



Crystal Rogers - President – Long Beach Blvd.
Bjoern Risse – Vice President – Atlantic Ave.
Bill Larson – Secretary – At-Large
Katie Barish – Treasurer – Atlantic Ave.
Anthony Wingfield – Wardlow
Jason Van Fleet – At-Large
David Ayala – Bixby Knolls Shopping Center
Vacant – Atlantic Ave
Robin Daykin – At Large

Starr Bunch- Long Beach Blvd.
Jeff Beasley -Long Beach Blvd
Cheryl Jacobs- Community Liaison
Blair Cohn-Executive Director
Myra Pimentel – Project Manager

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Thursday, March 21, 2024, 8:00 a.m. at Expo Arts Center

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

Excused Absences:

2. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Approval of minutes, February 22, 2024

4. NEW BUSINESS –

- a. President’s notes

5. OLD BUSINESS –

6. Committee Reports:

- a. Project Manager Report – Myra
- b. Executive Director’s Report – Blair
- c. Security & Code Enforcement Report – Crystal

7. 5th District Council Office Report

8. 8th District Council Office Report

9. Public Comment (limited to 3 minutes)

10. ADJOURNMENT

Bixby Knolls Business
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BKBIA BOARD MEETING – February 22, 2024
MINUTES

Location: Expo Arts Center

Called to order: 8:07am

Adjourned: 9:14am

- **8:07am** – Crystal called the meeting to order
- **In attendance:**
 - Crystal Rogers, President
 - Bjoern Risse, Vice President
 - Bill Larson, Secretary
 - Katie Barish, Treasurer
 - Anthony Wingfield,
 - Robin Daykin
 - David Ayala
 - Jeff Beasley
 - Starr Bunch
 - Cheryl Jacobs, Community Liaison
 - Blair Cohn, Executive Director, BKBIA
 - Myra Pimentel, Project Manager, BKBIA
 - **Excused absences: n/a**
 - Robert Allarte, Shannon Johnson, CD5
 - Esther Ogunrino, CD8
 - Members of the public:
 - Jason Van Fleet, Dutch’s Brewhouse; Paul Forman
- **Approval of Minutes – October 26, 2023**
 - Bill made the motion to approve the minutes; David seconded the motion; Motion passed unanimously.

Agenda:

Election of Officers: Crystal discussed the annual requirement to elect officers in January. Crystal proposed keeping the Executive Committee intact with the current officers.

Anthony made a formal motion to retain the Executive Committee, as is, for another year. Crystal, President; Bjoern, Vice President; Katie Barish, Treasurer; Bill Larson, Secretary. Starr seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

- President’s notes: Crystal made a motion to appoint Jason Van Fleet to the board to fill the vacant At-Large position. Starr seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

- Annual Meeting Recap: General discussion ensued about the presentation. Good attendance. Very positive. There were many businesses attending for their first time.

Committee Reports:

- **Project Manager Report** – Myra reported on recent events including the new SantaCon, with 588 tickets sold. General discussion ensued. General discussion also ensued about Almost St. Patrick’s Day and the possibility of reducing the amount of free alcohol given with a ticket.
- **Executive Director Report** – Blair reported: Notes were carried over from January. Updates and changes in the district (new businesses and those closing, and new interest from others to find a space; possible pursuit of festoon lighting across the pedestrian zone?); General safety notes including the good job that CSI did during the holidays to prevent petty crime incidents; learned that there are upticks in crime during cold weather periods due to increased drug usage.
- **Security & Code Enforcement** – Included in E.D. Report.

Council Reports:

- **Council District 5:** Robert Allarte discussed the city property at Wardlow and Cerritos, there will be a community meeting to discuss the site. August 16 is a CD5-sponsored concert at LBCC. Open House at Relativity space company Saturday at 10am (Wardlow & Cherry); checking on status of infrastructure projects in the district
- **Council District 8:** Esther reported: CD8 held a public safety meeting and there is a report of a decrease in crime in the area.
- **Public Comment**
 - Paul Forman discussed the new city property at 1133 E. Wardlow (at Cerritos) and the possible housing (with mixed use). Could this be added to a future BKBIA meeting agenda?
- a. **Adjournment :**
 - i. David made a motion to adjourn at 9:14am; Starr seconded
 - ii. Motion passed unanimously; meeting adjourned at **9:14am**

Project Manager Progress Report

❖ Events & Promotions

- **Women of Bixby Knolls Features**
 - Started our yearly features of our women-owned or managed businesses. These posts are always well received and business owners share their gratitude for being highlighted.
- **First Fridays**
 - Celebrated Women’s History Month. All businesses seemed happy and busy.
 - We kept an eye on the serial “creeper” – he was hanging around Rasselbock.
 - We are now starting to plan our biggest First Fridays, Long Beach County Fair.
- **Kidical Mass**
 - May have to change locations due to the landlord.
- **Day in Bixby**
 - Working with Diana, she helped us film a vlog-style video showing her day in Bixby Knolls.
 - This series featured Cassidy’s Corner Café, Eüca Beauty, AndyLiz Boutique, EmpaTia Counseling, Andre’s Car Wash, and Nonna Mercato.
 - Tom also shot this series in photos with her as the model.
 - We’ll share on social media soon, if it performs well we will create this video format a series to continue highlighting businesses in a different way.

❖ Other Important Notes

- Will start to prep various projects and tasks for our new hire which she will need to jump on when she starts next month. I will work with her closely to get her on board with all BKBIA related projects.
 - We are trying to catch up on all accounting for both operating and foundation, it will help once we have a third person in the office.
- We’ve had a huge influx of rental inquiries, trying to book the building when possible.

❖ Looking Ahead

- **April 5** – First Fridays, 6:30pm-9:30pm
- **April 10** – Literary Society, Dream Come True at 7pm
- **April 21** – Kidical Mass, Pixie Toys at 11am
- **April 25** - Knights of the Round (Turn)table, Beachwood at 6:30pm
- **Every Saturday** – Strollers, Coffee Bean at 7:30am

❖ Social Media

- **Instagram: 28,849** followers, gained 341 followers since our last meeting in October.
- **Facebook: 20,898** (all pages combined), gained 41 followers since our last meeting.
 - **11,030** members in community group

Executive Director's Report – March 21, 2024

- **Staffing update:**
 - Candidate search – position was posted via social media
 - Resumes and interviews (5)
 - New hire: Alana Solas-Yoshii, will work on First Fridays, April 5, and then start the following week as Content Manager

- **Next Business Breakfast**
 - Mark your calendar: May 16, 8:00am
 - Guest Speaker: Alan Katz,
 - We will ask the mayor to join us at a future breakfast

- **District News:**
 - Granny's Donuts closed; Shopping center has a new owner
 - El Torito closed. Denny's to close soon, too? Possible housing development on that property
 - Gemmae Bakery in escrow with the city for former fire station #9 space
 - Launching the new Salsa Dance Night at Taboon this week.

- **General Safety Notes**
 - Using the Traffic Complaint link to LBPD
 - BKBIA uses this daily and recommends that everyone use it to report speeding or any other issue so LBPD has the data to work with.
 - One-time funding from the city: We submitted our Scope of Work to receive the \$29K for security and corridor activation.
 - 7-11, Wardlow & LB Blvd – There have been a handful of repeat offenders who have harassed the employees of 7-11 and other businesses in the center; Kelly Bray has done a great job staying in contact with PD and identifying these individuals. CSI has helped clear the area many times.
 - First Amendment Auditor
 - Lighting projects – Kelly has also worked with Gaska and other property owners to have parking lot lighting updated and improved for safety
 - Asking for more security at First Fridays in April given the recent activity in downtown

- **BK Community Foundation**

- Sending in all paperwork to the DOJ and state to ensure the status remains “good.”

- **Expo Building**

- Status of new leases
- New carpet has been ordered
- Minor repairs – water damage upstairs will be repaired on Friday; overhang above the AACCLB was repaired after last rain
- Main Room and Katie Phillips Gallery have recently been painted