

**Little Beverly Hills Neighborhood Association  
Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** May 11, 2024

## **1. Welcome and Introductions**

**Rod Davis, LBH President**

- Introduction of the board members:
  - **Rob Gallagher, Vice President**
  - **Bill Christensen, Treasurer**
  - **Meredith Gardner, Secretary**
  - **Brian Ramos, Communications Facilitator**

## **2. Special Guests**

**Mayor Jeffrey Bernstein, City of Palm Springs**

**Topics Discussed:**

- **Housing and Homelessness:**
  - **Navigation Center:**
    - Open for overnight stays, not a drop-in center.
    - 80-bed modular units opening this summer, including family and transitional youth mini-apartments.
    - Services: Medical care, addiction support, mental health care, and job assistance.
  - **Boxing Club (El Cielo):**
    - Daytime drop-in with sign-ups available for the Navigation Center.
  - **Affordable Housing:**
    - **Monarch Apartments** for low-income residents.
    - **ALO** for senior affordable housing.
- **Economic Development:**
  - **Wayne Olsen** appointed as Chief Economic Development Officer.
  - Focus on expanding commercial districts beyond downtown.
  - **Cannabis Industry:**
    - Palm Springs has 62 dispensaries per 100k residents, the highest in the country.
    - A 40-year moratorium on new permits.
    - Cannabis taxes reduced to align with other cities.
  - **Airport Expansion:**
    - \$2B upgrade, including a major extension to the south of Wexler Terminal.
    - Expected demand to double in 20 years.
  - **Convention Center:**

- Requires upgrades.
    - The first Small Business Development Center opened, targeting LGBTQ+, minorities, and veterans with small grants.
  - **Hotels:**
    - **Thompson Hotel** opening this year, with a \$200M personal investment by the owner.
    - **Dream Hotel** still on track, owned by Hyatt.
  - **Orchid Tree Church:**
    - Facing multiple accidental fires; city halting further concessions.
- **Historic Sites:**
  - **Racquet Club:** Historic buildings complicate development.
  - **Library:** \$40M+ plan for infrastructure upgrades.
  - **Plaza Theater:**
    - \$15M raised by a private group for renovations, with a \$27M project cost.
    - Opening slated for October/November 2025.
- **Traffic Calming Initiatives:**
  - Road diets planned for Raquet Club and South Palm Canyon.
  - Speed check signs and stop signs added in key locations.
- **AI Professional Attraction:**
  - Palm Springs is becoming a hub for AI professionals.
- **Section 14:**
  - Settlement agreements for verified property losses.
  - Initiatives to address past inequities.
- **Pacasso:**
  - Returning to the city for further discussion.

**Contact Information:**

- Mayor Jeffrey Bernstein: [jeffrey.bernstein@ca.gov](mailto:jeffrey.bernstein@ca.gov)

**Chief Andy Mills, Palm Springs Police Department**

**Topics Discussed:**

- **Staffing Challenges:**
  - Significant reductions in staffing across major cities, including Palm Springs.
  - Recruitment efforts underway; AI technology being explored for support.
- **Crime Statistics:**
  - Violent crime significantly down, with a focus on reducing aggravated assaults.
  - Last year marked the first year in a decade with no murders.
- **Traffic Enforcement:**
  - 1,200 speeding citations issued; 7 fatal accidents in 2023.
  - Focus on 10 identified hotspots within the city.

**Neighborhood Updates**  
**President's Report (Rod Davis)**

- **Increased Communications:**
  - Enhanced social media presence and visibility of the neighborhood.
  - Success in Modernism Week 2024; scored 49/50 in the secret shopper report.
  - Plans for three neighborhood events per year.
- **Traffic Calming:**
  - Optimistic about proactive police assistance.

**Treasurer's Report (Bill Christensen).**

LITTLE BEVERLY HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATION

RECOGNIZED BY THE CITY OF PALM SPRINGS NOVEMBER 11, 2014

A NON-PROFIT CIVIC IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION

INCORPORATED MAY 19, 2016

ANNUAL MEETING

May 11, 2024

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance as of 04/29/2023: \$36,994.72

Subsequent expenses to date:

Office supplies: \$29.62

Mailing supplies: \$65.42

Bank fees: \$24.00

PO Box \$100.00

Website set-up

New domain 5-year registration: \$1231.93

Old domain 9-year re-registration: \$208.53

Spring Event: \$1484.30

Fall Event: \$2116.31

Winter Event: \$1708.22

Neighborhood Garage Sale: \$99.41

Modernism Week 2024: \$3823.59

Subsequent income to date:

Modernism Week 2024: \$26,900.00

Merchandise sales: \$355.00

Net revenue from Modernism Week 2024 home tours: \$23,076.41

Balance as of May 11, 2024: \$53,358.39

Comparison with Modernism Week 2023:

Income: \$25,364.00

Expenses: \$4682.67 (including Bedford Drive road closure fee of \$835.12)

Net revenue: \$20,681.33

Filings submitted for fiscal year 2023:

IRS, 02/15/2024

CA Franchise Tax Board, 02/28/2024

CA Attorney General, Registry of Charitable Trusts, 03/25/2024

CA Secretary of State Corporate Registration, pending annual  
election of officers

Submitted by:

William I. Christensen, Treasurer

### **Charitable Donations**

- Donations of \$2,500 issued to each of the following organizations
  - PSMoDCon/BEAM Scholarship
  - St. Theresa's Food Bank
  - PS Unified School District Foundation

### **Oswit Land Trust/Prescott Preserve (David Paisley)**

- **Staff and Budget:**
  - 10 staff members with a \$600K+ operating budget.
  - Anticipation of two new properties being announced soon.
- **Lawsuit/Grant:**
  - Ongoing lawsuit settlement negotiations; a \$7M grant pending resolution.

### **2024-25 Elections**

- **Uncontested Election Results Announced** - all previous board members remain
  - Rod Davis, President
  - Rob Gallagher, Vice President
  - Bill Christensen, Treasurer
  - Meredith Gardner, Secretary
  - Brian Ramos, Communications Facilitator

### **New Business**

- **Volunteer Recognition**
- **Annual Picnic**
- **Adjournment**