

MINUTES OF THE BRENTWOOD COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING
Brentwood Kaufman Library, 11820 San Vicente Blvd.
Tuesday, December 4, 2018

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair M. Bisnoff called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Our student honorees led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council members present introduced themselves and their representative capacities:

REPRESENTATIVES

Abramson, Daniel
Alfano, Madelyn
Alkov, Georgia
Ardehali, Mitra
Berk, Michael
Bisnoff, Michelle
Blum, Len
Cole, Lauren
Dohrmann, Barbara
Drimmer, Stephen
Edmunds, Eric
Haley, John
Jordan, Carolyn
Kahn, Teri Redman
Klein, Raymond
Kohler, Matt
Melnick, David
Rosen, Jacqui
Sidell, Mary

Simmons, Sheila
Stein, Richard
Swartz, Marcie Polier
Watts, Larry
Yadegar, Sam

ALTERNATES

Adomian, Jerry
Arbour, Elyse
Aronson, Michele
Chaggier, Flo
Durbin, Kathleen
Freedman, Nancy
Karsh, Jacki
Krell, Marylin
Lyon, Janet
Melvoin, Nick
Rose, Herb

*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 – Motion was made (R. Stein), seconded (L. Blum) and approved to accept the November meeting minutes with the changes noted.

YOUTH CITIZEN AWARDS – Mary Sidell and Nick Melvoin

The annual awards were presented to:

- The Archer School for Girls - Siena Mills
- Brentwood School – Wyatt Sarkisian
- Palisades High School – Wendy Cano
- University High School – Litzzy Bautista

Certificates were awarded from the offices of Councilmember Mike Bonin, Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, Assemblymember Richard Bloom, US Congressman Ted Lieu, and California Senator Ben Allen.

LAUSD UPDATE/REPORT – Nick Melvoin, Vice President LAUSD

Melvoin is the representative for district 4 which goes from Westchester to Woodland Hills and the Ocean to the Hollywood Hills (approximately 1/7th of LAUSD). In the first months of his election to the board, he visited all 150 schools and has visited them all. They have conducted a series of Town Halls events to stimulate conversations to help understand people's vision for schools and what needs improvement. They published results on their website and published a Year in Review.

LAUSD is the 2nd largest school district in the country (2nd only to NYC). It serves 700,000 students, has 60,000 employees, and is the 2nd largest transportation provider in the county behind Metro. Serve 700,000 meals a day in part because 84% of kids in LA Unified are living in poverty, including 16,300 who are homeless.

Some of the current challenges:

- Academics
 - Only 40% students read at grade level;
 - Only 30% can do math at grade level;
 - Only 47% graduate eligible for/ready for college;
 - Only one in who go to college will graduate;
 - What is it about the autonomy of Charter Schools that make them successful, and how can we bring that to all our schools so we can improve the schools we have without adding other options?
- Financial challenges
 - 34% of the district's budget is for healthcare and pensions for employees; there needs to be a plan to address this, as it is expected to grow to 50% in 8 years;
 - We need grant money to prioritize - school safety, playgrounds/open space, and technology;
 - Cutting red tape from district and city for fundraising; and
 - New efficiencies and decentralization be better for kids and also save money; looking to break schools into 30 or so networks of schools;
 - 90% of our funding comes from the state, but we are 42 out of 50 states in per pupil funding. We need more resources in the classroom.
- Fighting Fires – literally and figuratively
 - Some schools became shelters during recent fires;
 - Dealing with board vacancies and a new superintendent;
 - Rewriting school safety guidelines, so schools are safe without feeling like fortresses; and
 - Sexual harassment issues and enforcement, making sure students and employees feel safe.

Teacher Strike update: Currently have pretty competitive compensation (salary+pension and healthcare); as cost of living increases in Los Angeles, it's difficult for teachers. District has offered % increases and healthcare has already been negotiated and offers lifetime benefits. Fact finding panel is doing research. There could possibly be a strike in January if no agreement is reached.

LAUSD-owned property: 1200 schools and may go to voters in 2020 with a new bond; district built 131 new schools to relieve overcrowding, but many more need to be renovated. A fact finding group is looking at real estate for things like employee housing. In some areas, the city is covering the costs of security guards so campuses may be kept open in the evenings and on weekends as parks open to the public. About \$4 million has been raised in recent months to help fund these initiatives, so we don't have to spent district money that should be directed to classroom resources.

LAUSD has a foundation that is being revived, and we are looking for ways to create opportunities to give and ways to reduce red tape.

M. Bisnoff thanked Nick Melvoin and Allison Holdorff Polhill for their help in setting up shelters during the Woolsey fire

ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS – Nominating Committee: Chair Jerry Adomian, Madelyn Alfano, Nancy Freedman

Committee members explained the process and introduced the candidates. E. Edmunds withdrew his name from ballot for Chair. L. Cole was nominated from the floor for Vice Chair and declined the nomination. Ballots distributed and collected for counting.

Suggestions from the Nominating Committee for meeting structure and future elections:

- 2 year terms recommended for Executive Committee members; this is more typical;
- Consent agendas allow more time for discussion. It would be the responsibility of members to read reports sent in advance of meetings and be prepared to discuss; and
- Replace "reply-all" emails with a log-in blog area on the website that allows for open and transparent dialogue between board members.

GOVERNMENT REPORTS –

Erin Schneider, Field Deputy, West/Metro LA, for Supervisor Sheila Kuehl

www.lacounty.gov/government/supervisors/sheila-kuehl

eschneider@bos.lacounty.gov

Woolsey Fire is 100% contained; the county worked together with federal and state agencies to open a disaster recovery center at Malibu Courthouse;

Two emergency motions were made today to expedite Woolsey Fire recovery process:

1. Allows LA county public works to supplement and extend professional and emergency contracts to repair and reconstruct public road, bridges, trains, flood control facilities and water supply facilities as well as conduct outreach about debris flow issues; also allows county to waive excessive water bill charges during the billing cycle for those whose homes or businesses were impacted by the Woolsey fire.
2. Expedite/advance the removal of hazardous debris to protect the public.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Richard Stein

- November, 2018, net receipts: \$50.00
- November disbursements: \$70.00
- Net surplus for 2018: \$1,596.23
- Balance on operating account: \$15,426.63

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Safety – Michelle Bisnoff

- Written report and other information on recognizing and dealing with elder fraud scams and LADWP scams attached.

Land Use – Carolyn Jordan - Reports sent to board in advance.

- One issue relates to a proposed ordinance going before PLUM (hearing tomorrow 12/5) to streamline the CUB process. Draft letter was circulated to the full board. Need authorization to submit the letter.

Motion was made (R. Stein), seconded (L. Watts) and approved to authorize the letter.

- **Barry's Boot Camp:** The LUC voted 5-1 to recommend not opposing. There is an exemption from San Vicente specific plan parking requirements. Applicant conducted a parking study which appears that there is more than adequate parking for that particular use. Site of the project does not impact frontage on San Vicente. R. Klein objects because of parking issue concerns. L. Blum noted that there is significant walking traffic at this site. Representative of applicant was present.

Motion was made (M. Sidell), seconded (L. Watts) and approved to accept recommendation of LUC.

- **Theory and Rumble** – In this project, the front of the building that faces San Vicente would remain retail and the appearance would not change. The back of the building would become a Gym, with no street presence. Project requests a zone variance for change of use. Brentwood Terrace representative S. Yadegar requests that LUC make no recommendations until the HOA and neighbors have an opportunity to study this further, and educate residents about the impacts. Homeowner Flora Krisiloff noted that project representatives/expeditors need to communicate directly with homeowners by perhaps knocking on doors on Avondale and talking to those residents. Krisiloff submitted a letter to BCC - attached. Jessica Hencier, Associate Project Manager, was present at the meeting. She is with Craig Lawson & Co (Land Use Consultants) jessicah@craiglawson.com. No action taken by BCC board at this time.
- **Sunset and Barrington** – Informational presentation for a proposed new mixed use project at the site of the old Texaco Station. This is an FYI only. Input is being collected from most impacted areas including Brentwood Village. No action taken by BCC board at this time.
- **Recommendation – LUC** needs process and procedure for notifying leadership of impacted HOAs in most efficient way (by phone call or email). It would be helpful to have a map on the BCC website of the HOA areas and contact information for each.
- **Cabo Cantina** – Email received from applicant requests a supplemental letter acknowledging that the CUB renewal does not have expiration, but rather goes with the land in perpetuity. SBRA and LUC earlier recommended not objecting. The ZA is now asking that boards give clarification of agreement and understanding of open ends to CUBs.

Motion was made (L. Blum), seconded (M. Alfano) and approved to issue the supplemental letter.

- **WRAC** – There is a recommendation from Planning to adopt new ordinance for planning and procedures for new land use applications, including CUPs and variances. BCC has requested more time to review the nearly 1,000 pages. This is part of Recode LA. No action needed by BCC board at this time.
- **Fed Ex – A** full appeal has been filed and a link will be posted on the website in the next few days. In the full appeal, specific issues were defined such as bike racks and a review of parking.

VA – Carolyn Jordan - Report sent to board in advance.

It is believed that an environmental assessment on the Master Plan is supposed to be published in the next few weeks, with the public comment period extended from 30 days to 45 days.

Tom Safran thanked the board for its support in the selection of his company, along with US Vets and Century Housing, to do the VA project.

Religious Organizations/Institutions – Sheila Simmons

In light of recent events, the LAPD arranged a meet and greet with clergy leaders to discuss forming a council. The council will meet quarterly to share information, disseminate crime info as well provide safety tips. We touched on the rise of hate crimes and how to keep our congregations safe during emergencies. SLO Maria Gray encouraged leaders to have a plan – map building circulation areas, exit doors, exit doors that lock when closed behind, secure hiding areas, emergency access points, etc.

The council is in the infancy stages. I will keep you posted along the way. Feel free to pass along concerns or tips.

Transportation – Lauren Cole

- **MSMU** – A study has been completed that determined there is no way to put in or use a new alternate road for access.
- **Last Mile/First Mile** – The first meeting is next week; contact L. Cole if you would like to attend.

- **Darlington and San Vicente** – A left turn pocket could not be put in at the time the stop light was installed because the coral tree that would need to be removed is protected. That tree is no longer healthy and could perhaps be removed to allow the pocket. Research to be done to determine if the median is protected as well.

CHAIR REPORT/ANNOUNCEMENTS – M. Bisnoff

Board voted to change the January meeting to Wednesday, January 9, and for all future BCC meetings to move to the second Wednesday of the month.

BOARD COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- M. Kohler – Reminder that the 2019 Brentwood Run will be held on June 9. Other activities include a dog walk and dog parade. For more information and to register, visit www.BrentwoodRun.com or email w2promo14@gmail.com. If you are interested in being a sponsor, please contact M. Kohler, N. Freedman, or M. Krell
- Election Results announced by Nominating Committee Chair J. Adomian
 - Chair – Michelle Bisnoff
 - Vice Chair – Carolyn Jordan
 - Secretary – Larry Watts
 - Treasurer – Richard Stein
 - Non-officer member – Jacqui Rosen

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Walt Walston announced that Upward Bound House will hold a 5K walk and run on February 10. San Vicente Blvd. will be closed between 7:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.
- M. Aronson shared that the first San Vicente Small Business Saturday was successful. Recommendation was made to move the event next year to the first Saturday in December.

ADJOURNMENT

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

NEXT BCC MEETING: Scheduled for Wednesday, January 9, 2019