

SOUTH BRENTWOOD RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING

Home of Marylin Krell October 20, 2011 7:00 pm

Call to Order: Marylin Krell, president, called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

Present: Marylin Krell, Elyse Arbour, Leonard Blum, Roz Gamble, Jackie Raymond, Pam Taylor, Sue Hirsch, Laurel Davidson, David Holzman (on behalf of Lauren Cole), Ray Keller.

Absent: Lauren Cole, Nita Cosat, and Debbie Simmons.

A. Approval of Minutes

Marylin asked for corrections to the minutes (previously distributed) for last month's board meeting. There were no corrections. A Motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as distributed. The vote was unanimously in favor with zero abstentions; therefore, the Motion passed.

B. Reports

• Treasurer – Roz Gamble

Roz Gamble reported the balances as of September 30, 2011 were:

Checking Account: \$2,825.52

Savings Account: \$1,677.32

Total Available as of September 30, 2011: \$4,502.84

○ Veterans Administration

Pam Taylor reported on the meeting she had attended today where the VA spoke about accomplishments. Pam circulated a flyer from the meeting. They stated they had met their budget goal last year and they were:

- Expanding the Telehealth program for veterans
- There was a 3-minute video made by a veteran who had attended USC Film School of a young man home 3 months from military service. He was skeptical about the VA system and it showed his journey through the system. It was very well done and you can view it on U-Tube; search for "Doubts."
- Statistics on the comprehensive homeless program. Approximately 8,600 homeless in Los Angeles County. In 2011 they spent \$38million for staffing, equipment and contractors to provide 300 staff members all dedicated to the homeless program. They took in 742 veterans in 2011. Pam also circulated a graph of the breakdown of the homeless by wars and gender.

○ Land Use Report

○ Darlington Stop Light

The Chair reported on the recent meeting at the council offices with the BCC, BRC SBRA, city staff and the head of the L.A. Department of Transportation (DOT). The City requires a light at that intersection to address safety and city liability. The federal money allocated to that light expires in June 2012.

Handouts regarding the two suggested options were circulated.

Option 1: No cuts into the median, no left turns at Darlington.

Option 2: Bullet shaped cuts into both medians are favored by the DOT. City arborist Scott Harmon supports this option. It allows for 3 cars to stack up both directions.

There was discussion. David Holtzman felt a cut into the median going east was required. There had been suggestions of removing some of the parking to allow the traffic to move more freely but parking is at a premium, so losing more spaces should be avoided. The Chair has spoken to city arborist Harmon, who said that the roots could be damaged if cuts were made to the median, but how seriously would not be clear until they began work. He said that if he thought there would be a serious threat to the trees, he would not support cuts into the median. There has also been an unrelated problem with overwatering which has caused the roots to rot and trees to fall over. Ray Keller suggested replacing the older trees with younger ones. The Chair noted how cutting into the median could create a precedent for future projects. The board decided it was not opposed to cutting into the median going east. The Chair said if DOT asks for the option which requires cutting into the median, a public hearing will be required. Wendy-Sue Rosen wants a Design Review Board review. She threatened to sue the City if they cut into the median.

A Motion was made and seconded that the SBRA is not opposed to cutting into the median at Darlington and San Vicente in the interests of public safety and smooth traffic flow. The vote was 7 in favor, 1 opposed, zero abstentions. Therefore, the Motion passed. Roz Gamble said she was opposed to any cut into the median.

- **Bundy Village**

It was reported that according to Lauren Cole, Bundy Village Project was “dead.” David Holzman said that the City Council overturned the City Planning Commission on appeal. The public’s response via email, letters, and signs made a significant impact.

- **Sign Ordinance**

Sara Melzer was absent. The Chair reported that this was in reference to billboards, digital signs and supergraphics. She, Sara and Nancy Freedman attended a public hearing before the City Council Committee which sent the ordinance back to the Planning Department. It will be heard again.

The Chair asked David Holzman to monitor the City Council and LAUSD Redistricting and he agreed to do so.

- **Sign Violations**

Roz Gamble reported that she had determined exactly what Fred Feldmesser was complaining about in reference to The Roberts Company. Their buildings have large signs listing available units; however, they are putting individual signs in their landscaping. There is no violation of the code as it is on their property but she will follow up with The Roberts Company.

The Chair reported on real estate signs in the public right of way which is a violation of the LAMC Ordinance No. 128,577 Eff.11/14/64. "No person... shall construct, deposit or maintain any structure... or any obstacle of any nature whatsoever in or upon any street, sidewalk, or parkway which will interfere with the free passage of pedestrians or vehicles along such street, sidewalk or parkway." She referenced Chabad signs placed on the median which were illegally in the public right of way.

The Chair said that Street Services Investigator Stephanie McFaddin is checking out whether a photograph of a violation would be grounds for a citation.

Elyse said she was opposed to enforcement of these regulations. She thinks that it is unrealistic to have only one sign in front of a house or condominium for sale and that it is unrealistic to expect that hundreds of agents are going to follow this regulation (which she never heard of). She noted that the signs are not permanent and only out for a few hours.

- **Million Tree Project**

Mitch Paradise is working on obtaining trees for Dorothy Street. Twelve owners have agreed to have trees planted in their parkway. Planting will probably take place in December. Neighbors must agree to care for the tree for 5 years.

- **Website**

Sue Hirsch and the Chair spoke with Julian Forniss, our webmaster. He fixed several problems and suggested a program that would make loading and organizing items much easier; the cost is \$450 and does not require annual updates or any maintenance. Sue is now managing the website. The website is critical for getting information out to the community. Pam Taylor said it looks great. The Chair asked Elyse to update the real estate information from last year. The Chair confirmed that we would be paying Julian for another two hours of programming. Pam Taylor asked how many hits we have; this was not known.

A Motion was made and seconded to approve the purchase of the additional software program to load and organize items. The vote was 7 in favor (one board member had already left) with zero abstentions. Therefore, the Motion passed.

C. Old Business

- Omit Multi-Family memberships? No one was in favor of omitting multi-family membership; even though we only have five currently, they generate \$350; we need to sign up more as it's a good way to reach condo and apartment residents
- County Redistricting. BCC chair Nancy Freedman and Marylin Krell attended two recent meetings. The first meeting went all day and they had to leave before their names were called to testify. Arrangements were made for them to speak at the beginning of the second hearing, and Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky's proposal to keep most of the third district together was approved. Westside Senior Field Deputy for Supervisor Yaroslavsky, Flora Gil-Krisiloff, said South Brentwood can be relied upon to send letters and it makes a difference.

D. New Business

- **Membership and Outreach Ideas**

Discussion of Infogroup, a mailing list company that Roz and Marylin had contacted. They provided a list but it did not appear to comprise of the appropriate demographics. The cost was \$475 and included mailing labels. This did not include the cost of mailing. Last year we distributed 1500 newsletters and 1500 flyers at a cost of \$900.

Elyse said she would share her marketing list. She suggested mailing a postcard to notify residents the AGM.

An Outreach Committee was formed comprising of Elyse Arbour, Pam Taylor, Marylin Krell and Roz Gamble. The Chair said next month's meeting would address the Annual General Meeting which will be March 22, 2012.

The Chair has invited Flo Chapgier (VP Lower Mandeville) to the next board meeting to share her successful outreach ideas.

- PayPal Address. It was decided there was no need for one at this time.
- Discussion of forming a telethon committee to call members after the AGM who have not paid their dues. The Chair has prepared an AGM To Do List.
- Business Cards. The Chair suggested business cards for those board members who interact with the community such as herself and Roz Gamble, Multi-Family Rep. The board agreed.
- Earthquake & Disaster Community Meeting: 7:00 pm October 24, 2011 at University Synagogue. Len Blum said he might attend it.

Adjournment

There being no further business to bring before the Board, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting, and with a unanimous vote of those present, the Chair declared the Motion passed and the meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m. The next meeting will be November 17, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,
Roz Gamble, Secretary