

FINAL

Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 5th, 2013 6:30 pm
Van Nuys Golf Course, Billingsley Room
6550 Odessa Ave. - Lake Balboa, California 91406

1. Meeting called to order by Cynthia Weichert, President, at 7:03

Roll Call

Linda Schwering	Residential Rep., Treasurer	E
Cynthia Weichert	Residential Rep., President	P
Jack Baird	Residential Rep.	P
Linda Pruett	Residential Rep., Emergency Preparedness Chair	P
Allen Nelson	Residential Rep., Communications Officer	P
Brian Tessier	Residential Rep., General Outreach Chair	E
Linda Gravani	Business Rep., 2 nd VP	P
Clay McFarland	Business Rep., 1 st VP	P
Michael Rosá	Business Rep., Business Chair	P
Steve Leffert	Organizational Rep., Planning & Land Use Chair	P
Ruth Doxsee	Organizational Rep.	P
Bethany Harris	Organizational Rep., Secretary	P
Carl Schwering	Senior Rep	E
Christopher Bower	Youth Rep.	E
Patricia Davidovich	At-Large Elected Rep.	P
Leslie (Leela) Woods	At-Large Appointed Rep.	P
Roxan Hartstein	At-Large Appointed Rep., Community Improvement Chair	P

2. **Adoption of the Agenda for the June 5th, 2013 meeting.** Clay moved to switch item 12 to 11 and 16 to 12 followed by the original 11 and the rest in order. Ruth Doxsee seconded the motion. Vote 12-0 Motion Passes. It was noted that 36 people were in attendance.

3. **APPROVED Minutes of the May 1, 2013 meeting** - Steve Leffert noted that LAKE on Item 7 should be changed to Lake. Bethany Harris moved to approve the minutes. Mike Rosa seconded the motion. Vote 12-0

4. RECEIVED Announcements and Reports by LAPD, Local, City, State and Federal Representatives, Board Members, Committees

A. **LAPD Officer Ham** – Reported on Proposition D passing and the narcotics department having their “ducks in a row” to close down the local marijuana dispensaries that opened up after 2007. Reported on recent citations in the park: graffiti, illegal camping and fishing, transients and parked RVs. He encourages the forming of neighborhood watch groups for crime prevention. Roxan Harstein brought up a concern of not hearing back from Senior Lead Officers when

calling about potential crimes in progress. Officer Ham introduced Captain Estrig and Sergeant Able. Capt. Estrig encouraged emailing the Senior Lead Officers in addition to calling them to ensure communication. When Harstein asked about what the LAPD is doing about reaching out to students, Estrig discussed the Mulholland Police Academy, cadet programs and Able made mention of the return of the D.A.R.E. program this upcoming school year. Leela Woods brought up a concern of a heavy amount of tagging going on in front of abandoned homes in the area. Ham brought up that there used to be the ghost program, but currently there is not enough man hours – thousands of taggers in the LA area, that tend to make up groups of four or more.

- B. Raffy Astvasadoorian, City Attorney's Office. 818-374-6837.** Discussed the availability of Dispute Resolution – Free mediation provided by Councilman Zine's office. 95% successful. Reported on the plans to address the medical marijuana clinic issue: sending out letters to the business and property owners, making arrests of illegal activity tied to the business that will lead to shutting them down. **Astvasadoorian** also reported on prosecutions made protecting the wildlife area and Woodley Park: camping, sex offenders, lewd conduct, squatters, etc.
- C. Bill Larsen – Nuisance Abatement. william.larsen@lacity.org** – Reported on the passing of Proposition D. Cannot act until vote is finalized with the City and ordinance is interpreted by the City Attorney. Action may be delayed with the change of City Attorney. Discussed previous success with Mitch Englander's District and the narcotics team that that went through training and worked with Larsen to strategically shut down dispensaries, processing evictions, etc. Larsen also reported on issues with illegal "sober living" boarding houses: 7 or more unrelated persons living in a home, some having upwards of 75 tenants housed, Building and Safety notices, crime "donuts" surrounding these houses and the need for neighbors to send in complaints so that there is a basis for allegation and investigation. Larsen also reported on abandoned homes, break-ins and the possibility of demolition as well as the budget constraints.
- D. Lynda Levitan. Acting District Director - CD6** If you are not getting a response from your SLO, reach out to her. If you are having trouble with your trash being strewn about your yard/street when the trucks pick it up, report it – there will be a follow up (must provide photos). If you are aware of illegally parked cars/RVs, take notice of their habits and call it in. She is available until July 23rd.
- E. Mindy Lake - Representing Assembly Member Adrin Nazarian District 46** - Came to the meeting straight from the Daniel Pearl Graduation. Gave out three scholastic achievement awards. It was the first graduating class that had attended all four years at Daniel Pearl – both Mr. and Mrs. Pearl was in attendance. Made mention that while Nazarian will be coming to our meeting in October, we could also see him Saturday June 8th at the Alzheimer's Walk in Woodley Park.
- F. Linda Pruett, Emergency Preparedness Committee Chair** - Emergency Disaster Committee Meeting is June 8th, 9:00 AM at the Van Nuys Flyaway. Discussion of who will be responsible for dispensing supplies and the EP bin protocols in the event of a disaster. Pruett also reminded those present of the SOS Sidewalk sale that is taking place June 7th and 8th.

- G. **Mike Rosá – Business Outreach Chair** - May's meeting at the Humblebee went well – City Council candidate Cindy Montanez was present. The "Spend \$25 on the 25th" program will be rolling out in July. The June meeting will be taking place Monday the 10th at Millie's restaurant at 6:30 PM.

- H. **Allen Nelson – Communication Officer** – WorldFest review. While the event was successful, Nelson was disappointed in the turn out of board members at the event – hoping for greater participation in the future.

- I. **Roxan Harstein. Beautification Chair.** Reported on WorldFest and the need for more board involvement at the largest outreach event of the year.

- J. **Bethany Harris – Secretary/Youth Outreach Chair** – Reported on Tamar Galaztan's Valley Task Force meeting regarding the new LCFF funding for school. PDFs of documents and an online survey for stakeholder input available online and will be posted on the LBNC website.

- 5. **Public Comment - Comments from the Public on Non-Agenda Items, Issues, Announcements and Complaints within the jurisdiction for the Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council**
 - A. **Annabelle Bonney** – wife of Justin Bonney. Teacher at Independence Continuation High and mother. Enjoyed WorldFest and relayed a special thanks to Allen Nelson, Jack Baird Roxan Harstein and Lisa Reveen. Bonney was glad to see that there is a provision for student outreach. She is also concerned with the medical marijuana dispensaries and the young people that have been smoking in front of their home.
 - B. **Patrick Holder** – concerned with a proposal for a parking structure that is being planned that could result in a 6 day a week 100 trucks a day hauling excavated dirt for a 2 year project that could pose safety and traffic issues. "Save Coldwater Canyon" Holder was encouraged to contact a board member to make this a future agenda item.

- 6. **Misdemeanor Diversion Bill – AB 994 (Tabled)**

- 7. **Santa Susana NASA Field Lab. Santa Susana NASA Field Lab.** Presentation by Bob Dager and Tom Nachtrab from the SSMPA (Santa Susana Mountain Park Association) on the disposition of a 450 acre federally owned parcel and which federal agency will take over custodianship. It is the birthplace of rocketry and a historical Burrow Flats Indian archeological site. Dager brought out that it is important to the health of the Santa Susana Mountains and Simi Hills that this land is protected. There is a cleanup under way that will not be completed until 2020, but transfer of custodianship will probably be determined in the next nine months due to pressure from Congress. Dager asked for the LBNC to support the transfer of custodianship to go to the National Parks System. Steve Leffert made the comment that the NPS would take the best care of this land. Ruth Doxsee made the following motion:

“Whereas the process used to submit comments on issues before the city council. Clay made the motion selecting Lin disposing of federal lands includes first refusal rights for federal agencies, including the NPS, Whereas the Lake Balboa NC has previously issued a letter of recommendation of the Rim of the Valley Corridor Special Study stating that the area containing the Santa Susana Field Laboratory should be included in the Santa Monica Mountain Recreational Area, Whereas the Santa Susana Field Lab are is a critical habitat linkage between the Santa Monica Mountain National Recreation Area and the Los Padres National Forest, I move that the Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council issue a letter requesting that the national Park Service take over as the eventual administrator of the Santa Susana Field Laboratory in the Simi Hills to ensure appropriate environmental stewardship and open public access.” Patricia Davidovich seconded the motion. Vote 12-0. Motion Passes. Linda Gravani will also submit a Community Impact Statement (CIS).

8. **Cricket Field Expansion in the Sepulveda Basin:** Kamil Azeez from the Southern California Cricket Association presented plans for the development of the cricket field on Woodley between the Wildlife Reserve and Woodley 1 park area. The SCCA previously was in Griffith Park from 1935 to 1971 until the equestrian area replaced it. Since then they have been at Woodley Park and recently received an award from ESPN and featured in Hidden LA. Cricket is the second most played sport in the world (first being soccer). The cricket players are respectful of the Wildlife Reserve and plan on being more involved with the LBNC. Steve Leffert made the following motion: **“Whereas the area of the Sepulveda Basin commonly known as the corn maze is currently underutilized as a flood offset and occasional overflow parking, And whereas the adjacent cricket fields are well maintained by the SCCA in a way that comports with the goals of the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas and the adjacent recreational and sports areas, And whereas the SCCA agrees to promote youth participation in their sport, And whereas the Department of Recreation and Parks has tentatively agreed to this long term development project. I move that the Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council issue a letter to the Department of Recreation and Parks in support of the eventual use of the corn maze by the SCCA and developed by them into a single cricket field and light recreation area.”** Allen Nelson seconded the motion. Vote 12-0. Motion passes. Linda Gravani will also submit a CIS.

9. **Freeway Sound Wall Project:** Presentation by Mark Dierking of Metro presented a proposal for freeway sound walls that includes the 405 near Stagg St. Leffert commented that there are businesses that cannot hear their customers on the phone due to freeway noise. Leffert then made the following motion: **Whereas the Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council wishes to promote our stakeholder’s ability to quietly enjoy their homes and businesses, And whereas the I-405 freeway in the area of Stagg Street currently lacks any sound walls, And whereas Metro seeks to include this area in Sound Wall Package 11, a P3 Accelerated Regional Transportation Improvement Project, I move that Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council issues a letter in support for Sound Wall Package 11 insofar as it includes improvements to the area**

affecting Lake Balboa. Jack Baird seconds the motion. Vote 12-0. Motion passes.

10. **Community Impact Statements:** Linda Gravani explained the procedure of filing a Community Impact Statement as well as presented a document that she typed up to make it easier for the board to navigate the procedures. She requested that the board put thought into what are the hot topics in our community to follow – especially committee chairs.
11. **Treasurer’s Report and Budget.** Clay McFarland reviewed the budget and made a resolution to approve the proposed Fiscal 2013-2014 budget as distributed. Mike Rosá seconded the motion. Vote 12-0. Motion passes. McFarland reviewed the P-card and May expenditures and moved to approve the report. Ruth Doxsee seconded the motion. Vote 12-0. Motion passes
12. **Youth Outreach Community Service Program.** Bethany Harris discussed the plans for the newly formed committee to encourage the students, parents and teachers of Lake Balboa to be more involved with the LBNC committees and to highlight volunteer opportunities within the neighborhood. Harris also mentioned that a main focus of parents and teachers lately has been healthy food access for children in the community. Harris presented a spreadsheet of the schools within the LBNC boundaries that highlighted the high percentage of students eligible for Free and Reduced Lunch. Harris made the following motion: **“Whereas it is important to give our youth stakeholders a voice and educate them on the value of their neighborhood Council in communicating with City and State officials on matters that effect the community they live in, Whereas students and parents in the Lake Balboa neighborhood are unaware of the existence of the Youth Outreach Committee that was put in place to serve them, Whereas the Los Angeles regional food shed is one of the largest producers of fruits, vegetables and nuts in the nation and yet nearly 30% or one in every three children in this county, including children in Lake Balboa do not have regular access to fresh produce and nutritious meals, Whereas an average of 75% of the students attending schools in Lake Balboa qualify for federal and state meal benefits through the Free and Reduced Lunch Program and or receive SNAP benefits (also known as Cal Fresh), Whereas child food security negatively impacts the development of young children and results in poor academic performance, Be it resolved that the Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council appropriates up to \$1,500 on printing a special newsletter that will be distributed to the 2,400 preschool, pre-k and elementary students/ 6,300 middle and high school students /and 500 teachers, principals and counselors that serve their needs – with the purpose of announcing the formation of the new committee, highlighting opportunities for student, parent, teacher volunteer involvement with Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council’s committees, and encouraging them to be aware of and involved with nonprofit organizations that are addressing issues that negatively impact the physical health and academic performance of our children.”** Ruth Doxsee seconded the motion. Vote 12-0. Motion passes.
13. **\$25 on the 25th. Business Outreach.** Mike Rosá presented the business outreach committee’s efforts to promote a celebration of local businesses by focusing spending in our own community

on the 25th of each month. The first "\$25 on the 25th will be Thursday, July 25th in the Ralph's plaza on Saticoy and Louise. Mike Rosa made a motion to allocate \$700 from the FY 12/13 funds to create promotional outreach materials. Ruth Doxsee seconded the motion. Vote 12-0. Motion passes.

14. Mural Ordinance – File#11-0923 Tabled.

15. PA System. Tabled. Lack of funds and need to have a second bid.

16. Formation of meeting location committee: Possible of an ad-hoc committee led by Business Outreach Chair Mike Rosá with the single purpose of locating a viable meeting place within Lake Balboa. Lela Woods, Linda Gravani and Ruth Doxsee volunteer to be part of the committee.

17. Architectural Sign. Tabled.

18. Adjournment. Linda Pruett brought a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Bethany Harris. Motion passes by a unanimous vote. Meeting adjourned at 9:33pm.