

**Belmont Heights Community Association**  
**Membership Meeting Minutes**  
**April 8, 2015**

The meeting was called to order by Maureen Neeley at 7:05 p.m.

**Business Sponsor**

Maureen thanked Spa Sidney for providing refreshments for the meeting. Spa Sidney is located at 3519 E Broadway; <http://www.spasidney.com>

**Special Guests**

Maureen introduced special guest: Kristina Duggan, the 3<sup>rd</sup> District Field Officer and mentioned that the guest speaker, East Division PD Commander, Liz Griffin, would arrive about 7:45 pm.

**Attendance**

Five board members were present: Maureen Neeley, Dianne Sundstrom, John Shisko, Neal Vincent and Linda Pemberton. Approximately 30 people were in attendance.

**UPDATES**

**Membership**

Linda reported that for the past 3 years we have maintained a paid membership of approximately 150. If anyone is interested in volunteering on a "membership" committee, please contact either Linda or Dianne.

**Newsletter Delivery**

Maureen reminded everyone that the Spring newsletter would be ready for delivery the first week of May. Thanks to all who walk the neighborhood!

**BHCA Bylaws and 501 3(C) Registration**

Maureen noted that the Board has been reviewing the bylaws, 501 3(C) registration, and liability insurance. The revised bylaws, as well as information on our non-profit application and insurance, will be reviewed at our June 10 meeting. The bylaws are the backbone of the organization so we hope to see many members at the meeting.

**The Miner Smith Project**

Dianne reported that the BHCA was awarded a grant of \$14,500 from the Long Beach Navy Memorial Heritage Association to celebrate the life of Long Beach artisan builder Miner Smith. Norbert Schürer is leading the project. The first phase, interviewing current owners of Miner Smith homes, is underway. We are looking for additional volunteers for this phase of the project; if interested please contact Norbert 562-985-4213. A home tour, booklet, exhibition, and website are also part of the project. Two Miner Smith homes will be featured in the annual home tour of Long Beach Heritage on June 7, 2015. Mark your calendars!

**6<sup>th</sup> Street Bike Boulevard**

The project is moving along with an estimated start date for construction of March 2016. The next phase, a meeting of the 3 neighborhood groups impacted by the project, Belmont Heights,

**Belmont Heights Community Association  
Membership Meeting Minutes  
April 8, 2015**

Rose Park, and Alamitos Heights, has been scheduled on **April 25, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.** to discuss the design elements of the circles and roundabouts. So as to have a manageable discussion, **attendance is limited to 10 from each neighborhood** -- if you have an interest in attending please contact Kristina Duggan, Field Deputy for the 3<sup>rd</sup> District Council office. She can be reached at 562-570-8756 or at <mailto:Kristina.duggan@longbeach.gov>  
**Reservations are required.**

**Plant A Tree**

Maureen announced a June 13 tree planting of approximately 80 trees in our neighborhood. The event will be dedicated to the memory of Lorraine D'Abate, a devoted Belmont Heights community leader and tree advocate. She died in 2011, but her legacy survives in the trees we enjoy today.

The tree planting will be held in the neighborhood bounded by:  
4th Street (North),  
Broadway (South),  
Redondo Avenue (West), and  
Termino Avenue (East)

Come and volunteer for the event. All tools and supplies provided. For more information please call Neighborhood Services at **(562) 570-6866**.

**Tree Planting**

**Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup> 9 a.m. – noon**

**Meeting Location: Belmont Heights United Methodist Church  
317 Termino Avenue**

**Southeast Area Development Improvement Plan (SEADIP)**

Linda Pemberton provided an update on the SEADIP process. The most significant changes in land use categories between the current SEADIP plan and the proposed plan are as follows:

- Wetlands, an increase of 226 acres
- Single and Multifamily Residential, a decrease of 158 acres
- Commercial / Neighborhood Retail, a decrease of 175 acres
- Mixed Use, Community Core/Marina, 94 acres added for retail, residential, boutique hotels
- Streets, an increase of 50 acres for through-streets around PCH and the Mixed Use areas
- Open Space and Recreation, a decrease of 36 acres

The plan includes: higher density - residential flats, increased heights - 5 to 7 Stories, changes to PCH, and new roads. The City has completed the first year on the project. It will take an additional two years to finalize the new plan. The project team will now move forward to

**Belmont Heights Community Association  
Membership Meeting Minutes  
April 8, 2015**

meet with the Coastal Commission, City Planning Commission and City Council, conduct technical studies, and prepare the Environmental Impact Report.

Visit the City’s website to learn more about the details of the proposed plan. The latest Community Workshop Presentation can be viewed at:

<http://www.lbds.info/civica/filebank/blobdload.asp?BlobID=4919>

Join us for our May 13<sup>th</sup> monthly meeting when Brant Birkeland, AICP, of Long Beach Development Services will present the latest status on the plan. To ensure your voice is heard, send your opinions and comments to Suzie Price, 3<sup>rd</sup> District Councilwoman, [suzie.price@longbeach.gov](mailto:suzie.price@longbeach.gov). Look for an article on SEADIP in our Spring, 2015 newsletter.

**3<sup>rd</sup> District Update**

Kristina Duggan reported on the following:

**Broadway median survey**

A survey of residents in close proximity to the existing median on Broadway from Park to Nieto was completed. 199 surveys were sent and 51 returned. The following table summarized the outcomes:

Questions	Yes	No	
Have the medians on Broadway been successful in slowing down traffic?	47%	45%	
Do the medians make the street look nicer?	73%	20%	
Do the medians negatively affect access to your residence/garage?	63%	35%	
Do you use the crosswalks to cross Broadway?	84%	12%	
Have the crosswalks improved pedestrian safety on Broadway?	47%	35%	
What do you think about the size of the medians?	Too Wide 78%	Just Right 20%	Too Narrow 0%

Red curb painting will be evaluated between Park and Nieto in order to improve visibility. The Council office will be scheduling a community meeting to review plans for painted medians going west from Park. Those plans include additional crosswalks and left turn pockets.

**Beach Bike Path Project**

Kristina reported that the project should be completed by the end of April. Work to the parking lots at Junipero and the Veteran’s Pier should be completed by the end of May.

**Belmont Heights Community Association**  
**Membership Meeting Minutes**  
**April 8, 2015**

Helicopter Noise Reporting

You can now report helicopter noise directly to the FAA through an automated complaint system that is funded from April 2015 to April 2016. Residents of LA County have 3 different ways to report helicopter noise:

1. Call 424-348-4354
2. Use the website reporting form at <http://heli-noise-la.com>
3. Track and report past helicopter noise at <http://heli-noise-la.com/webtrak>

Medical Marijuana

Kristina reported that Councilwoman Price supports safe access to medical marijuana but is concerned about whether or not we have the resources to monitor the business. She has selected 2 community members to assist her in analyzing the fiscal risk and consequences of the ordinance. The city staff report on fiscal and other issues will be completed by June 1, 2015; staff is anticipating it will take one year before the city is ready to act on the ordinance. Council discussion on this will likely take place sometime in June. At this point, the only potential location of a dispensary in the 3<sup>rd</sup> District is at the intersection of PCH/7<sup>th</sup> St/Bellflower. If you have an opinion on this issue, please email Councilwoman Price. Complete information with contacts can be found at <http://mybelmonthheights.org/index.cfm/news/proposed-medical-marijuana-ordinance/>

Tree Stump Removal

Kristina reported that the City will remove tree stumps from the public parkway but there is a backlog with a wait of several months for the work to be done.

Upcoming BHCA Meetings

- May 13: Update on SEADIP – Brant Birkeland, Development Services, City of Long Beach
- June 10: Meeting dedicated to BHCA business including a review of bylaws/incorporation and liability insurance
- July 8: Wetlands Restoration: John McKeown, CEO, Synergy Gas & Oil
- August Summer Vacation!

Other Meetings – check out our [event calendar](#)

April 26 – 3<sup>rd</sup> District Barbecue and Concert

June 7 – Long Beach Heritage Home Tour

June 13 – Tree Planting in Belmont Heights – let us know if you would like to volunteer; send an email to <mailto:president@mybelmonthheights.org>

**Belmont Heights Community Association**  
**Membership Meeting Minutes**  
**April 8, 2015**

**Special Guest:**

Liz Griffin, Commander, East Division PD

Commander Griffin reviewed her experience with the department including the last 3 years as Commander overseeing department contracts. Her comments included:

- The east division has low violent crime but has seen an increase in both grand and petty theft. The majority of auto burglary occurs when doors are left open and/or valuables are left in sight. Breaking car windows occurs when doors are locked and valuables are visible. The same is true for residential burglaries in that most occur through unlocked doors and windows. **The message: lock your car doors and take out valuables; keep your doors and windows at home locked.**
- Most assaults are domestic or involve drinking, often in business districts.
- The homeless population is down by about 1,000 (the Commander didn't have comparative figures available.) The department continues to address homeless problem areas.
- If an incident is not an emergency, the Commander encouraged use of the non-emergency number – 435-6711 so as not to tie up the 911 lines. Any suspicious activity (non-emergent in nature) should be reported to the PD via the non-emergency phone number.
- Residents can call the non-emergency number to get feedback on an event in their neighborhood.
- Information on crime stats can be found on the City's PD website <http://www.longbeach.gov/police/statistics.asp> and at [crimereports.com](http://crimereports.com)
- To manage summer issues, the department will have 2 bike units and a jeep on the beach.
- DUI checks will occur in the East Division in May.
- Web-based home based security cameras can be registered with the PD through **LBCOP**. If done, the police can directly access information on the camera. The following provides details of the system as found on the LBPD website:  
**Long Beach Common Operating Picture (LBCOP)** combines law enforcement data with real time video monitoring to support public safety. This system will help police officers better address criminal activity as it happens. The system connects a network of city-owned cameras and privately owned cameras in Long Beach through Internet protocol addresses that allow police to access a visual feed.

With just the click of a computer mouse, the Long Beach Police Department has the capability to access live video of locations throughout the city to be used as a visual aid in the event of a crime. LBCOP works in conjunction with Community Camera Partnership (CCP) and connects the security (surveillance) cameras of Long Beach businesses, organizations, institutions, and residential complexes.

Businesses or residential property owners who would like to participate in the Community Camera Partnership (CCP) and connect their camera systems to LBCOP

**Belmont Heights Community Association**  
**Membership Meeting Minutes**  
**April 8, 2015**

should contact Officer Eddie Reyes at (562)570-7324 or e-mail

[Eduardo.Reyes@longbeach.gov](mailto:Eduardo.Reyes@longbeach.gov)

[Click Here to View Recommended Camera System Specifications](#)

[Click Here to Access the Video Camera Registration Form](#)

- The Commander stated that the medical marijuana ordinance will create an “enforcement nightmare” and a burden on the city and the police department.
- Her vision is to create partnerships in the community and to use technology to improve communication through websites such as NextDoor.com.
- Questions were raised about postings in public spaces such as telephone and street poles. A resident bought in samples of signs – “Student Needs Car” – which have been traced back to a company, not an individual student. A similar situation exists with “repair your computer” signs. Signs on public spaces are not permitted but it is difficult to enforce the code. Residents are reminded to remove signs for yard sales, lost pet, etc in a timely manner.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Sundstrom, Secretary

April 16, 2015