

Final Ratified Minutes

MINUTES OF THE BRENTWOOD COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING

Zoom Session

Wednesday, May 12, 2021

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Vice-Chair Carolyn Jordan called the meeting to order at about 7:00 p.m.

Council members present introduced themselves and their representative capacities:

REPRESENTATIVES

Abramson, Daniel
Alkov, Georgia
Aronson, Michelle
Binder, John
Blum, Len
Brown, Pamela
Drimmer, Steve
Goldstein, Doris
Haley, John
Jordan, Carolyn
Klein, Raymond
Krell, Marilyn
Rosen, Jacqui
Simmons, Sheila

Stein, Richard

Tenzer, Gary

Watts, Larry

ALTERNATES

Arbour, Elyse
Blackman, Kate
Chaggier, Flo
Freedman, Nancy
Hulett, Judie
Lyon, Janet
Morgenthaler, Alisa
Rose, Herb

*Note: Only those Representatives and Alternates who are present at the meeting will be listed; late arrivals are asked to announce themselves so the Board can recognize them and list them as present.

Vice-Chair Jordan asked for a motion to approve the April 2021 Minutes and upon a motion duly made and second the minute were approved with two minor corrections.

Crestwood Hills presentation -Kate Blackman

Crestwood Hills is an “architecturally controlled community” located west of the 405 on the scenic ridges above Kenter Canyon in Brentwood. The association is 75 years old by returning WW II veterans. Today the neighborhood is a jewel box of 330 single-family homes designed by midcentury masters, including A. Quincy Jones, Whitney R. Smith, Richard Neutra, and Craig Ellwood. Many of these mid-century homes have been preserved and restored and 19 have been recognized by the City as Historic Cultural Monuments. The HOA goal is to preserve the architectural harmony of Crestwood Hills, but have suffered on occasion because the increased property values in the area have encouraged some developers to build large out-of-scale houses.

Crestwood Hills is also the home of Tumbleweed Camp and a community park.

During the recent Getty fire, 15 houses were damaged heavily and 10 were lost, including an architecturally significant one. The firefighters did an incredible job and there were no deaths or serious injuries.

The residents are considering placing power lines underground to reduce fire risks. Seventy per cent of the community supports this, but it comes at a high cost that must be shared by all. .

Vice-Chair Jordan next asked for the monthly LAPD Crime Update from Matt Kirk, LAPD Senior Lead Officer for Brentwood (34713@lapd.online)

Before giving his crime reported he addressed recent protests arising from the conflict between Hamas and Israel in Gaza. He said further protest will occur at the a federal Building on Saturday May 15, when supporters of both Israel and Palestine participating, He urged people to avoid the area.

He next reported that burglaries are down, but to keep their unattended cars locked. He reported 60 mail thefts occurred last year, primarily involving packages left on front porches and lobbies of condos and apartments located south of San Vicente rather than from single-family residences. These crimes have often been solved because the perpetrators images are captured on surveillance camera footages.

Though the total number of violent crimes for Brentwood is low (10 YTD), the year over percentage increase is high (+25%), this arises from an increase in domestic abuse cases rather than from assaults by strangers.

Janet Turner will have an US Postal Inspector attend our June meeting to address mail theft and efforts to combat it, including new more secure master locks, which heavier and much more difficult to copy. She encouraged the public to contact her with mail theft issues as she meets twice a monthly with USPS.

Vice-Chair Jordan recognized Doris Goldstein who stated placing timers on mail locks that prevents them from being opened late at light has proved extremely effective in reducing mail theft as that is when it most frequently occurs.

Vice-Chair Jordan introduced Captain Timothy Halloran of LAFD Arson Unit

He explained that the LAFD investigates about 1000 arson cases per year. The Sheriff investigates arson in County areas and has about 1500 investigations annually.

Arson investigations result in arrest in only 6% of cases. Where there is an arrest, about 84% result in felony charges being brought by the District Attorney.

LAFD has approximately 19 people assigned to the Arson Unit.

He explained that arson under the Penal Code involves the willful and malicious burning of property belonging to others. Reckless burning under County and Municipal ordinances involves open burning outdoors.

There has been a sizeable increase of fires that are related to homelessness, often as the result of a dispute between homeless individuals or can be attributable to a mental illness issue or in connection with illegal drug use.

Most LASD arson arrests involve felony charges.

The public is urged to always file a written report upon witnessing someone starting a fire after first calling 911 and asking to speak with the fire captain on duty. He will then come to the fire site to interview witnesses and a witness observed the beginning of the fire, he will advise the arson unit to conduct an arson investigation.

Wendy Sue Rosen asked which agency is responsible for fires occurring in locations subject to the jurisdiction of the Santa Monica Conservancy and was told the LAFD is responsible for investigating those fires.

Vice-Chair Jordan next called upon Veronica de la Cruz, the Westside Neighborhood Prosecutor for the Los Angeles City Attorney. Her office files misdemeanor charges only. If it involves felony arson, the matter will be handled by the District Attorney's office. Most fires Veronica files originate in high fire zones. Depending upon the facts of the case, Veronica will frequently request for social services intervention where it appears a suspect is suffering from mental issues. The goals of the City Attorney are to both to protect the community and get mental health help for the suspect in the hope of effecting a behavior change. She also explained the new

diversion program whereby a criminal prosecution of qualifying defendants suffering from a mental illness is suspended and the defendant is ordered to participate in a mental health program.

Transportation update.

Vice-Chair Jordan next recognized Doris Goldstein who explained that outreach in connection with the \$2.5 million grant for pedestrian friendly improvement on San Vicente should begin before year end 2021 with construction beginning in 2023.

She also reported that San Vicente has been repaved in areas and noted other transportation related matters that do not require action at this time.

Berggruen Institute

Vic-Chair Jordan next asked Larry Watts to give an update on the Berggruen Institute project. He reported that late last year the Initial Study for the project was released. The BCC and many individual member organizations submitted scoping letters setting forth questions concerning potential environmental impacts of the project that they wanted answered in the project EIR. These were submitted in January. The Initial Study for the first time revealed that Berggruen Institute had abandoned efforts to obtain approval of the project pursuant to a conditional use permit and instead would apply for a specific plan. BCC expressed concern that it could not respond to a specific plan without seeing the plan and none was included with the Initial Study. About three weeks ago, Ray and Larry talked with Berggruen and were told a draft specific plan would be developed concurrently with the preparation of the draft EIR. Berggruen Institute has asked to meet with the BCC and others to discuss the specific plan. At this time no decision has been made concerning that invitation.

Homeless Task Force Committee

Vice-Chair Jordan next presented the draft BCC Homeless Policy her committee has drafted and invited a motion to approve the policy.

Thereupon a motion duly made and seconded, and following discussion, the resolution attached as Exhibit 1 was adopted with one abstention.

Vice-Chair Jordan next recognized Janet Turner, Regional Representative, Congressman Ted Lieu - CA33 who gave a brief WLA VA Homeless Update. She also said Congressman Lieu has asked for \$5 million for the Sepulveda pass, \$1 million for an L A project to address mental health issues and \$500,000 for a mobile health emergency station for the homeless.

WRAC (Westside Regional Alliance of Councils) Homelessness Related Motions

Vice-Chair Jordan next recognized Alisa Morgenthaler to present four recommended motion adopted by WRAC and referred to its member councils for their consideration.

1. Motion to Support Enforcement of Crimes In or Near Homeless Encampments attached as Exhibit 2.
2. Motion to Support Abating & Correcting Unsafe Conditions in Homeless Encampments attached as Exhibit 3.
3. Motion to Support Increased Funding for Safe Parking Programs attached as Exhibit 4.
4. Motion to Support Enforce Laws Prohibiting Blocking Public Right of Way attached as Exhibit 5.

Member Morgenthaler explained that these four motions are the result of extensive thought on the part of WRAC member organization.

Thereupon motions duly made and seconded and following discussion the following action was taken with respect to the foregoing WRAC recommendations: each motion was adopted unanimously.

Board Comment

Vice-Chair Jordan reminded all that the Bonin Beach Motion would heard tomorrow (May 13) at 10:00 a.m. and provided information on how to attend and participate remotely. She next asked if any members had comments to make. Nancy Freedman noted that the gopher population on the San Vicente has been substantially reduced.

Public Comment

There were no public comments.

Adjournment

Vice-Chair Jordan stated at about 8:50 p.m. that there were no remaining agenda items and asked for a motion to adjourn.

A motion to adjourn was duly made and seconded and passed without discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Watts
Secretary