

DRAFT

**Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 1, 2017, 6:30 pm
Gault Elementary School - Auditorium
17000 Gault St., Lake Balboa, California 91406**

Meeting called to order by Linda Gravani, President, at 7:02pm.

- 1. Roll Call, board members satisfied quorum of 9. Thirty-eight stakeholders were present at the beginning of the meeting.**

Carla Bautista	At-Large Appointed Stakeholder Representative (SR)	P
James Brown	Residential Stakeholder Representative (RSR); 1 st Vice President	P
Ruth Doxsee	ISR	P
Kristen Fujitaki	At-Large Appointed SR	P
Linda Gravani	Business Stakeholder Representative (BSR); President	P
Byron Gutierrez	At-Large Elected CISR	P
James Hart	RSR; Treasurer	Arrived late
Sandy Joseph	RSR, 2 nd Vice President	P
Cindy Kurland	RSR	P
Madeleine McKay	Youth Stakeholder Representative	P
Allen Nelson	Organizational Stakeholder Representative (OSR)	P
Carol Newman	BSR; Secretary	P
Mary L Pennomon	Senior Stakeholder Representative	P
Linda Pruett	OSR	P
Tom Riley	RSR	P
Karen Schatz	RSR	P
Jim Stein	BSR; 2 nd signer	P

- 2. PRESIDENT'S UPDATE:** LBNC's funds have been frozen by the City of Los Angeles because of their demand that LBNC change its webmaster. The Board cannot be reimbursed. The credit card has been terminated. The newsletter cannot be printed, and it might not be able to be posted on the website. Any funding item will be for budget updates only, and when funds are released the LBNC projects will have already been identified. CERT training will start on March 2, 2017.
- 3. ADOPTED Agenda:** *Ruth Doxsee brought a motion to adopt the Agenda for February 1, 2017, seconded by Linda Pruett*
16 AYES: Bautista, Brown, Doxsee, Fujitaki, Gravani, Gutierrez, Joseph, Kurland, McKay, Nelson, Newman, Pennomon, Pruett, Riley, Schatz, Stein
VOTE: (16-0-0-0) MOTION PASSES

4. **Approval of Minutes for December 7, 2016 meeting:** Ruth Doxsee *brought a motion to approve the December 7, 2016 Meeting minutes, seconded by Mary Pennomon*

15 AYES: Bautista, Brown, Doxsee, Fujitaki, Gravani, Gutierrez, Joseph, Kurland, McKay, Nelson, Newman, Pennomon, Pruett, Riley, Schatz

Abstaining: Stein

VOTE: (15-0-1-0-0) MOTION PASSES

5. **RECEIVED Announcements and Reports by LAPD, Local, City, State and Federal Representatives**

A. LAPD Officer Ham - 5717@lapd.org

Officer "Sal" Parra, 34488@lapd.online, will be taking over as SLO and will be working with Officer Steve Olivaras. Lake Balboa is doing very well and has the lowest crime rate in the West Valley. The LAPD is working very hard to deal with a burglary problem. Officer Ham recommended buying cameras for your house.

B. Marco Sanchez, LA Councilwoman's Martinez's office (Council District 6) 818-778-4000

He presented a certificate of recognition to Officer Ham for all of his service to this community. A community clean-up last Saturday had about 70 volunteers. This is Human Trafficking Awareness Month. Toiletries are needed to help victims get back on their feet. Councilwoman Martinez is hosting a toiletry drive until February 13, 2017, and toiletries can be delivered to her Van Nuys office. Tree trimming and increased lighting have helped on Sepulveda Boulevard.

C. Raffy Astvasadoorian, raffy.a@lacity.org

There has been a change in the law. Living in a vehicle is now an infraction. You can live in the vehicle during the day in a residential zone but must leave the residential zone overnight. The City has prepared a map showing green, red, and yellow zones indicating the restrictions for living in a vehicle. Google the map at LAMC 85.02 to see the restrictions.

D. Julio Anleu – LAUSD Monica Ratliff's Office (District 6) 213-241-6388 julio.Anleu@lausd.net

LA Unified has published an arts program booklet in English and Spanish.

- E. **Barry Stone, DONE** -- As of February 1, 2017, LBNC received an allotment of \$5,000.00 from Council President Wesson, but it won't be disbursed until we provide for it in the budget. The funds will be placed in our account but we may not have access to them if we remain frozen. DONE is asking us to appoint a film liaison, aging liaison, and animal services liaison. DONE is also asking us to look at the Council file regarding the proposal to block adults from parks. DONE will give us a head's up about matters coming before City Council. We should look at the monthly profile.

6. **Guest Speaker Samantha Stevens Regarding Yes on Measure M**

Measure M will be on the March 7 ballot. It is the regulation/taxation/enforcement measure for recreational marijuana, which was placed on the ballot by a unanimous vote of the City Council. Cities are to figure out their own rules. There will be a gross receipts tax and a fine of \$20,000.00 per day for not complying with the regulations. There will also be a state tax. As of now, the taxes will go into the General Fund. The City Council will be holding hearings in the summer to consider regulations. Right now there is no opposition to Measure M. A competing proposition, Measure N,

was placed on the ballot by people in the industry, but a deal was worked out by all concerned to support Measure M. This way if something isn't working right, the City Council can easily amend by enacting a new ordinance.

7. Guest Speaker Birmingham Community HS Bill Parks regarding Orange Line/Student harassment

Mr. Parks was not present. Linda Gravani reported that he had contacted the LBNC to say that students were being harassed when they go to the Orange Line. Linda has written to Metro to see what they can do.

James Hart arrived at the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

8. Public Comment

A. Wayne Williams, CA Clean Money Campaign

He is working on public funding of elections. He asked us to prepare a Community Impact Statement to support the motions made by Councilmembers Ryu and Bonin to increase the public match rate to 6:1, providing six public dollars for every private dollar raised.

B. Kathryn Penny, Park Director, Balboa Sports Center

She asked for a \$400.00 donation for the spring egg hunt for magician Alan Oshiro.

C. Susan Peahl, resident

She lives on Enadia Way near Lasaine. She requested speed bumps and permit parking.

D. Beatrice Williams, resident

There are lots of problems with parking and homeless people living in a camper. There may also be a house occupied by squatters.

E. Pam Boroski, resident

The campers are from the homeless encampment on Haskell. She will look at the map Raffy referred to, for help. Homeless enforcement is needed. When she calls 311 she gets a referral to Caltrans, which is not acceptable.

F. Lorna Paisley, resident

Toxic chemicals are coming from the asphalt pile on Balboa.

G. James Falco, resident

He lives 2 miles south of the asphalt pile. He is getting oil-based deposits in his pool. It's time to take action.

Linda Gravani stated that the matter of the asphalt pile will be referred to the Land Use Committee.

H. Jamie Holzhauer, resident

He has ash in his pool. He lives 2 blocks south of the asphalt pile. He is breathing asphalt. It needs to be gone.

I. Franco Marenin, resident

Asphalt is in his dog's water bowl. The pile is hazardous. It should be covered or removed.

J. Imelda Padilla, Candidate for School Board Dist. 6.

She introduced herself and handed out her flyer.

9. Discussion and possible action regarding THE KIDS FITNESS CHALLENGE. David Cain of America's Healthy Kids requesting up to \$2,500 possible joint project with Encino NC

No one was present to discuss this matter. Linda Gravani reported that we are thinking of joining forces with the Encino NC to do this once our funds are unfrozen.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS and REPORTS: Committee Chairs and Board Members

A. President

Linda Gravani said that February 17, 2017 is the deadline to let the City know about potholes. She has asked Assemblymember Nazarian about our signage on the 101 Freeway, and we're on the list. She met with Madeleine McKay on Sunday and Madeleine will work on Council files to do the pro's and con's. The Rec and Parks Committee will become an ad hoc committee.

B. EP Preparedness Committee – Linda Pruett/ Sandy Joseph

Linda Pruett stated that free CERT classes will be given by the Fire Department starting on March 2, 2017 on 7 consecutive Thursdays, for a total of 17 ½ hours, at Magnolia Science Academy. This is life-changing. The classes will be limited to 50 participants. All board members should sign up.

Sandy Joseph stated that the EOC Neighborhood Council Alliance met last Saturday. They want all NC's to have emergency bins, and they want us to write a letter to the mayor to ask for the bins. Linda Pruett said that they also want money for staff members.

C. Health and Public Safety Committee – James Brown

Each month we sponsor a free community CPR training class each 3rd Saturday. We trained 685 people last year. It's free to all community members, but if you want a certification, there is a nominal charge. The next training will be February 18, 2017 at 10 a.m. The goal this year is to train 1000 residents.

Regarding public safety, James had Neighborhood Watch signs prepared. Anyone who wants them should see James. One of the most effective ways to deter crime is to post these signs. Suspicious activities can be reported through IWatch. James held an Active Shooter class and the next one will be the 3rd Saturday in March.

D. Homeless – Cindy Kurland/ Karen Schatz

Karen Schatz reported that there was a meeting in the San Fernando Valley at the beginning of January 2017. There was a homeless count on the 24th.

E. Land Use Committee – Tom Riley

We will have time to address the asphalt problem at the next Land Use meeting on February 20, 2017.

F. Recreation and Parks – Jim Stein

He will be going to the Encino Rec and Park meeting on Monday. They want to put in park area near the new baseball fields.

G. Outreach Committee – Allen Nelson

The next meeting will be February 28, 2017.

H. Ad Hoc Newsletter – Kristen Fujitaki

The February newsletter is not out yet. Sign up on our website if you want it e-mailed.

I. Ad Hoc Database – Byron Gutierrez

The City has a lot of data pools. There's a Chief Data Officer in the Mayor's office. ZIMAS (the Planning Department) is available to us and has all the information we need.

J. Ad Hoc Bylaws – Linda Pruett

We had our first meeting. There are six changes we would like to make. We will discuss them further next month.

K. Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee (SBWASC) – Ruth Doxsee

Cindy Kurland reported that the committee met last week and discussed the LA River Bikeway path. The goal is protecting wildlife. There will be a mobile museum on February 25, 2017.

L. Sustainability – Brian Gutierrez

There is nothing to report, but the City is committed to being sustainable by 2030.

M. Youth Affairs – Madeleine McKay

She has been trying to reach the principals of the schools regarding the students being harassed. She will focus on the homeless too.

11. Budget Advocate update:

Carol Newman – She explained how the Budget Advocates are selected and what they do. She distributed a copy of the current draft of the White Paper. All board members and stakeholders should take the online survey at www.ncbala.com. Regional Budget Day will take place on February 25, 2017 at the Braude Center in Van Nuys from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

12. Review Budget and allocate or reallocate funds as necessary

James Hart reported that he does not have access to the account. This matter will be postponed until March.

13. Treasurer's Report – Review and request for adoption of the Monthly Expenditure Report (MER) for December 2016

James Hart brought a motion that Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council approve the MER for December 2016, seconded by James Brown

16 AYES: Bautista, Brown, Doxsee, Fujitaki, Gravani, Gutierrez, Hart, Joseph, Kurland, Nelson, Newman, Pennomon, Pruett, Riley, Schatz, Stein

1 INELIGIBLE: McKay

VOTE: (16-0-0-1-0) MOTION PASSES

14. Treasurer's Report – Review and request for adoption of the Monthly Expenditure Report (MER) for January 2017

James Hart reported that we have been locked out of the account and therefore don't have the MER. This will be postponed until March.

15. Discussion and possible action on City Council File 15-1022-S2 regarding Neighborhood Council on-line voting. Outreach Committee voted to oppose online voting 7-0-0-0

Linda Gravani made a motion as follows, seconded by Sandy Joseph: "The April 2016 on-line voting for LBNC was a disaster. It was the lowest turnout of the past several elections. Changing the LBNC Bylaws to conform is not a solution in LBNC's best interest. Therefore, I move that LBNC support suspending further implementation of the online voting system until LBNC determines it is in their best interest to participate."

17 AYES: Bautista, Brown, Doxsee, Fujitaki, Gravani, Gutierrez, Hart, Joseph, Kurland, McKay, Nelson, Newman, Pennomon, Pruet, Riley, Schatz, Stein

VOTE: (17-0-0-0) MOTION PASSES

16. Discussion and possible action regarding Department of Water & Power (LADWP) Bill of Rights

Linda Gravani reported that comments were due January 17, but if anyone has any suggestions they can still be made because it's a living document. It can be found on the LADWP website.

17. Discussion and possible action regarding Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) demand that LBNC discontinue paying Aaron DeVandry for his web services –Choices

- 1) Terminate payment to Mr. DeVandry for web services
- 2) Return funds for Feb.-June 2017 to budget
- 3) Switch to an "approved" City website vendor or
- 4) Find a volunteer to maintain LBNC website at no cost

Linda Gravani made a motion, seconded by James Brown, which is attached as Exhibit "A" to these minutes. After considerable discussion, a vote was taken.

14 AYES: Bautista, Brown, Doxsee, Fujitaki, Gravani, Hart, Joseph, Kurland, Nelson, Newman, Pennomon, Riley, Schatz, Stein

2 OPPOSED: Gutierrez, Pruet

1 INELIGIBLE: McKay

Vote: (14-2-0-1-0) MOTION PASSES -- At the request of DONE, the Board will provide a Board resolution.

18. Discussion and possible action to spend up to \$300 to fund movies in the park on June 3, 2017. Movie selection is NIGHT IN THE MUSEUM.

James Hart made a motion, seconded by Ruth Doxsee, to spend up to \$300 to fund movies in the park on June 3, 2017.

15 AYES: Bautista, Brown, Doxsee, Fujitaki, Gravani, Gutierrez, Hart, Joseph, Nelson, Newman, Pennomon, Pruet, Riley, Schatz, Stein

1 OPPOSED: Kurland

1 INELIGIBLE: McKay

Vote: (15-1-0-1-0) MOTION PASSES

19. Discussion and possible action to spend up to \$1500 for LBNC giveaway items for Outreach

Jim Stein made a motion, seconded by James Brown, to spend up to \$1500 for LBNC giveaway items for Outreach.

16 AYES: Bautista, Brown, Doxsee, Fujitaki, Gravani, Gutierrez, Hart, Joseph, Kurland, Nelson, Newman, Pennomon, Pruett, Riley, Schatz, Stein

1 INELIGIBLE: McKay

Vote: (16-0-0-1-0) MOTION PASSES

20. Discussion and possible action to use Mail Chimp for future e-mail messages to the community. Outreach Committee vote 7-0-0-0. \$30-60/mo unlimited emails per month based on number of subscribers. 2001-5400

Allen Nelson made a motion, seconded by James Hart, that we use Mail Chimp for our e-mail messages to the community at \$30-60 per month.

16 AYES: Bautista, Brown, Doxsee, Fujitaki, Gravani, Gutierrez, Hart, Joseph, Kurland, Nelson, Newman, Pennomon, Pruett, Riley, Schatz, Stein

1 INELIGIBLE: McKay

Vote: (16-0-0-1-0) MOTION PASSES

21. Land Use – ZA2916-4478-CUB: 16107 Victory Blvd., a Conditional Use Permit for the continued sale of a full line of alcoholic beverages for off-sale consumption in conjunction with an existing 22,796 sq ft supermarket (Vallarta) having hours of operation from 7 am-11 pm daily. Committee voted in favor 6-0-0-0

Tom Riley made a motion, seconded by Karen Schatz, that the LBNC support Vallarta's renewal of its Conditional Use Permit for the continued sale of a full line of alcoholic beverages for off-sale consumption.

17 AYES: Bautista, Brown, Doxsee, Fujitaki, Gravani, Gutierrez, Hart, Joseph, Kurland, McKay, Nelson, Newman, Pennomon, Pruett, Riley, Schatz, Stein

Vote: (17-0-0-0-0) MOTION PASSES

22. Land Use – ZA-2016-3887-CUB: 17206 Saticoy St. Request for a Conditional Use Permit to allow the sale & dispensing of beer and wine for on-site consumption in conjunction with proposed 1702 sq ft restaurant (Fortune House) with a total of 48 indoor seats with hours of operation of 11 am.-9:30 pm Monday through Saturday. Committee voted in favor 6-0-0-0

Tom Riley made a motion, seconded by Linda Gravani, that the LBNC support Fortune House's request for a Conditional Use Permit to allow the sale & dispensing of beer and wine for on-site consumption.

17 AYES: Bautista, Brown, Doxsee, Fujitaki, Gravani, Gutierrez, Hart, Joseph, Kurland, McKay, Nelson, Newman, Pennomon, Pruett, Riley, Schatz, Stein

Vote: (17-0-0-0-0) MOTION PASSES

23. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at about 9:30 pm.

EXHIBIT "A"

Summary...

SFV wanted to Secede from the City of LA and that is how Neighborhood Councils came into being. Due to the raw feeling of secession, the city of LA was afraid to give NC too many rules. Now 12-14 years after the creation of NCs BONC/DONE want to create rules and regulations for NCs to follow. It would be easier for DONE if all 96 NCs followed the same rules. BUT, we are grass roots and as elected officials will do what we 17 board members determine is best for our community. As State Senator Bob Hertzberg stated at a VANC meeting regarding DONE, "they work for you". It is illogical for LBNC to spend LESS money on a webmaster and have the city freeze our funds because we didn't follow their new rules. Porter Ranch had a treasurer embezzle \$21,000/their funds are frozen. In the eyes of DONE we are in the same boat.

When BONC/DONE decided NCs needed preferred vendors for WEBSITES/MASTERS, they did so without consideration of the NCs knowledge level or **available time to work on their project**. They dumped 10 vendors with a price list onto each NC with the recommendation of interviewing each to determine who we wanted to use. During the BONC meeting of Monday, June 16, 2014, Public Comment regarding website *"for well over a year there's been a great emphasis on getting websites up and running. I think the Department and BONC would be better advised for these new website people to design a website out of a box that any poor, low-level, impoverished Neighborhood Council could take and could use and could implement"*.

No one on LBNC's board had the knowledge or time needed to vet any of the "10 preferred vendors". LBNC voted unanimously on June 3, 2015 to decline to switch vendors. The one and only webmaster LBNC has fulfilled our needs perfectly. Our vendor provides calendar updates, posts agendas, minutes, financials and anything else that LBNC requests for a monthly fee. We don't have to give it a second thought. NCs have complained that they don't contact their preferred webmaster due to the high cost.

I have written to the Rules, Elections, Intergovernmental Relations, and Neighborhoods chaired by Council President Herb J. Wesson, Jr., CD6 Councilwoman Nury Martinez and City Attorney Mike Feuer asking for assistance, I am waiting for a response. There are about 6-7 NCs using the same vendor as LBNC and their funds have also been frozen for wanting to keep their webmaster. According to Neighborhood Council Checking Account Expenditures for Fiscal year 2016 obtained from Control Panel LA, of the 96 NCs, only 28 are using a preferred vendor, 68 are not.

In order to unfreeze LBNC's funds,

I move that if LBNC cannot find a volunteer to maintain LBNC website that LBNC use www.empowerla.org/lbnc as its website until a time in the future when LBNC can resume paying LBNCs preferred vendor or opt at its discretion for another solution. Seconded by: _____