

DRAFT

Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council Board Meeting
Wednesday, March 3, 2010, 7:00 pm
Lake Balboa Studios
7412 Balboa Blvd.
Lake Balboa, CA 91406

D. Bernardoni	Pres., Residential Representative	P
E. Doxsee	Youth Rep.	P
Sylvia Silva	Residential Rep.	P
Amber Savastio	Communications Officer, Business Rep.	A
Linda Pruett	2nd VP, EP Committee Chair	P
Ivan Tjoe	Treasurer	P (arrives at 8:05 p.m.)
Steve Leffert	Secretary	P
Clay McFarland	Vice Chair, Business Rep.	P
Bahman Mojallal (Moe)	At-Large Appointed Rep.	P
Elmer Jespersen	Senior Rep.	A
Teresa Pollock	Residential Rep.	A
Allen Nelson	Business Rep.	P
Jack Baird	Residential Rep.	P
Lisa Reveen	Animal Welfare Comm., Organization Rep.	P
Joyce MacKinnon	Organizational Rep.	A (Exc.)
Bill McRae	Outreach & Marketing Comm. Chair	P

1. Welcome, Please Sign In – Meeting opened at 7:02 p.m.
2. Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda and Approval of Minutes of the February 3, 2010 meeting
Clay McFarland introduces motion to adopt agenda. Jack Baird seconds. (9-0-2) Chair and Moe abstain.
Steve Leffert introduces motion to approve minutes. Allen Nelson seconds. (10-0-1) Chair abstains.
3. Introduction of Bong Hwan Kim, General Manager of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) – Bernardoni
Chair – DONE will be merged with CDD.
Mr. Kim - 4000 layoffs. Implementing layoffs will take through Sept. /Oct. DONE being cut from 43 to 16 positions in City Council's current proposal. Working with CDD on transition plan. Mr. Kim's position will be eliminated.
Neighborhood councils are most precious untold story in Los Angeles. LBNC is one of the model NC boards. The neighborhood councils have had trouble with bureaucracy. Had problems reconciling their budgets with DONE's records. DONE has been understaffed and it's difficult to resolve the conflict. City Council passed a policy that all rollover will be eliminated except for all outstanding contracts and leases, unpaid bills, and allocations approved but not paid.
Re: LBNC's EP program, Kim is interested in syncing neighborhood councils with the CERT programs. Trying to resolve the problems with the container program. The problem lies in disputes about the purpose of neighborhood councils according to the original charter. The charter mandates that neighborhood councils have to exist. City Attorney says they are quasi-legislative councils. If neighborhood councils start doing service delivery, then this violates the charter. A change to the charter would require a city vote.
Re: transition to CDD, consolidating could give DONE more access to services and more security from layoffs. It's important to have a GM for the neighborhood councils. Mr. Kim hopes that this position will continue.

Budget process – After April 20, City Council will have approved the Mayor's final budget and will begin to make final decisions on the role of DONE in the future.

Discussion with Council Members and Stakeholders

L. Pruett – Re: rollover funds, we have allocated \$20,000 to be used for supplies for the 2nd EP bin. Plans for installing the bin at Stagg Street Elementary School were stalled. Is it possible to go forward with this project?

Mr. Kim – City Attorney identified liability issues. Neighborhood councils don't have legal jurisdiction. It might be possible to link up with non-profits that could take up the legal fund.

Chair – Is there a way to earmark the money for the bins if they go back to the city's reserves?

Mr. Kim – The money has to be spent in a very timely way. The money will be gone by the end of March.

Sylvia Silva – If we have a contract for the product, couldn't we purchase the product and find a place for it later?

Linda Pruett – We thought we found a win-win situation when we said that only CERT-trained people would distribute the supplies. Mr. Kim was in support and was willing to write a favorable report. That would ease some of the liability concerns.

Mr. Kim – I anticipated that we would be able to get the Emergency Management Dept.'s foundation to run this program as service in partnership with the neighborhood councils. The problem is liability and because of the fiscal crisis slowing everything down. It's now time-sensitive and further cuts are in order.

It's possible to set up a Friends of Lake Balboa. The members of that group could be NC members, provided that they do not comprise the majority. That's an option you should explore. We'll continue to speak with Jim Featherstone. The funding for neighborhood councils is in less danger of drastic cuts. A non-profit entity could be set up to be a fiscal administrator.

Stakeholder – What can a neighborhood council use its money for? I've heard that we can't do anything for schools or parks because they're city agencies.

Mr. Kim – What neighborhood councils can spend money on needs to be more clearly defined. Current policy establishes 3 broad categories – community beautification, outreach, and administrative. The Council and the Education and Neighborhoods Committee will be looking at this via a motion.

Linda Pruett – Our Council members were aware and were in support of the EP plan.

Mr. Kim – Paul Krekorian, who heads Education and Neighborhood Councils, has been championing neighborhood councils. Contacting him could help.

Clay McFarland – Was treasurer at the time. Followed the guidelines. Everything done according to charter. Proper bids taken. Proper votes taken. Can't understand why it was stopped to begin with.

Mr. Kim – We have limited ability to monitor what neighborhood councils are spending their money on. Would have been involved earlier had he known more.

Steve Leffert – Same City Attorney who brought that up had no problem with the EP supplies when he spoke to him. Months later, he said the same supplies were not within the scope of the Charter.

4. Announcements and Reports – LAPD, Local, City, State, and Federal Representatives, Board Members, and Others, Committee Reports
 - a. Lynda Levitan, field member from CM Cárdenas' office – She can possibly help with the emergency bins if a council member can provide a record of the City Attorney stating his approval and subsequent disapproval. Family self-defense class will be on Sat., March 20, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Branford Recreation Center. No conflict with Green Expo. Aviation career day is on Friday, 23rd of April. Persian Festival will be held on April 4. Park is not closed off to people not attending the festival. Israeli Festival at Woodley Park is on April 25. Pet Care Fair will be on June 12 at Woodley Park. Providing chips, spaying, neutering. Call ahead and make reservations. Because of budget cuts, the office no longer has ability to help speed up the process of getting speed humps installed or approval for permit parking. Call the Council Office to find out if they can help you with a project. SLO's and Lynda are willing to attend neighborhood watch groups.
 - b. Bahman Mojallal – Neighborhood Watch groups are hesitant to get together at a home because they fear being targeted. They are welcome to use the studio (Lake Balboa Studios). A flyer was posted anonymously in Woodley Park. It spreads false information about the upcoming Persian New Year festival. Many people were disturbed and frightened by the hateful messages. Everyone is welcome at this event.

- Chair – The Persian New Year Festival is held every year at Beilenson Park. This year, this event falls on April 4, Easter Sunday. This anonymous posting is discriminatory and disgusting. LAPD is looking into the problem.
- c. Linda Pruett - Will continue to work to resolve conflicts with EP. Still being invited to neighborhood watch groups to speak about EP. We're not giving up.
Go to www.nixle.com to join mailing list that will send messages about criminal/police activity in your local neighborhood. Saturday, we'll be having pet CPR and first aid class. Next EP meeting is on Sat., March 13, 2010 at 9 a.m. CPR First Aid class will be on Saturday, March 6, from 9 a.m. to 1 pm. Cost is \$40.
 - d. Chair – We have NC elections coming up. Encourages stakeholders to get involved. Filing deadline is March 30.
5. Public Comment – Comments from the Public on Non-Agenda Items
 - a. Joyce Doty – Concerned about the number of medical marijuana shops in her neighborhood. 5 in the immediate vicinity.
 - b. Bob Tomasino – Trees on Balboa Place need trimming. No sidewalks around Stag Street School. (Lynda Levitan – May not be able to do anything. Contact Ron.lorenzen@lacity.org to ask for help.)
 - c. Rachel Orland – Cancer Society is having 24 hour walk. It takes place at Birmingham HS. Love to see some teams come out of Lake Balboa. Sponsorship starts at \$500. Would like the neighborhood council's support.
 - d. Lee Marks, Facility Director at Encino Community Center - Monica Resendez is new director of Balboa Sports Center. Spring Egg Hunt is on Sat., April 3. There will be egg hunts, crafts, and face painting.
Asking for donation of \$500 - \$150 for entertainment and \$350 for goodie bags. All money goes back to community. We'll be happy to place you on our flyer.
Monica.resendez@lacity.org; lee.marks@lacity.org
 - e. Glenn Bailey – Thank you for putting Sepulveda Basin onto e-mail blast. Was disappointing to hear that it didn't get onto walkman flyer. Next meeting will be on April 28 or 29. Please put it in the April flyer. Army Corps and private consultant are no longer doing outreach. New proposed locations for DWP's water recycling program are in and around Tillman Water Reclamation Plant. One of them would take land away from Woodley Park. Others are proposing to take all the cricket fields. (Levitan – A particular section of the land on the cricket fields does belong to Tillman.
 6. Brief Response from Board to statements made or questions posed by persons exercising their general public comment rights
 - a. Steve Leffert (response to Ms. Doty) –The City Council is going to pass legislation that will force medical marijuana dispensaries to be closed. Some of the sites she mentioned are within 1,000 ft. of a school. (Levitan recommends contacting elected federal officials. City cannot eliminate them. Federal level might have some authority.)
 - b. Chair (response to Ms. Orland) – Re: questions of sponsorship, send an e-mail to daveb@lakebalboanc.org listing your request, and we can put it on the agenda for next month.
 7. Presentation by the Los Angeles Police Protective League - Bernardoni
John Muma –What is the one dept. that you would keep if you could only keep one? Would you keep police, fire, or EMS? Vast majority of citizens want law enforcement. We're not in a situation to strike a budget. Some City Council officers would say that it makes sense to have pay cuts for police officers so that they can hire more. LAPD has already cut overtime. The city is not so broke that they can't provide all of the services. City wants to change the pension system for public safety. You'll end up with 65-year old firemen and police officers. Please let elected officials know about your concerns for public safety.
 8. Presentation by Christina Spitz regarding cell tower regulation – Bernardoni – Item tabled.
 9. Discussion regarding proposed amendment of ordinance relating to community care facilities and alcohol/drug recovery or treatment facilities within the City of Los Angeles – Leffert –

Steve Leffert - Council member Smith tried to get City Council to set up regulations of rehab facilities. Planning Commission says that residences with 6 or fewer people fall into regular jurisdiction and to use existing nuisance abatement processes. North Hills West and Tarzana neighborhood councils are urging Planning Commission to reconsider and come up with better proposed ordinance.

Chair – Are you contemplating bringing an opposition to the proposed draft ordinance?

Allen Nelson – Lynda, is it true that the facilities fall under state licensing systems?

Lynda Levitan – State does not enforce aggressively. City can't regulate a larger facility. The City can try to get the police dept. involved. That only works if there are nuisances. Can't act on anything quickly unless LAPD can get involved.

Steve Leffert moves that the LBNC write letters to members of City Planning Commission and Councilpersons Greig Smith and Tony Cardenas in reference to Case No. CPC-2009-800-CA which would include the following:

The City Planning Department has drafted an extremely weak proposed ordinance on Group Care Homes. It ignores the directions of the City Council motion and subsequent PLUM instructions to develop effective legislation for the control of group care homes. It has only two useful provisions:

- **No more than two people in a bedroom.**
- **On-site parking required for each resident.**

Other than that, it simply says “use existing nuisance abatement processes.” We all know how effective the City is in enforcing nuisance abatement processes.

We are strongly opposed to the current proposed ordinances. We demand that the ordinance be returned to the Planning Department with instructions to retain those provisions and add the following controls:

- **Require a formal hearing with appropriate notice for any such facility for 7 or more people.**
- **Require a business license for any facility run as a business in a single family residential zone.**
- **Require realistic inspection and enforcement provisions.**

Newport Beach has effective group care home legislation, upheld by the courts. Los Angeles must do the same.

To Gail Goldberg and other members of the Planning Commission.

Steve Leffert moves. Bill McRae seconds.

Discussion:

Bill McRae - Would like to include in the letter the specific concerns of the neighbors in relation to group care homes.

Chair – The motion does not limit the language of the letter to what it is in the motion. It says that the letter “will include the following.” We can add more information to beef it up.

Steve Leffert – Specific neighborhood issues were addressed in the motion that went to City Council. When the motion got to PLUM, they established the weak solution we're now trying to improve. We need the Planning Commission to look at it again.

Approved (10-0-1) Evan Doxsee abstains.

10. Discussion regarding expenditure of funds for “Welcome to Lake Balboa” beautification project – Motion – Reveen

Lisa Reveen - Didn't get beautification grant for sign on Victory exit west of the 405. We had voted to allocate \$22,750 minus \$10,000 grant. Council had voted to spend \$12,750. Moe has come up with revised budget for the balance of \$12,750. The sign will be on private property, and the owner has approved of the concept and agrees to maintain it.

Chair – Way motion was phrased was that we would start over with the funding process. Unless this has been firmly established, city will not grant funding. There were some questions on who would be maintaining the site. Want to do it right so that the project will be approved.

The LBNC debates how to proceed, whether to start the funding process over. The project is the same, only the cost has been reduced. Debate whether the money will come from this year's fiscal budget or from rollover funds.

Steve Leffert introduces motion to allocate up to \$12,275 towards "Welcome to Lake Balboa" beautification project.

Discussion:

B. Mojallal recuses himself.

Sylvia Silva and Chair would like to see documents and proposals in front of them before approving the motion.

Ivan Tjoe suggests a middle ground of allocating the funds and setting them to expire.

[L. Reveen and B. Mojallal present drawings to NC and stakeholders.]

Chair is concerned about liability issues. Do they fall upon the city?

Sylvia Silva would like to get written approval from owner and recorded to County Reporter. It complicates things that the sign is on private property.

Steve Leffert – If that property gets a major remodel, then the street would be widened there. It's in an easement area.

Bill McRae – Can we approve the funds and take the legal details to the committee?

Steve Leffert – Can we still allocate the costs so that we have the money set aside? You can't actually say we're going to record all this if the funds are not appropriated. We could put a 60 day time limit on getting legal approvals.

Bill McRae – I would like to make the allocation for the dollars and charge the board with going to the committee for going through with all the details. He is willing to sit on the committee.

Bill McRae moves that LBNC allocate up to \$12,275 for the purposes of a Welcome to Lake Balboa beautification. Clay McFarland seconds.

Bill McRae – We have an understanding that we will form a committee to work on the project.

Sylvia Silva – Can we set a time limit on this? If the funds are allocated, we can't use them on anything else?

Steve Leffert – They can be reallocated with a motion at a future meeting.

VOTE: Approved (8-1-3) Ivan Tjoe opposes. Chair, Evan Doxsee, and B. Mojallal abstain.

Chair, Bill McRae, and B. Mojallal will be on the committee.

11. Motion to sponsor the annual Spring Egg Hunt at the Balboa Sports Center on April 3 by Recreation and Parks Department – Motion – Leffert

Chair – Last year, LBNC gave \$500 - \$150 for entertainment and \$350 for goodies. Are we still comfortable with the same donation? If we're going to sponsor an event, we need to have a presence there.

Linda Pruett – Could be a good outreach opportunity. Elections information could be distributed. 2 or 3 people could attend.

Bill McRae – I'm sure there are ways to be creative with outreach. With the relationship that we have with these facilities, we might be able to put up a banner for much longer. They were willing to put up our flyers and support us.

Steve Leffert moves that LBNC agrees to sponsor Spring Egg Hunt at the Balboa Sports Center on April 3 in the amount of \$500 as a LBNC outreach event. The LBNC logo will be on the flyers for this and for any banners that they put up at the park for the event. Clay McFarland seconds.

Discussion - \$350 was discussed previously.

Glenn Bailey – Be aware that the Encino NC has the sports center as a polling place.

Bill McRae amends motion to reduce amount to \$350. Lisa Reveen seconds.

Vote on amendment: Approved (5-4-3) Chair, B. Mojallal, and Evan Doxsee abstain.

Vote on motion as amended: Approved (8-0-4) Chair, Ivan Tjoe, B. Mojallal, and Evan Doxsee abstain.

12. Motion to sponsor the April 22, 2010 Valley Water Expo at the Balboa Sports Center – Motion – Bernardoni

Ms. Thompson is not present.

Request is to purchase of two banners with cost not to exceed \$250.00. Steve Leffert heard that 80 people were expected to attend.

Glenn Bailey – Inspired by event held in Mar Vista last June. 200 people attended it. Committed speakers. It's unusual that the Sports Center would open up their venue for this. Trying to reach out to all neighborhood councils in the valley. Most important thing is getting word out to stakeholders. Wanting to put up 4' x 8' banners. Hoping to get them donated.

B. Mojallal will donate the banners. He will print it free and will include the LBNC logo on them.

Bill McRae moves that LBNC co-sponsor without funding the Valley Water Expo at Balboa Sports Center. Official thanks to Moe (B. Mojallal) for providing banner. Linda Pruett seconds. Approved (10-0-2) Evan Doxsee and Chair abstain.

13. Motion to purchase chocolate tins with the LBNC logo/artwork for distribution at the March 20 and 21 Green Expo event at Woodley Park – Motion – Silva

Sylvia Silva provides samples of chocolate tins that can have the LBNC logo printed on them. They could be distributed at the Green Expo or at other outreach events.

S. Silva moves that LBNC purchase chocolate tins with LBNC logo and artwork for distribution at outreach events for purposes for 500 at \$4.25 a piece at the cost of \$2,125.00.

Linda Pruett seconds.

Discussion:

Ivan Tjoe – More bang for your buck with other projects.

Bill McRae – Putting cart before horse. We need to create outreach plan and then buy afterwards.

B. Mojallal – We need to see how people can benefit from these. Get studies done on it.

Bill McRae – This is a tool for branding.

Chair – Is it the best tool given our budget? Might be too expensive for current budget.

Sylvia Silva takes motion off table.

14. Motion regarding the expenditure of funds for outreach in support of the Spring 2010 Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council elections, being conducted by the Office of the City Clerk of Los Angeles – Possible Motion – Bernardoni

B. Mojallal - Is it possible for council to approve the LBNC putting up a long banner with the election information? If they give him the artwork, he can print the banners. We can make the same artwork into a poster.

Chair – We've allocated \$5,000. Does anyone think we need to allocate more?

Bill McRae moves that LBNC allocate another \$1,000 towards outreach for Spring 2010 Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council elections. L. Reveen seconds. Approved (9-0-3) Chair, Doxsee, and Ivan Tjoe abstain.

15. Unfinished Business
No unfinished business.

16. Adjournment

Evan Doxsee moves to adjourn. Ivan Tjoe seconds. (11-0-1) Chair abstains. Meeting adjourned at 10:08 p.m.