



Building A Better Community



Minutes
Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council Regular Virtual Monthly Board Meeting
Wednesday March 27, 2024, 7:00 P.M.

NAME	BOARD SEAT	Present	Absent
Barcohana, Elizabeth	Private Schools Grades K-6 (Selected 09/27/2023)	X	
Bayliss, Shawn	At-Large Traditional Stakeholder (2025)		X
Evans, Ellen	Community Interest At-Large (2025) / VP – Legislative Affairs	X	
Goodman, Mark M.D.	Bel-Air Association	X	
Greenberg, Robin	Faith-Based Institutions (Re-selected 07/2023) / VP – Operations	X	
Gros, Mirco	Doheny-Sunset Plaza Neighborhood Association (Arrived 7:13pm)	X	
Hall, Jamie	Laurel Canyon Association	X	
Holmes, Kristie Ph.D.	Public Educational Institutions (2025) (Arrived 7:20pm)	X	
Kadin, David Scott	Benedict Canyon Association	X	
Kamin, Aaron	North of Sunset District (2025)	X	
Kwan, Robert (Bobby)	Laurel Canyon Association	X	
Levotman, Vadim	North of Sunset District (2025)	X	
Longcore, Travis Ph.D.	Custodians of Open Space (Re-selected 07/2023) / President	X	
Loze, Donald	Benedict Canyon Association	X	
Mann, Mindy Rothstein	At-Large Traditional Stakeholder (2025)	X	
Miner, Nickie	Benedict Canyon Association / Secretary	X	
Paden, Andrew	Bel Air Hills Association	X	
Palmer, Dan	Residents of Beverly Glen		X
Ringler, Robert	Residents of Beverly Glen		X
Roessel, Angela	North of Sunset District (2025)	X	
Rogovin, Jaye	Bel-Air Association		X
Ryan, Sandy	Casiano Estates Association (Appointed/Seated 01/24/2024)		X
Sandler, Irene	Bel Air Crest Master Association	X	
Savage, Stephanie	Laurel Canyon Association	X	
Schlesinger, Robert	Benedict Canyon Association		X
Smith, Maureen	Commercial or Office Enterprise Districts (2025)	X	
Spradlin, Jason	Holmby Hills HOA		X
Sroloff, Gail	Bel-Air Association	X	
Steele, Timothy Ph.D.	Bel Air Glen District (2025) / Assistant Secretary	X	
Stojka, André	Bel Air Ridge HOA	X	
Templeton, Patricia	Bel Air Hills Association	X	
Wayne, Cathy	Laurel Canyon Association		X
Weinberg, Steven	Franklin-Coldwater District (2025) (Arrived 7:13pm)	X	
Weisberg, Leslie	Bel-Air Association	X	
Wickers, Alonzo	At-Large Youth Rep (2025)	X	
Wimbish, Jon	Private Schools Grades 7-12 (Re-selected 07/2023)		X
Total:		27	9

President Longcore called this all-online meeting to order at 7:03 PM, and related information pertaining public comment and the new rules allowing the LA Neighborhood Councils to meet virtually under SB411. Following the flag salute, Dr. Steele, Assistant to the Secretary, called the roll with quorum met.

1. The **Agenda** was approved by unanimous consent as moved by Stojka.
2. **Approval of the Minutes**
Motion to approve January 24, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes (**Attachment A**) was approved as moved by Miner/Steele.
Motion to approve February 28, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes (**Attachment B**) was approved as moved by Miner/Stojka, with one correction, to mark Vadim Levotman absent on 02-28.

3. **General Public Comment**

Steve Twining, BABCNC President Emeritus, related that he attended a “Livable California” meeting regarding several proposed bills before the State on transportation and noted that motorists.org is following some of these bills SB-961 to limit speeds to 10 miles/hour in certain areas, SB-1297 re reducing speeds on PCH; AB2809 re construction and reducing speed limits when construction is going on, SB-960 is a complete streets bill very pro bicyclists; AB-2583 reduce speed limits from 15-10mph around schools. AB-2744 affects right-hand lane, which because of the new striping will make it difficult to make a right-hand turn from a bicycle lane. He feels that the Coastal Commission should remain, and mentioned bills including SB-951, AB-2560, SB-1092, and SB-1077, which bills try to limit the extent and get rid of the Coastal Commission. He feels that the Coastal Commission should remain because they did a very good job in the last couple of years, and noted that Former State Senator, Alan Sieroty, who just died at 93, was the lead on that. Mr. Twining noted that riding bicycles is not feasible for older folks.

Pamela Pierson, M.D. noted that 1) at a recent televised press event Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara held regarding plans to phase in a digital evaluation system of our properties for assessment, he said this is to facilitate maintaining the underwriters for home owners insurance in the State. It is evidently being rolled out in three phases, started in February, second phase in early March and the third is pending. She noted that he is a politician from the area, had served a term in the Assembly and Senate and is well-versed in the exposures to hazards within our communities, and that this is of concern because they are retaining this service from an “outside provider.” It may be very expensive for a lot of people in our area. 2) She noted that Manhattan is going to start charging limited fees for driving in and out which may be coming our way. Dr. Longcore noted that this is something we have taken up recently.

Stephanie Savage noted that Navigate LA has eliminated section on street information including street widths, which is a huge benefit for us to identify streets that need improvements. She would like to write a letter to reinstate this in the table of contents as it is essential for safety in the hillside areas, and they also eliminated in the past, iteration topography. Dr. Longcore noted that we could agendize this for one of our committees.

Jamie Hall related that 1) CLAW and MRCA are working to buy a 2.4 acre parcel at 2401 Laurel Canyon. The Laurel Canyon Land Trust is assisting & aiding in those efforts. A generous donor gave \$25,000 matching grant and they are encouraging donations to reach their goal of \$9,000 for that. Please donate or direct those who want to donate to him. 2) He recently discovered that the Planning Department has an internal form created in 2020 for planners, a checklist of what planners need to look for all hillside projects that our PLU Committee can use.

Vadim Levotman related that his phone is on a “do not call” registry list; however, not a week goes by without a realtor leaving calls regarding sale of property. He wonders what we as a community can do about it. He requests that you send suggestions his way.

Mindy Mann related that 1) we are already in the midst of nesting season, and there are a lot of birds on her property. She reminds everyone to remind people that this is not the time to be trimming trees as birds are nesting. She will put it in our newsletter and asks that you please share it with your neighborhoods, and, 2) we are having a super bloom following the rain, and she would request you to send your photos for our newsletter.

Robin Greenberg related that State Farm is telling 72,000 home owners here that we won't have insurance and she thinks she is one of those.

4. **Comments of Elected Officials & Agencies**

Sidney Liss, Office of CD4 Councilmember Nithya Raman: Sidney related that their office is aware of the land slides, have offered assistance, and asked that we reach out to their office if we have any issues, including with storm drains. He noted the Councilwoman's recent achievement as to the new Tour Bus Ordinance, meant to address traffic safety and congestion on Mulholland and smaller streets, to ensure driving safely. The Mulholland closure between Coldwater and Laurel Canyon should open by end of May.

Haley Martinez, Office of CD5 Councilmember Katy Yaroslavsky: Haley noted that Caribou Lane mostly has hot water, had gas and water restored, and they are working with residents on permitting and cleaning up the street. She thanked Dr. Longcore for his assistance and patience. They're working on the Benedict Canyon Closure, in close contact with LADWP and AT&T who are removing and relocating power poles away from the site, both are wrapping up, and the contractor standing by to get going. More updates will follow. Last week they celebrated Nowrooz at City Hall. There was a verbal presentation from LAUSD Superintendent, Alberto Carvalho, which was good, and they still have work on truancy and supporting students in other ways. They did an Earth Hour motion, in coordination with the Mayor's office, turned off lights at City Hall to bring awareness on saving electricity. They supported resolutions for protection of water rights, looking at storm-water capture and creating Federal low-income household water assistance programs. Richard Katz has been elected as new President of the LADWP Board. The City of LA submitted a comment letter about the VA Departure Amendment and requested an extension of the comment period. The motion to implement HLA with Tier 1 & Tier 2 Bike Lanes passed committee and will be coming to full Council. There will be a report back looking at community engagement & outreach for corridors that might be affected by its implementation. <https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=24-0131> Please reach out with storm drains and debris that needs to be cleared, and get sand bags from your local Fire Department.

Octaviano Rios, Department of Neighborhood Empowerment: Feel free to email him. The end of the fiscal year brings funding deadlines, with May 20th being the final date to submit an event request for approval using this FY funds. There is June 1st and 20th deadlines for check payments with the bank card.

Amanda (Mandy) Laflen, Office of Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, sent a written update, which is posted to the website.

5. **Presentation Regarding UCLA AUD Wildfire Workshops**

Gabriel Kahan, Berggruen Fellow

See background at <https://www.sense.la/cover>

- Dr. Longcore noted that Gabriel's project has a focus on Bel Air. Gabriel introduced himself and provided an overview of the project, as to wildfire in Bel Air, noting that the focus is on emergency coordination and planning, building trust and collaboration between residents and city officials and emergency service providers, hillside planning and design, home hardening recommendation for residents among other topics to be covered during this session. Some

comments included that they have been speaking with LAFD, LAPD, & Emergency Management who will be participating in this event, as well as members of UCLA community who are experts in the fields they'll be discussing and presenting together.

He described this as a very active workshop, about the methodology they'll be using, that he co-developed Professor Alexander Slocum at MIT where he taught, and it has been further developed at the Berggruen Institute. They have been using and presenting this method. He noted that he had gotten his start at the DONE, and has worked at the Congress of Neighborhoods, and with the Information Technology agency with five or six NCs. They've done these types of workshops with them. They developed recommendations for the National Park Service to design the Youth part of the Civilian Climate Corps, and worked with UCLA Health. They've used this methodology within the LAPD within and with community members. They've been thinking about the project for a long time and are happy they are finally able to do this.

The tentative date is Saturday April 27th, 6 hours, which will be part online over Zoom and other part in person. Apply at the website above. Email him at gakahan@berggruen.org Questions were asked and answered, including but not limited to whether they'll address emergency escape routes. He related that this is a very in-depth methodology, where the issues are brought by all of the residents. The application offers a place to put your questions.

Member Wickers asked further about the methodology, which Gabriel noted is broken down to three parts: Gather information from everyone in a conversation. Write everything down on a board. Connect those issues and create feedback loops. Conversation and system dynamics part; identify the concepts we are using to understand these issues; take one concept that is universal, and redefine it together to open spaces in the mind for new ways of thinking and looking at these problems to make connections. Start in big group, then smaller groups, the smaller groups are in charge of designing that. The process goes through many cycles but is very simple. Then they use artistic practices to see how they are all connected to each other. They'll have the UCLA research team available, and will synthesize what was created. There will be a booklet to make this information created by you public.

Public comment was given by Bill Grundfest, who related that wildfire is the #1 existential threat to Bel Air and that there are specific solutions to wildfire that are not being used. He was on the BABCNC's EP Committee for a few of years, and was the "wildfire guy" and doesn't know why these solutions haven't been employed. He enumerated some, noting that a lot of fires start by roadsides. There is technology that can shut down very specific power lines before they spark, and technology that can spot and report wildfire before humans can. There are drones that can carry fire retardants and payloads, and can get to combustion much more quickly than first responders. He acknowledged fire hardening homes. He asked why with these specific existing solutions, nobody has done anything about it, to which Gabriel responded, acknowledging what he is saying and explained that his methodology is to build trust and collaboration and get to the root of many of these issues. Questions were asked and answered.

6. **President's Report** – Dr. Longcore asked Ellen Evans, VP of Legislation, to give a brief informational presentation on how to use the Ethics Website as a useful tool. She shared her screen, and noted that this includes who is paying, campaign financing, which has limits; independent expenditure campaigns, which do *not* have limits. There are reporting requirements. Go to: www.ethics@lacity.gov/elections & www.ethics.lacity.gov
The presentation has been posted to <https://www.babcnc.org/committees/viewCommittee/357>)
7. **Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Levotman gave report, noting that that during this fiscal year we were on a financial free-fall; we took drastic measures to cut expenses, are still working on a few expenses to cut, and the hemorrhaging has stopped. As of today, we have \$16,392 available to be

spent. He estimates \$10,500 to be spent by the end of the fiscal year and \$5,892 left over. The Budget & Finance Committee will meet to discuss next year's budget. He asked that Chairs contact him to request budget amount by April 15th. Questions were asked and answered.

8. **Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Committee Report**

Vadim Levotman Chair & PSEP Committee Member Aaron Kamin –

- Chair Levotman related that the committee is trying to redefine its purpose, noting that in the past it was more or less educational in nature. He noted that our NC is more advisory and he'd like to shift into that direction, to have education secondary to advisory. To accomplish this, he noted that we needed to learn more, and took steps. He spent a swing shift on a patrol on Hollywood Boulevard with LAPD, which he'll share at the committee meeting. He and Member Kamin are currently attending Police Academy to meet their goals.

- Member Kamin thanked Vadim for taking us into a more purposeful direction, and gave a brief intro on their participation in in the West Bureau LAPD Community Police Academy, a 12-week program, to foster new relationships with law enforcement partners and gain a better understanding on who they are, what they do, and their operations. He is pleased to report that they are witnessing firsthand the dedication of the people who work at LAPD. Member Kamin opined that the prevailing narrative about their roles, capacities, capabilities and limitations need to shift: He noted that they are doing their best despite staffing decreases, recruitment and outdated resources technologically. He noted that they need our support, when it comes to conversations with lawmakers at ballot boxes, and he noted that we want to highlight what they do in a more positive way. He feels that participating in this program will strengthen the bond between the NC and LAPD, and would like our involvement to facilitate more dialogue that would benefit the LAPD and the communities that we serve. Questions were asked and answered. Dr. Longcore thanked Chair Levotman and Member Kamin for this report.

9. **Budget Representative Report – (Attachment C)**

Leslie Weisberg, Budget Representative and Stella Grey, Stakeholder

- Leslie Weisberg related that with the feedback of Stella Grey's Ad Hoc Committee on the Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety (LADBS), they were able to contribute in a meaningful way to the Los Angeles Budget Advocate's "White Paper" specifically in regards to LADBS, which will be part of a larger report the Budget Advocates are preparing. She thanked the members of the committee, including Ellen, Stella and Bobby Kwan, for providing some constructive feedback, and acknowledged the good work that came out of our NC.

New Business

10. **Monthly Expenditure Report**

Motion to approve February 2024 Monthly Expenditure Report (**Attachment D**) **passed** by 23-0-0 and 2 ineligible, Sandler and Wickers, as **moved** by Dr. Steele.

11. **Standing Rules**

Motion to approve the Standing Rules (**Attachment E**)

- Ellen Evans **moved** to approve the Standing Rules on Committees, having started out with standing rules that existed, conformed them to how committees are actually working. She noted that in these Standing Rules, Standing Committees are required to meet quarterly.

Typo Amendment: #5 is repeated on page 2. From there on it should be 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, an auto numbering issue. **Amendment**: Remove NPG Committee, old item, new #10, **passed** unanimously as **moved** by Evans. **Motion** Old #9 / New #10 that board shall strive for geographic diversity in composition of committees was passed unanimously as **moved** by Templeton. The **motion as amended passed** by **unanimous consent by all 29 voting**.

Dr. Longcore thanked Chair Evans.

12. **Codification of Executive Directive No. 1. Expedition of Permits and Clearances for Temporary Shelters and Affordable Housing Types**

Possible Motion: BABCNC supports the codification of Executive Directive No.1 as proposed in Council File 23-0623 *if amended* to include the following conditions:

- Limit the number of waivers and off menu incentives to a total of 6;
- Require rear 15' setbacks to allow for trees to grow and storm water to be captured;
- Prevent post-development conversion of nonresidential spaces to market rate units;
- Protect R-1, HPOZs and Historic Districts from ED 1 projects in their entirety;
- Ensure that substandard streets and high-fire severity hazard zones do not qualify for ED 1 fast-track approval;
- Require ED 1 projects meet minimum Tier 2 TOC qualifications for access to transit; and
- Ensure projects that do not meet these requirements under ED 1 would require discretionary approval.

This motion is associated with Council File #23-0623:

<https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=23-0623>

Background from WRAC: <https://westsidecouncils.com/motion/request-cap-on-waivers-for-ed1-and-affordable-housing-streamlining-projects/>

- Dr. Longcore introduced this item, which was moved by Evans and seconded by Greenberg. Dr. Longcore answered questions.

Motion to postpone this to next month to research it, was moved by Miner and Stojka.

Elizabeth would make our motion consistent with WRAC's. Dr. Longcore felt there should be time to educate ourselves on it. There was no objection to postponing to next month, which passed by 27 yeases, 0 noes, and one abstention from Longcore. Continue this to next month.

13. **Request Compensation for Transfer of PROW Easements [WRAC]**

Discussion and Possible Motion: The BABCNC, a member of the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC), requests that the city receives monetary compensation and/or receives community benefits for the transfer of easements in the public right of way, equivalent to the fair market value of the property transferred, and that this value received is invested in the Community Plan area affected. BABCNC further requests that Council-members representing WRAC member councils (CMs Park, Yaroslavsky, Raman and Hutt) bring a motion in Council or otherwise direct the Dept. of City Planning (DCP) to institute a DCP policy to effectuate this purpose.

Background Information from WRAC Land Use & Planning Committee:

<https://westsidecouncils.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Motion-LUPC-ROW-2.2024.pdf>

The above motion was moved by Evans, with the amendment that the value for the land should consider the value to the person requesting the specific vacation; seconded by Kamin. Following discussion, there was a **motion** to postpone to time certain next month, moved by Evans and seconded by Hall who noted that this has consequence for our community. Templeton would look into the criteria that the City currently uses when deciding when to do this. Evans noted that it is just the Bureau of Engineering (BOE) that makes report and has no community benefit. The motion **passed** unanimously.

Good of the Order:

- Dr. Longcore noted that this was a meeting without PLU items, which provided an interesting contrast. He thanked Professor Kahan for observing.

- Vice President Greenberg related that she attended a funeral for a Judge Norman Shapiro, at which there must have been a thousand judges and attorneys. She shared an anecdote from her personal experience and her respect for him.

- Dr. Longcore noted that we are working on in-person meetings with Octaviano.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm to meet again on April 24, 2024.

www.babcnc.org info@babcnc.org