

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE BEACHWOOD CANYON
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

July 21, 2011

The Board of Directors of The Beachwood Canyon Neighborhood Association held a regularly scheduled quarterly meeting at The Beachwood Café pursuant to statutory notice. In attendance were Fran Reichenbach, Mary Ann Nelson, Larry Markes, George Abrahams, Jack Fitzgerald, Missy Kelly, Nina van Tassel and Gary Wilmes, constituting a quorum of the elected and serving Directors.

President Fran Reichenbach, acting as Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Officers from the Hollywood Division of the Los Angeles Police Department presented a Crime and Safety Report. Senior Lead Officer Maggie Dillard informed us that there had been a rash of car break-ins recently, primarily centered around Sunset and Bronson. LAPD responded aggressively to this spike in vehicle burglaries and several suspects have been arrested. Officer Dillard is confident that these arrests will dramatically reduce, if not eliminate, the problem. She reminded us not to leave items of any value whatsoever in plain sight in the interiors of our cars, and also warned against the common practice of parking and then transferring valuable belongings to the car trunk; most of the time that a car is burglarized, the thieves are on the scene before the victim arrives, and are "casing" people leaving their cars unattended for likely value.

Officer Dillard also told us that there were two robberies in our area recently, one at Franklin and Cheremoya and the other at Franklin and Bronson. She suggested carrying pepper spray to guard against "threat" robberies, but if a gun is displayed, to put up no resistance whatsoever.

Other than these items, Officer Dillard reported no serious or violent crimes since our last meeting.

In a question-and-answer period, Officer Dillard reminded us to be wary of recycling "pickers" entering onto private property. She said that several of these individuals have been arrested for opportunity car break-ins; the danger isn't that scroungers will break into a car but that if they can get into a driveway or carport, they will try car doors to see if they have been left open.

Traffic Officer Steve Redd spoke to us about vehicular issues. He stated that although he and his fellow motorcycle patrolmen can enforce traffic laws (such as speeding, running a stop sign, etc.), enforcement of regulations governing tour buses is restricted to commercial specialists (who can cite a tour van for excess weight, lack of the proper license, etc.). Officer Redd has occasionally been accompanied on his Beachwood Canyon patrols by such a specialist, but they are not as readily available as he or his partners are. He has conducted a speed survey recently and does not believe that speeders are a sufficiently serious problem to merit deployment of additional resources. He does, however, agree with us that people running stop signs are a serious problem in our Canyon.

During question-and-answer time, Officer Redd stated that when tour buses stop in the middle of the street for picture-taking, that is a traffic violation and if a policeman witnesses it, he can give the driver a ticket. However, tourists who go out into the middle of the street to have their picture taken are generally not violating any laws unless they seriously interfere with traffic.

The Crime and Safety Report closed with a discussion about the possibility of having a police decoy car placed in a strategic location (probably along Mulholland) to discourage traffic violations.

The meeting then turned to approval of the minutes of the Board's meetings on April 21 and May 27. After discussion, a motion was made by George Abrahams to accept the minutes as read, seconded by Nina van Tassel. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

On behalf of the Treasurer, the Chairperson then presented a report on the Association's finances. We currently have more than \$3,500 in the bank, available for appropriate charitable activities. After discussion, a motion was made by Mary Ann Nelson to accept the Treasurer's report, seconded by Jack Fitzgerald. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

One such charitable activity is the youth center to be supported by the Hollywood Division of the LAPD currently undergoing construction on Santa Monica Boulevard near Bronson. After discussion, a motion was made by Larry Markes and seconded by Nina van Tassel to contribute \$500 to the Hollywood Police Support Association for "Tomorrow's Future," the aforementioned youth center. The motion was carried by unanimous vote.

George Abrahams presented a report by the Tourism Committee. A written digest of that report is attached to these Minutes. George described the Committee's efforts in two areas: expediting use of the Scenic View as the officially designated spot to take pictures of the Hollywood Sign, and attempts to address the problem of aviation noise, particularly from helicopters, echoing throughout the Canyon. With respect to the former, George reported that three signs are going to be put into place guiding people up to the Scenic View: at Rodgerton and LedgeWood (the "Five Points" intersection), at Heather and LedgeWood (directing traffic up), and at Mulholland and LedgeWood (directing traffic to the west). With respect to aviation noise, George informed us about a website that can provide instantaneous tracking of low-flying aircraft. Printouts of three primary screens from this website, showing what information is supplied and how the site operates, are attached to these Minutes.

Brief public discussion on topics not on the agenda followed. One of our members stated that he had recently returned from a trip to San Francisco, where he noticed that there are signs in certain areas barring tourist vans or buses "past this point." The Directors and members discussed how such signs could be installed in the Canyon. George and Missy stated that the City Council would have to pass an ordinance authorizing the signs, which would first require review by various committees. Fran agreed to start investigating the process by which an ordinance is passed by contacting Sharon Shapiro, Councilman Tom LaBonge's deputy.

The Directors and members also discussed the advantages and feasibility of having two large metal mesh trash containers put in place on Mulholland Drive. George agreed to look into this.

One member drew our attention to two abandoned houses on Hollyridge, one at 2886 (at the head of Westshire) and the other at 3045. These vacant homes provide a potential attraction for squatters.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.