

MINUTES OF THE BRENTWOOD COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING
Brentwood Kaufman Library, 11820 San Vicente Blvd.
Tuesday, October 1, 2013

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Nancy Freedman called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m., then led the Pledge of Allegiance. Council members introduced themselves and their representative capacities:

Representatives

Allen-Neisen, Keith
Binder, John
Cohen, Ike
Dohrmann, Barbara
Freedman, Nancy
Gordon, Brian
Kalette, Tom
Klein, Raymond
Kozloff, Kyle
Krell, Marylin
Lewis, Mary Ann
Munjack, Julie
Sidell, Mary
Watts, Larry
Yadegar, Sam

Alternates

Adomian, Jerry
Alpern, Leeor
Blum, Len
Garfield, Kathleen
Holland, Kay
Inadomi, Bob
Pilla, Tom
Rosen, Jacqui

*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 – Two spelling corrections were made to the minutes. A motion was made (K. Kozloff), seconded (T. Kalette), and passed to approve the minutes of the September meeting.

TREASURER’S REPORT –Bryan Gordon

- The report covers the three months of July - September 2013
- Receipts from Dues were \$100
- Disbursements were \$590
- Net surplus for the year to date is \$1,192.80
- The balance on the Operating Account is \$7,831.24 and on the Street Furniture Account is \$14,250.

GOVERNMENT REPORTS

Norman Kulla, Senior Counsel for Councilman Bonin, CD11

- Munger Project – As far as the council office knows, there will be *no* demolition related to this project at this time.

- LAX transit stop debate – There is currently a proposal for a Metro stop that is two and a half miles from LAX, with shuttle service to connect to the airport.

A proposed alternative would have a Metro rail station on the Crenshaw Line (which could also serve as an additional station for the Green Line) at the Intermodal Transit Facility (ITF) proposed for LAX. This would provide public transit plus a people mover that would make trips every few minutes. This model would cost an additional \$200 million to fund.

The city cannot afford to miss this opportunity to connect to the airport. There is a battle ahead and the council needs support from community. This will come before Metro in October, so there is some time pressure.

WRAC (Western Regional Alliance of Councils) has heard both sides and strongly recommends that the BCC join in support for this proposal. A motion to approve the resolution stated below was made (M. Lewis), seconded (L. Watt), and passed, with one abstention.

Resolved, the Brentwood Community Council supports a Metro rail station on the Crenshaw Line (that could also serve as an additional station for the Green Line) at the Intermodal Transit Facility (ITF) proposed for LAX.

- Stop Sign at Bundy and Mayfield – Pedestrian safety features are being discussed before removal of the sign

Stephanie Cohen, Field Representative for State Assemblymember Richard Bloom.

Healthcare marketplace opened today. Please note that the correct website to use is **coveredca.com**. There is a fraudulent website currently operating that is called coveredcalifornia.com. Do NOT use this site.

- Assemblymember Bloom, in partnership with the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services and United Long Term Care Workers (SEI-ULTCW) is hosting a Healthcare Town Hall: How the Affordable Care Act Works for You. This free two hour information session will be held at the Santa Monica Public Library, 601 Santa Monica Blvd., on Saturday, October 12 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
- There will be a Senior Scam stopper seminar on Friday, October 4 from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at the Brentwood Kaufman Library.

Daniel Tamm, Westside Representative for Mayor Eric Garcetti

Mr. Tamm, who is responsible for areas west of La Cienega, south of Mulholland, and inclusive of Culver City, Pacific Palisades, and LAX, introduced himself and gave his background. For 10 years, he did political organizing and running of campaigns on the Westside (Koretz), and in Missouri in 2007 (Obama). He has been inspired by Mayor Garcetti and believes in his agenda and forward thinking approach.

- Regarding IBEW Local 11 contract for DWP, the Mayor thinks the contract is “okay” but feels we can do better. The voters delivered a strong mandate not to allow contract benefits to increase as services are being cut.
- Final commission selections are taking place and plans are underway to combine some departments. Michael Logrande will remain as head of Planning.
- There are no new big city initiatives right now; the agenda is one of back to basics; focus is on economic development, revenue for basic city services, and “good” jobs
- For issues in our area, CD11 is first line of action. He consults with Councilmember Bonin on our local issues.
- Daniel.tamm@lacity.org / 213-978-0386

Gary Goelitz – Senior Vice President, Matrix Consulting Group – Goals:

- Integrate Five Departments
- Update City Regulations – This will take five years to complete and cost \$5 million. The zoning code was last updated in 1946.
- Review Community Plans – The new plan for Hollywood has been adopted and they are in the process of updating six more. There are no plans right now to review Community Plan for Brentwood or Pacific Palisades.
- Improve Code Enforcement – This currently lacks any strength. The department’s goal now is a 20 business day response time. That should be decreased to 5 business days.
- Update and Coordinate Technology – City is currently working from many different systems. Proposals are due in October from software firms and the upgrade will probably need a budget of \$15-\$30 million for a seamless transparent system that would automatically email interested parties when permits are pulled, etc. This would dramatically enhance efficiency and communication.
- Improve Business Processes – This is not currently well thought out for the ease of the customer. For example, it can now take over a year to get simple permits.
- Review Physical Location of Staff – there is currently no planning staff on the Westside, in South LA, or in San Pedro.
- Improve Organizational Structure – Geographic as well as functional allocation

As of January 1, 2014, the Department of City Planning and the Department of Building and Safety won't exist separately, but will be consolidated.

Janelva Williams, DWP Customer Service Representative/Speakers Bureau Representative
(janelva.williams@ladwp.com)

Explanation of DWP Water/Electric Bills:

- The first page has a summary (what you owe, what you're charged for, etc.)
- This is followed by an itemized and detailed list of charges, broken down and described in detail on the left side of the bill
- There are 2 tiers for water and 3 tiers for electricity. The Westside is Tier 1, which is allotted 350 kilowatt hours, and allows for up to 6 people in your household
- More color is being used to designate services
- Blue is for Department of Water and Power and green is for Bureau of Sanitation charges
- There is a graph that shows historical usage (year-to-year comparisons)
- A box on page two, with the meter number, will say if your bill is estimated or current read/previous read; If it is estimated, check to see if there is an issue accessing your meter
- If numbers are higher than expected with no apparent explanation, check to be sure your meter is not broken; monitor to be sure there is no leak, wet soggy grass, etc.
- Hillside properties have to water more to comply with fire requirements; call DWP to find out about subsidies
- With a physician certified allowance, you may qualify for and Energy Subsidy Adjustment (ESA)
- 40-50% of bill is for power

Contact: 800-DIAL DWP (800-342-5397).

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Safety – Ray Klein

- Copper wire thefts – Please report anyone suspicious, even if they seem to be in red vest "uniform".
- Privacy walls – Code designates that front of property walls be 3½ feet; taller, very dense hedges are the same as walls.

Land Use – Bryan Gordon

- Archer School
 - Archer is projected to submit a DEIR in November which will be followed by a 45 day public comment period. There could possibly be a request to extend that to 60 days since it is over the holiday period
 - Members of BCC and BHA have been meeting with the school on a monthly basis
 - LADOT is resisting some of the traffic mitigation measures that the school is prepared to pay for.

- BCC Land Use Committee will review DEIR. The LUC will have a full presentation from Archer/and neighbors at a regularly scheduled committee meeting (the 3rd Monday of each month).
- CUP process will be concurrent to final EIR hearings.

Question: When does the school intend to begin construction? B. Gordon understands that the school is projecting a possible summer 2014 start, but that is likely dependent on city processes and fundraising.

CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Based on the motion made, seconded, and approved at the September meeting, BCC has sent a letter to support the Los Angeles Residential Helicopter Noise Relief bill.
- Request for correction will be sent to the new Brentwood News re: the misstatement regarding BCC nonsupport for the mural ordinance. The Council supports the ordinance.
- Plastic Bag Ordinance – Large chains must comply starting January 1. Independent markets have until summer 2014 to comply. Vicente Foods currently has a recycling program and has a contract with a waste management company that picks up each week.

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS

M. Sidell congratulated two students from St. Martin of Tours School who won first place in their grades (one in 5th grade and one in 7th grade) in a national essay contest sponsored by the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR).

PUBLIC COMMENT

Barbara Dorhmann pointed out that we are the only city that owns our own utility - it's not a public utility. DWP employees were made civil service employees which is problematic. Compared to SCE and PG&E, DWP rates are lower but have higher city ordained subsidies; suggests there should be a publically accountable board.

Claudia Martin, Deputy City Attorney, is a neighborhood prosecutor assigned to West L.A. Division and Pacific Division, and she is based at the LAX Courthouse. Her focus is on "quality of life" issues (transients, RVs, catering trucks, etc.)

Martin, who works closely with Senior Lead Officer Maria Gray, has been a neighborhood prosecutor for eight years. Contact information is Claudia.martin@lacity.org or 310-202-3824.

ADJOURNMENT – The Meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

NEXT BCC MEETING: Tuesday, November 5, 2013