

Belmont Heights Community Association
Membership Meeting Minutes
March 11, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Maureen Neeley at 7:07 p.m.

Business Sponsor

Maureen thanked Olives Gourmet Grocer for providing refreshments for the meeting. Olives is located at 3510 E Broadway; <http://www.olivesgourmetgrocer.com/>

Special Guests

Maureen introduced special guest: Alicia Welch, a Belmont Heights resident and Battalion Chief with the Los Angeles Fire Department. Maureen also announced that Kristina Duggan, the 3rd District Field Officer, would not be in attendance because her father passed away. On behalf of the BHCA, Maureen extended her sympathies to Kristina and her family.

Attendance

Five board members were in attendance: Maureen Neeley, Dianne Sundstrom, John Shisko, Neal Vincent and Bill Davis. Thirty-one people signed the attendance roster.

UPDATES

Neighborhood Quality of Life Issues

PANXA

Maureen summarized the outcomes of meetings with residents, PANXA staff and city staff.

The group supported PANXA extending liquor service as follows:

- Thursday extending from 10 pm to 11 pm
- Friday and Saturday extending liquor service from 11 pm to midnight
- No changes will be made to liquor service hours Sunday through Wednesday

The restaurant is also looking at ways to use adjacent business parking lots for patron parking; they will also be posting "Quiet Zone Signs" and not emptying trash/bottles after 9:30 pm.

The Attic

Maureen reported that City staff are continuing to work with Attic staff and surrounding neighbors to resolve issues of noise, parking, and general disruption to residents living next to and across the street from The Attic.

Looking to Be a Good Neighbor

Neal Vincent introduced Chris Terzic, President, Sigma Chi, CSULB Chapter. Chris noted that approximately 18 students are living at a house at Roswell and 7th; the house is very interested in reaching out to the community and volunteering their time to improve our community. Chris mentioned that they are particularly interested in working on the Pacific Electric right-of-way. Chris can be reached at 310-749-6026.

Neal also introduced David Velasquez of Pi Kappa Phi, the fraternity house at 124 Mira Mar. David noted that because of the problems with noise and excessive partying at the house last fall, the fraternity has suspended all social activities this semester. David is also interested in

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having his house volunteer in our community. A couple of the students did come out for the Belmont Heights Make a Difference Day.

Vista Bike Boulevard Speed Surveys and Recommendations

Dianne reported that the speed surveys did not show excessive speeding along Vista. The average 85th percentile speed at mid-block, the speed at, or below, which 85% of vehicles are traveling, ranged from 23.7 to 27.4 with an average of 25.2. The posted speed on Vista is 25 MPH.

However, cars are often entering the circles at a higher than desired speed. The circles were improperly designed leaving a 21 to 22 foot throat opening (distance from outside circle to curb); correct throat diameter is 17 to 19 feet.

A complete summary of the data can be found in the February 2015 BHCA meeting minutes - <http://mybelmonthheights.org/index.cfm/minutes/bhca-february-2015-monthly-meeting-minutes/>

A meeting was held in February 25, 2015 with City Traffic Engineering, Council staff and residents and the following recommendations were agreed upon:

- Paint a solid 4" wide line around the circle to achieve a 17 – 19 foot throat
- Install special reflector material to the curbs on the east and west orientation (current model has fallen off in many locations)
- To announce the dips along Vista, paint "shark teeth" pavement markers at Loma and Euclid
- Relocate 15 MPH advisory signs so they are visible
- Conduct additional speed surveys at Park and Ximeno and also from Mira Mar to Redondo
- Freshen the paint on crosswalks at all intersections, including the "Y's" (consider making the "Y's" crosshatched to draw attention and make the throat appear smaller)
- Consider extending the circles with a permanent 2 foot concrete curb. If this is not possible, the optimum solution is to ask that the city allocate funds to reconstruct these circles correctly. The rationale being, if this is the first Bike Boulevard in Long Beach/Southern California, let's make sure it works properly.

Attendees at the meeting supported moving forward with these recommendations. Maureen and Dianne will follow-up with the Council office.

Belmont Heights Make a Difference Day

Ellen Butler reported that the Belmont Heights MADD, a project coordinated in conjunction with the Belmont Heights United Methodist Church and Temple Israel, was a very successful event. It was such a success that a **date for 2016 has been set – March 6** – mark your calendars! Ellen also reported that Councilwoman Price was so impressed that she has committed both time and money to the project next year. Check out some photos and a summary of the day on our website <http://mybelmonthheights.org/index.cfm/news/belmont-heights-make-a-difference-day1/>

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Pacific Electric Right of Way

Maureen reported that she and Dianne met with Council and City staff on March 3 to discuss plans and timelines. The meeting included a walk through the right-of-way between Park and Ximeno. Updated information is as follows:

- Funding - \$400,000 restricted funds available now; \$450,000 matching grant application submitted the results of which will be known in June 2015. Because it is a matching grant, current monies cannot be spent until the outcome of the application is known
- City is working on a phased plan & costs
- We expect an updated presentation to our residents in the Fall of 2015

3rd District Update

In Kristina Duggan's absence, the following updates were provided:

- Street re-paving of Roycroft and Prospect are on schedule; Dianne noted that significant numbers of trees are getting trimmed.
- A resident noted that the pedestrian crossing at 2nd and Livingston has disappeared with the new crosswalks installed at the intersection making it very difficult for pedestrians. Maureen will follow-up with the Council office.
- The medical marijuana ordinance will be coming up for discussion at the City Council; if you have an opinion on this issue, please email Councilwoman Price before the end of March 2015. Complete information with contacts can be found at <http://mybelmonthheights.org/index.cfm/news/proposed-medical-marijuana-ordinance/>

Historic District News

Maureen reported that Development Services sent a letter to all property owners living in Historic Districts advising them that they must follow the building codes relative to their historic district. Some residents were taken off guard thinking they had done something wrong; this letter was nothing more than a reminder and will hopefully result in more compliance to historic district building regulations.

Miner Smith Project

Dianne reported that the BHCA has been awarded a grant from the Long Beach Navy Memorial Heritage Association in the amount of \$14,500 to study the life and work of Miner Smith. The grant application was written by Norbert Schürer, Steffie Hands, and Peter Devereaux, the project team. The outcomes of the grant include a home tour, booklet, exhibition, and website. The team is looking for volunteers to assist with the project including interviewing owners of Miner Smith homes. If interested please contact Norbert by sending an email to president@mybelmonthheights.org

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Upcoming BHCA Meetings

- April 8: Meet the new East Division Police Commander, Liz Griffin
May 13: Update on SEADIP – Brant Birkeland, Development Services, City of Long Beach
June 10: Meeting dedicated to BHCA business and follow-up on projects

Other Meetings

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

Special Guest:

Alicia Welch, a Belmont Heights resident and Battalion Chief with the Los Angeles Fire Department, provided an excellent presentation on how to prepare for a disaster whether it be a flood, earthquake, fire etc.

Her motto – from FEMA:



Prepare. Plan. Stay Informed.®

Make sure your family has a plan in case of an emergency. Before an emergency happens, sit down together and decide how you will get in contact with each other, where you will go and what you will do in an emergency. Keep a copy of this plan in your emergency supply kit or another safe place where you can access it in the event of a disaster.

She distributed several pamphlets including:

- ✓ Information for older Americans
- ✓ Preparing Makes Sense
- ✓ Information for people with disabilities
- ✓ Emergency Supply List
- ✓ Preparing your pets for emergencies

If you couldn't attend our meeting (or if you need a review) please take the time to review FEMA's [website](#) which includes all the information presented at the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

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Respectfully submitted,

Dianne Sundstrom
Secretary
March 23, 2015