

Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council Board Meeting  
 Wednesday, August 5, 2009, 7:30 pm  
 Lake Balboa Studios  
 7412 Balboa Blvd.  
 Lake Balboa, CA 91406

D. Bernardoni	Pres., Residential Representative	P (arrived at 7:43 p.m.)
E. Doxsee	Youth Rep.	P
Sylvia Silva	Residential Rep.	P
Amber Savastio	Communications Officer, Business Rep.	A
Linda Pruet	2 <sup>nd</sup> VP, EP Committee Chair	A (Excused)
Ivan Tjoe	Treasurer	P (arrived at 8:15 p.m.)
Steve Leffert	Secretary	P
Clay McFarland	Vice Chair, Business Rep.	P
Bahman Mojallal (B. Mojallal)	At-Large Appointed Rep.	P
Elmer Jespersen	Senior Rep.	A
Teresa Pollock	Residential Rep.	A (excused)
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 (arrived at 7:40 p.m.)

1. Welcome and Introductions

C. McFarland opens the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

2. Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda and Approval of Minutes of the July 1 and July 7, 2009 Meetings

S. Leffert requests to move items #10 and #11 in front of agenda items #6 to accommodate Officer Paredes' schedule.

**J. MacKinnon introduces a motion to adopt the amended agenda. B. Mojallal seconds. (8-0-1) Motion passes. C. McFarland abstains.**

S. Silva makes corrections to July 1 minutes. **B. Mojallal introduces a motion to approve the minutes of the July 1, 2009 meeting. J. MacKinnon seconds. (8-0-1) Motion passes. C. McFarland abstains.**

**A. Nelson introduces motion to approve minutes of July 7 special meeting. B. Mojallal seconds. (8-0-1) Motion passes. C. McFarland abstains.**

3. Announcements and Reports – LAPD, Local, City, State, and Federal Representatives, Board Members and Others, Committee Reports

- a. Officer Paredes – Less graffiti found in Sherman Way Tunnel since installation of cameras. National Night Out was a success. Officer Paredes is attempting to reduce crime in the Louise Park by issuing stay-away orders to people committing crimes in the Louise Park area. S. Leffert asks Officer Paredes if LBNC can make any supporting motion. Officer Paredes says, no, not at this time. Stakeholder asks about possible increases of crime as a result of medical marijuana dispensaries. Officer Paredes says very little can be done by LAPD because dispensaries operate through a loophole in city regulations.

- b. Lynda Levitan – Family Film Night at government center on August 29. Second one will be on September 19, 2009. Clean up on September 19 at LA River. Deaf Festival is September 26. Please read CD11 newsletter. Trying to secure two new cameras that will distinguish car license plates in Sherman Way Tunnel. Upcoming community beautification grants workshops. 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Senior/Veterans Health Fair at Japanese Gardens. Free flu shots will be available.
  - c. Melvin Cañas – Project coordinator for DONE - Regional Roundtable and Training will be on September 12 from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at 6262 Van Nuys Blvd., and Neighborhood Council Congress will be on October 10 from 7:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. at City Hall. Presents survey to council members assessing usefulness of various city services. City Clerk will be doing elections. Outreach effort depends on neighborhood councils. DONE will be holding workshops with neighborhood council on how to plan outreach process. Will be September 10 at 6 p.m.
  - d. John Bwarie from Councilmember Smith’s office – Thanks to those who attended National Night Out. Councilmember has publicly thanked Chief Bratton for his services. CM Smith put in a motion two weeks ago requesting a change of water restrictions.
  - e. J. MacKinnon – Meeting at August 12 at 9:30 a.m. at Sepulveda Golf Center in banquet rooms regarding proposed ball field to be built in Lake Balboa. Lake Balboa should remain a passive park.
4. Public Comment
- a. Art Fox – Notifies council of meeting regarding change of 76 gas station to liquor store at corner of Victory Blvd. and Hayvenhurst. Mr. Fox is against the idea. LBNC has opposed the construction of another liquor store in the area.
  - b. Linda Hurt - Street cleaner has not been cleaning street because trash cans are out on the sidewalk. John of CD1 says that budget cuts have severely limited the frequency of street cleaning. Best option is to contact 311. Ms. Hurt would like to get rid of recycling centers in San Fernando Valley. Day laborers at Home Depot are disturbing her. B. Mojallal suggests writing letter to Home Depot manager to keep day laborers off their property. Lynda Levitan says that CD1 has worked to control the problem and will continue to do so.
  - c. Sharon Brewer – The meeting on August 12 at 9:30 a.m. is held by Recreation and Parks Commissioners. All park issues can be addressed there. Clean-up on August 22<sup>nd</sup> from 9 a.m. to 12. Ms. Brewer is the Parks representative for Encino NC.
5. Brief response from Board to statements made or questions posed by persons exercising their general public comment rights  
No response.
6. Discussion regarding proposed Wireless Telecommunication Facility at 17321 Sherman Way – Possible Motion – Leffert

Discussion: Leffert says that facility will be shaped like an Italian cypress tree. Tower will be 45-ft., much higher than the rest of the trees. Stakeholder living next to the tower does not want it near his property. Other stakeholder says that cell phone waves disrupt the function of pacemakers. He lives near a different tower and says he hears continual low-pitch sound from the tower. I. Tjoe used to be a rep. for phone companies rolling out new programs. He does not think that there are conclusive studies on the alleged health risks of proximity to cell towers.

Walter Gerecki, works for Synergy and is representing T-Mobile. Cell tower is designed to hide antennas. T-Mobile is willing to relocate the tower to the other side of the property. The Church

board has to vote on the decision. The area will fill a gap in coverage. It is the only area on private property there they can install the tower without going into the right-of-way. T-Mobile had 3rd party study the emissions of the cell towers. The emissions are comparable to those that would emit from a wireless router. The equipment will be under the ground, reducing the amount of noise emissions. The height is necessary to fill the gap. If the height were lowered, the shadow would fall on the church.

B. McRae would like to know the impact of the emissions on churchgoers. According to Gerecki, churchgoer says that new location of the tower will be close to a hall used infrequently for events. I. Tjoe confirms that T-Mobile is here voluntarily, not mandated by Zoning Board.

**S. Leffert introduces motion that they approve this WTF at 17321 Sherman Way on the condition that the tower is moved to the planter area to the south of the proposed location, approximately 50-70 ft. away from the current location. L. Reveen seconds. (11-0-2) E. Doxsee and D. Bernardoni abstain.**

7. Discussion regarding proposed Wireless Telecommunication Facility at 6345 Balboa Blvd. – Possible motion – Leffert

Item previously on agenda. Council wanted to see map showing comparison of cell tower strength before and after the installation of proposed WTF. People in the building want the WTF.

Representative – Margaret Chang - Proposed WTF would increase strength of UMTS coverage, the format used for data services. Primary reason will be to increase coverage for data services (3G). They had received customer complaints about dropped calls and low signals. No existing antennas on the building. Sprint Nextel is already located on the preferred location of antennae.

**C. McFarland introduces motion that LBNC does not oppose the building of antennas at 6435 Balboa Blvd. B. Mojallal seconds. (8-0-4) S. Silva, I. Tjoe, S. Leffert, and D. Bernardoni abstain.**

8. Discussion regarding expenditure for a neighborhood purposes grant to the Valley Interfaith Council

Request for \$2,500.00

Discussion: S. Leffert does not think that the food banks need to be in Lake Balboa to help the Lake Balboa community. L. Reveen wonders about requirements. Ms. Abrams says that different food banks have different requirements. Interfaith has Meals on Wheels, hot food to the homebound, and (There are 12 members of the coalition, most of them religious institutions. VIF is a 501-3C. Funded through Dept. of Aging to help seniors and to help families in distress.) Sharon Brewer wonders how outreach to Lake Balboa is done. Ms. Abrams informs her that outreach about food bank is done at neighborhood council meetings, through churches, and word-of-mouth.

Social service is funded through City of LA's Dept. of Aging. B. McRae asks if there is support from local churches and other religious institutions. Ms. Abrams says yes, they hold fundraisers in the community frequently. Ninety percent of funds goes to services. Many volunteers help. B. McRae, as an individual, would support this. Wants to make sure that the funds should go towards the community. C. McFarland says that BOD of Interfaith is truly inter-faith.

S. Leffert is unsure about funding procedure for DONE. Ms. Abrams would be happy to come to finance committee meeting or to work with treasurer. S. Silva asks about the benefit to stakeholders

in Lake Balboa. Pantries in coalition are in Van Nuys, Reseda, North Hollywood, Woodland Hills, etc. She knows that people travel outside of their neighborhoods to seek help from food shelters.

**S. Leffert moves that LBNC provide \$2,500 for neighborhood purposes grant to Valley Interfaith Council. J. MacKinnon seconds. (9-0-1) E. Doxsee and D. Bernardoni abstains. (I. Tjoe is away from chair.)**

Discussion: B. McRae asks how much money is left for grants. There is \$3,000 for grants. VIF will have an ad with all sponsors. Pantries will put out signs thanking local sponsors.

9. Discussion regarding Castle & Cooke – Maguire Aviation negative review

D. Bernardoni - LBNC voted to approve Castle & Cooke project with some conditions. Board received letter from Maguire Aviation. Waiting to hear from LAWA for decision. No representative from Maguire Aviation or Castle & Cooke present.

10. Discussion regarding Louise Park – vagrants, drug use/prostitution, and law enforcement

Officer Paredes has informed the committee that there is no motion that the LBNC can make at this time to help the situation.

11. Discussion regarding fireworks at Birmingham High School on July 3, 2009

S. Silva asks Officer Paredes for any information about the explosion going off at Birmingham High School. He does not know anything yet. He should have information within 30 days.

12. Discussion regarding an apartment / condo project at 7355 – 7361 Balboa Blvd.

S. Leffert says that Planning Commission had no explanation of how zoning got changed to RD1.5, allowing condos. New project is for 14-unit apt. building with no guest parking. Spoke to Daniel Skolmick from Councilman Cardenas' office. CD 6 office would approve project if it were done as condo specs, not an apt. building. (These could be converted to condos.)

Developer - Property owner's name is Uzi Levy. They had submitted for change of zone. Combined two properties. Now requesting to put 14-unit apt. /condo building on that site. Two stories of residential over ground floor parking. Height will be approximately same as building to the south of them. Ground floor parking and two-story residential lot there. Wanted comment from LBNC before completing final design.

D. Bernardoni does not feel that he has time to look over the plans. They have not been to our planning committee. Could have a special meeting this month and bring back findings to the LBNC. Please submit plans to LBNC and they will arrange special planning meeting.

13. Discussion regarding establishing a Community food collection center for MEND for distribution to local food banks

Donation for food banks has dropped. MEND is collecting donations of non-perishable foods . Could let community know via newsletter and collect non-perishable goods. Create a collection site and

include it in the newsletter. B. McRae suggests taking the item to committee. B. Mojallal offers to provide boxes one –three days per week.

M. Cañas says that neighborhood councils cannot take donations. MEND would put up a box and collect donations. No need for a vote. L. Pruett can contact them and they will provide a box.

14. Discussion regarding broken sidewalks and the City’s responsibilities

Southland Regional Association of Realtors are having town hall meetings trying to find solution for sidewalks in disrepair. 50/50 program is cancelled. Plans call for requiring people selling houses to pay for sidewalk repair before completing sale. They also have other city-mandated expenses. SRAR will probably have another meeting. Should be working on alternatives for program to get sidewalks repaired in City of Los Angeles. Neighborhood council member should attend next town hall meeting.

15. Discussion regarding a call for Special Meeting in August regarding DONE, the City Attorney’s office, and the Council’s plans for Emergency Preparation

S. Leffert - General Manager of DONE might be in attendance at LBNC’s September meeting. Would like to invite rep. from City Attorney’s office and general manager to September meeting. Melvin Cañas is not sure that the general manager will be available. If they cannot attend September meeting we could call for a special meeting in August.

16. Unfinished Business

No representative from LBNC was at National Night Out. D. Bernardoni expresses his disappointment at lost opportunity for outreach.

17. Adjournment

**J. Baird introduces motion to adjourn. I. Tjoe seconds. (11-0-1) D. Bernardoni abstains.**  
Meeting is adjourned at 9:58 p.m.