

**DRAFT**

Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council Board Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011, 6:30 pm  
Japanese Gardens  
6100 Woodley Ave.  
Lake Balboa, California 91406

1. Meeting called to order by Cynthia Weichelt, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, at 6:40pm.

Roll Call

David Bernardoni	Residential Rep.	P
Linda Schwering	Residential Rep., Treasurer	P
Cynthia Weichelt	Residential Rep., 2 <sup>nd</sup> V.P.	P
Jack Baird	Residential Rep.	P
Linda Pruett	Residential Rep., EP Committee Chair	P (Arrived at 6:55pm)
Allen Nelson	Residential Rep., Communications Officer	P
Steve Leffert	Organizational Rep.	P
Ruth Doxsee	Organizational Rep., Secretary	P
Lisa Reveen	Organizational Rep., President	Absent (excused)
Roxan Hartstein	Business Rep.	P
	Business Rep.	
Carl Schwering	Senior Rep.	P
	Youth Rep.	
	At-Large Appointed Rep., 1 <sup>st</sup> V.P.	
Frank Ahn	At-Large Appointed Rep.	Absent (excused)
Matt Coles	Business Rep.	P

2. ADOPTED Agenda by a unanimous vote – Dave Bernardoni brought a motion to adopt the Agenda, seconded by Roxan Hartstein. Vote: (9-0). Motion passes.
3. APPROVED Minutes of the October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011 Meeting – Dave Bernardoni brought a motion to approve the October 5<sup>th</sup> Minutes, seconded by Ruth Doxsee. Vote: (8-0). Motion passes.  
APPROVED Minutes of the October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011 Special Meeting – Roxan Hartstein brought a motion to approve the October 25<sup>th</sup> Special Meeting Minutes, seconded by Matt Coles. Vote: (8-0). Motion passes.
4. RECEIVED Treasurer’s Report – Linda Schwering  
Financial report for period ending 11/30/11 and Bank Purchase Card Report presented. The current balance of unused funds (when what was spent was less than what was approved) for (2) Items which were under budget will be returned to the Budget and made available for future use.

APPROVED Treasurer’s Report – Dave Bernardoni brought a motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report and Financial Reports for the period ending 11/30/11, seconded by Roxan Hartstein. (Vote: 9-0). Motion passes.

5. RECEIVED Announcements and Reports - LAPD, Local, City, State and Federal Representatives
- A. LAPD – Senior Lead Officer (SLO) Dave Ham reports there were many arrests in the last month. More than 8 burglars from S. Central L.A. were arrested thanks to many tips from Neighborhood Watch folks who helped secure these arrests, as well as good work by the officers of Special Investigative Section (SIS) from LAPD. We hope they are kept in jail for their full sentence. During the holiday period, if you are expecting a package, communicate with you neighbors and have them check for it in your absence. Watch out for car theft at the mall. Carry as little as you can. Don't leave valuables in sight. Sealing your house against the cold helps to keep out burglars, too. Steve Leffert mentioned he had seen painted graffiti in tunnel under Sherman Way, where LBNC had cameras installed, which hasn't been cleaned up yet. Officer Paredes is in charge of it, but Officer Ham will see if he can get anything from cameras and check to see if cameras are working. Call 311 and press pound key to bypass hello from Mayor, and report graffiti to West Valley Alliance directly at 818-885-8885. Use 311 for trash pickup and abandoned cars, that way citizens and city work as a team. Question from stakeholders: Is the bike path under the freeway patrolled? Officer Ham patrols it daily. Drug users have died there who were selling. It's best to keep moving on the path. Attacks are rare. LAPD does sweeps of park for two reasons: to get rid of ex-cons and parolees and to give alerts about flooding. For safety, carry a whistle and pepper spray and have a plan. Neighborhood Watch newsletters have phone numbers for SLOs

B. Eric Richardson, Field Deputy CD12, Councilman Mitchell Englander's Office

Motions in the works now are 1) Determining the full cost of OCCUPY LA at City Hall for future use and 2) City Budget: City Controller Wendy Greuel is working on performance based budgeting, checking the efficiency of each department. Work is being done on the 311 system to make it more user-friendly. Thursday, December 15 is "Day without a Bag." Various organizations will be handing out free re-usable bags to encourage bringing and re-using one's own bags to markets instead of using single use plastic bags, millions of which are harming ocean life right now. Steve Leffert said the City had good accountability, as he called in some illegal signs on Saticoy Street and they were removed the next day. He even received a follow-up call from Street Services. Question from stakeholders: What is Councilman's position on mobile billboards? Councilman hates them and a new law goes into effect Jan. 1, 2012 that cleaned up the language and includes all types of vehicles. Call 818-756-8501 to report illegal mobile billboards parked on the street.

C. Linda Pruett –YEEHAW! The second bin has been filled!! (First bin filled is at Woodley Lakes Golf Course parking lot.) The bin located at Stagg Street Elementary was filled in November in intermittent rain. Thanks to all who helped make this possible. Some very large kits were returned to SOS to be split in half. There will be a public viewing of the bins to let stakeholder know the contents and locations of bins. Emergency Preparedness Meeting on Dec. 10, 9am at the Fly Away. Jeff Edelstein of Survival Products will be guest speaker and Denise Edwards will be there, teacher of Map and Compass Reading class in January. EP Classes make great gifts for \$110; there are also free ones at SOS. EP Committee meetings are the second Saturday of each month on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of the Van Nuys Flyaway at 9:00 am, except this January. Next meeting is February 11.

D. Lynda Levitan, Field Deputy, CD 6, Council Member Tony Cardenas' Office (818) 778-4999 January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7-8pm, Redistricting meeting, needs input from Stakeholders, submit in writing or speak, open discussion, flyer distributed, Steve Leffert urges participation as decisions will be made which really affect constituents; December 15<sup>th</sup> is "A Day Without a Bag" by Heal the Bay, from 9am – 5:30pm free reusable bags to be distributed at Lynda Levitar's office, flyer distributed.

6. Public Comment – Comments from the Public on Non-Agenda Items, Announcements, and Complaints within the jurisdiction of the Lake Balboa NC.  
Glenn Bailey – 10/29 was Community Budget Day with Mayor Villaraigosa. Most Neighborhood Councils sent representatives. Linda & Carl Schwering represented LBNC. Two Budget Advocates were selected to represent San Fernando Valley Neighborhood Councils: Glenn Bailey (Encino NC) and Joanne Y (West Hills N) and two alternates: Claudette McGhee (Van Nuys NC) and Derek Waleko (Van Nuys NC). Mayor's Budget Advocate Survey comes out in January. Communicating directly...LA Neighborhood Council Coalition, Leonard Schaffer; City Council Redistricting, Braude Center in Van Nuys, possible new city CD5 & CD4; additional areas where population have been; Schedule distributed; Valley Alliance meeting Thursday.  
Anthony Wayne – Concerned about the increase in collisions and traffic at the Recycling center on the Northeast corner of Sherman Way and Louise near Virgi's Fashion Store; location of the market dumpsters; requests limit on more traffic; For Rent, land use consideration (CD12).  
Public Comment by Stakeholder – Concerns about standing water on Encino, north of Vanowen, as standing water can be a breeding ground for West Nile Virus; Mitch Englande's office will be notified.
7. Discussion/possible action regarding filling open Board seats, according to our Bylaws Article V, Section 1. Available are 2 At-Large, 1 Business, and 1 Youth seat – Steve Leffert Youth Representative, Ages 14 – 17 (Candidate must already be 14 years old, but not yet 17) – Christopher Bower, Frank Hernandez...Article 5, Section 6 states that candidate must turn in written submissions (To be agendized for next Meeting in February) application for all Board Members, use button on website "Email All Board Members;" Introductions from stakeholders interested in filling vacant Board seats, Linda Gravani, David Barron, and Diane Geer.
8. Discussion/possible action regarding a conditional use permit to allow the sale of Firearms/ammunition, with said Business having hours of operation 9am– 7pm daily; in the M2 zone @ 7800 N. Business Center Parkway #103, 91406 (ZA 2011-2605 CU) – Leffert "Gun Safari" is a duty gear store with retail firearms and ammunition sales by appointment only a business located north of Saticoy between Balboa and Hayvenhurst which needs to secure a conditional use permit from City of LA Over nine stakeholders spoke in support; Steve Leffert confirms several Board Members have checked location; Linda Pruett notes that it's hard to find, a very safe facility, less prone to break-ins, and is 100% in support; Allen Nelson explains how they met all federal requirements and he fully supports; Dave Bernardoni states they must have a federally required safe bolted, over 30 security cameras, armed security gate after 6pm, and they have a gate buzz-in system; Linda Schwering says they have sales to ultimate endusers; Dave Bernardoni adds that it is located in Van Nuys, not Lake Balboa, however it is in boundaries for LBNC.

MOTION PASSED – Steve Leffert brought a motion for Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council to write a letter in support of “Gun Safari” to get their conditional use permit, seconded by Linda Pruett. Vote: (9-1-0). Motion passes. Doxsee opposed, Weichelt abstained.

9. Discussion/possible action regarding purchasing an outreach booth at 2012 WorldFest– Nelson  
WorldFest – Sunday, May 20, 2012 at Woodley Park (rain or shine) discount of \$25 for early registration by 1/2/12; Linda Schwering brought up the fact that this is a vegetarian event; Dave Bernardoni, a meat eater, supports this event as outreach; Steve Leffert accepts that vegetarian is best for the planet, but adds a friendly amendment that they ask WorldFest for a better discount of 10% of \$2500 participation fee.

MOTION PASSED – Allen Nelson brought a motion for Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council to participate in the WorldFest event, seconded by Roxan Hartstein, with the friendly amendment brought by Steve Leffert that they ask WorldFest for a better discount of 10% of the \$2500 participation fee, seconded by Jack Baird. Vote: (8-0-3). Motion passes.

10. Discussion/possible action regarding beautification planting at Haynes and Haskell – Nelson  
Item Tabled – not enough information at this time
11. Discussion/possible action regarding NC Election Alternatives Survey – R. Doxsee  
City requires each Neighborhood Council to turn in one survey, as a Board

MOTION PASSED – Dave Bernardoni brought a motion to respond “Yes” (Wait until 2014) to Question #1, seconded by Roxan Hartstein. Vote: (8-0). Motion passes.

MOTION PASSED – Dave Bernardoni brought a motion to respond in order with “D” (Independent Election Administrator), “A” (Town Hall), “C” (DONE), “E” (Hybrid), and “B” last (Office of City Clerk) to Question #3, seconded by Matt Coles. Vote: (9-1). Motion passes.

MOTION PASSED – Dave Bernardoni brought a motion to respond with “At Polls” to Question #4, seconded by Linda Pruett. Vote: (unanimous). Motion passes.

MOTION PASSED – Steve Leffert brought a motion to select “Mandatory Secret Ballot” to Question #5, seconded by Dave Bernardoni. Vote: (10-0). Motion passes.

12. Discussion/possible action regarding creation of an Ad-hoc Budget Committee – L. Schwering

MOTION PASSED – Dave Bernardoni brought a motion for the Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council to form an Ad-Hoc Committee to review remainder of 2011/2012 Budget with Linda Schwering as Chair. Vote: (8-0). Motion passes.

Volunteers include Ruth Doxsee, Cynthia Weichelt, Carl Schwering, Roxan Hartstein (as a maybe). Linda Schwering will contact group to meet in January for Board Reconciliation in February.

13. Discussion/possible action regarding letter of support of NC Donations Ordinance – Weichelt  
Ordinance to allow monetary donations supporting renewing the ordinance; to be added to next meeting’s Agenda with more detail, email to Lynda Levitan  
Item Tabled – not enough information at this time

14. Discussion/possible action regarding watering truck cost for tree planting program– Nelson Roxan Hartstein recuses herself and leaves room to avoid conflict of interest, as she is in the building and design industry. Allen Nelson explains BOS offered Lake Balboa free street trees by adopting trees in front of homes and businesses, as urban trees counter air pollution; \$23.25 cost per tree per watering X 113 free trees planted by Urban Services Dept. beginning December 2011, as a cost effective way to enhance the area; 6 months of watering service to keep them alive (approximately \$2,628 per watering) with watering not needed during months of rain; Lynda Levitan will look into alternative options

MOTION FAILS – Allen Nelson brought a motion for the Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council to acquire 113 free trees, at \$2628 per watering of all 113 trees, seconded by Ruth Doxsee. Vote: (4-5). Motion fails. Coles, Bernardoni, L.Schwering, C. Schwering, Baird opposed, Weichelt abstained.

15. Discussion/ possible action regarding storage costs – L. Schwering  
MOTION: Expenditure of Funds: up to \$100 per month for rental of storage space to store neighborhood council materials and supplies.

MOTION PASSED – Linda Schwering brought a motion with regard to expenditure of funds, revise to \$105 per month for rental of storage space to store Neighborhood Council materials and supplies, seconded by Linda Pruett. Vote: (8-1). Motion passes.

16. Discussion and possible action approving expenditure of funds for meeting space rental– L. Schwering  
MOTION: Expenditure of Funds: up to \$125 per month for meeting space at Van Nuys Golf Course, 6550 Odessa Avenue, Lake Balboa, CA beginning February 2012.

MOTION PASSED – Linda Schwering brought a motion to expend up to \$125 per month for meeting space at Van Nuys Golf Course beginning February 2012, seconded by Dave Bernardoni. Vote: (10-0). Motion passes.

17. Adjournment –  
MOTION PASSED – Ruth Doxsee brought a motion to adjourn meeting, seconded by Dave Bernardoni. Motion passes by unanimous vote. Meeting adjourned at 9:55pm.