

Belmont Heights Community Association
Membership Meeting Minutes
July 8, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Linda Pemberton, Vice President, at 7:05 p.m.

Attendance

Five board members were present: Dianne Sundstrom, John Shisko, Neal Vincent, Sydney Simon, and Linda Pemberton. Approximately 27 people were in attendance: 19 members and 8 non-members.

Linda introduced special guests: Kristina Duggan, the 3rd District Field Officer, Lt. Jeff Liberman of the East Division Long Beach PD and Eric Zahn, MS, co-founder of Tidal Influence LLC.

Guest: Lt Liberman with Crime Update

Lt. Liberman shared the following:

- Preventable property crime has increased. Lt. Liberman once again suggested creating a “hostile work environment” for criminals: **lock your home windows and doors as well as your car doors; remove all valuables from your cars.** The mayor is asking for input on how to minimize crime in the city. Ideas should be sent to Mayor Garcia’s office at <mailto:mayor@longbeach.gov> or by phone at (562) 570-6801. Councilwoman Price is on the Safety Committee which will be reviewing the firecracker issue.
- A suspect in the armed robbery of the Subway at 656 Redondo was apprehended due in part to a good photo that was captured by a security camera. Sixty firearms were recovered from the suspect’s property.
- Seven cars were stolen last month with 2 recovered and suspects arrested.
- The PD is aware of Facebook posts targeting certain racial groups and is taking action to prevent incidents. Included is a meeting with a local minister’s alliance.

Lt. Liberman had the following responses to questions/issues from the audience:

Issue: Lots of illegal fireworks were observed both before and after the July 4 holiday
Response: The PD has targeted illegal on-line sales; in order to act on a call from a resident, the police need a specific description of the person and, if possible, an address; illegal use of fireworks could be a misdemeanor or a felony

3rd District Update

Kristina Duggan reported on the following:

Broadway Safety

The consulting firm, Iteris, will present its findings regarding Broadway traffic/speeding/pedestrian traffic and recommendations for improving safety along the corridor on July 15 @ 6:30 pm at the field office. The painting of a median from Termino to Roycroft will be completed by the end of the year. A painted median already exists between Roycroft and Park.

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National Night Out

Kristina asked for volunteers to host a block “National Night Out” event on August 4. Council will not meet that night and all residents are encouraged to organize front lawn meetings to meet and mingle with neighbors. Information about this event can be found at

<https://natw.org/>

Pacific Electric Right-of-Way

Kristina reported that we will know the status of the grant award by the end of July. If received, we will have approximately \$900,000 to begin work on the section between Park and Ximeno.

Other Information

In order to improve visibility, red curb painting will be extended on all 4 corners at Broadway & St. Joseph.

Long Beach Transit will be removing 16 of 57 stops on Broadway from Pacific Ave to Ximeno Ave.

Kristina reminded everyone that they can contact her directly with issues: phone her at 562.570-8756 or Email: kristina.duggan@longbeach.gov

UPDATES

BHCA Bylaws and 501 3(C) Registration

Linda reported that 38 members approved the bylaws via an e-vote. The BHCA has 159 members who are current with dues.

Financial Report

Sydney Simon, Treasurer reported a bank balance as of June 30, 2015 of \$17,901.35. Of that, \$8,572.84 is sequestered (for newsletter printing and The Miner Smith Project) leaving a balance of \$9,328.51 available. The Board will be discussing potential expenditures and will bring those ideas back to the membership.

BHA2 Event

Sydney reported that the Belmont Heights Artists Group will be holding a non-juried art exhibit at Viento y Agua during the month of October. An opening for the event is scheduled for October 2 from 7 pm to 9 pm. Mark your calendars! If you know of an artist who might like to participate, have them contact Sydney.

Signal Box Painting

Sydney reported that artist, Doug Walker, has started painting the box in front of the Reno Room. He’s also scheduled to paint one at 7th & Park. Check them out!

Belmont Heights Tree Planting

Dianne Sundstrom reported that we had a very good turnout for the tree planting. Look for an article in the summer newsletter coming out August 1.

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6th Street Bike Blvd

Dianne reported that designs for the intersections of Ximeno, the PEROW, and Park are coming along nicely. The 6th & Ximeno intersection did not warrant a traffic signal; rather, it will be treated with pedestrian crosswalks and bulb outs of the sidewalk at all 4 corners. Stop signs will remain on 6th on the east/west orientation.

The bike path across the PEROW will be designed with some type of barrier on the west entrance. The design will force bicyclists to slow down as they enter the PEROW. Pedestrians will have the right-of-way.

6th at Park will be a full roundabout with yields on all 4 entrances to the roundabout (same design as Vista and Park.)

Overhead Wire Blight

Dianne reported that she and Sydney Simon have continued to press for action from the City. Dianne reviewed the following timeline:

2013	BHCA completes an assessment of neighborhood wire blight
2013	Complaint submitted to California Public Utilities Commission
2014	Walking Tour with CPUC, Verizon and Charter
	Problems and safety violations identified
	CPUC directed Verizon to fix violations by mid-July 2014
2014	Verizon ignored CPUC directive
2014	BHCA asks Council office to set up a meeting with City Attorney
2015	June 17 th City Attorney sent letter to CPUC

At this point, we are waiting for a response from the CPUC to the letter sent by the City Attorney. Look for a summary in the summer newsletter coming out August 1. Or read the email communications to the CPUC [here](#).

Upcoming BHCA Meetings

<u>August</u>	Summer Vacation!
<u>September 9</u>	Laura Doud, City Auditor
<u>October 14</u>	Edric Guise, Citizens' Climate Lobby

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

<u>July 25, noon:</u>	3 rd District Council Meeting – Recreation Park Band Shell – Chief Luna, LBPD
<u>July 30, 6 pm</u>	LB Transit, East Region Feasibility Study – El Dorado Library
<u>Aug 4</u>	National Night Out

Guest Speaker

Update on the Los Cerritos Wetlands: Eric Zahn, MS, co-founder of Tidal Influence LLC, which provides environmental consultant services to the Los Cerritos Wetlands Land Trust (LCWLT).

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Eric reviewed the history of the Los Cerritos Wetlands (LCW) noting that there has been a loss of 12,663 acres of wetlands between San Pedro Bay and Alamitos Bay between 1880 and 2015. Approximately 550 acres are remaining today. About 200 acres are in the hands of those working on restoration.

Currently there are 11 owners of the property considered wetlands, many of whom are private owners. Some land is in the public trust through the Los Cerritos Wetland Authority (LCWA). The LCWA was formed in 2006 and is comprised of the Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, the State Coastal Conservancy as well as the cities of Long Beach and Seal Beach.

Eric briefly reviewed the plans proposed by Synergy Oil & Gas to restore a portion of the wetlands. Several alternatives have been identified with a cost of restoration estimated at \$7M. The project would require establishing a “mitigation bank”.

To review the details of Eric’s presentation including interesting historic maps [click here](#).

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Dianne Sundstrom, Secretary
July 21, 2015