



Building A Better Community

2018 Board Retreat Minutes

Sunday, August 5, 2018 10:00 am – 11:30 am

American Jewish University

15600 Mulholland Drive, Room 223, Main Campus, 2nd Floor, Bel Air, CA 90077

Present: 20

(Quorum 15)

<u>2018/2019 Stakeholder Groups / Representatives</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Not Present</u>
Bel Air Crest Master Homeowner Association		
<i>Irene Sandler, Traffic Committee Chair</i>	X	
Bel Air District		
<i>Maureen Levinson (notified of absence)</i>		X
<i>Leslie Weisberg</i>	X	
Bel Air Glen District		
<i>Larry Leisten, Bylaws Chair (notified of absence)</i>		X
Bel Air Hills Association (BAHA) [Formerly RVA]		
<i>Robin Greenberg, President</i>	X	
<i>Michael Kemp</i>	X	
Bel Air Ridge HOA (Alternate Desiree Lapin)		
<i>André Stojka</i>	X	
Benedict Canyon Association (Alternates: Matt Post & David Scott Kadin)		
<i>Robert (Bob) Schlesinger, PLU Committee Chair</i>	X	
<i>Don Loze</i>	X	
<i>Nickie Miner, Vice President</i>	X	
<i>Mindy Rothstein Mann</i>	X	

2018/2019 Stakeholder Groups / Representatives	Present	Not Present
Casiano Estates Association		
<i>Sam Sanandaji, DPM</i>	X	
Commercial or Office Enterprise Districts		
<i>Jacqueline Le Kennedy, Treasurer (notified absence)</i>		X
Custodians of Open Space		
<i>Travis Longcore, Ph.D.</i>	X	
Faith-Based Organizations		
<i>Maureen Smith (notified of absence)</i>		X
Franklin-Coldwater District		
<i>Jeremy Summer (notified of absence)</i>		X
K-6 Private Schools		
<i>John Amato</i>		X
7-12 Private Schools		
<i>Jon Wimbish</i>	X	
Public Educational Institutions (K-12)		
<i>Kathy Copcutt (notified of absence)</i>		X
Holmby Hills Association		
<i>Jason Spradlin (notified of absence)</i>		X
Laurel Canyon Association (Alternate: Heather Roy)		
<i>Jamie Hall</i>	X	
<i>Stephanie Savage</i>	X	
<i>Cathy Wayne</i>	X	
<i>Tony Tucci (notified of absence)</i>		X
Members-at-Large		
<i>Dan Love (notified of absence)</i>		X
<i>Chuck Maginnis, Emergency Preparedness Chair</i>	X	

<u>2018/2019 Stakeholder Groups / Representatives</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Not Present</u>
<i>Pamela Pierson, M.D.</i>	X	
Member-at-Large / Youth Seat		
<i>Robinson (Rob) Farber</i>	X	
North of Sunset District		
<i>Luis Pardo</i>		X
<i>Ellen Evans (notified of absence)</i>		X
Residents of Beverly Glen		
<i>Robert A. Ringler, Secretary</i>	X	
<i>Dan Palmer</i>	X	
Total:	20	12

- 1. Call to Order** Robin Greenberg called the retreat to order at 10:03 a.m.
- 2. Roll Call** –Secretary Robert Ringler had called the roll at the start of the board meeting prior to the retreat, at 9:35 a.m. Eighteen board members were present at the start of this retreat, at which time Jamie Hall and Sam Sanandaji arrived, bringing a total of 20 members present & 12 absent. Patricia Bell Hearst was asked to join the board at the table, as was Linda Whitford shortly thereafter.
- 3. General Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items – None**
- 4. Discussion of BABCNC Priorities – Facilitator Nick Greif, CD4 Director of Policy and Legislation**
Nick introduced himself as Director of Policy for David Ryu, and as Chair of Palms NC.

Nick began by asking the board to break up into small groups to discuss what ideas we want to work on between now and the 2019 elections, specifically in the neighborhood, that do not require 15 council members to agree upon.

Bob related that his focus this year is to try to upgrade the PLU committee project presentations to become more digitized. Leslie related that as a homelessness rep, she would like to try to identify a “Safe Parking” zone and pointed out to Nick that we are already doing a great job.

Stephanie related that her group discussed concern for trees being disposable, and the need for a tree management system that would map where trees are so we know when they’re being lost, to support a new study to identify these trees – a US Forestry assessment. She noted that it is most critical that we protect trees on private property. She would like to see standards for the mitigation ratio.

Jamie related that last year we have been leaders on the tree protection issue and have identified some gaps and regulatory failures. He opined that it makes sense that the leadership on this comes from this NC. Nickie would like this to be universal throughout the city as to trees, as regard both native trees and protected trees need protection, and that old growth trees cannot be replaced by saplings.

Robert Ringler and Cathy Wayne's group brought up traffic, specifically on Mulholland, speed and getting in and out of side streets; asked if solution could be stop signs, and noted emphasis should be looking at traffic management in the territory. We become the victims/trapped; need to put pressure on DOT and law enforcement to look at and push for better management, better control and better enforcement and find solutions that will work.

Mindy noted that they also talked about the tree issue; needing a meaningful and cohesive plan, for both the private and public sectors in the whole city; everyone needs to understand the role that they play throughout the city and have a plan to green-up the city.

Pamela recommended joining up with council districts including CD11, 4, 5 and 2 as well as Pasadena, to have a greater voice downtown, to let them know that we are serious about this, and don't want developers to come in, destroy everything and leave. Cathy Wayne noted that this brings up the issue of the Planning Department, doing things not approved by the residents.

Dan Palmer related that their group focused on traffic and gridlock, primarily Beverly Glen, surrounding areas; afternoon flow is highly restrictive; we don't have a voice, we have complained about it and need direction; we have a valid point, ideas, but get no action; get stonewalled by standard line that we don't have enough police, etc., talk to DOT. We need a way to make a forceful front and have it be heard. Traffic policemen would be helpful, as to the artery that leads to Harvard-Westlake, where there is a line of one or two blocks of cars waiting to get in there that ends up blocking Bel Air Road, Stone Canyon; we need a couple of traffic policemen in that area.

Irene noted that Traffic Committee addressed that with CD5, and got the response that this is more than about getting a stop sign or light; traffic coming from many directions; need to work with LADOT to make a traffic study; however, the Council office stops us. She noted that we are advising the Council office, but that doesn't let them off the hook.

Further discussion came up as to: How to lobby effectively to advocate for change? How can we expedite the process? We have the solutions; could write ordinances.

As to the purpose of the neighborhood councils in this, Travis commented that the original purpose of the NC system was to undermine the Homeowner groups, e.g., BCA, LCA, etc., but that we have acted in the interest of homeowners. Nickie added that subdivisions are inclined to reduce effectiveness of the council; she is concerned about the one-size fits all approach which causes NCs to be less effective.

Nick asked, what can we get done in the meantime?

Patricia related that the Hillside Federation filed a lawsuit in '82-'83; the city fought the issue of having to do a community plan. Carlyle Hall said he'd take it on. She opined that by having NCs you have no juice to say we'll see you in court unless HOAs do so.

Discussion ensued about lobbying, coalition building, and how to be an effective advocate:

Chuck would like the people to know what the neighborhood council is and feels it would help if all groups in the NC that have a newsletter, use it to bring unity, find out what's going on in everyone's area, consolidate and spread the word about the neighborhood council as a lot of people have no clue. He also suggests advertising funds towards that. As to how to better lobby, Don related that as important as putting up ads is having relationships with departments face to face. He noted that we have to go down and interact with the people there, create a legislative history that they don't know, impart it to them, interface with the departments on an issue by issue basis, and work together to do that. He opined that the face of the Brown Act has kept the council members from talking to each other and that none of

the other council members know us. We have things to deal with on a daily basis that are similar to those in the rest of the city, and we need to go downtown.

Nick responded that coalition building is important and that the ability to create influence depends on Strategy, Manpower, Bodies, Emails, and the need to follow up on our letters: Build an Email List. Communications to go out to each HOA about specific things we're doing this month; this starts to build up a voice. Phone calls and emails about the same issue will cause the council members to pay attention. Get those people to email and call!

Jamie asked as to how to be an effective advocate, that we should explore more Don's idea that we need face time with those decision makers; e.g., he has been at the Board of Public Works 20 times in 15 months and "now they understand the objective is to create better projects not to kill projects. Now they're willing to act in ways that surprise me." Jamie noted that they now realize that you're a partner with them. He would like to have that kind of relationship with the Planning Department, beginning by identifying 10-15 key people in those roles in the planning department, Mayor's office, have a small group that meets with them for every single council office. Jamie noted that we do not want to be swept up into the NIMBY category but rather have better projects and have ordinances in place. He recommends having a series of meetings with decision makers and key staff.

Nick noted that this is politics and that relationships are key. Council offices, especially the 4th, wants to help. If you ask him to point out the key people, they'll do gladly.

Mike noted that since his involvement with the BABCNC, we've tried to write position letters with good research and reasons and we have gotten the respect of certain Zoning Administrators.

Travis noted that it is hard with Planning; with support of the Mayor, this city is going to densify and their attitude is "we don't care if you like it or not." He thinks this is a fundamental disconnection between many residents and the current leadership. We weren't asked if we want to turn our city into San Francisco. Real estate in LA is being pushed politically and turning into a Wall-Street-style capital investment; it's no longer as a place to live but a piggy bank investment disconnected from the needs of the people to thrive at property size. Travis noted that the trees are just a symptom of this approach; that through the tax structure, we need to take the speculation out of the city if it is ever going to be a humane place for people to live. The loss of trees is a symptom.

Irene brought up David Ryu's motion to remove the selection process, which she feels would destroy this neighborhood council. Nick responded that this citywide proposal was made because elections are more democratic in regard to getting voter turnout and people involved. Nick noted that "they are also getting rid of Community Interest Stakeholder." Irene responded that it is not democratic if you don't know what or who you're voting for. Jamie explained that there is a step in between.

Robert Ringler mentioned having a regional approach. Pamela gave the example of a recent alcohol CUP issue that just came down without time for public comment.

Nickie asked, "Where are the rights of existing communities – where speculators come in to substandard streets, mow down... build, and where are the rights of the communities? Something is very off balance.

Sam noted that Don's question was not answered: He asked if we can we get one paragraph from each meeting to put into our newsletters, to have names of people and phone numbers for people to call to get involved? The city loves the fact that they're able to expand their tax base without adding resources at all, but we should have a say about the roads and electrical systems that should be improved from that tax base. Stephanie noted that some of the projects are not being properly taxed.

Don noted that the answer is not just coming to the meeting once a month... if we go to meetings once a month or committee meetings, but don't talk to each other.

Nick continued that effective lobbying requires a strategy and a campaign on how we're going to communicate, days to send email blasts to get people to call; by this date the next. He added that the biggest enemy to well-structured lobbying is putting too many things on the plate.

Don asked Nick to give our compliments to CM Ryu.

Cathy Wayne asked regarding the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners, how do they get appointed, why and what do they do? Nick noted that they are appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by Council. They are assigned, by the charter of NCs, to adopt policies for the NC system. That's their mandate. He thinks there's a lot of things to do in committee. Robert noted that they are political appointments.

Robin thanked Nick for his coming today.

Robin mentioned an August 31st hearing on a topic that we approved a letter of support for the Board of Public Works.

Robin related the date of the upcoming meeting with David Ryu for those who volunteered at a recent board meeting is Thursday August 30th at 2:00pm at David Ryu's Cahuenga Pass Office. 3330 Cahuenga Boulevard West, #505 LA 90068.

She would like those people to get together this week to create a meeting before we go down.

Patricia noted that a lot of people didn't know each other at Skirball town hall on Berggruen, and there was a great turn out and had an impact.

Irene related that the Mission Canyon Trailhead is a project that is going to slip through the radar, because they're going to present it in August when no one is around. She noted that this is a serious use of land that they want to make into parkland on top of landfills and asked, what do the animals do? Jamie related that they asked for extension of public comment.

(The other question Nick had for us was to list ways in which this NC operates; however, this was not discussed.)

5. Discussion of Standing Rules for all Committees – Deferred

6. Updates & Discussion from BABCNC Liaisons – Deferred

7. Good of the Order – Mindy would like to have an ad hoc committee of the land use committee to work on environmental issues: Mindy, Jamie, Robert, Stephanie, Patricia, Cathy Wayne and Nickie.

Chuck would like a list of to dos that came out of this meeting.

Robert encouraged attendance on August 7th at Stoner Park for LAPD's National Night Out.

8. Adjournment: 11:32 a.m.

Next Regular Board Meeting @ AJU, #223: Wednesday, September 26, 2018 7:00 pm