

FINAL

**Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, August 7th, 2013 6:30 pm**  
Van Nuys Golf Course, Billingsley Room  
6550 Odessa Ave. - Lake Balboa, California 91406

**1. Meeting called to order by Cynthia Weichelt, President, at 7:06.**

**Roll Call**

Linda Schwering	Residential Rep., Treasurer	P
Cynthia Weichelt	Residential Rep., President	P
Jack Baird	Residential Rep.	P
Linda Pruet	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 <sup>nd</sup> VP	P
Clay McFarland	Business Rep., 1 <sup>st</sup> 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.	T
Patricia Davidovich	At-Large Elected Rep.	E
Leslie (Leela) Woods	At-Large Appointed Rep.	P
Roxan Hartstein	At-Large Appointed Rep., Community Improvement Chair	E

2. **Adoption of the Agenda for the August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013 meeting.** In her absence, items related to Roxan were re-agendized. Allen Nelson moved to adopt the agenda. Linda Gravani seconded. Vote 11-0 Motion Passes. It was noted that there were 51 people in attendance.
3. **APPROVED Minutes of the June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013 meeting** - Linda Gravani made note that there was not a community impact statement sent regarding Items 7 and 8. Clay McFarland moved to approve the minutes. Mike Rosá seconded the motion. Vote 11-0. **Motion Passes.**
4. **RECEIVED Announcements and Reports by LAPD, Local, City, State and Federal Representatives, Board Members, Committees**
  - A. **Councilmember Nury Martinez** – Recently elected, Martinez came to thank the board for their hard work in the community. She also alluded to the fact that she is the only female on city council, and that is an issue that will be discussed in the future.
  - B. **Lynda Levitan, Field Representative for City Councilmember Nury Martinez** - Levitan reported on Lead abatement, the upcoming flu shot clinic and a cleanup at Bull Creek in the Sepulveda Basin.

- C. **Mindy Lake - Representing Assembly Member Adrin Nazarian District 46.** Reported on the upcoming CERT training at the Government center in Van Nuys. Announced the Holiday Open House November 20<sup>th</sup> at the District Office as well as the upcoming visit to the council by Nazarian in the fall. Lake also reported on AB 850, a bill sponsored by Nazarian and passed by the Assembly recently. The bill will free up funds for DWP to fix contaminated wells in the San Fernando Valley.
  - D. **Raffy Astvasadoorian, City Attorney's Office. 818-374-6837.** Astvasadoorian reported on prosecutions made protecting the wildlife area and Woodley Park: camping, sex offenders, lewd conduct, squatters, etc. Astvasadoorian also reported that the letters to medical marijuana dispensaries were sent out, and that closures will ensue. As of yet, there has not been a counter suit filed.
  - E. **Linda Pruett, Emergency Preparedness Committee Chair** - EP Committee Meeting will not be taking place during the month of August.
  - F. **Linda Gravani announced the Van Nuys Advisory Board commemoration of the 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a community day August 31<sup>st</sup>, 9AM-3PM.**
  - G. **Mike Rosá – Business Outreach Chair** - August 25<sup>th</sup> will be the first "Spend \$25 on the 25<sup>th</sup>" in the Ralph's plaza at Saticoy and Louise. Rosa announced there will be an Ad Hoc committee meeting on the 21st to discuss the future location for LBNC meetings. The next Business Outreach meeting will be held at Lulu's.
  - H. **Allen Nelson – Communication's Officer.** Nelson gave updates on the mural project and information about the acclaimed muralist, Levi Ponce who will be mentoring the students involved.
  - I. **Cynthia Weichelt, President.** Weichelt reported on the pot hole repair requests available.
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. **Joanna Phieffer** – concerned with: the speed limit being increased on Saticoy St., the need for street repair in front of her house and the need for something to be done about the unsafe pedestrian cross walk.
  - B. **Albert** - Concerned with the roach problem. Lynda Levitan gave him her card and assured him that she had spoken with the appropriate persons to address this issue.
  - C. **Justin Bonney**- read letter from another neighbor, Detanyan Demps, who was concerned with vagrants in front of his place of business at 16927 Balboa who are deterring customers. Bonney also recommended two locations, including Independence High School for the new meeting location for the LBNC.
6. **CPAB: Nani Shaked, Co-chair of Community Police Advisory Board** gave a short presentation on working together with the NC to reduce local crime and improve quality of life. CPAB meets

the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wed. of the month, 6:30pm Social, 7pm Business. [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com), [westvalleypolice.org](http://westvalleypolice.org), [info@westvalleypolice.org](mailto:info@westvalleypolice.org) or [facebook.com/LAPD.wv.Police](https://facebook.com/LAPD.wv.Police) Next month's topic is graffiti. Shaked distributed cards to the board and present stakeholders.

7. **NC Plan Review Clay McFarland.** Discussion of final recommendations made by Plan Review work group. McFarland made the following motion: "Whereas the Los Angeles City Charter created the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (hereafter referred to as DONE) and Neighborhood Councils (NCs), and Whereas the Neighborhood Council Plan is embodied in a number of ordinances and Whereas The Los Angeles Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (hereafter referred to as BONC) launched a NC Plan Review and Reform Initiative and Whereas the mission and purpose of the initiative is to consider the current state of affairs and recommend to BONC and City Council amendments necessary to facilitate the work of NCs, recognizing NC's independent status and strengthening their ability to perform their key missions of increasing stakeholder participation and influencing the municipal decision making process and Whereas Three working groups (Valley/ Central-East/ Harbor-South-West); each group consisting of 16 members (one commissioner, who will act as chair/ 3 at-large members chosen by commissioner/ 12 members recommended by NC presidents). NC presidents in each of 12 election regions will recommend three members And Whereas the working groups met independent of each other and developed recommendations And Whereas the three working groups held joint meetings to develop recommendations regarding the NC Plan And Whereas the working groups submitted to BONC motions regarding NC subdivision/boundary adjustment policies, Grievances and complaints policies and procedures, Rules for governing board selections, Election policies and procedures; Term limits; Brown Act and posting policies, NCs and rule formulation; Appointments of General Manager, Board of Neighborhood Commissioners, Creating and maintaining information and communication network for public use, Duties of BONC, Exhaustive efforts process, **Therefore be it resolved that the Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council supports the above mentioned recommendations for Board policies and procedures and requests that DONE adopt all the recommendations as soon as possible.**" Linda Gravani seconded. Vote 11-0. Motion Passes. Resolution Adopted.
8. **Coldwater Canyon Development Proposal.** Alex Isbeki gave a presentation on the potential environmental and traffic impacts of the proposed development on Coldwater Canyon. Steve Leffert made the following motion:  
"Whereas the traffic created by the proposed project would have significant impact on drivers, valley-wide, Whereas the proposed project has an acknowledged environmental impact and requiring special permission, but does not propose an environmental offsets to its impact; The LBNC opposes the Harvard-Westlake School Expansion Project in Coldwater Canyon as its currently proposed." Linda Gravani seconded the motion. Clay McFarland recused himself. Vote 11-1 Abstention. **Motion passes.**
9. **Encino Firehouse Lease. File #130476** LA City plans to lease for \$1/yr the vacant Encino Fire Station on the northwest corner of Balboa and Addison to a private lessor, Encino Elementary also wishes to acquire the property. Neighborhood councils were not given advanced notice or consideration on the matter. Leffert made the following motion:

" I move that the City property located at 5001 Balboa Blvd. not be sold or leased until completion of further study of the best use of the property and notification of possible action by the Innovation, Technology and General Services Committee. As the old Fire Station 83 has been vacant for many years including those of the economic downturn there may be improved funding sources for the LAUSD to purchase/lease the property and make improvements to it in the near future. In any event there shall be proper notification to the public including neighborhood councils before any action is taken." Clay McFarland seconded. Vote 12-0.**Motion Passes.**

10. **Land Use - 17320 Vanowen.** Presentation made by West Cal Property regarding their planned project. Leffert made the following motion:" I move that the Lake Balboa NC support the development by WestCal Properties of a small lot subdivision on 4 parcels located at 17320, 17330 and 17344 Vanowen St. plus a flag lot at 6738 Andasol which is along the southern boundary of the Vanowen lots. Also, a letter of support be sent to the appropriate City agency." Jack Baird seconded the motion. Vote 10-2 Abstentions.**Motion Passes.**
11. **Architectural Sign.** Reagendized.
12. **Community Impact Statements. Linda Gravani.** Discussion of correct procedures for filing community impact statements on city council . Gravani suggested up to four more board members to be authorized to submit CIS. Mike Rosa, Cynthia Weichelt, Ruth Doxsee and Bethany Harris volunteered for the task.
13. **Support for DONE General Manager Liu. Linda Gravani.** Discussion of Mayor Garcetti's plans to re-interview all department heads and decide whether to reappoint them, including Empower LA GM Grayce Liu. Gravani made a motion to send a letter of support. Linda Pruettt seconded. Vote 12-0.**Motion passes.**
14. **NC Strategic Plan for FY 13/14.** A resolution to approve the LBNC strategic plan was brought by Linda Schwering. Vote 11-0-1. **Resolution passed.**
15. **Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer introduced the requirements of the new NC funding system
  1. A request for review and adoption of a Resolution of approval for the June 2013 expenditure reports, including the P-Card report for Q4 of FY2012-2013 was brought by Linda Schwering. Leela Woods made a motion to approve. Bethany Harris seconded. Vote 11-0-1Abstention.
  2. Review and Request for approval of July 2013 Expenditure Report using new format. Linda Gravani made a motion to approve the expediture. Motion seconded by McFarland . Vote 11-0.**Motion Passes.**
16. **Board Vote on Funding Request:** Recurring monthly Operational Expense for NC meeting facility rental at \$100/month for 10 months, FY2013-2014 Linda Gravani made motion to approve. Clay seconded. Vote 11-1. **Motion Passes.**  
**Board Vote on Funding Request:** Recurring monthly Operational Expense, ATT/Pac Bell for NC messaging service at \$18.25/mo. for 11 months FY13/14. Leela Woods made a motion to approve. Linda Gravani seconded. Vote 11-1.**Motion Passes.**  
**Board Vote on Funding Request:** WEB Outreach expense, vendor Aaron DeVandry, for NC website hosting and maintenance for the period of July - September 2013 in the amount of \$434.85.Allen Nelson made a motion to approve the expense. Linda Pruettt seconded. 11-0-1 **Motion Passes.**

- 17. Disaster Preparedness Event:** Linda Pruett made the following motion: **"I propose that the Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council participate in the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Valley Disaster Preparedness Fair on October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at Fire Station 87 by allocating up to \$500 for Emergency Preparedness items to be distributed at the event."** Ruth Doxsee seconded the motion. Vote 11-0-1. **Motion Passes.**
- 18. PA System:** Reagendized.
- 19. Appointment of Election 2014 Committee Chair:** Discussion of who was interested In taking on the role followed by President Weichelt appointing Linda Gravani as the chair of LBNC's 2014 Elections Committee to attend regional meetings and present cost and outreach requirements to the board.
- 20. Adjournment.** Chris Bower made a motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:15.