

Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council Board Meeting  
 Wednesday, November 4, 2009, 7:30 pm  
 Lake Balboa Studios  
 7412 Balboa Blvd.

D. Bernardoni	Pres., Residential Representative	P
E. Doxsee	Youth Rep.	P
Sylvia Silva	Residential Rep.	A
Amber Savastio	Communications Officer, Business Rep.	A (Exc.)
Linda Pruet	2nd VP, EP Committee Chair	A (Exc.)
Ivan Tjoe	Treasurer	P
Steve Leffert	Secretary	P
Clay McFarland	Vice Chair, Business Rep.	A (Exc.)
Bahman Mojallal (Moe)	At-Large Appointed Rep.	P
Elmer Jespersen	Senior Rep.	P
Teresa Pollock	Residential Rep.	A (Exc.)
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	A (Exc.)

Welcome and Introductions

1. Welcome, Please Sign In  
 Chair calls meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.
2. Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda and Approval of Minutes of the October 7, 2009 Meeting
  - a. **I. Tjoe moves to adopt agenda. E Jespersen seconds. (8-0-1) Chair abstains. Agenda is adopted.**
  - b. Correction by Lynda Levitan: Children's Day is on the 21<sup>st</sup> of November on the bottom of the first page.  
**A. Nelson moves to approve minutes of LBNC meeting on October 7, 2009 as corrected. J. Baird seconds. (7-0-2) Chair and S. Leffert abstain.**
3. Announcements and Reports – LAPD, Local, City, State, and Federal Representatives, Board Members and Others, Committee Reports

- a. Lynda Levitan, rep. for CD1 – Candlelight Vigil for Veteran’s Day on November 11 at Van Nuys Airtel Plaza Hotel at 6:30 p.m. RSVP at council office. On Nov. 23, CD1 is giving out Thanksgiving baskets. Will be giving out 600 baskets to many needy organizations in the area. Tree and menorah lighting on Dec. 12. Time TBD. Thanks LBNC for its support of the health fair. Ran out of flu shots, food, and had 40+ booths. 500 people registered; more showed up. Reach Ms. Levitan at 818-778-4999.
- b. John Bwarie from Council Member Smith’s office – Go to [cd12.org](http://cd12.org) for more information, including maps. Deputy Police Chief Charlie Beck introduced himself to the Van Nuys City Hall. Council Member Smith has released legislation to establish an Inspector General for DWP for San Fernando Valley. Before passing rate increases, the DWP should have to pay for the audit by an independent inspector general (not appointed by Mayor) who would have access to the DWP’s records and figures. Per LBNC’s request, they are working on paving Encino Ave. right off Sherman Way. The repair will be scheduled for Monday or Tuesday after Veteran’s Day. Let Mr. Bwarie know if the repair is not done by Nov. 16 or 17.
- Hearing before Education and Neighborhood Committee on emergency preparedness and the storage bins set up by LBNC. City Attorney had said that the emergency supplies should not have been purchased by the LBNC. These purchases are not in the purview of the LBNC and are a possible liability for the City, according to City Attorney. Council member Smith asked City Attorney to report back on the ways that NC’s can purchase storage bins and fill them with emergency supplies. The City Council referred the item to the committee. The item will be discussed by the committee. They will make a motion and bring it back to the City Council. Dennis Zine is the only member of the committee. City Attorney told Mr. Zine that it would be unadvisable for the committee to take action. Chief Legislative Analyst’s Office is going to call meeting with GM of DONE, GM of Dept. of Emergency Management, and Mr. Bwarie. This is where the issue is right now.
- Council member Smith is working on the procedure to get City Attorney to determine procedure for NC’s having approval to create and supply storage bins. L. Reveen asks if it helps that most of the council members are CERT-trained. Mr. Bwarie says it does help. They are trying to use it as leverage to move it forward. S. Leffert says Dennis Zine needs to be educated on the contents of the bin – not just

food, water, and Band-Aids. H1N1 disbursement took place at Rec. Center. 2800 people were given the immunization. Age limit and other restrictions for recipients. POD at emergency management website.

- c. Melvin Cañas, project coordinator with DONE – Empower LA News Bulletin has information about NC trainings. Topics will be standardizing bylaws. Ethics training can be done there. Next one at the Valley on Saturday, Dec. 5. Dept. will be holding events doing outreach for all neighborhood councils in preparation for elections.
  - d. Stakeholder begins to talk about her purse being stolen at Lake Balboa. Chair asks her to fill out card and wait for public comment. She leaves the room.
  - e. S. Leffert – CUP for gas station on Hayvenhurst and Victory was approved. Planning Commission agreed with the conditions stipulated by the LBNC. It even prohibits the sales of alcohol between 9 p.m. and 8 a.m. The LBNC had asked for limits between midnight and 6 a.m.
  - f. In the interest of managing meeting times more efficiently, Chair encourages the council members to present motions in e-mails to him before the agenda is set. Chair asks everyone if they would consider beginning meeting at 7 p.m. B. Mojallal says it's okay as long as people park across the street. Mr. Bwarie recommends revising the meeting schedule by having all committee business from 7 to 7:30 and beginning the stakeholder meeting at 7:30. Chair says that he will consider rearranging the items on the agenda.
  - g. Chair says that Raymond Yu vandalized the sign. He wrote the name of the business and the telephone number of the business at 3 places on the sign. He defaced it, and it was an unacceptable action. If Raymond were at the meeting, the Chair would ask him why he did it. Teresa Pollock manned booth at Encino Halloween event.
4. Public Comment
- a. **Cindy Kurland** - Went for a jog in Balboa Park. Purse was in her car hidden out-of-sight. Someone smashed the window and took it. What has the city council member done about it? What notifications were there in local newsletters warning her about the increase in crime in the area? Local police officers said that this happens 6-8 times per week at the park.  
A. Nelson says that there is limited surveillance for all the parks in the area. Ranger has shared his experiences. Chair will take her comments into consideration when they present newsletters.

L. Levitan says that LAPD has been having stings. Police officer has been reminding them to keep valuables out of their car and informing community about the occurrence of these crimes.

- b. **Vice President of Balboa Town Homes, Ben Levin**- 7028 Balboa Blvd. has 24-7 yard sale. What can be done about the mess in his neighborhood? People are living in RV's and campers in Balboa Park. S. Leffert says that the problem of people selling things on the street illegally is an issue for the Health Dept. Contact City Health Superiors, City Council, and Mayor. The Health Dept. has to work with the LAPD. Could contact Neighborhood Prosecutor's Service. L. Levitan says it's only possible to confiscate the properties of the vendors with the help of the county. Vendor sweeps are ineffectual. Dept. of Building and Safety has been watching the location on 7028 Balboa Blvd. Contact Raffy Astvasadoorian at 818-373-6807. B. Mojallal has problems with people with permanent garage sales. You can have only 2 garage sales per year. Is it possible to do something about those houses?
  - c. Rudy Castro – Underground club next to Mexican restaurant on NW corner of Roscoe and Balboa. Possibly turning this location into a strip club. Not LBNC's jurisdiction. Would like LBNC's support in opposing the establishment of a strip club in his neighborhood. Chair says they can get the information and maybe put it on the agenda. John Bwarie says to contact him to get all the information about the club.
  - d. Sharon Brewer – H1N1 shots will be available from Nov. 21-22 at Balboa Sports Center. Halloween pictures of LBNC's banner will be at community center. Asks everyone to sign petition asking for Lynn Stone to remain stationed at unleashed dog park. She is being transferred over to the garden center. The petition is available in the back of the room. City Council is meeting at Van Nuys on Friday at 10 a.m. Public comment is available.
5. Brief response from Board to statements made or questions posed by persons exercising their general public comment rights
    - a. Board made comments.
  6. Brandon Paris from the City Clerk's Office – Introduction – Leffert
    - a. Sophia Torres from City Clerk's Office – S. Leffert – in the past they did in-house elections with help of an independent election administrator. They are coming up on May 27 from 2 – 8 p.m. at the Lake Balboa Studios. Candidate filing will begin 90 days before election. Vote-by-mail is available to those physically unable to get to

the polls. . The entire board will be up for election next May. (Used to do only ½ of the council each election.) Chair asks if there is anything they need to do. Torres- the document will need to be endorsed by the board. They are honoring staggered terms after 2010 elections. The document will be available online for everyone to see. The document needs to be endorsed by late Jan. /early Feb. – 130 days before the election.

7. Presentation by Senator Alex Padilla's office regarding support for the 2010 U.S. Census – Possible Motion – Bernardoni

Lauren Gallant – Background – As newest addition to senator' office, she is covering west section of his district. Office is working on outreach efforts for 2010 census. They would like to recruit volunteers for a Complete Count Committee. These volunteers reach out to local groups and try to educate them on the reasons for the census. The groups could meet monthly every other month to discuss outreach efforts. Council members and other residents are welcome to volunteer. Chair offers to open it to the stakeholders via newsletter and website.

Ms. Gallant encourages LBNC to apply for Partnership Program. They can apply for funding that would also support census. Deadline for Partnership Assistance Program is Nov. 14. Chair will try to contact her with possible liaisons and projects for Partnership Program.

8. Discussion regarding storage of boat/RV on street at 17614 Kittridge – Possible Motion - Bernardoni

Chair tells the council members to consider policy issues when discussing the following issue. What is role of council re: parking issues and disputes between neighbors? To what extent should they get involved?

Mr. Ostler: She would like a letter of support. They did not think the RV was a problem until the neighbors continually obscured their view and endangered their safety. Were looking for support for the council when working with various city dept. like DOT and the Bureau of Sanitation. Mr. Ostler has invited other neighbors to the event.

Questions from the committee members:

A. Nelson asks what the police have done to remedy the problem.

Ms. Ostler: They occasionally come and make chalk marks by the tires, and then the owners will move the vehicle a few inches.

Chair says they are meeting the terms of the case law. SLO Saul Paredes said he would have the vehicles towed if there were any problems with registration.

Ms. Ostler: On this street, there are 2-3 boat owners and RV owners who comply and park on the driveway. The RV's will often move down the street.

Chair – Kittridge is a long, busy, and narrow street. Parking large vehicles on this street is a safety hazard.

Neighbor, Robert Cohen, lived on Kittridge 3 doors down for over 30 years. There have often been problems with these neighbors. Numerous RV's and boats have been parked on the area. He ignored it and considered neighborhood blight. He would like to support his neighbor.

B. Mojallal considers putting motion that moving cars a few inches every few days is not okay. Lynda Levitan says that City was forced to change it to the two inches rule by state; it was originally one mile. Mr. Dillinger, of CD12 office has been trying to get a red curb. She knows that it's a frustrating situation. Chair asks if anyone would like to put a motion for a letter of support. S. Leffert knows that this problem occurs in many locations. He believes they can try to make a bigger attempt to fix it. A letter of support might not be useful. The police can do nothing because they are limited by state law. Melvin Cañas wonders if is legal/effective to write a letter of support about a parking problem. The NC's serve as advisory bodies. Proper channels would be elected officials, city council office, mayor's office, DOT, and parking enforcement.

**B. Mojallal would like to bring a motion that the LBNC write a letter of support regarding the issue of safety. L. Reveen seconds. S. Leffert would like letter to go to state officials and state assembly member. (Problem is rampant throughout the city and the state.) (7-0-2) E. Doxsee and Chair abstain.**

9. Discussion regarding Parks and Recreation Department decisions to no longer support the Friends of Lake Balboa committee – Possible Motion – Bernardoni

Chair: Glen Bailey said they would hold these meetings at Woodley Park. Mr. Bailey wanted letter of support from LBNC to go to Dept. of Parks and Recreation.

Glen Bailey: He has been communicating with Dept. of Rec. and Parks. They have denied the request to accommodate the meeting at Lake Balboa. They are requiring the presence of a staff person during the meeting. The meetings would have to be scheduled between 6:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. during their standard hours of operation. Mr. Bailey is looking for alternate locations. For their December meeting, they will be meeting in City building. Encino Neighborhood Council voted unanimously to support the Friends of Lake Balboa.

Chair thinks the park rep. needs to be present at their meetings. Is there any way to get the meetings earlier?

Bailey: The park reps. do go to other community meetings, but Friends of Lake Balboa is

not high in priority to them. He knows that the City can no longer afford to pay overtime, so few reps. can be scheduled for evening meetings. If Friends of Lake Balboa were to meet earlier, attendance would drop.

B. Mojallal wonders if it would be possible to use NC funds to pay the cost of the hours that the park ranger would work at the meeting.

Sharon Brewer: they are continuing to staff the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas.

Committee. The Friends of Lake Balboa have been moved to a later time. It's not fair that the Lake Balboa group gets short shrift.

Carrie Barton, co-chair of FOLB: They help answer e-mails and answer questions from park visitors. They are invested in the park, and they provide more benefit than they cost.

S Leffert: Is the wildlife group a city agency? Are the Friends of Lake Balboa a city agency? Wildlife Committee was mandated by State Fish and Game because of the money provided by Fish and Game. FOLB were created by city back in 2001. Both serve as advisory committees to the Dept. of Rec. and Parks

**L. Reveen introduces motion to write letter of support asking Dept. of Rec. and Parks to continue to staff an office meeting for the Friends of Lake Balboa. B. Mojallal seconds. (7-0-2) Elmer Jespersen and Chair abstain**

10. Discussion regarding the proposed apartment complex at Sepulveda Veterans

Administration – Possible Motion – Leffert – groundswell of people against this project.

Tesa Becica: She's here representing the North Hills West NC, the SFV Historical Society, the coalition of over 662,000 opponents, the local police, and the American legion. She is a disabled Vietnam veteran who receives medical care at the current VA Hospital. She speaks in favor of renovating the current property on Sepulveda Veterans Administrations property into hospitals for veterans, not low-cost housing. New Directions, ACOF, and VA Administration are working on the apartment project. All the proponents of the apartment complex renovation are employees of one of these businesses. Project is detrimental to 300,000 veterans in the area and to those veterans returning from wars overseas. Veterans are entitled to a residence near their home and are in need of better medical treatment/facilities. The 75-yr

lease allows for rentals only to veterans. The lease can be given to another institute; it will not be reserved for the VA. Cost of conversion is wasteful, almost 48 million tax dollars. Building new low-income apartments would be cheaper. The buildings could be reconditioned for medical use at a lower cost. The veterans will lose two medical facilities, and they lose \_\_\_ acres of land to private companies. The land was donated to the veterans for medical facilities, and they want the land to be the full medical center it was designated to be, beginning with buildings 4 and 5.

Susie Evans: She has lived in Lake Balboa since 1999. She opposes them taking over the VA land because it will force many veterans to make long trips to West L.A. for treatment.

Chair: He has not heard opposite side of the debate. Doesn't know if there is funding for renovation of buildings into hospitals.

Tesa B: The money is available. There is funding. If New Directions took over, 90% of the filming proceeds would go to them. If they let the spaces go away from veterans, then they will never get them back. The Sepulveda area was always supposed to be for medical facilities. Whether it can become a hospital depends on the public demand.

B. Mojallal: If it stays the same, who benefits? The veterans, says Tesa. The film revenues bring improvements, and the park setting is a comfort to the veterans.

What happened to the VA Hospital in the area? Leffert says VA had shut it down on the pretense of earthquake damages. L. Reveen believes that the goal of the motion is to stop the apartment development.

Chair suggests using either the resolution or the motion because the two items are redundant.

**RESOLUTION: Be it resolved that the LBNC representing 41,000 stakeholders, located in the San Fernando Valley, does hereby call upon the Dept. of Veterans Affairs and Veterans Administration to immediately**

**•Rescind the 75-yr advance leases with private sector developers, A Community of Friends (ACOF) and New Directions, Inc. (NDI) at the Sepulveda VA Medical Center, 16111 Plummer St., North Hills, CA 91343, and all such Leases throughout the United States of America.**

**•Refurbish and staff the Sepulveda VA Medical Center Buildings 4 and 5 for medical use.**



- **Rebuild the hospital at the Sepulveda VA**
- **Restore the Sepulveda VA to full-service hospital medical center it was designated to be, starting with Buildings 4 and 5.**

**B. Mojallal introduces motion to support resolution. L. Reveen seconds. (8-0-1) Chair abstains. Resolution has been adopted by the council.**

**B. Mojallal introduces motion in support of coalition of neighborhood councils and veterans opposed to advanced uses leases and conversion of medical buildings. The Lake Balboa NC opposes the 75-year Enhanced Uses Leases between the Dept. of Veterans Affairs, New Directions, and A Community of Friends, as well as expenditure of \$40 million or more of public funds, the conversion of two medical buildings into 149-unit apartment complexes at the Sepulveda VA. That the Lake Balboa NC is opposed to any private sector development (public, profit, or non-profit) in the Sepulveda VA or elsewhere on veterans' land. Further, that the Lake Balboa NC calls for the rescission of the Sepulveda leases, buildings 4 and 5 be immediately refurbished and staffed as medical buildings, the hospital rebuilt and the Sepulveda VA be restored as a full-service hospital-medical center, starting with buildings 4 and 5. We believe it was the intent of the donors, Lester M. and Mary E. Gentry, that the land be used only as veterans' hospital and medical center to serve the needs of our veterans in perpetuity and therefore any other use of the land would be a violation of public trust and veterans rights to medical care and treatment in their immediate area. L. Reveen seconds. (8-0-1) Chair abstains.**

11. Discussion regarding printing Lake Balboa promotional material to be passed out at public events – Possible Motion- Nelson

A. Nelson – Linda Pruett, Jack Baird, Allen Nelson, Ruth Doxsee , and Rick Pederson were at LBNC booth with no Lake Balboa literature to hand out. He would like more permanent, useful LB material that people will be inclined to keep and use. A. Nelson and Chair will work together to get more items that can be passed out at community events.

12. Discussion regarding invitation from HTLA Parent Association for Council members to tour High Tech Los Angeles High School campus – Possible Motion – Nelson

Jennifer Sanchez distributes information about HTLA and encourages everyone to spread the word about the school. She invites everyone to take a tour of the school.

The LBNC members schedule a tour for Tuesday, Nov. 17, at 7 p.m. It should last between 30- minutes. Chair will send confirmation e-mail.

Ms. Sanchez says that the school is looking for donations from local businesses for their silent auction.

13. Unfinished Business

- a. There is no unfinished business.

14. Adjournment

**E. Doxsee introduces motion to adjourn .E. Jespersen seconds. (8-0-1) Chair abstains.**

**Meeting is adjourned at 9:59 p.m.**