

**Belmont Heights Community Association**  
**Membership Meeting Minutes**  
**November 11, 2015**

The meeting was called to order by Maureen Neeley, President, at 7:00 p.m.

**Attendance**

Maureen introduced the six board members who were present: Maureen Neeley, Linda Pemberton, Dianne Sundstrom, Neal Vincent, Sydney Simon, and Bill Davis. Approximately 65 people were in attendance: 29 members, 31 non-members and 5 guests. Maureen Also introduced special guests: Councilwoman Price, Jack Cunningham (replacing Kristina Duggan, the 3<sup>rd</sup> District Field Officer), Reginald Durant, Executive Director and Founder of Back to Natives Restoration, Mike Mclver, a Long Beach landscape consultant, and Jeff Young, a Long Beach arborist.

**Meeting Sponsor**

Maureen introduced Marie Richter, owner of [Cyclehaus](#). Marie is opening her business on November 28 at 3300 Broadway. Thanks to Marie 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 163 active members and are always looking for volunteers. If anyone is interested in helping with our monthly meetings, assisting with our outreach to new homeowners, or planning special events please contact Maureen at [president@mybelmonthheights.org](mailto:president@mybelmonthheights.org)

**Financial Update**

Sydney reported that the BHCA has an ending available bank balance of \$11,204 as of October 31, 2015. Please see detailed financial report at the end of these minutes (page 7).

**Promoting BHCA Meetings**

Susan Garcia has been researching how we might advertise the BHCA more and was interested to hear if people would consider putting up lawn signs with notifications of upcoming BHCA meetings and events. Other groups like Justin Rudd's CAT and the Bluff Park Neighborhood Association do this. Several people indicated they might be willing to do so; Susan will cost the signs out and report back.

**BHCA Monthly Agenda for 2016**

Maureen asked for ideas from the community on meeting topics, speakers, events, and projects for 2016. A survey was distributed to attendees. A similar query will be sent out via email to residents for whom we have an email.

**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 must be held in the first quarter of 2016.

**Belmont Heights Community Association**  
**Membership Meeting Minutes**  
**November 11, 2015**

**Belmont Heights Book Club**

Britton Weber announced that the Book Club chose *Grayson* as their first book. The first discussion will be scheduled either the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in December. Please contact Britton if interested -- [brittonweber321@gmail.com](mailto:brittonweber321@gmail.com)

**Newsletter**

Maureen reminded everyone that articles for the winter 2016 newsletter are due by December 30. The issue will be distributed February 1, 2016.

**Colorado Lagoon Trees**

Maureen shared that the BHCA made a donation of \$250 towards the cost of the christmas trees in the Colorado Lagoon. The BHCA has been supporting the Alamitos Improvement Association in this project for many years.

**Miner Smith Project**

Maureen reminded everyone that the Miner Smith exhibit at the Historical Society opens December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015 and runs through February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

For information you can visit the Miner Smith Facebook page:

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

**Code Enforcement**

Maureen reported on a code issue at 660 Mira Mar in the Belmont Heights Historic District. The owners, without a permit, demolished an original garage and constructed a fence that did not meet code. The BHCA, in conjunction with many historic district residents, supported the City staff recommendations requiring the owners to re-build the garage in the same location and style as the original and to make modifications to the fence.

Maureen reminded residents that code issues can be reported Monday-Friday to Code Enforcement at 570-CODE (2633). The Saturday Code Enforcement Number is 570-0000. This number is also valid for ANY suspected unpermitted work on any house. The report is anonymous. You just need to provide an address of the offending property and the type of work that is happening. Reports can also be made [on-line](#).

**Helicopter Noise**

Maureen reported that the BHCA has joined other organizations in an effort to control commercial helicopter noise through compliance with both flight routes and elevations as they travel over Belmont Heights. For a more detailed overview of the status of this effort and next steps [click on this link](#). You can access the federal petition to stop helicopter noise through this link.

**Belmont Heights Community Association  
Membership Meeting Minutes  
November 11, 2015**

**SEADIP**

Linda announced that a scoping meeting for preparing the Environmental Impact Report was held on November 4. She emphasized that residents have an opportunity to share their idea of what impacts should be included in the study by submitting hard copy or electronic comments by November 20, 2015. Information can be found at [http://www.lbds.info/seadip\\_update](http://www.lbds.info/seadip_update) Councilwoman Price commented that the projected increases in both housing units and population in the proposed plan have not been finalized. She also stated that the EIR should be completed by the summer of 2016.

**New 3<sup>rd</sup> District Staff Member**

Maureen introduced Jack Cunningham, the new 3<sup>rd</sup> District staff member. Jack has a strong background in politics and government and is looking forward to working with the 3<sup>rd</sup> District residents.

**Broadway Traffic Calming**

Maureen and Jack reported that the painted medians between Termino and Park are now slated to be done the beginning of 2016. Included will be left hand turn pockets, turns into alleys, and a crosswalk at Quincy.

As regards the Iteris traffic study of Broadway, Councilwoman Price reported that the City plans to move forward on several of the immediate fixes while the City engineering and traffic staff reviews the more complex recommendations. City staff should be coming back with their plan in December. A summary of the study as well as a link to the study was sent out to our email list on August 12 and again on Sept 18, 2015. The study can be found [here](#); a summary of the study [here](#).

**Broadway Median between Park and Nieto**

Several plants were killed during a weed abating effort. Local residents are organizing a replanting. Maureen asked about interest in forming some gardening groups to help maintain our green spaces. Contact Maureen if you have an interest.

**Vista Bike Blvd Re-Painting**

Maureen asked Jack to provide an update on the schedule for repainting Vista. Plans include painting a 4 inch wide circle around the circles, refreshing the V painting, and painting reflectors on the circle curbs.

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

Plans are moving forward with work expected to begin in January 2017.

**Sidewalk, Street and Curb Repairs**

Jack provided the following list of scheduled repairs:

- 320 St. Joseph Ave
- Massachusetts St from Termino to Ximeno
- Quincy Ave from Broadway to Vista

**Belmont Heights Community Association  
Membership Meeting Minutes  
November 11, 2015**

Quincy Ave from 7<sup>th</sup> to the Greenbelt  
Vermont St. from Ximeno to Tremont  
Grand Ave from Broadway to Vista  
Termino Ave from 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>  
Ximeno Ave from Broadway to Vista  
Vermont St from Grand to Loma  
Argonne Ave from Livingston to Broadway

**Other 3<sup>rd</sup> District Comments**

A resident living on 4<sup>th</sup> St asked the council office to look into speeding on 4<sup>th</sup> between Park and Ximeno.

Councilwoman Price encouraged residents to contact the council office with any concerns.

**Upcoming BHCA Meetings**

December 9 Holiday Party – Email for details at [president@mybelmonthheights.org](mailto:president@mybelmonthheights.org)

January 13 BHCA meeting features 3rd District Councilwoman, Suzie Price.

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

December 4 Miner Smith opening at the Historical Society of Long Beach

December 5 Belmont Shore XMAS Parade

December 6 Bembridge House Victorian Christmas (one room decorated by BH residents)

**Guest Speakers**

**Landscaping Forum – How to Landscape in Drought Conditions**

Maureen introduced the 3 guest speakers:

***Reginald Durant, Executive Director and Founder of Back to Natives Restoration***

Reginald provided an overview of native plants including the benefits of using native trees and plants. Below are highlights of his presentation. Additional information can be found at [Back to Natives Restoration](#). Another excellent resource on native plants is [calflora.org](http://calflora.org)

What are natives: plants found in CA prior to contact with Europeans. More than 5000 native plants exist.

Why plant natives:

- ✓ Native plants can cut water use by 90% (approximately 70% of residential water is used in the garden)
- ✓ Many natives provide excellent habitat for wildlife

Native does not mean:

- ✓ “California friendly”

**Belmont Heights Community Association**  
**Membership Meeting Minutes**  
**November 11, 2015**

- ✓ Drought tolerant
- ✓ Confined to succulents and cacti

Non-natives can be harmful in that they compete with natives and can become invasive. An important element when planting is to **know your soil!** Plant choice will depend on whether your soil is sandy or clay.

The California Invasive Plant Council maintains a list of invasive plants, including an assessment of the ecological impact of each plant. A complete list can be found [here](#). Included on that list are plants such as:

- Acacia
- Ice plant
- English Ivy
- Periwinkle
- Fountain grass – very invasive
- Pampas grass
- Mexican feather grass – very invasive

Some recommended plants include:

- Common yarrow
- Red monkey flower
- Coral bell

A more detailed list of recommended plants can be found at [this link](#) on Back to Native's website

***Mike McIver, Landscape Design and Consultation***

Mike provided an overview and slides of some of his landscaping projects in Long Beach. Information on Mike's work can be found at [Michaelmciver.com](http://Michaelmciver.com)

***Jeff Young, Arborist***

Jeff covered many topics on trees including:

- Right selection of species for space
- Proper care and maintenance including the fact that trees should not be "topped". Watering should be deep in order to keep roots healthy and away from the surface. He suggested purchasing a root irrigator or root feeder that can be inserted 12 inches into the soil and to which a hose can be attached. This method breaks up the soil and promotes deep root watering.

Jeff had several handouts available. He can be reached at 562-708-7486

**Belmont Heights Community Association  
Membership Meeting Minutes  
November 11, 2015**

***Long Beach's "Lawn to Garden" Program***

If you are interested in the City's program visit <http://lblawntogarden.com/>

Several questions were raised by the audience including the use of artificial turf. All 3 guests were not keen on the use of artificial turf for a number of reasons including the fact that the product is plastic and degrades over time, the surface gets very hot, often the base layer is made of degraded rubber tires which contain chemicals. Additionally, water typically runs off the surface of artificial turf rather than percolating into the ground.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dianne Sundstrom, Secretary  
November 20, 2015

**Belmont Heights Community Association  
Membership Meeting Minutes  
November 11, 2015**

---

**OCTOBER 2015 FINANCIAL REPORT**

<b>BEGINNING BALANCE</b>		<b>\$19,795</b>
<b>INCOME</b>		
Membership	\$ 179	
Advertising	\$ 1,040	
Yard Sign	\$ 10	
Sweatshirt	\$ 50	
Miner Smith Grant	\$ 4,250	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 5,529</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Music BHAA Reception	\$ 200	
Preparer BHAA Show	\$ 285	
Wine BHAA Reception	\$ 237	
Food BHAA Reception	\$ 415	
Publicity BHAA Show	\$ 45	
Food Oct. Meeting	\$ 83	
Christmas Lagoon Lights	\$ 250	
Miner Smith (Photography)	\$ 500	
Miner Smith (Hist. Soc. of L.B.)	\$ 2,500	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>-\$4,567</b>
<b>UNRECONCILED CHECKS</b>		<b>+\$ 500</b>
<b>ENDING BALANCE</b>		<b>\$21,256</b>
<b>SEQUESTERED CASH:</b>		
MINER SMITH PROJECT	\$ 7,233	
NEWSLETTER	\$ 2,818	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>-\$10,051</b>
<b>AVAILABLE CASH BALANCE 10/31/2015</b>		<b>\$11,204</b>