

Wednesday, 7 May 2014  
7PM

LakeBalboa Neighborhood Council  
Gault Street Elementary – Auditorium  
17000 Gault Street, Lake Balboa, CA91406

1. WELCOME

2. ROLL CALL AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA, 7:10pm

President Cynthia Weichelt called roll call. Fifteen of the sixteen members of the board were present:

Natalie Arazi	Ruth Doxsee (Secretary)	Linda Pruet
Justin Bonney	Linda Gravani (Vice President)	Thomas Riley
Tom Brennan	Sandra Joseph	Linda Schwering (Treasurer)
James Brown	Madeline Pammit	Brian Tessier
Gary Davis	Mary Pennomon	Cynthia Weichelt (President)

In addition, over 36-members of the general public (stakeholders) were also in attendance. In a review of the agenda, someone requested that item 11 be moved to the end of the agenda. Linda Pruet requests that agenda item 16 be stricken from the agenda. Natalie Arazi made the motion to adopt the agenda, James Brown seconded. It was presented for approval, and the voting was unanimously approved.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 2 MEETING

James Brown made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Cynthia Weichelt. Unanimously approved.

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS

A. Deputy City Attorney Raffy Astvasadoorian addressed the meeting.

- His telephone is 818-374-6837
- A key issue throughout the city is multiple pot shops opening. When one closes, a few more open in place of one.
- Although illegal business, the Finance Department is granting business licenses. However, this results in illegal businesses paying taxes.
- Lawsuits are being filed against the pot shops, as well as their landlords.
- A comparative question was raised about spas and massage parlors. State law says that they cannot be regulated

B. Officer David Ham, lead officer from LakeBalboa and Officer Steve Olivares, addressed the meeting

- Call 311 for non-police-related issues.
- For non-urgent matters, please call 877-ASKLAPD, instead of 911.
- Although LakeBalboa is a safe neighborhood, a few homes are being broken into. Most robberies occur during the day. Access is via an unlocked back gate. The LAPD recommends putting a lock on your back gate. That is called “hardening the target”. Make it difficult for criminals.
- Another concern of the neighborhood: Gang members attacked and killed someone at the Saticoy Apartments. The shooter has already been arrested.

- Pot shops cannot be within 1,000 feet of a school, or within 600 feet of a library, day care center, nor house of worship.
- A stakeholder mentioned that they saw pedestrians attempting to access garage doors via use a remote garage door opener. That is a legitimate 911 call because they are potential burglars scoping the neighborhood.
- Steve's new twitter account is 10A39@twitter.
- Wednesday, May 14, 7PM, will be the next meeting of the Community Policy Advisory Board (CPAB). This will be held at the West Valley Police Station Community Room, 19020 Van Owen Street, Reseda. The public is welcome to attend.

C. Amber Meshack, Project Coordinator with EmpowerLA addressed the council.

- The board has until May 15 to submit funding requests to non-profits and schools.
- June 13, the Lake Balboa PCard will be shut off.
- Her telephone number is 818.374.9893
- Email is amber.meshack@lacity.org

D. Jim Danton, Chief of Staff for Councilwoman Nury Martinez addressed the council.

- Recognition to Steve Leffert for his contribution, on behalf of Nury Martinez, and Congressman Tony Cárdenas.
- Additional awards from Councilwoman Martinez were presented to:
 

Jack Baird	Allen Nelson
Christopher Bower	Michael Rosa
Patricia Davidovich	Carl Schwering (accepted by his wife, Linda)
Roxanne Hartstein	Leela (Leslie) Woods
- Councilwomen Martinez has authored a bill for the city to close the loopholes of medical marijuana dispensaries. She would like the Finance Department to do more research prior to granting business licenses.
- The City of Los Angeles has plans to spruce up the Sherman Way tunnel. Cameras are still operational, but the feed goes to LAWA; Captain Egan is attempting to get it to WV LAPD.

E. Linda Pruett and Brian Tessier, Emergency Preparedness Co-chairs

- Had booth focusing on Map Your Neighborhood at Lemay Elementary's open house last night.
- This Saturday, May 10, at 9AM, there will be a meeting at the Flyaway bus terminal.
- In June, there will be a full practice drill of the 8.2 earthquake.
- In September, there will be a very big Emergency Preparedness event; at that time, approximately 45 members of the National Guard will join us. The Civil Preparedness team will simulate reactions to an 8.2 earthquake.

F. Steve Leffert showed a new Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council banner; this generated and donated by Express Printing.

G. Allen Nelson, Community Improvement -There are five potential designs for 66' murals along Haskell Avenue; they will be located between the 405-south exit and Victory Boulevard.

- Art teacher, Debbie Epstein and the five artists were introduced and designs shown. Design chosen by board members echoed school choice.

H. Natalie Arazi mentioned that she attended the Neighborhood Council Commission meeting which discussed LA2020 (LA2020Reports.org). This commission recommended two things:

- Establish transparency, and
- Schedule city elections so they correspond with federal or state election cycles.

I. Cynthia Weichelt mentioned two upcoming events:

- Saturday, May 17, 9AM – 4PM  
2014 Senior Symposium, a free event for Baby Boomers and Seniors, will be held at the ONE generation SeniorEnrichmentCenter, 18255 Victory Boulevard, Reseda
- Sunday, May 18, 10.30AM – 7PM  
WorldFest will be held at WoodleyPark, 6350 Woodley Avenue, LakeBalboa

J. Linda Schwering mentioned that the City Council had approved public funding for signs attached to bus benches

- The bench's design has already been established. These will state "We Want You" with a picture of LakeBalboa beneath the words.
- These benches have already been placed at the following locations:
  - Corner of Saticoy and Balboa
  - Corner of Roscoe and Balboa
  - At the DogPark
- Justin Bonney recommended that a QR code be added to the benches.

## 5. LOSANGELESCITY BUDGET UPDATE

Stakeholder Harvey Goldberg from the Tarzana Neighborhood Council spoke.

- All Neighborhood Councils have chosen budget advocates, who work with the City of Los Angeles for involvement, discussions and the writing of a White Paper regarding the city's budget.
- Currently the LA city budget is \$8 billion:
  - 86% is fixed, and 14% is discretionary.
  - Years ago, the fixed portion of the city's budget was 60%, 40% was discretionary.
  - Due to the cutbacks, the budgets for parks, tree trimming, and computers have been drastically cut.
  - Pensions granted to retiring city workers is 69% of their last year's salary,
  - Since 2008, city workers have received an average of a 5% raise in salary.

Linda Gravani: "CF14-0600 - I move that LBNC support the budget advocates' white paper recommendations, and requests the council to instruct the CAO and CLA to report back within 30 days on the budget advocates' findings."

Vote tally: (14-0-1) All voted in favor, except Weichelt, who abstained.

## 6. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Jerry Brown, General Director, Center Stage Opera, the valley's professional opera. Besides producing operas, they do a great deal of community service, including presentations before schools and community organizations. They hope to team with the Lake Balboa Neighborhood council in the future.

B. Ryan Halton works for New York Life, where employees are encouraged to volunteer 10-20 hours per month. His project is child IDs; he will be at WorldFest on May 18.

C. L. Charbot, lives on Louise; he notices a great deal of litter. Is there anything we can do to alleviate all the litter on his street?

D. Lorna Paisley, requests that the council support Senate Bill 1381 regarding genetically engineered food. There have been no FDA studies on these issues. Requests support for CF13-1374.

E. Alona Yorkshire is outreach coordinator and teacher at The Adult Skills Center (TASC) at Vanowen & Andasol. They have been there 27-years and have 30 developmentally disabled clients who volunteer for animal shelters, libraries, Operation Gratitude, etc. They would like to partner with the LBNC as volunteers and possibly submit artwork for the next mural design contest. They also have space for events.

7. POSSIBLE APPOINTMENT TO OPEN BOARD SEAT

We need to fill the At-Large Appointed Board Member position. A 2/3 majority is required for this position. If no one receives a 2/3 majority, simple majority will suffice at next meeting. The following four candidates submitted their nominations and the latter three spoke: Lara Maheeney, Edward Waters, Allen Nelson, Carol Newman.

Voting tally:

Candidate	Votes	Electors	
Carol Newman	8	Natalie Arazi Tom Brennan James Brown Gary Davis	Ruth Doxsee Linda Gravani Sandra Joseph Mary Pennomon
Allen Nelson	6	Justin Bonney Madeline Pammit Linda Pruet	Thomas Riley Linda Schwering Brian Tessier
Lara Maheeney	0		
Ed Waters	0		
Abstention	1	Cynthia Weichelt	

Since no candidate received a 2/3 majority (10 votes), this election will be tabled to the next meeting on Wednesday, June 4.

RETURNING TO ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REPORTS

- The Neighborhood Council voted for mural #1, showing a lady overlooking the hospital. However, they would like to incorporate elements from the other design.
- Per Allen Nelson, Worldfest (to be held Sunday, May 18) has eliminated free admission. There will be six VIP parking passes, which will be mailed to the post office box.

8. CF-14-0223: LIVING WAGE FOR HOTEL WORKERS

Item tabled due to time constraints.

9. CF-14-1493 STREET VENDORS AND FOOD TRUCK REGULATION

Item tabled due to time constraints.

10. TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Linda Schwering shared the Purchase Card (P-Card) activity with the council members. Linda Schwering made a motion to accept and approve the treasurer's report, Ruth Doxsee seconded.

YES (13)	Natalie Arazi, Justin Bonney, Tom Brennan, James Brown, Gary Davis, Ruth Doxsee, Linda Gravani, Sandra Joseph, Mary Pennomon, Linda Pruett, Thomas Riley, Linda Schwering, and Brian Tessier
ABSTENTION (2)	Madeline Pammit and Cynthia Weichelt
NO (0)	

The motion carried.

11. BUDGET REVISION

SKIPPED Moved to later in the meeting, immediately following agenda item #18.

12. BOARD MEMBER RETREAT

- Discussion and possible board vote on a board member retreat during the month of May to discuss LBNC strategies for outreach and Fiscal Planning for 2014-15.
- Requested amount is \$150. Funds for this retreat has already been approved.
- Linda Schwering made the motion; James Brown seconded the motion.

YES (14)	Natalie Arazi, Justin Bonney, Tom Brennan, James Brown, Gary Davis, Ruth Doxsee, Linda Gravani, Sandra Joseph, Mary Pennomon, Linda Pruett, Thomas Riley, Linda Schwering, and Brian Tessier
ABSTENTION (1)	Cynthia Weichelt, Madeline Pammit
NO (0)	

The motion carried.

13. BOARD VOTE ON FUNDING REQUEST

- Discussion and request for approval to spend up to \$975 on a replacement Lake Balboa NC laptop computer.
- Linda Schwering brought the motion to spend up to \$975 for a laptop; James Brown seconded the motion.

YES (8)	Brown, Davis, Gravani, Joseph, Pennomon, Pruett, Schwering, Tessier, Doxsee, Riley, Doxsee
NO (3)	Arazi, Bonney, and Brennan
ABSTENTION (2)	Pammit and Weichelt

The motion carried.

14. BOARD VOTE ON FUNDING REQUEST

- Discussion and request for approval to spend up to \$500 from the Fiscal 2013-14 LBNC on the 2014 Congress of Neighborhood Councils, to be held in September.
- Linda Gravani spoke in favor of \$500 for the 2014 congress of neighborhood councils. This money goes to security, food, hospitality, etc.

YES (13)	Natalie Arazi, Justin Bonney, Tom Brennan, James Brown, Gary Davis, Ruth Doxsee, Linda Gravani, Sandra Joseph,
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	Mary Pennomon, Linda Pruett, Thomas Riley, Linda Schwering, and Brian Tessier
ABSTENTION (2)	Madeline Pammit and Cynthia Weichelt
NO (0)	

The motion carried.

15. BOARD VOTE ON FUNDING REQUEST

- Discussion and request for approval to spend up to \$500 on Emergency Preparedness Supplies including:

\$150	Dry Erase "Shower Boards" and Markers
300	EP Outreach Event Giveaways
25	Self-Inking Stamps for Outreach Materials, and
Tax	On Aforementioned Items

- Linda Schwering requested that the aforementioned items on the agenda budget be broken out.
- Linda Pruett amended the motion by removal of the \$25.00 for Self-Inking Stamps and the new motion made was for the approval of up to \$500 for Dry Erase White Boards and EP Outreach Giveaways, plus tax on the aforementioned items. Gary Davis seconded the motion.

YES (13)	Natalie Arazi, Justin Bonney, Tom Brennan, James Brown, Gary Davis, Ruth Doxsee, Linda Gravani, Sandra Joseph, Mary Pennomon, Linda Pruett, Thomas Riley, Linda Schwering, and Brian Tessier
ABSTENTION (2)	Madeline Pammit and Cynthia Weichelt
NO (0)	

The motion carried.

16. BOARD VOTE ON FUNDING REQUEST

- Discussion and request for approval to spend up to \$500 for Valley Disaster Preparedness Fair.
- This expenditure was chosen to be tabled until a future meeting of the LBNC.

17. BOARD VOTE ON FUNDING REQUEST

- Discussion and request for approval to spend up to \$1,200 for an end of year teacher appreciation/sustainability youth outreach round table, including a newsletter.
- As this was Bethany Harris's project, and she was not present at the meeting. Ruth Doxsee made a motion that the board spend \$1,200 for teacher appreciation/sustainability youth outreach round table including newsletter. Justin Bonney seconded the motion.

Vote (1-3-11) Motion failed.

18. BOARD VOTE ON FUNDING REQUEST

- Discussion and request to spend up to \$15,000 toward completion of freeway sign project.
- Natalie Arazi proposes a motion to spend up to \$5,000 (instead of \$15,000) for the freeway sign. Ruth Doxsee seconded the motion.

YES (10)	Natalie Arazi, Tom Brennan, Gary Davis, Ruth Doxsee,
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	Linda Gravani, Sandra Joseph, Mary Pennomon, Linda Pruett, Thomas Riley, Linda Schwering, and Brian Tessier
ABSTENTION (5)	Justin Bonney, James Brown, Madeline Pammit and Cynthia Weichelt, Linda Schwering
NO (0)	

The motion carried.

11. BUDGET REVISION (moved from earlier in the meeting)

- Review and possible vote/resolution on a revised fiscal 2013/2014 Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council Budget.
- Linda Schwering mentioned that in the 2013/14-budget ... tree watering is now spelled out. It was always there, but now it is spelled out.
- Linda Schwering made the motion to revise the FY2013-2014 Budget, Natalie Arazi seconded.

Vote: (11-0-4) Abstaining were Weichelt, Bonney, Brown, Pammit.

19. BOARD OFFICER POSITIONS

- Discussion and vote on annual Board Officers:

President	Secretary
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Treasurer
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Communications Officer

- For President, Cynthia Weichelt recommends Linda Gravani, seconded by Tom Brennan.

YES (14)	Arazi, Bonney, Brennan, Brown, Davis, Doxsee, Gravani, Joseph, Pammit, Pennomon, Pruett, Riley, Schwering, and Weichelt
ABSTENTION (1)	Tessier
NO (0)	

Linda Gravani is elected President.

- For 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Natalie Arazi nominates herself.

YES (15)	Natalie Arazi, Justin Bonney, Tom Brennan, James Brown, Gary Davis, Ruth Doxsee, Linda Gravani, Sandra Joseph, Madeline Pammit, Mary Pennomon, Linda Pruett, Thomas Riley, Linda Schwering, Brian Tessier, and Cynthia Weichelt
ABSTENTION (0)	
NO (0)	

Natalie Arazi is elected 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President.

For 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Natalie Arazi nominates James Brown.

- For 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Linda Schwering nominates Ruth Doxsee. Ms. Doxsee declines the nomination.

YES (15)	Natalie Arazi, Justin Bonney, Tom Brennan, James Brown, Gary Davis, Ruth Doxsee, Linda Gravani, Sandra Joseph,
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	Madeline Pammit, Mary Pennomon, Linda Pruett, Thomas Riley, Linda Schwering, Brian Tessier, and Cynthia Weichelt
ABSTENTION (0)	
NO (0)	

James Brown is elected 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President.

For Secretary, Linda Pruett nominates Ruth Doxsee. Ruth accepts the nomination.

- For Secretary, Ruth Doxsee nominates Cynthia Weichelt. Cynthia accepts the nomination.

RUTH DOXSEE (10)	Justin Bonney, Tom Brennan, James Brown, Gary Davis, Mary Pennomon, Linda Schwering, and Brian Tessier, Natalie Arazi, Linda Pruett and Thomas Riley
CYNTHIA WEICHELT (5)	Linda Gravani, Madeline Pammit, Cynthia Weichelt, Ruth Doxsee, and Sandra Joseph,
ABSTENTION (0)	

Ruth Doxsee is re-elected Secretary.

- For Treasurer, Cynthia Weichelt nominates Linda Schwering.

YES (15)	Natalie Arazi, Justin Bonney, Tom Brennan, James Brown, Gary Davis, Ruth Doxsee, Linda Gravani, Sandra Joseph, Madeline Pammit, Mary Pennomon, Linda Pruett, Thomas Riley, Linda Schwering, Brian Tessier, and Cynthia Weichelt
ABSTENTION (0)	
NO (0)	

Linda Schwering is re-elected Treasurer.

- For Communications Officer, Gary Davis nominates Justin Bonney.

YES (14)	Natalie Arazi, Tom Brennan, James Brown, Gary Davis, Ruth Doxsee, Linda Gravani, Sandra Joseph, Madeline Pammit, Mary Pennomon, Linda Pruett, Thomas Riley, Linda Schwering, Brian Tessier, and Cynthia Weichelt
ABSTENTION (1)	Justin Bonney
NO (0)	

Justin Bonney is elected Communications Officer.

## 20. COMMITTEE REVIEW AND ADDITIONS

Item tabled until upcoming Board Retreat.

## 21. ADJOURNMENT

- Cynthia Weichelt called for an adjournment of the meeting at 10:25PM.