

Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council Board Meeting  
 Wednesday, April 1, 2009, 7:30 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.	P (left at 9:30 p.m.)
Linda Pruet	2 <sup>nd</sup> VP, EP Committee Chair	P
Ivan Tjoe	1 <sup>st</sup> VP, Residential Rep.	A (excused)
Steve Leffert	Secretary	P
Clay McFarland	Treasurer, Business Rep.	P
Bahman Mojallal (Moe)	At-Large Appointed Rep.	P
Elmer Jespersen	Senior Rep.	P (arrived at 7:45 p.m.)
Teresa Pollock	Residential Rep.	A (excused)
Allen Nelson	Business Rep.	P
Jack Baird	Residential Rep.	P
Lisa Reveen	Animal Welfare Comm., Organization Rep.	P (arrived at 7:40 p.m.)
Joyce MacKinnon	Organizational Rep.	P
Bill McRae	Outreach & Marketing Comm. Chair	P

1. Welcome and Introductions

- a. D. Bernardoni opens the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

2. Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda and Approval of Minutes of the March 4, 2009 Meeting

- a. **C. McFarland introduces a motion to adopt the agenda.**

**MOTION BY C. McFARLAND**

**SECONDED BY J. BAIRD**

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

- b. **I. Tjoe introduces a motion to approve the minutes of the March 4, 2009 meeting.**

**MOTION BY S. LEFFERT**

**SECONDED BY A. NELSON**

**Resolved: 10-0-2 in favor of motion. D. Bernardoni and S. Silva abstain.**

3. Announcements and Reports

- a. Capt. John Egan: Seven weeks ago, he became the commanding officer for West Valley. He's been a captain for almost 11 years, and he's been in the force for 22 years. He has experience as a captain in the Valley. The police station is at 19020 Vanowen. The police station's phone number is 818-374-7611. His area usually deploys 16-20 units during the day. During special events where increased security is required, more police officers are deployed. Within the station, they analyze the crime statistics weekly and daily to determine where patrol cars are most useful.

- A. As a stakeholder, D. Bernardoni says that the recycling center has attracted transients. There have been several burglaries in the area surrounding the center. SLO Hamm says that burglary is down over the last month, including in Lake Balboa. Please contact the police if you see suspicious activity. Call Officer Hamm at 818-731-2551 for help keeping the transients away from the blue bins on

recycling day. It is illegal to steal items from the blue bins, so the police officers can write citations.

Capt. Egan encourages people to secure their residences carefully and to remove all valuables from the car. Officer Egan recommends sending themselves an e-mail with the serial numbers of their valuables. Take pictures of jewelry and keepsakes to place in a file. Burglaries occur frequently during the day because people are not home. The police will respond strongly to night burglaries by increasing the number of patrols in any areas where they occur.

- B. Lynda Levitan, field dep. from Councilman Cárdenas' office – April 25 is going to be declared Lake Balboa Day. The Pet Care Fair will take place on Saturday, April 18, at Woodley Park from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Aviation Career Day will take place on April 5. Victory for Victims is a center where victims of abuse can get all their physical, emotional, and legal issues addressed. They are having a fundraiser walk-a-thon.
- C. Barri Worth, West Valley Rep. for Mayor's Office – Congratulations on Lake Balboa Day. She distributes copies of a poster with the results of the Mayor's City Budget Survey. The City would like to move towards a need-based approach for funding. The Valley gets more funding for street repair and fires. The Mayor's Office is still waiting for the announcement of how much the City will receive from federal stimulus money. On April 14, the Mayor will deliver his State of the City Address. Her phone number is 818-778-4990.
- D. Linda Pruet –April 28 – Emergency Prep. and Crime Prevention Expo will be at Cal State Fullerton. Sign up for CPR and CERT classes. The Emergency Preparedness meeting will be on April 11 from 9 am to 10:30 a.m.
- E. D. Bernardoni – The public hearing about the restoration of the Bull Creek at Bellinson Park will take place on April 14 at Garden Center. Lake Balboa Day will be on April 25. Please come and celebrate from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event will have music for children.

#### 4. Public Comment

- a. Linda Schwering- She wants to bring back the Neighborhood Watch in her area. She will distribute information to her neighbors. Should she designate herself or Officer Hamm as the contact for her neighbors?
- b. Glen Bailey –Co-Chair of Friends of Lake Balboa – They met with Officer Evelyn Solano to discuss safety issues at Lake Balboa. Nineteen people attended the meeting, the best attendance they've had in years. On Saturday, April 18, Wildlife Clean-Up Crew will meet at the entrance to the amphitheater to clean up the wildlife area.
- c. Sharon Brewer – Please put the phone number of the city officials in the agenda for the stakeholders' convenience. There are two articles about Bruce Friedman and the Dodgers Dream Field. His organization will provide part of the funding, and he has been named in cases of fraud. Also, Shane's Inspiration might have a financial conflict of interest.
- d. John Bwarie, Rep. for Councilman Smith – On April 22, budget will be released. The Councilman will be going over it. There is a 1.4 billion dollar shortfall over the next two years. The councilman will attempt to continue to provide core services. Citrus Sunday Fruit Drive is on May 3. Please deliver fruit from your trees to the fire department. Go to [cd12.org](http://cd12.org) for more information.

5. Brief response from Board to statements made or questions posed by persons exercising their general public comment rights
  - a. Response to Ms. Schwering - S. Leffert says that she should be the contact initially. When the group is organized, inform Officer Hamm. Lynda Levitan says that the procedure is to distribute a flyer announcing a meeting. Have a sign-up sheet at the meeting, and those who attend will provide the information they are willing to share. It is good to have Officer Hamm come to the meeting.
  - b. Response to Ms. Brewer - Lynda Levitan says that Shane's Inspiration works on universal access playgrounds.
6. Presentation regarding the Bureau of Sanitation's Floodplain Management Plan (FMP) – Leffert
  - a. Olga Morales, Harris & Comp. – She is here for the City. They are updating the FMP for the first time since 2001. The updates to the FMP will reduce flooding and locate problems with the system. Residents within certain floodplain area will be required to pay for flood insurance. Public comment is welcome and encouraged. Go to [floodsmart.gov](http://floodsmart.gov) for more information. Contact Romano Galasi at Bureau of Engineering, The address is 1149 S Broadway, Ste 810, 90015, [romano.galasi@lacity.org](mailto:romano.galasi@lacity.org).
7. Presentation regarding the Bureau of Sanitation's Alternative Technologies project – Possible Motion – Bernardoni
  - a. Olga Morales: Re: the alternative technologies, the materials in the blue bins are recycled. The material in the green bin is made into mulch. The rest of the materials go to landfill. LA City recycles 25% more than the national average. The City is currently evaluating 13 proposals from companies competing for the contract to build the city's first alternative technology facility. The City is carefully reviewing the contracts to find one that is economically sound and environmentally viable. The highest ranked proposers will come up with ideas that divert 80% of the current landfill material. Go to [www.alternativetechnology.lacity.org](http://www.alternativetechnology.lacity.org).
8. Discussion regarding proposed speed zone increases on Sherman Way – Possible Motion
  - a. Principal Transportation Engineer / Randall Tanijiri - The local office for the DOT is next door to the Reseda Police Station. Ken Firoozmond, the transportation engineer is at West Valley office. The number is 818-756-8784.

Principal Transportation Engineer approves all speeding limit changes in the Valley. State law mandates speed limits for all streets except for those that have a specific posting. The default speed limit is 25 mph for any street with businesses and residences running along both sides. The number of lanes does not affect the default mph. The default speed limit is 55 mph for any undivided street with one lane in each direction and few structures on either side of the road. The default speed limit is 65 mph for a multi-lane street or a divided street. The counties and cities can lower 55 mph and 65 mph. They can increase the 25 mph speed limit. They can only do so by conducting an engineering and traffic survey. The police can only use radar enforcement on streets with specific speed limits based on the survey.

- A. Troy Williams has jurisdiction over the entire Valley. He coordinates with DOT and he trains officers to use radar equipment. If the ordinance is not passed, the police cannot enforce with radar. They can evaluate. The increase in speed limits does not necessarily increase the average speed of the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile.
- B. Moe – Has a study been done to show how cars trying to get out of side streets will be affected by the change in the speed limit? Mr. Tanijiri says that the DOT sets the signals in order to allow cars from the side streets onto the road.

- C. S. Leffert says that making speed limits higher makes sense because cars can handle higher speeds more safely. He isn't sure, though, that the police will enforce the new speed because they have not enforced the speed limits in the past.
- D. Officer Williams – At a school zone, the 25 mph maximum is only in effect when children are present. Drivers using their cell phones on speaker setting are still violating the law.
  - a. Stakeholder – Why is there a blue sign saying “sync” on the synchronized lights? Mr. Tanijiri says that the sign helps people know that the lights are timed.
  - b. Stakeholder- Are you factoring in accidents when setting up the variance for the new speeds. Mr. Tanijiri says yes. The streets are assessed by the average collision rate. The straight, wide roads in the Valley, like Louise, set up conditions ideal for collisions. He asks if they look at the patterns of previous years to show an increase in collisions.
  - c. Glen Bailey appreciates the new attempts for outreach from DOT. Zelzah Avenue was up for speed limit increase last summer. No schools or churches in the area were informed. There are streets throughout the Valley that need a lower speed limit because of the residences and the children. The DOT is following the state law, which is wrong. There are streets, Roscoe, Victory that could have higher speed limits. Don't treat the streets with a cookie cutter approach. The concern for safety around schools and churches is important to keep in mind. Look into the time span and date/time of the survey.

9. Discussion regarding joint resolution relating to the flight curfews at the Burbank and Van Nuys airport – Leffert

- a. Curfew at Burbank airport would lead to increase of flights into Van Nuys airport. Interested parties are trying to pass a joint resolution making the flight curfews the same for both airports. Van Nuys has been trying to get a curfew for a while. Burbank is further along in the process, having submitted the form that Van Nuys is still trying to get together. With the support of the NCs, Van Nuys should be able to complete this form.

A. B. McRae –Are there any other players that should be in this group? Maybe some people at the federal level? The group is trying to unify locally before going to federal level.

B. S. Leffert says that contributions to the 161 report bring it to the federal level.

- b. **S. Silva introduces a motion that the LBNC joins the other neighborhood councils and encourages a joint resolution between the Bob Hope and Van Nuys Airport to establish an identical curfew for both airports.**

**MOTION by S. SILVA**

**SECONDED BY J. MacKINNON**

**Resolved: 11-0-2 in favor of motion. Motion carries.**

10. Discussion on Dispute Resolution Program

- a. Representative, Mitzi Morrow, from Dispute Resolution program outside of the LA Attorney's office. They are one of the grantees from the County of LA with Loyola Law School Center for Conflict Resolution. The DRP have 1800 volunteers and 5 full-time employees. The training is conducted semi-annually. They do not handle violent crime or any criminal charges. They handle disputes between neighbors or between employees and employers, for

example. They are not attorneys. They do not give legal advice. The service is free and confidential. They respond to inquiries within 24 hours. The office is at 222 S. Hill St., Ste. 600. The phone number is (213) 485-8324.

11. Presentation by representative of Green Torch – Baird

- a. No rep. from Green Torch. Item continued.

12. Minor changes/additions for Emergency Preparedness items for bins

- a. The 200 person kits in the emergency preparedness bins were too heavy, and the American Red Cross advises against using hydrogen peroxide to clean wounds.

**L. Pruettt introduces a motion that LBNC purchase 40 bags (22"x11"x14", item #95161WH) at a cost of \$15.50 each (\$260.00 total) and 40 bags (30"x15"x14", 95158) at a cost of \$17.50 each (\$700.00 total) and that LBNC purchase 40 bottles of saline solution (Item #41465) at a cost of \$3.30 each (\$132.00 total).**

**MOTION BY L. PRUETT**

**SECONDED BY S. LEFFERT**

**Discussion: They will be getting a credit back to the large bags and the bottle of peroxide. The complete outlay should be around \$700. The large bags can be used in the future**

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

13. Discussion on "Lake Balboa" signs on I-405 and 101 freeways – Leffert

- a. DOT engineer in charge of signs says that the community signs on freeways are paid for by the municipality, the City of LA. Lynda Levitan will see what Councilman Cárdenas can do.

- b. S. Leffert: The total for all 8 signs, 4 freeway signs and 4 off-ramp signs, would be \$15,000.

Planned Signs:

- a. Freeway sign - "Lake Balboa – Next 2 Exits" - near Roscoe southbound on the 405
- b. Freeway sign – "Lake Balboa – Use Victory Blvd. and Sherman Way" – before Victory on the northbound side of the 405
- c. Off-ramp sign – Off the Victory Blvd. exit from the northbound 405. The sign would say "Lake Balboa" and have an arrow pointing right.

Two freeway signs and one exit sign would cost \$6,250. Leffert will send the information to Lynda Levitan to see if Councilman Cárdenas can help get the signs paid for by the municipality.

14. Unfinished Business

- a. L. Pruettt - The council has purchased the laminator and the first round of supplies.

15. Adjournment

- a. **J. Baird introduces a motion to adjourn.**

**Motion to adjourn by J. Baird**

**Seconded by A. Nelson**

**Resolved: 11-0-1 in favor of motion.**

**Meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.**