

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
BRENTWOOD COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**Held at Brentwood Kaufman Library, 11820 San Vicente Blvd.**  
**Tuesday, February 1, 2011**

**CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Chairman Raymond Klein called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and distributed a copy of the Agenda. Members of the Council introduced themselves and identified their representative capacity.

**Present:**

Representatives

Larry Watts

John Rosenfeld (Alternate)

Elin Schwartz (Alternate)

Mary Sidell

Gene Heller

Roz Gamble

Bryan Gordon

Ray Klein

Nancy Freedman

Rabbi Morley Feinstein

Susan Casamassima

Nancy Babcock

Cory Buckner

Mary Helen Michel

Dennis Hinman (Alternate)

Loretta Ditlow

Jackie Raymond

Leonard Blum

Wendy-Sue Rosen

Alternates

Marilyn Krell

John Given

Tom Pilla

Cori Solomon

Eva Satori-McLane

Sam Yadegar

Al Dubin

Legal Counsel

Larry Watts

**Absent:**

Representatives

Jennifer Wenger-Turchen

Dr. Mary Ann Lewis

Linda Taheripour

Kathleen Garfield

Jenna Abouzeid

Flora Gil Krisiloff

Ike Cohen

Said Jabbari

Alternates

Bob Berglass

Barbara Bloom

Naomi Kageyama

Barbara Goldberg

Cori Solomon

Kyle Kozloff

Victoria Talbot

Tom Kalette

Flo Chapgier

Keith Allen-Niesen

Christina McIntosh

Tony Diamond

## **PRESENTATION OF FLAG BY REPRESENTATIVES OF NATIONAL BOARD OF VIETNAM VETERANS**

Jerry Yamamoto of the National Board of Directors of the Vietnam Veterans of America presented a flag to the BCC that was flown in 2005 at the Riverside National Cemetery. The Chair graciously accepted the flag on behalf of the BCC. Members of Vietnam Veterans then led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Ernie Hilger, Disabled American Veterans Chapter 13, announced the 123<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the Deed of 1888 which donated land to the veterans; he invited everyone to attend the event on March 6 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm on the Grand Lawn at the corner of San Vicente and Wilshire.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the January 4, 2011 meeting were previously distributed. The Chair asked for corrections; there being no corrections, a motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. The minutes were unanimously approved as distributed.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Bryan Gordon, Treasurer presented the following report for January 2011:

- Receipts for January were \$2,250 for Due and \$500 for the Business Directory
- Disbursements were \$364
- The balance on the Operating Account is \$6,555.15, the Business Directory Account is \$1,590.39, and the Street Furniture Fund is \$14,250.00
- If you haven't already done so, please send in your Dues as soon as possible.

The Chair added that the BCC was doing well financially and that receipts from the Business Directory covered the cost of the website and BCC Alerts.

## **PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT**

Officer Philip Enbody, Senior Lead Officer

Officer Enbody reported on robberies involving a handgun south of Wilshire and another one in Westwood around 10:30 pm to midnight; the suspect was arrested. Officer Enbody noted that Ray Klein's term as Chair of the BCC was ending and that he hoped he would continue to work with him on Public Safety. They would continue to work together on the Neighborhood Watch program.

Raymond Klein, BCC Public Safety Representative

Ray Klein reported on the LAPD Police Academy from 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm each Wednesday evening for 11 weeks at the Pan Pacific Park near the Grove. There will be a special guest speaker and a graduation ceremony. The classes help community members build a relationship with the LAPD and improve the quality of life. Please contact Office Dave Podesta at WLAPD for more information.

Ray reported on the WRAC (Westside Regional Alliance of Councils) meeting. Mike Newhouse is the Chair of WRAC. They discussed the difficulty in switching off gas in an emergency when there is no lighting. It was suggested to use a "light stick". They are available at Vicente Market for \$5.00. He also discussed the excellent Los Angeles Fire Department's Emergency Preparedness book; it is great if you are unable to attend the classes. It is available from [www.cert-LA.com](http://www.cert-LA.com)

Freeway Service Patrol is available at no charge to those stranded on the freeway with a flat tire, dead battery or no fuel. Use the freeway emergency call box or call 399 to reach the service.

## **GOVERNMENT REPORTS**

Ellen Isaacs for Assembly Member Mike Feuer

Ellen distributed handouts and discussed the new healthcare law under AB 2244 that requires coverage for children. Open enrollment is from January 1 through March 1 and premiums are much lower now than after the deadline. Children cannot be denied coverage for pre-existing conditions such as asthma and diabetes. See Health Care Insurance Finder at <http://finder.healthcare.gov>.

Ellen discussed AB 52 that addressed health insurance hikes proposed by Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield. They are reviewing it to see if it is justified. They have no power to deny the rate increase and need support. Please complete the form and fax it back as it will give Dave Jones the power to reject the rate increases.

## **BUDGET SURVEY, 1/27/11-2/27/11**

Jay Handal, Chair Citywide NC Budget Advocate Committee

Jay Handal, Chair of WLANC discussed the Budget Survey and distributed a handout. The goal is to identify services important to the citizens. He gave an online presentation of the Mayor's Budget Survey. It is available from January 27 through February 27, 2011. From the Budget Advocate's point of view, they need everyone to take the survey; there is no extra money so it is really important to see what the real needs are of the community. You can access the LA Budget Challenge at:

[http://labudgetchallenge.lacity.org/budgetchallenge/sim/budget\\_master.html](http://labudgetchallenge.lacity.org/budgetchallenge/sim/budget_master.html).

## **PRESENTATION OF AWARDS TO BCC CHAIRMAN RAY KLEIN**

Jennifer Badger and Ellen Isaacs presented certificates to Ray Klein from the Mayor of Los Angeles and Assembly Member Mike Feuer honoring his work on behalf of the BCC and the community. Stephanie Molen also gave grateful thanks on behalf of Senator Pavley and said a similar certificate would be forthcoming. Mike Newhouse, WRAC Chair spoke about Ray's work as Vice Chair and thanked him for his service to WRAC over the past three years. He said Ray was not only a tireless advocate but also has a keen eye and focus on what matters. Ray was a great leader of the weekly meetings on the third Wednesday of each month at Dolores Café. The next town hall meeting is at the Felicia Mahood Center at 6:30 pm on March 29 and it would be attended by the Mayor.

Jennifer Badger, West Area Director, Mayor's Office

Jennifer spoke about the Mayor's Town Hall sessions. He needs input from the community as to what he should focus on during the last two years of his term. Jennifer noted that the Budget Survey is very important and provides feedback on issues such as pension reform, elected officials, and police hiring. She encouraged participation. A Blue Ribbon Committee has been formed by the Mayor to review the AEG project. In response to Wendy-Sue Rosen, she will provide an update on the Mayor's position on a waiver requested for that project by SEQUA.

Stephanie Molen, Field Representative, Senator Fran Pavley

Stephanie discussed the budget and she distributed a newsletter from Senator Pavley. Sign up for an email copy of the monthly newsletter at [www.senate.ca.gov/pavley](http://www.senate.ca.gov/pavley). Senator Pavley always welcomes legislative ideas and ideas on the Budget. She sent her grateful thanks for Ray Klein's work

Jeanne Bonfilio, Veterans Home of California

Jeanne reported on the CA Veterans Homes. She described the new veterans' facility that opened last June and now has 23 patients. She also reported on the landscaping plans and that transplanting the trees was more expensive than anticipated. The Veterans for Trees would assist them in completing this plan. She also thanked Ray Klein for being so supportive of the veterans and the home.

Joaquin Macias, Field Deputy Councilman Rosendahl

Joaquin reported that Councilman Bill Rosendahl had a heart procedure a week and a half ago and was recovering. He wanted to be at the BCC meeting to present a certificate to Ray Klein as he would not let Joaquin do it in his absence. Joaquin said how much they appreciated Ray's work and that Bill would tell him himself. There is a Developer Reform Forum at the Felicia Mahood Senior Center on February 16, 2011 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm; they are seeking input on improving transparency and processing time. There is a community update on the 405 Widening Project on February 24 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the Westwood Recreation Center.

Bureau of Sanitation is holding a meeting on the Septic Tank Ordinance, March 17, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Joaquin also noted the Budget Survey and reminded everyone that those were jobs and services we were clicking on to terminate so we should be thoughtful. The survey was completed by 7,000 people last year. A question regarding increasing revenue was added to the survey.

**WILSHIRE BUS RAPID TRANSIT PROJECT**

Lauren Cole, Transportation Committee Chair and Raymond Klein

Ray Klein referenced an email he forwarded regarding a hearing tomorrow at 10:00 am at City Hall. Councilman Rosendahl was initially in favor but realized a fragmented bus lane made no sense. He has now joined with Councilman Koretz and District 5 they have a motion to have a continuous bus lane from downtown to the east of Beverly Hills only.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Marylin Krell, President of SBRA and Jackie Raymond, Past President, made a presentation to Dennis Hinman, Brentwood's former Senior Lead Officer for 8 years, who is moving from Brentwood. Marylin and Jackie described his career and significant contribution to the community. He has been a police officer for 31 years and received the Medal of Valor, the LAPD's highest honor. He was congratulated and thanked for his contribution to the Brentwood community especially after he retired from LAPD. Dennis thanked everyone.

**VA DRAFT MASTER PLAN**

Susan Casamassima, Chair, VA Land Committee

Ray gave a brief intro and noted the various links included in the Agenda. The Draft Master Plan can be viewed at: [http://www.losangeles.va.gov/documents/WLA\\_Draft\\_Master\\_Plan.pdf](http://www.losangeles.va.gov/documents/WLA_Draft_Master_Plan.pdf). It was issued January 19, 2011. A draft letter, written by Sue Casamassima, was circulated to the Council Members. She has reviewed the Master Plan in detail and is seeking comments. Sue continued that no motion is expected and the BCC is not taking a position at this point; however, the plan is inadequate. This is an opportunity on our part to get them to be more specific so please read it and email your comments. There followed questions and discussion regarding the plan. Submit written comments on or before February 19, 2011 to: <http://regulations.gov>.

**MEASURE L, PUBLIC LIBRARY FUNDING, MARCH 8 MUNICIPAL ELECTION**

Penny Chiba, Acting Branch Manager, Brentwood Kaufman Library

Penny referenced the Supplemental Information included in the Agenda regarding Measure L Libraries which are safe havens and provide after school programs for children and a significant service for the community. Budget cuts are forcing additional closures. Measure L is not a new tax; it is an increase of the percent that the City provides to libraries. Please support Measure L.

**CELL TOWER ACTIVITY**

The Chair noted that John Given is taking the lead on above ground cell tower activity. It is possible each company (Verizon, AT&T, etc.) could each have their own poles. There have been notices of a tower on San Vicente near Cliffwood. There are special rules for stand-alone towers and those connected to others.

## **REPORT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Marylin Krell, Committee Chair

The slate of officers had been previously distributed to the Council. Ray congratulated Marylin, Chair of the Committee, on the fantastic job she had done. He also thanked everyone for allowing him the honor of being Chair for the past two years. Cory Buckner distributed the ballots while Marylin read Section 2 of the Bylaws and the names of the nominees: Mary Sidell, non-officer of the Executive Committee, Bryan Gordon, Treasurer, Roz Gamble, Secretary, Larry Watts, Vice Chair and Nancy Freedman, Chair. Rabbi Morley Feinstein counted the ballots and confirmed the nominees of the Nominating Committee were elected.

The new Chair, Nancy Freedman, thanked Ray Klein for his work and support during the past year and presented the gift of a crystal gavel on behalf of the BCC. Ray thanked everyone. Nancy mentioned that she records the meetings.

## **BCC COMMITTEES**

### **Sunset Safety Committee**

Ray Klein reported a small group met in the past month and set priorities. They are collecting information on all the stops made by the school buses and are looking into crossing guards, signage, flashing light signs, cutting back foliage, driver education and other issues that will have a cumulative effect to improve Sunset safety.

### **Bundy Village**

Ray Klein reported the hearing scheduled for February 8 was postponed; the developer is in bankruptcy and is now talking about using it for a hospital. The developer is not meeting with the community and it is possible he may have to sell to someone else.

### **Brentwood Country Club Fence, Hearing February 7, 2011**

A hearing is scheduled for February 7, 2011. Gail Bliss, representative of the Club, spoke about the improved plan for the fence on the club's driving range on Burlingame. It will be inside the 3 rows of trees – dead trees will be removed. The San Vicente fence is 90' and it will not increase in height. There are 10 poles currently and they will be replaced by four poles. Gail confirmed they no longer needed the specific plan exception and they have added landscaping per the DRB. Discussion followed.

### **Brentwood Gateway (Fred Sands) Ground Floor Hearing February 14, 2011**

Kristen Lonner, representing the building at 11611 San Vicente, discussed the project that requires a specific plan exception to allow professional offices on the ground floor. The plan requires retail on the ground floor. A flyer was circulated reflecting it will be professional (lawyers and medical) office space. They have the required onsite parking. The increase in traffic has not been studied. The building is at the far end of San Vicente and there are not many pedestrians.

## **ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **LA Survey of Historical Buildings**

Nancy Freedman reported the L A Survey for those interested in historical buildings; the community meeting is on Thursday, February 3 at WLA Municipal Building, Room 200.

### **Electronic and Toxic Waste**

In WLA, the location is at UCLA at 550 Charles E. Young Drive West. Hours are 8:00 am – 2:00 pm on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Electronic waste only on Saturdays. Rabbi Feinstein said University Synagogue would likely have an electronic collection day on May 15, 2011 but is not yet confirmed.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

#### **Brentwood Presbyterian Church Celebration**

Eva Satori-McLane reported the Brentwood Presbyterian Church is celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary on February 26 and 27, 2011. There is a concert and dinner and they are inviting former pastors.

#### **Donation by Brentwood Community Federation to Brentwood Green**

Jackie Raymond announced that the Brentwood Community Federation recently relocated \$15,000 in lost money from dues and it has been donated to Brentwood Green.

#### **Coral Tree Campaign**

Nancy Freedman referenced the donation envelope for the Coral Tree Campaign that was circulated to those present. There is no City money to trim the coral trees so we need to raise \$25,000 per year, or establish an endowment. Nancy asked for help getting the word out. There is no deadline. A rally is planned for the median.

#### **Congressional and State Redistricting**

Larry Watts stated that this year is Congressional and State Redistricting year. This is an opportunity for input from the community. We should participate as it will govern how we are represented for the next 10 years. Nancy asked Larry to outline it in more detail at the next BCC meeting.

### **PRESENTATION HONORING RAY KLEIN, PAST CHAIR OF BCC**

Bryan Gordon honored Ray Klein on his leadership over the past two years. He noted three significant and notable achievements during Ray's tenure as Chair of the BCC:

- Ray made the BCC legitimate; he formed a 501(c)4 to regulate it with the IRS and Franchise Tax Board as the BCC has grown to be an organization with a high political profile
- Ray empowered the Executive Committee and brought them together by holding monthly meetings and making them part of the decision-making process instead of having only one person guiding the BCC and making the agenda. He also added a non-officer increasing the committee size to five votes; this improves transparency and thereby strengthens the organization.
- Ray single-handedly created the BCC's website. It is very professional and we are all proud of it. It is a valuable resource for the entire community.

Bryan thanked Ray for his contribution and strong and steady leadership. Ray would now become Chair Emeritus and he would continue to provide advice and input on the Land Use Committee. There was a grateful round of applause from everyone.

Nancy Freedman thanked everyone for their confidence in her and that she was looking forward to working with the new board.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting and the meeting was adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

**NEXT BCC MEETING: March 1, 2011**