

Minutes of SBRA Annual General Meeting
October 19, 2023 via Zoom

The meeting started at 6:30 PM, preceded by a short video highlighting SBRA activity and achievement over the past year; a biographical overview of the Board of Directors; and a thank you to our sponsors.

Alisa Morgenthaler, 2022-2023 President of SBRA, provided opening remarks and announced the agenda for the evening. She then asked participants to complete an online poll asking how they heard about the meeting.

Ms. Morgenthaler then announced that the following persons had been elected by the Board of Directors to be officers for the remainder of calendar year 2023 and for 2024:

Lauren Cole – President
Elyse Arbour – Vice President
Alisa Morgenthaler – Secretary
Armen Pandola –Treasurer

She then proposed the following slate for election to the Board of Directors:

Lauren Cole
Elyse Arbour
Alisa Morgenthaler
Armen Pandola
Marylin Krell
Daniel Borenstein
Susan Hirsch
Barbara Roll
Pamela Taylor

A motion to elect the slate was made by Marylin Krell and seconded by Lauren Cole. Ms. Morgenthaler then asked that SBRA members cast their vote on the motion by clicking the ballot that appeared on their screens. The motion carried.

Ms. Morgenthaler then thanked those responsible for planning the meeting. She also thanked the Advisory Board, Go Graphics (printing), Get Visible (E-Newsletter), and Tone Colour Entertainment (Zoom tech support).

She turned the virtual podium over to Lauren Cole who introduced the speakers and moderated the program.

Matt Kirk, Senior Lead Office, West Los Angeles, LAPD, shared crime statistics for the previous year. He stated that crime was generally down, but that we need to stay vigilant regarding mail and package theft.

Hydee Feldstein Soto, Los Angeles City Attorney, gave a description of her job representing the City of Los Angeles. Her office has jurisdiction over misdemeanors and any felonies handed down from the District Attorney, noting that the DA will not prosecute alleged crimes without victim testimony. She further noted that her goal is to streamline certain aspects of the City Attorney's office, make it easier to report a crime, and bring the office up to modern standards of technology. In response to questions, she highlighted the Neighborhood Justice Program and the Administrative Citation Enforcement program.

Lindsey Horvath, LA County Supervisor, 3rd District, stated that she is also on the Metro Board and is chair of the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority. She emphasized a collaborative effort, with the Mayor and City Council, to better serve constituents. In response to questions, she stated that she has an individual on her staff who is primarily focused on the homeless issue, and is in close interaction with the VA on the subject. She also addressed congestion pricing, and stated that she made a motion to the Metro Board for Metro staff to solicit more feedback on the matter from residents who will be impacted by the concept before the concept goes to the Metro Board.

Bryan Kirkness, Chief Inspector, LA Housing Dept., Code Enforcement, gave a presentation about city seismic laws, in light of the recent earthquakes in Turkey and Morocco. He gave an overview of the history and status of issues such as soft story remediation, non-ductile concrete, and retrofitting. In response to a question about knowing whether one's building has been retrofitted, he referred people to the LA Dept. of Building and Safety web site: ladbs.org and check permit status. Retrofitting work for any soft story buildings must be complete in 2024, although buildings can request an extension if they have started but not completed the process.

Brad Sherman, U.S. Congressman, District 32, who is on the Foreign Affairs Committee, stated that his office was instrumental in getting a visa waiver in place for Israeli citizens wishing to come to the U.S. His office will also facilitate the process for any constituents currently in Israel. In response to questions, he emphasized the need to create new housing for the homeless. His office handles recommendations to U.S. military academies so if anyone has teens interested in attending they should contact his office.

Jared Rivera, Deputy Mayor for Community Engagement, spoke of efforts to break down barriers and navigate city bureaucracy. His responsibilities include the homeless crisis, climate change impacts, and public safety.

Traci Park, 11th District City Council Member, provided a video from the airport in her absence. She also sent two staff persons, who spoke at length about their areas of responsibility: **Juan**

Fregoso (homelessness resources) and **Michael Amster** (walkability issues, curb extensions, etc.).

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM. A Question and Answer period moderated by Alisa Morgenthaler followed. To watch video of our Annual General Meeting go to www.southbrentwood.org/events.