noted that we had heard from the applicant, basically that there will be changes on the project as required by the City. Member Kadin gave comments as President of Benedict Canyon Association (BCA), noting building on substandard streets is a major concern. He noted that the average house is 1500 square feet and 7500 square foot is 5x the size of the average homes over there. Member Kadin asked Mr. Driscoll his intentions, e.g., have three generations of his family live there, rent part of the property for airbnb, sell it, flip it, etc. Mr. Driscoll responded that they do not plan to have it be a party house, an airbnb or a house that attracts visitors; they just plan to live there.

Member Templeton related her concerns about parking during construction, blocking the road... and mentioned slope analysis that she thought looked like 5000 square feet allowed, and with bonus 6000, and wondered how it came to 7500 square feet. She noted that his lot is much bigger than most of the other lots, to which Vladimir responded that the lot is larger and wider, a parcel of three combined lots. He gave explanation as to the construction staging and parking plans.

Member Hall wanted the board to know that there was a lengthy discussion about this project at the PLUC, and he hasn’t heard a lot of specific responses to the criticisms from the applicant and his representative, and would ask the board to respect the work of the committee, and accept the recommendation and ratify the opposition of the NC to this project.

Member Sroloff expressed concern for the neighbors with haul routes, dump trucks, without knowing how many other projects are happening, the usual construction in narrow hillside communities, especially in an area where the homes are significantly smaller than the home being built. Member Mann related that she had lived on Yoakum for years, drove up to the street yesterday to look at the property, and had forgotten how narrow the streets are; there was a car behind her and she couldn't pull over to look, and could barely stop on the way back to pull over to take a picture, as the street is so narrow. She agrees that it is a bigger property than the others, doesn't know where they will stage on such a narrow street, with the laborers coming up with cars, thinks it will be a nightmare, and that there are a couple of very large oak trees at the bottom, which she imagines will be removed. Member Kadin thanked Members Mann & Hall for raising additional concerns he wasn't aware of and appreciates the applicant's representative correcting the numbers.

The **motion carried** by **20 yeses** from Members Evans, Wayne, Kadin, Savage, Greenberg, Steele, Wimbish, Paden, Grey (*for Cobb*), Sandler, Stojka, Hall, Levotman, Mann, Sroloff, Weinberg, Miner, Holmes, Loze, Bayliss, and **0 noes; 4 abstentions**: Schlesinger, Templeton, Goodman and Longcore.

Bylaws, Rules & Elections Committee

Cathy Wayne, Chair

12. Report of the Bylaws, Rules, and Elections Committee: See Item #13.

13. 2023 Election

Review of processes, deadlines, and dates for 2023 Election. Chair Wayne related that there will be three Elections Meetings made up of the Outreach Committee & the Bylaws, Rules & Elections Committee on January 30th, February 10th & 13th to discuss marketing the upcoming NC election on March 26th. They'll discuss suggestions from the City's website and look for new exciting suggestions on increasing participation within our community. She welcomed ideas.

Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness Committee

Vadim Levotman, Chair; Nickie Miner, Vice Chair; Philip Enderwood, Deputy Chair

14. Report of the Emergency Preparedness Committee – Chair Levotman related that he just received an email a few hours ago, from the Hollywood C-PAB Secretary that the Memphis Police will release body camera footage of what resulted in the death of Tyre Nichols, age 23; five police officers were fired. He noted that though not in LA, the LAPD is prepared to keep the area safe for the public. President Longcore noted that he has been contacted by the State Insurance Office, asking if we want a presentation on insurance & fire safety, which will be scheduling for an upcoming board meeting.

Outreach Committee

André Stojka, Chair

15. Report of the Outreach Committee: Chair Stojka expressed his appreciation of the work that went into preparing this meeting. He noted that the Outreach Committee would like to get the message out, and we are planning for an event on April 23rd. He'd love it if the committees will get together and discuss what kind of presentation they'd like to make during that open house; you'll have space and time to show the public the kind of work you are doing. He'll send a sheet and would appreciate input. He asked for pictures of floods & problems from the rain in the hillsides for the newsletter.

16. Discussion & Motion that the Board approve holding our Open House event at TreePeople on April 23, 2023, and take all necessary steps to get permissions by the City to do hold that event. **Moved** by Stojka **seconded** by Sroloff. Discussion included advice by Treasurer Levotman that we do not need to approve the dollar amount (\$350.00 cleanup fee) which is already approved in our budget; only vote to hold the open house event on 04/23 **Passed** unanimously by **25 present and voting**.

Traffic Committee
Irene Sandler, Chair

- 17. Report of the Traffic Committee:** Chair Sandler reiterated that there is a major virtual meeting by Metro to discuss the current state of decision making for the Sepulveda Pass Transit Corridor project, and encouraged educating ourselves... If you want to be informed, take a look at the blue links that come with the program, e.g., the storyline, background of this project, and some of the presentation material, and make up your mind on what you think of that.

Chair Sandler followed up on the suggestion by a guest that the Mission Canyon project may not have enough money to change the driveway into or out of the project on Sepulveda, which boulevard has been a major thoroughfare for years, and that the proposed driveway with the original plan will not work. She noted that it was said they were going to put millions of dollars in to get the project done. There was major objection to having any entrance on Mulholland Drive. She will follow up.

Chair Sandler related that she is thrilled Jarrett Thompson will be the Transportation person for CD5, and anticipates that he'll be a wonderful liaison. She plans to schedule a Traffic Committee meeting following the Metro virtual meeting.

Chair Sandler also noted, as to potholes, the need to provide very detailed location to have them filled. Member Templeton emphasized that the **myla311** app has been very responsive to reporting potholes on the app: <https://lacity.gov/myla311> Member Sroloff asked about tree roots in the middle of the street, to which Member Templeton noted that she has had experience with that and going to Bureau of Street Services was productive in getting that taken care of.

Reports of Ad Hoc Committees and Representatives

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

- 18. Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety:** Chair Grey mentioned the meeting next Wednesday, and welcomed attendance. She noted that PLU Chair Schlesinger listed properties that will be undergoing demolition, noting that demolitions can produce asbestos, recognized by the State of California as a carcinogen and health hazard. She noted that the problem with LADBS is that they rely upon applicant's integrity to assure them that all the necessary measures required by the State will be taken during demolition but... very often they lie; there is no asbestos check, no containment, and the neighborhood may be affected by the hazard. She noted that if anyone is interested in how to report it, email her and she'll take you through the process.

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

- 19. Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Home Sharing & Party House Ordinances:** She thinks we should have a February meeting before we have to start meeting in person.

Ad Hoc Committee on the Environment
Mindy Mann, Chair

- 20. Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Environment:** Chair Mann hopes we meet soon. She met with Member Steele and reported that the issues she'd like to address are issues that he and she discussed because it will affect our two committees. She hopes to speak to him.

New Business

21. EmpowerLA Virtual Governance-hybrid (EVG-h) Workgroup

Discussion & Possible Action: To approve participation of BABCNC in the EVG-h Pilot Program. President Longcore introduced this item, along with #22, explaining some background and what is needed to run a seamless in-person and online meeting. He noted that we were chosen as a candidate for the pilot program, and that the City is seeking funding for this.

The **motion** under agenda Item #21 to approve our participation in the hybrid pilot program, was **moved** by Levotman and **seconded** by Mann.

Ms. Lanira Murphy introduced herself as the Co-Chair of the EVG-h Working group, and made herself available to answer questions. She confirmed that President Longcore's comments were accurate and answered other concerns that were raised. Some comments are noted, including that Ms. Murphy confirmed that board members can meet remotely three meetings a year. Questions were asked and answered, with concerns expressed by Members Wayne, Stojka, Miner and Loze.

President Longcore noted that this program is compliant with the Brown Act as revised. The three meetings a year is State law and was not on the table; we are governed by that State law. All that was on the table is if we participate or not. President Longcore clarified that the two options are entirely in person with no Zoom or the hybrid where we can also have Zoom. If the venue and equipment become available, committees could do hybrid as well. Asked if we could have a NC east and NC west, two venues all connected, Ms. Murphy noted it has to be a quorum at one location at the same place, and believes this is by law in how the Brown Act has been revised. Member Holmes hopes she can have a medical exception, to which Member Templeton opined that ADA protections may help.

Member Loze noted that the purpose of the Brown Act has been to avoid backroom bad deals, and that the purpose of the NC is to encourage activities in our own provincial areas, that the purpose of the NCs is being defeated by expanding the reach of the Brown Act. He asked what if we don't do any of this, and who will enforce or deny what we have as our activities as a neighborhood council? President Longcore responded that he has spoken with our designated City Attorney about this in the past, asked if they are sure we qualify as a Brown Act body, and provided some perspective on this.

Octaviano Rios from DONE related that he knows the General Manager has shared the complexity of the situation, and that they are preparing an Information Session in February for greater clarity. He noted that he has shared council files that City Council passed last week to help advocate for leniency to meet virtually, and he was writing down questions & comments. He asked that we email him concerns that may not have been captured or expressed.

Member Evans noted that we are really just deciding all in person or having a remote option and it seems clear that we need to do that. She asked if we can we fund a minibus for transportation for people who don't want to drive. As to committees continuing, she wants to be sure that committee meetings don't need to be hybrid always and can be just in person... Ms. Murphy didn't have any insight on that, and Dr. Longcore asked her to remember this and flag this going forward.

Member Schlesinger noted 1) with Zoom he can make a lot more meetings; with the traveling we'll be doing, will probably cut down to half or less than half of the meetings, which negates input from the meetings, and 2) he asked who will make all the plans for all the committees, where they'll meet and who will coordinate it? Member Sroloff strongly agreed with Member Schlesinger's comments, noting that we have three *elections* meetings in a week and a half, which are easy to do on Zoom, but doesn't think we can do them as frequently and effectively, with the travel time there and back. Dr. Longcore noted that would be to support item #22, below, and that we have to address two questions: 1) all in person or pilot with hybrid, and 2) do you want to support the motion below, where the City is asking the State how we can get more flexibility in how we meet.

The motion **passed** by **18 in favor**: Members Miner, Weinberg, Evans, Levotman, Grey, Templeton, Wayne, Steele, Mann, Sroloff, Paden, Kaden, Goodman, Greenberg, Hall, Bayliss, Schlesinger and Garfield, **2 opposed**: Members Stojka & Loze, and **2 abstaining**: Members Sandler & Dr. Longcore.

22. EmpowerLA Virtual Governance-hybrid (EVG-h) Workgroup

Discussion & Possible Action: MOTION to approve a CIS on **Council File 22-1070** Neighborhood Council Meetings / EmpowerLA Virtual Governance (EVG) System / In-Person / Emergency Declarations with the following statement:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1NvZBhMBhmz0Z2IUgKkanHNNDTCtsfUTD9u5UcdGZMAE/edit?usp=sharing>

This motion **passed** unanimously by all 22 present and voting: 22 yeses, 0 noes, 0 abstentions for CIS

Additional documents for review:

The report the EVG-h Workgroup wrote this summer that moved this process forward

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/12Abizhc9IHl8l9wm9t5KQOIVii4uRgEZlxngeJGkoOw/edit?usp=sharing>

Raw Data used for Pilot Program Selection

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/11bep_z9-DdqdTmV0pbo5E6BGbrIE6p5/edit?usp=sharing&oid=118124428838767704417&rtpof=true&sd=true

EVG FAQ

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1S3d5SJvemRoyIEkbmdGZsggo9FbFEy7OHuxOIGBYxAo/edit?usp=sharing>

Summary of Pilot Program Selections

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1FHGMla4kUraEqxKZeBzuz_4yBpt59F45jmeOGVbKyus/edit?usp=sharing

23. Smoking in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones

Several residents in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ) in nearby neighborhoods have observed repeated instances where crew members on film shoots ignore the no outdoor smoking restrictions. In some instances, this has actually occurred adjacent to no smoking signs. Film permits in the City are issued by FilmLA, a non-profit industry sponsored entity under a contract with the City. That contract is administered by the Board of Public Works. The LAFD and the LAPD also have Film Units. The LAFD requires the daily completion of a Fire Safety Checklist that includes a section on smoking. It indicates smoking areas may be established on a set, but not near brush or flammable materials. However, there is blanket prohibition against outdoor smoking in all VHFHSZ areas. There also appears to be an issue getting LAPD officers hired by production companies to enforce the no smoking prohibition in VHFHSZs.

Possible Motion: WHEREAS outdoor smoking is prohibited in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZ); WHEREAS, permits for film shoots are regularly issued by FilmLA for locations within a VHFHSZ; WHEREAS, film permits can and do contain special conditions for numerous locations within the City; WHEREAS, there are currently no special conditions limiting smoking included in film permits issued by FilmLA for locations within a VHFHSZ; and WHEREAS, the Board of Public Works has a dedicated Motion Picture and Television Manager, to act as the FilmLA contract administrator; THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, BABCNC urges the Motion Picture and Television Manager for the Board of Public Works require FilmLA to include a specific no outdoor smoking prohibition in all film permits issued for locations within a VHFHSZ.

Moved by Wayne and **seconded** by Schlesinger; **passed** by all 22 present and voting.

24. Van Nuys Airport (VNY) / Development Projects / Community Impact / VNY Citizens Advisory Council

Possible Motion: To support the motion in CF 22-1489 regarding the commercial development of Van Nuys Airport and the reasonable consideration of community impacts from development at Van Nuys Airport, requesting details from Los Angeles World Airports regarding details of the projects and awards for redevelopment at VNY, steps taken for community engagement to ensure such projects undertook the required outreach, a detailed description of the compliance or non-compliance of these projects with the 2005 Van Nuys Airport Master Plan, an accounting of the environmental review of said projects, and proposals for future community engagement.

See details in the Council File:

<https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=22-1489>

Moved by Member Stojka and **seconded** by Member Mann.

Public comment was given by Timi who offered to make herself available in case anyone had questions, and to be able to explain the limitations of this and what this board, as individuals, may consider doing. Longcore will get her information out to everyone.

Board discussion was held. Timi wanted to focus on what NCs can fight for – that is to tell City Council that Van Nuys is now operating at an economic level that we don't need more land use for jet charters, which is what LAWA is trying to do right now, which propelled this motion. She noted that if you read the motion it refers to a helicopter lease expansion. The hidden agenda in that proposal is jet productivity. A Council office asked that she extrapolate the hidden agenda that was not presented to the public and present to them a precise power point presentation so they can understand and hopefully reject this lease. She noted that supporting this motion is Step 1, and Step 2 is to encourage City Council to reject this lease. This **passed** unanimously with **22 yeases, 0 noes & 0 abstentions**.

President Longcore thanked Timi for coming and noted that it is important that neighborhoods stick together; our job is to stand up for the health and welfare of the people of the City and the best interest of the people of the City. He thanked everyone for the long meeting, noting we will meet again in person before too long.

Items 25 & 26 – were deferred to February due to time constraints.

25. (WRAC) Venice Blvd. Improvement Projects Concerns: <https://westsidecouncils.com/motion/venice-blvd-improvements-project-concerns-withhold-support/>

26. (WRAC) Support Speed Limit Reductions Ordinance: <https://westsidecouncils.com/motion/support-for-positions-re-ordinance-187427-speed-limit-reductions/>

Good of the Order:

Dr. Goodman asked President Longcore who to contact for a fire education talk by the BAA, as their prior contacts are no longer there, promoted or retired. Dr. Longcore referred this to Member Levotman, Chair of our Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Committee. Secretary Miner stressed her disagreement with the Brown Act. President Longcore gave a special appreciation for Member Holmes who was here with us this evening; that we love seeing her face, and hopes the City can accommodate her.

The meeting adjourned at 9:32 PM to meet again on February 22, 2022 at 7:00 PM.

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