

Belmont Heights Community Association
Membership Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2016

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

Attendance

Maureen introduced the five board members who were present: Maureen Neeley, Dianne Sundstrom, Neal Vincent, John Shisko, and Bill Davis. Sixty-three people signed the attendance roster: 29 members, 34 non-members. Maureen Also introduced special guests: Councilwoman Price, Jack Cunningham from the 3rd District Field Officer, Eric Widstrand, Traffic Engineer, Meredith Reynolds from Parks & Rec, and Dino D’Emilia from Tidelands.

Maureen also introduced Ashley Waugh, a member who has volunteered to work the sign-in desk at our meetings – thank you Ashley!

Meeting Sponsor

Maureen introduced Vanessa Auclair, manager of [PANXA](#), located at 3939 Broadway. Thanks to PANXA for sponsoring our meeting.

Business Meeting

Maureen briefly reviewed the BHCA’s mission: improving the quality of life in our neighborhood through a number of different means. We have 137 active members and are always looking for volunteers. Volunteer sign-in sheets were available; anyone interested can also contact Maureen at president@mybelmontheights.org

Maureen mentioned a couple of upcoming events for which we need volunteers:

Beach Streets Downtown: An event being held on Broadway from Pine to Euclid; the BHCA is participating and looking for volunteers. Diane Paull is heading up a team that will provide crosswalk guards at Redondo and Broadway. Please contact Diane to volunteer or send an email to president@mybelmontheights.org More information on the event can be found at [this link](#).

MADD – Belmont Heights’ Make a Difference Day: Sign up [here](#).

Financial Update

In the absence of our treasurer, Maureen reported 2015 Income of \$12,362; Expenses of \$9,672; and Net Income of \$2,690.

Board Elections

It’s time for elections to the Board; if anyone is interested or knows someone who would be interested in serving on the Board, please notify Maureen. Elections will be held in March.

Belmont Heights Book Club

Britton Weber reminded everyone that the Book Club meets the 3rd Sunday of each month, 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. The following books are scheduled:

Feb 21 – *Where’d You Go, Bernadette* By Marie Semple

Mar 20 – *The Physician* by Noah Gordon

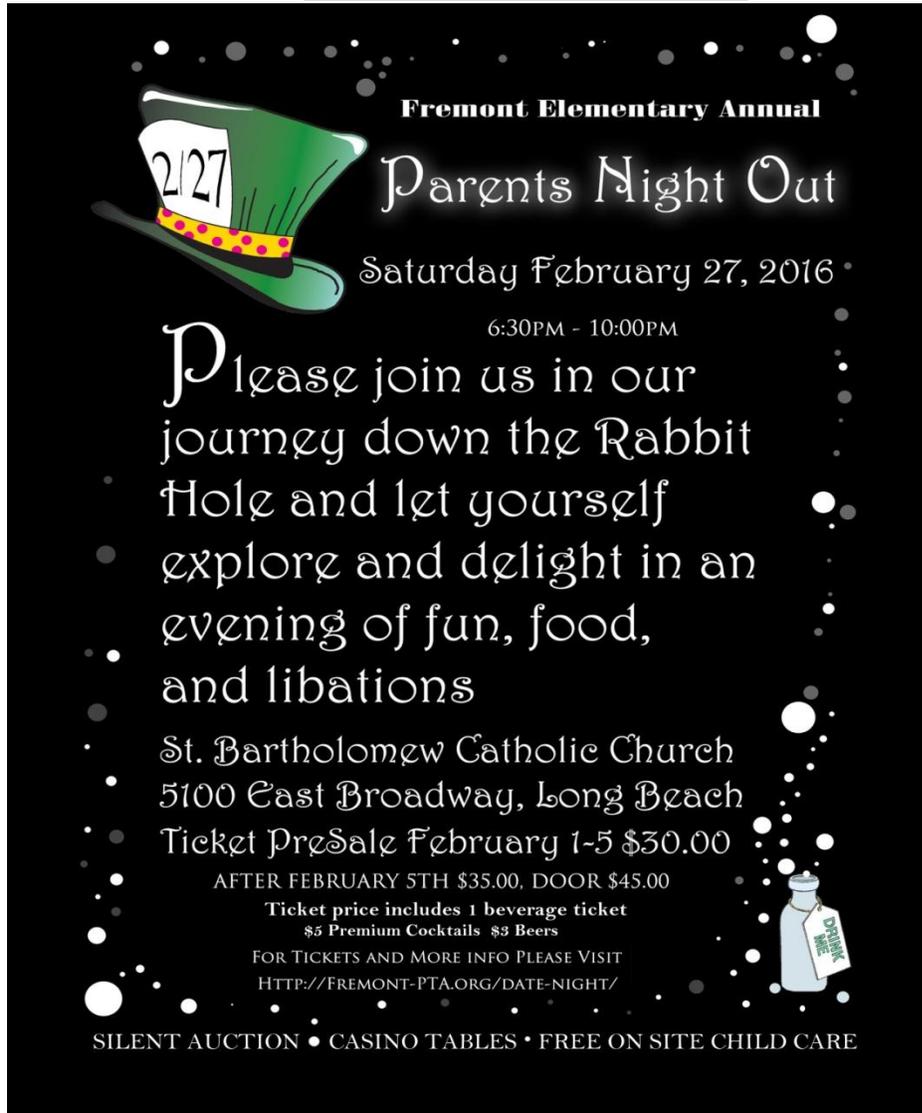
Apr 17 – *Circling the Sun* by Paula McClain

Please contact Britton if you have questions -- brittonweber321@gmail.com

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Fremont's SOS or Save our School Campaign

Molly Montgomery reported on Fremont's campaign to save their science and computer labs. The school has a goal of \$60,000 this year and is holding a "Mad Hatter" event to raise money. The event is scheduled for February 27 from 6:30 pm to 10 pm; everyone is welcome. See flier below for information. [Or click here for more information.](#)



Fremont Elementary Annual
Parents Night Out
Saturday February 27, 2016
6:30PM - 10:00PM

Please join us in our
journey down the Rabbit
Hole and let yourself
explore and delight in an
evening of fun, food,
and libations

St. Bartholomew Catholic Church
5100 East Broadway, Long Beach
Ticket PreSale February 1-5 \$30.00
AFTER FEBRUARY 5TH \$35.00, DOOR \$45.00
Ticket price includes 1 beverage ticket
\$5 Premium Cocktails \$3 Beers
FOR TICKETS AND MORE INFO PLEASE VISIT
[HTTP://FREMONT-PTA.ORG/DATE-NIGHT/](http://FREMONT-PTA.ORG/DATE-NIGHT/)

SILENT AUCTION • CASINO TABLES • FREE ON SITE CHILD CARE

Miner Smith Project

Maureen reminded everyone that the Miner Smith exhibit at the Historical Society closes March 4th. If you're interested in attending the closing party on March 4th, please call 424-2220 for reservations. For information you can visit the Miner Smith Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/minersmith>

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Pacific Electric right-of-way

Maureen announced that a meeting to review plans is scheduled for **March 3 @ 5 pm at the Field Office @ 340 Nieto**. She encouraged all those interested to attend. Dianne Sundstrom reported that she and Maureen had an opportunity to meet with 3rd District staff, Public Works and Parks & Rec to preview the plans. Both she and Maureen were pleased with what they saw; the new plans hew closely to those approved by the community group that worked on this project over the last 4 to 5 years. If the city receives the grant money, approximately \$800,000 will be available to start construction. Additional funds will need to be raised to complete the entire project.

Vista Bike Blvd Re-Painting

Maureen reported on the repainting of Vista. Plans include painting a 4 inch wide circle around the circles, refreshing the V painting, and painting reflectors on the circle curbs. She also reported that a concrete “pork chop” was finally installed at the intersection of Vista and Redondo. Thanks to Carlo Di Piazza and Bill Marshall for their persistence in getting this done.

6th Street Bike Blvd

Dianne Sundstrom reported that the design is 85% completed; obtaining grants and bidding process – should be completed in 2016; estimated schedule to begin construction - Jan-Jun 2017. A member questioned what impact the project would have on parking, particularly related to extending red curbs. Eric Widstrand reported that extending red curbs would be minimized as much as possible.

Broadway Traffic Calming

Maureen reported that installation of crosswalks at Mira Mar and Newport has been completed. Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB) have been installed at these points; they are pedestrian activated and the flashing lights are in line with the driver’s eye. Eric Widstrand reported testing one of the crosswalks on his way to the meeting and it worked!

Maureen also reported that the painting of medians between Termino and Park is on the docket to be completed in the next few months.

Residents mentioned frequent accidents at Roycroft and Broadway. Eric Widstrand will follow up; Dianne mentioned that a crosswalk will be installed at Quincy as part of the median painting.

Historic Happenings

Maureen reported that applications are now being accepted for the Mill’s Act. Eligible properties receive a tax advantage in exchange for maintaining the home. They are just reopening the application process this month, so try this URL – it takes you to the home page, where they ask that you contact the office for more information:

http://www.lbds.info/planning/historic_preservation/default.asp

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PARKING, PARKING, PARKING, PARKING

Maureen reported that parking continues to be an issue in our neighborhood. Of current concern is parking on Newport Avenue (between Broadway & Vista) related to businesses on Broadway. Newport is exploring Permit Parking and a meeting is scheduled for February 23rd at 6:00 p.m. Field Office to discuss this option. **NOTE: this meeting has been cancelled.**

The development of 420 Grand is presenting similar challenges. Through the Adaptive Reuse Ordinance (ARO) the building allows up to 17 individual small offices without upgrading parking. Discussion ensued about the ARO and what recourse residents have. Maureen mentioned that with the increasing popularity of our district, more people and businesses are moving to the community; The BHCA suggests that a formal parking study be conducted where our residential areas abut our commercial strips. Maureen suggested Councilwoman Price may have some comments when she takes the floor.

Upcoming BHCA Meetings

March 3	PERoW Community Meeting 5 p.m. Field Office
March 4	Miner Smith Exhibit Closing Party Long Beach Historical Society
March 6	Belmont Heights Make a Difference Day www.tinyurl.com/BHMADD2016
March 9	BHCA Meeting with Commander Griffin and Susan Price, MSW
March 12	Ed and Mary Lou Sheridan Tribute Tree Planting
March 19	Beach Streets Downtown (& Broadway!)

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

Feb. 20 - We Love Long Beach Breakfast
Feb 21 - Belmont Heights Book Club

Maureen introduced the guest speakers:

Councilwoman Price, Jack Cunningham from the 3rd District Field Officer, Eric Widstrand, Traffic Engineer, Meredith Reynolds from Parks & Rec, and Dino D’Emilia from Tidelands.

Comments from Councilwoman Price:

- ✓ She congratulated the BHCA on having the most active community association board in the 3rd District.
- ✓ She reviewed the PEROW and her commitment to the project (see notes above).
- ✓ 6th St Bike Blvd: The grant approval is taking longer than expected because of the complexity of the Caltrans requirements related to the blvd passing through several historic districts. If the grants are not approved by June, the funds will disappear and the project will not happen.
- ✓ The city is converting all lights to LED technology. LED lights can be dimmed and brightened as the need dictates. To view the lights, they’ve been installed in the Wilmore District between Broadway and 10th.

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- ✓ **Broadway Traffic Study and Outcomes:** The Iteris study done last March is driving changes to Broadway. Additional crosswalks are being installed; all new crosswalks will be “continental” in style; Broadway from Temple to Redondo will go to 2 lanes with a left turn lane; a crosswalk will be installed at Orizaba. Once the changes have been made, the city will evaluate their effectiveness in reducing speed.

Question from audience: why do police not monitor speed and ticket when needed; Councilwoman Price commented that the number of police does not allow for much traffic speed monitoring. Instead police efforts are directed at more serious crimes as well as monitoring streets and alleys. She will speak to the PD Commander about putting officers on Broadway for a defined period of time; i.e. 2 weeks. Maureen suggested the city use a state Office of Traffic Safety grant to conduct outreach to drivers via billboards and other media.
- ✓ **Crime is up in the 3rd district;** the PD is down 200 officers; Mayor and council looking at options to increase revenue to allow for hiring more police.
- ✓ **Strong winds resulted in 500 calls to public works.**
- ✓ **She has sponsored a measure banning hoverboards on 2nd Street and other business corridors.**
- ✓ **Leaf blowers:** she has been working with John Shisko on a proposed plan to completely ban leaf blowers or convert to electric ones. The plan is to publish an article in the Grunion Gazette asking for feedback from residents and proceed from there.
- ✓ **Oversized vehicles;** she is working on a ban of RV’s on residential streets.
- ✓ **420 Grand:** She met with Maureen and Amy Bodek to review what happened with this property. Ms. Bodek acknowledges that her department could have done better outreach to the community. However, under the Adaptive Reuse Ordinance the proposed use is an allowable use. From the City’s point of view, the owner has the right to operate as planned out of this space.

Comment from the audience: questions were raised about whether or not the ARO was appropriately applied to this property. More discussion ensued without resolution. Maureen will schedule a meeting with the community to discuss further.
- ✓ **Belmont Plaza Pool:** Dino D’ Emilia reported that the EIR report should be available late March, early April. A community meeting is being planned for April 9 at the Golden Sails Hotel (will post meeting to BHCA website when details are known). Councilwoman Price noted that low oil prices are driving a \$40M gap in funding for the project. The City is considering a bond measure to raise funds.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.
Respectfully submitted,
Dianne Sundstrom, Secretary
February 17, 2016