

Minutes for SBRA Board Meeting – Thursday, January 25, 2024

Present: Elyse Arbour, Daniel Borenstein, Lauren Cole, Laurel Davidson, Sue Hirsch, Marylin Krell, Alisa Morgenthaler, Armen Pandola, Barbara Roll and Pam Taylor

Meeting Called to Order at 7:13 p.m.

Approval of Minutes from 12/7/23 Meeting

Alisa

- A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes for the Board meeting held on 12/7/23. The motion was unanimously approved.

Reports/Old Business:

- **Treasurer's Report**

Armen

- Armen reported that Lauren and he met with the banker at Bank of America and transferred the bank account in their names as the new Treasurer and President. They will change over the Pay Pal account in the near future. Armen reported that he downloaded last year's income and expense data in Quicken and will input all future income and expense information in the system so that financial reports can be generated.

- **BCC Meeting (1-3 items)**

Elyse and Barbara

- Michael Amster, LA Councilwoman Traci Park's Field Deputy for Brentwood, Pacific Palisades and West LA, discussed several ongoing projects including the San Vicente Walkability Project, the San Vicente median beautification project and modification to the left hand turn signal at San Vicente and Darlington. Councilwoman Park's office is sponsoring a tree trimming and clean-up day in Brentwood on Saturday, 1/27/24, from 8:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. at the intersection of Montana Ave. and Gretna Green Way across from the Brentwood Science Magnet School. The event is co-sponsored by SBRA, BCC and BHA. Volunteers are sought for the event. The City will provide volunteers with gloves, bags and outdoor tools for the clean-up. Approximately 25-30 trees will be trimmed by the City at the event.
- Mr. Amster reported that the stoplight at Barrington Park will be revised so that it remains a solid green until a pedestrian seeks to cross at the stop light and pushes the button, at which time, the stop light will change to a solid red as opposed to a flashing red light.
- Mr. Amster advised that the City will be installing a stoplight at the intersection of Bundy Dr. and Kenter Ave.
- There was a follow-up report on the Cookies Cannabis Dispensary located on San Vicente near the Brentwood Country Mart. It was reported that customers of the dispensary are parking in the surrounding neighborhood and consuming marijuana in their vehicles.
- Alissa Bernstein, Assistant Director, Los Angeles, American Jewish Committee, gave a report to the BCC on the increase in antisemitism and hate crime incidents.

Ms. Bernstein stated that there were 500 antisemitic incidents which took place last year at college campuses.

- The West LA Police Department recently hosted two Town Halls on Westside burglaries. Alisa reported that she attended the first Town Hall and that during such Town Hall, a map showing the burglary incidents indicated that the largest number of incidents occurred in South Brentwood. She added that the burglaries are being committed by rings of sophisticated thieves from South America and a gang from South Central LA which focus on stealing jewelry and handbags. The thieves use drones and satellite data to determine when residents are gone and typically gain access through second floor doors and balconies and by breaking into patio doors and windows. The LAPD recommended using alarms that are loud rather than silent systems like Ring which emitted a loud signal when thieves break into windows or doors and taken actions to make it appear that you are home. During the second Town Hall, the West LAPD reported that they arrested numerous suspects from one of the rings and recovered \$1 million in stolen property.
- The BCC passed two resolutions recommended by WRAC. The first resolution was to send a letter to Mayor Bass and the City Council stating that WRAC opposes the Housing Element's proposed rezoning and densification of R1 single family and multi-family neighborhoods beyond what SB9 and ADU laws allows and to locate all upzoning in underutilized commercial corridors instead. The second resolution was to support a City Council measure which addressed the need for more cost effective and efficient processes for repairing sidewalks throughout the Westside and that the report back include recommendations for measures to protect existing trees during sidewalk repair.

- **Homelessness**

Barbara

- The U.S Supreme Court is going to hear the case of *City of Grants Pass, Oregon v. Gloria Johnson, et al.* which could set a precedent for how cities in the U.S. are able to respond to homeless camps.
- Barbara participated in the City of LA annual homeless count which was held on 1/24/24.
- On 1/24/24, the WRAC Homeless Committee sent a letter to Va Lecia Adams Kellum, PhD, head of the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority ("LAHSA"), Mayor Bass and Councilmembers Park, Yaroslavsky and Hutt inviting Dr. Adams Kellum to attend a meeting of the Committee to address the work and methodology of LAHSA.

- **Transportation**

Lauren

- Congestion Pricing letter submitted
Lauren reported that in response to BCC and SBRA's letters opposing congestion pricing, she received a call from Jody Litvak, Executive Office, Community Relations - Planning, Operations and Strategic Initiatives, of Los Angeles Metro. Ms. Litvak told her they received the letter and acknowledge the BCC and SBRA's position particularly regarding our claim regarding LA Metro's lack of transparency to the community regarding the initiative. Ms. Litvak stated that they

were not going to take the initiative to the LA County Board of Supervisors for approximately 6 months. Lauren added that WRAC didn't do a letter on this issue because there was a lack of consensus among the Neighborhood Councils.

- Asked LADOT to review Barrington/Chenault Again

Lauren reported that she sent an e-mail to Rudy Guevara, Transportation Engineer at LADOT, asking him to take another look at revising the stoplight at Barrington and Chenault since it is continuing to causing traffic back-ups.

- **2024 Meetings – Confirmed Watermark for March**

Lauren

- Lauren reported that we are confirmed to hold the March Board meeting at the Watermark. The Watermark will provide tours and a “gourmet dinner” prior to the meeting. Elyse suggested inviting Gary Avrich to the meeting.

- **BCC LUC Update**

Lauren

- Lauren reported that a new steakhouse will be opening in the building where Katsuya restaurant is located and that a new take-out sushi restaurant will be opening next to Whole Foods.
- Lauren reported that the owner of Marilyn Monroe's house was prohibited from demolishing the house and that an application to grant historic preservation status to the property is ongoing.

New Business:

- **AGM Target Date – Thursday, October 17, 2024?**

Pam

- Committee set-up? (last year started February)

Pam reported that Thursday, 10/17/24 will be the tentative date of the 2024 AGM and that she will prepare a timeline for accomplishing tasks based on this date.

Members. Lauren asked for volunteers to serve on the Committee and stated that she would provide notice of a Committee meeting in February.

- **2024 Budget Discussion**

Lauren

- Lauren presented and discussed with the Board a spreadsheet which compared the income and AGM and non-AGM expenses for the last three years as well as membership data over the same time period.

- **Communications**

Barbara

- Need 2 people for Mailchimp back-up rotation

Lauren, Daniel and Alisa agreed to be trained to serve as a back-up to Barbara to assist with the newsletter. Marylin also agreed to assist Barbara when needed.

- **Insurance discussion**

Barbara and Lauren

- Barbara reported that Board members can check their homeowners policies to see if the policy provides coverage for serving as volunteer on non-profit organizations. Barbara stated that SBRA needs to secure a IRS tax exemption number before she can obtain quotes for liability or directors and officers insurance. Lauren and Alisa discussed whether such coverage was necessary.

Alisa agreed to commence the application process to obtain an IRS tax exemption to SBRA.

- **Website Revamp**

Lauren

- Lauren presented a power point on the pros and cons of switching the website builder or platform which we are using for SBRA's website to several different companies. The platforms being considered include an upgraded WordPress platform and WildApricot (recommended by our webmaster Daniel Renteria, ARRC). She will also look into Square Space (recommended by Armen), Wix (recommended by Melissa) and Go Daddy.

- **Land Use**

Lauren

- Dr. Greenthumb's signage – CD11 follow-up
Lauren reported that BCC Chair Carolyn Jordan called Sean Silva from Tracy Park's Office regarding our concern about the signage being used by Dr. Greenthumb's Cannabis Dispensary located at 12235 Wilshire Blvd. The LA Planning Dept. is going to contact the dispensary regarding the issue.

Meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m.