

Minutes of the Board of Directors

20 May 2004

The LHCA Board meeting was called to order by President Ronni Cooper at 7:03 PM.

Secretary & Treasurer Report

- Minutes of the 15 April 2004 meeting were approved with one correction that Tanya Keshishian of Shelter Bay would meet with Von's in May – not Officer Wickes.
Treasurer's Report for April 2004 was approved.

Crime and Safety

- Statistics. Donna Samuels, LA Sheriff's Department, provided crime statistics for May:

Table with 13 columns: Crime statistics Sep 2003, 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. Rows include Upper Ladera, Lower Ladera, Old Ladera, and Totals.

Statistics for Lower Ladera include Ladera Center.

- CHP. Officer Austin reported 273 citations issued in Ladera area last month with 7:00 – 8:00 a.m. as the peak hour. State cracking down on seat belt citations due to number of fatalities as a result of non-use. State also taking action on residents who continually register their vehicles in other states to take advantage of the cheaper registration fees.
LAPD. Officer Wickes reported an increase of burglaries in apartments, duplexes, and four-plexes. Gardners and construction workers have also been robbed recently. A couple of arrests have been made related to these robberies and LAPD is still watching to see if they have everyone who was involved. Gypsy robbers have also been robbing elderly people returning from the store or bank.
LASD. Sgt. Thrash reported April crime statistics continue to be on a downward trend in Upper Ladera but Lower Ladera going up. Purse snatchings in Lower Ladera have increased.

Old Business

- Von's LaTijera Center: Tanya Keshishian of Shelter Bay met with the manager at Von's on LaTijera. Von's has a great deal of issues. There are 7 owners within the center and they are experiencing communication problems and financial constraints. There is a follow-up meeting scheduled for the first part of July that will include Tanya, Officer Wickes, and the Von's Manager. The ivy is being cleaned up and there are plans to put up signs that say no overnight parking so violators can be cited. Von's Manager could not attend our LHCA meeting tonight but will attend in June.
Ladera Center: Tanya reported Fatburger is leaving the end of September. As a follow-up from last month, they are not relocating to LaCienega and Centinela. They are going to Crenshaw & Manchester which is in Inglewood but no longer part of Judy Dunlap's district. Jamba Juice is the most likely candidate to replace Fatburger at this time. Hip Hop put up a sign "Platnum" without permission and Tanya will follow-up to have the default corrected. Ladera center now has no loitering signs on the city side. Having city and county on the signs insures the sign is correct regardless of parking lot location. This resolved the issue of being uncertain where in the parking lot the city/county demarcation occurs.

- **USPS:** Per Pat Freeman, USPS, the September 2003 route inspection resulted in changes that were implemented in January 2004. New carriers were assigned along with the use of part-time-flexible employees to some routes. These changes did not work well and further adjustments were made to put more experienced employees back in Ladera. Members present agreed that they have noticed a return to normalcy now that the more experienced employees are back. Pat is the single point of contact for Ladera postal issues and welcomes calls from the community. A Wooster resident reported getting mail late and Pat agreed to follow-up on this item.
- **47<sup>th</sup> District Listening Tour:** Freida Rentie attended Karen Bass' meeting and reported it was very successful with approximately 50 – 70 people in attendance. Attendees received profiles of the residents within the district. There will be sub-meetings throughout the summer. This is Ms. Bass' entire campaign approach between now and the election in November.

### **New Business**

- **Soccer Field:** David encouraged members to attend the grand opening of the soccer fields this Saturday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Age ranges are 4 – 18 and there are girls and boys teams. Bring your kids and sign them up. \$10 for boys and \$5 for girls. Sign-ups start May 22<sup>nd</sup> thru the end of August. Motion made by Ron Woods and carried that the LHCA donate \$500 to the Soccer Fields.

### **Committee Reports**

- **LHCA Website:** Sy Fontaine reviewed the written recommendation provided to members prior to the meeting. There would be 3 administrative functions: uploading events, uploading documents, and the use of bulletin boards on various topics. There are currently 2 potential sponsors with very strong interest. The site costs approximately \$1800 per year to maintain. LHCA would use disclaimers on site stating these are "paid" sponsors and not endorsed by LHCA. Bulletin boards can be turned off at a moments notice. Sponsors can be expunged immediately if we received complaints regarding the sponsor's material. UHA received a lot of sponsor requests by running an ad in their newsletter. Sy recommended on behalf of the Website committee that we proceed with sponsorship on the LHCA site for one year and assess how it goes. Motion made and approved to proceed for one year. Sy will continue to be the LHCA web-master.
- **Security Cameras:** Gene Eldridge gave an update to the Security Camera project. In addition to the Shenandoah, Sherbourne, and Corning entrances to upper Ladera there is one more. There is an alley that runs behind the Ethiopian church and dumps onto Shenandoah increasing the need from 3 cameras to 4. There are 873 physical addresses in upper Ladera. Lt. Nelson of Marina Sheriff station is very excited at the ability to check digitally stored media for specific entry/exit time periods. Estimated cost for 3 cameras is one-time charge of \$56K plus \$350 per month for maintenance. We will need to take an organized "marketing" approach to encourage residents to make financial contributions for this added protection. Cheryl Cook, Gene Eldridge, Dorothy Harris, Ronni Cooper, Allan Boodnick, and Robert Shaw will participate on this committee and Carmen Spiva will call a meeting to get the subcommittee coordinated.
- **Vice President's & BH Conservancy Report:** Allan Boodnick was asked by the Inglewood Unified School District for representation at their Board Meeting. Sy Fontaine volunteered to attend and report anything of relevance at our next meeting. Jeff Thierry has confirmed the use of speed cushions for Lower Corning, part of 64<sup>th</sup>, and Springpark. These are "cushions" not "bumps" and the fire department will still be able to cross. Ronni will invite Jeff to our June meeting. Timing studies were done by Culver City along Slauson from Holy Cross to Rampart. The rusted Neighborhood Watch signs will be replaced. The Sheriffs Captain has been asked to re-look at the existence of LASD sub-stations in Ladera Heights and the Marina communities. Allan read draft of proposed letter requesting

the continued community presence to mitigate criminal activity. Per Clinton Tatum the budget hearings begin on 21<sup>st</sup> of June. Clinton will see if he can find out more information re the Sheriffs budget intentions and contact Allan.

- **Neighborhood Watch Clubs:** Cheryl Cook reported the Sherbourne block club is getting kicked off. Ronni has the signs for Sherbourne only and will look into ordering additional signs. Alan Bernstein of Sherbourne reported the county worked on the sidewalks to level them but made them worse with a ground pebble look. They even entered a Sherbourne resident's private driveway and made a patch. Ronni will invite Lance Grindle to the next meeting and ask him to explain.
- **Airport Subcommittee:** Dorothy Harris needs an alternate attendee for Airport Subcommittee meetings when she is not able to attend. It's really important that we show up so we don't lose our status and she can't make each and every meeting. Meetings are in the LAX Admin Building the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of all odd months at 7:30 p.m. Roy Harris of Sherbourne volunteered to attend in Dorothy's absence. Motion made and carried to name Roy Harris as an Alternate Member of the LHCA Board.
- **CAC:** Gene Eldridge reported the CAC is establishing a new sub-committee to identify ways to get more volunteers for the Sheriff substations. Many people don't know the expectations of volunteers. Being proposed in the upcoming May 24<sup>th</sup> CAC meeting is a recognition program for volunteers. Dorothy Harris suggested a big splash in the newsletter to recognize the volunteers.

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Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Board members present were Sandra Goldsmith Bennett, Allan Boodnick, Cheryl Cook, Ronni Cooper, Gene Eldridge, Alma Fowlkes, Sy Fontaine, Dorothy Harris, Willa Hector, Alvetia Smith, Carmen Spiva, and Ron Woods. Alternates Ruth Lawrence, Shirley Miles, Frieda Rentie, and Phyllis Stewart were present. Guests included Tanya Keshishian, Patricia Freeman, B. Brown, Lynn Mitchell, Roy Harris, Marv Frankel, David Hauptman, Ruby & Roy Parvaresh, Harold Gee, Gerald Riberio, Alan Bernstein, Yvette LaVigne, Clinton Tatum, Hillard Sorey, Cindy Wilson, Officer Austin, Officer Wickes, Sgt. Thrash, and others. Apologies for any misspelled or omitted visitor names.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Ruth E. Lawrence