

DRAFT

Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council Board Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, February 7, 2018 6:30 pm  
Gault Elementary School - Auditorium  
17000 Gault St., Lake Balboa, California 91406

Meeting called to order by Linda Gravani, President, at 7:00pm.

1. Roll Call, 16 board members satisfied quorum of 9. About 15 stakeholders were present at the beginning of the meeting.

Carla Bautista	At-Large Appointed SR	P
James Brown	Residential Stakeholder Representative (RSR); 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	P
Ruth Doxsee	Organizational Stakeholder Representative (OSR)	P; Left 8:40pm
Kristen Fujitaki	At-Large Appointed SR, Second Vice President	P
Linda Gravani	Business Stakeholder Representative (BSR); President	P
Byron Gutierrez	At-Large Elected CISR	P
James Hart	RSR; Treasurer	P
Sandy Joseph	RSR	P
Cindy Kurland	RSR	P; Left 8:40pm
Madeleine McKay	Youth Stakeholder Representative	E
Allen Nelson	OSR	P
Carol Newman	BSR; Secretary	P
Mary L Pennomon	Senior Stakeholder Representative	P
Linda Pruet	OSR	P
Tom Riley	RSR	P; Left 9:20pm
Karen Schatz	RSR	P
Jim Stein	BSR; 2 <sup>nd</sup> signer	P

President Linda Gravani stated at the beginning of the meeting that Lynda Levitan from Councilwoman Martinez's office had passed away. Those present observed a few moments of silence to reflect on Lynda and all she contributed to the NC and the community.

2. Adoption of the Agenda February 7, 2018

*Carol Newman brought a motion to adopt the Agenda for February 7, 2018, seconded by James Brown*

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

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

**3. a. Approval of Minutes for December 6, 2017 LBNC meeting**

*Ruth Doxsee brought a motion to approve the Minutes for December 6, 2017 LBNC meeting, seconded by James Brown*

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

**1 ABSTENTION:** Schatz

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

**b. Approval of the Minutes for December 13, 2017 Special Meeting**

*Ruth Doxsee brought a motion to approve the Minutes for the December 13, 2017 Special Meeting, seconded by Mary Pennomon*

**VOTE: (10-0-6-0-0) MOTION PASSES**

**4. Announcements and Reports**

**A. Lauren Padick – Field Deputy, Councilwoman Martinez’s Office (CD6) 818-778-4999**

**Lauren.Padick@lacity.org**

Contact Councilwoman Martinez’s Office to donate any unused toiletry items for the Human Trafficking Awareness Toiletry Drive.

**B. Brian Gavidia – Mayor Eric Garcetti’s Office (213) 713-0960 Brian.Gavidia@lacity.org**

They are collaborating with the County, the State, and non-profit agencies on Homeless Connect Day at the Hjelte Sport Center on Thursday, March 15, 2018 from 10:00am-1:00pm. The LAPD is doing homeless outreach along with LA Family Housing. Many resources will be available. A shower truck will be provided. Lunch is sponsored by In N Out. They are looking for volunteers.

**C. LAUSD Kelly Gonez-Fitzpatrick (District # 6) 213-241-6388**

1. Her number one priority is ensuring college and career readiness for all students. They are formulating their budget for the next few years to incorporate computer science education at early grades so secondary students have a chance to take college courses while still in middle school and high school. She also wants more college counseling.
2. Her first resolution was passed in September unanimously to follow up on students’ progress. Another priority is visiting the 120 schools she represents. She has been to 80 so far. Her goal is to visit every school in her first year as a school board member.
3. She introduced Cara Onofre, her Director of Community Engagement and Advocacy, who is her direct liaison for Lake Balboa.
4. Superintendent Michelle King is retiring due to illness. They are looking for a new permanent Superintendent for the district, and their goal is to hire one by the next school year.

**D. Emma Taylor – Assembly Member Adrin Nazarian’s Office (District #46) (818) 376-4246**

They are having a Coffee Meet and Greet on February 22, 2018 from 6:30-7:30pm at Sam’s Café at Haskell and Parthenia in North Hills. Regarding the cleanups on Caltrans property, she asked that anyone with information send her an e-mail because she needs to get as much detail as possible to give to Caltrans. This can take 4-8 weeks.

**E. Betty Wong-Oyama – DONE 818-374-9898 [betty.wong@lacity.org](mailto:betty.wong@lacity.org)**

1. Empower LA and the City Clerk will be conducting Neighborhood Council election sessions on February 12<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-8:00pm for the Valley and March 19<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-8:00pm at the Canoga Park Meeting Center.
2. The Neighborhood Council Funding Equity Working Group will meet February 27<sup>th</sup> at Van Nuys City Hall at 6:30pm to consider if funding should be provided to NC's according to the number of stakeholders they represent and whether smaller NC's representing fewer stakeholders should receive the same amount of funding as larger NC's. Feedback is needed from the stakeholders. Some Neighborhood Councils are breaking away because they believe their concerns are not being addressed.
3. Live trainings will take place on February 13<sup>th</sup> at City Hall East, February 20<sup>th</sup> at Harbor Gateway, and February 27<sup>th</sup> City Hall East.  
May 20<sup>th</sup> is the last day for event approval requests. June 1<sup>st</sup> is the last day for check payment requests. June 20<sup>th</sup> is the last day for credit card payment transactions. All board members are required to renew Ethics Training every two years for the full two hours. The Empower LA Awards Dinner is March 29<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-9:00pm at City Hall. The deadline for bylaw amendments is April 15, 2018. Three additional Project Coordinators have been hired.

**5. Discussion and possible action regarding: Homeless issue specifically at 7040 Haskell – City, County and State are all involved and still the homeless terrorize the surrounding area--**  
There was discussion, but no action was taken. Linda Gravani stated that a bad issue exists at 7040 Haskell, in that homeless people are creating havoc and the tenants are feeling terrorized. The police have been called several times. Lauren Padick stated that the situation is very difficult. The City has been sued 3 different times on homeless issues and has lost. The encampments have to be cleaned multiple times to have an effect. Emma Taylor stated that the City has a dire housing crisis that is part of the problem, and housing is the way out of this, not arresting people.

**6. Discussion and possible action regarding: Sign language for Emergency messages**  
Bryan Parent, Lake Balboa resident and member of the Hollywood Studio District Neighborhood Council, discussed the problem of sign language for emergency messages. Evacuation orders do not contain any American sign language translations. There are possible solutions such as Deaflink, which could be paid for by grant. No action was taken.

**7. Measure A – Update – Discussion and possible action – [bill.jones@lacity.org](mailto:bill.jones@lacity.org) Grants Administration Manager 213-202-5657**

An update on Measure A was given by Bill Jones, Chief Management Analyst for the City Department of Recreation and Parks who oversees grants administration and partnerships for the department. Measure A was passed by voters in LA County in 2016. It is paid for by property taxes. It raises \$96 million annually throughout the county, of which \$19.3 million goes to the City. There are 43 Study Areas in the City. We are in Study Area 95. Mr. Jones discussed the various categories of programs under Measure A. The Department is committed to greater park improvements. The key priorities are new parks and open space, accessibility, safety and security. Funds will start to flow in early 2019. Jim Stein stated that we want a Community Center. Mr. Jones said that he does not do the

planning but he can look at the projects that have been listed, and we should ask for the Community Center.

**8. Discussion and possible action regarding: Approval and a ratification process for any and all General & Community plans that affect LBNC area.**

Encino Neighborhood Council Board Member Lee Blumenfeld proposed that Neighborhood Councils have veto power over all development within their boundaries. Item #8 was tabled to take back to Land Use.

**9. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Lee Ann Kennedy** – She is concerned about an apartment building on Sherman Way which does not have enough parking spaces, so the residents will park on surrounding residential streets. We should work with the City to increase the amount of parking spaces required in new apartment buildings.

**Linda Schwering** – The Neighborhood Council should recite the Pledge of Allegiance before all Neighborhood Council meetings.

**The Neighborhood Council took a break from 8:37-8:39PM**

**Ruth Doxsee and Cindy Kurland left the meeting at 8:40 PM.**

**AGENDA ITEMS 18 THROUGH 22 WERE TAKEN OUT OF ORDER BECAUSE TOM RILEY NEEDED TO LEAVE EARLY.**

**18. LAND USE: Request Land Use Committee discuss SB-827 Planning and Zoning: Transit-rich housing bonus at next meeting and report back to board for March 7, 2018 meeting. SB-827 would allow the state to override local policies.**

No action was taken. President Gravani requested that Land Use discuss SB-827 and report back to the Board at the March 7, 2018 meeting.

**19. LAND USE: Discussion and possible action regarding: 16026-16034 Sherman Way DIR-2017-2480 DB & env-20917-2479-EAF (CE-32) A 5 story mixed use project, 1187 square foot ground floor retail space – Committee passed provided there will be 79 parking spaces on site and possibly securing 10 more from the complex east of their site. NO WINDOWS on the south side of the building and there will be several low income 2 & 3 bedroom units**

*Tom Riley brought a motion to approve the project provided there will be 79 parking spaces on site possibly securing 10 more from the complex east of their site. NO WINDOWS on the south side of the building and there will be several low income 2 & 3 bedroom units, seconded by James Brown*

During the discussion of this item, Tom Riley reported that there will be 79 parking spaces. The project is family owned and managed. The project will no longer be mixed use, as the proposed retail space on the ground floor will be replaced by parking. It will consist of 54 units.

Steve Leffert spoke out against the project on the ground that it will be taller than anything else in Lake Balboa.

**11 AYES:** Bautista, Brown, Fujitaki, Gravani, Hart, Joseph, Newman, Pennomon, Riley, Schatz, Stein

**2 NAYS:** Nelson, Pruett

**1 RECUSED:** Gutierrez

**VOTE: (11-2-0-0-1) MOTION PASSES**

**20. LAND USE: Discussion and possible action regarding: 7328 Forbes Ave AA-2017-4289-PMLA Proposed subdivision for 4 parcels (single family). Committee passed with the following stipulations: there will be only 3 lots with the lot on Forbes Ave. being 100 feet across and 140+/-feet deep. Any other plans or improvements for the properties in the future, including building 2 houses on the Whitaker side of the present property would be subject to review and recommendation approval from the Land Use Committee**

*Tom Riley brought a motion to approve the project provided there will be only 3 lots with the lot on Forbes Ave. being 100 feet across and 140+/-feet deep. Any other plans or improvements for the properties in the future, including building 2 houses on the Whitaker side of the present property would be subject to review and recommendation approval from the Land Use Committee, seconded by Karen Schatz*

Steve Lefferts spoke in opposition to the project, on the ground that Whitaker is 20 feet wide, there is no parking, and the project will create a bottleneck.

**12 AYES:** Bautista, Brown, Fujitaki, Gutierrez, Hart, Joseph, Newman, Pennomon, Pruett, Riley, Schatz, Stein

**2 NAYS:** Nelson, Gravani

**VOTE: (12-2-0-0-0) MOTION PASSES**

**21. LAND USE: Discussion and possible action regarding: 15656 Sherman Way ZA-2017-4824-CU-CUB & ENV 2017-4825-EAF. Proposal to convert the existing car bays to a self-service automated carwash, removal of existing kiosk and construct a 15'x34' foodmart to include beer and wine sale. Committee approved with the following stipulation, NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES TO BE SOLD ON THE PROPERTY**

*Tom Riley brought a motion to approve the project at 15656 Sherman Way ZA-2017-4824-CU-CUB & ENV 2017-4825-EAF, proposal to convert the existing car bays to a self-service automated carwash, removal of existing kiosk and construct a 15'x34' foodmart to include beer and wine sale, with the following stipulation, NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES TO BE SOLD ON THE PROPERTY, seconded by James Brown*

**13 AYES:** Bautista, Brown, Fujitaki, Gravani, Gutierrez, Hart, Joseph, Newman, Pennomon, Pruett, Riley, Schatz, Stein

**1 ABSTENTION:** Nelson

**VOTE: (13-0-1-0-0) MOTION PASSES**

**22. LAND USE: Discussion and possible action regarding: Big Houses vs Big Property Article in California Real Estate Magazine suggesting families would prefer big back yards vs multiple homes on one previously large lot**

No action was taken on Item #22.

**RETURNING TO THE AGENDA --**

**10. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS: Committee Chairs and Board Members**

**A. President Update:** There was no report given.

**B. Education Committee – Byron Gutierrez**

There was no report given.

**C. Emergency Preparedness – Linda Pruett**

The December EP Meeting was a lot of fun. The next meeting is Saturday February 10, 2018 from 9:00-11:00am at the Flyaway. The discussion will be on how to take care of ourselves at home during an emergency. There will also be a shoe tying demonstration.

**D. Health and Public Safety – James Brown**

Uniforms for the volunteer patrol with LAPD were received but not yet deployed; they will be deployed during the first quarter of the year. We have distributed 98 Neighborhood Watch street Signs covering 61 streets. James extended a special thanks to Jim Stein for holding a Neighborhood Watch meeting.

The next CPR training class is March 17<sup>th</sup>. No room is left in the February class. We are on pace to have 1000 residents trained this year.

**E. Land Use – Tom Riley**

ZIMAS (the Zone Information and Map Access System) will tell you everything about your property. You can go to the LA City Planning website and type in the address to obtain the information.

**F. Newsletter – Kristen Fujitaki**

She stated she needs articles from the stakeholders in order to produce the newsletter.

**Tom Riley left the meeting at 9:20 p.m.**

**G. Outreach – Allen Nelson**

A cannabis store will open at Vanowen and Woodley. The owner wants to be involved in the community. Also, the Spring Egg Hunt is coming up.

**H. Rec and Parks – Jim Stein**

The next meeting is Tuesday, February 13 at 7:00 p.m. at the Balboa Park Sports Center. Jim encouraged board members' attendance in order to make a decision on the chess tables. We met with Film LA and will have a movie in the park on May 19, "Star Wars: The Last Jedi." Also, the City put in astroturf around the new drinking fountains.

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

No report was given.

**J. Youth Affairs – Madeleine McKay**

Linda Gravani stated that Madeleine is working with Daniel Pearl.

**K. Liaison – Homeless – Kurland/Schatz**

No report was given.

**L Liaison -- Animal Services – Jennifer Freel**

No report was given.

**M. Board Members**

**Jim Hart** – After expenses are paid we will have a balance left of \$5,000.00 not assigned.

**11. Budget Advocates – Update, discussion and possible action – Carol Newman**

The Budget Advocates are completing interviews with the City departments and writing up reports. The White Paper draft is being reviewed. Regional Budget Day was in Van Nuys with 20+ people attending including three representatives from the Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council. Go to Ncbala.com to complete the Budget Survey.

**12. Budget – Discussion and possible action regarding the Department Heads who have declined to meet with the Budget Advocates**

Item #12 was tabled.

**13. Treasurer’s Report – Review and Request adoption of the monthly Expenditure Report (MER) for October 2017**

*Jim Hart brought a motion to adopt the Monthly Expenditure Report (MER) for October 2017, seconded by Linda Gravani*

**13 AYES:** Bautista, Brown, Fujitaki, Gravani, Gutierrez, Hart, Joseph, Nelson, Newman, Pennomon, Pruet, Schatz, Stein

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

**14. Treasurer’s Report – Review and Request adoption of the monthly Expenditure Report (MER) for November 2017**

*Jim Hart brought a motion to adopt the Monthly Expenditure Report (MER) for November 2017, seconded by James Brown*

**13 AYES:** Bautista, Brown, Fujitaki, Gravani, Gutierrez, Hart, Joseph, Nelson, Newman, Pennomon, Pruet, Schatz, Stein

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

**15. Treasurer’s Report – Review and Request adoption of the monthly Expenditure Report (MER) for December 2017**

*Jim Hart brought a motion to adopt the Monthly Expenditure Report (MER) for December 2017, seconded by Sandy Joseph*

**13 AYES:** Bautista, Brown, Fujitaki, Gravani, Gutierrez, Hart, Joseph, Nelson, Newman, Pennomon, Pruet, Schatz, Stein

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

**16. FUNDING: Discussion and possible action regarding previously budgeted item for Spring Egg Hunt**  
*Jim Hart brought a motion to approve \$400 to spend on entertainment for the Spring Egg Hunt March 24, 2018, 10 am to 1 pm, seconded by Linda Gravani*

**13 AYES:** Bautista, Brown, Fujitaki, Gravani, Gutierrez, Hart, Joseph, Nelson, Newman, Pennomon, Pruet, Schatz, Stein

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

**17. FUNDING: Discussion and possible action regarding previously budgeted item for Senior Symposium**

*Jim Hart brought a motion to approve up to \$750 for the Senior Symposium through One Generation, seconded by Karen Schatz*

**13 AYES:** Bautista, Brown, Fujitaki, Gravani, Gutierrez, Hart, Joseph, Nelson, Newman, Pennomon, Pruet, Schatz, Stein

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

23. **ADJOURNMENT** – The meeting was adjourned at 9:32pm.