

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
BRENTWOOD COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Held at Brentwood Kaufman Library, 11820 San Vicente Blvd.
Tuesday, February 7, 2012**

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Nancy Freedman called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm and invited seniors from Archer School to lead the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. The students discussed the Slow Down for Julia campaign in memory of Julia Siegler. February is Traffic & Pedestrian Safety Awareness Month. They asked that everyone drive with care on Sunset and to remember safety at all times.

The Chair invited members of the Council to introduce themselves and identify their representative capacity:

***Present:**

Representatives

Eva Satori-McClane (Alternate)
Tom Kallette (Alternate)
Mary Sidell
Roz Gamble
Bryan Gordon
Nancy Freedman
Flo Chapgier
Leonard Blum
Mary Helen Michel

Susan Casamassima
Ike Cohen
John Given (Alternate)
Marylin Krell
Raymond Klein
Said Jabbari
Larry Watts
Caroline Kelly

Alternates

Sam Yadegar
Lois Becker
Kathy Leader
Victoria Talbot
Laura Blumenthal
Robert Inodami

Christina McIntosh
Jackie Raymond
Teri Redman

Legal Counsel

Larry Watts

*Note: Only those Representatives and Alternates who are present at the meeting will be listed; late arrivals are asked to announce themselves so the Board can recognize them and list them as present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the January 3, 2012 meeting were previously distributed. The Chair asked if there were any corrections; there was none. A Motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as distributed. A vote was taken and the minutes were unanimously approved with one abstention.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's Report was not read.

SAN VICENTE PEAK COMMUNICATION TOWER – PROJECT PRESENTATION

There was a presentation regarding the proposal to upgrade the communications facilities and install a 180 foot steel tripod tower at 17500 Mulholland in the Santa Monica Mountains to improve cell phone

communication. Representatives from LAFD, LAPD, The Mayor's Office, and Ultrasystems introduced themselves. The tower will have aviation safety light at the top and several antenna structures located throughout the tower. The power supply is onsite and located within the existing fence perimeter. Currently there are two mono towers and they are not slated for demolition. There is no noise associated with the operation.

The LAFD Captain spoke about the need for the towers. Their LAFD devices do not work in areas without access to the LAFD Trigger Channel coverage. Communication is crucial in providing timely services. They reviewed an engineering map showing the areas that would be served by the new tower. The former WLAPD sergeant spoke about problems he had experienced by the lack of communication in the canyons and he emphasized that LAPD supported the LAFD's need for the tower. There followed aerial view simulations of the proposed tower followed by a discussion.

Bryan Gordon, Chair BCC LUC, commented that there was no question about the need, but expressed concern regarding the visibility and infringement on residents' view in the area. He asked if alternatives such as three or four smaller towers instead of one tall one in order to be less obtrusive. The response was that they were gathering comments for the Install Study, which would be circulated in early March for comments on the content of the document. They had evaluated other alternatives which would be contained in the document.

Leonard Blum asked about the approval process. There was a need to comply with CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act), Department of Building and Safety and the Design Review Board. This could take six months. The presenter said they need a tower of 180 feet in order to get over the hills. The CUP (Conditional Use Permit) covers a 500 foot radius. The cost is \$5,000,000 to \$6,000,000. He was asked if there was any way to make it look more like a tree but, he said it was not possible. Larry Watts commented on the loss of firefighter lives and how many more would be lost if it was not implemented. The previous history of fires was of great concern especially when a firefighter was killed. This was a communication issue. The tower would be seismically safe and would provide the needed coverage. Said Jabbari asked how many homes this would cover and the presenter said they will get that information.

Eric Edmonds, of BHHA, said he felt strongly that the EIR (Environmental Impact Report) needed to be done before and believed it should be subject to CEQA. There was discussion of the problems of aesthetics and radiation and that there is a park with picnic tables. The EIR would address alternatives such as smaller, less disruptive options. They were fully receptive to improving communications for the LAFD and WLAPD. Once this one is "green-lighted," there is concern that others would follow. So, they were asking for the BCC's support. The Chair noted the Motion was on the back of the Agenda. John Given read the Motion as follows with edits requested by Raymond Klein which were to remove "mandated" design review process, and "full" EIR process:

BCC joins the growing list of homeowners and community organizations¹ in requesting that the City undergo an EIR process for the proposed 180' communications facility known as the San Vicente Peak Tower project, and further requests that the City comply fully with the design review process required by the Mulholland Scenic Parkway Specific Plan.

¹The list of organizations currently requesting a full EIR includes BCC constituent homeowners associations Brentwood Hills Homeowners Association, Mandeville Canyon Association, and Upper Mandeville Canyon Association, along with numerous community organizations, including the Federation of Hillside and Canyon Associations, Inc., Save Our Mountains, Inc., Brentwood Residents Coalition, Bel Air Skycrest Homeowners Assoc. and Canyon Back Alliance.

The presenter stated that in order to study alternatives, they would need an EIR. Sonia Alvarez, Project Manager, Bureau of Engineering, stated that the City did not intend to bypass the EIR process but the EIR would not be binding. The Motion was made and seconded; a vote was taken and it was unanimously in favor with two abstentions; therefore, the Motion passed.

There was a sign in sheet for email addresses for those interested in receiving a notification. This concluded the presentation.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE – Marilyn Krell, Said Jabbari and Ike Cohen

There was a call for nominations for officer positions; there was none and the Chair said it was now closed. Marilyn Krell announced the officer positions as follows:

- Chair: Nancy Freedman
- Vice Chair: Larry Watts
- Secretary: Mary Sidell
- Treasurer: Bryan Gordon.
- Non-Officer Member At Large: Ike Cohen:

Marilyn thanked the committee and said they were in agreement that it was an excellent slate of officers. She distributed ballots and Said Jabbari collected them. Said reported that the slate of officers was elected. The Chair thanked him and said the new slate would take effect at the March meeting.

TRANSPORTATION – BERGAMOT STATION RESOLUTION: Lauren Cole

Lauren Cole reported that the Draft EIR (Environmental Impact Report) was out. She described the development noting it was half office space and was equivalent to having four more Water Garden towers. The Draft EIR did not study all affected areas such as the Wilshire Bus Lanes or Sunset among others. Councilman Rosendahl was introducing a motion the following day. Richard Bloom, Mayor of Santa Monica had been invited to next month's meeting.

The Resolution had already been circulated to the board so the reading of it was waived (it is attached to these minutes). A motion was made and seconded to approve the Resolution. There followed discussion regarding the project and its impact on the surrounding areas. The Expo Line would not solve traffic problems of everyone driving in and out of Santa Monica. They plan to put in more housing as Santa Monica recognizes the imbalance. A vote was taken; it was unanimous with zero abstentions. The Resolution was passed.

REPRESENTATION COMMITTEE – Sue Casamassima Chairman

Susan Casamassima thanked the Representation Committee and presented the candidates for 2012 BCC Board Positions and read a short background on each candidate:

- Keith Allen-Niesen: Member at Large; Leonard Blum: Alternate
- Sam Yadegar: Member at Large; Jerry Adomian: Alternate
- Carolyn Kelly: Public School Representative; Gary Rosengarten: Alternate
- Bob Inadomi: San Vicente Business District Alternate
- Josh Stevens: Multi Family Representative; Leeor Alpern: Alternate

The Chair thanked Susan Casamassima and Marilyn Krell. A motion was made and seconded to approve the slate of representatives; it was unanimously approved with zero abstentions.

The Chair then honored Roz Gamble for being Secretary and Multi Family Representative for the past two years by presenting her with a plaque with the message, “ With Deep Appreciation to Roz Gamble from Brentwood Community Council, Secretary 2009 – 2011 Great Minutes.” Bryan Gordon echoed the Chair’s statement. Roz said she had enjoyed meeting everyone and expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to serve the community.

PROPOSED MOTION RE: BARNEY’S BEANERY – Sandy Brown

Sandy Brown spoke about Barney’s Beanery on Broxton in Westwood. They were required to agree to 50 conditions, and one that was supported by the homeowners in Westwood was that there was to be no Happy Hour. The establishment opened with no Happy Hour; however, one year later, they applied to the city to drop that condition, and it was granted. They went to the ZA and they supported Barney’s Beanery. It then went before the APC (Area Planning Commission) on appeal. This issue pertains to all communities where an agreement is made to specific conditions. The city has not defined its policy on how to handle these issues. So Sandy Brown was asking for a motion to support an appeal objecting to the removal of that condition and that the ZA had erred in its decision. This would set the policy for all groups across the city. There followed a discussion. Bryan Gordon said it was very disturbing that the condition was removed and led to a dangerous precedent. He said Sandy had the BCC’s 100% support but that she was asking the BCC to vote on the ZA’s determination and we had not had the opportunity to read it. The BCC’s policy was to hear from both sides on an issue. Sandy’s motion was received this evening and there was a hearing in two weeks. Leonard Blum added that Barney’s Beanery was in a totally commercial setting and was 2 or 3 blocks away from a residential area.

Sandy responded that the residential community had always been involved. They believed that Happy Hour meant more beer and accompanying smells and some new commercial stores did not want to go into vacant space adjacent to it. Westwood Village had not previously been organized. Tom Kallette stated he agreed with Bryan Gordon and was reluctant to get involved when we had not heard from both sides. Ike Cohen said it went back to the CUP (Conditional Use Permit) and it required periodic reviews to see if it needed modifying for applicability. It should have been made an irrevocable condition. Raymond Klein added that an establishment ignoring a volunteer condition that was alcohol-related could not be enforced by the police. CUPs were granted for five years and applicants must apply for renewals so all conditions were up for renegotiation. He continued that when it came up before the ZA, they could have requested earlier hours. Sandy Brown responded that it was not the issue and that the ZA removed it because the city does not have funding over conditions that are not alcohol-related. Raymond Klein stated that the board could not vote on the motion as written. The motion was edited and read as follows:

The BCC opposes an applicant volunteering conditions to gain community support and then, at a later stage, applying to have those volunteered conditions removed without demonstrating a justifiable change of circumstances.

The motion was made and seconded and a vote was taken. The vote was unanimous with zero abstentions. Therefore the motion passed.

GOVERNMENT REPORTS

Joaquin Macias, Field Deputy Councilman Rosendahl

Joaquin reported on the traffic light at Montana and Barrington; it had now been activated. There was one complaint regarding the time allowed for westbound traffic. Joaquin said it would be addressed.

Joaquin stated that DOT had agreed to install two speed back signs on Sunset in follow up to the Julia Siegler accident. These signs display how fast a vehicle is travelling. He said he would provide exact locations but that it was proposed to install two signs - one in each direction.

San Vicente/Darlington Traffic Light: DOT has come up with a viable option. They would be running tests. Joaquin would provide an update by the end of the week.

Wilshire and 405 – closure of Wilshire off ramps for northbound traffic has been moved from March to May. This concluded Joaquin's report.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Raymond Klein, BCC Public Safety Representative reported that he had attended the recent CPAB meeting where filming in Los Angeles was discussed. Permits are issued to allow filming so if you have a problem, contact Jeffrey Smith at (213) 977-8600 as he acts as a mediator. Ray distributed handouts regarding Wild Fire Evacuation. Ray also reported that the LAPD is requesting that the community provide them with a list of the locations of security cameras to assist them in tracking burglaries.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jackie Raymond thanked everyone for the gift she received for her recent operation.

Ernie Hilger of Disabled American Veterans had invited the BCC to attend the celebration of the Land Grant Deed of 1885 that established the veterans' home. The event is March 4, 2012 on the Grand Lawn of the VA grounds from 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm. A ceremony and benediction was planned.

CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS

The BCC submitted a letter supporting Councilmember Koretz/Rosendahl's motion to have better fire equipment for high risk areas. It was turned down citing no money, but LAFD will consider putting out more bilingual information.

The Chair attended a hearing on February 1 2012 regarding broken sidewalks; they were given 120 days to garner legal advice from the City Attorney. Proposed objectives:

- Determine a repair "scope"- what really is the amount of sidewalk -Holistic approach of having departments work together
- Reach out to neighborhood councils

Marylin Krell said we had a great new board for 2012 but she especially thanked the board of 2011 for their work.

The Chair requested all new representatives to remain behind at the end of the meeting to meet with her.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

LAND USE COMMITTEE

Bryan Gordon, Chair BCC LUC said due to lack of time, he would provide a report next month. He noted that the Munger Project final EIR would go before the BCC LUC on February 27, 2012 at 5:00 pm at the Chair's home. Please let Bryan Gordon know in advance if you wish to attend so we have a head count.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, a Motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting; the vote was unanimous with zero abstentions and the meeting was adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

NEXT BCC MEETING: March 6, 2012

Resolution for the Brentwood Community Council re: the Bergamot Transit Village Center
February 7, 2012

The Brentwood Community Council opposes certification of the EIR or any permits or zoning changes for the Bergamot Transit Village Center or other similarly large projects on the Westside of Los Angeles County until a regional plan is developed that properly takes into account the cumulative impact on traffic of the project together with all other reasonably foreseeable large projects in the area.

Previous large scale office projects in the area that were built without sufficient nearby housing have already caused extreme gridlock throughout the Westside of Los Angeles during peak hours. Further adding to this congestion by approving projects that are larger than current zoning permits without ensuring that appropriate infrastructure is available is not acceptable to our area's residents, workers, students, customers, and visitors.

Once the cumulative impact of such projects is known, projects that are larger than is allowed under current zoning should be downsized to a level such that the number of significantly impacted intersections is minimized.

A plan should have the review and certification of all impacted municipalities, not only the city where the project is located.

The recently released DEIR for the Bergamot Transit Village Center is insufficient and inadequate because it fails to take into account:

- The impact on the already above capacity I-10 and I-405 freeways, as well as freeway on-ramps and off-ramps at Bundy, Centinela, and Overland (I-10), the I-10 and I-405 interchange, and the I-405 on-ramps and off-ramps at Sunset, Wilshire, Santa Monica Blvd., Olympic/Pico, and National as well as any points further north, east, or south that may be significantly impacted.
- The impact on local intersections in Brentwood that are already gridlocked during peak hours such as Sunset/Kenter, Sunset/Bundy, Sunset/Barrington Avenue, Sunset/Barrington Place, Sunset/Church Lane, San Vicente/Bundy west, San Vicente/Bundy east, Montana/Bundy, Montana/San Vicente, San Vicente/Gorham.
- Upcoming projects such as Green Hollow Square on San Vicente Blvd., future development at Bundy/Olympic (the prior "Bundy Village" location), future development at Wilshire/Barrington (NE and SE corners), and future development at Sepulveda/Exposition (site of the "Casden project.")
- The Wilshire Bus Rapid Transit lanes which have already been approved and which would remove one lane of roadway in each direction on Wilshire Blvd between the I-405 and Centinela during AM and PM peak hours.
- The I-405 construction project, which has resulted in a reduction of the number of lanes available to commuters.

In addition, since significant impacts are generated from this project all the way to intersections around the I-405, including Wilshire/Federal and Sepulveda/Pico, the study area must be expanded so that it encompasses immediately adjacent intersections that may experience significant impacts as well, including but not limited to Sunset/Sepulveda, Wilshire/Sepulveda, Santa Monica/Sepulveda,

Olympic/Sepulveda, and further east and south as necessary in order to assess the full impact of this project. A traffic analysis cannot be adequate unless its study area extends in all directions beyond any intersections with significant impacts so that the full impact of the project is known. Wherever the intersections at the edges of the study area show significant impact, the study area was too small and the study area needs to be expanded until there is no longer a significant impact at the outermost margins.