

Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council Board Meeting  
 Wednesday, February 4, 2009, 7:30 pm  
 Lake Balboa Studios  
 7412 Balboa Blvd.  
 Lake Balboa, CA 91406

D. Bernardoni	Pres., Residential Representative	P
E. Doxsee	Youth Rep.	P
Sylvia Silva	Residential Rep.	P
Amber Savastio	Communications Officer, Business Rep.	A 1
Linda Pruett	2 <sup>nd</sup> VP, EP Committee Chair	P
Ivan Tjoe	1 <sup>st</sup> VP, Residential Rep.	P
Steve Leffert	Secretary	P
Clay McFarland	Treasurer, Business Rep.	P
Bahman Mojallal (Moe)	At-Large Appointed Rep.	P
Elmer Jespersen	Senior Rep.	P
Teresa Pollock	Residential Rep.	P
Allen Nelson	Business Rep.	P
Jack Baird	Residential Rep.	P
Lisa Reveen	Animal Welfare Comm., Organization Rep.	P
Joyce MacKinnon	Organizational Rep.	P
Bill McRae	Outreach & Marketing Comm. Chair	P <sup>2</sup>

1. Welcome and Introductions
  - a. D. Bernardoni opens the meeting at 7:35 p.m.
2. Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda and Approval of Minutes of the December 3, 2008 Meeting
  - a. **C. McFarland introduces a motion to adopt the agenda.**  
**MOTION BY C. McFARLAND**  
**SECONDED BY T. POLLOCK**  
**Resolved: 14-0-1 in favor of motion. D. Bernardoni abstains.**
  - b. **I. Tjoe introduces a motion to approve the minutes of the December 3, meeting.**  
**MOTION BY I. TJOE**  
**SECONDED BY E. DOXSEE**  
**Resolved: 14-0-1 in favor of motion. D. Bernardoni abstains.**
3. Announcements and Reports

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<sup>1</sup> Amber Savastio’s absence is excused.

<sup>2</sup> B. McRae leaves the meeting at 9:06 p.m.

- a. LAPD - Officer Ham – Please report any suspected criminal activity to the police. The Captain from the West Valley division is leaving. He is replaced by Captain John Egan. The West Valley Station is on 1910 Vanowen Street. Captain Hamm’s number is 818-731-2551.
- b. Lynda Levitan, representative from Councilmember Cardenas’s office is out sick.
- c. John Bwarie, representative for Councilman Smith – Go to [www.cd12.org](http://www.cd12.org) to get information about CD12. The website provides useful information for locals. A statement about the Solar Initiative on Measure B by Councilman Smith is available online.
- d. Raffy Astvasadoorian – new neighborhood prosecutor – he works with the SLO on local issues. His number is 818-373-6807. Beware of a document for property taxes that asks for a fee for processing.
- e. C. McFarland – Re: the DONE audit, they have completed the audit for the period between 2007 - 8. There was a petty cash problem reconciled with DONE. The first quarterly report was due on November 30. The second quarterly report is due at the end of February. He will have both reports submitted before the end of the month. There is \$85,000 left in unencumbered funds. C. McFarland announces that he will not be running for treasurer at the next election in May of 2009.
- f. S. Leffert would like to take the \$4,000 allotment in elections and move it into the Outreach Committee’s budget. The board decides to put the shift onto the agenda for next month’s meeting. He apologizes for the error of omission in last month’s newsletter. He encourages anyone who provides feedback about the flyer via the phone line to please leave contact information.
- g. L. Pruett – She encourages everyone to learn emergency preparedness. There is a CERT 3 Training class being held on Saturday, February 21, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. The cost is \$210. Free HAM radio classes will be held at Northridge Hospital Medical Center beginning on Thursday, February 5, 2009, at 7:30 p.m. The emergency supply bins are installed in the NW and SW parts of the Valley. The emergency supplies include disaster safety and communications equipment. The communications meetings are on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month at the Flyaway at 7 p.m.
- h. S. Leffert – West Valley Special Education Center is in danger of being closed. Roberta Mann is a teacher there. The teachers at the school are requesting the support of the community. Please call, e-mail, and write to the local representatives to defend the school and argue for its importance. Some of the representatives are Raymond Cortinas, Donna Lynn Anton, and Gloria Lopez.

#### 4. Public Comment

- a. Raymond Yu: Announcements by Raymond Yu.
- b. Kathleen Susie Evans: She is running for L.A. City Controller. She has 25 years experience in finance and accounting. She is running because she would like better leadership in City Hall. She would like to stop illegal immigration because it has damaged the City. She would like the streets to be resurfaced.
- c. Jeff Stansfield – Red Cross disaster volunteer – He is a local supervisor for Red Cross disaster services. On the 6<sup>th</sup> of February, the Red Cross will be offering free training supervisor.
- d. Rosemary White – She is a disaster response volunteer for the American Red Cross. She would like to work together with the LBNC and the Emergency Preparedness Committee.

5. Brief response from Board to statements made or questions posed by persons exercising their general public comment rights
  - a. L. Pruett – Go to [www.cert.la.com](http://www.cert.la.com) for more information about American Red Cross training possibilities. Go to [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org) for more information about CERT training levels 2 and 3.
6. Discussion regarding April 25 Renaming Event – Possible Motion – Bernardoni
  - a. D. Bernardoni -- Councilmen Cardenas and Smith will attend the event. He would like to allot \$12,000 towards this event.

A. Board Comments:

- a. L. Pruett: LBNC’s last major event two or three years ago was a great success. The renaming event would raise awareness of the existence of and positive features of Lake Balboa.
- b. D. Bernardoni – Contact Moe if you are interested in helping. He is the chairman of the event committee.
- c. C. McFarland – The expenses will go towards the outreach efforts required by DONE.
- d. B. Mojallal – He asks everyone to help and promote the event among their neighbors, coworkers, and friends.
- e. B. McRae would like to clearly define and establish the objectives of this event.
- f. D. Bernardoni – He believes that the objective is to raise awareness of the name change. The challenge will be marketing. It will require creative efforts to draw a crowd.
- g. S. Leffert reminds the board that they would like to include the cost of a face painter in the budget.
- h. T. Pollock offers to donate her time and bring a petting zoo to the event.

B. Public Comment

- a. Stakeholder encourages the board to put efforts towards getting the post office and other mailing companies to update its records to include Lake Balboa. S. Leffert says the mailing and mapping companies are improving their records.
- b. Stakeholder recommends setting up levels of sponsorship to simplify the donation process.

C. DISCUSSION OF COSTS:

- a. D. Bernardoni lists the costs included in the total of \$12,650:
 

A. \$5,000 towards food	F. \$750 for prizes
B. \$3,000 for marketing	G. \$1,000 for tents
C. \$500 for stage	H. \$300 for shirts
D. \$100 for park fees	I. \$1,000 for entertainment
E. \$500 for generator	J. \$500 for generator
F. \$200 for tables and chairs	K. \$300 for face painter

S. Silva recommends adding the cost emergency preparedness kits to donate at the event. Jeff Stansfield encourages the board to reduce its costs for food. \$5,000 is more than what it should cost.

- b. C. McFarland introduces a motion in regards to the renaming event: 1. Rescind the original motion allocating \$5,000 for the Renaming Event and 2. allocate up to \$15,000 towards the event.**

**MOTION BY C. McFARLAND**

**SECONDED BY B. McRAE**

Discussion: B. McRae recommends executing a focused marketing strategy with different approaches for different populations in the community. He also recommends getting bids for food in order to find the best cost.

**Resolved: 13-0-2 in favor of motion. D. Bernardoni and E. Doxsee abstain.**

7. Discussion regarding Environmental Assessment report for proposed Dodgers Dreamfield at Lake Balboa Park (Beilenson Park) – Possible Motion – Bernardoni

#### BOARD COMMENT

- a. D. Bernardoni – The Dodgers would like to build a park designed to be used by disabled children. The E.I.R. about the proposed field is finished. The LBNC would like the community’s opinion about the park. The EIR includes three alternatives: 1. Building the park as planned, 2. Not building the park at all, or 3. Building the park in an alternative location at Sepulveda Basin Sports Complex.
- b. Paul Davis, representative from Recreation and Parks: The comments from the stakeholders will be heard at the meeting. Representatives from Rec. and Parks will not respond at this time. The board can assemble the public comments and provide them to Rec. and Parks. Rec. and Parks will bring the information before the Board of Rec. and Parks Commissioners. There are 8 more days for submitting written comments. The comments can be sent to: Paul Davis /1200 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Street/Los Angeles, CA 90017. Fax the comments to 213-928-9180. Please mail the comments as well. The department will consider the public comments around the end of March or first part of April at the earliest. Those who send comments will receive a notice of receipt and a date when the comments will be addressed.
- c. J. MacKinnon, L. Reveen, and S. Silva would prefer to have the field built at the sports center. They would like the park to be built, but the proposed location is currently in the passive location of the park. Moe also has concerns about monitoring the activity of the children when the field is closed officially. A. Nelson thinks the location of the park isolates the disabled children. The sports center would bring the children together. E. Jespersen walks around Lake Balboa three or four times a week. The proposed location of the park is the most beautiful spot in the park.
- d. L. Pruet believes that the proposed location is perfect. The universal access playground is near the current location. The restrooms by the location are already equipped for universal access. The surrounding area would be fully equipped for disabled children. She remains concerned about the reality of maintaining security during off-hours.
- A. Principal Grounds Manager for Rec. and Parks – The baseball will be fenced and locked during off-hours. Signage and supervision by life guards will keep people from misusing the diamond. The costs of relocating the diamond will exceed the amount provided by the L.A. Dodgers. It might not be possible to build it anywhere else.

- e. D. Bernardoni supports the Dodgers Dream Field at the proposed location. He was initially concerned about the location, but he believes now that the location is best because of the convenience of the nearby universal access playground and universal access bathrooms.
- f. S. Leffert is most concerned about the maintenance of the ball field.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

- g. Carmen Sigura, resident of Lake Balboa for 2 years – She has a petition with over 200 signatures of Lake Balboa residents who would like the field to be built where it is proposed.
- h. Sylvia Matchett – She has lived across the street from Lake Balboa for 43 years. The project needs to be built, but not where it is planned. She recommends building in Woodley Park. There is a universal access playground in the area, and there is adequate parking. The parking near Lake Balboa will not accommodate the buses and cars. The fence around the baseball diamond will be an eyesore. There is not enough space or enough parking to accommodate the traffic.
- i. Glenn Bailey – The Committee voted against this project as proposed. They included a note stating their approval of the park in another location. In his personal opinion, he believes that building the park there will be a land grab. The proximity of the lake threatens the safety of the disabled children using the park. The bathrooms, cited as universal access, do not have automatic flush installed. This violates the ADA conditions. The maintenance staff will not be sufficient to maintain the park, especially when the scheduled cleaning times are reduced because of a limited budget. The building of the park will also endanger the wildlife in the area.
- j. Holly Bassman - She has worked with disabled children for 15 years. The need to help the children supersedes all aesthetic and logistical concerns. Rejecting this plan will give Lake Balboa a bad name among the community of people living with disabled children. She encourages the board to establish Lake Balboa as a community that supports the need of disabled children.
- k. Karen Pearson - Her son has Cerebral Palsy, and she urges the board to take advantage of the opportunity for him and other disabled children.
- l. Dan Gomez - He coaches special needs children. The location is appropriate because the children require special conditions. Playing near hundreds of able-bodied children is impossible for children with certain disabilities.

- m. Sharon Brewer – The diamond will not be in use the majority of the time. The field will disturb the aesthetics of the area. The fence will disrupt the open space. The EIR did not include a proper study of the possible effects on birds. The study consisted of only one day’s observation. The park has no security, and the field will be fenced in, so the disabled children who do not attend the schools will not be able to take advantage of the park. The Department of Rec. and Parks did not make proper attempts to inform the public of its windows of opportunity for providing comments.
- n. Carol Knowles – People need to embrace those with special needs. Approving of the project will include and support the entire population.

#### BOARD DISCUSSION

- o. S. Silva – It is not good to question the values of the board members in order to defend the building of the diamond at Lake Balboa.

- p. S. Leffert –The maintenance issue will persist anywhere it is built. The diamond will consist of about 4 percent of the park. The view will be hampered by the fence, but not much because it is chain link not solid. The diamond will likely be used frequently because there are five special education schools near the park. The parking issue will not likely be as much of an issue at the times when the children are using the diamond during the late morning and early afternoon during the week, not weekends.
- q. B. Mojallal – Voting against the current location of the park is not a blow directed to handicapped children. The location of the park is a separate issue.
- r. D. Bernardoni calls the issue to a vote. He acknowledges that everyone has strong emotions about the issue.
- s. **C. McFarland introduces a motion to support alternative 1 in the EIR.**

**MOTION BY C. McFARLAND  
 SECONDED BY L. PRUETT  
 Resolved: 5-7-1 – The motion fails.**

**S. Silva introduces a second motion stating the board’s support of alternative 3 stating that the location of the park be at the Sepulveda Basin Sports Center.**  
**MOTION BY S. SILVA  
 SECONDED BY L. REVEEN  
 Resolved: 7-0-6. Motion passes. D. Bernardoni abstains.**  
 D. Bernardoni plans to write a letter to Paul Davis describing the board’s motion.

- 8. Discussion regarding Proposition B in the March Ballot – Possible Motion – Bernardoni
  - a. C. McFarland does not think the board should take a position on propositions. Those who would like to comment on the proposition are free to do so.
  - b. L. Pruet – A note from Councilman Greg Smith says that the vote to place the item on the ballot was not an endorsement of the measure. After voting to place the item on the ballot, financial analyses of the proposition were released. The information in the financial analyses exposed rate costs. Had he known about these costs before the council vote, he would not have voted to place it on the ballot.
  - c. S. Leffert – Neighborhood Newswire from LADWP sent out information exposing the attempts by DWP to withhold information about the financial costs. He opposes the methodology of the DWP in bringing the proposition to the public.
    - A. Stakeholder recommends that the board oppose the methods of the DWP in an official motion.
    - B. Jeff Stansfield also believes that it is the board’s responsibility to provide its opinion about local political methods.
  - d. Evan Doxsee mentions that environmental concerns about solar energy include the construction of high energy transmission lines in virgin areas.
  - e. **The board takes no action on this agenda item.**

9. Unfinished Business

a. There is no unfinished business.

10. Adjournment

**E. Doxsee introduces a motion to adjourn.**

**MOTION BY EVAN DOXSEE**

**SECONDED BY T. POLLOCK**

**Resolved: 14-0-1 in favor of motion. D. Bernardoni abstains.**

Meeting is adjourned at 10:12 p.m.