



**Draft Minutes**

**Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council Regular Virtual Monthly Board Meeting  
Wednesday May 22, 2024, 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	
Brand, Jonathan	Bel-Air Association ( <i>appointed 04/26 / seated 5/22</i> ) ( <i>formerly J. Rogovin</i> )	X	
Evans, Ellen	Community Interest At-Large (2025) / <i>VP – Legislative Affairs</i>	X	
Levinson for Goodman M.D.	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 Ph.D.	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	
Grey for Levotman	North of Sunset District (2025) :	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 ( <i>Excused absence</i> )		X
Ryan, Sandy	Casiano Estates Association ( <i>Appointed/Seated 01/24/2024</i> )		X
Sandler, Irene	Bel Air Crest Master Association	X	
Savage, Stephanie	Laurel Canyon Association	X	
Schlesinger, Robert	Benedict Canyon Association ( <i>Excused absence</i> )		X
Sroloff for Silver, Jonathan	Bel-Air Association ( <i>appointed 04/26 / not seated</i> ) ( <i>formerly G. Sroloff</i> )	X	
Smith, Maureen	Commercial or Office Enterprise Districts (2025)	X	
Spradlin, Jason	Holmby Hills HOA		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	
Vacant	North of Sunset District (2025) ( <i>A. Roessel resigned</i> )		Vacant
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
<b>Total:</b>		<b>25</b>	<b>10+1</b>

President Longcore called the meeting to order at 7:03 P.M., and provided preliminary information on the rules of meeting online and the purpose of the meeting. He noted that the Bel-Air Association (BAA) has replaced Gail Sroloff with Jonathan Silver and has replaced Jaye Rogovin with Jonathan Brand. Gail remains as an Alternate and will cover for Jonathan Silver this evening. Dr. Longcore noted that these are appointments from BAA and we only need to welcome Jonathan Brand, and wait until the June meeting at TreePeople for the swearing in. Jonathan Brand is currently fully a member and can vote on all but funding matters this evening. Following the flag salute, Dr. Steele called the roll with 24 present. Kristie Holmes was promoted to Panelist shortly thereafter for a total of **25 present, 10 absent and 1 vacancy.**

1. The Agenda was unanimously **approved** as moved by Levinson and Mann.
2. The April 24, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes (**Attachment A**) were **approved** by all but one abstention from Member Kadin (23-0-1), as moved by Greenberg and Steele.

**3. General Public Comment**

**Mindy Mann** asked that all HOAs with newsletters please include information about animal shelters being full to the point that they will be euthanizing. She noted that the shelters will be asking people to foster or adopt. Please encourage people to adopt or foster and mention the WLA Shelter is in CD5 or mention all shelters.

**4. Comments of Elected Officials & Agencies**

**Haley Martinez, Office of CD5 Councilmember Katy Yaroslavsky** began with thanks to Member Mann for mentioning the animal shelters. Haley gave an update on the closure of Benedict Canyon Drive as a result of the severe rain storms in March, noting that construction was delayed because a utility pole containing private telecommunications equipment had to be relocated. She noted that tomorrow, Bureau of Engineering crews begin construction to install the bulkhead piles for the new retaining wall. They are going to relocate the last pole. An email will be forthcoming.

Regarding the City Budget, she mentioned a top priority regarding the Home Sharing Ordinance where they were able to get a pilot program with the Housing Department, noting without proper enforcement, a great deal of revenue is left on the table, with \$3 million dollars lost last year. They hope to expand the pilot to the rest of the city. She discussed funding for motion in regard to the General Plan, to include funds for climate goals, Fire Department studies, and facilities upgrades.

Haley noted that from Mayor Bass, Federal Virtual Disaster Loan Outreach Center is now open for homeowners, renters, and business owners impacted by the early February storms that hit Los Angeles. Call (916) 735-1501 or [FOCWAssistance@sba.gov](mailto:FOCWAssistance@sba.gov). Deadline to apply for property damage is July 16, 2024. Deadline to apply for economic injury is Feb. 18, 2025.

Businesses of all sizes and private nonprofit organizations may borrow up to \$2 million to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory and other business assets. For small businesses, most private nonprofit organizations of any size, and other qualifying entities, SBA offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster. Economic injury assistance is available regardless of whether the business suffered any property damage. Disaster loans up to \$500,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners and renters are eligible for up to \$100,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property, including personal vehicles. Apply online; receive additional

disaster assistance info at [SBA.gov/disaster](https://www.sba.gov/disaster). Applicants may also call SBA's Customer Service Center at (800) 659-2955 or email [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov) for more information on SBA disaster assistance.

**Sidney Liss, Office of CD4 Councilmember Nithya Raman** related a variety of legislative updates including but not limited to a Housing Homelessness Assistance Prevention program, application to State program with amendments from their office to include rental assistance and landlord incentives to keep people indoors, and the creation for an Independent Redistricting Commission which passed last month. Voters can vote on the latter in November 2024. A motion passed to create a Charter Reform Commission on changes to the Ethics Commission. They hoping to make progress on a motion to enhance enforcement on existing regulations on leaf blowers. There were no questions for Sidney.

**Octaviano Rios, Department of Neighborhood Empowerment** provided updates, noting:

- 1) Confirmation of a new General Manager of DONE, Carmen Chang, who starts in June. They'll keep us posted as her availability to able to join us.
- 2) Important funding deadlines: June 1<sup>st</sup> for check requests & June 20th use of the bank card.
- 3) Trainings: He noted that they have received concerns about the two additional required trainings along with the Amended Code of Conduct (CoC), and that the latter is the shortest but most consequential. Stakeholder committee members are now required to sign off on the Code of Conduct. All new trainings must be done by June 3<sup>rd</sup>. For board members with challenges with Cornerstone, don't wait to reach out. Questions were asked and answered.

## 5. President's Report

President Longcore included but was not limited to that we've received the resignation of Angela Roessel, representing the North of Sunset District and the intent to resign of Jon Wimbish, 7-12 Private Schools. We will hold an election for those seats at our June in-person meeting. These vacancies mean that the Board as a whole will consider any candidates interested. We may have some interested. The board would fill the vacancy until next selection for 2025 for the seat.

Dr. Longcore gave report on the CD5 NC Presidents meeting, sharing items important to our NC from that meeting. He noted that committee selections should be done next month, and officer elections are supposed to be 12 months after the previous election of officers, which means July.

He noted that there has been no word from DONE on whether we can have Belmont Senior Living as an alternate meeting site when inconvenient to get to TreePeople and emphasized that for in-person committee meetings, locations such as Bel Air Ridge's clubhouse need to go through a full ADA assessment and have a contract. He reminded everyone to do the two new trainings.

Member Weisberg congratulated Dr. Longcore for his great work and thoughtfulness, as well as Councilmember Yaroslavsky for pulling together all the CD5 NC presidents. Dr. Longcore noted that we can get started on Bel Air Ridge.

**6. Reports of Committee Chairs:**

Robin Greenberg, currently chairing the Outreach Committee, gave update on the wonderful representation we had at the Fire Station 71 & 99 open houses this month.

**New Business**

President Longcore asked and the Board agreed to take #7, 8, 9 & 10 together. Re #8, Budget & Finance Committee Member Kamin noted that Treasurer Levotman asked him to offer this proposed budget in his absence. Kamin and Dr. Longcore confirmed that we need to approve a budget which can amended at a later time.

**7. Monthly Expenditure Report**

The April 2024 Monthly Expenditure Report (**Attachment B**) was **approved** by 22 yeses, 0 noes, 0 abstentions & 3 ineligible, as moved by Levinson & Kamin.

**8. Approve the 2024-2025 FY Budget Administrative Packet**

**Motion** to approve the Draft 2024-2025 FY Budget Administrative Packet (**Attachment C**) was **approved** by 22 yeses, 0 noes, 0 abstentions and 3 ineligible to vote, as moved by Members Levinson & Kamin. (**Attachment F**)

**9. Funding Expenditure for this Fiscal Year (Consent Calendar)**

**Motion** approval to spend up to \$2,700 for the following outreach items:

- \$ **200.00** for 8-foot table cover (**Attachment D**)

- **\$1,227.11** for a popup tent: Custom Canopy Tent 10x10 \$809.00, hardware \$245.00 & shipping \$173.11 (Amazon) (**Attachment E**)

- **\$1,256.76** for banner relocation and repair: \$900 for banner relocation; \$97.50 (plus tax) to replace one damaged hardware; \$250 for permit processing cost.

Item #9's funding items were **approved** by 22 yeses, 0 noes, 0 abstentions & 3 ineligible, as moved by Members Levinson & Kamin.

**10. Motion** to re-allocate \$2,000 budgeted funds from the Office/Operational Category to the Outreach Expenditures Category from the current fiscal year was **approved** by 22 yeses, 0 noes, 0 abstentions & 3 ineligible, as moved by Levinson & Kamin.

**11. Standing Rules**

**Motion** to approve the Standing Rules for the Outreach Committee (**Attachment G**) Bylaws, Rules and Elections Committee Chairwoman Evans presented and moved for adoption of this motion. Dr. Longcore noted these Standing Rules are guidance for the regular order of business, and a slightly formalized instruction book on how we'd like to operate. The motion was seconded by Greenberg. Member Templeton related that there was a typo, which she would email to Chair Evans, and the motion was **approved** by unanimous consent of all 24 members present and voting.

**12. Ad Hoc Committee on Home Sharing and Party House Ordinances**

**Discussion and Possible Motion:** To reauthorize the Ad Hoc Committee on Home Sharing for the purpose of updating the Party House Handbook to provide resources to stakeholders addressing compliance with and enforcement of party house and home sharing regulations and to continue to provide feedback on and inform stakeholders of the City's efforts to update home sharing enforcement administration and home sharing regulations.

**Background:** [Party House Handbook](#). Current members: Ellen Evans (Chair), Robin Greenberg, Stella Grey, Bobby Kwan, Maureen Levinson, Darby Manning, Nickie Miner, James Murray, Stephanie Savage, Robert Schlesinger, Gail Sroloff, Vadim Levotman. The current ad hoc committee addresses issues with party houses and home sharing through information-sharing, exploration of enforcement measures and policy recommendations.

**Motion** to include members Ellen Evans, Robin Greenberg, Stella Grey, Bobby Kwan, Maureen Levinson, Darby Manning, Nickie Miner, James Murray, Stephanie Savage, Robert Schlesinger & Stella Grey was **approved** by unanimously with 25 yeases, as moved by Evans and Miner. Dr. Longcore nominated Ellen Evans as Chair, **approved** by unanimous acclamation. The Party House Handbook will be updated.

### 13. **Failure to Enforce or Record Required Street Dedications in Hillside Area**

**Discussion and Possible Motion** to approve and send a letter (**Attachment H**) to the Bureau of Engineering and Council Districts 4 & 5, asking them to investigate failures on narrow hillside streets to obtain a ZA case and/or dedicate property frontage, we use example address: 10068 Westwanda, in CD5, however there are currently pending projects on the street (10034 & 10074-76 Westwanda) that have not required dedication or a ZA case; provide information in the form of a chart to illustrate the multiple other missed dedications and ZA case filings on Westwanda. The Neighborhood Council is requesting review of this matter and for BOE to designate Westwanda Drive road width as less than 20' width and mark as "red" on NavigateLA, under street widths and to generally investigate and map the proper street widths in the hillside area. The letter will address these two interrelated issues (required dedications for street improvements and accurate data on street widths) with Westwanda as an example of a narrow hillside street with both missed dedications and ZA case filings.

Member Savage related that this was discussed at the May 14<sup>th</sup> PLU Committee meeting. She noted that it is an important example where laws are not consistently applied throughout the hillside area. She noted that she can come up with 30 roads in each council district and probably 30 properties or more on each street that didn't have laws applied, which would accumulate to 50 million dollars in missed entitlements and missed road improvements, and she feels it is very important to have the safety in the neighborhoods.

Member Grey added that she had meetings on street widths with reps of BOE and they bluntly refused to change anything, so there is one hope – not about dedications but reflecting actual street widths on the city website. She noted that the hope is that there is one program with BOE engaged with UCLA, in creating a new website where the streets can be measured using drones, and may be missing 2-4 inches of sensitivities. She noted that at least there is some hope that the street widths will be measured again and revised but at this point, BOE has bluntly refused to make developers verify at their own expense. She noted that there are many gaps in what the code says and what the city does... that are not successful and that there is a lot of resistance of any city department.

Member Sandler asked about LAFD's rules, to which Member Grey related that there is a lack of cooperation, and if it were just one case, it may be done, but in general it always comes to the budget. Grey related that there was a request to allocate budget for the department to communicate with LADBS to do with gaps. Member Weisberg referenced the Budget Advocate's White Paper. Member Savage noted that Mario Garcia, LAFD Battalion Chief of the 9<sup>TH</sup> Battalion, was in attendance and may answer some questions.

Savage noted that to her knowledge, when someone builds a new house, the LAFD reviews the project as to fire hydrant, however, she is not sure about their concern with street widths.

Member Palmer commented on liability, which he noted holds a lot of strength and initiates thought, and the liability of the city to *not* participate in their own rules and regulations. He noted that people stop in their tracks to realize there is liability.

Battalion #9 Chief Garcia gave brief comment to which Dr. Longcore related that the Fire Department isn't involved in the development process, to which Chief Garcia concurred.

Maureen Levinson asked if we add the word "liability" to the letter, should we copy the City Attorney General. There was no objection as a cc. Member Savage noted that Code Section 810 – regarding limitations of liability is rather disappointing. The motion was **approved unanimously** by all 25 members present and voting.

**14. Homeowners Insurance / Wildfire Areas / California FAIR Plan / State Fire Insurance Entity**

**Discussion and Possible Motion:** To support the motion in Council File 23-0002-S1 expressing support for the City of Los Angeles adding support in its 2023–2024 State Legislative Program for legislation and/or administrative action which would ensure that homeowners in areas of the State threatened by wildfires can obtain adequate homeowner's insurance without relying on the California FAIR plan, including potential legislation to create an entity to provide fire insurance for California residents modeled after the California Earthquake Authority.

**Background:** [Council File 23-0002-S121](#)

Member Evans introduced and moved to table this as it passed Council yesterday and is moot, noting that we can come back to it if the item arises at a future date.

**15. 8461 West Grand View Drive / Protected Tree and Shrub / Illegal Removal / Property Owner / Protected Tree Ordinance / Vital Urban Canopy**

**Discussion and Possible Motion:** To support the motion in Council File 24-0548 (Raman) to assert jurisdiction pursuant to Charter Section 245 over the May 6, 2024 Board of Public Works actions on Case BPW-2024-0168 relative to an appeal filed by the property owner on the subject of illegal protected tree and shrub removal at 8451 West Grand View Drive.

**Background:** [Council File 24-0548](#)

Dr. Longcore introduced this, which has passed and is now referred to committee for further discussion, as brought by Councilmember Raman with the support of a number of folks. Member Evans noted that a 245 motion is not what people usually do; it passed and going to BOE for reconsideration. She noted that what is in order here is not so much writing a CIS but writing something to Councilmember Raman praising her for making sure the Protective Tree Motion is enforced.

**Motion:** To write a letter thanking Councilmember Raman and cc'ing Councilmember Yaroslasky for support for the action taken, moved by Evans and seconded by Miner.

Questions were asked and answered by Dr. Longcore and Member Evans and discussion was held. Member Grey would thank the staff of the LADOT staff as well.

Dr. Longcore related that he had taken the liberty of calling the key staff person to express his support and appreciation of it, and that we can send a copy to staff as well. The motion was **approved** by unanimously by all 25 present and voting.

Member Mann would cc the City Attorney which Longcore agreed to.



**16. Neighborhood Council Input at City Council Meetings**

**Discussion and Possible Motion:** To request that Councilmembers Yaroslavsky and Raman introduce legislation to extend the right for Neighborhood Councils to be heard separately and for an extended time period at meetings of the City Council and Committees as currently required for City Boards and Commissions under Section 22.819 of the Los Angeles City Charter.

The motion was **approved** unanimously by all 25 present and voting, as moved by Evans, and seconded by Miner. Questions were asked and answered, and the letter will also go to the new General Manager of DONE, Carmen Chang.

**17. Highway Dedication / Waiver of Dedication and/or Improvement (WDI) Process / Administrative Findings / Street Design Standards / Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 12.37**

**Discussion and Possible Motion:** To oppose the motion in Council File 22-1476 that would ease the ability to avoid dedicating property for street improvements unless the motion is amended to exclude the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone because widening is necessary to increase safety of substandard hillside streets for ingress and egress for evacuation, fire personnel, and first responders and represents needed public benefit when compared with further widening of standard streets that already meet safety requirements.

**Background:** [Council File 22-1476](#)

Dr. Longcore provided an introduction to this item, which was moved by Savage, and seconded by the PLUC, where it had been discussed. Following discussion, the motion **passed** by all 25 present and voting.

**18. Special Elections for City Council Vacancies with more than 12 Months Remaining Council File #24-0579**

**Discussion and Possible Motion:** To support a motion by Councilmember Rodriguez that would start the process to amend the City Charter so that a special election would be held to fill any vacant City Council seat if the remaining term is more than 12 months and prohibit the appointment of a replacement so that the seat is vacant until filled by the election.

<https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=24-0579>

Dr. Longcore introduced this item and Evans moved and spoke to this motion. She noted that there is time to discuss this; currently there is no rule and she thinks it is a good idea to have a rule. The motion was seconded by Member Kamin. Following a good deal of discussion and a proposed amendment, the amendment was withdrawn, and the question was called. With 23 members present at this time, the motion **passed** with 20 yeases, 2 noes from Members Gros and Sroloff and 1 abstention from Dr. Longcore.

**Good of the Order:**

Patricia Templeton spoke on how different our neighborhoods are. Member Miner thanked President Longcore.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

**Next Meeting will be in-person on June 26, 2024 at TreePeople.**