

SOUTH BRENTWOOD RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION BOARD MEETING

Held on October 25, 2018

Meeting Room at the Home of Pamela Brown

I. Call to Order

David Holtzman, President, called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m.

Board Members Present: David Holtzman, Maya Davis, Marylin Krell, Elyse Arbour, Adrienne Bacci, Lauren Cole, Merri Huang, Pamela Brown, Pam Taylor, Len Blum and Alisa Morgenthaler.

Board Members Absent: Sue Hirsch

Advisory Board Members Present: Laurel Davidson, Max Mednik, Melissa Spagnuolo and Bear Allen-Blaine.

II. Reports

A. Secretary's Report – Alisa Morgenthaler

The minutes from the meeting held on September 13, 2018 were approved with one comment.

B. Treasurer's Report – Adrienne Bacci

Adrienne reported that there was approximately \$3,100 in SBRA's bank account.

C. Transportation Report – Lauren Cole

Mount St. Mary's University Health and Wellness Center

Mount St. Mary's is collecting traffic data for the community to review.

Metro Rail Purple Line

Lauren reported that Marlon Walker, the new community outreach officer for the MTA Purple Line, will be present at the next BCC Meeting. She further reported that she is continuing to lobby for parking at the VA Station and is participating in the "First Mile, Last Mile Committee" with representatives from the Brentwood Glen Housing Association. Please let Lauren know if you are interested in participating in this Committee. Lauren added that major construction of the VA Station is scheduled to start in April 2020 and that the station is scheduled to open in 2026.

Lauren reported that there are no funds in Measure R to pay for the construction of a Metro Rail station at Bundy and Wilshire and that Senator Ben Allen told her that there is currently "no political will" to add such station but that she is not giving up on it.

Elyse Arbour reported that a Target store will be constructed at the site of the prior Buerge Ford dealership.

David Holtzman reported that speedbumps would be added on Amherst Avenue between Goshen and Darlington. Elyse explained that the community had asked for the addition of the speedbumps five years ago due to a racing Porsche. Lauren added that the City has an annual budget for the addition of new speedbumps.

D. Crime Report –Max Mednik

Max reported that he did a survey with his neighbors on South Gretna Green regarding crime and posted the responses on Next Door.com and that he is working with FlockSafety.com, a security camera company, to see if he can install cameras on his block which could capture vehicle license plates. The cost of the cameras is from \$1,300-\$1,500 per year depending on the number of cameras installed. Max added that he looked into getting “Neighborhood Watch” signs for the neighborhood and that such signs were \$10-20 each.

Maya Davis stated that one of ACS’s promises was that they would put signs in the neighborhood saying “Welcome to South Brentwood: Monitored by ACS.” Marilyn Krell added that the City may give out Neighborhood Watch signs and that BCC Board Member Nancy Freedman may have knowledge regarding getting such signs because Homewood Street has Neighborhood Watch.

Max reported that he sent e-mails to the Block and Zone Captains for Neighborhood Watch reminding them to obtain contact information for residents in their areas and that he obtained such information for the residents on his block. Max further reported that he attended a Crime and Safety Meeting which was held at a private residence on Carmelina Ave. on October 9, 2018. Maria Gray, Senior Lead Officer of the West LA Division of the LAPD, attended the meeting and provided handouts. Officer Gray’s main suggestion for preventing home invasion robberies was to make your presence known since robbers want to break in homes where no one is home. During the meeting on October 9, he learned about the “Cool Block Program,” a pilot program from Stanford which is similar to the Neighborhood Watch program which makes it easier to get neighbors involved. There is a book describing the “Cool Block Program.”

Max added that CrimeMapping.com and CrimeReports.com have data and statistics on crime supplied by law enforcement agencies and that you can sign up to receive alerts from these websites. Max stated that the 200 block of South Gretna Green has done a petition to add speedbumps to such block.

E. Social Media Report – Merri Huang

Merri observed that SBRA’s website is dated and proposed forming a Website Advisory Committee to look at updating SBRA’s website. The function of the Committee would be to determine what we would like the website to accomplish. Max and David volunteered to be part of the Committee. Max suggested changing the platform for SBRA’s website from WordPress to Squarespace or another platform so that it is easier to update.

Merri suggested that we consider doing some advertising on SBRA’s website and facebook page.

Merri reported that the peak time for views on SBRA’s facebook page was from 8:30 a.m.to 9:00 p.m. and that it dropped off after that time but that there was always at least 20 people viewing our page and that there was no difference in the number of views based on the day of the week. Merri stated that the highest number of views at the peak time was from 140-144 and she thanked Lauren Cole for sending her so many good stories.

Merri reported that the greatest number of hits during the previous month came from a story on LA’s Best Trails. The second greatest hits came from a story on Lighting Storms and that the following three stories tied for the third greatest hits: a story on registering to vote; a story on the closing of Valentino’s restaurant; and a story reporting that the share of homes being sold as a result of price reductions was at a seven-year low.

Merri explained that a good way to send her stories was to share the story/link from your personal facebook account through facebook messenger.

F. First Vice President’s Report – Elyse Arbour

Report on BCC Meeting Held on October 2, 2018

Elyse gave a detailed summary of the BCC Meeting which was held on October 2, 2018. For example, Elyse reported that representatives from the U.S. Postal Inspectors Office attended the BCC meeting. The representatives discussed tips for preventing mail theft and passed out the handout which is attached hereto. Elyse further reported that Officer Maria Gray attended the BCC meeting. Ms. Gray stated that NextDoor.com and similar websites were not always accurate and that the LAPD needs reports from actual eyewitnesses. Reports can be made to 877-ASK LAPD. Officer Gray and other representatives from the LAPD added that they were working on preventing Wednesday night motorcycling racing and were enforcing dockless scooter violations with limited manpower.

Elyse reported that a Veteran's Town Hall would be held on November 11, 2018 at the LA National Cemetery from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and provided the attached handout on the event. Marylin noted that she attended this event last year and that it was amazing.

Elyse stated that Carolyn Jordan, Chair of BCC's Land Use Committee, reported that the Farm Shop wanted to obtain a license to sell liquor in addition to wine and beer; that the owner of the shopping center at 11819 Wilshire Blvd. (the Granville Center containing a FedEx Office Print & Ship Center) (the "FedEx Center") was requesting a CUB license to allow its restaurants to sell liquor; and that a search was being conducted for the master developer for the homeless housing project at the VA.

Elyse stated that Teri Redmond Kahn, Chair of BCC's Environmental Committee, reported that the City provided no funding for Brentwood's Coral Trees and that a fundraiser was being held on June 9, 2018 to raise funds to buy a water truck to maintain such trees. Elyse stated that Sheila Simmons, Chair of BCC's Public Safety Committee, provided the attached handout on Brentwood crime from April through October which tracks crime by type and day of the week. The statistics conclude that Monday is the highest day for crime followed by Saturday.

Elyse stated that the BCC Homelessness Task Force has proposed placing the attached signs around San Vicente Blvd. which sets forth tips on reporting homeless encampments and City services which are available to address homeless issues.

The following events were announced during the BCC Meeting. San Vicente Small Business Day will be held on November 24, 2018 to encourage residents to shop on San Vicente. The 4th Annual Greater LA V.A. Stand Down event, to support homeless vets, will be held at the VA on October 26, 2018 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Village for Vets, a charitable vehicle for the community to support veterans, is seeking volunteers.

AGM Committee and Theme Ideas

Merri asked for assistance with the newsletter for the AGM and stated that she had the following ideas for the AGM theme: "the Butterfly Effect," "The Power of You/Be the Change," "The Future is Human," and "Creating a Family Friendly Community."

Elyse suggested discussing the proposed AGM themes further at an AGM meeting which would be held in November and asked for volunteers for the Committee. The following Board Members volunteered to serve on the AGM Committee: Elyse, David, Marylin, Pam Taylor, Laurel Davidson, Merri, Melissa Spagnuolo and Bear Allen-Blaine.

G. President’s Report – David Holtzman

David Holtzman reported that he received an e-mail from Raymond Klein, President of the Brentwood Homeowners Association, requesting that SBRA send a representative to a meeting to be held on November 1. David and Elyse will attend such meeting. David further reported that he received an e-mail from Reginald Brunson, Principal of Brentwood Science Magnet School, stating that SBRA may be able to have its next meeting at the School and inquired whether we should have such meeting, and if so, if we should have a Town Hall-style meeting.

Maya suggested that if we have such meeting that we should advertise it on NextDoor.com, Eventbrite and on Marylin’s e-mail distribution list.

David passed out the attached summary of a handout that the LA City Council approved to guide the use of dockless scooters and bikes in Los Angeles.

Marylin stated that Carolyn Jordan advised her that the owner of the FedEx Center would be eliminating the surface parking as part of its proposed development project and wanted to know whether we wanted any mitigating measures. Lauren suggested that we require that employees park outside of the Center and that the developer be required to provide Code parking. Len Blum added that the development would be an improvement.

III. Old Business

A. Car Chargers for Parking Areas of Multi-Unit Buildings

David reported that electric chargers provided by EV Safe Charge would be installed at the multi-family building located at Kiowa and San Vicente. Elyse suggested inviting EV Safe Charge to be a sponsor at the AGM.

B. Barrington Park

Melissa reported that she contacted Eric Mellem, Director of Barrington Park, regarding participating in the Barrington Park Advisory Board. Mr. Mellem told her that he could send her an application but that her application would not be considered because the Committee was “not taking any new members.” Alisa stated that she would follow up with BCC President Michelle Bisnoff, who requested that we provide a candidate for the Committee.

IV. New Business

A. Office of Inspector General Findings re: VA; New Ad-Hoc BCC Committee of VA Redevelopment – Alisa Morgenthaler

Alisa reported that the Office of Inspector General (“OIG”) issued a report on the different uses of the VA property and concluded that the following uses of the property of interest to Brentwood violate the 2016 Leasing Act: the Barrington Village parking lot, the parking lots south of the post office, the Barrington VA Park and the dog park. In response to such report, the BCC formed an Adhoc VA Committee to address development matters pertaining to the VA MasterPlan. The VA Committee met with Peter Muller from Senator Diane Feinstein’s office and she is amenable to working on an amendment to the Leasing Act to address its unintended consequences.

Alisa further stated that the Committee met with Meghan Flanz of the VA, who is in charge of implementing the Master Plan, and that she understood the Brentwood’ community’s concerns regarding the affected uses and is willing to collaborate with the Brentwood community regarding such uses and the Master Plan to ensure that those uses can be modified so that they can remain available to the community while also be brought into compliance with the 2016 Leasing Act. Ms. Flanz is continuing with the process of selecting an operator for the Brentwood Village VA parking lot, and hopes that process will be concluded soon.

Regarding the vehicular entrance/exit off Barrington south of Post Office which is proposed as part of the Master Plan, Alisa added that Ms. Flanz indicated that the community shouldn’t worry about it because once the master developer is brought in, that particular element would not remain as part of the Master Plan. The Committee is continuing to brainstorm possible solutions to bring the uses identified above into compliance with the 2016 Leasing Act and is awaiting the EIR for the Master Plan.

V. Questions/Comments From the Board

A. Comments by Pam Brown and Melissa Spagnuolo

Pam Brown announced that volunteers are needed to work at the VA Stand Down event on October 26, 2018. Melissa stated that she would be volunteering at the event.

VI. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Alisa M. Morgenthaler, Secretary