

Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council
Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 5, 2008
Lake Balboa Studios
7412 Balboa Blvd.
Lake Balboa, CA 91406

Evan Doxsee	Youth Representative	P
Teresa Pollock	Residential Representative	A ¹
Sylvia Silva	Residential Representative	P
Amber Savastio	Business Representative	P
Linda Pruett	Second Vice-President	P
David Bernardoni	President, Residential Representative	P
Bill McRae	Outreach and Marketing Committee Chairperson	P
Clay McFarland	Treasurer, Business Representative	A ²
Elmer Jespersen	Senior Representative	A
Lisa Reveen	Organizational Representative	P
Joyce MacKinnon	Organizational Representative	P
Steve Leffert	Secretary, Organizational Representative	P ³
Ivan Tjoe	First Vice President, Residential Representative	A ⁴
Bahman (Moe) Mojallal	At-large representative	P
Allen Nelson	Business Representative	P
Jack Baird	Residential Representative	P

1. Welcome, Please Sign In
D. Bernardoni opened the meeting at 7:39 p.m.

2. Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda and Approval of Minutes of the October 1, 2008 Meeting
 - a. **J. MacKinnon introduces a motion that LBNC adopt the agenda.**
MOTION BY J. MACKINNON
SECONDED BY L. REVEEN
Resolved: 10-0-1 in favor of motion. D. Bernardoni abstains.
 - b. **J. MacKinnon introduces a motion that LBNC approves the minutes of October 1, 2008 as revised.**
MOTION BY J. MACKINNON
SECONDED BY B. MOJALLAL
Resolved: 10-0-1 in favor of motion. D. Bernardoni abstains.

3. Announcements and Reports – LAPD, Local, City, State, and Federal Representatives, Board Members and Others, Committee Reports
 - a. Officer Paredes: Violent crime rate has dropped in Lake Balboa. They plan to do a parole/probation check to further reduce crime. Please remove all bags and valuables from the car, especially when shopping during the holidays.

¹ T. Pollock’s absence is excused.

² C. McFarland’s absence is excused.

³ S. Leffert arrives at 7:44 p.m.

⁴ I. Tjoes’s absence is excused.

- b. L. Levitan: Veterans Day Vigil will be on November 11 at the Government Center from 5 to 8 p.m. They will be serving dinner. On the 24th of November, CD6 will be giving away holiday supplies and food in gift baskets. On 6 of December, CD6 will have its holiday celebration at the Marvin Braude Van Nuys Constituent Service Center on Van Nuys Blvd. at Sylvan. There will be “No Overnight Parking” signs put along Woodley Avenue; L. Levitan is working on getting them installed.
 - c. S. Silva: The benches and trash receptacles at Birmingham High School have been installed. The school plans to plant some trees to provide shade over the benches.
 - d. D. Bernardoni asks the stakeholders to fill out the Mayor’s Community Budget Survey and return it to LBNC.
 - e. L. Pruettt: J. Baird, A. Nelson, and L. Pruettt worked with great success at the Senior Health Day in Woodley Park.
 - f. S. Leffert: Regarding calendars, the current budget quotation is higher than the amount allocated by the LBNC. B. McRae says that the original estimate was for a printer out of the area, not the local printer. Please submit photos and drawings of Lake Balboa for the calendar.
4. Public Comment – Comments from Public on Non-Agenda Items
- a. Rick Stecyk: His neighbors are having disruptive parties. He has had difficulty getting the police to take care of the problem. He requests the board’s help.
 - b. Todd Gordon: He lives east of Louise Avenue by Birmingham High. His street has become a popular location for public drinking and drug use. On Vanowen and Louise, the new recycling center has drawn transients into his neighborhood. They have been stealing recyclables from their trash receptacles.
5. Brief Response from Board to statements made or questions posed by persons exercising their general public comment rights
- a. L. Reveen suggests to R. Stecyk and T. Gordon that they contact their Neighborhood Watch if they have one. Officer Paredes assures T. Gordon that new divisions in Van Nuys will open at the start of January, so there will be more police presence in Mr. Gordon’s neighborhood. A. Nelson and S. Silva report that they did not get a flyer from last month’s mailing.
6. Presentation (five minutes) by Capt. Stacy Gerlich (LAFD) regarding the purchase of equipment for CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) Department – Possible Motion – Pruettt
- a. On November 16, the North Valley Disaster Preparedness Event will take place at the LA City Fire Station 87 on 10124 Balboa Blvd. from 2 to 5 p.m. Last month, the CERT event led by LBNC was a record-breaking success. 150 people attended. Captain S. Gerlich was the trainer.
 - b. S. Gerlich: She works at Fire Station 88. The L.A. Fire Department provides CERT training to 4,000 people annually. She requests the board’s financial help to buy a \$1,299 (before taxes) scanner to help with their paperwork.
 - 1. Board Comments: Capt. Gerlich teaches CERT classes on the weekends. D. Bernardoni reminds the board of C. McFarland’s concern that LBNC is able to buy the scanner. S. Leffert confirms that DONE will approve of LBNC’s purchase of the scanner. In response to a stakeholder’s request to donate \$100 towards the scanner, D. Bernardoni encourages her to donate directly to LAFD.

L. Pruettt introduces a motion that LBNC allocate funds not to exceed \$1,500 for the purchase of a scanner for CERT (disaster preparedness) at Fire Station 88.

MOTION BY L. PRUETT

SECONDED BY L. REVEEN

Resolved: 10-0-2 in favor of motion. D. Bernardoni and E. Doxsee abstain.

7. Presentation (five minutes) regarding proposed baseball field at Lake Balboa Park (Beilenson Park) – Possible Motion – Bernardoni
 - a. Speaker: Jon Mukri, general manager of Rec. and Parks for the City of L.A.: Los Angeles leads the nation in the number of universal access playgrounds. There are only three universal access baseball diamonds for handicapped people in California. This would be the first in Los Angeles. Both adults and children with disabilities could use the area.
 - b. Board Comment: D. Bernardoni asks why the Beilenson Park, generally used for passive activities, is the choice for the site of the baseball diamond. J. Mukri explains that the space already has bathrooms with handicap access, and the baseball diamond would be built according to green principles. S. Silva asks why the UA baseball field is not built next to the current baseball field. L. Matsumoto explains that building the UA diamond adjacent to the original would work against the goal of uniting people with and without disabilities. Moe asks what safety provisions there are to discourage the misuse of the diamond when not being used by the children with disabilities. He is concerned that the diamond will disrupt the pastoral aesthetic of the park. S. Leffert clarifies that the facility would be used primarily by people with disabilities. The able-bodied people would assist them on the field. A. Savastio says that having the diamond might be worth the cost of the aesthetic changes to the park, provided that the planners provide sufficient parking and alternative benches and space for picnicking. J. MacKinnon: She is concerned that there is insufficient parking. Also, the current popularity and heavy use of the park should be honored, not devalued by being replaced by the diamond. She would like them to find an alternate location. A. Nelson concurs.
 - c. PUBLIC COMMENT: Karen Henderson introduces herself and her son, Kyle. He has cerebral palsy and brain damage. She would like her son to have the opportunity to play baseball. Currently, she takes her son to the Encino Recreation Center; he has had no opportunity to play on a field designed for him to play standardized baseball. Carmen, stakeholder, likes the idea of the diamond. She has 20 years experience working with both able-bodied and disabled children. Aaron would like to be sure that the children with disabilities will have access to the park at all times, that it will not be booked. Stakeholder would like to see the location near the Veterans Administration. Rachel, stakeholder, asks what the estimated number of participants of the park would be throughout the day. She also asks what alternative parking would be available. J. Mukri says that they have done demographic research to determine that there is a significant population of children with disabilities under the age of eighteen. The children will use the field during the day. They will arrive on school buses with their parents.
Moe iterates that the LBNC would like to support the project; their goal is to find the best location for the field. They have to weigh the needs of the community.
J. Mozier has toured thirty different locations throughout the Valley and determined this one to be the best.
 - d. **There will be a meeting about this park at Reseda Recreation Center at 6:30 p.m. on November 6, 2008. LBNC had concerns about the proposed use and maintenance of the**

ball field. They may approve of the project, but they want to make sure it is planned and executed in the way most beneficial to the community.

8. Discussion regarding funding of Children’s Day event at Woodley Park – Possible Motion – Bernardoni
 - a. D. Bernardoni: LBNC passed a motion last month that the LBNC would sponsor the event if the event would recognize the location of the event in Lake Balboa. The representatives from those in charge of the event have refused to acknowledge the event being in Lake Balboa. D. Bernardoni asks the board to reconsider the board’s decision to sponsor the event since the planners of the event would not agree to the condition. The City Council has determined that Woodley Park is in Lake Balboa. He would like to withdraw the motion to allocate the funds to Children’s Day event. B. McRae would like the board to consider the benefits to the community of sponsoring the event at a reduced level. A. Savastio would like to use the \$5,000 towards projects with outreach opportunities for Lake Balboa. The conditions have not been met for the sponsorship, so LBNC will not allocate the funds to Children’s Day event.
 - b. Public Comment: Aaron asks if it is possible to set up and man a table for outreach at the event even if they do not sponsor.

9. Motion for purchase of tables for use by LBNC– Possible Motion – Pruett
 - a. The LBNC has no tables of its own. They use the ones provided by Moe at the Lake Balboa Studios.

L. Pruett introduces a motion that LBNC purchase up to 8 large tables and up to 2 small tables with funding not to exceed \$500.

MOTION BY L. PRUETT

SECONDED BY L. REVEEN

Resolved: 8-0-3 in favor of motion. D. Bernardoni, E. Doxsee, and Moe abstain.

10. Presentation regarding security cameras to be installed at the Sherman Way tunnel – Possible motion to appropriate up to \$6,000 towards purchase of camera – Bernardoni
 - a. Russ Corby (i-onsite.com) presents a camera with a DVR and wireless broadband router. The i-box records and transmits images instantaneously. They plan to put eight cameras - four i-boxes and four stationary cameras. The four i-box cameras have auto-tracking abilities, meaning it will follow a moving object. There will be signs stating that the cameras are recording. In the tunnel, these cameras will discourage people from writing graffiti. The camera will not pick up the cars once it catches sight of a pedestrian. Few cameras are damaged because they are placed fifteen feet above their heads. The cameras themselves will be a strong enough deterrent to mitigate the risk of cameras being damaged. The cost of cleaning the tunnel repeatedly accumulates. Each cleaning costs \$3,600. The installation of the cameras will be costly, but their deterrence of crime will save money. He says that, if someone shoots it, he will replace it for free. D. Bernardoni confirms that the LBNC is being asked to pay \$6,000 for one of the i-box cameras. Councilman Smith is paying for one. S. Leffert says that the cost is not \$6,000. \$1,500 originally allocated to security improvements in the tunnel remains.

L. Pruett introduces a motion that the LBNC allocate \$6,000 for the i-box camera in the Sherman Way tunnel.

MOTION BY L. PRUETT

SECONDED BY L. REVEEN

Resolved: 10-0-2 in favor of motion. D. Bernardoni and E. Doxsee abstain.

The approval and installation process should take two to three months.

11. Discussion regarding artwork for tote bags with LBNC logo – Possible Motion – Reveen
 - a. L. Reveen and Rachelle Villalon present designs for the bags. All feature a waterfall and lake.

Rachelle has secured quotes from companies that make the bags in the USA. A non – colored bag would cost \$2.22 per bag. A colored bag would be \$5.82 per bag. The non-colored bag would be natural with one color for printing.

Aaron, web designer, reminds the board that he submitted some designs to S. Leffert.

D. Bernardoni recommends that L. Reveen take back the feedback to her committee and submit two or three designs at the next December meeting for a vote. Each board member offers comments on his or her favorite aspects of the various designs. Any one interested in providing more feedback can go onto the ad hoc committee. Aaron, webmaster, can post designs on the LBNC website.
12. Discussion regarding elections and amendment to bylaws– Possible Motion – Leffert
 - a. S. Leffert: The City Clerk’s office now runs the neighborhood council elections. The board must change its bylaws in order to accommodate this shift of power. The City Clerk wants to hold neighborhood council elections on even-numbered years only. LBNC has decided to have the whole board’s seats open at each election instead of having staggered elections with ½ of the board going up for re-election. S. Leffert goes over all bylaw changes listed in the package. LBNC will not be approving the changes tonight. This meeting will be the first reading of the adapted by-laws. They will be approved at a future meeting.
 - b. M. Cañas: DONE has suggested some changes to the draft. All language referring to election committee need to be changed because the City Clerk will be in charge. He would like to go over them with S. Leffert before the final draft will be created.
13. Unfinished Business
 - a. The Great Shakeout is November 13. Go to greatshakeout.org for more information.
14. Adjournment
 - a. **A. Savastio introduces a motion to adjourn.**

MOTION BY A. SAVASTIO

SECONDED BY B. MCRAE

Resolved: 11-0-1 in favor of motion. D. Bernardoni abstains.

Meeting is adjourned at 10:19 p.m.