

DRAFT 2

**Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, September 3, 2014 6:30 pm**  
Gault Elementary School - Auditorium  
17000 Gault St., Lake Balboa, California 91406

1. **Meeting called to order by Linda Gravani, President, at 7:09 pm**
2. **Roll Call**, 11 board members satisfies quorum of 9. 25 stakeholders attending.

Natalie Arazi	Residential Stakeholder Representative (RSR); 1 <sup>ST</sup> Vice President	P
James C. Brown	RSR; 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	P
Sandy Joseph	RSR	P
Linda Pruett	RSR; Emergency Preparedness Co-Chair	P
Tom Riley	RSR	P
Cynthia Weichelt	RSR	L, arrived 7:43pm
Justin T. Bonney	Business Stakeholder Representative (BSR); Communications Officer	E
Gary Davis	BSR	P
Linda Gravani	BSR; President	P
Ruth Doxsee	Organizational SR; Secretary	P
Bethany Harris	OSR	A
Linda Schwering	OSR; Treasurer	P
Mary L Pennomon	Senior Stakeholder Representative	P
Madeline J. Pammit	Youth Stakeholder Representative	A
Brian Tessier	At-Large Elected Community Interest SR (ALECISR) ; EP Co-Chair	L, arrived 7:23pm
Tom Brennan	At-Large Appointed SR (ALASR)	P
Vacant	ALASR	

3. **ADOPTED Agenda:** *Linda Schwering immediately noted the need for a date correction on agenda item 28. (Should read 8/9/14) Ruth Doxsee brought a motion to approve the September agenda, as corrected, seconded by James Brown.*

AYE: Arazi, Brown, Joseph, Pruett, Riley, Davis, Gravani, Doxsee, Schwering, Pennomon, Brennan

**VOTE: (11-0-0) MOTION PASSES**

4. **APPROVED Minutes of the August 6, 2014 meeting:** *Linda Pruett brought a motion to approve the August 6, 2014 Meeting Minutes, with corrections, seconded by Mary Pennomon. Corrections: Item 7D Steve Butcher, Field Rep for Adrin Nazarian. Item 12 Pammit voted AYE, not ABSTAIN.*

AYE: Arazi, Brown, Joseph, Pruett, Riley, Weichelt, Bonney, Davis, Gravani, Doxsee, Schwering, Pennomon, Pammit, Tessier, Brennan

**VOTE: (11-0-0) MOTION PASSES**

**5. APPROVED Minutes of the August 6, 2014 Special Board Meeting**

Ruth Doxsee brought a motion to approve the August 6, 2014 Special Board Meeting Minutes, seconded by Sandy Joseph.

AYE: Arazi, Brown, Joseph, Pruet, Riley, Davis, Gravani, Doxsee, Schwering, Pennomon, Brennan

**VOTE: (11-0-0) MOTION PASSES**

**6. RECEIVED Announcements and Reports by LAPD, Local, City, State and Federal Representatives, Board Members, Committee Updates**

A. **LAPD** Linda Schwering reported in lieu of LAPD presence: There is an Open House at the West Valley Station, 19020 Vanowen Street on September 20, 2014 from 10:00am – 2:00pm.

**B. Lynda Levitan – Area Director for City Councilwoman Nury Martinez, CD 6:**

Ms. Levitan congratulated Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council on its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, presented a large certificate of accomplishment, stating that it was *“for 10 years of wonderful service!”* General Announcements: Coastal Clean-Up Day is September 20, 2014 along LA River in Lake Balboa Park. Another Clean-Up Day in Lake Balboa between Vanowen and Sherman Way and between Haskell and Woodley is on September 27, 2014. The Health Fair will be October 25, 2014. Cultural Festival Sept. 13 at La Plaza.

**C. Linda Pruet, Emergency Preparedness Committee:**

1. Reported on outreach during Back to School Night August 26 at Lemay Elementary with the aid of Lutheran Social Services and NY Life, which featured a special child safety program. Adrin Nazarian’s office participated, offering a great deal of information to event participants.
2. Emergency Preparedness Drill planned for Saturday, 9/13 from 9-11am. National Guard unable to participate this year but attendees can see the LBNC Emergency Preparedness Bin, located in the Woodley Lakes Municipal Golf Course parking lot.
3. The 2014 Los Angeles Congress Neighborhood Councils will take place on Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup>. Linda is scheduled to present an Emergency Preparedness workshop (from 9:40 – 10:50am) featuring the ‘Map Your Neighborhood’ planning system.
4. The annual Valley Disaster Preparedness Fair will take place Saturday, September 27 at Fire Station 87 on Balboa Blvd. (south of Devonshire) attractions include food, live demonstrations and free EP kits for the first 500 households. Fifteen hundred people attended last year. More are expected this year. Linda displayed the promotional fans printed with the LBNC logo on the front and emergency information on the back of each fan.
5. Certificates of Appreciation were received from both BONC (Board of Neighborhood Commissioners) and VANC (Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Councils.) Linda has possession of original certificate from BONC, since she was on the board for Sept. 9, 2004 certification of LBNC board.

**D. James Brown – Public Safety**

Meeting with Neighborhood Watch and SLO (Senior Lead Officer) they are currently searching for candidates to serve as NW Block Captains. In addition to coordinating with neighbors, this role involves speaking and teaching on topics of crime and safety, CPR and CERT Training would

be additional skills to help improve neighborhood safety. Block Captains coordinate and serve as liaisons telling/teaching people who to call in an emergency. Mr. Brown recommended large yard signs more exciting in red, white, and blue colors to capture attention. He displayed a sample sign to stakeholders and fellow board members.

E. Natalie Arazi – Economic Revitalization & Development (ERaD) Committee

Reported on committee work begun on quality of life issues during their August 4 meeting and will continue at the Sept 8 meeting. The Small Asphalt Repair (SAR) Trucks made selected repairs on August 28th and will return to make the next set of most urgent repairs on 2/27/15. Email her at Natalie@lakebalboanc.org the location of any potholes you run into and she'll add them to her priority list. Ms. Arazi announced a School Cleanup at Gault Street Elementary to be held on September 29<sup>th</sup>, jointly with the UCLA Volunteer Center. Per Stephen Butcher, the LBNC freeway signs are set to be installed by January 2015. All stakeholders are welcome to attend the next ERaD committee meeting September 8, 7pm at Millie's Restaurant, 16840 Vanowen Street.

F. Ruth Doxsee reported on RWAG (Recycled Water Advisory Group) The group toured the new Headworks facility on Friday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Two years into construction, Headworks Reservoir is a critical component of LADWP's plan for compliance with drinking water regulations. It will be comprised of two underground buried reservoirs with a combined capacity of 110 million gallons. Ms. Doxsee reported that Silverlake and other reservoirs have been taken offline due to the potential for contamination. Headworks and other facilities are designed and constructed to be completely closed systems to ensure the safety of our drinking water.

G. Tom Riley – Planning and Land Use Committee - There is a proposal for a 187 unit apartment complex west of offices on Victory at Balboa. He will have more information at next month's meeting.

H. Gary Davis – Parks & Recreation Committee - Its initial meeting is Sept. 9, 7pm at the Balboa Sports Center, subsequent meetings on 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays of the month. Parks are the *jewel* of Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council area. Mr. Davis stated the need to attract more people to the committee and he issued an invitation to stakeholders saying, *"The committee is searching for people who want to get involved."*

I. Mary Pennomon, Senior Stakeholder, announced that on August 15th she attended meeting with MWD Metropolitan Water District set up by Adrin Nazarian to discuss sustainable water supply. Reservoir, water table, and well water is at its lowest level in 10 years. They spoke about securing a sustainable water supply, especially crucial during this drought cycle and pointed out that only 31 of our 58 reliable production wells are available sources of water because 27 of our ground water wells have been contaminated (by Aerospace & various manufacturers.) Mary said she can't say why we don't pursue the de-salinization option.

**7. Los Angeles City Budget Update:** Unavailable – this topic was tabled for discussion next time.

**8. Public Comment: (10 minutes) Comments from the Public on Non-Agenda Items, issues, announcements and Complaints within the jurisdiction for the Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council**

**A. Mark Reed**, candidate for 30<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. He gave his interests, reasons for running and urged us to vote Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>. His campaign slogan: “Country before politics and people before parties.”

**B. Karla Kincaid** reported that massage parlors are popping up in her area of Lake Balboa, noting that in order to address this situation stakeholders should observe the hours of operation (normal salon hours vs. late at night) and try to determine whether or not the workers are properly managed with meal breaks, an opportunity to leave the premises at will, and whether or not they speak any English (absence of these could signal the presence of a human trafficking operation). Ms. Kincaid further noted that they shouldn’t be within 1000’ of any school, noting that she has observed this happening in spite of the legal restrictions. She cited two locations.

**C. Bob Hertzberg**, candidate for State Senate, District 20. The candidate addressed the assembly making a brief statement of issues, proposed solutions, and his own qualifications.

**D. Alan Nelson**, reported an infrastructure issue stating that he and Steve Leffert and went downtown and spoke at Dept. of Public Works meeting in support of modifying the left turn lanes on Woodley Ave at Burbank Blvd. The item passed while they were at the meeting.

**E. Cynthia Weichelt**, reported on having attended Budget Day, the selection of Budget Advocates, some ideas discussed and the proposed strategy for achieving a balanced budget, including the need for meaningful pension reform. She mentioned \$8 Billion dollars in the treasury. She is a commissioner on the Quality & Productivity Commission that now has been funded with \$1 million to provide implementation of City Employees’ ideas to save money and improve efficiency. Some of these funds may also be steered to EmpowerLA to test online voting. Lastly,

Region 2 Budget Day will be at the Braude Center at Van Nuys City Hall on October 11<sup>th</sup>.

**F. Mary Pennomon**, A light needs to be added on Gaviota between Haskell and Woodley. She reported four fatalities including a recent fatality involving an 18-year old who was hit *twice*, Mary stated that she went to the scene and directed traffic until First Responders could take over. A Fire Crew was the first to arrive but it took 20 minutes for paramedics to arrive. She asked, “*Why is it like that?*” and re-stated the need for more lighting there. LBNC President, Linda Gravani, referred this matter to the Public Safety committee for further consideration.

**9. Discussion and possible action: Youth Representative Resignation, Madeline Pammit**

Motion made by Linda Gravani, seconded by James Brown.

Linda Pruett put forth an amendment to the main motion to include the word “*reluctantly*”, seconded by Tom Brennan.

Motion: *Whereas, LBNC’s Youth Representative, Madeline Pammit, identified that she no longer has a stake in the Lake Balboa Neighborhood, and whereas Madeline Pammit has forwarded her resignation, I move that LBNC reluctantly accept her resignation.*

AYE: Arazi, Brown, Joseph, Pruett, Riley, Weichelt, Davis, Gravani, Doxsee, Schwering, Pennomon, Tessier, Brennan

**MAIN MOTION and amendment PASSED: (13-0-0)**

10. Discussion and possible Action: **Valley On Track: Metro Orange Line busway to light rail**, Sarah Mitchell, Valley Industry & Commerce Association (VICA)/Gravani

It was noted that VICA is a business-friendly organization. Ms. Mitchell advocated for transportation improvement, specifically expansion of the Metro Rail Orange Line and support for the “Valley On Track” – Light Rail initiative. She stated that AB 8577 repealed ban on light rail. NOT a bus but a light rail feasibility study is needed.

11. Discussion and possible Action: **Valley On Track: Metro East San Fernando Valley Transit Corridor** as a light rail system, Sarah Mitchell, Valley Industry & Commerce Association (VICA)/Gravani

Ms. Mitchell stated that the second priority should be the East Valley Metro: Light Rail from Sylmar to Downtown L.A. running along Van Nuys Blvd. She mentioned the Light Rail through the Sepulveda Pass tunnel and the need for realignment. “We’re living in the largest metro area *without* light rail.” She affirmed that the Sepulveda Pass corridor can't wait for 2039, calling for Ballot Measure “R 2.0”.

12. Discussion and possible Action: **Valley On Track: Sepulveda Pass Corridor** is the third priority, to build a rail system with a tunnel through the Santa Monica Mountains , Sarah Mitchell, (VICA)

Ms. Mitchell stated that Measure J in 2012 failed because it didn’t go far enough, asserting that San Fernando and Santa Clarita Valleys must be included in this plan. website: [www.valleyontrack.org](http://www.valleyontrack.org)

Linda Gravani brought a motion, Ruth Doxsee seconded: *I move that LBNC support a rail system for the East San Fernando Valley Corridor and join the coalition which allows the use of LBNC’s name in future materials, including valleyontrack.org and social media.*

AYE: Arazi, Doxsee, Brennan, Pruett

ABSTAIN: Brown, Davis, Schwering, Pennomon, Joseph, Riley, Gravani, Tessier, Weichelt

**VOTE: (4-0-9) MOTION PASSES**

13. Discussion and possible Action: **Nation Builder**, Andreas Ramos - Organizational Software for NC Outreach and Community Building and coordination with City of Los Angeles services. Mr. Andreas was in attendance and waited to make a presentation but he left prior to this point in the agenda. Linda Gravani briefly described the system, reporting upon its capability to “tag” people for targeted messaging and to build surveys to more specifically address the needs of multiple interest groups. We have 800 names in our database, charge is based on the number of names.

14. **By Laws Ad Hoc Committee:** Discussion and possible motion on recommendations, Tessier  
Committee members: Gravani, Schwering, Tessier.

The suggested by law amendments to Article V are:

- In Section 1F, add one At-Large Elected Community Interest Stakeholder Representative (ALECIR)
- In Section 1G, add the tie-breaking coin toss at the third meeting to determine an At-Large Appointed Stakeholder Representative (ALASR)
- In Section 2, the quorum will change from 9 to 10 to account for the additional seat
- In Section 6C, add the tie-breaking coin toss to determine the appointment of a vacant seat

Brian Tessier made the motion: *I hereby move that the LBNC approve the ad hoc committee's suggested by law amendments as written so they can be forwarded to DONE and the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners for review and approval.* Seconded by James Brown.

AYE: Arazi, Brown, Joseph, Pruett, Riley, Weichelt, Davis, Gravani, Doxsee, Schwering, Pennomon, Tessier

ABSTAIN: Brennan

**VOTE: (12-0-1) MOTION PASSES.**

**15. Discussion and Possible Action: Table Open Board Seat** , Brian Tessier

Brian Tessier made the motion: *I move that the Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council table the vote for the open ALASR position until the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment and the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners can approve and process the requested bylaw amendments to create an additional seat, for a period that shall last for no more than six months from today.*

Sandy Joseph seconded.

**Vote: (13-0-0) MOTION PASSES.**

**16. Discussion and Possible Action: River Project**, Cynthia Weichelt:

Water LA was here in April and gave a presentation about their River Project.

*I move that we support Water LA and issue a letter stating that the Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council believes that water is of paramount importance to the City of Los Angeles. We support the Mayor's goal of cutting imported supplies in half by 2025. We want to be active participants in reaching this goal, but currently lack consistent guidance, reliable incentives, resources, and support. The Water LA program [<http://waterla.org/>] has been providing these tools to Panorama City and Studio City and we request that Mayor Garcetti's office do what it can to bring the program to our community.* Cynthia so moved, Natalie Arazi seconded.

**VOTE: (13-0-0) MOTION PASSES.**

**17. Discussion and Possible Action: CF14-0163-S3 Sidewalk Repair Trust Fund** (Gravani)

Re: "50/50" proposal for sidewalk repair. Linda Gravani moved: *Whereas the Bureau of Street Services has unused funds for sidewalk repair, whereas Councilman Krekorian's CF 13-0426 with a unanimous "Yes" vote of City Council to lease Fire Station 83 property in Encino for \$1 per year for 20 years versus charging fair market value upwards of \$1 Million dollars which could have funded much needed City services, I move that LBNC vehemently oppose the Sidewalk Repair Trust Fund.* Natalie Arazi seconded.

AYE: Arazi, Doxsee, Brennan, Schwering, Davis, Pennomon, Joseph, Riley, Gravani,

ABSTAIN : Pruett, Brown, Tessier and Weichelt

**VOTE: (9-0-4) MOTION PASSES.**

REGARDING ITEM #12 Approx. 9pm Cynthia Weichelt: In response to Linda Schwering's earlier request for immediate reconsideration of a vote on Agenda Item #12, "Our bylaws state that reconsideration can only be moved by someone who originally voted in favor of the motion." Linda Pruett moved for reconsideration. James Brown seconded. Linda Gravani will have it on the October 2014 meeting agendum.

**18. Discussion and Possible Action: CF14-0163-S4 Re-appropriate FY2013-14 Sidewalk Funds /Gravani**  
Linda Gravani moved, as follows: *Whereas \$10 Million was appropriated for sidewalk repairs for FY 2013-14 and with approximately \$7 Million unused, I move that LBNC support CF 14-0163-S4 to re-appropriate those unused funds for the exclusive use of sidewalk repair.* Ruth Doxsee seconded.  
AYE: Arazi, Brown, Joseph, Pruett, Riley, Weichelt, Davis, Gravani, Doxsee, Schwering, Pennomon, Brennan  
ABSTAIN: Tessier  
**VOTE: (12-0-1) MOTION PASSES.**

**19. Discussion and Possible Action: Outreach Committee Status: Ad Hoc vs. Standing / Bonney**  
TABLED

**20. Treasurer's Report** – Linda Schwering: Very little to report for July due to the change to the new checking account system. The August 2014 Monthly Expenditure Report Balances against the Checking Account Record. The Report was read aloud with the following explanation: page one is correct. This is the first time the council has completed the back page. The front page shows the current month before and after Expenditures and Commitments. The Cash in, spent and bank balances are on the back page: "C" shows the uncommitted funds. Balances are shown in each category. Ms. Schwering's motion: *I move to adopt the August 2014 Expenditure Report.* Cynthia Weichelt seconded.  
**VOTE (13-0-0) MOTION PASSES.**

**21. Board Vote on Funding Request:** Discussion and possible motion. Linda Pruett made a motion that: *The Emergency Preparedness Committee may spend up to \$25 per month for refreshments for their committee meetings and an additional \$10 per month for paper and printing of outreach materials, for the remainder of FY 2014-15.* Sandy Joseph seconded. Discussion Linda Schwering made an amendment to split these expenditures as follows: 21.4 – under Outreach for refreshments and 21.2 under Operational for Paper and copies. There was no second as it was deemed unnecessary to put these actions to a vote. The motion to amend was dropped.  
**VOTE (13-0-0) MOTION PASSES.**

**22. Board Vote on Funding request:** Discussion and possible motion - WebMaster's Options – Schwering

1. Base Plan \$100/month
2. Website Content & Social Media updates \$75/month
3. Calendar Updates \$75/month
4. Email Blasts, 1 free/month each additional \$20.00

Discussed as follows: on July 21st at the recommendation of DONE, Aaron DeVandry was informed of the mandate to charge the same amount for all Neighborhood Council business. The NC may continue on a Month-to-Month basis. Linda Schwering: *I move that LBNC continue our full service package with our current Web Service Provider, Aaron DeVandry, in the amount of \$250 per month.* Cynthia Weichelt seconded.  
**VOTE (13-0-0) MOTION PASSES.**

- 23. Board Vote on Funding request: Office Depot Printing LBNC Brochures** Linda Schwering: *I move that LBNC spend up to \$75 for printing 1,000 LBNC Outreach Brochures.* Linda Gravani seconded.  
**VOTE (13-0-0) MOTION PASSES.**
- 24. Board Vote on Funding request: Web Hosting & Maintenance** Discussion and possible discussion  
Linda Schwering: *I move we pay Aaron DeVandry for the June and July 2014 invoice for web hosting services in the amount of \$394.95.* James Brown seconded.  
**VOTE (13-0-0) MOTION PASSES.**
- 25. Board Vote on Funding request: Web Hosting & Maintenance** Discussion and possible motion  
Linda Schwering: *I move that LBNC pay Aaron DeVandry \$250.00 for August 2014 website hosting & maintenance.* Linda Gravani seconded.  
**VOTE (13-0-0) MOTION PASSES.**
- 26. Board Vote on Funding request: USPS - up to \$15 monthly** Discussion and possible motion  
Linda Schwering: *I move that it is acceptable for LBNC to spend up to \$15 monthly for the ongoing cost of postage and mailing for FY 2014-15.* Cynthia Weichelt seconded.  
**VOTE (13-0-0) MOTION PASSES.**
- 27. Board Vote on Funding request: Food/Refreshments for NC Meetings - up to \$50 monthly**  
Linda Schwering: *I move that LBNC approve spending up to \$50 per month for food and refreshments for our neighborhood council meetings for FY 2014-2015.* Linda Gravani seconded.  
**VOTE (13-0-0) MOTION PASSES.**
- 28. Board Vote on Funding request: Board Member Reimbursement** – Linda Schwering: *I move that LBNC approve reimbursement of \$25.80 to Linda Pruett for the cost of printing and purchase of refreshments for the August 9<sup>th</sup> Emergency Preparedness Meeting.* Ruth Doxsee seconded.  
**VOTE (13-0-0) MOTION PASSES.**
- 29. Board Vote on Funding request: Board Member Reimbursement** – Linda Schwering: *I move that LBNC approve reimbursement of \$20.00 to Natalie Arazi for the cost of refreshments for the August 4, 2014 Economic Revitalization and Development (ERAD) Committee Meeting.* James Brown seconded.  
**VOTE (13-0-0) MOTION PASSES.**
- 30. Board Vote on Funding request: Up to \$30 monthly for Copy & Print Services** – Linda Schwering: *I move that LBNC approve spending up to \$30 monthly for the cost of printing monthly reports and documents for FY 2014-15.* Brian Tessier seconded.  
**VOTE (13-0-0) MOTION PASSES.**
- 31. Adjournment**  
Ruth Doxsee brought a motion to adjourn. Cynthia Weichelt seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 9:35pm.

Carol Hart from AppleOne was the minute transcriber; Ruth Doxsee edited and submitted these minutes.