

FINAL

Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council Board Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, March 1, 2017 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. Approximately 14 stakeholders were present.

1. Roll Call, board members satisfied quorum of 9.

Carla Bautista	At-Large Appointed SR	P
James Brown	Residential Stakeholder Representative (RSR); 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	P
Ruth Doxsee	OSR	E
Kristen Fujitaki	At-Large Appointed SR	P
Linda Gravani	Business Stakeholder Representative (BSR); President	P
Byron Gutierrez	At-Large Elected CISR	P
James Hart	RSR; Treasurer	P; Arrived 7:15pm
Sandy Joseph	RSR, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	P; Arrived 8:25pm
Cindy Kurland	RSR	P
Madeleine McKay	Youth Stakeholder Representative	P; Arrived 8:10pm
Allen Nelson	Organizational Stakeholder Representative (OSR)	P
Carol Newman	BSR; Secretary	P
Mary L Pennomon	Senior Stakeholder Representative	P
Linda Pruet	OSR	P
Tom Riley	RSR	P
Karen Schatz	RSR	E
Jim Stein	BSR; 2 <sup>nd</sup> signer	P

2. **PRESIDENT'S UPDATE:** Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council funds have been frozen by the City of Los Angeles because of their demand that Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council change our webmaster. There are NO extra copies of tonight's agenda or financial reports due to the fact that the Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council credit card was terminated. We cannot get the city discount for printing. Since Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council funds are frozen, any funding item will be for budget updates and in the future when the funds are released the Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council projects will have already been identified.

3. **ADOPTED Agenda:** James Brown brought a motion to adopt the Agenda for March 1, 2017, seconded by Mary Pennomon

**12 AYES:** Bautista, Brown, Fujitaki, Gravani, Gutierrez, Kurland, Nelson, Newman, Pennomon, Pruet, Riley, Stein

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

4. **Approval of Minutes:** Carol Newman *brought a motion to approve the February 1, 2017 Meeting Minutes, seconded by James Brown*

**12 AYES:** Bautista, Brown, Fujitaki, Gravani, Gutierrez, Kurland, Nelson, Newman, Pennomon, Pruet, Riley, Stein

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

5. **RECEIVED Announcements and Reports by LAPD, Local, City, County, State and Federal Representatives**

A. **LAPD Officer "Sal" Parra, [34488@lapd.online](mailto:34488@lapd.online)**

On the south side of Burbank between Balboa and Woodley "no trespassing" signs have been put up, so that people trespassing in that area now can be arrested. In the past, it couldn't be done. On March 8, 2017, the City will go in with sanitation trucks and clean up the area. A lot of property crimes are coming from people in that area. There are also believed to be sex offenders there. We offer resources, but a lot of the people don't accept them.

B. **Officer Olivaras, [34728@lapd.lacity.org](mailto:34728@lapd.lacity.org)**

We are working on the adult entertainment industry (strip clubs). This is very important to Councilwoman Martinez. We used to be able to send vice operatives. If you see people doing anything in cars, call the LAPD, 1-877-ASK-LAPD.

C. **Barry Stone, DONE**

The Empower LA awards will take place on March 30, 2017. RSVPs should be submitted ASAP as space is limited. The City Clerk has taken over the funding for the NCs. Email to submit funding requests and inquiries to [clerk.lacity.org](mailto:clerk.lacity.org). The website is being revamped. The City Clerk will be doing round tables throughout the city. For the South Valley the date will be April 4, 2017 and for the North Valley April 10, 2017, location TBA.

June 1, 2017 is the last day to submit funding requests and approval forms. June 7<sup>th</sup> is the last day to issue any payment through the Union Bank accounts. June 11 is the last day the neighborhood council can use the purchase cards until July 1<sup>st</sup>.

The homeless liaison meeting will be downtown on March 2, 2017. On March 18, 2017 from 9:00-11:00am there will be a by-law panel at the Braude Building.

Linda Gravani made the suggestion that the deadlines for the Neighborhood Councils should be on the Empower LA website.

James Hart arrived about 7:15 p.m.

D. **Councilwoman Nury Martinez for District #6**

She discussed **the asphalt facility**. Joan Kelly called her in 2014 when it was 30 feet high. She (Nury) brought a motion to make sure it was covered and figure out a long term solution. It was 30 feet high at the time because the downtown asphalt facility was being remodeled. Now the pile is 6 ½ feet high. A month ago we were contacted again so we began to apply more pressure on the department. We want a long term solution, no more environmental problems. The long term solution is to reduce it and see if we can prevent it from getting into the air. In

the last two years, no one contacted us about it. The department slacked off, and now they need to make sure it is covered. An asphalt seal is being added, it will be tarped, and it will be monitored 2-3 times per week.

With respect to **homeless issues**, she is in the minority on the Council. Her perspective is that we have different types of individuals: chronically homeless, drug users, and people who find it a way of life. Not everyone wants services. District #6 is a magnet. Social issues are being shoved into our district. Nury feels strongly that everyone needs to take on the homeless issue including Bel Air and Brentwood. The largest encampments in the Valley are in her district, but a lot of them come from other areas. Everyone needs to pitch in. Municipal Code 5611 has been amended to not allow tents between 6am and 9pm. Other parts of the city are not enforcing that provision. We should. The city has been sued repeatedly. Without mental health and substance abuse services, it's hard to provide shelter. It's a no-win situation. We are pushing back.

Nury voted against Municipal Code 82.01 (allowing individuals to sleep in their cars), but the City Council passed it in industrial and commercial zones. Our district has the largest industrial and commercial zones in the Valley.

Homeless facilities should be built in every council district.

We are submitting motions to ban oversize vehicles at Haskell and Sherman Way. If you want to do that for your neighborhood, let Lauren Padick know.

Hope Teams are a coalition of LAPD, Bureau of Sanitation, and LAHSA to visit encampments and give them the services they need. A pilot program has been in our district. The team is working with our district every day. There is also a rapid response team to respond to encampments when they are getting started. The LAPD is inundated with this. There is early release from the jails but we didn't build the infrastructure to allow those released to be productive citizens. This is backwards.

The Sepulveda Basin encampment will be cleaned up in the next week or two. It's pretty bad.

**Sidewalk program** – No sidewalks have been repaired in this area for 20 years. The city was sued and now it has to repair sidewalks primarily in the largest transit corridors. Nury has put away \$750,000 to begin repairing sidewalks in our neighborhood. She has asked each community to identify sidewalks that need repair. There are 120 locations in Lake Balboa. To date, 9 have been repaired and 20 are in the process of being repaired. Nury has partnered with a nonprofit that can do it cheaper and faster. If a tree has to come down, so be it. The sidewalks are being uprooted by trees. They should be cut down and replaced.

**Human trafficking** -- The human trafficking task force has been very successful on Sepulveda. The age of the girls is getting younger – they are kids now. Nury put together \$1 million for the task force. A lot of arrests have been made, but we've shifted how we look at these kids. More than 20 pimps have been arrested. We are trying to arrest pimps and johns, but not the kids. Hardcore gang members are involved, as this business is very lucrative.

**Sherman Way tunnel** – It has been improved. \$100,000 worth of work has been done on the tunnel. The Airtel was just purchased.

6.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Jack Pearson: The Moss Group should not be allowed to build a 6-story apartment building on Victory.

### **7. ANNOUNCEMENTS and REPORTS: Committee Chairs and Board Members**

#### **A. President – Linda Gravani**

The Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee elected one member from the Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council and the Encino Neighborhood Council, and then reneged the following month. We will pursue it.

The Valley Alliance of Neighborhood Council meeting will take place on March 9, 2017 at 6:00pm at CBS.

Madeleine McKay arrived at approximately 8:10 p.m.

There is a Homeless Liaison meeting this month. North Hills West Neighborhood Council would like to do a picnic in the park. Funds are still frozen until Aaron DeVandry sends a check.

#### **B. Emergency Preparedness Committee – Linda Pruett**

Seven week CERT classes will begin Thursday, March 2, 2017 at the Magnolia Science Academy at 17125 Victory Boulevard (on the Birmingham campus). The CERT classes will consist of 7 weeks of free classes conducted by the Fire Department. There are 50 signups so far but more can sign up. LBNC is donating CERT bags. The monthly Emergency Preparedness Committee meeting will take place on Saturday, March 11, 2017 at 9:00pm at the Fly Away. Erin Huey will be the speaker

#### **C. Health and Public Safety Committee – James Brown**

The first community meeting teaching and instructing how to survive an active shooter event was held in January. The next active shooter event will be March 18, 2017 at the Flyaway at 10:00am. The guest speaker will be an expert hostage negotiator. In February we held a health class where we offered free CPR. 35 people completed the free training on CPR. The goal is to get 1000 people certified. The next free CPR and first aid class will be April 15, 2017.

#### **D. Homeless – Cindy Kurland**

Nothing to report.

#### **E. Land Use Committee – Tom Riley**

The community was invited to last month's meeting to voice their concerns regarding the asphalt pile. The soot was all over Lake Balboa. At the next meeting, March 20, 2017, we will be inviting representatives of the different city departments to explain where the soot is coming from and what can be done.

#### **F. Recreation & Parks – Jim Stein**

Movies in the Park is scheduled to take place on June 3, 2017. Jim attended the meeting of the Encino Neighborhood Council's Recreation and Parks Committee and they thought we could work together, but they were thinking July at Encino Park. Film LA may be able to supply the

projector, screen, and movie at Woodley Park. The only thing set in stone is the date.

**G. Outreach Committee – Allen Nelson**

The Outreach Committee is unanimously in favor of Making the Arts Real for Youth (#16 on the Agenda). The annual Spring Egg Hunt has been approved. The Committee has held off on Veg Fest because we haven't heard from them. We had a presentation from Kids Fitness Challenge but it didn't go over well.

**H. Ad Hoc Newsletter – Kristen Fujitaki**

There is no newsletter this month due to funds being frozen. Send newsletter articles to Kristen by the 15<sup>th</sup> of March for the April Newsletter.

**I. Ad Hoc Database – Byron Gutierrez**

Nothing to report.

**J. Ad Hoc Bylaws – Linda Pruett**

There will be a report next month.

**K. Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Area Steering Committee (SBWASC) – Cindy Kurland**

Nothing to report.

**L. Sustainability – Brian Gutierrez**

Nothing yet to report.

**M. Youth Affairs – McKay**

She has been coordinating with other students to get an idea of what campus issues there are as well as the issues regarding the homeless problem.

**N. Board members: James Hart**

He went to the Animal Services meeting and kittens are going to be spayed and neutered at six weeks old when they are 1.5 pounds instead of at 4 months old.

Sandy Joseph arrived at approximately 8:25 p.m.

**O. Board members: James Brown**

Printing has been supplied free of charge by the PIP local printer at Sherman Way and Hayvenhurst since the funds have been frozen.

**P. Byron Gutierrez – Ad Hoc Education Committee**

Active parents want to help promote their local public schools. Chess and robotics are getting elementary school kids interested.

**8. Budget Advocate update: Carol Newman**

The final White Paper is in the process of being drafted. The city budget is in the hole by

approximately \$250 million for this fiscal year. They will be issuing their final report to the Mayor at City Hall next week. Regional Budget Day was February 25, 2017 at the Marvin Braude Center.

**9. Treasurer's Report – Review to request adoption of the Monthly Expenditure Report (MER) for December 2016, January 2017, February 2017 – due to accounts being frozen by DONE**

*James Hart brought a motion that Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council approve the MER for January 2017, seconded by James Brown*

**13 AYES:** Bautista, Brown, Fujitaki, Gravani, Gutierrez, Hart, Joseph, Kurland, Nelson, Newman, Pruettt, Riley, Stein

**2 Ineligible:** McKay, Pennomon

**VOTE: (13-0-0-2-0) MOTION PASSES**

*James Hart brought a motion that Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council approve the MER for February 2017, seconded by James Brown*

**13 AYES:** Bautista, Brown, Fujitaki, Gravani, Gutierrez, Hart, Joseph, Kurland, Nelson, Newman, Pruettt, Riley, Stein

**2 Ineligible:** McKay, Pennomon

**VOTE: (13-0-0-2-0) MOTION PASSES**

**10. Discussion and possible action on City Council File 15-1022-S2 regarding Neighborhood Council on-line voting – DONE proposed changes**

We voted in support of the Council File last month – no more online voting till it's ready. DONE sent in changes they wanted to make.

*Linda Gravani brought a motion that Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council oppose the changes that the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment is electing to make, seconded by James Hart*

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

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

**11. Discussion and possible appointment of Animal Services Liaison**

President Gravani appointed Jennifer Freel as Animal Services Liaison and Sandy Joseph as the alternate.

**12. Discussion and possible action regarding CF17-0170 Resolution that the City of LA work in collaboration with No Kill Los Angeles Coalition.**

Byron Gutierrez brought a motion to table this item to the April meeting, seconded by Sandy Joseph.

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

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

**13. Discussion and possible action regarding CF15-1019 Motion that requires the steps and resources necessary to provide assistance to homeless pet owners.**

*Madeleine McKay brought a motion that Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council approve CF15-1019, seconded by James Hart*

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

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

**14. FUNDS: Discussion and possible action to support the Balboa Sports Center Spring Egg Hunt by contributing \$400 for the Magician**

*Jim Stein brought a motion that Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council contribute \$400 for the Magician for the Balboa Sports Center Spring Egg Hunt, seconded by Linda Pruet*

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

**2 INELIGIBLE:** McKay, Pennomon

**VOTE: (13-0-0-2-0) MOTION PASSES**

**15. Discussion and possible action regarding THE KIDS FITNESS CHALLENGE. David Cain of America's Healthy Kids requesting up to \$2,500 possible joint project with Encino Neighborhood Council**  
Item #15 was tabled, to go back to Outreach for further discussion.

**16. FUNDS: Discussion and possible action to support Making the Arts Real for Youth (M.A.R.Y.) by contributing \$550 for the third annual children's community art exhibit and watercolor workshop on March 5, 2017**

*Jim Stein brought a motion to support Making the Arts Real for Youth (M.A.R.Y.) by contributing \$550 for the third annual children's community art exhibit and watercolor workshop on March 5<sup>th</sup> seconded by Linda Pruet*

The matter could not be voted on because the LBNC funds were still frozen and the event was in 4 days.

**17. FUNDS: Discussion and possible action regarding a \$50/monthly payment for web hosting**

President Linda Gravani stated that some Neighborhood Councils have spoken to DONE and have been told they can pay \$50 per month for web hosting. The money that we paid included the web hosting. There is no need to vote on it.

**18. FUNDS: Discussion and possible action regarding up to \$550 be spent on T-shirts for Bassett Students going to the Robotics Event**

Item #18 was tabled until the next meeting.

**19. FUNDS - Discussion and possible action to support Southern California Preparedness Foundation (501c3) by contributing \$850 in support of the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Valley Disaster Fair 2017**

Linda Pruet recused herself.

*Sandy Joseph brought a motion that Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council contribute \$850 for a neighborhood purposes grant to support Southern California Preparedness Foundation in support of*

*the 10<sup>th</sup> annual Valley Disaster Fair 2017, seconded by Linda Gravani*

**12 AYES:** Bautista, Brown, Fujitaki, Gravani, Gutierrez, Hart, Joseph, Kurland, Nelson, Newman, Riley, Stein

**2 INELIGIBLE:** McKay, Pennomon

**1 RECUSED:** Linda Pruett

**VOTE: (12-0-0-2-1) MOTION PASSES**

- 20. Land Use – 15800 Roscoe Blvd ZA-2016-4783ZV: Anheuser-Busch Brewery is seeking a zone variance for reduced parking to create more space for truck loading due to changes in operations and mechanization that requires less employees and more truck loading to distribute the product – Committee voted in favor 9-0-0-0-0**

*Tom Riley brought a motion that Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council approve this variance, seconded by James Brown*

The motion was approved provided that truckers shut off their trucks after they are parked.

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

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

- 21. Land Use – 17621 Sherman Way ZA-2006-5886-CUB: Conditional Use Permit for the continued sale and dispensing of beer and wine only for on-site consumption in conjunction with an existing 1200 Sq Ft restaurant, hours of operation 10:30AM to 2AM with 58 patrons. Committee voted in favor 9-0-0-0-0**

*Tom Riley brought a motion that Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council approve Conditional Use Permit for the continued sale and dispensing of beer and wine only for on-site consumption in conjunction with an existing 1200 Sq Ft restaurant, hours of operation 10:30AM to 2AM with 58 patrons, seconded by Carol Newman*

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

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

- 22. Adjournment** - The meeting was adjourned at 9:37pm.