

Minutes of the Board of Directors

May 15, 2008

LHCA Board meeting called to order by President Ronni Cooper at 7:10 PM

Secretary & Treasurer Report

- Minutes for April 2008 approved.
- Treasurer's Report for April and May 2008 will be covered in June meeting.

Crime and Safety

- **LASD:** Sgt. Thrash of the LASD reported a decrease in burglaries. Captain Victory has been successful in getting one more deputy who is assigned exclusively to burglary issues. The LASD has also been successful in another arena. They arrested squatters who had set up in a home that was for sale. Squatters take signs down and just move in. If you are suspicious of this type activity be sure to notify the Sheriffs. Sgt Thrash encouraged residents to keep strong communication in place when something looks suspicious. Captain Victory introduced Deputies Robin Russell and David Cooper. She feels strongly that the community should get to know our Sheriffs up close and personal. President Ronni Cooper encouraged the community to also subscribe to the SSS Patrol Service so we can have a car patrol exclusively in Ladara for 16 hours instead of just 8.
- **LAPD:** Not present
- **CHP:** Not present. For traffic concerns you may contact CHP Officer Blaise Austin directly via email baustin@chp.ca.gov or on 310 642-3939.

Old Business

- **The Entrada Office Project:** Rob West gave a high level overview of the Culver City project near the Radisson Hotel and the impact to adjacent communities such as Ladera Heights. The office building will be 12 stories high with a 9 story parking structure. The project will add another 1255 cars along Centinela and Sepulveda Blvd. The Westchester community has been very active in their opposition of this project which will also block the views from the bluff. Legal counsel has been obtained to seek modification of the current project plans. The LHCA Board passed a motion to donate \$5000 toward the legal fees.
- **United Oil:** Allan Boodnick reported that United Oil on Slauson and LaBrea is scheduled to complete reconstruction and reopen next month.
- **California State Assembly:** Allan Boodnick attended the inauguration for the new Speaker – Karen Bass. Allan shared a copy of the program.
- **Security Cameras:** Allan Boodnick and Cliff Neuman have done some research on security cameras for personal use since the cost for community cameras is probably more than residents will want to pay. Cameras for your personal property can range from \$500 uninstalled and upward to \$2000 or more depending on the configuration you choose. There are group rates to be had if more than one homeowner is interested. More information will be included in the next newsletter on this subject.

Committees

- **Baldwin Hills Conservancy:** Cliff Neuman provided feedback from the May 6th meeting where 5 beautification proposals for the Hahn Park entrance and bridge overpass were reviewed. An artist's concept was chosen and Cliff shared a picture during the meeting.

- **PXP:** Carmen Spiva provided drafts of the proposed standards on drilling in the oil fields.
- **CAC:** The Sheriff's department report covered the important issues. The Ladera e-mail tree has transitioned to a new server. This mailing list is what we use to quickly notify the community of important crime and public safety issues for the community. It is important that you add yourself to the new mailing list. Addressed on the old mailing list can not be automatically transitioned. Instructions are available here to help you add yourself to the new list. These instructions have also been sent to the email-tree that was managed by Cheryl Cook, but many people seem to have missed the message.
- **Website:** Cliff Neuman reported: The transition of the web site laderaheights.org to the new web service provider is now complete. Cliff has rebuilt the web page using different underlying technology, but the same basic images and appearance. The main content on the site is the list of meeting minutes from 2003 through present, and the newsletters from spring 2006 through present.

Work still to be done:

- Home page - Cliff needs someone else to write a description of Ladera Heights and the Civic Association for the first/home page of the web site. If someone gives him this text he will update the front page.
- Old Newsletters - We only have newsletters in electronic form from Spring 2000 through present. As a low priority item, Cliff may scan in copies of older newsletters and post them. The scanned copies never look as nice as the original electronic ones he has for later newsletters, but he does not think we still have electronic versions of the older ones.
- Announcements - As time allows he will work on an automated announcement section that will allow those designated to do so to post messages themselves on an announcement page, and that will automatically move the message to an archive after a specified date, and which will optionally place a link and byline for the announcement on the front page of the web site for a specified period of time. This is a complicated thing to do, so it may be a while before he can get to this.

residents@laderaheights.org mailing List (formerly e-mail tree):

- The new mailing list has about 190 confirmed members, and an additional 80 or so who have submitted their email address through the sign up form, but who have not clicked on the link in the confirmation message to complete their addition to the mailing list.
- Unfortunately we have been having problems with messages (mainly the confirmation messages) being blocked by internet providers (especially for those with sbcglobal addresses) or blocked by spam filters. There is not much that Cliff can do to fix this. The members that are not getting the messages are the only ones that can fix their spam filters or complain to their network service providers.
- The mailing list will be used for messages that are of broad and important interest to Ladera Heights including security and public safety information, and notices of important meetings regarding development or other issues. It is not intended for things like for sale announcements or any lengthy discussion. There are other online forums that can be used for that and those wanting to discuss these issues can be referred to the discussion forums. The goal of the list is to keep the number of message small enough that we can reach all residents without any of them wanting to be removed from the list because of the volume of messages. Those with messages to post that are not appropriate for the mailing list can use the forum on the non LHCA Ladera web site: <http://www.laderaheights.info/forum>

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- **Membership Dues Committee:** Not present
- **Senior Center:** No update

- **Ladera Park:** Darrick Davis reported the Lower Ladera neighborhood is concerned about upcoming amphitheater events and introduced Joe Mendoza of Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation. Joe manages 45 parks and thinks highly of Ladera Park. When he last toured, the amphitheater was in bad shape. Carolyn Brown of the Community Harvest Foundation found a sponsor (Home Depot) to donate the landscaping to beautify the amphitheater. The County is renovating the benches and other problem areas. Mr. Mendoza said the community and the LHCA would be consulted on all future amphitheater events. There will be no loud rap music, or high decibel noise. The events are to be family oriented to include low level jazz, classical, and children events. Carolyn Brown explained the Community Harvest Foundation is a scholarship program for youth. Carolyn has asked the jazz musicians to not bring large amplifiers for the upcoming June 7th event. The residents of Lower Ladera voiced many complaints (noise, trash, parking, etc.) about past events and the inability to have law enforcement agencies come to the park and manage the offensive issues while they are occurring. The community was encouraged to put more pressure on the Sheriff's who will be sharing the Park Police responsibilities. President Ronni Cooper suggested Joe Mendoza and Carolyn Brown come back to our September meeting to forge a better relationship with the impacted residents. The community will also have had an opportunity during the upcoming summer months to observe whether the amphitheater events were as peaceful and quiet as promised.
- **Ladera Center:** Cyndy May reported the center is doing well. There are 2 vacancies with the loss of Score Learning Center and Dr. Maxwell. Weight Watchers coming in a couple of months.
- **Beautification:** not present
- **Supervisor Burke's Office:** not present

Directors present: Allan Boodnick, Ronni Cooper, Darrick Davis, Alma Fowlkes, Sy Fountaine, Ruth Lawrence, Cliff Neuman, Carmen Spiva, Ron Woods. Alternates Frieda Rentie and Florida Toussant. Apologies for any misspelled or omitted names.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ruth E. Lawrence, LHCA Secretary