



Building A Better Community



MINUTES
Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council Regular Monthly Board Meeting
Wednesday September 27, 2023, 7:00 P.M.

NAME	BOARD SEAT	Present	Absent
Barcohana, Elizabeth	Private Schools Grades K-6 (Selected 09/27/2023)	X	
Bayliss, Shawn	At-Large Traditional Stakeholder (2025)	X	
Evans, Ellen	Community Interest At-Large (2025) / <i>VP – Legislative Affairs</i>		X
Garfield, Robert DDS	Casiano Estates Association	X	
Goodman, Mark MD	Bel-Air Association	X	
Greenberg, Robin	Faith-Based Institutions (Re-selected 07/2023) / <i>VP – Operations</i>	X	
Gros, Mirco	Doheny-Sunset Plaza Neighborhood Association	X	
Hall, Jamie	Laurel Canyon Association		X
Holmes, Kristie	Public Educational Institutions (2025)	X	
Kadin, David Scott	Benedict Canyon Association		X
Kamin, Aaron	North of Sunset District (2025)	X	
Kwan, Robert (Bobby)	Laurel Canyon Association		X
Levotman, Vadim	North of Sunset District (2025) / <i>Treasurer</i>		X
Longcore, Travis Ph.D.	Custodians of Open Space (Re-selected 07/2023) / <i>President</i>	X	
Loze, Donald	Benedict Canyon Association	X	
Mann, Mindy Rothstein	At-Large Traditional Stakeholder (2025)	X	
Miner, Nickie	Benedict Canyon Association / <i>Secretary</i>	X	
Paden, Andrew	Bel Air Hills Association	X	
Palmer, Dan	Residents of Beverly Glen		X
Ringler, Robert	Residents of Beverly Glen		X
Roessel, Angela	North of Sunset District (2025)	X	
Rogovin, Jaye	Bel-Air Association		X
Sandler, Irene	Bel Air Crest Master Association	X	
Savage, Stephanie	Laurel Canyon Association		X
Schlesinger, Robert	Benedict Canyon Association	X	
Smith, Maureen	Commercial or Office Enterprise Districts (2025)	X	
Spradlin, Jason	Holmby Hills HOA		X
Sroloff, Gail	Bel-Air Association		X
Steele, Timothy Ph.D.	Bel Air Glen District (2025) / <i>Assistant Secretary</i>	X	
Stojka, André	Bel Air Ridge HOA	X	
Templeton, Patricia	Bel Air Hills Association	X	
Wayne, Cathy	Laurel Canyon Association	X	
Weinberg, Steven	Franklin-Coldwater District (2025)	X	
Weisberg, Leslie	Bel-Air Association		X
Wickers, Alonzo	At-Large Youth Rep (2025)	X	
Wimbish, Jon	Private Schools Grades 7-12 (Re-selected 07/2023)	X	
Total:		24	12

President Longcore called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM and led the Flag Salute. Secretary Miner called the roll with quorum met including Members Wayne & Holmes who were present virtually and Elizabeth Barcohana, who was selected to represent Private Schools K-6, for a total of 24 present and 12 absent.

1. The agenda was **approved** unanimously as moved by Greenberg.
2. **Selection of the Private Schools K-6 Seat:** Elizabeth Barcohana introduced herself, noting her history in Los Angeles, in the community, and with schools in the territory (**Attachment A**). She was **selected** by acclamation, as nominated by Dr. Longcore.
3. The August 23, 2023 minutes (**Attachment B**) were **approved** by all but Members Gros, Templeton & Wimbish who abstained, as moved by Stojka.
4. **General Public Comment**
There was no comment from the public on topics *not* on the adopted agenda.
5. **Comments of Elected Officials & Agencies**

Battalion 9 Chief Kenneth Cook with LAFD noted that he works directly with the Fire Chief, and is currently working in Battalion 9, which services this community. He noted that there are six fire stations that service this area of the BABCNC and four battalions.

He provided update including but not limited to the following: In response to the increased danger of brush fires in our hills, LAFD <https://www.lafd.org/> has joined with Beverly Hills, <https://www.beverlyhills.org/departments/firedepartment/>, National Park Service <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/fire/index.htm>, & LA County <https://locator.lacounty.gov/fire/Location/3175267/city-of-los-angeles-fire-department> who have all gotten together for the first time to address increasing brush and levels of risk.

Something they will be doing things differently than previously includes that on an initial 911 brush call saying there is smoke in the area, those four agencies will *all* be responding in the hills at the same time, regardless of jurisdiction, around 156 firefighters will be first on scene in the event of a fire (and more called in if needed). LAFD is signing a contract next week with BH, NPS & LAC. He asked that we communicate that to our communities. They'll have a press conference with Beverly Hills within 30 days.

Battalion Chief Cook noted that he tells neighborhood councils about the need for us to stay aware and be prepared including with "**Ready, Set, Go!**" <https://www.lafd.org/ready-set-go>. He noted that it is important to know what's going on when the fire breaks. Being in the path, we will be notified by **Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA)** unless you unsubscribed (can opt out but it is in our phones) <https://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/wireless-emergency-alerts-wea> or **NotifyLA:** <https://emergency.lacity.gov/alerts/notifyla>. With NotifyLA, you'll get specific info such as evacuations or holding.

Questions were asked & answered:

- To follow up or ask for them to come back, contact **Battalion 9 Commander at 310-575-8509, Battalion Chief Shawn Tukua**.

Some comments from Battalion 9 Chief Cook included:

- With this contract, they will be getting fixed-wing aircraft, which enables them to put fire retardant down, which up to now they have not been getting.
- There are a couple of local airports that federal fire fighters from NPS can come from. Also, SoCal Edison has a Quick Reaction Force (QRF) platform to provide fire-combat helicopters – which have to be requested and paid for.
- Go to www.lafd.org and click on “wildfire” for the Los Angeles Fire Department's Fire Alert system at <https://member.everbridge.net/index/892807736729789/#/signup>
- Make sure to stay in compliance with brush clearance regulations throughout the year. Find regulations here: <https://www.lafd.org/fire-prevention/brush/brush-clearance-requirements> and additional useful information can be found on LAFD's webpage at <https://www.lafd.org>

Office of Mayor Bass: Dr. Longcore noted that we now have a new contact with Office of Mayor Bass, Marian Ensley, who will be joining us in the future.

Walker King, Office of Councilmember Nithya Raman, gave an update with some comments including that Sunset Plaza Drive is officially reopened ahead of schedule and ongoing construction continues. Regarding home sharing, the open portal and the report back on the home sharing motion will be released in two weeks. The team will go over it with the Planning Department which has also been working closely with the Department of Building and Safety (LADBS) on it. He thanked this NC for our work on this, e.g., letters, community impact statements (CISs). He noted that Tom LaBonge Day of Service will be celebrated Saturday including clean-ups in North Hollywood, Silver Lake, Pacoima, and Mid-City.

Haley Martinez, Office of Councilmember Katy Yaroslavsky: Haley related that this is Wildfire Preparedness Month, and today, LAFD spoke with departments in council about the new technology being implemented and plans, especially in the High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (HFHSZs). Let their office know if there is any brush clearance needed also with your neighbors to keep folks accountable. Have your go-bag ready, etc. They're working to open Chalon Road and working closely with MRCA to open Franklin Canyon. Councilwoman Yaroslavsky will be at Metro, meeting for the first time since July and will discuss renewal of the Micro Transit Pilot Program. CD5 introduced a motion with CD2 looking at home sharing, re homeowners & enforcement, coming to Council in a couple of weeks. As to the project on Cedarbrook, they are monitoring this, and will get back to us about it.

Octaviano Rios, Department of Neighborhood Empowerment gave updates for board members. He noted that the last on-boarding session will be held virtually, and he gave an intro to the NC Board Manual, of which he brought hard copies and offered to send an electronic version if requested. He reminded us to consult with the assigned Deputy City Attorney for any conflict of interest issue, noting that financial officers are *not* to sign funding documents if they have a conflict of interest and have recused themselves on an item.

Jake Ettinger, Office of Senator Ben Allen (24th District) gave an update on Senator Allen's legislative items that the Senator worked on this year as to water rights, the

environment bills, e.g., reducing plastics, and, a bill, along with Asm. Isaac Bryan, to create an independent redistricting commission (AB 1248). Sign up for their newsletter at <https://sd24.senate.ca.gov/contact/newsletter>

Assemblymember Rick Chavez-Zbur (AD-51) introduced himself in person. He was accompanied by Joshua Marin-Mora his field deputy, whom he introduced.

The Assemblymember spoke on what he has been working on in the State Assembly. Some comments included his focus on the crisis of housing and homelessness, wanting to do more to prevent homelessness, citing the California Housing Security Act, sponsored with LA County and others, to provide housing subsidies for up to \$2000/month for up to two years for those who are highly insecure, to allow people stay in their homes. He has a bill to expand an independent living program for former foster youth. He has an apartment swap bill for WeHo & SM, for elderly who are housebound who live in rent-controlled apartments without elevators, which allows them to move into a first floor unit.

Assemblymember Zbur related that he is working on climate change, environmental protection & environmental justice issues. He has a bill says the State should have a strategy to get offshore wind in place. He described offshore turbines and related the need to rebuild ports to accommodate those; the second part is focusing on jobs. He has a bill to make sure cities have electric charging capabilities.

Of his social justice and civil rights bills, AB 5 “California Safe and Supportive Schools Act” was just signed, and Teachers Unions co-sponsored the bill. He spoke on a Teacher Pipeline Bill to allow school workers to get teachers’ credentials and another bill that helps temporary workers with the cities and counties. He discussed causes of functional poverty in California.

He is proud of SB423, having been concerned about undoing protection in the coastal zones. For his concerns about protections for VHFHSZs hillsides, he got better basic protections.

He spoke on Senderos Canyon with CM Yarosloavsky and Supervisor Irwin, noting that they are trying to secure funding to secure Senderos Canyon, and have been active in effort to reduce rodenticides at the State level, noting that P22 had been exposed to them.

He discussed the importance of insurance, being in the midst of an insurance crisis. He noted that as the Democratic Caucus Chair to develop priorities for the Democratic Assembly, he is aware of the insurance cancellations taking place in areas such as this. He also noted that we are in the midst of a retail theft crisis, and he is the Chair of a select committee to tackle that.

Questions were asked & answered. He wants us to start thinking about how we fund things. Public Comment was given by Dr. Pamela Pierson who asked why Verisk software has been subcontracted by Fair Plan & marketed to insurance providers. He said he’d look into it.

6. Committee Chair Reports were deferred due to time constraints.

Old Business

7. Appointment of Reps & Liaisons of Non-BABCNC Committees & Alliances was deferred due to time constraints

- Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC) Appoint Alternate for the Homelessness Committee (HOC) Alternate (*Mann is currently primary*).
- Los Angeles Alliance of Neighborhood Council Coalition (LANCC) (*currently Weinberg*) meets first Saturday of the month at 10:00 a.m., currently via Zoom
- Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance (NCSA) (*currently Mann & Evans*)

New Business

8. November 2023 Meeting Location

Discussion and Possible Motion. The Board considered the meeting location for committee and Board meetings in November. Dr. Longcore related that the City Attorney has requested that we do not pursue additional meeting locations outside of our territory. **Motion** to meet at TreePeople in November **passed** as moved by Greenberg & Gros.

9. January & June 2024 Meeting Location

Motion: The Board will have our January & June 2024 Board meetings at Marymount High School, to include the cost of security on those evenings, per school protocols, **passed** by unanimous consent as moved by Templeton and Stojka. Thanks were given to the folks at BAA who did the outreach there.

10. Addition of New Members to Outreach Committee: Deferred / Chair Stojka related that after discussion, Member Gros will attend some meetings before joining.

11. Addition of New Members to Ad Hoc Committee on Environmental Issues: Member Mirco Gros was unanimously added to the Ad Hoc Committee on Environmental Issues Committee, as moved by Mann.

12. Monthly Expenditure Report

The August 2023 Monthly Expenditure Report (MER) (**Attachment C**) **passed** by 21 yeses, 0 noes, 0 abstentions, 3 ineligible, and 12 absences as moved by Longcore.

13. Refund from FY 2022-2023 to be approved for FY-2023-2024

NC Funding received a refund check for purchase by BABCNC last fiscal year. The City needs a NC motion for those funds to be deposited into the BABCNC account. **Motion:** Approve receiving the refund check for \$97.48 from B&H Photo-Video for the return of the carry bag for audio equipment, to be moved from the City's account to the BABCNC's 2023-2024 Fiscal Year account. (**Attachment D**) **passed** by 21 yeses, 0 noes, 0 abstentions, 3 ineligible, and 12 absences as moved by Longcore.

14. 2261 North Bowmont Dr. 90210 (Coldwater Canyon)

DIR-2021-9948-DRB-SPP-MSP

ENV-2021-9949-CE

Project Description: Construction of approximately 1449 sq ft new 2-story addition over 669 sq ft basement/storage & 437 sq ft basement 2-car garage to existing 1990 sq ft 1-story sfd.

Applicant: Dr. Matthew Nejad

Representative: Dr. Ifa Kashefi

Architects: Ghazal Shokoufandeh & Shahram Shokoufandeh

Permits:

<https://www.ladbsservices2.lacity.org/OnlineServices/PermitReport/PermitResults/984911>

Address. Zimas: <http://zimas.lacity.org/map.aspx>

Permanent Link: <https://planning.lacity.org/pdiscaseinfo/caseid/MjUzMjM50>

Case Info under “Initial Submittal Documents” and on the Google Drive link below: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1P9eRqP5ktdHgv1Cz4J271AKno3GSPxM_/view?usp=drive_web

Architectural Plans (Attachment Ei) & Answers to PLU Questions (Attachment Eii) can also be found at BABCNC website under “Supporting Documents” at <https://www.babcnc.org/committees/viewCommittee/357>

Motion from the Planning and Land Use Committee to recommend approval, recognizing that the applicant has agreed to follow to the maximum extent feasible the good neighbor policies proposed by the neighborhood and in place for the project at 2350 Bowmont **moved** by Chair Schlesinger.

The applicant’s representative, Dr. Ifa Kashefi, gave a brief introduction on the project and noted that they’ll go through design, architectural design, when they get closer to construction, at which time there will be further discussion. Their goal is to work with the neighbors.

Public Comment

Jim Saltmar commented on the neighbors’ concern on maintaining safety during construction, and to have a builder’s agreement followed. He and his neighbors hoped to engage with the applicants since the last meeting; however, it didn’t happen. He noted that Matt responded to an email that he was away and it was too early to respond to some things. He noted that they will remain engaged and vigilant as concerned neighbors, to make sure it is a safe and successful construction project.

Amy Adelson noted that she and the neighbors have an expectation to continue the dialogue with Dr. Najed and Dr. Kashefi and hope they’ll adhere to some terms outlined. She thanked us for leaning in, noting that we are all here to work together.

Steven Jarmus thanked the applicants for working with the neighbors & community beyond the section of Bowmont where the project is taking place, and that it is imperative that Police & Fire have access to the whole neighborhood. He hopes the applicants continue to work with them & that the whole neighborhood is protected.

Public hearing was closed and the floor opened for board questions and requests for clarification. It was noted that after this goes to MDRB there is no discretionary action. Dr. Kashefi noted that after they meet with the neighborhood in October, they will go to the MDRB. Following board discussion, the **motion passed** by all but 4 abstentions from Schlesinger, Barcochano, Paden & Miner.

15. 9262 W Thrush Way, 90069 - Tree Removal Notification CRM # 1-3259337701

Discussion & Possible Motion: Consider responding to this tree removal notification. (**Attachment F**)

Dr. Longcore introduced this, explaining as to this tree removal notification, there are

now two protected trees and no longer three trees, as one tree was illegally cut down, as documented by the neighbors. For two trees, it doesn't have to go to hearing.

Motion: To write a letter to the Urban Forestry Division saying we see evidence of trees being removed and would recommend that they pursue the illegal tree removal and that they *not* proceed with the removal of the two additional trees because under the Protected Tree Ordinance, an owner is not allowed to pull permits for a period after illegal tree removal.

Moved by Roessel and Mann. Discussion was held. Dr. Longcore will share the letter with Members Mann, Roessel and Templeton, and will note that there should be consequences though we're not the trier of fact, they need to have a hearing. The motion was **unanimously approved**.

16. Discussion & Possible Motion Re New Council File 12-1824-S2 Party House Violation Enforcement / Loud and Unruly Gatherings Ordinance / Home-Sharing Ordinance / Cost Recovery (Motion by Krekorian, Yaroslavsky & Raman) (Attachment G)

The LA City PLUM Committee motion notes that City departments are using their limited resources to try to address this problem, but current enforcement tools are not strong enough to make an impact. The City Council is awaiting a report back (CF 14-1635-SIO) that will make recommendations on potential increased penalties to address unpermitted and non-compliant short-term rentals. This report back will be helpful in addressing the party house problem, but the City should also specifically reexamine the Loud and Unruly Gatherings Ordinance.

Motion: That the BABCNC supports the motion asking that that the City Council instruct the City Attorney and Chief Legislative Analyst, in coordination with the City Administrative Officer and the Departments of Building & Safety, Housing and Planning, report back with recommendations to make enforcement more effective to deter violations of the Loud and Unruly Gatherings Ordinance and the Home-Sharing Ordinance, including increases in fines and other penalties, as well as implementing a cost recovery system that is specific to the enforcement against party houses.

Moved by Mann, to support the motion by Rahman, part of which is asking for the report back. Roessel recommends enforcing what is already on the books, not increase the fines.

Further discussion was held, noting this is not just about increase in fines. Roessel would **amend** the motion to have a letter to support the motion and say we need to know who is the entity or office that will enforce the laws on the books as of October 1st and who is in charge of enforcing the laws on the books right now. The motion to support the above motion was **unanimously approved**.

Full Council file:

<https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=12-1824-S2>

Full Council File Motion: https://clkrep.lacity.org/online/docs/2012/12-1824-s2_misc_9-13-23.pdf

17. Zoo Expansion (CF 21-0828)

Motion: The Bel Air Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council urges members of City Council to reconsider their blanket support for the Zoo Vision Plan, and to bring a resolution to the lawsuit filed by the Friends of Griffith Park (FoGP) and Griffith J. Griffith Charitable Trust (GJGT).

A petition for a Writ of Mandate was filed in Los Angeles Superior Court challenging the City of Los Angeles' decision to approve the Los Angeles Zoo Vision Plan, known as Alternative 1.5. The lawsuit is opposing the Zoo Development's Plan to excavate an artificial 60-foot canyon in the zoo and destroying 16 acres of native habitat. It also alleges that the plan was approved without proper public review.

The BABCNC represents homeowners who live within the Santa Monica Mountains. Preserving the native habitat as well as the flora and fauna which inhabit these hillsides, continues to be one of our major concerns. ~~With the Wildlife Ordinance so close to becoming law, and~~ As the **Wildlife Ordinance is currently in process, and** at a time when there is so much emphasis on biodiversity and preserving open space, we are surprised that the members of City Council would approve the current version of the Zoo plan. While we respect the good work of the Los Angeles Zoo, we hope it continues to carry out its work without destroying the sensitive habitat of the Santa Monica Mountains.

Dr. Longcore introduced this motion, noting the Zoo Development's Plan is to excavate into a ridgeline and does not take into account impacts to wildlife and animals in the zoo from the work being done on the project.

The motion was moved by Mann, who provided further information, noting that most environmental groups in the area voted against the Zoo Development's Plan, and that this is the option that the City Council ended up voting for. The motion was seconded by (*sounded like*) Stojka.

Motion to Amend to strike out reference to the Wildlife Ordinance being near, moved by Templeton. Mann agreed to remove that line. Loze disagreed.

Amendment Restated: To strike "~~With the Wildlife Ordinance so close to becoming law, and~~" was seconded by Stojka and passed by 14 yeses and 9 against. (*Holmes stepped away.*)

Amendment to add in the language, "~~As the Wildlife Ordinance is currently in process~~" was moved by Weinberg seconded by Kamin passed by 18 yeses, 2 noes from Paden & Templeton, and 1 abstention from Barcohana.

Motion as amended passed as amended by 18 yeses, and 3 abstentions from Templeton, Wimbish & Holmes.

18. Construction of Digital Billboards by Metro

Motion. The Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council, a member of the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils, requests that the Metro Transportation Communications Network (TCN) program be referred to the LA City Council Transportation Committee and LADOT for their consideration before a final decision to implement the program is voted on by the City Council. The Transportation Committee and LADOT need to weigh in on the safety of this program through the study and review of current and historical research that has been done on roadway user distraction with digital billboards and changing message signs.

Motion: Resolved, the Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council opposes Metro's immediate, untimely, and overly rushed Transportation Communications Network project, which incorporates digital signs, and asks that the City Council engage in a full and transparent outreach and public review process.

Dr. Longcore introduced this, noting that the first motion is from WRAC and is procedural and the second was taken from the CIS from San Pedro NC.

Both motions were moved together, by Members Weinberg & Templeton. There was no objection to unanimous consent with 20 present and the two motions **passed**.

Background Information

- 1) <https://planning.lacity.org/plans-policies/metro-tcn>
- 2) <https://www.scenic.org/2023/09/20/a-statement-from-scenic-america-and-scenic-los-angeles-on-metros-transportation-communications-network/>
- 3) <https://westsidecouncils.com/motion/request-to-refer-metro-tcn-to-city-council-transportation-committee-ladot/>

Good of the Order:

Dr. Longcore welcomed Elizabeth Barcohana to the Board and noted that he feels that the size and representativeness of board as part of the community is the attraction to our Neighborhood Council.

Member Mann noted that tomorrow there will be an honor of Cindy Montañez of TreePeople.

Meeting adjourned at 9:06 pm, to meet again on October 25th 2023.