

FINAL

Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council Board Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, December 7, 2016 6:30 pm  
Gault Elementary School - Auditorium  
17000 Gault St., Lake Balboa, California 91406

Meeting called to order by Linda Gravani, President, at 7:02pm.

- 1. Roll Call, board members satisfied quorum of 9. Five stakeholders were present at the beginning of the meeting.

Carla Bautista	At-Large Appointed Stakeholder Representative (SR)	P
James Brown	Residential Stakeholder Representative (RSR); 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	P
Ruth Doxsee	ISR	P
Kristen Fujitaki	At-Large Appointed SR	P
Linda Gravani	Business Stakeholder Representative (BSR); President	P
Byron Gutierrez	At-Large Elected CISR	P
James Hart	RSR; Treasurer	P
Sandy Joseph	RSR, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	P
Cindy Kurland	RSR	P
Madeleine McKay	Youth Stakeholder Representative	P
Allen Nelson	Organizational Stakeholder Representative (OSR)	P
Carol Newman	BSR; Secretary	P
Mary L Pennomon	Senior Stakeholder Representative	P
Linda Pruett	OSR	P
Tom Riley	RSR	P
Karen Schatz	RSR	P
Jim Stein	BSR; 2 <sup>nd</sup> signer	E

- 2. **ADOPTED Agenda:** Ruth Doxsee brought a motion to adopt the Agenda for December 7, 2016, seconded by James Brown

**16 AYES:** Bautista, Brown, Doxsee, Fujitaki, Gravani, Gutierrez, Hart, Joseph, Kurland, McKay, Nelson, Newman, Pennomon, Pruett, Riley, Schatz

**VOTE: (16-0-0-0-0) MOTION PASSES**

- 3. **Minutes of the Meeting:** Ruth Doxsee brought a motion to approve the November 2, 2016 Meeting minutes, seconded by James Hart

**16 AYES:** Bautista, Brown, Doxsee, Fujitaki, Gravani, Gutierrez, Hart, Joseph, Kurland, McKay, Nelson, Newman, Pennomon, Pruett, Riley, Schatz

**VOTE: (16-0-0-0-0) MOTION PASSES**

#### **4. RECEIVED Announcements and Reports by LAPD, Local, City, State and Federal Representatives**

##### **A. LAPD Officer Ham - 5717@lapd.org**

An update on crime was given. He stated the LAPD is not enforcing any immigration laws. Lake Balboa is doing great. The problems in the West Valley now are in Tarzana and Encino. Our biggest problem during the holidays is mail and package theft. Call 311 and contact DOT if there is illegal parking. The LAPD normally does not impound vehicles.

##### **B. Lauren Padick, LA Councilwoman's Martinez's office (Council District 6) 818-778-4000**

Their holiday celebration with Secretary of State Alex Padilla, Senator Bob Hertzberg, Council President Herb Wesson, Representative Tony Cardenas, and Assemblyman Raul Bocanegra will take place on December 8, 2016 from 5:00-7:00pm at Brand Park Community Center.

The New Directions holiday ceremony will be December 17, 2016 from 1:00-4:00pm.

The YMCA is starting new workshops to shape up your heart at Mid Valley YMCA in Van Nuys every Saturday starting December 10th from 10:00-11:30am.

##### **C. Julio Anleu – LAUSD Monica Ratliff's Office (District 6) 213-241-6388 [julio.Anleu@lausd.net](mailto:julio.Anleu@lausd.net)**

The holiday break is December 19, 2016 until January 9, 2016.

The General Board meets Tuesday, December 13, 2016 at 1:00pm.

#### **5. Public Comment**

##### **A. Susan Perkins – National Council on Alcohol and Drug Dependence**

She stated their next meeting will be December 9, 2016 at 10:30am at their office.

##### **B. Anna Angel – She is a community member and wanted everyone to know that she recently opened up a new catering company called Mint 2 B Catering. She is listed on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.**

##### **C. Leslie and Paula – They have a new business called the Water Plant on the corner of Vanowen and Balboa. They also have a location in Studio City. They sell five different types of water. They want to participate in community events, such as walk/runs and dog adoptions.**

##### **D. Madeleine McKay – She is part of the Human Rights Watch Club at her school and is focusing on juvenile rights. She is circulating a petition to ratify the Convention of the Rights of the Child.**

#### **6. ANNOUNCEMENTS and REPORTS: Committee Chairs and Board Members**

##### **A. EP Preparedness Committee – Linda Pruett**

The next EP Meeting will be Saturday, December 10, 2016 9:00am – 11:00am at the Flyaway Bus Station, second floor community room. The speaker will be Captain Chris Winn, CERT Commander. The EP Committee is starting its own CERT classes on March 2, 2017 for 7 Thursday nights, 2 ½ hours each night. The Committee would love to have Lake Balboa be the first NC to have its entire board trained. They are considering the possibility of child care for trainees.

**Linda Gravani** – If stakeholders are shopping on-line at Amazon, the 501c(3) So Cal Prep.US can receive a contribution.

**B. Health and Public Safety Committee – James Brown**

The next class for free CPR training will be December 17, 2016 at the Flyaway at 10:00am.

It will be the last meeting this year to receive CPR training. To date 650 community members have been trained and certified in CPR and we are trying to get to 800. This past Saturday the Committee just held a class at Daniel Pearl. The classes are monthly, every 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday. James is hopeful that all LBNC board members will become certified in CPR.

James attended a Neighborhood Watch meeting with Officer Ham. Mail is getting swiped. The San Fernando Valley is the number one place for ID theft. We will have alternative public safety and health meetings starting in 2017.

**C. Land Use Committee – Tom Riley**

He discussed the steps involved in getting an application for development approved. The first 4 steps involve the Neighborhood Council. After the 4<sup>th</sup> step it goes in a different direction. Step 5: the application goes to Planning, and they make a decision to approve or disapprove. Step 6: If it's appealed, Planning sends the appeal to the other City departments to ask for their input. Planning then makes a recommendation on the appeal. Step 7: The South Valley Planning Committee listens to the community and makes a decision which can be appealed. Step 8: The application goes to the Council office. Step 9: It goes to the City Council. We can be involved in the first 4 steps.

The South Valley Planning Committee will be meeting on December 8, 2016 at about 5:45pm at 6262 Van Nuys Boulevard to hear the case of the 8 houses on Louise. People from the community and the Neighborhood Council should attend. Linda Gravani will be representing the Neighborhood Council.

**D. Recreation and Parks – Tom Riley reported in because Jim Stein was absent.**

There will not be a December meeting. Movie Night will be June 3, 2017. The movie to be shown has not yet been chosen. We still need the permit. This will be at Louise Park. James Brown stated that Jim Stein had asked him to find sources for the screen and projector.

**E. Outreach Committee – Allen Nelson**

There was no meeting in November and will be none for December. They are choosing items for giveaways and new bags.

**F. Ad Hoc Newsletter – Kristen Fujitaki**

The December newsletter hasn't gone out yet but should be out tomorrow. She requested that the board members respond in a timely manner for information for the newsletter.

**G. Ad Hoc Database – Byron Gutierrez**

Ideas are being discussed on how to architect and structure the database. The structure will be very basic, but maintaining it will be an issue. The newsletter will be able to be sent out through the database.

**H.**

**Ad Hoc Bylaws – Linda Pruett**

There will be a meeting in January and probably in February.

**I. Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee (SBWASC) – Ruth Doxsee**

The agendas for meetings are posted at the Balboa Sports Center Tennis Courts and at the Amphitheater at the wildlife area. The Veterans Administration has had two people working the area offering housing vouchers to the homeless. So far no vouchers have been accepted. There have been problems with vandalism, fires set, and shooting air guns at the birds. Two people have been arrested. One ranger has been hired. The Army Corp of Engineers bulldozed the riverbed to prevent foliage from clogging the gates. The bylaws are being changed so that neighborhood council representatives will now be voting members.

On April 2, 2017 the Chatsworth Nature Preserve will have an open house from 10:00am – 3:00pm.

**J. Sustainability – Brian Gutierrez**

He has not attended any of the meetings yet. He’s just getting started. Neighborhood councils were requested to sign on for one of their proposals but not a lot of economic analysis has been done. There will be a Christmas Party next week at a restaurant in Glendale.

**K. Board Member – Cindy Kurland**

She attended the homeless liaison meeting on November 30, 2016 with Karen Schatz and Mary Pennomon. Measure HHH was discussed. The city admitted it will be a slow process. Twelve city parcels have been identified as possible sites for homeless housing but the communities may oppose it. The annual homeless count will take place on January 24-26, 2017. The last count was 47,000 homeless. Volunteers are needed. The city is trying to unite the homeless with family members through Miraclemessages.org. Karen Schatz said that there will be a meeting at the Reseda Neighborhood Council on December 21, 2016 for a Valley discussion about the homeless. The solutions for the Valley may be different from other areas.

Mary Pennomon stated that the meeting was held at the James Hahn building downtown and only one person at the meeting was from the Valley. Everything talked about was for the LA basin. The panel did not answer the questions people were asking. We were getting misinformation. The Valley was sold short.

**L. Board Member - Carol Newman**

On the March 2017 ballot we’re going to be asked to vote on the Neighborhood Integrity Initiative.

Lynda Levitan from Councilwoman Martinez’s office stated that the mayor will be coming out and doing a walking tour through Lake Balboa. In CD6 we are fighting to get funding. She will get information if anyone wants it.

Steve Lefferts stated that he had finally heard from someone who said he would investigate why Daniel Pearl did not receive an AED like other schools.

**7. Budget Advocate update:**

**Carol Newman** –The Budget Advocates are in the process of writing their reports and finishing up meetings. She stated her report was the first one submitted. She discussed what happens after the reports are submitted. She wrote two reports on the city pension plans.

**8. Treasurer’s Report – Review and request for adoption of the Monthly Expenditure Report (MER) for November 2016**

*James Hart brought a motion that Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council approve the MER for November 2016 under the condition that the “prior year operations “ on Line 3 is changed to mean current year operation, seconded by Karen Schatz*

**15 AYES:** Bautista, Brown, Doxsee, Fujitaki, Gravani, Gutierrez, Hart, Joseph, Kurland, Nelson, Newman, Pennomon, Pruet, Riley, Schatz

**1 INELIGIBLE:** McKay

**VOTE: (15-0-0-1-0) MOTION PASSES**

**9. Review Budget and allocate or reallocate funds as necessary**

*James Hart brought a motion to amend the 2016/17 budget to reflect the following subtotals:*

- *100 Operations Account \$8,515,*
- *200 Outreach Account to be raised from \$18,560 to \$21,060 with the entirety of the \$2,500 increase allocated to newsletter,*
- *300 Improvement Account to be increased from \$7,925 to \$9,925,*
- *400 Neighborhood Purpose Grants to be increased from \$2,000 to \$2,500,*
- *for a grand total of \$42,000, seconded by Linda Gravani*

**15 AYES:** Bautista, Brown, Doxsee, Fujitaki, Gravani, Gutierrez, Hart, Joseph, Kurland, Nelson, Newman, Pennomon, Pruet, Riley, Schatz

**1 INELIGIBLE:** McKay

**VOTE: (15-0-0-1-0) MOTION PASSES**

**10. President’s Update**

No update was given.

**11. FUNDING – Possible action regarding additional funds up to \$2000 for Mural**

*Allan Nelson brought a motion that Lake Balboa allocate up to an additional \$2000 for the murals on Haskell, seconded by Ruth Doxsee. Levi Ponce will donate his time but this is for paints and supplies. Allan Nelson requested that his Statement, which he read at the meeting, be added to the Minutes. It is on Page 7.*

**14 AYES:** Bautista, Brown, Doxsee, Fujitaki, Gravani, Gutierrez, Hart, Joseph, Nelson, Newman, Pennomon, Pruet, Riley, Schatz

**1 NAY:** Kurland

**1 INELIGIBLE:** McKay

**VOTE: (15-1-0-1-0) MOTION PASSES**

**12. Discussion and possible action: Committee items brought before the full NC Board and voted on should automatically be forwarded via Community Impact Statements to the responsible departments etc. via Community Impact Statements and give authorization to CIS reps to forward when items being rushed through.**

Item #12 was discussed but no vote was needed – it will simply be implemented. Linda Gravani stated that when matters are voted on we write a letter. We should also send a Community Impact Statement to the department so that it will be registered and part of their agenda. We should always authorize submission of a Community Impact Statement so that if something changes when the matter goes from the department to City Council and back again we will not have to bring it back to our NC again.

**13. FUNDING - Discussion and possible action regarding Valley 7 Disaster Preparedness Fair/possible funding**

Item #13 was tabled to the February meeting.

**14. Discussion and possible action regarding Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council website**

Linda Gravani discussed the background of our website. All NC's are required to have certain websites. There was heated discussion on the topic by the board members.

Item #14 was tabled to the February meeting.

**15. Discussion and possible action regarding the use of new vendor for distribution of Newsletter**

*A. Kristen Fujitaki brought a motion that Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council allocate up to \$2,499 for newsletter distribution costs, seconded by James Hart*

**15 AYES:** Bautista, Brown, Doxsee, Fujitaki, Gravani, Gutierrez, Hart, Joseph, Kurland, Nelson, Newman, Pennomon, Pruett, Riley, Schatz

**1 INELIGIBLE:** McKay

**VOTE: (15-0-0-1-0) MOTION PASSES**

*B. Kristen Fujitaki brought a motion that Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council allocate up to \$1,500 for newsletter printing, seconded by James Brown*

**15 AYES:** Bautista, Brown, Doxsee, Fujitaki, Gravani, Gutierrez, Hart, Joseph, Kurland, Nelson, Newman, Pennomon, Pruett, Riley, Schatz

**1 INELIGIBLE:** McKay

**VOTE: (15-0-0-1-0) MOTION PASSES**

**16. Discussion and possible action regarding Civic University 101? Last day to sign-up is 16 Dec. 1 male/1 Female, January 27, 24, and 31, 2017 from 6p-9p at the Ron Deaton Auditorium at 100 Main St, L.A. [Thomas.soong@lacity.org](mailto:Thomas.soong@lacity.org) or 213-978-1551.** Linda Gravani invited NC board members to sign up.

**17. Reminder --no meeting of the Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council in January**

**18. Adjournment** - The meeting was adjourned at 9:05pm.

### STATEMENT BY ALLEN NELSON

#### Levi's Murals

I need to start with a little backstory, so you'll know why I am making this request.

After the Daniel Pearl mural, Levi Ponce asked if he could fill in the empty space between school murals. I said yes, because Levi offered to do several murals with other artists and do them for free, if we could pay for the supplies and lunches. At that time, I read an article that said Cultural Affairs was giving each Council District \$20,000 for community projects. So, I asked Nury's office if some of the Cultural Affairs money could be spent for Levi's project. They said, let us look into it.

They asked for Levi's budget and I sent that to them along with the name and contact information for the non-profit he uses, on Nov. 13, 2015. Over the course of the past year, I was asked for that information two more times. I never got updates at all from Nury's office, unless I asked and I was always told that things take a long time with Cultural Affairs. I told them that we were getting to the point where Levi would not be able to do the murals, because he has so much paying work coming his way. He has been working with Disney and he did the murals for the Frozen attraction at Disneyland and Disney World and now he is also working for Pixar. He also painted a beautiful, a two story mural in Istanbul, Turkey and one in Argentina.

After all of the waiting and all of the stalling for over the past year, on Wednesday, three weeks ago, I was told that there was no money from Cultural Affairs. Then on Friday, I got Paul Krekorian's newsletter and he talked about collaborating with Cultural Affairs for numerous murals ranging from \$10,000 to \$60,000.

That night, I called Levi. He was probably Angrier than I was. He said, it had taken too long, he had lost interest and he no longer wanted to do the murals. He said he would never beg for money again or let anyone else do the same, meaning me. He said that Krekorian had given him \$32,000 to do a 10,000 sq. ft. mural in North Hollywood. I informed him that CD-6 helped us save \$1,500 of our left over funds that I would have been swept back to the city. It was saved by designating that money for the murals and can't be used for anything else. If we can't put the money to use, we will lose it back to the city. Then he changed his mind. He will do the murals with friends and asked that I find him high school students who would like to be mentored by professional artists. He changed his mind, because he didn't want us to lose the \$1,500 and as a personal favor to me and our council. We will talk again in the next week or so and he will pick a time for the murals in the New Year.

Last week, I was sent Encino's Neighborhood Council agenda for their next meeting. Paul Koret, CD-5, gave them \$20,000 of his Cultural Affairs funds and they are going to decide how to spend

it...murals, painting electrical boxes and theatrical events. When I sent that agenda to CD-6, they finally, informed me that their Cultural Affairs money had already been utilized. They could have told us that a year ago and we could have moved on.

Now, we have another problem. I was told that the paperwork had been submitted to the city clerk's office to have the \$1,500 returned to our account. That was three weeks ago and we have not received it.

I feel that our Council and I have been disrespected over this whole last year. When we have been asked to participate in CD-6 events and projects, most of us have willingly responded. Over all of the years that I have been on the Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council , I have given many hours of my time, when asked. That includes being subpoenaed by the FBI to testify in front of the Grand Jury and being interrogated by a FBI prosecutor.

I am asking for the additional money, so we can move on and have more beautiful murals along Haskell. Levi said that one of the murals will have Welcome to Lake Balboa. We don't want to continue being CD-6's step child.