

Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council Board Meeting
 Wednesday, May 6, 2009, 7:30 pm
 Lake Balboa Studios
 7412 Balboa Blvd.
 Lake Balboa, CA 91406

D. Bernardoni	Pres., Residential Representative	P
E. Doxsee	Youth Rep.	A
Sylvia Silva	Residential Rep.	A
Amber Savastio	Communications Officer, Business Rep.	P
Linda Pruett	2 nd VP, EP Committee Chair	P
Ivan Tjoe	1 st VP, Residential Rep.	P
Steve Leffert	Secretary	P
Clay McFarland	Treasurer, Business Rep.	P
Bahman Mojallal (Moe)	At-Large Appointed Rep.	A (arrived at 8:15 p.m.)
Elmer Jespersen	Senior Rep.	P
Teresa Pollock	Residential Rep.	A
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

1. Welcome and Introductions
 - a. D. Bernardoni opens the meeting at 7:33 p.m.
2. Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda and Approval of Minutes of the April 1, 2009 Meeting
 - a. **C. McFarland introduces a motion to adopt the agenda. J. Baird seconds. (11-0-1) Motion passes. D. Bernardoni abstains.**
 - b. **S. Leffert introduces a motion to approve the minutes of the April 1, 2009 meeting. L. Pruett seconds. (11-0-1) Motion passes. D. Bernardoni abstains.**
 - c. **C. McFarland introduces a motion to approve the meeting minutes of April 9, 2009. S. Leffert seconds. (11-0-1) D. Bernardoni abstains.**
3. Election of New Officers of the Board
 - a. President – L. Pruett nominates D. Bernardoni. Bernardoni accepts nomination. I. Tjoe seconds. (11-0-1) – **D. Bernardoni is elected President.**
 - b. 1st Vice President – I. Tjoe nominates C. McFarland. J. Baird seconds. B. McRae nominates L. Reveen. A. Savastio seconds. Both accept nomination. Vote results: C. McFarland (8-0-4), L. Reveen (6-0-6) **C. McFarland is elected 1st Vice President.**
 - c. 2nd Vice President – C. McFarland nominates L. Pruett. J. Baird seconds. Pruett accepts nomination. (11-0-1) **L. Pruett is elected 2nd Vice-President.**
 - d. Secretary – L. Pruett nominates S. Leffert. L. Reveen seconds. Leffert accepts nomination. (11-0-1) **S. Leffert is elected secretary.**
 - e. Treasurer – B. McRae nominates I. Tjoe. L. Pruett seconds. Tjoe accepts nomination. (11-0-1) - I. Tjoe is elected treasurer.
 - f. Communications Officer – L. Reveen nominates A. Nelson. J. Baird seconds. Nelson accepts. (11-0-1) – **A. Nelson is elected communications officer.**
4. Announcements and Reports – LAPD, Local, City, State, and Federal Representatives, Board Members and Others, Committee Reports

- a. Frank Barnos – rep. for Tony Cárdenas’ office, filling in for L. Levitan – Stakeholder informs Mr. Barnos of destruction of newly paved road. Barnos will contact Street Services. Council member Cárdenas and Senator Padilla hosting Battle of the Bands event.
- b. John Bwarie, Council member Greg Smith’s rep. – Councilmember Smith sits on City Budget and Finance Committee. Mayor’s budget is a 7 billion dollar budget with several caveats. Mayor’s budget allocates \$45,000 annually to each neighborhood council. City Council’s B&F Committee recommended changes to budget, allocating approximately \$11,000 for each neighborhood council’s annual budget. Rollover moneys would remain with the neighborhood councils in this plan. The decision will depend on the vote and the condition of the rest of the CA budget. The budget is due before the Mayor by June 1. If the City Council does not present a revised budget by June 1, the Mayor’s budget is automatically adopted. If the Mayor does not respond within five days, the City Councils’ budget will be adopted. The neighborhood council members can protest the decision to slash their annual budgets at City Council meetings. Take care to find out the correct time at the council meeting for testimonials.

Jeff Stanfield, Red Cross Volunteer – Would like the neighborhood councils to have continued support. Would like to know when to testify at next City Council meeting. LBNC will indicate that information on the website.

- c. Update regarding City Budget and report on Lake Balboa Day – Bernardoni – Council will write letters to Councilman Smith voicing displeasure on budget reduction of neighborhood councils. Also, Lake Balboa Day was a success.
- d. Update regarding funding for emergency containers – Pruett – DONE rep. informed Pruett that LBNC could not have bin at Stag Street Elem. School. Reason is that City Attorney was concerned about potential liability for lockdown of school. Bin is not on school grounds. Separate from the school property in an enclosed fence. School pleased with location of E.P. DONE disapproved of the use of NC funds for E.P. purchases. Pruett invited General Manager of DONE and Mr. Featherstone of City Attorney’s office to visit bins. Both visited and issued no complaints in front of Ms. Pruett and other LBNC member present. City Attorney’s rep. spoke against the E.P. bins at City meeting, citing the Charter that neighborhood councils serves in an advisory capacity. Pruett asked for meeting with Council member Smith. LBNC would like to hold open house at bins soon. EP Committee meeting will be Saturday, May 9, 2009 at 9 a.m. Board will be writing Council member Greg Smith to inform him of details. Requests donations of plastic bins for storage of EP supplies. Communications Committee meeting will be on May 11 at 7 p.m. at Flyaway Bus Terminal.

A. S. Leffert – The first paragraph of Article 9 of 1999 City Charter states that the neighborhood councils serve an advisory role. The City Attorney cited this as evidence that the LBNC should not spend its funds on emergency preparedness supplies. The rest of the charter states that (1) “DONE shall facilitate the delivery of City services to the neighborhood by helping to identify and coordinate the needs of the communities and responsibilities of the City departments”, (2) “coordinating and involving the relevant City staff for problem solving with neighborhood councils”, and “neighborhood councils may spend funds on neighborhood improvement projects as long as the appropriations of moneys for neighborhood improvement projects have been approved under the administrative process established by DONE.” DONE approved the expenditure of funds for the purchase of emergency preparedness supplies. The City Attorney, while helpful in other matters, has impeded the work of the LBNC in this regard.

B. Safety notices about cell phone towers – Controversy over installation of cell phone towers near schools. Possible health hazard. Encino Park office buildings at the corner

of Victory and Balboa planned for location of wireless towers. Building is across the street from Birmingham High School. S. Leffert would like to add discussion of installation of cell phones on next agenda.

5. Public Comment
 - a. Raymond Yu: Announcements from Raymond Yu
 - b. Jeff Stanfield, Red Cross volunteer/stakeholder - Enjoyed Lake Balboa Day.
6. Brief response from Board to statements made or questions posed by persons exercising their general public comment rights
7. Discussion regarding Neighborhood Council Election Procedures Stipulation – Motion – Bernardoni
 - a. City Clerk is taking over elections. Sent 2010 Neighborhood Council Election Procedures Stipulation Worksheet to all neighborhood councils. Chair asked board members to look over sheet. The Chair's choices for the worksheet follow:
 1. Administration of Elections – Elections will be conducted by the City Clerk every 2 years between March and June on every even-numbered year. Rules and regulations developed by City Clerk shall take precedence over inconsistent language in NC bylaws.
 2. Stakeholder Definition: Neighborhood Council membership is open to all Stakeholders. "Stakeholders" shall be defined as those who live, work, or own property in the neighborhood and also to those who declare a stake in the neighborhood and affirm the factual basis for it.
 3. Method for Verifying Stakeholder Status
Voters will verify their Stakeholder status through self-affirmation. Stakeholder status may also be established by means of declaring a stake (or interest) in the neighborhood and providing facts to support that declaration.
 4. Declaring a Stake in the Neighborhood Council in Districts Based on Participation/Membership in an Organization, Group, or Place of Worship
Option is not applicable. The Neighborhood Council does not have districts.
 5. Minimum voting age is 18 years old.
 6. Board Terms: Beginning with the City Clerk conducted election held between March and June of 2010, a Board member's term shall be for the duration of two years or until a successor is elected or appointed.
 7. Appointed Board Seats: The NC uses the appointment clause in their bylaws. The appointment of Board seats shall be conducted according to Article IV, Section 4.01 of the NC bylaws. The appointed seat shall have a term of 1 year.
 8. Vacancy Clause: The NC uses the vacancy clause in their bylaws. A vacancy on the Board shall be filled according to Article IV, Section 4.05 of the NC Bylaws. The appointed applicant's term shall be limited to the term for the vacated seat.
 9. Governing Board Composition and Voting: All Stakeholders must have the ability to participate on your Board by having the ability to be seated as a Board Member and vote. You must have at least one "at large" seat to accommodate those Stakeholders who "declare a stake in the neighborhood. This "at large" seat can be accommodated either within one of the existing Board positions OR by adding no more than one "at large " seat to the existing Board. The additional seat CANNOT be added where the "at large" seat already exists on the Board.
 10. Voting Model – Where a NC has varying ballot types that are issued according to a voter's Stakeholder status, the City Clerk strongly recommends that the NC provide a defined voting model. Please attach your voting model describing with Stakeholders are allowed to vote for which NC seats as attachment B.
 11. Declaring Candidacy for Positions on the Board – A candidate shall declare their candidacy for no more than one position on the Neighborhood Council Board during a single election cycle.

C. McFarland introduces motion to approve the stipulation worksheet as presented and with the addition of the attachment B which would attach the sample voting model used in the election of 2008. B. McRae seconds. (11-0-1) Motion passes. D. Bernardoni abstains.

8. Discussion regarding funding and representation at Valley Regional Congress of Neighborhood Councils event May 30, 2009 – Possible Motion – Bernardoni
- a. All NC members are invited and expected to attend Valley Regional Congress of Neighborhood Councils on May 30, 2009 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Valley Regional Congress requests donation from \$1,000-\$2,000 .

Discussion: **C. McFarland** is opposed to using neighborhood council funding for a project disconnected from Lake Balboa. **S. Leffert** encourages the neighborhood councils to work together, particularly over budget matters. Contributions would encourage productive, open exchange of ideas. Would like to support event while the council still has the funds. **J. Stansfield** believes that \$1,000 is too much. Contributing maybe \$5-10 per board member would be a good idea. Money would go towards cost of event, projected costs include \$15,000. **Sharon Brewer** would like to see a copy of the budget. Also wonders how the Valley Regional Council will pay for the event if the neighborhood councils provide limited donations. **Bernardoni** offers to show Ms. Brewster the budget provided to board members.

S. Leffert introduces motion to support NC event in the amount of \$1,000. B. McRae seconds.

Discussion: **S. Leffert** - the money would be an investment towards the collaborative spirit of the council. Not all councils will be able to contribute, and helping out will encourage collaboration. **A. Savastio** - The event will be taking place after the budget has been approved, no possible influence on outcome of the vote on next year's budget for neighborhood councils. (Savastio) **M. Canas** – Re: neighborhood councils' budget, Mayor's Office's plan is to cut it down from \$50,000 to \$45,000. City Council's recommendations are to cut down from \$50,000 to \$11,000. The neighborhood councils can put pressure on the city council to change its minds. Next week, on Tuesday, City Council will hear full recommendations. Re: donations to Valley Regional Council, other neighborhood councils have supported. Will be recognized in program and possibly on other promotional materials. Total budget for event is from \$17,000-18,000. **DONE** has provided \$12,500. Money will go towards Channel 35 camera crews and towards food. **DONE** is stepping back and letting neighborhood councils support them because the event is for the benefit of neighborhood councils. They are strategy sessions for effective political actions. Topics will be changes to the Sunshine laws and the use of technology to collaborate. **B. McRae** - Do board members who have attended the event feel that the congress effectively helps the neighborhood councils to create a cohesive stronger voice. Would like to help if the conference would be useful. **I. Tjoe** - suggests that they do provide some funding. They can contribute \$50 for each attendee. **B. McRae offers an amendment to change the dollar amount from \$1,000 to \$500. L. Pruett seconds. S. Leffert accepts friendly amendment. Vote on amendment: (11-1-1) – Motion passes. J. MacKinnon opposes. D. Bernardoni abstains. In favor of motion as amended – 9-3-1 – A. Savastio, C. McFarland, and J. MacKinnon oppose. D. Bernardoni abstains. Motion passes.**

9. Reconciliation of Invoices and possible Increase in budget for the April 25, 2009 “Lake Balboa Day” event – Possible Motion – McFarland

- a. **S. Leffert** – **B. Mojallal** spent personal funds for the Lake Balboa event. The total costs expended by **B. Mojallal** is \$2,227.50.

S. Leffert introduces motion that the Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council pay to CBM Special Events a fee for event planning services in the amount of \$2,227.50 for the Lake Balboa Day event of April 25, 2009. C. McFarland seconds. Resolved: (11-0-2) Motion passes – B. Mojallal recuses himself. D. Bernardoni abstains.

10. Discussion regarding LBNC's participation in Public Safety Event/Granada Hills Street Faire on October 3, 2009 – Possible Motion – Pruett

- a. **The following resolution, having been duly agendized, came before the Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council for presentation, discussion, and Action at its regular meeting on May 6, 2009. Following discussion on all sides of the issue and review of the resolution, the LBNC by consensus of a majority of the members present, (number of votes:12-0-1) has adopted the following resolution in accordance with the Neighborhood Council bylaws and within the guidelines set forth by the City of Los Angeles and the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment.**

Whereas, the North Valley Preparedness Team is planning to hold a North Valley Public Safety Event in conjunction with the Granada Hills Street Fair.....

...be it hereby resolved that the LBNC will participate and that expenditures of up to \$1,000 will be approved for support of the venture. L. Pruett introduces motion. B. McRae seconds.

Discussion: **A. Savastio** – What will we be buying? Would like branding for LBNC on purchases. **L. Pruett** - Do not know that the items the money will purchase. Can give out promotional information with the donations. **C. McFarland** - has this been run through by DONE? **M. Canas** – there is precedent. Not familiar with details

Resolved: (12-0-1) - Motion passes. D. Bernardoni abstains.

11. Discussion regarding expenditure for shelving/storage unit at Lake Balboa Studios for storage of LBNC materials – Possible Motion – Leffert

- a. Moe has given us storage space. Some materials are outdated and need to be recycled. Getting a 48" shelving unit would help the NC get organized. The cost would be \$89. **Leffert moves that the LBNC spend up to \$150 for shelving storage unit for use in Lake Balboa Studios. I. Tjoe seconds. B. McRae would like to hive him the option of spending more to avoid having to go back. B. McRae offers friendly amendment of \$200. S. Leffert accepts. A. Savastio seconds. VOTE ON AMENDMENT: (12-0-1) – D. Bernardoni abstains. Motion passes. VOTE ON MOTION: (12-0-1) – Motion passes. D. Bernardoni abstains.**

12. Discussion regarding additional funding for EP bins – Possible Motion – Pruett –

L. Pruett withdraws this motion in light of DONE's and City Attorney's suggestion that neighborhood councils do not use funds for emergency preparedness purchases.

13. Unfinished Business

- a. **D. Bernardoni** attended Easter Egg Hunt that the LBNC helped sponsor. There was no obvious indication that LBNC had contributed towards the event. The announcers did mention the sponsorship and include the information in the flyer. However, there was no signage visible throughout the day. Would like to propose that the LBNC follow through with organizations they sponsor to ensure more prominent acknowledgement of the LBNC's contributions.
- b. **B. Mojallal** requests informal meeting with some members of the board on outreach efforts. He would like to see a full house. The board members can think of inexpensive ways to encourage community involvement.

14. Adjournment

- a. **C. McFarland introduces motion to adjourn. A. Savastio seconds. (12-0-1) – Motion passes. D. Bernardoni abstains.**

Meeting is adjourned at 9:40 p.m.