

Minutes of the Board of Directors

16 Jan. 2003

The meeting of the Board was called to order by President Ronni Cooper at 7:31 p.m.

Secretary's Report

- The minutes of the 12 Dec. 2002 meeting were approved with three corrections:
 - LHCA Alternate Director Alma Fowlkes is working with the Ladera Senior Center, not with USC, to help design the new Senior Center.
 - The board agreed to research and review with the LA Dept. of Transportation potential revised parking restrictions on Little Centinela; the board did not agree to parking revisions.
 - The committee of newsletter editors also includes Alvetia Smith.

Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer's Report for the month of December was approved.
- Directors and alternates reviewed and approved the proposed budget for 2002.

Crime and Safety

- **Statistics.** Nancy Smith, analyst, LA Sheriff's Department, provides crime statistics for January:

Crime statistics	Homicide	Rape	Robbery Weapon	Robbery: Strong Arm	Aggravated Assault	Burglary: Residence	Burglary: Other structure	Grand Theft	Grand Theft Auto	Arson	Vehicle Burglary	Petty Theft	Totals
January 2003													
Upper Ladera	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	3
Lower Ladera	0	0	1	1	3	3	1	3	4	0	2	6	24
Old Ladera	0	0	2	0	0	7	1	2	3	1	3	1	20
Totals	0	0	3	1	3	11	2	6	7	1	6	7	47

Statistics for Lower Ladera include Ladera Center. Statistics supplied by Los Angeles County Sheriff.

- **LAPD.** Officer Tony Ramos reported an increase in “con games” in the “entire Westchester area,” with suspects typically targeting elderly in parking lots; 15 commercial robberies have been violent, with suspects pointing guns at store staff near closing time.
- **LASD.** Sheriff's Sgt. Ron Thrash reported an increase in strong-arm residence burglaries in Upper and Lower Ladera; suspects in “gypsy” burglaries are in custody and no further incidents occurred.
- **CHP.** Lt. Chris O'Quinn reported Capt. Aubrey is taking command of West LA operations; there were 200 crashes during 2002 across the reporting area, of which

Ladera is a part, including three at Corning and Slauson. Officer Ghostin reported continuing traffic problems at Parent School, with parents double parking and blocking streets during mornings and afternoons, with some drivers using private driveways to make turns; CHP is coordinating efforts to reduce low riders at Ladera Center; new laws effective 1 January automatically suspend driver's license for DUI convictions, now illegal to block sidewalk ramps; police may arrest speeding drivers and impound vehicles; helmets are now required for children under 18 using roller blades, scooters – and parents will be cited.

- **Ladera Center.** LHCA committee met with Mark Harris, attorney for Ladera Center, to discuss how to make Center more secure and attractive to residents – classical music, different retail tenants, parking lot cameras. Residents noted they can't park at Ralph's because of Friday's traffic, they are uncomfortable and feel unsafe as a result of loitering, traffic is double parked in driving lanes, Center is not built for amount of traffic it now gets, and security staff is insufficient. Committee proposed that Center survey residents in next LHCA newsletter to determine what residents want in the center.
- **Sheriff's Lease.** LHCA Vice President Allan Boodnick reported County, Sheriff and Ladera Center are still negotiating details of lease for Sheriff's Department offices.

Committee Reports

- **Welcome Committee.** LHCA Alternate Director Zna Houston, noting after a year of deliveries that problems continue with repeated delivery attempts, asked directors to consider a different approach to distribution of Welcome packages to new residents, to include potentially reprinting refrigerator magnets or replacing gift baskets with a package that is mailed to new residents, with the package to potentially include coupons to local retailers/businesses.
- **Parent School Committee.** Houston reported that ribbon cutting for rebuilt Parent School is scheduled for 27 January; Parents on Patrol is recruiting residents to help at school with reading and other activities; Friends of Parent School is asking for contributions and in the past raised \$1,200 from pancake breakfasts to help prepare students for Stanford 9 testing, and \$400 for a math decathlon with trophies and awards for academic achievement.
- **Newsletter Committee.** LHCA Director Cheryl Cook requested article submissions for March issue.

Continuing Business

- **Filming Permits.** Boodnick reported that he and LHCA Director Steve Leon are revising guidelines for filming in Ladera, after a marked year-end increase in filming and problems.
- **Soccer fields.** Boodnick said he contacted County officials, who reported the soccer fields do not require wider streets, alcohol is prohibited, the fields are designed for use by children, not adults, there is no evidence of diminished property values, and County wrote to but received no response from Ladera resident Frank Jackson.
- **Ballona Wetlands.** The LHCA approved \$100 contribution to Ballona Valley Preservation League.
- **Traffic.** Jeff Thierry of LA County Department of Transportation and supervisor Nico Thompson reported 2,600 cars traveling Corning in Lower Ladera each day and the Fire Department will not permit speed bumps, but radar and speed trailers can be used. Residents contended that their petitions for speed bumps and other traffic calming measures have been ignored. Thierry said the County is about to begin a pilot Neighborhood Traffic Management Program that might include Ladera. Supervisors must select pilot neighborhoods and the LHCA will work with DOT to persuade Sup. Burke to include Ladera. Expansion and remodeling of LAX may also lead to reconfiguring La Cienega as a “grade separated street” where lights are removed and all cross streets are moved to bridges. County will not change parking restrictions at University Christian Church on Little Centinela unless the Church receives 68 percent of signatures on petitions from neighboring residents.

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The meeting adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

Board members present were Sandra Goldsmith Bennett, Allan Boodnick, Charles Caballero, Cheryl Cook, Ronni Cooper, Gene Eldridge, Willa Hector, Steve Leon, Frieda Rentie, Phyllis Stewart and Ron Woods. Alternates Alma Fowlkes, Dorothy Harris, Zna Houston, Alvetia Smith and Florida Toussant were present. Guests included Patricia Freeman of the USPS, Pearl and Murray Marks, Victor Epport, Robert and Susie Saylor, Jim Degner, Vita, Pat and Helen Galante, Gladyce Paben, Betty Angel, Mr. & Mrs. Moton, Jan Bennet, Ivory Toussant, Gene Hardemon, Gail Grant, Perry McKee, Mercellus Marsh, Ken Williams and Veronica Sanders (with apologies for any spelling errors).

Respectfully Submitted,

Steven J. Leon

Secretary

