

CHEVIOT HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 64458, Los Angeles, CA 90064 www.cheviothills.org

Minutes for the Board Meeting Wednesday, January 8, 2025 Via Zoom

Directors present: Bob Keehn (President), Jim Gilbert (Vice President), Marty Bischoff (Treasurer) Cindy Kane (Secretary), Gigi Decavalles-Hughes, Renee Dernburg, Ellen Doyle, Steve Herman, Mike Mandel, Marcie Newby, Andrew Oelz, Greg Pulis

Directors not present: Margaret Gillespie, Mark Sedlander, Larry Tabb

Guests: Lynn Ziven, Lauren Ravitz, Mat Grubman, Carla Stanton

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

I. President's Report:

A. Approval of minutes for December

The minutes were approved and will be posted to the website.

B. Rebranding of CHHOA ("Cheviot Hills Neighborhood Association")

Marty reported on the successful rebranding of the HOA to the Cheviot Hills Neighborhood Association, including a DBA registration with the Daily Journal and the bank. Bank of America requires signatures from executive board members. Marty will collect those signatures after this meeting. The corporation still remains the Cheviot Hills Home Owners' Association for filing taxes. Cindy reported that various agencies were notified of the name change.

C. APS

After another recent burglary in the neighborhood, there was a tremendous amount of commentary on the WhatsApp Safety group. Residents were complaining about APS. The sentiment has not been great. Cindy reached out to Vernon to ask how we can improve patrol. We know that he charges \$8,500 per month for an 8-hour car, 5 days a week; \$10,000 per month for a 8 hour car, 7 days a week. A 24/7 car costs \$30k per month. He stated that individual homeowners need to sign on with him for private patrol to increase visibility in the neighborhood. The board and guests explored alternative security options, including SSA and private patrol services, while discussing the financial implications of various security solutions.

D. ALPR Cameras/Fund 47M

The cameras were approved and accepted by the Los Angeles Police Commission on December 17th. The paperwork is at the Mayor's office. Once signed it will move to the

Public Safety Committee of the City Council and then onto the full City Council for a vote. Dana Katz, executive director of the Los Angeles Police Foundation will be meeting with Chief McDonnell on February 3rd to discuss ALPR cameras and our initiative. We have been asked by the Foundation to delay brand selection until we receive full city council approvals.

The board further discussed the letter received by two law professors in mid-December regarding privacy issues. We shared it with the full board and forwarded a copy to LAPD Office of Innovation and the Los Angeles Police Foundation. We discussed that the safety and security concerns far outweigh the privacy concerns.

E. Fox Expansion

Bob signed the Carstens, Black & Minter agreement. We need to send them a retainer fee.

F. Community Based Housing Initiative/Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RNHA)

The City Council approved the plan. There may be some rezoning neighborhood by neighborhood.

G. Westside Draft Plan

No update; Cindy will reach out to see what their expected timing is regarding further drafts.

H. Drill Site Update

The full City Council agreement was set to be heard on December 13th. At the last minute the operators came back to the table and reached some kind of oral agreement with CD5. Both sides came out with press releases that were not consistent with each other. Professor Salman's group have asked and been granted a meeting with Councilwoman Yaroslavsky. It has not been scheduled.

I. Triangle Park Upgrade

No update

J. Wrongful Death Lawsuit naming CHHOA

Discussed in executive session

K. December 9 CD5 meeting

Bob attended a meeting at City Hall with Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky, her staff and several other HOA reps. Katy emphasized that the city budget this year is difficult. She is going to be using discretionary funds to deal with crime spikes. She's aware that the unhoused situation continues to be bad in certain spots, and those spots move around. Her chief of staff is retiring and is going to be replaced by Erin Bromaghim. City Council Committee assignments are coming out soon, she may end up on the homeless committee. And then finally, she is going to be prioritizing repair of sidewalks and streets and trees and acknowledge that CD5 has some of the worst problems with that in the entire city. The meeting was also attended by LAPD West Bureau Assistant Commander Steve Lurie. He said that LAPD is very excited about having a new mayor and a new DA. Morale seems to be better. Westside crime is down. In fact, he said that if West LA was its own city, it has 1.5 million people, it would be the safest city in America of that size. He also commented that they want to get moving on drone technology and that they're somewhat behind on that.

L. December 10 town hall with new LAPD Chief

Bob, Cindy and Mike attended a meeting with the new Chief of Police, Jim McDonnell. Katy Yaroslavsky and the Chief spoke for a while and then it was opened to Q&A. Some attendees inquired about the level of crime and what he was going to do about it. Katy responded that they are putting more discretionary funds to pay for overtime. The Chief said he was aware of the situation. He spoke about violent crime getting prioritized, and we don't have a lot of violent crime. Burglaries are upsetting, but that's lower priority. They allocate resources where they need it most, and West LA falls short. He also said that they're having a hard time recruiting and retaining police officers, and they're down approximately 2,500 officers since pre-COVID, and haven't been able to backfill. Part of the problem is officers move to adjacent areas and immediately make 10 or 15 percent more. So that's one of the challenges they're facing as well.

Additional Topics not on the agenda:

Redevelopment of the Golf Course Club House.

There has been a stall on this project. Katy sent a letter to Rec & Park asking for an update in October. The general manager responded in November. There is an ongoing dispute between current contractor and the city. Rec & Park may manage the contract on their own or may put it out to bid again. There should be ongoing input from local community stakeholders which has not been happening. We need to follow up with CD5 to ensure that stakeholders are getting updated.

LAPD SLO Chris Baker

He provided a year end update. He has been deployed to the Palisades.

Overall crime is down except one area:

Aggravated Assaults 50% decrease (2 in 2023; 1 in 2024)

Grand Theft Auto 35% decrease (20 in 2023; 13 in 2024)

Theft from Motor Vehicles 22% decrease (44 in 2023; 34 in 2024)

Theft 14% decrease

Burglaries 104% increase (22 in 2023; 45 in 2024)

He wrote out his goals for 2025. He wants to really drive down the burglary numbers. Once LAPD's tactical alert status is over, he plans to spend more time in our community, add decoy cars, undercover cars. The mandate from Captain Gabaldon and Chief McDonnell is to drive down the number of burglaries in our area. He's confident that when we install our ALPRs, we will start to see a decrease in crime.

II. Secretary's Report/Membership

Membership – current count is 121 members (47 have opted for recurring dues).

III. Financial Report

There were no questions about the financial report.

IV. Public Comment/Other

Mat Grubman reported that neighbors are not very happy with APS for security patrol. Bob and others explained that if more people support the Association, we could afford better patrol. Carla Stanton suggested that we increase our dues amount and that we explore getting 24/7 security patrol. Bob explained that every time we raise our rates, we worry that memberships

drop off. A dedicated security car is too costly for what our dues are and level that join the Association. Carla asked how many APS patrol cars we currently have. We told her that we have an 8-hour drive through car and a 4-hour dedicated car. It's not enough but it's what we can afford as an Association.

Jim wanted to address the palm fronds along Motor Ave but in Mark's absence he will delay the discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.