

Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council  
Board Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, October 1, 2008  
Lake Balboa Studios  
7412 Balboa Blvd.  
Lake Balboa, CA 91406

Evan Doxsee	Youth Representative	P <sup>1</sup>
Teresa Pollock	Residential Representative	P <sup>2</sup>
Sylvia Silva	Residential Representative	P <sup>3</sup>
Amber Savastio	Business Representative	A <sup>4</sup>
Linda Pruett	Second Vice-President	P
David Bernardoni	President, Residential Representative	P
Bill McRae	Outreach and Marketing Committee Chairperson	P
Clay McFarland	Treasurer, Business Representative	P
Elmer Jespersen	Senior Representative	A
Lisa Reveen	Organizational Representative	P <sup>5</sup>
Joyce MacKinnon	Organizational Representative	P
Steve Leffert	Secretary, Organizational Representative	P
Ivan Tjoe	First Vice President, Residential Representative	P
Bahman Mojallal (Moe)	At-large representative	P
Allen Nelson	Business Representative	P
Jack Baird	Residential Representative	P

1. Welcome, Please Sign In
  - D. Bernardoni opened the meeting at 7:34 p.m.
  
2. Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda and Approval of Minutes of the September 3, 2008 Meeting
  - a. D. Bernardoni asks the board to allow him to move item number 8 on the original agenda to number 6.  
**Clay McFarland introduces a motion to accept the agenda as amended.**  
**MOTION BY CLAY MCFARLAND**  
**SECONDED BY JOYCE MACKINNON**  
**Resolved: 12-0-1 in favor of motion. D. Bernardoni abstains.**
  - b. Ivan Tjoe asks for the minutes to indicate that his absence was excused.  
**T. Pollock introduces a motion to approve the minutes for September 3, 2008 as corrected.**  
**MOTION BY TERESA PINNOCK**  
**SECONDED BY BILL MCRAE**  
**Resolved: 12-0-1 in favor of motion. D. Bernardoni abstains.**
  
3. Announcements and Reports – LAPD, Local, City, State, and Federal Representatives, Board Members and Others, Committee Reports
  - a. Update regarding Birmingham H.S. and Saticoy Median beautification projects – Silva

<sup>1</sup> Evan Doxsee leaves at 10:19 p.m.

<sup>2</sup> Teresa Pollock leaves at 10:21 p.m.

<sup>3</sup> Sylvia Silva leaves the meeting at 10:06 p.m.

<sup>4</sup> Amber Savastio's absence is excused.

<sup>5</sup> Lisa Reveen joins the meeting at 7:38 p.m.

- S. Silva defers to S. Leffert. The benches at Birmingham H.S. are not yet installed. The plant manager at Birmingham H.S. promised to have the benches installed by the end of the week. The board is waiting to find out how many trees the City will provide for the median. As soon as the City is prepared, the board will be able to work with the landscaper to plant the trees.
- b. Citywide Congress & Community Budget Day – Bernardoni  
On October 11, there will be a Citywide Congress & Community Budget Day. D. Bernardoni and C. McFarland will attend.
  - c. Applicant for Beautification Grant – Bernardoni  
At Councilman Cardenas' field office, D. Bernardoni learned about grants available for beautification projects. He encourages the members of the board to think of beautification projects worthy of applying for a grant. He would like to design attractive signage to put on the poles around the community.
  - d. Lynda Levitan – Senior and Veteran's Health and Safety Fair is on October 25, 2008 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Japanese Garden on 6100 Woodley Avenue. There will be health screenings and boxed lunches. The councilman will be getting security cameras in dangerous areas. They will likely be in Sherman Way tunnel. L. Levitan would like to ask the board to pay for one camera. She will address this officially at the next meeting. Urban Forestry will soon know how many trees they can provide for the median on Saticoy. The tree lighting and menorah lighting will be in December. In November, they will have a celebration of Veterans' Day.
  - e. Megan Cottier: Community clean-up happened last weekend. It was a success. City of L.A. is doing a cultural master plan. At [www.lacity.org](http://www.lacity.org), look for the cultural master plan survey and provide input. Contact the Northridge office if you have no access to the internet and want to contribute. Regarding Lake Balboa signage, CD12 is working with the Department of Transportation to put new signs on the extended boundaries of Lake Balboa.
  - f. L. Pruett invites everyone to attend the second of two CERT training sessions this coming Sunday, October 5. The first session was a success. There were 145 attendants, and sixty of the attendants were children. CERT level 2 is about shelter operations. Red Cross teaches the classes. Those who want to take part in the training are required to go through CPR and first aid courses. On October 19, there will be a CPR, AED and first aid class at the Flyaway. The fee is \$56. Go to [www.safety101.org](http://www.safety101.org) for more information.
  - g. S. Leffert received a release form for the photographs submitted by a Lake Balboa resident. He has received other photographs and would like to receive more. Paintings, drawings, and videos are acceptable.
4. Public Comment – Comments from Public on Non-Agenda Items
- a. Raymond Yu: Citywide Congress & Community Budget Day is on October 11, 2008 at City Hall. Go to [www.lacityneighborhoods.com](http://www.lacityneighborhoods.com) for more information.
  - b. Valerie McCaffrey: There are frequent car accidents on Balboa and Sherman Way. She would like to be the chairperson for a music festival in Lake Balboa designed to create revenue and spread Lake Balboa's name. The students at Birmingham magnet school could take part in local government by working with the board.
  - c. Steven Simons: He suggests calling the GPC companies to tell them about Lake Balboa. He is running for judge.
  - d. Ken Finney: The Emergency Preparedness Communication Committee will hold a meeting on October 13, 2008 at 7 p.m. at the Flyaway.

5. Brief Response from Board to statements made or questions posed by persons exercising their general public comment rights
  - a. The board thanks V. McCaffrey for her ideas. Moe lets her know that the Lake Balboa Studios is always available for public events.
  - b. C. McFarland stresses the importance of emergency preparedness. Cell phones might not work in an emergency. B. McRae encourages the members of the community to take part in emergency preparedness activities. A. Nelson says there are free HAM radio classes happening at Northridge Hospital on Thursday nights at 7:30 p.m.
  
6. Discussion regarding funding for Neighborhood Watch signs – Possible Motion – Leffert
  - a. Board Comment
 

S. Leffert would like to determine the funding options for Neighborhood Watch signs. The signs would cost about \$110 including installation. He believes that \$1,000 might be a good amount to put towards the signs. B. McRae would like to get matching funds from the city. S. Silva would like to ask the neighbors for financial contributions. She would like to make sure that the board determines that the neighborhoods meet the criteria for having the signs. Moe suggests getting sponsorship, but L. Levitan says that the signs cannot be modified because they are official City signs. Department of Transportation must approve the locations and positioning of the signs. C. McFarland says this kind of project would be considered a community project, not an outreach project.
  - b. Public Comment
 

Cindy Arnett works with a Neighborhood Watch. She knows that \$1,000 will not be sufficient. The board could consider striking deals with local sponsors to match the purchases of signs. Georgia Amamura is a captain of the Neighborhood Watch in the Lake Balboa area. She has been struggling with the paperwork and the approval process with the Department of Transportation. Her group has held fundraisers in the neighborhoods to pay for the signs.
  - c. Board Discussion
 

B. McRae thinks that \$1,100 will not be enough. He thinks that working with the Neighborhood Watch groups will be good outreach, possibly recruiting people to get involved with the board. He would like to orchestrate the board's plans for the signs with the SLO. S. Silva would like to know if there is a standard for the number of signs in a designated area. B. McRae suggests going to committee. L. Reveen agrees to work as the head of a committee in charge of the organization of the Neighborhood Watch signs. C. McFarland urges the members of the committee to look for matching agreements with organizations and businesses.
  - d. Motion
 

**S. Leffert introduces a motion that the LBNC purchase and install neighborhood watch signs with the maximum expenditure of \$1,100.**  
**MOTION BY S. LEFFERT**  
**SECONDED BY C. MCFARLAND**  
**S. Leffert amends the motion to read that the LBNC purchase and install neighborhood watch signs with the maximum expenditure of \$2,200 with an ad hoc committee to decide criteria for sign placement and explore possibilities of co-sponsorship with local businesses.**  
**MOTION BY S. LEFFERT**  
**SECONDED BY C. MCFARLAND**

**VOTE ON AMENDMENT: 12-0-2 in favor of motion. E. Doxsee and D. Bernardoni abstain.**  
**VOTE ON AMENDED MOTION: 12-0-2 in favor of motion. E. Doxsee and D. Bernardoni abstain.**

7. Presentation (five minutes) by Jasmine Dowlatshahi regarding the November 22 Children’s Day Festival @ Woodley Park – Possible Motion – Bernardoni

J. Dowlatshahi: The event will be on November 22. Los Lobos will perform. Fritz Coleman from NBC will be the emcee. There will be a parade and a children’s resources expo. She would like the board to partially sponsor the event. There would be outreach opportunities at the event, fliers and PSA’s on the 2 large TV screens at the event. The board would have a booth at the event. The board has often sponsored the show, but she would like them to pay \$5,000 for the sound on the stage.

- a. Board Comment

A. Nelson notes that the flyers all say Van Nuys, not Lake Balboa. D. Bernardoni sees the benefit of the event, but he wants to make sure that the event will be listed as taking place in Lake Balboa. B. McRae concurs. Moe asks how many children’s festivals are held in Van Nuys and Lake Balboa. J. Dowlatshahi believes that this event will be the only one. C. McFarland considers this an outreach item and wants to be sure that there will be opportunities for outreach.

- b. Public Comment

V. McCaffrey is concerned that F. Coleman will announce the location of the event as taking place in Van Nuys because it has greater name recognition. Stakeholder emphasizes the importance of increasing name recognition for Lake Balboa.

- c. Board Discussion

S. Silva would like the naming of Lake Balboa as the location of the event as a condition for sponsorship.

- d. Motion

**Joyce MacKinnon introduces a motion that the board support the children of Lake Balboa by donating sound money for the Children’s Festival on the condition that they recognize Woodley Park is in Lake Balboa.**

**MOTION BY J. MACKINNON**

**SECONDED BY LISA REVEEN**

**J. MacKinnon withdraws the motion.**

**S. Leffert introduces a motion that the LBNC donate up to \$5,000 towards the cost of the sound equipment for the Children’s Day Festival with the condition that the location refers to Woodley Park being in Lake Balboa, not Van Nuys, on all promotional media and on the day of the event.**

**MOTION BY S. LEFFERT**

**SECONDED BY MOE**

**Resolved: 12-0-2 in favor of motion. E. Doxsee and D. Bernardoni abstain.**

D. Bernardoni requests that J. Dowlatshahi provide copies of all promotional materials after the event is completed.

8. Presentation (five minutes) by Luis Perez of the Youth Policy Institute regarding workers in front of Home Depot on Balboa – Possible Motion – Bernardoni

L. Perez: The Community Job Center is an organization in front of the Home Depot. Youth Policy Institute runs the program. The day laborers will have opportunities for ESL classes and job

training. He requests input from the community to make the center run in line with the interests of the community. Nine hundred participants have used the Community Job Center.

a. Board Comment

B. McRae thanks L. Perez for his work and would like to work with him on outreach.

b. Public Comment

Stakeholder asks if it is correct that the employers would have to pay for the injuries of the employee. She is concerned that the employer could be charged with negligence. L. Perez says that the employees at the organization provide all necessary information. Another stakeholder asks if the organization is in charge of cleaning up the area. L. Perez says that his organization is working with Home Depot to develop a plan for cleaning up the area, although the organization is officially in charge of maintaining only the center itself. V. McCaffrey believes that this organization is doing a good job.

9. Discussion regarding use of Crysalis as an alternative vendor for the distribution of LBNC's monthly flyers – Possible Motion – Leffert

a. Board Comment

S. Leffert: Crysalis employs at-risk people with gainful employment. Their delivery costs are a little higher than those of the walking man services, but Crysalis promises to go to all the businesses, not just the residences. He wants to make sure that the items are delivered as promised because people often do not receive the flyers with the frequency that they are distributed. S. Leffert would like to have the option of using Crysalis. He cannot provide the prices yet.

b. Public Comment

c. Board Discussion

S. Silva wonders if the increase of cost would be worth getting outreach to the businesses. B. McRae is in support of the idea. S. Silva is concerned about the lack of information about the program, the inherent risk in hiring at-risk workers, and the value of the cost increase. C. McFarland says that other neighborhood councils use Crysalis.

d. Motion

**C. McFarland introduces a motion that the LBNC use Crysalis on a trial basis of 3 months on a budget not to exceed \$1,800 per month.**

**MOTION BY C. MCFARLAND**

**SECONDED BY I. TJOE.**

**Resolved: 11-0-3 in favor of motion. S. Silva, E. Doxsee, and D. Bernardoni abstain.**

S. Leffert tells the board that he will likely begin the service in December.

10. Discussion regarding artwork for tote bags with LBNC logo – Possible Motion – McFarland

C. McFarland: He needs a one-color drawing for artwork in a .jpg file. S. Leffert shows a design he created and some work created by an art teacher. The board would like to see a simpler design. D. Bernardoni suggests that they move the item to next month's agenda for a final decision.

11. Discussion regarding proposed baseball field at Lake Balboa Park (Beilenson Park) – Possible Motion – Leffert

- a. Abel Perez: The Dodgers would like to sponsor the creation of a baseball diamond for use by physically disabled children. There will be little impact on parking because it will be used in the week with guests generally arriving on buses. The field is in planning stages. They chose the location for its proximity to the universal access playground.

- b. Board Comments: D. Bernardoni wants to make sure that there would be measures to keep people from using the park on the weekends. B. McRae thinks that the diamond will be a change of use and quite a positive one. He is concerned about the changes, but he recognizes that this could be a good idea. S. Silva would like them to consider other locations. D. Bernardoni would like Mr. Perez to keep in touch with the LBNC as they make more plans. S. Leffert says that he understood that there would be community planning meetings on the park, so there should be time for further conversation. A. Nelson says that the park is used heavily already and parking is already limited. J. MacKinnon is concerned that the park will take up space people use for picnics.
  
- 12. Motion for additional funding for refreshments for the October 5 CERT training – Pruet
  - a. Board Comment
 

Interest in CERT training has quadrupled. L. Pruet needs more funds for refreshments. She needs money for water, soft drinks, and supplies. She needs \$300.

**L. Pruet introduces a motion that the LBNC pay an additional \$300 for the CERT training.**

**MOTION BY L. PRUETT**

**SECONDED BY L. REVEEN**

**Resolved: 12-0-2 in favor of motion. E. Doxsee and D. Bernardoni abstain.**
  
- 13. Presentation by proponents (five minutes) and opponents (five minutes) regarding Proposition 7 – Possible Resolution – Bernardoni
  - a. Laurette Healey and Hilda Delgado present the arguments in support and in opposition, respectively, to Proposition 7. The proposition is part of the November 4 ballot. The board asks questions to the proponent and the opponent for twenty minutes.
  - b. Board Discussion: C. McFarland states his opposition to passing a resolution. Passing a resolution may violate the mandate of the board. D. Bernardoni does not know if it's the board's place to take a position. L. Healey withdraws her request for a resolution. She would rather disseminate information. D. Bernardoni agrees with C. McFarland fundamentally that the board should not be taking positions on propositions. He will not stop another board member from suggesting a resolution. B. McRae would like to place an item like this earlier on the agenda. S. Leffert is worried that passing a law makes it difficult to change or improve a law once it is in effect because it requires a 2/3 vote to make a change while it takes only a 51% vote to put it into effect in the first place.
  
- 14. Unfinished Business
  - a. There is no unfinished business.
  
- 15. Adjournment
  - a. **C. McFarland introduces a motion to adjourn.**

**MOTION BY C. MCFARLAND**

**SECONDED BY BILL MCRAE**

**Resolved: 10-0-1 in favor of motion. D. Bernardoni abstains.**

Meeting is adjourned at 10:42 p.m.