



Building A Better Community



Minutes
Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council Regular Monthly Board Meeting
Wednesday December 18, 2024, 7:00 P.M.

NAME	BOARD SEAT	Present	Absent
Barcohana, Elizabeth	Private Schools Grades K-6 <i>(Selected 09/27/2023)</i>	X	
Bayliss, Shawn	At-Large Traditional Stakeholder (2025)		X
Brand, Jonathan	Bel-Air Association <i>(Appointed 04/26/2024 / Seated 05/22/2024)</i>	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 / VP – Operations <i>(Re-selected 07/2023)</i>	X	
Gros, Mirco	Doheny-Sunset Plaza Neighborhood Association	X	
Hall, Jamie	Laurel Canyon Association		X
Holmes, Kristie Ph.D.	Public Educational Institutions (2025)	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 / President <i>(Re-selected 07/2023)</i>	X	
Loze, Donald	Benedict Canyon Association	X	
Mann, Mindy Rothstein	At-Large Traditional Stakeholder (2025)	X	
Marble, Stacy	Private Schools Grades 7-12 <i>(Elected 06/26/2024)</i>		X
Marburg, Tad	North of Sunset District (2025) <i>(Elected 06/26/2024)</i>	X	
Miner, Nickie	Benedict Canyon Association	X	
Paden, Andrew	Bel Air Hills Association		X
Palmer, Dan	Residents of Beverly Glen		X
Ringler, Robert	Residents of Beverly Glen		X
Ryan, Sandy	Casiano Estates Association <i>(Appointed 01/24/2024)</i>		X
Sandler, Irene	Bel Air Crest Master Association	X	
Savage, Stephanie	Laurel Canyon Association	X	
Schlesinger, Robert	Benedict Canyon Association	X	
Silver, Jonathan	Bel-Air Association <i>(Appointed 04/26/2024 / Seated 06/26/2024)</i>		X
Smith, Maureen	Commercial or Office Enterprise Districts (2025)	X	
Spradlin, Jason	Holmby Hills HOA	X	
Steele, Timothy Ph.D.	Bel Air Glen District (2025) / Secretary	X	
Stojka, André	Bel Air Ridge HOA	X	
Templeton, Patricia	Bel Air Hills Association	X	
Weinberg, Steven	Franklin-Coldwater District (2025)	X	
Weisberg, Leslie	Bel-Air Association	X	
Wickers, Alonzo	At-Large Youth Rep (2025)	X	
Vacant Seat	Laurel Canyon Association		0
Total:		23	12

BABCNC President Longcore provided welcoming remarks at 7:04 pm, conveyed information about procedures for holding a virtual meeting, under SB411, including references to the Brown Act, called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm and led the flag salute. Dr. Steele called the roll with quorum met.

1. **Motion** to amend the agenda to include hearing public comment on #8, #9 and #10 after #4, Comments of Elected Officials & Agencies, was **approved** as **moved** by Dr. Longcore.
2. **Motion** to approve the November 20, 2024 Meeting Minutes (**Attachment A**) **passed** by all but 2 abstentions from Members Templeton & Gros, as **moved** by Member Smith.
3. **General Public Comment: Lionel Mares** thanked us for having this Zoom meeting and wished us happy holidays. He expressed disappointment with NCs and alliances where he feels that many are unaware of what's going on at City Hall and the Mayor's office. He noted that the City Controller regularly posts audits on his websites of the City's condition, and we need to take the financial situation of the City seriously, as the budget may go down further, and to address ethical concerns, as well as to demand the City *not* spend too much on any one department. He urged NCs to work together and for officials to work together, for democracy.

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

Haley Martinez, Office of CD5 Councilmember Katy Yaroslavsky - Some comments:

- Citywide CHIP Ordinance Amendment passed, the *“PLUM Committee report - adopted as amended by amending motions 35a (Lee – HarrisDawson), 35b (Soto-Martinez – Lee), and 35d (Hernandez – Lee),...”* Council File (21-123-S5)
- New councilmembers were sworn in last week & new committees announced today. Haley shared committees that Councilmember Yaroslavsky will serve on.
- Haley went on a ride-along with SLO James Allen and City Attorney, Veronica De La Cruz, on Mulholland into Beverly Park North to address the parking concerns and backups on Mulholland and has been in contact with Officer Blair Gabler of West Traffic Division and others. The HOA agreed to open their southern gates to address staging areas.
- We are invited to CD5's community holiday party at LA High Memorial Park 12/22 1-5pm.
- Regarding the Skirball at the 405, they have a cost estimate for repairs, are waiting for Caltrans to respond; will be installing a drain at the site and part of that will touch Caltrans property. They will try to access some BOE Emergency Funds, once Caltrans comes back with the agreement, to install drain and pave, ideally will be done by January; just involves installing a linear drain, cleaning the area and repaving.
- Robin sent a congratulatory message to the Councilwoman for the very good function at the Wilshire Ebell *Theatre* with the new Police Chief, Jim McDonnell.

Sidney Liss, Office of CD4 Councilmember Nithya Raman

- Some comments on legislative items included mention of 1) the recent motion in Council toward reforming rules re street dedications that require streets to be much wider than needed to address traffic & to not unnecessarily remove trees; 2) the existing building decarbonization motion; 3) the environmental leaf-blowing motion, to create a motion on electric leaf blowers without penalizing workers, of concern to hillside residents. He also mentioned that they're working on Segment 8 of the LA River Transportation Network.
- Asked what happened with the leaf blower ordinance, which is not being enforced, he noted that this pertains to the responsibility of the owner not the workers. Asked about street widths being “too wide,” he responded that when initiating a new development, you are often required to increase street width, “spot widening,” and often, because development happens piecemeal, those spot widenings never get connected and have their intended benefit but by changing those rules where they are not needed, we can keep travel distances for pedestrians.

Dr. Longcore related that we submitted a CIS on this item to ensure that the widths in the hillsides for ingress and egress safety were maintained, noting an example of this at Veteran past Santa Monica southbound, where there are some new apartments where it widens a lot when you get to the stop sign narrows again, asking whether this is useful.

Public Comment was given by Lionel Mares, who noted as to the leaf-blower ordinance, the issue is if we are serious about transitioning to electric-powered leaf blowers, we have to start reaching out to the news media in Spanish and to small independent stores that sell lawn mowers and gardening tools, where gardeners shop as many gardeners are not aware of rebates or other programs and this needs an aggressive outreach campaign.

[Attention was next turned to #8.]

5. **President's Report** Dr. Longcore reminded everyone that the deadline for filing as a candidate for our upcoming NC elections.

6. **Reports of other Officers, Committee Chairs & Liaisons**

Vice President Greenberg noted that Senator Ben Allen had a get together at the Original Farmer's Market by the Grove that was well attended.

Member Mann, Ad Hoc Environmental Committee Chair, noted 1) that Lisa of the Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance (NCSA) wanted us to know that the January 12th meeting will focus on new electrification incentives. 2) Community Forestry Advisory Committee (CFAC) had a big discussion about sending and approving a letter to get some changes on brush clearance, especially on not having any kind of fuel five 5 feet around the house. It was mentioned that a letter was submitted by Dr. Longcore that LAFD should not be the ones determining what happens around 5 feet as they're not biologists. She noted that the committee will make some changes to the letter and submit it to and work with the LAFD, hoping they'll make some changes. Dr. Longcore will try to get a rep from the Insurance Commissioner.

Member Sandler, Traffic Committee Chair, related that she expects a decision at the beginning of the year on what METRO will support as to the Sepulveda Transit Corridor Project: <https://www.metro.net/projects/sepulvedacorridor/#status> noting that we'll need to meet after that decision for discussions. She thinks most of our people believe only those near the project will be affected but as the project will be done between 2023 and 2035, that all of our canyon roads will be affected as a result of construction, and that we will need to have one voice and see what our council would like to do.

7. **Monthly Expenditure Report**
Motion to approve November 2024 Monthly Expenditure Report (**Attachment B**) was **passed** by 17 yeases, 0 noes, 0 abstentions, 13 absences, and 5 ineligible, as **moved** by Member Mann.
8. **Traffic Backup around Beverly Park entrance on Mulholland**
Update, discussion, and possible action regarding actions being taken to mitigate morning traffic congestion attributable to entry procedures at Beverly Park.

Officer Joseph E. Frenes of West Traffic Division gave a brief report, noting that they are seeing a lot of progress and that the tickets are for people who are impeding traffic. With 150 to 200 cars, they don't have enough officers, and don't want to create a danger to stop and give tickets. Dr. Longcore asked if the longer term strategy is to ask the HOA to change its rules and what will be requested at the upcoming meeting with the manager. Some comments were that there are a lot of houses and permits pulled and it's taking time for the City Attorney to review them but it is

definitely a public safety issue. There are other ways to alleviate this: They'll present to the HOA to get the roadways cleared and the best resolution would be parking for the residents only. Asked about haul routes for other projects using Mulholland, if there is a way we can work with the Planning Department to change the haul routes, Haley Martinez noted that they're trying to get haul route approvals to Public Works. Dr. Longcore thanked them for all the work they've been doing thus far. He noted that it was shocking to see the video, and glad that there is a solution on the horizon. We will revisit this in January to see where we are. It is critical for people with emergencies to not have a parking lot on the road.

9. **Parking on Mulholland between Beverly Glen and Nicada Drive**

Update, discussion, and possible action regarding parking on unimproved, vegetated public right-of-way along Mulholland Drive.

Dr. Longcore introduced this item. Sidney noted that LADOT does not feel they have a justification to remove this parking and are hesitant to get rid of the parking because they feel it will spill over into the other areas. He noted that he has looked at the Specific Plan section that would justify restricting this parking, he doesn't understand the distinction between the paved shoulder and unpaved shoulder area, and has asked if there is a difference between those for specific treatment. He hopes a motion from us will demonstrate that this is a community priority. We need them to clarify why this area is different from other shoulders.

Dr. Longcore shared two ideas: 1) he has been informed that the extent of the Mulholland right of way isn't all owned by the City, and in fact it is an easement over properties adjacent. As to getting those easements, he noted that there is some specific language as to what is allowed but parking is not in the original language. He has asked for that language to be provided noting that this is overburdening the City's easement. 2) the reality that parking off on an unimproved shoulder that has vegetation is a fire hazard. They are not checking as to fire clearance, and there are 35 cars parked over dry brush and grass, and it takes only one sagging muffler to ignite. He asked and Sidney can discuss this with the LAFD. He will finalize a letter to the City requesting that this be taken care of.

Discussion was held and questions asked and answered, beginning with Member Smith's report of illegal parking at the overlook by Stoneridge filled with catering trucks, and staging for limos on another part of Mulholland for a party near her. Member Templeton asked about easements recorded that the City would have, noting that all this parking is from the substance abuse place, in a residential area, asking why so many cars are there, if each home has under six residents, to which Dr. Longcore noted that State law needs to enforce this, but people have complained about this and have gotten nowhere. Dr. Longcore related that he and Member Evans have spoken to Rick Zbur's office, and that this is the core problem: a business that is creating too many employees; however, that if they go down further that will impact other neighborhoods. He noted that we would love the State to enforce or allow the City to do so. Member Templeton noted that there had to be over 75 cars, and it seemed it would *not* be an allowed use by State law but that the City is not allowed to enforce the State law.

Member Mann described two issues at the top of Deep Canyon, heading east, on the north and south side, the north in CD4, and a little on the south in CD5: a big construction job on the east side of Deep Canyon with about 70 cars & trucks on a daily basis, on the soft shoulder usually two cars deep. Sometimes the street is blocked with trucks and deliveries. She doesn't know if the City owns that land, but that big construction projects need to have offsite parking; they're blocking the land on the soft shoulder, and there are trees, not sure if City or private trees. She noted that people used to walk along the soft shoulder and can no longer do so; taking over the street and soft shoulder every single day. Past that, there is a place belonging to the Conservancy that overlooks the Canyon and the Valley, where she sees vehicles belonging to the construction

site that shouldn't be parked on the overlook along Mulholland. Sidney Liss responded that he is looking at the map and thinks parking enforcement should be able to give tickets.

Haley Martinez asked that we let her office know of each, and they can start one by one, reaching out to DOT & DBS. She noted that parking and haul routes are not enforced and there is a need to find a better way to enforce for all communities. Member Savage noted guidelines in Mulholland only state about construction and right-of-way (ROW), including revocable permits in the ROW, a regulation that specifies DOT requiring review; that this is common with construction projects that are large; they have to have a plan that goes through DOT that has to be approved; noting that DOT seems to be the responsible party in this case. Member Stojka noted that it's a problem: He sees the cars up there, unsightly in the residential mountainous neighborhood with 35-75 cars up there, and opined that if they are not up there, they'll park on Nicada and Bel Air Ridge and turn a quiet community into a parking lot. He feels that people should understand that there is a community there that doesn't want that to happen; most people can see the problem: Where the cars go will create dangerous problems.

Public Comment was provided by Dr. Pamela Pierson (*at which point, the recording started*). Dr. Pierson noted that responsible regulatory parties would also include the Board of Public Works, who have a great deal of involvement of the PROW on Mulholland. She reminded everyone that there are very specific contractual agreements as to the limited purpose of the easement only for a PROW, not a parking lot. Regarding the entity that is operating, she noted that there has been news about another business owner in OC and areas nearby, Nathan Young, for which the State stepped in and closed several of his many sober living and rehab facilities.

Regarding the situation here, she has been following what the business is doing and noted that they are not only protected from being treated any less than families in the residential zoned areas, they are also required to abide by all the customary laws, mandates and neighborhood requirements, that does not include for any of us to be able to have 25-30 vehicles parking in front of our homes, much less on other peoples' properties, and she confirmed with a Senior Engineer that it very commonly throughout all municipalities, and it applies to Mulholland, that the property owners retain the rights to the property; however, specifically on Mulholland, no permanent edifices can be constructed at any time; fencing, driveways, etc.; no improvements, and no parking lots. It is for the pedestrians and bicyclists, and it is the 5-8 feet from the road surface to the very steep cliff, which is caissons on the north side, on the other side of the fence, which is where they are parking, putting additional force on an active land slide area. She noted that she has been working on this for a year and a half, and it is not just one department that is stonewalling us; this has been from parking enforcement, who was happy to come out and assist until someone else has told them you cannot cite. Dr. Longcore noted that we are both in touch with Sidney; we've taken a position on this; he'll finish the letter, and include the concerns that go along with this. She raised the issue of PLUM needing to consider parking for projects. Member Smith asked why these are businesses in a R4 zone. Dr. Longcore answered that State law preempts local control. Templeton noted it's not being used the way it is to be used per State law; rather is used for additional purposes. Dr. Longcore noted that we'll follow up on it.

10. **Flicker Way Landslide**

Discussion and possible motion requesting that the Mayor assist homeowners in requesting for an extension of the Federal Disaster Declaration to include this directly related event.

Dr. Longcore ran through some of the slides so everyone was up to date on Flicker Way. Some comments included that he has been transmitting the request that the families affected be included in the Disaster Declaration related to the bad storms in January 2024. There was a Federal Disaster Declaration with note that there could be more declarations later.

Dr. Longcore explained that on March 24th a hillside gave way, resulting from saturation of extreme rainfall. Five properties on Flicker Way had to be red-tagged. The people had to leave and not go back. Other properties can go further; as one continues to degrade, the others are potentially impacted. He can't imagine being told that there would be no help whatsoever because the hillside managed to stay up a month and a half after the rain and then fell down; that because it didn't fall during the rain, there is no help. He has been in communication on this and is increasingly frustrated with the lack of response to help stakeholders here. He explained why this is a big deal if you are one of those five families. Homeowner insurance excludes damage resulting from landslides. Remediation for these properties is far more than these homeowners could afford. If they could be included in the Federal Disaster Declaration they could get assistance and low income loans, which people on his street were offered because it happened while it was raining and could claim losses on their Federal income tax. These five families cannot because the date of the disaster was determined to be March 24th and not the continuation of those rains. Dr. Longcore noted that he has brought this forward to government reps but every single office has said, this is terrible but no one has taken responsibility to get Governor Newsom to change and ask that the Federal Disaster Declaration be amended to include the events of March 24th as a direct outcome of the disaster that started on January 31st. He noted that it hasn't happened yet, but wanted everyone to know that this happened in our community and our electeds up to the Federal level have not taken the steps necessary for those who lost their homes.

Member Holmes related that she had a similar experience having had damages to lose her home, and was included in dates and they didn't do anything. She looked into Habitat for Humanity; where your house value cannot be over a certain amount, e.g., \$700,000; they are trying to up that amount but it's stuck. California Fair Plan pushed back a lot for the houses in her neighborhood for the eucalyptus trees that came down, saying it was land movement but a lot of the trees were snapped in half and there was video. There is a lot of clear evidence for insurance companies and FEMA. She has been working on it too.

Public Comment: Dr. Longcore introduced Mark and Rob Jacobson. Rob thanked Dr. Longcore for giving him the opportunity to talk and including this on the agenda, thanking him for covering most of the background and the request they are making here, a difficult situation for his and the other families. He noted that they have received information from the geologists and engineers that if it rains more or if it the land continues moving, if the land behind the homes continue to move, other homes will be impacted. He thinks that the existing Federal Disaster Declaration approved in April can be extended, as it seems clear that this event was related to those covered in the existing declaration.

Motion to advise the City and communicate with our City representatives the importance of them aiding residents in navigating the Federal situation in events like this, to formally request that the City convey in the strongest possible terms that the request of the Federal government via the governor that they try to do this before it is too late, to ask the City to please advocate better on behalf of our stakeholders, **passed** by unanimous consent, following discussion, as **moved** by Member Stojka, and **seconded** by Member Smith,

Member Smith recommended bringing this story to the media, e.g., Channel 2 consumer hotline. Dr. Longcore doesn't know the official timeline but noted that the administration will change. He noted that we will get a letter out to the City, to the Mayor and Council on this.

[Attention was next turned to #5.]

Good of the Order: Dr. Longcore noted that Member Templeton recommended having reports about what is happening in our communities and opened the floor to the Board to give a brief reports on this.

Member Barcohana gave a brief report, noting that they had their annual HOA meeting and the two biggest issues of crime and homeowner's insurance were discussed. She thinks it would be a really good idea to set up the meeting with a person from the Insurance Commissioner, and invite the community, so they can hear from the community. She noted that they are trying to harden the property and reduce risks, and the LAFD doesn't come; they're having enforcement problems finding insurance. 2) She noted that her community is a little more secluded; they have security patrol and are lucky to not have much crime in their area but this weekend had two thefts of bikes and things outside their houses, which means to her that the crime is getting worse not better. She noted that Controller Mejia's comment that the LAPD is overfunded is one of the reasons we are falling short; but in their community they want to fully fund and support the LAPD, the dispatch vacancies filled, more police and more emphasis on public safety.

Member Marburg commented that the issues in the North of Sunset District (NOS), including Sunset Plaza, Belfast, St. Ives, Londonderry, Metz and Fennell include 1) public safety: They had a burglary late night where LAPD and their patrol responded very quickly including a helicopter. Crime/burglary is one of their issues, and, 2) traffic: The stop signs at Rising Glen and Sunset-Plaza and Belfast are somehow optional for some drivers, and he has been trying to get a street light repaired on Londonderry for two years.

Member Gros of Doheny-Sunset Plaza Neighborhood Association (DSPNA) reported issues of public safety and crime, having heard there were two gangs targeting the area two months ago, but every second home has been broken into this year. He reports that there has been massive construction and issues related to construction hours and Hillside Contraction Ordinance. Insurance remains an issue and the party houses issue does not go away. There are more and more local security companies that neighborhoods have organized.

Member Kadin of Benedict Canyon Association (BCA) echoed concerns of other associations; though that they don't have much crime in their neighborhood, gangs have been targeting 2nd floors in Beverly Park; scouting out things with drones, but not as much, and there has been some construction theft at construction sites. Traffic seems to be one of the main things, not only on BC Drive; they put up a couple of electronic speed signs but still get traffic from a lot of the fancy sports cars driving through, and, according to SLO Allen, many of the drivers are residents who have cars that they want to race. Overdevelopment and development with the Hillside Ordinance has been impactful. Contractors do not all observe no exterior work on weekends, though some do. In the canyon area there is commonality that we all continue to work on.

Member Mann of BCA added comments as to the new construction and new remodeling at nighttime with the street so lit up, every house on Deep Canyon looks like a hotel with the lights brightly lit throughout the night, like in Vegas. She doesn't know what we do about this. Dr. Longcore recommended listening to the last two episodes of Light Pollution News Podcast. Dr. Longcore noted that we'll pick this back up and get it on the agenda to listen to neighborhood reports.

Adjournment: Dr. Longcore thanked everyone and adjourned the meeting at 8:47pm to meet again on Zoom January 22nd (4th Wednesday) at 7:00 pm.