

Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council Board Meeting
 Wednesday, February 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.	A (Exc.)
Sylvia Silva	Residential Rep.	P (leaves at 9:50 p.m.)
Amber Savastio	Business Rep.	A
Linda Pruett	2nd VP, EP Committee Chair	P
Ivan Tjoe	Treasurer	P
Steve Leffert	Secretary	P
Clay McFarland	Vice Chair, Business Rep.	A (Exc.)
Bahman Mojallal (B. Mojallal)	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	A (Exc.)

1. Welcome, Please Sign In – Chair opens meeting at 7:05 p.m.
2. Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda and Approval of Minutes of the December 2, 2009 meeting –
L. Pruett moves to adopt agenda. L. Reveen seconds. (7-0-1) Chair abstains.
Approval of Minutes from December 2, 2009
 Glenn Bailey – Notes spelling correction – Kerri Garden’s name in 4a.
Motion to approve by S. Leffert. A. Nelson seconds. (5-0-3) S. Silva, L. Pruett, and Chair abstain. (Silva and Pruett were absent.)
3. Introduction of Tony Cárdenas , City Councilman representing council district 6 – Question and Answer – Bernardoni
 - a. CD6 Councilman, Tony Cárdenas – represents Lake Balboa – No speeches to make. I’m sure that you have questions for me. Been at all-day council meetings on budget. Will be meeting all next week on the topic.
QUESTIONS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS
Chair– Cutting of funding for DONE and reduction of employees, cutting rollover funds – these issues are important to us. We want to give the stakeholders’ time for questions, but, very quickly, could you address those issues?
CM Cárdenas - The recommendations about DONE and NC funding will be discussed at the city council floor on Tuesday. They have not yet taken action.
 Silva – what’s your view on it?
 It’s very likely you’re going to see some cuts on DONE staffing, rollover funds, and incoming money. He will probably be voting with something with cuts. The only dept. not seeing significant reductions is LAPD. Every other department’s budgets are being cut from 30 to 60% or being eliminated. Above and beyond what cuts were last year.
Chair– Re: the rollover funds, we’ve been responsible with these funds in order to pay for worthwhile projects like emergency preparedness containers. What’s your position on the idea of taking away those funds?
CM Cárdenas - Probably going to see a cut on some rollover, and I would vote for that. Every year they reassess the budget. I would be more aggressive about spending the money responsibly, but soon. I don’t agree that we should cut rollover funds, but everyone is getting cuts. Last year’s budget cuts were 408 million dollars. Now looking at shortfall of 206 million dollar shortfall for this fiscal year over and above those cuts. City is having trouble paying its bills and getting money for other projects. They would not be able to get bonds. In short order, they could be in a situation where the city of LA is being run by a judge. We would like the LAPD to cut its budget by 5%. Police dept.’s budget is 1.6 billion. 5% of that is 80 million dollars.
L. Reveen- When will this go into effect? We committed \$2500 for an event in May. Will we be able to issue that money?
CM Cárdenas - Regardless of what happens at City Council vote on Tuesday, will honor the commitment to allocations committed with correct procedure. By the way, Lynda Levitan is not feeling well. I had to let two people go from my staff. Eduardo Martinez and Lynda are working even harder.)
S. Leffert – Why not cut back on street cleaning and do it every other month or every other week?

CM Cárdenas – I have a proposal like that in the works, but it will take a long time. Certain kinds of street cleaning we cannot cut back. The weekly street cleaning will probably be cut. Street Services is going to lose 30-40% of its general fund. You're going to get less from street services. His staff and the CM himself are taking furlough days. Hired someone to work as district director with other responsibilities. Normally, he'd have a dedicated district director.

QUESTIONS FROM STAKEHOLDERS

Stakeholder 1 – How are you going to rebuild our city government?

CM Cárdenas - We have all told about 35,000 employees in the city of LA. About 3000 people are getting ER (early retirement). We should be able to replenish services within 7-10 years. The coffers of the City of LA came back to their previous level 5 years after the dip in 1990. The rebound of the city coffers will be in at least 8 years. Right now, we're not sure when conditions will begin to improve. Right now, we're still going down, not up.

Stakeholder 2 – Going through probation case load – the people go through the court process for months and months.

Money wasted on public defenders that continue the case over and over. Can that money be better spent?

CM Cárdenas The postponements of the trial are a judge trying to avoid a mistrial. The judge doesn't want to violate the person's rights. That's why there are so many postponements. Sometimes they postpone it just because of budget limitations. They just forward the case. It's not a city direct function, he just knows about the way this works.

Stakeholder 3 – Roberto Soufiani – Easter Sunday is April 4, so is Nooruz Festival. How can the city handle two public holidays at once?

CM Cárdenas Easter is considered a religious event. Nooruz Festival is considered secular. The only slotted event at the park is Nooruz. The Easter festivals are only slotted for certain parts of the park. The community requested to have the Nooruz Festival on Easter, and Dept. of Rec. and Parks granted approval. It should go well, but there is no event that does not have complaints. They try to have post-event community meetings to get feedback.

Stakeholder 4 - Glenn Bailey – I think you've been misinformed that the community requested that date for Nooruz Festival. Friends of Lake Balboa voted unanimously on December 3 to award a contract that the Nooruz Festival not be held on Easter Sunday. This vote was before Rec. & Parks made the decision. Woodley Park was considered an alternate location. The Lake Balboa Park is filled with people on Easter Sunday. The lease by the Army Corps of Engineers says the Dept. of Rec. and Parks shall obtain written approval from the District Engineer on all project improvements and large events with more than 1,000 people. Neither DRP nor Army Corps of Engineers has written approval for Nooruz or any other large event. I believe it's in violation of the lease and that you should ask Dept. of Rec. and Parks to readdress the issue and move the date or venue.

CM Cárdenas - The individuals that propose events are the community he referred to. I will ask Dept. of Rec. and Park for their professional opinion on the date in question for Nooruz. If the Army Corps of Engineers has a problem with our lease, they have not made that request in writing. I will make sure that we are within the guidelines, and I will ask for confirmation of their professional opinion in writing. I'm listening to you, and I'm trying to answer your questions as best I can. I will go through the proper channels to see if moving the date is something Dept of Rec. and Parks will recommend and if the applicant is okay with it. I in no way have said that we will change the date. I want to make sure that's clear. I'll go through proper channels to see if moving the date is something DRP would recommend and that the applicant would accept.

B. Mojallal recuses himself. For the last eight months, we have tried to work with Friends of Lake Balboa; we have gone to their meetings. The FOLB voted to have the Nooruz event on Easter Sunday, and then they changed their vote after we had gotten approval from the City. We'll try to make this event as good as it can. He's gotten letters from the co-chair from the Friends of Lake Balboa that last year's Nooruz was a great event. This year's event will go well, also.

Chair - Thanks Mr. Cárdenas for his time and for the work of his employee, Lynda Levitan.

S. Leffert - On October 7, LBNC passed a motion of support for the event on April 4, 2010. The date was known. All of this is now quite a bit after the fact.

Chair – This is a non-agenda item, so we'll have to talk about it another time.

4. Announcements and Reports – LAPD, Local, City, State, and Federal Representatives, Board Members, and Others, Committee Reports

- a. John Bwarie – Councilman Greig Smith's office – CM Smith is on Budget & Finance Committee. Has been in talks with the Mayor and others about the growing budget deficit. Somewhere around 218 or 286 million dollars in this fiscal year. We're losing \$336,000 every day we don't take action on the budget. On Monday night, the committee was trying to put forth a recommendation to the full City Council. Meeting ran till after midnight. Only CM Smith and CM Parks were able to agree. The others voted against it.

The measures proposed were sweeping and drastic. Proposed eliminations of departments, and positions. The City Council is dealing with a financial problem for this fiscal year and another for the next fiscal year – two large shortfalls. The conversations will continue, and they will be long and drawn-out. You can watch or listen to the debate on the city's website. www.lacity.org.

The city was able to acquire a 9-acre lot in Northridge. This was one of the last ranchettes, homes used by stars in the 20's, 30's and 40's as their refuge from Hollywood. It belonged to Barbara Stanwyck, and it was designed by Paul Williams, the first African American architect admitted to American Society of Architects. The property was acquired by UCLA and was almost sold to developers twice. Both deals fell through. CD1 acquired the historical home and property. The special funds were earmarked for park acquisition and enhancements.

They passed a smoking ban in outdoor restaurants. If it's not an 18 or over location, the ban would prohibit smoking within 10 ft. of restaurants and outdoor patios. That will take effect in a year. It will be enforceable with a fine for the restaurant.

S. Leffert – Mr. Smith voted to cut the budget of NC's by eliminating rollover cutting 50% of the staff of DONE. Why? What other departments had those kinds of draconian cuts?

John Bwarie – Cultural Affairs Dept. might lose all its funding. Elimination of Environmental Affairs and Human Services Depts. Consolidation of Dept. of Transportation into other departments. Planning Dept. has 45% vacancy due to freezing of hiring and early retirement. Losing 2400 of the most knowledgeable, long-term employees due to early retirement. Proposal calls for another thousand employees to be laid off. One thing that is not going away is the NC system.

S. Leffert – if we have no money to operate, we're out of business. If our budget is cut to 22,500, what will we do? The proportion of cuts from DONE is higher than those from larger departments.

J. Bwarie – The charter does not allow for funding to be allotted to NC's. The charter does not require for a dept. to exist. It indicates that support or facilitation be given to the NC's by the City.

Chair – What does support mean if it doesn't mean money?

J. Bwarie – I show up to support and guide you through the process. NC's in other parts of the country don't have direct funds. NC's can apply for funds in a general pool. They're trying not to go bankrupt and to not lay off police officers and fire fighters. The city council has to look at core services. If we don't provide police and fire protection, no one else provides it. No one else provides traffic lights. The NC may not look the same as it does today in terms of having money to hold events or provide allocations. They can serve as an advisory role to larger city issues. It does feel like an assault on this group. Other people in other groups are saying this. It's a hard time to be in the decision making process right now. CM Smith is not happy about what he has to do.

Chair – We have a differing opinion about the role of DONE and NC's. This warrants discussion, but they have to continue with the agenda.

- b. Officer Hamm, Officer Sal Paredes – SLO's – Pamphlets with their phone numbers. We deal with all the crime issues, gang problems, narcotics problems, quality of life issues. We've closed over 70 narcotics homes in the last 7 years. Last year, one of our slower years, they only got about 7. We use gang units around Birmingham School. There are no specific gang strongholds in his area. Officer Paredes works with the special gang units. Our biggest problems are home burglaries in the day and car burglaries at night. There have been daytime robberies at the park. These possessions like computers, iPods are left in plain sight. Don't bring too many valuables from home. Lock what you need in your trunk at home, not at the store. Lock the release on the inside of the trunk so it can't be opened by breaking window and pulling latch. All the burglar has to do is break the window and release the latch. Now offering service for localized crime reports. (www.nixle.com) You can get information that will help you with your everyday living. Go to LAPD's website to look at crime stats.
 - a. S. Silva – Students loitering after class at store near donut shop. They bother the patrons of those business establishments. More or random police presence could help. (Hamm says he can drive by there more often and tell his men to do that as well. He'll advise the school police. We used to have a problem with shoplifting. It comes and goes in waves.) The storeowners fear retribution. We don't want specific names stated in public
 - b. Glenn Bailey – two questions – Problems with break-ins at Woodley Golf Course and Bull Creek area, Lake Balboa, etc. Heard there was going to be a sting operation. Is that going to happen? Is it possible to apprehend the culprits? They have noticed homeless encampments near Bull Creek and Balboa by the orange line just south of Victory. More encampments by the LA River on the west side of Balboa on the north side of the river. Break-ins may be connected with homeless.

Hamm – We arrested some people, but none of them were homeless. The arrests are not as many as they'd like. It seems like the burglaries cease when they make arrests. Units are out there trying to catch these people. What about the new homeless encampments?

Hamm - The police raid the encampments periodically. The park areas in the Valley attract a lot of homeless. There was a murder in the park that turned out to be a botched drug deal. General Services will go into parks and give citations. They do their drive-ins at the encampments. Had some vandalism in the park. Parks & Rec. cleaned it up within a few days. Dial 911, 311, or 877 to report.
 - c. Stakeholder (does not provide name) - Lives in Balboa Town Homes. People have been tampering with the mailboxes. Spoke to someone at post office, they said they would file a report.

Hamm – The post office inspector deals with it unless it's a case of vandalism. As a general reminder, shred your personal documents. People will steal your identity, and they commit check fraud.

Officer Paredes – Make sure not to leave outgoing mail in the mail box. Watch out for scams with kids selling chocolate bars or subscriptions. Don't give them checks. With the rainy season, all the crime trends went down. Remind your neighbors to secure your stuff, don't leave out valuables. Re: Home Depot and day laborers, they've been making arrests. They're trying to isolate the trouble makers. Another issue is garage sales. People are having garage sales every 7 days. Dept. of Building & Safety can cite you if you have too many garage sales per year. The police are documenting how many times garage sales are being held at a given location. Paredes says there can only be 5 2-day events per year at a particular address. Try to avoid hustlers / pan handlers. It's a scam. On Feb. 11 at West Valley Station at 9.

- c. Jessica Yaz – Congressman Brad Sherman of 27th district – Provides paperwork listing what the district can provide for you. Town Hall meeting on Reseda HS on Feb. 21 from 2-3:30 on a Sunday. You will be able to talk to the Congressman directly. This Saturday, we have a foreclosure prevention seminar. We can help you get through the process with banks, loans. It will be at CSUN. The Census is hiring. Pay is 17 dollars an hour. You get entered into a pool of applicants. They are hiring 3000 people per office.
 - d. Laurie Gallant – Field Rep. for state Senator Alex Padilla – Senate District 20, covers large part of SF Valley, north of 101, east to Sun Valley, west to Canoga Park. Working on legislative packet for new legislative session. First bill (SB408) – It's urgency legislation prohibiting convicted violent felons from purchasing bullet-proof vests - a response to shoot-out in North Hollywood in 1997. Second bill - (SBX8022) – Job creation bill will authorize the CA Alternative Energy and Advanced Transportation Financing Authority to expand financial assistance for alternative energy and transportation projects to include and sales tax exemptions. This means that projects coming in that manufacture transportation technology with renewable energy resources will receive tax credits. It's incentivizing manufacturing to stay. CA is one of three states without similar tax credits.
 - e. L. Reveen – Did not get beautification grant
 - f. S. Leffert – Notice from Mission Hills NC. Meeting next Tuesday, Feb. 9, at 6:30 pm at Mission Hills police station. Wendy Gruel will be there.
 - g. Chair – Upcoming elections for NC's. Encourages stakeholders to get involved.
 - h. L. Pruett – Please keep in mind that we are expecting a bigger earthquake than the one they had in Haiti. We need to get ready now. DONE has formed a task force with EP Chairs throughout the city. We're putting together a tool kit for NC's on how to address EP. EP meeting is on Saturday, Feb 13, at the Flyaway from 9 – 10:30 a.m. Joyce MacKinnon has been absent for the last two months. She's doing much better and she says that she misses everyone and wants to come back.
5. Public Comment – Comments from the Public on Non-Agenda Items
- a. Glenn Bailey – The Sepulveda Basin Master Plan is being updated by the Army Corps of Engineers. Next meeting is on Feb. 20 at 10 am at the Sepulveda Garden Center. Please include it in your subsequent e-mail blast. Lake Balboa includes much of the basin.
The City Council normally meets once a month at the Van Nuys City Hall. The last time they'll be meeting is this Friday until further notice. Slap in face to SFV residents.
 - b. Roberto Sufiyani – From Zoroastrian minority of Iran – Founder of Nooruz Festival. Held Nooruz Festival at Woodley Park for the last nine years. I am not part of it this year. Are you sure you're not doing the Persian Festival? It's not conflict of interest for everyone?
 - c. Janey Thompson – resident of Encino – Organized and is producing Valley Water Expo to bring water awareness to residents of West Valley. Being cosponsored by Encino NC and the Dept. of Rec. and Parks. Website is up. Expo is on April 20 at Balboa Sports Center. From 6-7 – tables with presentations, from 7-9 – speakers. Free event. Would like LBNC to put the link to their website on the LBNC website
6. Brief Response from Board to statements made or questions posed by persons exercising their general public comment rights
- a. S. Leffert- Mr. Mojallal recused himself from the vote and discussion of the Persian Festival, so there is no conflict of interest.
7. Discussion regarding proposed Conditional Use Permit for sale of a full line of alcoholic beverages at an expanded Balboa Market, 7613-15 Balboa Blvd. – Possible Motion – Leffert
- S. Leffert – Owner wants to expand market. Needs a permit in regards to CUP for full line of alcoholic beverages. They have permit for beer and wine, not hard liquor. Discussed this with CM Smith and Cárdenas's office. They don't want an increase of alcohol sales in CD6. The Fresh & Easy Market at CD6 does not sell beer and wine. Councilmember Smith reported the opinion to the owner of Balboa Market. The owner did let him know that his current permit allows him to sell singles. A newer permit would prohibit sale of singles. In keeping this particular permit that has the ability to sell single cans or to allow the sale of hard liquor. Cárdenas wants him to buy a different permit from somewhere else.
- Applicant – Michael Baskovitz- Has had no problems with law enforcement, been at location for a while. Expanding market to full-service - meat, produce, and grocery with full line of liquor. Alcohol and Beverage Control approved the permit, waiting on the city for CUP
- Chair – it's a renovation of an older building
- S. Silva – Will you be hiring additional employees? (Somewhere between 10 and 15)

Stakeholder - At the time, Spectrum Paint was a full-service market. She doesn't see a problem with having it here and with having the CUP. Could be a benefit to community.

A. Nelson moves to support the CUP for the sale of the full line of alcoholic beverages at the expanded Balboa Market, conditioned upon:

- a. No sales of singles
- b. No advertising of alcohol on windows
- c. No sale of alcohol after 10 p.m.

Jack Baird seconds.

(7-0-2) Chair and I. Tjoe abstain. Motion carries.

8. Discussion regarding proposed Conditional Use Permit (hours of operation) for proposed Ralph's Grocery Company gas station at the northeast corner of Saticoy and Louise (currently a vacant lot) – Possible Motion – Leffert

S. Leffert - Proposal to put in a gas station on the vacant lot on the NE corner of Saticoy and Louise. Similar in operation to the Food-4-Less where you get a discount on gas depending on how much you purchase at Ralph's. There will be someone manning the booth from 6 am to 10 pm. The conditional use is for the hours when there would be no personnel there at all. A CUP is necessary for the unmanned operation and hours of operation. It will be remotely watched. If problems arise, the personnel from the Ralph's market across the street. The initial plans had some problems with access from the alley. They changed the architecture to remedy the problem.

QUESTIONS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

I. Tjoe – is the limitation on the hours required? (Franklin - That's a mandate by the city requires based on our standard practice at all gas stations that must be unmanned from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.? There is camera monitoring throughout site and an alarm that shuts down the pumps when activated. The alarm is monitored remotely by security employees.)

I. Tjoe – if you know, what is the reason for the rule on no employee? (Franklin - He thinks it has to do with the number of customers. No cash transactions, only credit card.)

I. Tjoe - What happens if there's an issue – the CC doesn't swipe or the pump doesn't work? (Franklin - There will be notices advising people how to address the issue.)

A. Nelson – Have there been any police issues at the Food 4 Less gas station? (Franklin - No, to the best of his knowledge, there have been no major problems and few across the board with the parent company, Kroger's. Our priority is our customers and our image.)

S. Leffert – City permits hours of operation from 7 am to 11 pm for commercial zoning. They want 24 hours a day, so they need a CUP. I did ask if the store could be called the Lake Balboa store, not the Reseda or the Van Nuys store.

[Glen Franklin, real estate manager for Ralph's Market and Food-4-Less, and architect, David Street, present Power Point slides on proposal.]

Chair - The question before this council is about hours of operation. Does anyone have any concern about the hours of operation being proposed?

S. Leffert – Initially, I was concerned about a 24-hour gas station being near a Ralph's that closes at night. He then found out that there are personnel in the store at all times, and the security monitoring system is in place. There was another concern about the house nearby, adjacent to the lot on Saticoy. I tried contacting the residents there and did not reach them. They posted notices for the LBNC meeting at Ralph's. Are they here tonight? (Mr. Woods – Yes.)

Steve Olson – Lives 4 houses down from lot in question. Completely against the 10 pm to 7 am hours. The lights are an issue. The gas station will bring more traffic even when the market is closed. He's completely opposed to the idea. He's within the 500 ft.

S. Leffert – Within 500 ft. of Ralph's or the station? (Steve Olson – Within 500 ft. of both. He's gotten notices about the Ralph's event. It's a complete change of use of the neighborhood. They'll be drawing rewards people trying to cash in on their discount.

At the moment, it's a quiet neighborhood.)

Chair – (to Mr. Franklin) - Is there a gas station over at the food-4-less? (Franklin - Yes.)

Chair - Can I use my Ralph's points there? (Franklin - No. We are working on establishing a link between local Ralph's locations so that people can acquire and use points at all locations. The site is zoned for that use, though.)

Chair – you have a Ralph's in Marieta and a Food-4-Less in Long Beach. Any studies on traffic impacts at night? (David Street – They will be doing an 11 intersection traffic study.)

Chair – Does the Long Beach location get a lot of traffic at night?

Franklin - In my estimate, there won't be too much traffic at night. Most will be in PM peak hours from 5-7.

S. Silva – If there isn't much traffic, then why would you need it? The Ralph's closes at midnight. The nearby fuel stations are smaller. This is mostly a residential neighborhood.

Steve Olson - We shouldn't need a gas station with five pumps if there's not a lot of traffic.

I. Tjoe – Isn't there fast food at that center?

Steve Olson - All the stores close by midnight.

J. Baird – Redemption of credit they get for gasoline - can that be redeemed at any time? (Franklin– Yes, it's tied with the Ralph's card.)

S. Leffert – Right now, you only get discount at the nearby location. (Franklin - They are working on getting the stores tied so that the card will be good everywhere.)

Chair - How many other stations like this are you planning for SFV? (Franklin - Probably two others, but they are not in the process with the city yet.)

S. Silva – When will the traffic report be done? (Franklin - Two weeks or so) She proposes that they continue this item to look at the traffic report and get more feedback from the community members.

Steve Olson – How long would it take for someone to physically come over and look at the situation?

Franklin - The system is shut down. The police are called.

Steve Olson – What happens if something happens that requires someone to be there at that instant? The employee at Ralph’s would have to take at least 4-5 minutes to get to the gas station. What if someone got shot?

Chair – That’s an emergency situation for the police. It’d be no different if someone got shot in an empty parking lot. What if there’s a leak or anything? (Franklin - The automatic shutdown will take care of those problems.)

S. Leffert – There have been places like this before. There’s one at DeSoto and Nordhoff.

Sharon Brewer – Can you use the bathroom at night? (Franklin - No.) Is there a handicapped access? Handicapped people need help pumping gas sometimes. Do you need an EIR? The plants should be drought-tolerant.

S. Silva – there’s exceptions to the ADA compliance rules for the self-service.

Chair – two options – S. Silva wants to table. Planning and Land Use Committee wants to approve.

S. Leffert moves to support the proposed CUP for the gas station even though it is unmanned during certain hours. J. Baird seconds.

S. Silva – We don’t have the traffic report. How can the land use committee support it?

Chair – Will this delay the process if we don’t vote on it tonight? (Franklin - We’re trying to get an expedited process, and the report should be done in a few weeks. There could be a delay.)

S. Silva – What does the traffic report show? Will it show how many extra cars will be brought by the store? (Yes, it gives estimates.)

B. Mojallal – I don’t think we have the expertise to take a look at the traffic report. We can add something to this motion so that we can see it. We can have someone who has the training read the report.

S. Silva – I think the point of the traffic report is to see the effect of the station’s presence on traffic.

Chair – what about lighting? Does it shine out?

David Street, Architect – The light is designed to go inwards and glow instead of beam out. The traffic report will be done, and then LADOT will review the report for six weeks. The process was delayed because of the weather. We can’t provide definitive information about the report until after the LADOT review.

L. Reveen – She appreciates the changes to the design and the buffer between the housing.

Chair – The traffic report might not necessarily help us. If this is going to be the only Ralph’s that does this, then people might drive out of their way.

S. Silva – Who’s doing the traffic report? (Overland Traffic is doing the traffic report.) Neither one of you know what this traffic report is going to tell you?

S. Leffert – I think it would report what mitigations the City proposes for any increase in traffic. Local people would most likely be using it. There is a station on Saticoy and Louise that abuts a house and apt. building.

Terry Todd – The traffic reports a certain number of intersections for impact, to see how many extra car trips will be generated. The city will review that and stipulate mitigations for any impacts.

S. Silva – Does it predict the amount of traffic between 10 pm and 6 am? (Todd - Yes, there are estimates.)

VOTE ON MOTION (6-1-2) S. Silva opposes. L. Reveen and Chair abstain. Motion carries.

9. Discussion regarding the expenditure of up to \$5,000 for outreach for the Spring 2010 Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council elections, being conducted by the Office of the City Clerk of Los Angeles – Possible Motion – Leffert

S. Leffert - We have NC elections coming up on May 27. We are one of 11 NC’s in the south valley that is having the elections on that day. The NC’s have combined efforts to do some marketing about the elections. The money would go towards an advertisement. There’s a 6 pm meeting at the Browdy of the Committee of the 11 NC’s. Some options up for discussion are: 1. Press Release, 2. Ad in LA Times or Daily News, 3. Doing a postcard mailer, 4. Daily News flyer insert - \$400 in particular zip code. The postcards seem like the most reasonably priced option. In the north valley, they sent 30,000 postcards. It broke down to 22 cents per postcard. They would need funds readily available to work on this. Each NC would want to do a specific mailer afterwards. We could do that as one of our newsletters. Those cost about \$1350. Would have to be under expenditures for the election. I’m not sure how much we would be asked to participate. We have to do at least two mass mailings – the first with the 11 NC’s and the second individual mailing.

The mass mailing would cost about \$3300.

Chair – we’ve got \$36,000 to spend. It is a worthwhile outreach. It will get the word out and possibly bring in more members. Plus, if we don’t spend it, the City will likely take it away.

Stakeholder - How many newsletters do you print? (S. Leffert – about 15,000 – it costs about \$1350) Do you have any feedback about whether this is more effective than an electronic mailing? (S. Leffert - We only have 650 e-mail addresses. This letter goes out to 15,000 people.)

Nancy Woodruff – Foothill Trails NC – We set aside 10,000 dollars for this. We’ve gotten space in the Daily News and putting ads in the North Valley reporter. Networking with the other NC’s makes financial sense.

S. Silva – let’s increase it to \$7500.

Sharon Brewer– You’re not supposed to be dealing with your rollover at all. I don’t know what you’ve done with the \$45,000. There’s a chance that 1.4 million dollars will be swept. All the NC’s are being audited to see how much the rollover really is.

L. Tjoe – for purposes of the record, Chair was just joking.

Stakeholder - Can you advertise on the public channel? (S. Leffert – channel 7, channel 35).

L. Pruett – How many people do you have in your area? (N. Woodruff - About 12,000)

Janie Thompson – She’ll be at the Farmer’s Market doing outreach and getting e-mails. Also advertise through the theaters, maybe do it in the previews.

B. Mojallal – Can you allow us to sponsor a big banner in front of the building? I could get someone to donate it. We can put it in front of the studio and in front of his property? Advertising the studios as the election location.

Chair– We need an ad hoc committee for the election. We need a point person to attend this meeting tomorrow. We need someone to step up and get involved with the marketing.

A. Nelson – We committed to S. Leffert that we would attend this meeting.

Chair– Have J. Baird, A. Nelson, and B. Mojallal on an ad hoc committee getting together sometime next month to talk about outreach. That being said, are we going to allocate money towards this? Keep in mind not touching rollover money. We’ve got \$20,000 in outreach, but some of that is going to newsletters.

S. Leffert – The candidate filing period starts Feb. 26 and ends March 30. The candidate statements have to be in by April 27. We can contribute the share money right now and allocate money for separate LBNC mailings later.

Motion to allocate up to \$5,000 for outreach for spring 2010 LBNC elections.

S. Leffert moves. I. Tjoe seconds. (8-0-1) Chair abstains.

[S. Silva leaves at 9:50 p.m.]

10. Discussion regarding proposed amendment of ordinance relating to community care facilities and alcohol/drug recovery or treatment facilities within the City of Los Angeles – Possible Motion – Leffert

S. Leffert - Refers to halfway houses. One of these facilities with 6 or fewer people is regulated by state of CA. When there are 7 or more people, the city of LA is responsible for regulation. The City wants a permit process where communities can get notified. Started with letter to CM Greig Smith. It’s an issue of safety in the community. However, there is a sober living coalition – people who own these facilities. They are getting their own version of an ordinance through. The alcohol/drug addicts can fall under a federal guide line that allows them to be handicapped. The lobby wants to have facilities wherever they want. Some communities in CA have passed ordinances regulating these, but they do get tested in court because of the federal influence.

This particular proposal came before the City Planning. They didn’t do anything. We need to pressure the powers that be to regulate sober living facilities, to get an ordinance approved.

A. Nelson– Facility had subdivided house into tiny units. Got shut down because of extreme police event.

S. Leffert – Planning Dept.’s recommendation was “use of nuisance abatement procedure to abate and eliminate nuisance activity that negatively impacts a neighborhood.” What is that? A Band-Aid approach? There needs to be licensing and regulations for these facilities.

Chair– What are we being asked to do?

S. Leffert - We’re being asked to support CM Smith’s motion to create ordinance to regulate sober living homes.

L. Pruett – Is CM Greig Smith asking this or are other NC’s?

Chair - No draft ordinance, no specific LB issue. Not comfortable opining on the issue.

S. Leffert – There is a council file number on this. CM Greig Smith was asked to write something on it. They’re trying to gut the whole thing by the City Planning Dept.

Chair – He doesn’t have enough information to do anything. Recommends to take no action or to table it to next meeting.

L. Pruett - Is there any reason to take action tonight?

S. Leffert – Not sure when it’s going before City Council. Probably not right away because of the budget

Chair – if we table, we need to do so with the understanding that everyone will actually read the information

[L. Reveen leaves the room briefly.]

Motion to table this until next meeting. S. Leffert moves. B. Mojallal seconds. (5-0-2) Chair and I. Tjoe abstain.

11. Discussion regarding proposed zoning variance to permit a truck driving academy on portion of Lopez Canyon Landfill – Possible Motion – Leffert

Nancy Woodruff – Land Chair for Foothill Trails NC –

Lopez Canyon Landfill owned by the city between Lakeview Terrace and Siklmar. Was closed as a landfill in 1996. Rezoned as open space. Had motioned at that time and again in 2007 that they would reserve it for open space and parks. Standard procedure with all city-owned land-fills. According to Deputy Mayor Sanchez, there was collaboration between the Mayors, CM Alarcón and the Teamsters Union in Nov. 2007 to permit truck driving academy. No public notification. The public didn’t hear anything about it until Feb. 2008 in small neighborhood meeting on top of Lopez Canyon. Community started seeking help to ensure that land would be open space. Because it was a city operation, there was no need for public disclosure. They released an MND, a repeat of a previous MND. They did not include the issues with a truck driving school. Indicated that there would be no effect with land use. An industrial school should have C1 or higher zoning. We pushed for the MND not to be approved because it was insufficient, and then the city allowed a zone variance. The application was brought to Van Nuys on 10/30/2009. The hearing was 35 days after the application. Process rushed through the holiday season. Hearing took place on Dec. 18, 2009. Had a brief time to put out an SOS.

You can still help the cause because the ZA approved a zone variance. She restricted it as to the time and amount of acreage that would be involved. The impact is significant because OS zoning is reserved for open space, not for commercial space.

Will set a dangerous precedent endangering other open space areas. Request that you join with 6 other NC's (Studio City, North Hills West, Sun Valley, Greater Toluca Lake, Tujunga) that you oppose the ZA's approval and support the various communities' contentions that open space should not be used for any commercial purposes, even in limited scope and time.

QUESTIONS:

A. Nelson– Are these trucks-residential?

N. Woodruff – The trucks will be driving on highways and residential streets. A lot of horse properties involved in this area too. Kids and horses aren't used to 18-wheelers on rural two lane roads. The status with the ZA was that she would accept the MND as presented unless there was an appeal. The NC cannot file an appeal. The community group is hiring a lawyer so they can hire an appeal. The appeal is due by Feb. 8.

A. Nelson – How much money does the city expect to get out of it? (N. Woodruff – The city will be supplying buildings for classrooms. The lease is \$1/yr.)

B. Mojallal – On the aerial map you're showing, I'm seeing trailers and trucks all over. (N. Woodruff - There is a hill near Lopez that stores trucks. Next to Lopez is a large trailer park. The radius around Lopez is 80% residential or national forest. We're so concerned about the precedent. She was told that they had made a good case and that this was political in nature. They might have to go to PLUM and then to City Council.

I. Tjoe – Have they paved over? (N. Woodruff – Yes.) What are they going to do with the blacktop? Tear it up? (N. Woodruff – No.) They're not going to be paving any more roads just for the trucks, right? (N. Woodruff – Not to my knowledge. The blacktop is used as storage space when trucks aren't being used.)

[I. Tjoe steps out, then returns. L. Reveen returns.]

Chair – How does this affect LB? (N. Woodruff – We have been trying to network, the idea being that open space is an important feature of SF Valley. The NC's in the Valley can collectively say to the City that open space is more important than private projects.)

Chair – It's the same issue as what we could deal with Sepulveda Basin. That's how he could talk to his neighborhood about it.

N. Woodruff – The other landfills have been converted to parks and rec., not commercial.

L. Pruett – When we act as a coalition with other NC's, we are empowering our NC in the future. We shouldn't vote the way an NC asks us to if it's detrimental to our area. If, on the other hand, the issue is one that we might have to face, it's good to support.

Chair – As opposed to each NC having a motion, we should have a resolution.

Janey Thompson – It was designated open land, and then it was rushed through over the holidays.

Stakeholder – The proposal is to oppose the ZA's approval.

Chair – Is there certain language that other NC's have been using?

N. Woodruff – There is no uniform language. If you do choose to oppose this, then I hope you will talk to CM Greig Smith as well.

LBNC opposes Zoning Administrator's approval of the zoning variance to permit a truck driving academy on a portion of Lopez Canyon Landfill and to support the keeping of OS zoning as open space and to write to letters to our two city councilmen (Smith, Cárdenas) to that effect. S. Leffert moves. A. Nelson seconds. (7-0-1) Chair abstains.

12. Discussion regarding the expenditure of up to \$300 for proposed CERT 'mini-refresher' course (1/2 day) for CERT graduates – Possible Motion – Pruett

L. Pruett - Wants to do mini CERT refresher for as many people as she can. DONE has said that if we agree to only issue EP supplies to CERT certified people that they will write a favorable report to the education and neighborhoods committee council for us to be able to do something with our supplies. CERT will not release the names of CERT-certified people. They could send a letter about the mini-refresher to everyone with CERT-certification. She would also get information and names in advance so she could get a head count.

Motion to allocate the expenditure of up to \$300 for proposed mini-refresher course for CERT graduates. L. Pruett moves. B. Mojallal seconds.

Where will this be? What Saturday?

(7-0-1) Motion passes. Chair abstains.

13. Unfinished Business

“Welcome to LB” sign for \$7500 – They lost their beautification grant. Could we allocate up to \$7500 for the

Chair – Didn't we already do this?

A. Nelson – We allocated \$10,000.

Chair - The original motion said they would revisit the funding process. This isn't an agenda item, so we can't vote on it now.

14. Adjournment

J. Baird moves. S. Leffert seconds. (7-0-1) Chair abstains. Meeting adjourned at 10:33 p.m.