



*Building A Better Community*



### Minutes

**Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council Regular Monthly Board Meeting  
Wednesday April 23, 2025 Meet & Greet 6:30 P.M. / Board Meeting 7:00 P.M.  
 (Hybrid Meeting: In-Person at the TreePeople Conference Room and Virtually on Zoom)**

NAME	BOARD SEAT	Present	Absent
Barcohana, Elizabeth	Private Schools Grades K-6 <i>(Selected 09/27/2023)</i>	X	
Bayliss, Shawn	At-Large Traditional Stakeholder (2025)		X
Brand, Jonathan	Bel-Air Association <i>(Appointed 04/26/2024 / Seated 05/22/2024)</i>	X	
Evans, Ellen	Community Interest At-Large (2025) / VP – Legislative Affairs	X	
Levinson, M. for Goodman, M.	Bel-Air Association	X	
Greenberg, Robin	Faith-Based Institutions / VP – Operations <i>(Re-selected 07/2023)</i>	X	
DeSilva, A. for Gros, M.	Doheny-Sunset Plaza Neighborhood Association <i>(ONLINE)</i>	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	
Levotman, Vadim	North of Sunset District (2025)	X	
Longcore, Travis Ph.D.	Custodians of Open Space / President <i>(Re-selected 07/2023)</i>	X	
Mann, Mindy Rothstein	At-Large Traditional Stakeholder (2025)	X	
Marble, Stacy	Private Schools Grades 7-12 <i>(Elected 06/26/2024) (ONLINE 7:01--8:55)</i>		X
Marburg, Tad	North of Sunset District (2025) <i>(Elected 06/26/2024)</i>	X	
Miner, Nickie	Benedict Canyon Association	X	
Kemp, Michael	Bel Air Hills Association <i>(Appointed 01/19/2025 w/ Paden Alternate)</i>	X	
Palmer, Dan	Residents of Beverly Glen		X
Ringler, Robert	Residents of Beverly Glen		X
Ryan, Sandy	Casiano Estates Association <i>(Appointed 01/24/2024) (ONLINE 7:09-8:38)</i>	X	
Sandler, Irene	Bel Air Crest Master Association	X	
Savage, Stephanie	Laurel Canyon Association	X	
Schlesinger, Robert	Benedict Canyon Association	X	
Silver, Jonathan	Bel-Air Association <i>(Appointed 04/26/2024 / Seated 06/26/2024)</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) / Secretary	X	
Stojka, André	Bel Air Ridge HOA <i>(ONLINE)</i>	X	
Templeton, Patricia	Bel Air Hills Association		X
Weinberg, Steven	Franklin-Coldwater District (2025)	X	
Weisberg, Leslie	Bel-Air Association	X	
Wickers, Alonzo	At-Large Youth Rep (2025)	X	
<i>Vacant Seat</i>	<i>Benedict Canyon Association</i>		0
<i>Vacant Seat</i>	<i>Laurel Canyon Association</i>		0
<b>Total:</b>		<b>27</b>	<b>7</b>

Following the Meet & Greet at TreePeople Conference Center, President Travis Longcore called the Board meeting to order and provided information for those online regarding the hybrid meeting. At 7:13 PM Secretary Steele called the roll with quorum met.

1. The agenda was **approved** unanimously as **moved** by Treasurer Levotman.

2. **President's Report**

**Recognition of the Contributions of Donald Loze (1932–2025) to the Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council and City of Los Angeles.**

President Longcore welcomed members of Donald Loze's family, his son and daughter, and provided his appreciation of Don, as to his commitment, his intelligence, his good spirit, in addition to his great range of experience and abilities that he applied to make the hillsides a better place for his grandkids.

Presentations of certificates of recognition were given to Don's Family Members by Hillside Representative Kenneth Miller, signed by CD 5 Councilmember Katy Yarolavsky, and by our Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate Octaviano Rios, from the City of Los Angeles's Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, signed by General Manager Carmen Chang and the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners President Atkinson. The floor was opened for comments from the Board, of which there were many, expressing great appreciation of Don Loze and how he is dearly missed, whether members knew him for many years or just briefly.

At 7:50 PM, Dr. Longcore spoke about "Zone Zero" which topic he has been engaged in as an individual and a professional, noting that we can discuss this in an upcoming meeting. He noted that the State Board of Forestry has to adopt these regulations from a bill passed in 2020; they're in a workshop period, another one in a couple of weeks, and Sacramento. He noted that in the summer they'll start a formal process for input; however, he recommends giving input now. He noted that this comes at the same time as the new "Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone" maps which go from zero and have nothing to do with fire preparedness, to "Zone Zero." He noted that this is *not* really a city issue, except the motion by CD11 Councilmember Traci Parks to adopt the new maps, required by State law, noting that it is how we get them adopted that matters and which would be a change for all hillside areas of the city.

It was noted that they are treating combustible fences the same as vegetation and that the State doesn't care about protected trees. Questions were asked and answered. It was noted that there is an exception in that this doesn't deal with multi-story buildings. Dr. Longcore opined that they haven't thought this through. He spoke to the LAFD who said they wouldn't enforce it this year. Member Mann mentioned the notice sent to the community as to brush clearance.

3. **General Public Comment**

**Alan Kaye**, was present in-person and introduced himself as the new At-Large Board member to start in July.

**Aaron Lawrence**, also a new At-Large Board member, introduced himself online, and commented on our tribute to Don Loze. He looks forward to joining us in July.

**Dr. Pamela Pierson** commented at the end of the meeting, that we have voted an indebtedness within the community, to tax ourselves for additional support for the

MRCA and other areas and mostly the rangers. She thinks possibly an avenue to pursue would be to have a scheduled ranger patrol for a visible presence on Mulholland and the Canyons; they wouldn't have to enforce anything but just stopping by the overlooks and keeping an eyes on things. She noted that no other communities are supposed to benefit from our taxes expressly set aside for these services. She'd like to see a proposal for MRCA and maybe the council offices, to see the contracts so we can be aware of contractual agreements to do all the brush clearance that we are paying for.

#### 4. **Updates from Elected Officials and Agencies**

**Sidney Liss, CD4 Councilmember Raman's Hillside Deputy**, shared a few updates, beginning with an invitation for us to reach out to him with concerns as to city services, including infrastructure, on the street. He wants to problem solve. He reported that recent work in City Hall has to facilitate rebuilding in the disaster areas and facilitating new housing building around the city, speeding up construction of new housing and for tenant protections. They received a \$4Million encampment resolution grant dedicated to bringing people inside from the LA River. He noted that the Home Sharing Ordinance has been overhauled to reinforce enforcement and accountability. Sidney responded to the letter he received from Dr. Longcore regarding parking on Mulholland and Nicada, that LADOT has drawn the line that they do *not* feel they can put parking restrictions there, and if there is no productive conversation next week, we will probably move forward with a resolution. He mentioned an upcoming Mother's Day Art Fair on 05/11 in Sherman Oaks. Member Sandler asked about the East Valley Animal Shelter, having read that three shelters were being closed due to cuts.

**Kenneth Miller, CD5 Councilmember Yaroslavsky's Hillside Deputy**, noted that they have some overtime funding. If needed, reach out to him with regard to street lighting repair. They are well into budget season, beginning the negotiating process in City Council. He mentioned that during Councilmember Yaroslavsky's meeting Monday, they discussed the budget, another of these meetings is happening now at Pan Pacific Park and another is planned for Sunday in Westwood. He stated that they want us to know that the services that are most important to us are important to them, so they can invest fully into services that are important to us.

Treasurer Levotman asked if NC will have rollover funds this year. Member Evans noted that we'd like to resume the conversation with Planning Staff that began several months ago, particularly re the motion on haul routes. Kenneth will facilitate having that meeting.

Member Ryan, BABCNC's Casiano Estates rep in the Bel Air Park area, stated that he hoped that the Councilmember has budget and plan for crime in the region, as there are now half a dozen or more crimes in a month in his neighborhood. He asked what they could do to frame out in the budget a plan for something meaningful in the hillside communities, such as having periodic LAPD patrols. Kenneth responded as to the recent burglaries, that he would set up time for the Councilwoman to come out and speak to the neighbors as well as to do another joint meeting with LAPD and himself. Kenneth will connect with Ryan and us about that.

Regarding the budget, Kenneth expressed that the Councilwoman has a concern about the reduction in civilian roles in the Mayor's budget, where 200+ civilian roles will require sworn officers to be taken off the street to do desk work and that they are looking into

that in the budget negotiations. He noted that she has allocated several hundred thousand dollars for LAPD overtime in the district, some for OT in the hillsides if funds are available. Let them know if you have concerns about any specific area. Member Ryan wanted to impress upon him that the top two or three things we care most about, are in regards to the safety of families and homes.

Member Holmes asked about the dangerous eucalyptus trees, with regards to potential fires and mudslides, to which Kenneth Miller offered to start a dialogue, not knowing the process. Dr. Longcore noted that our Street Services could be directed to trim the street trees as they have funds to do so, and that removal for strategic fuel reduction could be done in some combination with the office of the Councilwoman. Kenneth will see what they can do about these concerns.

Member Levotman noted, as to the layoffs of the some 250 civilian employees from the LAPD when we have only 8700 sworn officers, that number of layoffs will make a huge difference that is unacceptable. Sidney commented with regard to Councilmember Raman's position on this last year. Dr. Longcore noted that this is a priority for us.

**Robbie Staenberg, Field Deputy for Assemblymember Rick Chavez Zbur**, gave an update, noting that they are in the early stage of the legislative process, where Senate bills are being introduced. Reach out to him at [robbie.staenberg@asm.ca.gov](mailto:robbie.staenberg@asm.ca.gov) He shared highlights of the Assemblymember's legislative package. He heard from several SLOs that property crime in the Hollywood area (*not specifically the hills*) has been down, including retail crime, for which AB 2943 is part of the California Retail Theft Reduction Act package, which did a lot on serial retail crime. As to climate and the environment, Robbie mentioned AB 39 as to electrification goals and having EV charging they need, and similarly AB 941 around electric transmission permits.

Member Evans expressed that SB 79 is of concern to a lot of people as there is no provision to exempt VHFHSZs, where all buildings are to be built with the new fire codes. She noted that the reason we don't want densification in the hills is because of problems this would cause with evacuation and if that can get changed in the bill. Robbie explained that SB 79 by Scott Wiener, hasn't gotten to the Assembly yet; it is transit-oriented development, and there has been a lot of concern, as pointed out by Member Evans and others as to how it may affect communities. He noted that the Assemblymember is aware of the bill and has his concerns, but it is now going through the first committee, and then will go to another committee and the Senate floor and then the Assembly, but he thinks the bill may be amended before it makes it out of the Senate. Aaron Kamin noted disappointment in AB 1333, to which Robbie explained that the Assemblymember pulled the bill out of the legislature this year because of the confusion on what the bill was looking to do.

Robbie related that there is a bill around housing is the Community College Housing Bill, making it easier for community colleges to build student housing on their property, as sponsored by LACC and SMCC. He noted that the film tax credit is moving forward. He stated that the Assemblymember along with Senator Allen introduced a bill, AB 1468, as to ethnic studies, where the state had added requirement for Ethnic Studies which led to problems including anti-Semitism in the classroom. The Assembly bill is to require clear standards for ethnic studies for fact-based unbiased curriculum.

Member Barcohana wanted to ask about AB 1333 and was glad he mentioned it. She also asked for an update as to scandal about Insurance Commissioner Lara, and the state of the insurance market in California, especially for us in VHFHSZs, what justifies requesting his resignation and what is the plan to restore California's insurance. Robbie noted that he did not have info as to the ethics. He had spoken with Travis about having someone come to discuss what the Insurance Commission is doing (prior to the fires in January) and would ask and get back to her if there is something his office knows.

**Octaviano Rios, Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate (NEA) from the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment -**

1) There is a new legislative item for NCs to include in the city's legislative program, support for an extension of the authorization for NCs to use teleconferencing for remote meetings from January 2026 until January 2031, based on Assembly Bill 467 (Fong).

**Council file #25-0002-S13**

<https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=25-0002-S13> He noted that a State Bill 707 that proposes the same thing for all legislative and advisory boards, up and down California; however, this does not have a Council File.

2) They are looking for feedback about their training resources. He'll send a link for our feedback as to what they can do to improve resources for us as a board.

3) There is a Department of Rec and Parks Assessment, which needs feedback by June 2<sup>nd</sup>, regarding programs of open space, parks, and open to individuals to fill out.

4) As to the budget for NCs, the City Clerks' office will provide information on that.

5) Member Evans asked if the GM of DONE has spoken to the Mayor about the Charter Reform Commission that someone in the NC system be chosen to be a part of that.

5. **The March 26, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes** (Attachment A) were unanimously **approved** (27-0-0) as **moved** by Evans.

**New Business**

6. **Monthly Expenditure Reports**

i. **Motion** to approve February 2025 Monthly Expenditure Report (Attachment B)

ii. **Motion** to approve March 2025 Monthly Expenditure Report (Attachment C)

**Motion** to vote to approve the MERs for February and March 2025 together with one roll call and record them separately **passed** as **moved** by Levotman **23-0-0**; **7 absent**; **4 ineligible**; Members Miner, Stojka, Weinberg and Wickers.

7. **Fire Service Day Logistics -**

**Discussion and recruitment** of volunteers to staff outreach events at Fire Stations:

#99 at 14145 Mulholland 91423 May 10<sup>th</sup> 10:00-4:00

#71 at 107 S. Beverly Glen. 90024 May 18<sup>th</sup> 9:00-1:00

#37 at 1090 Veteran 90024 May 10<sup>th</sup> 9:00-12:00

#27 at 1327 Cole May 10<sup>th</sup> 11:00-2:00

**Goals and Practices related to Liaisons Discussion & possible action:**

Monitoring the delivery of city services is integral to the Neighborhood Council's mission.

Departmental liaisons are one way to fulfill that mission. We will discuss how our

Neighborhood Council will implement practices and procedures related to liaisons to aid in the development of a Standing Rule.

Bylaws, Rules and Elections Committee Chair Evans introduced this, provided some background, and asked how we want to fulfill this function. Dr. Longcore and Member Weisberg related their experiences of attending a meeting here and there and the meetings petered out. Evans answered questions as did Octaviano Rios, who noted that noting the push for liaisons by departments depends on the priorities that year. Dr. Longcore offered various ways we could go with this, but opined that our way of getting things done, has been from committees to the Board and communicating with City Council offices, which may be the best way forward. Following further board discussion on the item, the committee would reflect in their next meeting, on appointing liaisons with the understanding that they are to report back.

**Good of the Order with a Special Acknowledgement of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of NCs**

Octaviano Rios noted that this is the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Neighborhood Councils. In 2001, the first Neighborhood Council was certified, in 2002 BABCNC was certified. Octaviano presented a certificate of appreciation of 25 years of NCs to Nickie Miner, as a founding member of the BABCNC. The certificate was signed by BONC Commissioner Joy Atkinson and DONE GM Carmen Chang.

Robin Greenberg mentioned the work that goes into producing our newsletters and encouraging us to read them, and to contribute to them. Dr. Pierson then gave public comment (*placed above under Public Comment.*) Dr. Longcore thanked all those who organized and prepared for this evening, with a special mention of Mindy, Robin and Vadim and adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:00 PM to meet again virtually on May 28<sup>th</sup>.

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