



Building A Better Community



Minutes

Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council “Virtual” Regular Monthly Board Meeting Wednesday June 25, 2025, 7:00 P.M.

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>(Seated 05/22/2024)</i>	X	
Grey, Stella for Evans, Ellen	Community Interest At-Large (2025) / <i>Ellen Evans, VP – Legislative Affairs</i>	X	
Goodman, Mark MD	Bel-Air Association		X
Greenberg, Robin	Faith-Based Institutions / <i>VP – Operations (Re-selected 07/2023)</i>	X	
DeSilva, A. or 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
Levotman, Vadim	North of Sunset District (2025)	X	
Longcore, Travis Ph.D.	Custodians of Open Space / <i>President (Re-selected 07/2023)</i>	X	
Mann, Mindy Rothstein	At-Large Traditional Stakeholder (2025)		X
Marble, Stacy	Private Schools Grades 7-12 <i>(Selected 06/26/2024)</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)</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)</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 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) / <i>Secretary</i>		X
Stojka, André	Bel Air Ridge HOA	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
Total:		23	11

At 7:08 PM, Dr. Longcore welcomed all in attendance to this evening's Regular Monthly Board Meeting and shared information on holding the meeting online. Following the salute to the flag Dr. Longcore called the roll with quorum met.

1. The agenda was unanimously **approved**, as **moved** by Mann.
2. The May 28, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes (**Attachment A**) were **approved** by 20 yeses, 0 noes, and 3 abstentions from Stojka, Smith & DaSilva, as **moved** by Levotman.
3. **General Public Comment** - There was no public comment on topics within the Board's jurisdiction but not on the adopted agenda.
4. **Updates from Elected Officials and Agencies**

Kenneth Miller, CD5 - Gave an update including that the Councilwoman heavily condemns the recent ICE raids and was proud of the City; the LAPD has been responding to several incidents. Because of this, she introduced a motion in City Council to ask the City Attorney to pursue legal action to halt this, as similar legal actions for the illegal apprehensions. They are keeping track of folks who are reporting incidents, and of people pretending to be the authorities in the city.

Kenneth gave update on lane closures on the 405 that started Monday June 23rd. and go through Saturday June 28th, for the purpose of adding K-Rail for the Sepulveda Pass, with refurbishing by Caltrans; adding in K-Rails from the State to improve the condition of the freeway.

He noted that there will be a wildfire insurance information clinic hosted by the County, with a presentation for homeowners and renters with insurance issues as to fires on Monday June 30th. See the info on their recent newsletter or each out to him for questions. He'll be off for the week of the 4th so if we need anything reach out to George, the District Director. He'll send the link to the info; or see the info on the most recent newsletter, or email him.

Member Mann related that she has a specific concern as to the fires that is not addressed often: Since it is our area in the hillsides, is more specific concern, which is fireworks. Though illegal in the city, she has heard that it is a cultural thing so they will let it go. She hears fireworks every single night. Last year, people were shooting fireworks from the homes, into trees and noted that no one does anything about it. She asked what we should do in the VHFHSZs. Kenneth answered that it is illegal to shoot fireworks, and they are aware of it. Their office can reach out to LAPD to patrol the hillsides, to be on high alert on it and that there needs to be other measures. Call a non-emergency line and they will react to it, pending LAPD availability. He will do that.

Chief Mario Garcia of LAFD's 9th Battalion related that he sent out information on resiliency but the highest concern is the brush as both LAPD and LAFD are stretched thinly. They have a reduction in resources. The 4th of July is one of the busiest days of the year, and they run nonstop. Reach out to the district office. There should be a plan in place. He doesn't see enforcement either, as he lives in the area as well.

As to the weather and the concerns about the 4th, Chief Garcia related that if we see any fireworks, call the FD as well as LAPD. The majority of their resources were out of their quarters from 6 am to 4:30 am the next morning. With that, you could have something happening in your area and they may not have resources for those. It depends on the call load that day. As residents of LA we should talk to the Council District office and ask if they have a plan in place. If you see any type of fires in the hillsides, small, or smoke that turns out to be nothing, please call 911 so they can get there and investigate as soon as possible to get a handle on it.

Dr. Longcore noted that ignitions are at the heart of our problem with fire, human-caused fires. He noted that there is no degree of brush clearance short of paving the entire hillside that will take away the risk and this means that this is an instance where we need the Police Department to enforce laws and change the culture. He noted that it is unacceptable to argue that the PD is stretched thin and cannot enforce low-level stuff. It is important to enforce laws because the consequence is that there evolves a culture of doing things that are illegal, dangerous, harm public safety which affects the morale of those of us who are trying to do something right. It leads to lawlessness. Dr. Longcore noted that we need to have the resources in the city to deal with something so we don't get a statement that it is stretched thin. He is concerned that LAPD will feel they don't have partners while we need to feel safe. Dr. Longcore noted, as to the idea that we can't enforce because we don't have enough people, you have to have some baseline of folks following the rule, and if they don't there needs to be consequences.

Member Stojka noted that this is a practical aspect being addressed at City Hall that jeopardizes us and politically, the councilmembers are part of the problem, which can have a real effect. Kenneth noted that the Councilwoman was proud that we were able to increase the budget for the LAPD and LAFD to retain critical core services of fire, police and street services; that the whole point of city government is and will continue to be their priority.

Octaviano Rios related that due to Budget Cuts, the four project coordinators, not including NEAs are being laid off. The department has decided to change field assignments, which will impact most NCs; starting next week, Octaviano will no longer be assigned to BABCNC. He noted that we will be in very good hands with Erica Gatica. Octaviano thanked us all for our service on the board, with special thanks to all the board officers, for all the hours they spend for the community and the board. He thanked Dr. Longcore for his help, and noted that they developed some certificates for those who have served greater than five years on the board, which we'll see at our in-person meeting in July. He thanked us for our service. Dr. Longcore thanked Octaviano for his great work with us for these years, noting that we are sad to see him go and appreciate having gotten to know him.

Member Brand was noted to be present at this point. He thanked Octaviano, noting that they have known each other for a long time, and that we will miss him. Member Miner also thanked him and said we don't want to see him go.

- **President's Report**

Dr. Longcore discussed the following:

- Schedule for seating of new board and committee elections as well as officer

elections have all been set for July 23rd for an in-person meeting TreePeople.
- Timeline for Board selection of seats (Custodians of Open Space, Religious Institutions, Private School K-6, Private School 7-12).

Member Mann asked about wording for the trees to which Longcore noted that he did send a draft and will get it back to us for our input.

New Business

5. Monthly Expenditure Report

Motion to approve the May 2025 Monthly Expenditure Report (**Attachment B**) **passed** 16-0-0, 11 absent, and 7 ineligible, as **moved** by Levotman and **seconded** by Schlesinger.

6. Draft Budget

Motion to approve this **FY2025-2026 temporary** Draft Budget/Administrative Packet (**Attachment C**) **passed** by 16-0-0, 11 absent, and 7 ineligible, as **moved** by Levotman and **seconded** by Member Kamin.

Treasurer Levotman had explained that we still do not know our final budget from the city, which was lowered from \$32,000 to \$25,000. He explained the need to approve a temporary budget for next year until we find out, if a motion in city council reverses that decision. We're also not sure if we will have the rollover funds. He pointed out that we have an action item on this agenda, #11, to ask the City Council to go back to giving NCs \$32,000 a year to conduct board business.

7. 1000 N CHANTILLY ROAD ZA-2025-1311-F ENV-2025-1312-CE

Project Description:

Request to allow wall/fence with a maximum height of 8' within the front yard setback

Applicant: Frederick Li frederickli@gmail.com

Reps: Victoria Pakshong victoria@plac-e.com Cathryn Widmann cathryn@plac-e.com

Case Worker: Esteban Martorell

<https://planning.lacity.gov/pdiscaseinfo/search/casenumbr/ZA-2025-1311-F>

PLU Committee Motion: To recommend approval of this project

Mr. Li was present and available for questions. The motion was **approved** by unanimous consent at 24-0-0, as **moved** by Schlesinger.

8. 15545 W AQUA VERDE DR DIR-2025-1520-SPPC-MSP-DRB ENV-2025-1521-CE

Case on Hold? Yes

Project Description:

Addition of 1,134 sf. (approx. 48' x 25.5') to the existing SFD and living room remodeling.

Action Requested:

MDRB & Specific Plan Project Compliance. Addition 1,134 sq. ft. at (E) SFD.

Applicant: Nativ Samimi [Narah June Trust] nativsamimi@gmail.com

Rep: Dana Kwon [Design Studio Meta, Inc.] dana@dsmeta.com

Staff Assigned: Claudia Rodriguez

<https://planning.lacity.gov/pdiscaseinfo/search/casenumbr/DIR-2025-1520-SPPC-MSP-DRB>

PLU Committee Motion to support the project with the condition that the removed trees be replaced, or appropriate documentation be provided that the applicant has recently planted trees to offset the loss of these trees and that the removal doesn't occur during nesting season, as well as documentation be provided regarding community outreach.

Dr. Longcore introduced this motion that made by the committee after a presentation and deliberation. Mr. Dana Kwon was available for questions. Member Mann asked about the trees to which Dr. Longcore responded that three redwoods would have to be removed; the applicant had articulated that they've already been planting trees on their property and filled up everywhere else. He noted that Coast Redwood is not a protected species here but visible. Member Weisberg noted that they don't have space to add more.

Dana Kwon related that they got the HOA's approval for the addition. He screen shared the site plan, and pointed out the trees around the house. He stated that the owner tried the best they could to offset the three redwood trees for their home addition and had maximized planting all around the property. Dr. Longcore clarified that the redwoods in the front would come out as part of this project.

The motion **passed** 19-0-2 with the abstentions from Sandler and Stojka as well as 1 recusal from Savage by virtue of her appointment to the MDRB.

Dr. Longcore noted that we will draft a letter, and thanked Dana Kwon for getting the letter of support from the community.

9. **50 W BEVERLY PARK WAY** DIR-2024-6995-SPPC-DRB-HCA ENV-2024-6996-EAF

Project Description: New SFD & ADU

Action Requested: MDRB

Applicant: Jean Simonian [Beverly BP LLC] john@ildicoinc.com

Representative: David Forrest [Crest Real Estate] david@crestrealestate.com

Isaac Lemus isaac@crestrealestate.com

Assigned Staff: Claudia Rodriguez

<https://planning.lacity.gov/pdiscaseinfo/search/casenumbr/DIR-2024-6995-SPPC-DRB-HCA>

PLU Committee Motion to take no position with regard to this project and send it to the MDRB.

Dr. Longcore introduced this and asked David Forrest for a brief reminder of the project to explain why the position of the committee was to recommend taking no position. Mr. Forrest provided a brief presentation.

PLU Chair Schlesinger moved the PLU committee's motion. An **amending motion** was made to continue to take no position but recommend that MDRB consider Existing Code Chapter 49 Fire Code (*Zone 1 and Zone 2*) as it reviews of the landscape plan. There was no objection to approve the amendment, as moved by Templeton.

Discussion included but was not limited to the amount of permeable area for planting or hard surfaces, whether or not this project falls under the LID, and how they are managing storm water. The representative replied that it fully complies with LADBS's permeable

ratio. There are gardens and walking paths, plus a significant lawn, green and existing to remain parkway of trees. He noted there is a fairly significant -- at least 60% -- permeable area and answered a question about the infiltration system for permeable areas, noting that anything overflowed is brought to the street and put into the Public Works system. Dr. Longcore noted that this is both a quality and quantity issue. The motion **passed** 22-0-0 with 1 recusal from Savage.

[It was 8:19 PM at this point.]

10. Council File 25-0600-S7 Restore Neighborhood Council Funding

Motion: To support and submit a CIS regarding Councilmembers Traci Park and Imelda Padilla's motion to restore Neighborhood Council funding to a minimum of \$32,000, along with the inclusion of any accumulated rollover funds from the prior fiscal year. The motion **passed** by unanimous consent (23-0-0) as moved by Levotman/Schlesinger.

11. Council File 25-0173: Residential and Commercial Construction Projects / Building and Safety Permits / Extension / Natural Disasters / Los Angeles Municipal Code / Amendment)

Motion: As recommended by the Planning and Land Use Committee, that BABNCN opposes the motion in Council File 25-0173 to convey more power to the Department of Building and Safety to automatically extend the period of validity of building permits for "complex" or "unusual" projects without an application from the permit holder and to convey this position as a CIS in the form of a letter (**Attachment D**).

Full Council File

<https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=25-0173>

Full Council File Motion https://clkrep.lacity.org/online/docs/2025/25-0173_misc_2-14-25.pdf

Member Grey presented this item, noting that the main purpose of this response was to the most disagreeable part of the motion that wasn't well written or well thought through, to give virtually unlimited powers to LADBS, unilaterally, at the sole discretion of the inspector, to extend permits without even requests from the applicant. She noted that there are additional nuances that they tried to address. She'd also request a second, third or fourth opinion to look at this from fresh eyes. She noted that the purpose is to limit powers of LADBS. She noted, additionally the current code is very vague about permit extension and that LADBS doesn't really follow the letter of the code; so they have internal bulletins that guide their decisions: it is not transparent, and there have been instances where permits were expired and reactivated within hours. She sees this as an opportunity to suggest some modifications to the current code that hopefully will apply in the future to all projects not only those in disaster areas.

Members who read the letter provided comments, beginning with Member Kemp who thinks it is an excellent letter, because it was the concern of the PLUC that it gives way too much power to LADBS. The letter calls that out, puts together restrictions; what's important is that this modification should automatically expire five years from the date of the option. Some of the highlights is that this would only apply to the Pacific Palisades area and to houses affected by the fire. He thinks what is also excellent is that if the property changes ownership this would *not* apply. This is to help people for homeowners

affected by the fires. Also, Member Kemp noted that what is good in here is that there has to be a substantial showing of why it needs to be extended and the letter talks about when projects are extended for a long period of time, it can become a nuisance to the neighborhood, ... if they want to carry the project out for five years it is a nuisance. Item #7 also discourages piece-mealing.

Member Templeton related that she also thought it was a very good letter. She mentioned one concern that for the number of homes that need to be rebuilt, there might be a problem finding qualified contractors to build the homes. She would like to hear from someone who knows how LADBS works, if someone can't get a contractor for a few years or more, are they still protected? Member Weisberg responded that they have five years, and Grey noted that if they qualify with a valid reason, they could get extensions. Templeton thought was a well written letter and very reasonable. Savage noted that a lot of times people don't pull the contract until having a contractor, to allow the clock to tick; so she doesn't think that's an issue.

Member Weinberg noted that he hadn't read the letter but was in favor of any kind of reasonable limitations to "un-zombie" a permit, to make sure that discretion is applied properly. Dr. Longcore noted that he appreciated the effort in drafting this letter, it says you have a purpose in this letter to help people out who may be facing a long road to recovery from a disaster but would limit it to not giving unrequested permit extensions for projects that shouldn't necessarily get them through LADBS.

The motion **passed** 22-0-0 and the letter will be submitted as a CIS with great thanks to Member Grey's incredible expertise that she brings to questions like this.

12. WRAC Motion (HOC/Jay Handal) – Request Mayor to Consent to City Controller's Audit of Inside Safe Program:

"_____NC/CC, a member of the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC), urges Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass to immediately consent to a full audit of the City's Inside Safe program by Los Angeles City Controller Kenneth Mejia."

Background Information The motion **passed** by unanimous consent (22-0-0) as moved by Greenberg and Miner.

13. WRAC Motion (HOC/Jay Handal) – Request Mayor and CAO to Disclose the sources of funding for the Inside Safe Program:

"_____NC/CC, a member of the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC), urges Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass and/or the City Administrative Officer Matthew Szabo to disclose the full extent of all sources of funding for the City's Inside Safe program." The motion **passed** by unanimous consent (22-0-0) as moved by Greenberg and Miner.

14. WRAC Motion (HOC/Chris Spitz) – Support CF 20-1376-S5 (Park):

"_____NC/CC, a member of the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC), strongly supports CF 20-1376-S5 (Park), which calls for certain amendments of LAMC Sec. 41.18 and a report back by the City Attorney on the feasibility of amending 41.18 to

prohibit encampments as per the Governor's model ordinance."

[Background Information](#).

Greenberg introduced this item, noting that this is something that we in the hills may not be experiencing but they do in the flats. The motion was moved by Greenberg and Schlesinger. Brand encouraged a yes vote on this, noting that Traci Park is looking out for the community and homeowners, and it is important that we support her common sense positions. Templeton noted that this does prohibit sitting, lying, etc., within a VHFHSZ, and would reduce encampments. Dr. Longcore reported learning that the once adopted there will be more areas encompassed by the VHFHSZ.

Amendment that we support this motion and encourage that appropriate funding be provided for enforcement **passed** as moved by Grey and Miner. Member Sandler noted that City Watch had a long article about Traci Park encouraging moving the people from the encampments into the areas near the airport, exposing the people to fumes and felt that this was inhumane. Member DeSilva agreed with need for a humane option. The **motion as amended passed** 20-0-2 with abstentions from DeSilva and Schlesinger.

15. Motion (PPCC/Chris Spitz) – Oppose Legislation Mandating Housing Density without Funding Mechanisms

"The State of California has enacted a series of housing-related bills aimed at increasing residential density in cities and municipalities statewide, including SB 9, SB 10, and others. While the stated intent of these bills is to address the statewide housing crisis, implementation of these measures often places significant burdens on local government without providing the necessary infrastructure, services, or fiscal support. These mandates frequently override local planning authority, diminish the ability of cities to tailor land use to their unique needs and capacities, and strain existing infrastructure and funding resources.

"_____ NC/CC, a member of the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC), therefore:

"1) requests that our elected state officials take steps to initiate a pause on all enacted legislation that provides for statewide housing density and/or streamlining mandates, unless and until clear funding mechanisms are identified and enacted to accompany the legislation, in order to support the resulting impact on infrastructure, public safety, and municipal services; and

"2) opposes any pending and future legislation that proposes statewide housing density and/or streamlining mandates, unless clear funding mechanisms are identified to accompany any such bills, in order to support the resulting impact on infrastructure, public safety, and municipal services.

"The imposition of increased density — without accompanying state funding or resource allocation — exacerbates existing challenges, particularly in areas vulnerable to wildfire, evacuation constraints, and other environmental or geographic hazards, such as the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone, Flood Zones or other environmentally sensitive locations as determined by local governments throughout the state."

(Attachment E = Draft Letter link [6/16/25 letter](#) and [Position Statement](#)

Dr. Longcore introduced this, explaining if we are to conform with DONE's full recommendation, we would need to modify this motion to recommend to the city that they take these positions as opposed to us recommending our state officials do so. The motion was moved by Greenberg and seconded by Kamin.

Discussion was held with comments including but not limited to that of Member Sandler who expressed concern that the city has not upped its infrastructure to accommodate the massive building in LA, which felt futile to her when the city does not have the will. Member Weisberg noted that we have a profound homeless problem in the City of LA that no amount of money will solve, particularly due to the lack of affordable housing, which needs to be addressed, and recommending a no vote. Member Miner opined that the overbuilding without appropriate infrastructure is harmful, e.g., sewer lines, waterlines, sidewalks, and recommended a yes vote.

Member Kemp would support this because the state throws down these mandates for density and housing with no thought on how it will be created, (e.g., ADUs, lot splits) and feels this should go back to local government as the state is trying to micromanage. Kamin agreed with Michael's points, encouraged everyone to support this. Mann noted that they mandate building and are building like crazy but not building affordable housing for the homeless. Smith agreed with Mann noting that the new requirement for affordable housing is to earn \$80,000 to \$100,000 a year, which is not for the homeless. The motion passed by 19 yeases, 1 no from Weisberg and 2 abstentions from Dr. Longcore and DeSilva.

16. Office of Public Accountability/Ratepayer Advocate / Rate Proposals / Solid Waste / Sewer Services

Motion: To support CF 25-0673 (Nazarian, Lee) requesting a report back on methods to expand the authority of the Office of Public Accountability/Ratepayer Advocate to review, analyze, and report on the impact of rate proposals associated with solid waste and sewer services. [Council File](#) The motion to postpone to a time certain passed by unanimous consent (21-0-0) as moved by Miner

17. AB 49 (Muratsuchi) / School Access Limitation / Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) / Student Rights / Educational Facility Protection

Motion: To support CF 25-0002-S60 (Nazarian) to express support of the City of Los Angeles for California Assembly Bill 49, which would prohibit Immigration and Customs Enforcement from entering school and childcare facilities without proper identification, a valid judicial warrant, and approval from designated school and childcare authorities. [Council File](#) The motion passed by unanimous consent (21-0-0) as moved by Weinberg, seconded by Smith.

18. RAND Corporation / Organization Study / Los Angeles Police Department

Motion: To support CF 25-0671 (Rodriguez) regarding an evaluation of the organizational structure of LAPD by the RAND Corporation that was commissioned by the Police Foundation, and instructing the Chief of Police to transmit this report to City Council with an outline of changes to organizational structure that he will make or is considering in response to the RAND study. [Council File](#) The **motion** to postpone to a time certain **passed** by unanimous consent (21-0-0).

Good of the Order

Dr. Longcore noted that though things are tough we are incredibly lucky. There is a lot of stress out there but we have an enormous amount to be thankful for. He thanked us for putting in the time into this council and noted that we will continue to be an effective voice for the community and to the issues that come before us.

Robin welcomed everyone to know that we are here for you; ask if you need anything. Cathy noted that Lynn Roth from DSPNA was in attendance. Lynn was asked if she wanted to speak but didn't respond. Ryan Fluker was also in attendance and said a good word to the Board.

Travis also thanked the unsung heroes that make things happen, Cathy, Vadim, and Robin who are working behind the scenes. Cathy encouraged acknowledgement of Robert Ringler by anyone who wants to send him word. Robin noted that we also want to thank Alonzo who is still available though at a long distance, to write stories for the newsletter.

The Board sent good wishes for a Happy 4th and Member Smith added "and no fireworks."

Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:05 PM.

Next Meeting: July 23rd on Zoom at 7:00 pm.