

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
BRENTWOOD COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Brentwood Kaufman Library, 11820 San Vicente Blvd.
Tuesday, March 6, 2012**

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Nancy Freedman called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and invited 102 year old veteran Bea Abrams to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilman Bill Rosendahl presented Bea with a certificate of appreciation for the work she has done in the community to improve the lives of our veterans.

Council members present introduced themselves and identified their representative capacities:

Representatives

Allen-Neisen, Keith
Casamassima, Susan
Cohen, Ike
Feinstein, Rabbi Morley
Freedman, Nancy
Gordon, Bryan
Jabbari, Said
Kelly, Carolyn
Klein, Raymond
Krell, Marylin
Michel, Mary Helen
Sidell, Mary
Watts, Larry
Yadegar, Sam

Alternates

Adomian, Jerry
Blum, Leonard
Blumenthal, Laura
Garfield, Kathleen
Helpern, Ann
Inadomi, Bob
Lynton, Jamie
Pilla, Thomas
Redman Kahn, Teri
Rosengarten, Gary
Satori-McClane, Eva
Taheripour, Linda

*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 February 7, 2012 meeting were previously distributed. There were two corrections:

1. Bel Air Skycrest (as footnoted in the San Vicente Peak Tower Motion) is a homeowners association, not a community organization
2. Bob Inadomi was present, but not noted

A Motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as corrected. The vote was unanimous.

TREASURER'S REPORT- March 2012

- Receipts for the month of February were \$800 in respect of Dues
- Disbursements were \$70
- Net surplus for the year to date is \$706.75
- The balance on the Operating Account is \$6,636.26 and on the Street Furniture Fund is \$14,250.00
- Including dues received in March, 1/2 of the dues payments have been received. If you haven't already sent in your dues, please do so as soon as possible. In terms of the Bylaws, all dues are required to be paid by no later than March 31st.

COUNCILMEMBER BILL ROSENDAHL

Councilman reported that a solution was found regarding the Darlington signal that would save the coral trees, continue to allow turns, and provide pedestrian safety. He will be putting that motion before City Council.

On Thursday, March 8, at 11:30 a.m., there will be a press conference and ribbon cutting to activate the Auto Traffic and Surveillance System at Anita and Carmelina. This comes on the 2nd anniversary of the fatal accident on Sunset Blvd. that took the life of Julia Siegler.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Raymond Klein, BCC Public Safety Representative reported for absent Senior Lead Officer Phillip L. Enbody of the West Los Angeles Division:

- February: South Brentwood continues to lead the Brentwood area in burglaries from motor vehicles. Don't leave anything visible inside your vehicle.
- BHA's area between Sunset Blvd and San Vicente Blvd leads the Brentwood area in home burglaries. Lock your doors and windows, set alarms, check cameras, buy a dog or leave radio on loudly.

Klein reported on the most recent C-PAB meeting:

- A suggestion was made to use wasp spray rather than mace. It has a wider spray area, thus you do not need to be as close to the attacker for it to be effective. Both mace and wasp spray require proper training before use.

At the C-PAB meeting, one of Police Chief Charlie Beck's three assistants reported:

- Crime is down 7% citywide, but up 11% in West Los Angeles, mostly due to property crimes, such as so-called "knock-knock" burglaries. They recommend getting a dog or leaving the radio on loudly when you are not home.
- Since October there have been 1700 state prisoners released early and without parole or probation. 40% of those are back in jail within one year
- There are 18,000 hospital beds in Los Angeles and, on average, 14,000 of those are occupied at any one time, so you can't count on beds being available in the event of a major disaster. You need to be prepared to rely on your own resources, help your neighbors, have a shelter in place, and have supplies and enough food and water for 3 days.

GOVERNMENT REPORTS

Ellen Isaacs, Representative of Assemblymember Mike Feuer: In late April, the eight Wilshire Blvd. ramps will be closed, two at a time, for construction realignment. Closures will continue for 14 – 90 days. There is a Community Meeting on March 22 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at the Westwood Recreation Center. More details are online at www.metro/405.

City, county and state are working together and traffic management programs are being reviewed. Metro meets regularly with DOT and Cal Trans. Contacts are listed on Ellen's website at Ellen.isaacs@asm.ca.gov

Comments from the public and from council members:

- Signage is inaccurate or too late
- Signs need to be clear and helpful even to those who are totally unfamiliar with the area
- We need better information about what options for alternate routes are available (Ellen noted that maps are on the website)
- There was a request that the information be pushed out to the homeowners groups, etc., so people don't have to look for it

Joaquin Macias, Field Deputy for Councilmember Rosendahl: nothing more to report since the Councilman had already shared the information about the Darlington light.

RICHARD BLOOM – MAYOR OF SANTA MONICA

Background: Born in Philadelphia, has lived in California for 55 years. Before going into public service, he was a family law attorney. He was elected to the Santa Monica City Council in 1999, has been Mayor three times and Vice Mayor twice, and is now running for the newly formed 50th assembly district.

In the past year, after much work, Santa Monica has seen the first reduction ever in street homelessness.

The city of Santa Monica provides direct funding for the Santa Monica / Malibu public school district. Under Mayor Bloom, the amount of funding has increased from \$2,250,000 to \$14,000,000.

With regard to environmental initiatives, the city has instituted the plastic bag ban and enacted a series of laws to restrict second-hand smoke.

Santa Monica has worked hard to achieve a successful economy. This resulted from the city council and the community working together.

- Nominal budget cuts
- New jobs generated
- Encouraged tourism (\$1.2 billion from tourism last year equaled 10,000 jobs)

Tech businesses are moving ahead rapidly, which means green jobs. The city has worked to provide infrastructure such as walk-able and bike-able areas to attract these companies. The city cannot absorb them all, so they may well flow out to other communities. The downside is that companies say that, as they grow larger, they plan to outsource to other states because of the amount of paper work and cumbersome state laws in California.

Questions:

Q: Transportation issues expand beyond Santa Monica's control. How do you envision having jurisdiction over environmental issues regarding traffic?

A: Continue to encourage communication. Cities are not communicating with one another. There needs to be planning at *regional levels* because local and regional control is important. The authority to permit development is not going to change at the state level and state law requires EIRs. Those are the safeguards. Every project needs to be studied within the context of the EIR.

The Westside Cities organization does not lend itself to this type of process. They work more as a stakeholder group to advocate for things like the light rail project.

Santa Monica just finished a several-year land use and circulation update process that dynamically changed how we approach construction and address development.

All development projects must contribute to solutions and traffic management planning. New development projects cannot make traffic worse and need to be near public transit - light rail and bus service.

Requiring participation in the bicycle master plan will make a difference. It provides new opportunity to facilitate bike use, in addition to walk-ability. If we can reduce vehicle miles traveled by even 5% or so we will make a huge dent in the traffic we all experience.

Q: Is there a "Park Once" strategy so people can drive to Santa Monica and then access lots of activities and businesses? And what about parking for the Bergamot Project?

A: Although the "Park Once" idea makes intuitive sense, it is best not to create new parking, but to absorb the transit needs that already exist.

The Bergamot project RFQ is about to go out and is on the next council agenda. Art will continue to be the focus of this project.

Q: What about reconsidering the idea of one way streets on Pico and Olympic?

A: Beverly Hills may not have been amenable to one way streets. It could impact businesses and also local residents on "cut through" streets. There would also be less parking available.

The Expo line is predicted to carry 65,000 passengers a day which would make it a very successful transportation alternative.

Santa Monica is also looking at one way street options.

Q: Why are businesses reluctant to stay in California?

A: The state requires too much paper work and time = money. Complying with local and city rules is not usually a problem, but the state regulatory system is. The question is how do we reduce these regulations without removing the purpose? There needs to be a review of unnecessary paper work and other unnecessary burdens on businesses.

Q: SM has grown, with lots of new business and no place for employees to live, so they have to pass through West LA in order to get there. People are suffering for the benefit of Santa Monica businesses.

A: We built 3,500 housing units in past few years. Most development has been in the housing sector, with the exception of the most recent.

We have 4,000 additional housing units in the pipeline right now and the city has built about 1,300 affordable housing units under his mayorship. We incentivize affordable housing and we incentivize employers to provide transportation and traffic programs for employees and build as many strategies into each project as possible.

The Papermate project is upcoming. It is a discreet project on the north side of Olympic Blvd. It started much larger, and is now reduced to under 800,000 square feet. It was originally planned as 60% commercial and 40% housing, but is now planned as a 50/50 split under the new proposal. This is different from the Bergamot area plan.

We have a lot of raw land that is going to be used for something. We need to make sure whatever that will be is as good for the community as possible and addresses traffic.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Walk for Warriors – Brendan McMahon and Tauhid McNish

- There will be a 5k walk/run on Memorial Day, May 28, to raise money for New Directions, a nonprofit agency that assists homeless veterans
- 573 people participated last year
- If you want to put together a team, please contact www.walkforwarriors.com,

LA Marathon – Tracy Schuster

- On March 18, 2012 runners in the LA Marathon will be coming through Brentwood
- This is the 3rd year using this route with goes through 5 jurisdictions

- Local closures include San Vicente, starting at Brigham and going to Montana, on the westbound side; then runners will switch to eastbound side, still going west
- The course closures begin at 6:00 a.m.
- 76 charities, including several that serve Veterans, hope to raise more than \$3 million
- There will be a water station at San Vicente and Bundy on the south side and a medical station at the median on San Vicente and Gretna Green – Ms. Shuster stated that no vehicles would be driven onto or parked on the median
- Council members requested that notifications be posted on Sunset Blvd. and on Wilshire Blvd. stating that San Vicente is closed, so that cars do not go down side streets in to attempt to cross San Vicente
- For details, visit www.lamarathon.com

Book Ends – Robin Keefe

- On Sunday, May 20, from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., there will be a community based book drive to collect gently used children’s books that will be donated to local schools. For more information, please visit www.bookends.org
- The general collection site for sorting and recycling the books will be atTJs auto repair at Montana and San Vicente

MECA AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS – Rob Woolley

Mulholland Educational Corridor Association representatives met with security and safety officials to review all emergency and evacuation plans. A November 2010 presentation included local community representatives and neighbors. In case of an emergency in the area, all schools on Mulholland are prepared to “shelter in place” as advised, which allows neighbors to evacuate without school traffic. LAFD has said they would send one engine to each school. In the event of a serious situation that requires evacuation, LAUSD buses driven by members of the Police Department would be sent to evacuate students. The schools each have systems in place to account for every student. There is a water dropping heli-pad in the area and a “survival zone” at the parking lot to the west of Mirman School.

LAND USE COMMITTEE – Bryan Gordon, Chair BCC LUC

Green Hollow Square – The final EIR has been released. The Land Use committee met to discuss it and invited representatives of BHA, SBRA and local residents to discuss it. A small subcommittee is meeting with representatives of the applicants to go over the traffic impacts in terms we can understand regarding median cuts and the percentage of improvements in traffic if the project were smaller. Saltair residents, the BHA, and the BCC will attempt to jointly prepare a unified set of conditions that will be the same no matter the size of the project or if there is a preservation alternative. The conditions will be related to construction impacts, parking, noise, and restrictive covenants with regard to access onto Saltair, zoning, building height, and density for future years. What we want is to have the answers in clear language, not engineer and traffic analysis-speak.

Bru Haus – The Zoning Administrator issued the CUB. Conditions were largely the same as the conditions submitted by the BCC and agreed to by the requester, however the Zoning

Administrator did not restrict happy hour. City attorney says that the city cannot restrict or regulate this activity and that it falls under state law. In some areas of the city, ZAs are continuing to put this condition into CUBs which causes a state of confusion. We had requested additional exclusive parking off site. ZA said they only needed to supply a parking plan and a valet contract indicating where offsite parking would be. Did not require a lease agreement or specify number of offsite spaces. There were also no specified numbers of additional exclusive off-site parking spaces, leaving it up to the applicant. There are currently three restaurants that now share one valet service. Required to submit plan within 30 days. BCC has put in a request to see if that has been done. We don't want valets parking cars on residential streets.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – None

CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Community Participation sheets were passed around so member could sign up to participate on committees
- Activities or events related to BCC meetings should be sent to the Chair to be included on a BCC calendar
- Redistricting at State, County and City levels has been completed and won't be done again for 10 years
- Two letters were sent from the BCC
 - o Barneys Beanery Hearing – opposing the applicant who volunteered conditions and then applied to remove them, without a justifiable change of circumstances
 - o Sullivan Canyon - owner's construction of new home threatening to block a long existing public hiking and bridle trail which provides access to State parklands to the wets of Sullivan Canyon. The case was subsequently withdrawn. L. Watts suggested a new start without attempting to "piggyback" on the older and quite different project
- Executive Committee has secured Directors and Officers Insurance and Liability Insurance for 2012
- The Mayor's Regional Budget Day is Saturday, March 10, at City Hall

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- AT&T tower – John Given is still attempting to find out the level of emissions.
- San Vicente Peak tower seems to be moving toward a full EIR

- The annual BHA meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 20. Due to Sunset Blvd traffic from the 405 construction project, the location has been changed from the Getty to University Synagogue. Because of the smaller venue, attendance is by invitation only.
- South Brentwood Residents Association will host an open meeting on March 22 at the Tenth Church of Christ, Scientist. All are invited. Tables will be set up with project information starting at 6:00 p.m., meeting to begin at 7:00 p.m. The Vice President from Hines will be there to discuss the Bergamot Project.
- Brentwood Green mural honoring Barbara Goldenberg and her granddaughter was unveiled last Sunday. Please stop by to see the mural and enjoy the gardens.
- University Synagogue will hold a Purim Carnival – Purim Pandemonium Saturday, March 10.
- Spring Cleaning Clothes OUT – BW Resident Gary Avrech announced a clothing exchange on Sunday March 18, from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. to benefit Sojourn. Bring new or gently worn clothing to Church In Ocean Park at 235 Hill St. Santa Monica, 90405. Drop off donations on Sunday, March 11, from noon – 5:00 p.m. and Saturday, March 17, from noon – 2:00 p.m. Proceeds. For more information, call 310 207 4500
- Slow Down for Julia – On Thursday, March 8, at 11:30 a.m., Councilmember Bill Rosendahl will hold a press conference at the south side of Anita Avenue and Sunset Boulevard. He will announce the completion of newly installed electronic speed signs between Brentwood and Pacific Palisades, two of which are in response to recent efforts by the Slow Down for Julia campaign.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Natasha Urias asked the BCC for a motion of support for the following resolution to be noted at the March 13, 2012 meeting of LAUSD.

"Whereas, the LAUSD Superintendent, John Deasy, and the school board are proposing the elimination of adult education in Los Angeles.

Whereas, Adult Education is essential to the communities it serves.

Whereas, Adult Education teaches basic skills and job training that are essential to working class communities.

Whereas, Adult Education is teaching English to parents so that they can help their children succeed in school.

Whereas, the elimination of Adult Education is unfair and will decrease opportunities for communities that need these educational services the most.

Whereas, the elimination of Adult Education will make the recession worse in this economic climate.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Brentwood Community Council officially takes a position of support for Adult Education."

Motion was moved and seconded. Chair Nancy Freedman called for a vote. There were 3 abstentions, all others in favor.

Q: Why are those using handicapped parking placards not charged for parking at meters?
Chair recommended we ask Ellen Isaacs at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9: 05 p.m.

NEXT BCC MEETING: Tuesday, April 3, 2012