



Ad-Hoc Committee on Environmental Issues for the BABCNC **Draft Minutes**

Monday September 24, 2018 9:30 a.m.

Franklin Canyon Park / Rosenfeld Auditorium
2600 Franklin Canyon Drive, Beverly Hills, CA 90210

1. Call to Order & Roll Call of Ad-Hoc Committee – (Members: *Robin Greenberg, Mindy Mann, Jamie Hall, Robert Schlesinger, Stephanie Savage, Nickie Miner, Ellen Evans, Maureen Smith & Patricia Bell Hearst*) Meeting was called to order at 9:45am.

5 Present: Robin, Mindy, Nickie; Ellen, Maureen S.

4 Absent: Jamie, Robert, Stephanie; Patricia Bell Hearst

2. Approval of September 24, 2018 Agenda (per Bylaws, Article VIII, Section 2)
Moved by Mindy; seconded by Maureen; passed by all five present and voting.
3. Approval of August 29, 2018 Minutes: Moved by Ellen; seconded by Maureen. Mindy gave a correction about having a license for gardeners; this was meant for tree contractors not gardeners. With that correction, the minutes were approved by all five present and voting.
4. Public Comments on non-agendized items:

Nickie Miner announced the reopening of Benedict Canyon, following re-piping, three months early; they saved 1.8 million dollars; it was a very successful project. Robin noted that Greg Martayan promised they would get the job done early and they did.

Ms. Tammy Stones LC/Appian Way arrived midway through the meeting. She would like to add protected trees, establish redwoods, and get rid of some of the old eucalyptus trees for the future.

5. Report, Discussion & Possible Action since last Ad-hoc Committee Meeting & following meeting with Nick Greif (*Chair, Jamie Hall; Members: Ellen Evans, Stephanie Savage & Mindy Mann*)

Ellen and Mindy gave update on the meeting that was held with Nick Greif. Jamie had asked for a protective tree report and was told that was possible. Nick said that certain things would be easy, like Building & Safety administrative changes, if it didn't require budgetary changes. Nick related that he and his office are on the same page on issues as this NC and encouraged getting support from the rest of the City; that anything we can do to get people in other council areas would greatly help; get kids involved. A groundswell of support would be helpful. They want us to promote the love of trees so people will write to the councilmembers about how great trees are and other environmental issues.

Ellen noted that the City of LA doesn't have a baseline environmental report on the hills; the County was sued years ago for not having one and had to get one, and we need to hold the City accountable to have a biological report. The wildlife corridor bill and ridgeline bill are alive. We can push to get it anything that has been moved on passed.

During the meeting with Nick, it was discussed that there is no baseline biological assessment of the Santa Monica Mountains. They would have to hire a biologist about the state of the SM Mountains natural life. The County has already done this. The city needs to do it. Robin recommended that we begin by asking for one covering the area between the 405 and Laurel Canyon.

Motion to Propose to the Board (not on this agenda): In order to more successfully assess the impact of development in the hillsides currently and in the future, and it is imperative that we have a baseline biological assessment of the Santa Monica Mountains, to begin at least with the area between the 405 and Laurel Canyon. **Moved** by Ellen & **seconded** by Nickie; **5/0/0 passed**.

a) **Motion:** Prepare letter regarding need for clarification on when a project in the hills is going to get an MND vs. a CE. **Moved;** by Ellen; **seconded;** by Maureen; **5/0/0; passed**.

b) **Motion Regarding Changes/Amendments to the Protected Tree Ordinance** (There's no protections for significant non-protected trees, such as within City of Beverly Hills. The following can be done:

- 1) Pre-application consultation requirement. The first step: Pay a \$500 fee, fill out the pre-application consultation form which will have full cost recovery;
- 2) Budget to hire two environmental planners to be embedded within the Urban Forestry Division to help architects to modify project to avoid removal of trees.
- 3) 60-day notification for tree removal.
- 4) Put trees at the top of the permitting process.

Nick said that talking to them about having pre-application consultation, setting that up, would be easy whereas hiring two more planners would be more difficult as to need for approval. Mindy asked how can we have influence to build-up groundswell of support elsewhere. Following discussion, items #3 & 4 were added to the initially proposed motion.

Moved by Mindy; **seconded** by Maureen; **5/0/0 passed**.

Discussion & Added Motion to Propose to the Board regarding holding a town hall on trees:

Discussed reaching out to the schools, and have an art contest for the trees. Tammy would like us to reach out to the North Hollywood High School Magnet, in Griffith Park, in the zoo. She recommends an oath commitment when handing out free trees. Mindy recommended checking with Tree People on their process of handing out trees. Ellen recommends use of social media to encourage people to send pictures of their trees, and have a page on our website (Face Book).

Motion: To have All Neighborhood Council Tree Fest Town Hall with Rangers and Urban Forestry among others with knowledge about the importance of trees, possibly in November, at the Rosenfeld Auditorium; **Moved** by Maureen; **seconded** by Ellen; **5/0/0; passed**.

c) **Motion Regarding Scenic Highways:** To set up guidelines, as interim guidelines are not being followed; to encourage Councilmembers from CD4 & CD5 that the city needs to provide funding to adopt the guidelines and to confer with experts.

- Ellen related that they discussed this with Nick, they discussed that the guidelines were extremely old; it was agreed that this is an issue.

- Maureen left at 10:48 am which left the committee without a quorum. **No Action**

d) **Motion:** To Create an Ad-Hoc Committee on Open Space with focus on open space element update of the General Plan **No Action**

6. Discussion, Follow-up & Possible Action on Further Environmental Issues to be Raised and Followed at the Board meetings

- Tammy Stones brought up the issue of the eucalyptus trees on Laurel Canyon which are old and maybe dying; Tammy and Mindy discussed the needs of the eucalyptus to be trimmed. Tammy related that it is her understanding that the City says they are five years behind in trimming the city trees; that the LAFD says if they issue a citation, the city is not required to comply, and that if the LAFD sends out its own brush clearance team, they will not be reimbursed for clearing any trees/hazardous brush in MRCA.

7. Good of the Order: Discussed possible dates for the Town Hall on trees. Mindy recommended getting people here from Tree People. Ask around: Mid-November; would your organization be interested in having a booth? Mindy will call Tree People. (Ellen is not available 3rd & 10th. She is here on the 11th.)

8. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at **10:50 a.m.**

Next Committee Meeting Date TBD