

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
BRENTWOOD COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Held at Brentwood Kaufman Library, 11820 San Vicente Blvd.
Tuesday, September 6, 2011**

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Nancy Freedman called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm and she invited Rabbi Morley Feinstein to lead the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. A copy of the Agenda was circulated. The Chair invited members of the Council to introduce themselves and identify their representative capacity.

Present:

Representatives

Leonard Blum
Jackie Raymond
Sue Casamassima
Dr. Mary Ann Lewis
Roz Gamble
Mary Sidell
Rabbi Morley Feinstein
Diana Kim
Kyle Kozloff (Alternate)
Skip Novell

Nancy Freedman
Ike Cohen
Larry Watts
Ray Klein
Sam Yadegar (Alternate)
Cece Karz
Tony Diamond (Alternate)
Mary Helen Michel
John Rosenfeld (Alternate)
John Given (Alternate)

Alternates

Tom Pilla
Ann Helpern
Christina McIntosh
Victoria Talbot

Al Dubin
Marylin Krell
Tom Kalette

Legal Counsel

Larry Watts

Absent:

Representatives

Barbara Bloom
Loretta Ditlow
Gene Heller
Flora Gil-Krisiloff
Nancy Babcock

Kathleen Garfield
Bryan Gordon
Linda Taheripour
Wendy-Sue Rosen (non-voting)

Alternates

Lynn Newman
Elin Schwartz
Tom Freeman (non-voting)
Cori Solomon

Barbara Goldberg
Bob Berglass
Eva Satori McLane

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the July 5, 2011 meeting were previously distributed. Sue Casamassima noted one edit to her presentation regarding the VA. Sodexho Marriott is not renewing its lease. A Motion was made and

seconded to approve the minutes with this edit. A vote was taken and the minutes were unanimously approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Bryan Gordon, Treasurer, was absent and the Chair stated the net change in balances from the report from the previous meeting was \$30 due to receipts of \$100 for the Business Directory and a disbursement were \$70 for the room rental at the library.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

Officer Philip Enbody reported that crime was up 10% in Brentwood due to burglaries. We need to lock and secure our homes. If you have an alarm, you should activate it. WLAPD is focusing on the areas most affected by these burglaries. There was also a street robbery on Bundy/Goshen. Do not resist if you are a victim of a street robbery; it is not worth the risk of being seriously injured. The suspects are two male Hispanics. Everything goes out on the Crime Alert. A video of suspects casing a property has also been circulated. The Chair reminded everyone to sign up for the Crime Alert and other emails at the BCC's website: www.brentwoodcommuntycouncil.org This concluded Officer Enbody's report.

Ray Klein, Public Safety Representative, reported on the California Shakeout Month. Councilman Paul Koretz has a program on emergency preparedness at the Century City Westfield Shopping Center on September 11, 2011 from 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm.

GOVERNMENT REPORTS

Ellen Isaacs for Assembly Member Mike Feuer

Ellen reported that Assembly Member Mike Feuer had voted against the pilot project regarding ads on buses. Mike also brought a moratorium two years ago regarding billboards. It failed in the first committee and the main reason it should have moved forwards was that it distracts drivers. A distraction of 2 seconds can cause an accident; according to the billboard industry's own website, billboards are designed to hold the attention for 5 seconds. Ellen encouraged everyone to write letters in opposition to ads on buses.

AB52 – this was the bill that would allow the Department of Insurance to reject excessive rate increases. Due to insufficient votes, it did not make it to the floor. The Department of Finance came up with a report saying the cost of implementing it would be too high. Mike has issues with that and will continue the fight another day.

Ellen reminded everyone of Mike's strong environmental commitment; however, he is on a bill which AEG is also behind. Ed Roski pushed it through to eliminate any law suits in order to get the field in the City of Industry. Mike wants to get buy in or neutrality of environmental groups. It is only for this AEG project.

Leonard Blum asked about mandatory breaks for babysitters and Ellen said she would find out if it passed the Assembly. Rabbi Feinstein asked about redistricting. Ellen said it affects the congressional district but she did not have specific details. The Chair confirmed we are still in Waxman's district for the federal government. Sol Liebster asked about scholarships for illegal aliens. Ellen said Mike did not issue an opinion but he voted for it.

Joseph Hari, West Los Angeles Area Director, Mayor's Office was absent so there was no report.

Stephanie Molen, Field Representative, Senator Fran Pavley, was absent so there was no report.

Joaquin Macias, Field Deputy Councilman Rosendahl

Joaquin reported on the Darlington/ San Vicente traffic light. There is work being done on either irrigation or conduit work; he was not sure which. The Department of Transport agreed to go before the Cultural Heritage Committee and Public Works. DRB must also be addressed. He discussed the potential intrusion on the median and Coral Trees. He confirmed he would keep us informed.

He went on to discuss the various Department of Transport regulations for signage and parking. Two new engineers were joining the office to clear up the year's backlog before the end of the year. He has received public comment regarding the traffic light on Sepulveda and Wilshire east and west. They need adapting to construction work to relieve the back up of traffic. Joaquin said he would check into it.

The fire in Mandeville Canyon was 80% contained. The Chair asked if the fire trucks were able to get there in time and Joaquin said no problems were reported. They are not yet sure how it started.

Sunset Safety Update – Joaquin said they had reviewed parkway encroachments and speeding. Informational warnings will be sent out. If the owner is still in violation, they will begin to issue citations. Rabbi Feinstein commented that the Fire Department cleared up the section near Riviera and that the homeowner(s) will be billed. There was discussion regarding funding for the speeding signs. The Chair reminded everyone this was a result of the child who was accidentally killed at Cliffwood. Speed signs will be installed along Sunset to discourage speeding. One audience member requested a sign at Bundy and Sunset. Joaquin confirmed they would be looking at specific sites.

Traffic problems regarding schools on Mulholland were not as bad as predicted. There was a traffic officer on site. Signs are still up regarding local traffic.

Barrington Recreation Park late night basketball players: Joaquin said he was continuing to work with the neighbors and with Roz Gamble on the late night disturbances at the park. One camera has already been installed; a second camera is going in on September 12, 2011. Temporary signage was installed in the parking lot opposite to prevent overnight parking but the signs were removed and trashed. This is the second time they have been taken. He is trying to get permanent signage.

Bus bench advertising program – all of the zoning laws and codes in the scenic corridor will be observed. The volume of comments from the community was heard. There was discussion regarding the bunch bench program and its effect on bus riders. Joaquin responded that old benches will not be removed but damaged ones will be replaced. The Chair confirmed our district has enough bus benches for the bus riders. This concluded Joaquin's report and the Chair thanked him. Please forward additional questions to Joaquin Macias at Joaquin.macias@lacity.org.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Representation Committee – Susan Casamassima

Susan said they have a wonderful candidate in Teri Redman for Environmental Alternate. Susan then read details of her background and noted that Terry Redman Kahn retired from Brentwood School; while there she was involved in sustainability activity, she organized trail clearing, tree planting, beach clean ups, and fund raising for charities. She also created environmental programs for high school students in the Ecology Club for high school students from 1990 – 2006 and many other environmental studies. Susan presented an extensive list of Teri's environmental accomplishments. She was also Vice President of Security Pacific Merchant Bank. The Representation Committee made a motion to recommend her as a member of the

board. The motion was seconded and the vote was unanimously in favor with zero abstentions. She was not present but would organize her schedule for the future.

Susan added that they will be reviewing the bylaws in November regarding the Member At Large and they will be contacting homeowner groups regarding potential candidates for the position. The process will be completed by the end of January 2012.

405 Report

Susan attended the recent 405 meeting. She said it is frustrating as it is run by the government. She discussed the next road closures on the Wilshire West off ramp and ensuing lane closures on Sepulveda. She pointed out problems with the lane closure plans. They acknowledged there might be problems. They want the project on time and on budget – that comes first. So she is not sure how effective our suggestions will be.

The Chair then introduced Rob Woolley, Institutional Director for MECA (Mulholland Educational Corridor Association). He agreed with Susan's observations from the meeting and spoke about the main artery of Mulholland and the difficulties as a result of it. There are seven schools on nine campuses within the Mulholland Scenic Parkway Specific Plan. They are aware of what the traffic reduction has done to Mulholland; there were 20,000 vehicles per day prior to the construction. They are making efforts to reduce the problem by staggering schedules beginning at 7:30 am – 9:00 am to help pace traffic. They are encouraging carpooling and some schools are sharing bus routes. They've added four bus routes this year and possible six by September to equal sixteen bus routes; 85% of the students travel in multi person vehicles. So they have worked hard and this has impressed the value of carpooling. There were no questions and the Chair thanked Mr. Woolley.

Get Fit Be Fit – 5k and 10k Run

Walt Walston described the event on November 13, 2011 powered by Front Runners on San Vicente. It will start early and it's on a Sunday and the streets will reopen at 10:00 am so it shouldn't affect the community too much. Signage will be in place and they will give advance notice to businesses and the community. Walt introduced Paul Tortill of Front Runners who spoke about his passion for supporting the Boys and Girls Club in Santa Monica. He has pledged money. An audience member asked about mitigating noise until 9:00 am. The race starts at 7:30 am they will have an officer monitoring it. More information is available at www.w2promotions.com and www.frontrunnersla.com. The Chair thanked them for making the race work well for the community.

CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair announced the following:

1. We were successful at the hearing on the advertising on the bus benches and trash cans.
2. County Redistricting – the Chair wrote a letter, the hearing was today, was there until 5:30 pm, and did not have the opportunity to speak. There are three plans called S2, T1, A3. We are not sure what the outcome was as the hearing was still going on when they had to leave. There is another session on September 27 if you are interested in attending. Contact the Chair.

3. Ridgeline Protection Ordinance Motion by Councilman Koretz. There is a PLUM meeting on September 19, 2011.
4. Coral Tree Rally, Saturday, September 24, 2011 at 2:00 pm at the Brentwood Gardens with Betty White. Flyers available. Money raised is specifically for the Coral Tree Endowment. \$300,000 has been raised to date.
5. Sign Ordinance Meeting with Alan Bell, Deputy Director of Planning. There are many areas to gather for ideas and input. The meeting is scheduled for September 13, 2011. The next hearing is October 18, 2011. The Chair read the motion sent by Dennis Hathaway to vote on to send to City Council. The Chair asked for discussion and asked for a motion to support the WRAC proposal to have a stronger vote. Larry Watts moved to send it and it was seconded. A member of the audience asked for the counterpart. Jeff Hall said he didn't think the digital boards were that bad and were, in fact, informative but he didn't want them in the parks. John Given said the letter was an understatement and it was safe to endorse the WRAC proposal. There was discussion of how much money was brought into the city and no one, including the City, was sure. A vote was taken on the motion and there were two abstentions, the rest were in favor. The Chair confirmed she would send the letter to Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC).
6. Spumoni: the recent hearing before Susan Chang, Zoning Administrator (ZA) culled out violations and the corrections required to operate. The ZA asked them to come back in 30 days. The BCC's usual conditions were submitted.
7. Bundy Village –Ray Klein provided a brief recap and said the medical office building scheduled for that location appears to be dead. Lauren Cole is also following the Bergamot Station (Papermate Factory). She attended the hearing at Santa Monica City Council and there is a request for an Environmental Impact Review (EIR) showing they realize that too many businesses and not enough housing is a problem in Santa Monica.
8. Keith Allan-Neisen resigned as Member-at-Large due to teaching commitments.
9. Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC) is hosting a Town Hall Meeting with Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa on Monday, September 12, 2011 from 6:30 pm to 8:15 pm at the Felicia Mahood Senior Citizen Center Auditorium at 11338 West Santa Monica Boulevard, West Los Angeles, CA 90025. Flyers available.
10. Noise from motorbikes on Sunset. The Chair has been working with a contact from Pacific Palisades Community Council and has invited her to speak at next month's BCC meeting.
11. Santa Monica Airport Meeting at Councilman Rosendahl's office. Santa Monica Airport has rerouted planes. The Chair noted she hears helicopters and planes regularly over her home. Santa Monica doesn't want them so they send them over Venice and Brentwood. If anyone is interested in following up, please contact the Chair. Berman has introduced a helicopter law over residential areas of Los Angeles.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mary Sidell, Public Schools Representative, made the following announcements:

Mount St. Mary's College is teaming up with the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University and the nonpartisan group California Women Lead to host a morning focused on bringing more women into public office. Inspiration and Action will run from 9:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. on Saturday, September 24, 2011 at the Mount St. Mary's Chalon Campus. The event

aims to inspire women to run for office with the message: don't get mad, get elected. Headlining the day are former California state legislators Gwen Moore, a Democrat, and Lynn Daucher, a Republican. The event will examine the status of women in elective office, the reasons why women do and don't run for public office – and why it matters. Discussions also will highlight the skills women use every day that teach them how to be successful candidates and elected officials. The Chalon Campus is located at 12001 Chalon Road, Los Angeles 90049. A \$10 fee for the day includes parking and refreshments. For information, call (213) 477-2761

Susan Casamassima asked about getting announcements sooner and the Chair said she would do her best.

LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT, ERIC GARCETTI

The Chair introduced the evening's guest speaker, Eric Garcetti. He has represented the 13th District since 2001 and his duties include acting as mayor when the Mayor is out of town. He's a fourth generation Angeleno, jazz pianist, photographer, US Navy Reserve; he's taught at Occidental College and USC. He attended Columbia University and also went to Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar. He has won awards for environmental work and he drives an electric car! The Chair continued to read a list of Eric's accomplishments. She presented him with a Coral Tree bag and T-shirt. Eric is the son of Gil Garcetti and he spoke about being raised in Brentwood. He thanked everyone for their commitment, activism and advocacy. He noted traffic is worse; responsible development is important and how we manage growth, not just jobs. He spoke about his family's roots in Los Angeles and their heritage. He discussed fires and deployments of resources, the revitalization of Hollywood. Currently, he lives in Silverlake which is a walkable community and is a model of how we can develop. He discussed the challenges of the budget and crime and that the city has downsized by 5,000 employees and is now at the numbers under Mayor Tom Bradley.

He spoke about the Graffiti Program, UNTAG, and how a group of activists are in charge of each block and call it in to get it painted over within 24 hours. He thanked everyone for their involvement in the bus bench program.

Eric Garcetti responded to questions regarding traffic problem; he encouraged carpooling. He mentioned there is a phone application to track vacant parking spaces in Hollywood. We need federal help to advance programs such as urban transportation programs.

Ray Klein asked about the ethnic divide by redistricting and bus lanes and how Brentwood residents were accused of being racists at a recent bus lane hearing. Eric agreed it was an inaccurate depiction of Brentwood. He added it was important that leaders insist people listen and it was important to have a regional transportation plan. Electric buses are coming. John Rosenfeld complained about street lines being worn and Eric said he would speak to Councilman Rosendahl. Eric also addressed a question regarding the traffic from Santa Monica and Bergamot. He said it was important to make an allegiance with the folks in Santa Monica. City of LA can look at the impact on traffic so we should work with the council offices and City Attorney and that should get their attention. He also responded to restrictions on sight-seeing buses that are empty and advised everyone to stay tuned. He addressed the lights at Sunset and

Barrington; we already have a sensor system at intersections to reprogram traffic lights. Traffic engineers could come in and discuss the spillover.

Text messaging in cars on cellphones - Eric said the state is looking at more significant punishments and penalties. We need a culture of enforcement with traffic officers. There was a comment about parks and Eric discussed the walkway around Silverlake Reservoir. He wants more community festivals in Los Angeles to bring people together.

Rabbi Feinstein commented that the Mayor had come in with a platform for improving education and what could we do. Eric said it has improved and they are building schools, and they are more competitive. We need to make schools the center of the community by providing WiFi and encouraging social interaction. This is not a job problem but a skills problem. Eric's goal is to put a laptop in the hand of every child. This concluded Eric Garcetti's presentation and the Chair thanked him.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

The Chair noted that City Controller Wendy Greuel would be the guest speaker for next month's BCC meeting.

Rabbi Feinstein asked for a moment of silence for the 10-year anniversary of 9/11. This coming Sunday, there is an opportunity to do community service – see www.BigSunday.org.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, a Motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting; the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

NEXT BCC MEETING: October 4, 2011