**SOUTH BRENTWOOD RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**

**BOARD MEETING**

Home of Marylin Krell September 22, 2011 7:00 pm

**Call to Order**: Marylin Krell, president, called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and thanked everyone for attending.

**Present**: Marylin Krell, Roz Gamble, Debbie Simmons, Jackie Raymond, Pam Taylor, Nita

Cosat, Margery Zweizig-Atkinson, Sue Hirsch, Sara Melzer, and Ray Keller.

**Absent**: Elyse Arbour, Lauren Cole.

The chair noted that SBRA celebrated 35 years since incorporation on Feb 21, 1976. The first annual meeting was Feb.24, 1974.

**A. Approval of Minutes**

Marylin asked for corrections to the minutes (previously distributed) of the May 19, 2011 board meeting. There were no corrections; a motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes subject to Lauren Cole’s edits if any. The vote was unanimously in favor with zero abstentions.

**B. Reports**

 **Treasurer – Roz Gamble**

Roz Gamble reported that two checks for dues had been received and one check had been cut for

$50 for the legal review of the Darlington stop light report. Balances as of August 31, 2011 were:

 Checking Account: $2,805.01

 Savings Account: $1,675.80

 Total Available as of August 31, 2011: $4,480.81

The board had approved by email the increase in the BCC membership fees to $200. Roz explained that it was not really an increase but a different way of billing the dues. It was $100 for the Representative and $100 for the Alternate.

The name change has been completed and the bank accounts have all been changed to South

Brentwood *Residents* Association.

 **Veterans Administration**

Pam Taylor reported that the next Quarterly meeting is October 20, 2011 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm. at the VA hospital.

 **Land Use**

**Darlington Stop Lights**

Marylin reported that a meeting was held at the Council Offices where the City Engineer assured everyone there would be no cutting through the median pending further investigation. However, recently a crew was seen at the intersection cutting into the median! A call was made to Councilman Rosendahl, who was not aware of the work, and the work was halted. This

afternoon, Marylin attended a meeting regarding the Darlington Stop Light with Wendy-Sue

Rosen, Elin Schwartz, and Nancy Freedman. The cost of the traffic lights is $170,000 and there

was no community input re: the project. The group is concerned that proper procedures have not

been followed. They decided to request a copy of the records and have them reviewed by an attorney. The total for the legal review is $600.00 and the SBRA board had previously approved a payment of $50 towards the legal costs.

The intersection is dark so it needs street lighting as well as a traffic signal, but we want to avoid cutting into the median to provide a Department of Transportation (DOT) required left turn pocket. DOT will not install a flashing crosswalk only.

The median is protected as a cultural landmark.

Federal funds provided must be used by a specific date.

The group has scheduled a meeting with Councilmember Rosendahl. There will be an update at

next month’s SBRA Board Meeting.

 **Sign Ordinance**

Sara Melzer reported on a recent hearing. Two years ago the City Planning Commission passed an ordinance regarding billboards, digital and super graphics on buildings. The ordinance was put on hold due to lawsuits. Since then, billboard lobbyists managed to gut key portions of the ordinance.

The proposed ordinance allows digital billboards of any size anywhere. The potential is for hundreds and even thousands of billboards like they have in Las Vegas. Specific Plans are not exempt so San Vicente Blvd. could be affected. No major safety studies have been conducted. The community is asking for consideration of size, hours of operation, proximity to residential areas, traffic safety, energy and aesthetic issues and more.

Councilmember Rosendahl did not give a satisfactory answer as to why it was rewritten this way.

The ordinance is coming before the LA City Council PLUM Committee on October 18, 2011. Sara is working with a coalition of groups in WLA to get people to go to the PLUM Hearing to express their opposition. Sandy Brown (Westwood) is leading the effort.

The lobbyists are paid so they will be there en masse. Sara urged everyone to go to the hearing and show force in numbers, circulate the information amongst friends and organize letter writing campaigns.

Sara will forward information regarding the meeting to the Chair for circulation.

 **Munger Project**

Ray Keller reported that the Final EIR was due at the end of October/beginning of November.

Because she is a member of the San Vicente Blvd. Design Review Board which will be reviewing the project, Marylin previously asked Lauren Cole to lead future SBRA meetings when the

Munger Project is discussed; the Chair will excuse herself at that point. Ray Keller said he expects

BHA, BCC and SBRA to decide if they want to provide a group opinion to the Planning

Commission.

 **Bergamot Station and Bundy Village**

A report was previously emailed.

 **11818 Dorothy Street Project** SB1818 Density Bonus Project

The new building will have 26 units with 50 spaces. A neighbor appealed the project but because

it is allowed by law, the project will be built as proposed. However, after the hearing, the Chair and Ray Keller attended a meeting with the developer and nearby neighbors to discuss possible changes. The developer agreed to provide 52 and perhaps 53 parking spaces. They also discussed landscaping and the developer is open to modifications of the landscape plan.

Mitch Paradise, a nearby resident, is concerned regarding the loss of two mature Jacaranda trees. City arborist Scott Harmon reviewed Dorothy Street from Barrington to Bundy and marked where 30-40 trees could be planted. Scott suggested working with the mayor’s Million Tree Project where trees are provided and planted for free, but the property owner must agree to care for the tree for five years. Mitch is following up on this.

 **Sign Violations**

Roz Gamble reported on complaints from a Brentwood resident, Fred Feldmesser, who is upset

with noisy and oversized trash collection trucks and with the proliferation of real estate signs in Brentwood. He is also upset at the number of signs the Roberts Company has on its apartment buildings. Roz is working with him and with Phyllis Axelrod, who emailed a complaint to the Roberts Company… and they took down their signs!

The BCC is planning to send a letter to real estate companies in Brentwood requesting they comply with the Los Angeles Municipal Code that prohibits signs in the public right of way. The Chair has been in touch with Stephanie McFaddin, Street Services, who said that her division has adopted a policy allowing open house signs for real estate agents as long as: no flags are placed, signs can be in the parkway in front of the home that is for sale with the abutting property owner’s written permission, and they cannot be in the median.

**C. New Business**

 Election of BCC Representative for 2012

Jackie Raymond announced she was stepping down and Marylin Krell would take her place as

the SBRA’s Representative to the BCC. She said she was confident that Marylin will do an excellent job. Marylin said that she appreciated Jackie’s years of invaluable mentoring. Everyone expressed thanks to Jackie for her years of service. A motion was made a seconded to approve Marylin Krell as the BCC Representative and Jackie Raymond as the Alternate. The vote was unanimous with zero abstentions.

 The Chair announced an event at the Brentwood Gardens on Saturday, September 24 from

2:00 – 3:00 pm to raise support for maintenance of the Coral Trees. Betty White will be there.

 **Membership and Outreach Ideas**

The Chair discussed reaching out and increasing SBRA’s membership. We spend a significant amount of money on preparing and distributing the annual newsletter. We need a better way to notify residents of the AGM. She and Roz have looked into bulk mailing with the post office, and also mailing lists with Infogroup, which produces an excel list of a specific area. They were told that single family and condominium residents in South Brentwood total 6,357 (not including apartments). Infogroup will also provide bar codes to reduce the postage costs and prepared mailing labels for a cost of $430. Lists for following years will be 30% of that initial cost.

There followed a discussion of ways to contact residents. It was suggested that we contact major management companies to reach apartment building residents, and condo associations to invite them to the AGM. Debbie Simmons mentioned that she knows an attorney who represents condo associations.

The Chair previously spoke to Flo Chapgier of Mandeville Canyon Association who shared how she reached out to her area; however, she is dealing with single-family residents and not condo or apartment buildings as SBRA is trying to do. Flo organized a telephone campaign to ask non- paying former members to pay their dues. The Chair said she would invite Flo to attend a future meeting so she could share her ideas.

The Chair said she will draft an explanation of exactly what SBRA does for the community.

 **12011 Goshen Ave**

The Chair also reported on a Safety Meeting presented by Sr. Lead Officer Phillip Enbody that she and Roz Gamble recently attended. Marylin was contacted by a resident who told her about an attempted burglary at 12011 Goshen Ave so Marylin contacted Officer Enbody, a meeting was organized, and Marylin was invited to attend. It was also an opportunity for Marylin and Roz to tell the condo owners about SBRA.

 **Date for Annual General Meeting**

The board suggested March 15 or 22. Debbie Simmons said she would check the Church’s calendar and let the Chair know the availability. There was discussion of which speakers to invite. It was decided to invite Councilman Rosendahl, Assemblymember Mike Feuer, and Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky. The Chair would also invite Brittany Thomas of the VA.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business to bring before the Board, a motion was made and seconded, and

with a unanimous vote, the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 9:16 p.m. The next meeting will be October 20, 2011.

Respectfully submitted, Roz Gamble, Secretary