



**BABCNC Emergency Preparedness Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, July 18, 2018 7:00 pm**  
**Bel Air Ridge Clubhouse - 2760 Claray Los Angeles, CA 90077**

Name	P	A	Name	P	A
Chuck Maginnis, BABCBC EP Committee Chair & At-Large Rep; Bel Air Rd. EP Captain; CERT	X		Michael Schlenker, Bel Air Crest EP Chair; BABCNC EP HCEC Communications Committee Chair; LAFD ACS & CERT	X	
Maureen Smith, BABCNC Religious Institutions Representative		X	Ron Cornell, Bel Air Ridge Chair EP Committee, HCEC Ham Radio Group; LAFD ACS & CERT	X	
Irene Sandler, BABCNC Bel Air Crest Master Association Representative		X	Dan Palmer, BABCNC Residents of Beverly Glen Rep; RoBG EP Chair; HCEC Communications; LAFD ACS & CERT	X	
Jacqueline Le Kennedy, BABCNC Business Rep., Treasurer	X		Hildreth Simmons, Residents of Beverly Glen, RoBG EP Committee member	X	
Danielle Cohen, Bel Air Ridge Resident; EPAC Co-chair, Ham; CERT		X	Seema Hassan, Doheny Sunset Plaza Neighborhood Association (DSPNA)		X
Stephanie Savage BABCNC LCA Rep		X	Rob Farber, BABCNC At-Large Youth Rep	X	

- 1. Call to order** – Chuck Maginnis, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm.
- 2. Roll Call & Introduction of Attendees:** Five members were present @ 7:15 pm; attendees introduced themselves. Jacqueline arrived @ 7:23 pm & Hildreth @ 7:36 pm.

**Attendees:**

Tim Pershing, Senior Field Representative for Assembly Member Richard Bloom; Public Safety, Topanga resident; Email: [tim.pershing@asm.ca.gov](mailto:tim.pershing@asm.ca.gov)  
 Shelley Seltzer, Colina Glen HOA, Treasurer on the Board of her HOA  
 Shelly Steier, EP Chair Bel Air Hills  
 Evi Shapiro, Benedict Canyon Resident  
 Bill Grundfest, Bel Air Resident  
 Peggy Lessinger, Sunset Plaza Resident  
 Pamela Pierson, BABCNC board member  
 Cathy Palmer, BABCNC Administrator/Minutes taker

**Guest Speakers:**

**Ben Park**, Currently presenting RYLAN (Ready Your LA Neighborhood) as a Red Cross volunteer, having previously been contracted to teach this & Map Your Neighborhood with the LAEMD (Emergency Mgt. Dept.); CERT Member Level 2.

### **3. Pledge of Allegiance**

**4. Approval of May 16, 2018 Minutes:** Moved by Rob; seconded by Jacqueline; 6 yes; 0 no; 0 abstentions; passed.

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

### **6. “Ready Your LA Neighborhood” (RYLAN) Updates /Progress**

■ Ben Park, Doheny Sunset, Shelley, Susan & other HOA leads

Chuck introduced Ben, who returned this evening, after having helped Shelley’s HOA, whose group subdivided into three different groups and showed video on how to implement the program. Chuck noted that Ben has also worked with the Doheny-Sunset Plaza neighbors, which was a tremendous success, per Seema, who is not here this evening.

Ben spoke on the Map Your Neighborhood program, which he described as being very easy to do. For a rapid response, pick about 20 houses, so that those people can come together. They split Shelley’s area into three groups. For larger HOAs with 125 houses, such as Susan Davidson’s HOA, they brought 8 people for 8 blocks and trained them to hold the meetings at their “Train the Facilitators” which they did. That training involves learning how to lead groups by just playing videos; meetings are two hours long. Ben demonstrated the booklet with different items to fill out and the Help or OK signs, which people can put on their windows. (Teams that go around can see the Help or OK signs in your window and know who needs help). Doheny-Sunset Plaza Neighborhood Association (DSPNA) has approximately 2000 homes and 100 blocks. They now hold their own meetings, having received the Training for Facilitators (which training program goes through the Red Cross). Ask for the number of booklets for your neighborhood.

Shelley related that Seema and Luisa held their event at the Beverly Hills Library and gave handouts, one of which was SOS supply store catalog. She used this catalog to get a wish list together, including items such as generators, and to present to her HOA for brainstorming.

Chuck read from an update from Seema that they had a 69% attendance. Chuck noted it makes a lot of sense to at least get started with four or five homes. Ben related a list of problems that someone presented to him, and noted that it boiled down to neighbors not being connected and that the solution is to “get the neighbors connected.” He described one such difficult neighborhood without connection that eventually ended up sharing information about their gas meters with each other.

Hildreth thanked Dan and Tensie for keeping her in mind when there was a flood down her road; She noted that when they came to see that she was okay, suddenly they had neighbors coming out.

### **7. CERT Update for July 10 at Colina Glen**

■ Michael Schlenker, Shelley Seltzer & Chuck Maginnis: Chuck related that we started the CERT class a couple of weeks ago, had two meetings, 25 individuals at each meeting. Michael will prepare an updated email blast for people on the waiting list. Shelly related that this is so informative but would like more people from her area to attend. Ron recommended that she keep sending out emails to say “stop in, get a feel for it, you’ll be happy you did,” and advised that she does not stop hammering that theme home. Chuck read a letter from Tim Pershing relating an experience he had using his CERT training in a live situation, and about the benefits.

### **8. Weed Whacker Legislative Update & other subjects of interest**

■ Greg Martayan, Paul Koretz’s Office & Chuck Maginnis: Greg is not present Bill Grundfest returned to speak on this subject. Chuck welcomed him back, and thanked him for all the work he has done, trying to get the message across to the city about risks of fire from these metal blade weed whackers. Chuck related that the BABCNC has taken a vote on the LAFD’s

recommendations at the last Board meeting on June 27th. Michael would have liked this type of item to come through the EP Committee. Cathy clarified that the BABCNC board voted at their June 27<sup>th</sup> board meeting to support the LAFD's Chief's recommendations with the exception of the requirement in #2 & # 3 for separate safety personnel, because of additional costs involved in that and, and expressed concern about #6 & 7 that there be actually 2 required fire extinguishers for any brush clearing operation. The rest of the items were felt to be straight forward. Pamela Pierson brought up question of enforcement of permits recommended.

**See link to the LAFD report of recommendations in Council File #09-1977-S2:**  
[http://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2009/09-1977-S2\\_rpt\\_LAFD\\_06-21-2018.pdf](http://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2009/09-1977-S2_rpt_LAFD_06-21-2018.pdf)

Tim Pershing related that he has worked for years in his community of Topanga Canyon as well as in Malibu on these issues. He related that what works for them is that when you see the wrong thing being done at a property, find someone in the structure of the NC who knows that person, have that person call the person and tell them the new rules, put them in touch with the council, and invite them to meetings; help them know how to avoid sparking.

Below, after discussions by Ben Park, Shelley Seltzer, Tim Pershing, Bill Grundfest and others, a group picture was taken. From bottom left: Ron Cornell, Michael Schlenker, Jacqueline Le Kennedy, Hildreth Simmons, Rob Farber, Shelly Seltzer, Ben Park, Peggy Lessinger, Bill Grundfest, Evi Shapiro, Shelly Steier, Dan Palmer and Pamela Pierson participate.



Chuck noted that Greg Martayan couldn't be here tonight, but that Greg told him that city council is in recess; should be back in two weeks. Greg told him that the draft ordinance will be going to the Council of the Public Safety Commission where it will be approved, and then to City Council within a couple of months. Bill Grundfest related that the LAFD people have known for years about the sparks causing fires, as well as motors overheating and causing fires when putting hot

equipment down on dry terrain. He wants to know what is taking so long, as nothing has been done. Bill related that he has spoken to Greg and John (an LAFD person writing the ordinance), but worries that there is zero urgency evidenced at Paul Koretz's office or any place.

Tim noted that he always copies his emails to these representatives to a few journalists, as he wants to put pressure on the city. He feels that we need a ban on these. He acknowledged that there is a question of enforcement. He would like as many of us as possible to write very blunt emails to Greg, Paul Koretz, and others. Jacqueline asked who the manufacturers are to which Tim and others responded that there are many. Pamela would like us to push State legislature in addition to local and County. Tim opined that they should be able to have them used only when permitted. Pam feels they are not necessary at all. Tim noted that Assemblyman Bloom is looking at and receptive to a new kind of gel environmentally that is not a problem, and that he is otherwise available to address this issue.

Hildreth asked why isn't it possible to eliminate the metal blade whacker in favor of other options. Tim noted that it is the sparking metal blade that is the primary cause of most of these fires here. He will speak to the assemblyman about banning nonferrous blades, and that they have a requirement by law to use only those that do not spark.

Tim recommended that we write letter requesting an audience of Richard Bloom, and requesting looking into a nonferrous blade only, a ban on metal blades, which would essentially fix the spark problem; the letter should go to Richard Bloom for State and Paul Koretz, for the City.

**Motion:** Ask our NC Board to construct a letter to Richard Bloom to look into a State ban on metal blades, to Paul Koretz to act on the City ban, and to Sheila Kuehl for a County ban, as soon as possible. Moved by Michael; seconded by Ron. 7 yes; 0 no; 0 abstentions; passed.

Bill Grundfest added that if we want to make Bel Air fireproof, he recommended that everybody install ember resistant product in attics and gutters; noted that we've talked about rooftop sprinklers versus gels. He recommended that we go to the vendors and say we could give you a bulk order, what would you charge us. Michael noted that Bel Air Crest has started that; he'll communicate with Bill.

**9. Adjournment:** Moved by Michael; seconded by Ron; meeting adjourned at 8:40pm.

**Next Meeting:** **This time only, we meet on a Thursday: September 13, 2018**

**Then we return to 3rd Wednesdays every other month**