

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

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Nancy Freedman called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm and she invited Kerry McNeil, who lives at the California Veterans Home, to lead the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. Kerry served in Germany during the Korean crisis. A copy of the Agenda was circulated. The Chair invited members of the Council to introduce themselves and identify their representative capacity:

***Present:**

Representatives

Eva Satori McClane (Alternate)
Tony Diamond (Alternate)
Mary Sidell
Roz Gamble
Bryan Gordon
Nancy Freedman
Larry Watts

Said Jabbari
Ike Cohen
Mary Helen Michel
Ann Helpert
Leonard Blum
John Given (Alternate)
Susan Casamassima

Alternates

Elin Schwartz
Laura Blumenthal
Christina McIntosh
Tom Kalette

Teri Redman
Kay Holland
Sam Yadegar

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 November 1, 2011 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 zero abstentions.

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

- There were no Receipts for the months of October and November
- Disbursements were \$140
- Net surplus for the year to date is \$263.22
- The balance in the combined Operating Account is \$6,022.76 and the Street Furniture Fund is \$14,250.00

The Treasurer added that he was mailing out the Dues Statements for 2012.

PUBLIC SAFETY REPORT

Officer Philip Enbody discussed the burglary problem. Crime is up 17% ,mostly an increase in burglaries. He distributed handouts with prevention tips. The police arrested the bicycle thief three weeks ago. Another thief is gaining access through garage doors, so Office Enbody recommends removing the rope that releases the garage door. There have been recent burglaries in the South Brentwood area – one where the resident was home. A description was provided and an arrest made. This past week was the lowest number of crimes in months. He reminded everyone to lock doors and windows, lock cars and even putting gifts in trunks is no longer secure as someone might be watching. Set the car alarm. This concluded his report.

Ray Klein, Public Safety Representative was absent so there was no report.

GOVERNMENT REPORTS

Kara Seward, Field Representative, Senator Fran Pavley – absent and no report.

Ellen Isaacs for Assembly Member Mike Feuer – present, but no report.

Joseph Hari, West Los Angeles Area Director, Mayor’s Office - absent and no report.

Joaquin Macias, Field Deputy Councilman Rosendahl

Councilman Rosendahl is holding a supply drive for the homeless shelter – see the website for list of needed items.

San Vicente Coral Trees and Median: a meeting was held with the Urban Forestry and Brentwood Community Council and the council offices regarding maintenance of the coral trees and median.

Darlington Traffic Signal: Councilman Rosendahl met with John Fisher and it was decided to activate the light and restrict left hand turns; they will evaluate it in six to nine months. There will be no cutting into the median for a left turn pocket, thus, no left turning. Bryan Gordon asked how the effect of this would be monitored and Joaquin responded that the council office would do that as well as the community. He was not sure when it would be switched on. DOT (Department of Transportation) would not allow a left turn due to the data stating it was dangerous. Councilman Rosendahl has requested a copy of the report. A pedestrian crossing button would be installed in the median.

Montana/Barrington Traffic Light: The contractor handling the conduit work was not being paid so he stopped work. When DOT finds the money, it will be prioritized.

Post Office Parking Lot (Barrington): Joaquin said a phone conference with the contacts at the Veterans Administration had been rescheduled. The contact is Jeff Blake. Roz Gamble asked for the contact information and Joaquin suggested she email him and he would provide it.

Green Hollow Square : The FEIR (Final Environmental Impact Report) is due this month and will be followed by a series of future hearings and meetings.

Susan Casamassima asked about the procedure for obtaining neighborhood-funded safety spikes and speed funds. The General Manager feels it is more of an issue to try to do privately funded DOT issues. The council offices will prioritize by the length of time the item has been in process. DOT is seriously understaffed. Additionally, there has been a lack of communication with the WLA DOT office. Ike Cohen commented on rescheduling the meeting and the continuing delay; Joaquin apologized. This concluded his report.

VETERAN’S PARK CONSERVANCY – GARY MAIER, PRESIDENT

Gary Maier discussed the Veteran's Park Conservancy – a 501(c3); the organization started as an advocacy group and Gary has been on the board for 18 years. It was initiated to prevent development of the VA and sale of the VA property. The Cranston Act was passed to protect the land and Senator Feinstein and Councilman Waxman have been supportive. VPC installed fencing around the national cemetery and restored the special American monument. They also were responsible for the Women's Rose Garden and the dedication was December 5, 2011. Gary noted it was quite an uplifting dedication and the VA is moving the therapeutic facility programs next to the garden into the buildings on Eisenhower west of the Wadsworth Theater. The Women's Rose Garden was restored by private money. There was a question regarding American flags on Wilshire; these were installed by the County and they had weathered over time and been destroyed by wear and tear. Money is needed to replace them. The

An audience member asked why the dedication in the Rose Garden was by invitation only. She said she and other veterans were treated like gatecrashers. Gary Maier responded that it was an event in conjunction with the VA and involved private donors. The Chair said she appreciated the comment and that a veteran had approached her at the beginning of the ceremony and expressed his gratitude. Susan Casamassima said she agreed with the audience member's position and said the BCC should write a letter if there are any similar events stating that support the audience member's position. Ike Cohen said he attended the dedication and it was very positive in the rehabilitation of veterans. He sat next to a veteran who was voted California Veteran of the Year, so there were veterans at the event. He commented on the issue with the Army Reserve's use of VA land; he said it should revert to the VA but no one is sure why it's still with the Army. He asked what needed to be done to return it to the VA. Susan Casamassima said she would follow up with Ike Cohen. Sol Liebster said it was important to thank people who contributed the money for the VA. A little two-hour affair to thank donors for making it a place for all veterans did not deserve the criticism.

BERGAMOT STATION PRESENTATION – SANTA MONICA COALITION FOR A LIVABLE CITY, Diana Gordon, Co-Chair distributed handouts regarding the Papermate site. The group wrote a letter regarding not respecting the borders between cities; they were expecting a draft of the EIR (Environmental Impact Report) if the project goes ahead. In January 2012 the draft of the EIR will be available and Diana said she has been talking to various homeowner groups and is forming a subcommittee so that they would be up to speed when the EIR is released. She has met with WRAC (Westside Regional Association of Councils) to get it on their agenda. There are four items to discuss. Her group fought the expansion of Santa Monica Place; they spent two year litigating.

There is no general plan yet for this development. They want to encourage the City to demand a Master EIR to discuss the impact on the region; they need everyone to write to Councilman Rosendahl's office and make gridlock impossible. This proposed development is a quarter mile from Bundy Village. Diana outlined the four issues:

1. Form a committee – see the website for ideas;
2. When the EIR is released, weigh in on traffic impacts as we did with Bundy Village;
3. Work with Councilman Rosendahl's office, Bill Rosendahl is willing to go to his colleagues in the Council and ask the City Attorney to put Santa Monica on notice;
4. Sign up for updates at www.smclec.net

An audience member asked what the goal was as badly-needed jobs would come from this development. Diana responded that they would be asking for it to be scaled back and change it to a mix of streets that are walkable with enough housing. Currently the plan is 70% commercial. Ike Cohen said the BHA (Brentwood Homeowners Association) has formed a committee and they agreed with everything Diana had said. Susan Casamassima asked about requesting support from the Water Garden and to find a public

relations firm. Diana responded they were looking for deep pockets to do that. It was also suggested to use County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky's office for support. It was important to slow down the process before the council elections next month. The traffic study was expected the second week of January 2012. Diana said it was 40 – 60% residential; she did not have the data on low income housing. Commercial is the tail wagging the dog. Leonard Blum was concerned at cutting back the project to the detriment of the benefits it offers. Diana said they need to do an independent economic analysis as these types of projects are not usually beneficial to the residents. The development could make money with a lower ratio of 70 – 30%. Tony Diamond felt the community would benefit. Bryan Gordon added that what was relevant was that the developer needed to mitigate the impact and pay fees to the city for using those resources; the traffic impact should be measured to make a project like this work. Diana confirmed all surrounding homeowner groups had joined with the Santa Monica Coalition for a Livable City. There was further discussion regarding the tipping point of the benefit to the community as many people are no longer coming to Brentwood to shop because of the traffic.

Lauren Cole said she would form the committee; this concluded the presentation and the Chair thanked Diana Gordon.

OUTREACH LA CITY COUNCIL REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

Rashad Rucker is the point person for the Brentwood area. The first hearing for Council District 11 is on Thursday, December 15, 2011 at 6:30 pm at IMAN Cultural Center; he distributed flyers with information along with copies of the redistricting schedule. There followed a question and answer session. Current maps are available on the website: www.redestricting2011.lacity.org. Rashad continued that we are in the first stages of the hearings. The Census revealed significant population changes. He encouraged everyone to attend the hearing so they could share their opinion on what is positive and what is negative; this will affect the maps for the next 10 years. The Chair encouraged everyone to send letters and attend the meetings. Rashad said the hearings would include a brief overview regarding procedures and he would email more information to the Chair. This concluded his presentation and the Chair thanked him.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Phil Brown, architect with a background in transportation, commented on ways to solve congestion and gridlock in Los Angeles. He referenced the last bullet point in the handout “Westside Plan to Eliminate Congestion,” and he read it to the audience:

Brentwood can only be saved from the cut through traffic between the Valley and Santa Monica by the Flow Boulevard capacity improvement as described above.

He invited further communication.

Mark Sleeper discussed The Giving Spirit. They are having survival bag assembling sessions on December 15, 16, 17 and 18 at the Brentwood Presbyterian Church. They plan to build 2750 survival bags to distribute to homeless people. They have been doing this since 1999. The budget is \$250,000 and they buy supplies from 99cent Store. In kind donations and money are welcome. See www.thegivingspirit.org for more information.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mary Sidell announced the following private school announcements for December 2011:

Archer School's final admissions Open House: Sunday, January 8, 2012, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm. Sign up online at www.archer.org.

Brentwood School's final admissions Open House: For parents of students applying to grades 7 – 12. Thursday, January 12, 2012, 6:30 pm – 8:45 pm. RSVP to colleen Ward at (310) 889-2657.

Mount St. Mary's College

The College will be inaugurating Ann McElaney-Johnson as the 12th President of the College in March on the Doheny Campus. For more information, go to www.mcmc.la.edu/inauguration.

Archer School: Scoping Meeting on January 18, 2012, 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm.; location to be announced. See www.archer.org.

LA Unified used to have a partnership to provide transport for students; this program has been cut. Palisades High now has 3,000 and Revere has 2,000 students. This impacts children and the quality of education. Palisades High is accepting donations online at www.palihigh.org. Thirty percent are on subsidized lunches, so do not assume they are all wealthy families.

Kaufman Brentwood Branch Library

Holiday Concert, Saturday, December 10, 2011 at 2:00 pm and Holiday Book Sale on Saturday, December 17, 2011 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm

Ray Keller announced the final EIR on Green Hollow would be released in a couple of weeks. He will forward copies to the BCC Land Use Committee. He will be available to explain and clarify some of the misconceptions of the report. The hearing will be in Spring 2012. Sue Casamassima reported there were nine applications for the BCC and the Representation Committee will have completed all interviews and would have a report for the January 2012 meeting.

John Given reported on the Sign Ordinance. There was a special hearing Monday, December 5, 2011. A new draft was distributed on November 21 and there were some concerns in that document. Councilmember Perry introduced a motion regarding cross promotion and changing the definition of "on site," and there was a lot of concern that this was a potential loophole. There was significant advocacy against signage in parks so it appeared we had achieved our goal; however, on Friday it came out that Councilmember Perry and Department of Recreation and Parks and LA Zoo had communicated that there was a strong desire to have signage at the Zoo. This would not have been allowed in the ordinance as written so is a way for the PLUM Committee to figure out how to put signs in parks. Many open space advocates are very concerned. John concluded that the last 48 hours had been frustrating. The Chair thanked him for the update.

CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENTS

San Vicente Parking Study – Mott Smith gave the community committee a briefing on what was found on San Vicente in regards to parking. There were enough spaces at present; there are spaces found in buildings that possibly can be used to park employees in businesses. Discussion proved the desire to raise the amount of time a car can park at a meter to 2 or 3 hours. Too many tickets are being written because one hour is often not enough time to do errands.

The Chair reported on the Gorham arson fire in the absence of Marilyn Krell. The fire department determined an accelerant (gasoline) had been used, but they have not yet caught the perpetrator(s). Four families have received help from the community and a local hotel has offered rooms. There have been many donations; Fazio Cleaners is cleaning and storing the clothes for one resident. If you wish to make a contribution, please see the Chair, Nancy Freedman.

Brentwood Science Magnet Annual Giving Campaign; they raise funds for enhanced educational programs such as science, computer labs, art and music. For more information or to make a donation, see www.friendsofBSME.org.

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 8:30 p.m.

NEXT BCC MEETING: January 3, 2012