

MINUTES OF THE BRENTWOOD COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING
Electronic Meeting Via Zoom
Wednesday, October 14, 2020

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair M. Bisnoff called the meeting to order at about 7: 00 p.m.

The Chair called the roll and the following Council members announced their presence and their representative capacities:

REPRESENTATIVES

Abramson, Daniel-MAL
Alkov, Georgia- BAK HOA
Arbour,
Aronson, Michelle- SVBD
Bisnoff, Michelle Chair & Safety
Brown, Pamela- Ministerial
Dohrmann, Barbara-BASC HOA
Edmunds, Eric-BH HOA
Goldstein, Doris- Transportation
Jordan, Carolyn- Vice-Chair & MAL
Klein, Raymond- BHA
Krell, Marilyn- Multi-Family Residential
Morgan, Charley- Counsel

Simmons, Sheila- Civic & Cultural
Stein, Richard- Treasurer
Tenzer, Gary- MCA
Watts, Larry Sec. & SC HOA

ALTERNATES

Freedman, Nancy
Hulett, Judie-Safety
Morganthaler, Alisa- SBRA
Polier, Michael-Civic & Cultural
Rose, Herb- BT HOA
Smoller, Neil- BG HOA

*Note: Only those Representatives and Alternates who announced their presence at the outset of the meeting are listed.

- 1. Call to Order and Roll Call.** The Chair called the meeting to order at about 7:00 p.m. and announced a quorum was present following a roll call.
- 2. Pam Brown, Ministerial Rep.** The chair recognized Pam Brown who described upcoming Chalk Festival at Farmers Market on October 18, 2020.
- 3. Approval of September 2020 Minutes.** There were no corrections or additions received to the posted draft minutes. Upon a motion duly made and seconded the draft minutes were approved.
- 4. Nominating Committee.** Upon motion duly made and seconded the following were elected to the 2020 BCC Nominating Committee: Sam Yadegar, Madelyn and Alisa Morganthaler.
- 5. Measure M Funding.** Upon motion duly made and seconded and following discussion it was resolved that BCC support an award of Measure M funding of \$2.5 million to improve walkability on San Vicente Blvd.
- 6. LAPD Report.** The Chair in the absence of SLO Matt Kirk gave the crime report comparing YTD 2019 - 2020. Property crime had a slight increase, primarily attributable to increased car thefts. The Chair noted that the majority of stolen vehicles involved

owners leaving their keys in the car. She noted majority of crime arises south of San Vicente Blvd.

- 7. Chair Reports.** The Chair next gave various updates, including a recent Covid health and safety report reflecting no infractions in Brentwood; a temporary ban on rodenticides pending adoption of state criteria. She also reported on a Pilot Solar Power WiFi program that will take place in Mandeville Canyon. Additionally Hillside video fire cameras are to be installed at various locations including San Vicente Peal, Mountaingate and Westridge to provide early notice of a fire.

The Chair also discussed a motion by Councilmembers Bonin and Koretz (Council file 20-1213) requesting City Planning Dept., EMD and LAFD to study emergency evacuation route and adding Fire Hazards Planning to the City's GP Housing Element. She also noted Councilmember Ryu's motion to suspend construction during the month of November in high fire risk hillside areas. Finally, she reported that the potential emergency evacuation alternative via a private road between Mandeville Canyon and Rockingham remains under study.

- 8. CD 11 Report.** The Chair next recognized Durrah Wagner, Field Deputy for Brentwood-Pacific Palisades. She gave a report, including resumption parking enforcement regulation and voting procedures.

- 9. Guest Speaker.** The Chair next recognized Matthew McGrahan, Chief Community Engagement and Reintegration, Greater LA VA Health Care System who answered a number of questions and explained efforts by the VA to improve veteran health care and provide them with viable alternatives to living on the street. Serving about 15,000 veterans with 1/3 of the homeless veterans nationwide. At the beginning of the pandemic they decided to reach out to homeless veterans. There are about 40-50 sites on the WLA campus. The facility provides 24 security and dedicated medical personnel. Are engaging veterans who have not previously. There have been about 50 on site at one time and 270 who have gone through the program and moved on to returning to their families, transitional housing, permanent housing, etc. Veterans are brought in without normal eligibility requirements but ask them to agree to a behavior contract. A big problem is that a number of veterans prefer living on the street. He reports that the VA is receiving great community support. He explained that the VA has no authority over the sidewalk next to the campus, but veterans can bring their tents onto campus. Issue is complicated by the covid restrictions. He also reviewed a number of the renovations and construction contemplated by the Master Plan.

- a.** The Chair pointed out that Village for Vets is providing meals and others may provide supplies to homeless veterans. In response to a question he said reintegrating veterans into the community remains a goal. Hope to see chapel renovated.
- b.** The Chair introduced Jennifer Yoshimara with Brentwood School which also provides meals and supplies to homeless vets in partnership with Village for Vets.

- 10. Transportation Report.** The Chair called upon Doris Goldstein to give a report. Under Measure M, walkability qualifies for a \$2.5 million grant which will improve walkability between Bundy and Brigham without imposing a road diet solution. In response to a question she said the bike lanes will be preserved and possibly improved upon. She reviewed recent work on walkability improvement by extending traffic light times at various San Vicente intersections to provide time for pedestrians to cross. The harder

challenge involves hardscape improvements which requires money to accomplish. For example, curb cuts to allow access to median by strollers and wheelchairs. Also such things as sidewalk extensions. The design and implementation process will take place over next 2-5 years. She also discussed Metro's first/last mile plans. One option is to create a direct connection south of Wilshire to the VA Metro stop. She briefly discussed Metro's study concerning "congestion pricing" to reduce traffic during peak periods. Metro hasn't identified specific areas.

- 11. Local Business Report.** The Chair next asked Michelle Aronson to give report concerning the San Vicente business district. Ms. Aronson noted that people from outside Brentwood come to the area to shop or to work. She addressed problems associated with pandemic restrictions. There has been expansion of sidewalk uses facilitated by the City. Several restaurants have closed permanently. Vacancy up about 2-3% in various areas around Brentwood community. Tenant being urged to work with landlords to get through the pandemic and for Brentwood and other Westside residents to support local businesses.
- 12. Residential Housing Report.** The Chair next recognized Sheila Simmons to give a report on the residential housing. Ms. Simmons gave an overview of the residential housing market in Brentwood. Her conclusion is that demand continues and houses are selling.
- 13. Land Use Report.** The Chair next recognized Josh Stephens for a Land Use report. Josh reported there was no LUC meeting due to lack of activity. A big focus for the LUC will be on preparing for the Brentwood-Pacific Palisades Community Plan update. The BCC is working with the Pacific Palisades CC on this subject. He encouraged all interested persons should participate in the next virtual LUC meeting on Oct 22 at 5:30 p.m.
- 14. Environmental Committee Report.** The Chair asked Nancy Freedman for a report. Nancy noted that the Veterans Park Conservancy has sadly closed down and addressed condition of the San Vicente Boulevard median, including recent City efforts to remediate the gopher infestation. She welcomes community input and support.
- 15. BCC Board Comments.** Judie Hulett announced the Shake Out drill taking place tomorrow, October 15 and urged all to participate. Sheila Simmons urged all to obtain flu shots.
- 16. Public Comment.** There were no public comments.
- 17. Adjournment.** The Chair invited a motion to adjourn an upon a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned sine die at approximately 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Watts, Secretary

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