

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council

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Date of NC Board Action: 08/16/2014

Type of NC Board Action: For Proposal

Impact Information

Date: 09/16/2014

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 13-1374

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

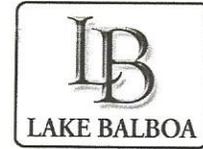
Brief Summary: LBNC Supports (12-1-2) a GMO-free Zone in Los Angeles. This initiative stands the potential to have significant long-term impact on food security, ensure the safety of our bee populations, have no impact on the cost of purchased food and encourage more economic development in urban agriculture.

Additional Information:



## Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council

P.O. Box 7720  
Lake Balboa, CA 91409-7720  
Voice-mail/FAX 818-779-9026  
www.LakeBalboaNC.org



Neighborhood Council

August 8, 2014

### Councilmembers

Los Angeles City Council  
200 N. Spring St  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**Re:** CF 13-1374 Prohibit GMO Crops within City Limits

Councilmembers,

On August 8, 2014, the Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council Board met at a regularly scheduled and agendaed meeting and passed the following motion by a vote of 12-1-2 in support of Council File 13-1374.

Whereas, The Los Angeles City Council has requested the City Attorney to prepare and present an ordinance which would prohibit the growth of genetically modified GM crops within city limits,  
Whereas, an ordinance should prohibit each of the following practices related to the growing of GM crops within city limits: the planting of GM seeds, the sale of GM seeds by vendors, the sale of any seeds that could potentially be contaminated by other genetically modified organisms (GMO), the sale of GM fruit trees and plants,  
Therefore, Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council supports Council File 13-1374

Sincerely,

Linda Gravani  
President, Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council



Certified by the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, City of Los Angeles

DRAFT 2

**Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, August 6, 2014 6:30 pm**  
Gault Elementary School - Auditorium  
17000 Gault St., Lake Balboa, California 91406

**1. Meeting called to order by Linda Gravani, President, at 7:03pm.**

**2. Roll Call**

Natalie Arazi	Residential Stakeholder Representative (RSR); 1 <sup>ST</sup> Vice President	<b>P</b>
James C. Brown	RSR; 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	<b>P</b>
Sandy Joseph	RSR	<b>P</b>
Linda Pruett	RSR; Emergency Preparedness Co-Chair	<b>P</b>
Tom Riley	RSR	<b>P</b>
Cynthia Weichelt	RSR	<b>P</b>
Justin T. Bonney	Business Stakeholder Representative (BSR); Communications Officer	<b>P</b>
Gary Davis	BSR	<b>P</b>
Linda Gravani	BSR; President	<b>P</b>
Ruth Doxsee	Organizational SR; Secretary	<b>P</b>
Bethany Harris	OSR	<b>A</b>
Linda Schwering	OSR; Treasurer	<b>P</b>
Mary L Pennomon	Senior Stakeholder Representative	<b>P</b>
Madeline J. Pammit	Youth Stakeholder Representative	<b>P</b>
Brian Tessier	At-Large Elected Community Interest SR; EP Co-Chair	<b>P</b>
Tom Brennan	At-Large Appointed SR	<b>P</b>
Vacant	At-Large Appointed SR	

**3. ADOPTED Agenda by unanimous vote:** *Cynthia Weichelt brought a motion to approve the agenda for the August 6, 2014 meeting, seconded by James Brown.*

AYE: Arazi, Brown, Joseph, Pruett, Riley, Weichelt, Bonney, Davis, Gravani, Doxsee, Schwering, Pennomon, Pammit, Tessier, Brennan

**VOTE: (15-0-0) MOTION PASSES**

**4. APPROVED Minutes of the June 4, 2014 meeting:** *Cynthia Weichelt brought a motion to approve the June 4, 2014 Meeting Minutes, seconded by James Brown.*

AYE: Arazi, Brown, Joseph, Pruett, Riley, Weichelt, Bonney, Davis, Gravani, Doxsee, Schwering, Pennomon, Pammit, Tessier, Brennan

**VOTE: (15-0-0) MOTION PASSES**

**5. APPROVED Minutes of the June 4, 2014 Special Meeting**

Natalie Arazi brought a motion to approve the June 4, 2014 Special Meeting Minutes, seconded by James Brown.

AYE: Arazi, Brown, Joseph, Pruett, Riley, Weichelt, Bonney, Davis, Gravani, Doxsee, Schwering, Pennomon, Pammit, Tessier, Brennan

**VOTE: (15-0-0) MOTION PASSES**

**6. Appoint time keeper for the evening.** Tom Brennan agreed to act as time keeper.

**7. RECEIVED Announcements and Reports by LAPD, Local, City, State and Federal Representatives, Board Members, Committees**

A. **LAPD Officer Steve Olivares** stated the way to prevent burglaries is to leave a radio or TV on when away and leave a light on at night. Report any suspicious vehicle around the neighborhood to the police. Call 877-ASK-LAPD. MyLA311 is a good app. And NextDoor.com is a great social network. There is an Open House at the West Valley Station, 19020 Vanowen Street on September 20, 2014 from 10:00am – 2:00pm.

B. **Raffy Astvasadoorian – Deputy City Attorney, West Valley Division.** Raffy gave an update on the medical marijuana businesses that have been closed. Call him with information or questions regarding these businesses at 818-374-6837 or email at raffy.a@lacity.org

**C. Lynda Levitan – Area Director for City Councilwoman Nury Martinez, CD 6:**

Lynda stated the three movie nights at the Van Nuys Government Center, are August 15, 22, 29, 2014. A food truck will be present. Congratulations to Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council on its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! Care Giver classes are available. Clean-Up Day is on September 20, 2014 at Sepulveda Basin. Another Clean-Up Day in Lake Balboa between Vanowen and Sherman Way and between Haskell and Woodley is on September 27, 2014. The Health Fair will be in October 2014. The Rubber Ducky race at Lake Balboa is on August 31, 2014. Lynda left a pamphlet listing phone numbers of City Services that are available. She introduced Crystal Jimenez, Council Aide.

**D. Steve Butcherfield from Adrin Nazarian's office, State Assembly 46<sup>th</sup> District**

A Bill has been signed into law allowing light rail for the Orange Line between Lankershim and Hazeltine. There is special funding for Cal Arts for the California Arts Council. There is a Water Issue Breakfast on August 15, 2014 at 8:30am at Valley College. They are partnering with LADWP and Metropolitan District to talk about water in the San Fernando Valley.

**8. Committee Updates**

**A. Linda Pruett – Emergency Preparedness Committee**

The Regular Monthly Emergency Preparedness Meeting is Saturday, August 9, 2014 at the Flyaway at 9:00 a.m. The speaker will be Pat Hall, CERT Battalion Coordinator for Battalion 15 about the science of raising heavy objects off people in case of an earthquake, also known as cribbing. Linda and Brian Tessier are speaking to St. Bridget's Senior Group regarding Emergency Preparedness. Map You Neighborhood orientation class at SOS Survival is Saturday, August 16, 2014. The EP drill

is Saturday September 13, 2014 at Woodley Lake Golf Course and the Disaster Preparedness Fair is September 27, 2014.

B. James Brown – California Department of Public Health has cited an increase in the West Nile virus. There have been 19 infections. The number of dead birds has doubled since last year. Residents in the area need to make sure there is no stagnant water for breeding of mosquitoes. It is important to repair screens and doors to keep out the mosquitoes.

C. Natalie Arazi, Chair Economic Revitalized Development Committee  
Natalie read the Mission Statement. Their first meeting was very successful. The Map Our Businesses Initiative has been enacted. Artistic projects in summer 2015 were discussed. The next meeting is September 8, 2014, the place to be determined.

D. Tom Riley – Planning and Land Use Committee  
The PLUHT met July 3rd. There was a discussion how to make the Lake Balboa community stand out from the rest of the communities.

**9. Possible Appointment to Open Board Seat: Candidates being considered are Carol Newman and Allen Nelson.**

*Brian Tessier brought a motion that Lake Balboa NC table the vote of the appointment of the open board appointment and agendize a request to amend the Bylaws at the next meeting, seconded by James Brown.*

AYE: Arazi, Brown, Joseph, Weichelt, Bonney, Davis, Gravani, Schwering, Pennomon, Pammit, Tessier, Brennan

NAY: Doxsee

ABSTAIN: Tom Riley

**VOTE (13-1-1) MOTION PASSES**

**10. Public Comment: Comments from the Public on Non-Agenda Items, issues, announcements and Complaints within the jurisdiction for the Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council**

A. Allen Nelson stated the second mural is completed. A You Tube video and an article can be found on Facebook and on the Lake Balboa website.

B. Mary Wiser informed the Board that the tract map on the Vanowen project 17328 to 17344 West Vanowen Street was approved with Conditions. She suggested the Neighborhood Council should canvass the neighborhood to see how residents feel about the project before giving approval to the developers.

C. Karla Kincade spoke regarding the increase in massage parlors in the Lake Balboa area and wanted to know who to contact to obtain more information. (City Planning Department)

**11. Los Angeles City Budget Update: Linda Gravani**

**Two volunteers are needed to be Budget Reps for the Neighborhood Council Budget Day.**

*Linda Gravani made a motion that the Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council at the August 6, 2014 meeting hereby appoints Linda Schwering and Cynthia Weichelt as Budget Representatives for the Neighborhood Council, Gary Davis as alternate, seconded by James Brown.*

AYE: Arazi, Brown, Joseph, Pruett, Riley, Weichelt, Davis, Gravani, Doxsee, Schwering, Pennomon, Pammit, Tessier, Brennan

ABSTAIN: Bonney

**VOTE (14-0-1) MOTION PASSES**

**12. CF13-1374 Genetically Modified Crops**

David King, author, lecturer and founder of Los Angeles Seed Library spoke on how to achieve food security for our area and in favor of CF13-1374. greenteach@gmail.com, 310-722-3656

Motion by Linda Gravani: *Whereas the Los Angeles City Council has requested the City Attorney to prepare and present an ordinance which would prohibit the growth of genetically modified GM crops within city limits, whereas an ordinance should prohibit each of the following practices related to the growing of GM crops within city limits: the planting of GM seeds, the sale of GM seeds by vendors, the sale of any seeds that could potentially be contaminated by other genetically modified organisms (GMO), the sale of GM fruit trees and plants, I therefore move that Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council support File 13-1374. Seconded by Sandra Joseph.*

AYE: Arazi, Brown, Joseph, Pruett, Weichelt, Bonney, Davis, Gravani, Doxsee, Pennomon, Tessier, Brennan

NAY: Schwering

ABSTAIN: Riley, Pammit

**VOTE (12-1-2) MOTION PASSES**

**13. Board Vote on Funding Request: Discussion and request to spend up to \$5,000 towards Lake Balboa Freeway Signage.**

*Natalie Arazi made the motion that Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council spend up to \$5,000 towards ON freeway Lake Balboa signage, seconded by Gary Davis.*

AYE: Arazi, Brown, Joseph, Pruett, Weichelt, Bonney, Davis, Gravani, Doxsee, Schwering, Pennomon, Tessier, Brennan

ABSTAIN: Pammit, Pennomon

**VOTE (13-0-2)**

**14. Board Vote on Funding request: Up to \$600 for refreshments and/or meeting facility rental for ERaD Committee**

*Natalie Arazi made a motion that Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council approve up to \$600 for refreshments and/or meeting facility rental for ERaD Committee, seconded by Sandra Joseph.*

*Natalie Arazi amended the motion that Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council approve up to \$200 for refreshments and/or meeting facility rental for the next meeting of the Economic Revitalization Development Committee, seconded by Cynthia Weichelt.*

AYE: Arazi, Brown, Joseph, Pruett, Weichelt, Bonney, Davis, Gravani, Doxsee, Pennomon, Tessier, Brennan

NAY: Riley

ABSTAIN: Pammit, Schwering \_\_\_\_\_

**VOTE (11-1-3) MOTION PASSES**

**15. Outreach Ad Hoc Committee: Development of a LBNC 2014/15 marketing plan is needed for Outreach**

Linda Gravani appointed Justin Bonney as Chair of the Ad Hoc Outreach Committee

**16. Approval of 2013/14 Self-Assessment Form**

*Motion was made by Linda Gravani that Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council approve the Self-Assessment Form for fiscal year 2013/14, seconded by Cynthia Weichelt.*

AYE: Arazi, Brown, Joseph, Pruett, Riley, Weichelt, Bonney, Gravani, Doxsee, Schwering, Pennomon, Tessier, Brennan

ABSTAIN: Davis, Pammit

**VOTE (13-0-2)**

**17. Approval of 2014/15 Outreach Survey**

*Motion was made by Linda Gravani that Lake Balboa approve the Outreach Survey, seconded by Cynthia Weichelt*

AYE: Arazi, Brown, Joseph, Pruett, Riley, Weichelt, Bonney, Gravani, Doxsee, Schwering, Pennomon, Tessier, Brennan

ABSTAIN: Davis, Pammit

**VOTE (13-0-2)**

**18. RECEIVED Treasurer's Report - Review and request for approval of the June 2014 and July 2014 Expenditure Report**

*Linda Schwering made a motion to adopt the June 2014 that includes P-card reconciliation and July 2014 Expenditure Report using the new LBNC bank account, seconded by Cynthia Weichelt.*

AYE: Arazi, Brown, Davis, Joseph, Pruett, Riley, Weichelt, Bonney, Gravani, Doxsee, Schwering, Pennomon, Tessier, Brennan

ABSTAIN: Pammit

**VOTE (14-0-1) MOTION PASSES**

**19. Treasurer Update on new funding policies:** Linda Schwering updated the Neighborhood Council on the new funding policies. DONE is giving an approval code on all funding requests. All forms and invoices need to be filled out completely before submission to DONE for payment. Payments from the checking account card are immediate. Payments through electronic checking account need a Funding Request Form signed by the second signer and treasurer. The vendor will to be paid in 3-5 days. A check is sent to the vendor directly from the bank.

**20. LBNC Storage Space Rental**

*Linda Schwering made the motion that Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council spend up to \$150 per month of rental of storage space for Neighborhood Council materials, seconded by Natalie Arazi.*

AYE: Arazi, Brown, Davis, Joseph, Pruett, Riley, Weichelt, Bonney, Gravani, Doxsee, Schwering, Pennomon, Tessier, Brennan

ABSTAIN: Pammit

**VOTE (14-0-1) MOTION PASSES**

**21. LBNC Website: Discussion and possible action regarding Webmaster's new pricing plans.**

Item #21 was tabled.

**22. Board Vote on Funding Request: Up to \$1500 for Facebook ads for fiscal year.**

Item #22 was tabled.

**23. Board Vote on Funding Request: Up to \$250 for Google Apps/Docs Platform set-up.**

*Justin Bonney made the motion that Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council approve up to \$250 to proceed with the Google Apps/Docs Platform on behalf of the Neighborhood Council website, seconded by Natalie Arazi.*

AYE: Arazi, Brown, Davis, Joseph, Pruet, Riley, Weichelt, Bonney, Gravani, Doxsee, Schwering, Pennomon, Tessier, Brennan

ABSTAIN: Pammit

**VOTE (14-0-1) MOTION PASSES**

**24. Board Vote on Funding Request: \$500 for Lutheran Social Services Walk**

*Brian Tessier made the motion that Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council approve up to \$500 to the Lutheran Social Services Center in Van Nuys that serves residents of Lake Balboa and the Greater San Fernando Valley. The \$500 would be in the form of a Neighborhood Purposes Grant and used only to purchase food for the LSS food pantry for those in need, seconded by Linda Gravani.*

AYE: Arazi, Davis, Joseph, Pruet, Riley, Weichelt, Bonney, Gravani, Doxsee, Schwering, Pennomon, Tessier, Brennan

NAY: Brown

ABSTAIN: Pammit

**VOTE (13-1-1) MOTION PASSES**

**25. Board Vote on Funding Request: \$200 for Bassett St. School Clean-up on 9/27/14**

*Brian Tessier made the motion that Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council approve up to \$200 for the Bassett St. School Clean-up, seconded by Ruth Doxsee.*

AYE: Arazi, Davis, Joseph, Pruet, Riley, Weichelt, Bonney, Gravani, Doxsee, Schwering, Pennomon, Tessier, Brennan

Nay: Brown

ABSTAIN: Pammit

**VOTE (13-1-1) MOTION PASSES**

**26. Old Business PA System expenditure**

*Cynthia Weichelt made a motion the Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council no longer requires the portable P.A. system due to the current location, seconded by Natalie Arazi.*

AYE: Arazi, Brown, Davis, Joseph, Pruet, Riley, Weichelt, Bonney, Gravani, Doxsee, Schwering, Pennomon, Tessier, Brennan

ABSTAIN: Pammit

**VOTE (14-0-1) MOTION PASSES**

**27. Operational Expenses FY14/15**

*Linda Schwering made a motion Items 27.1 (AT&T Telephone messaging service: up to \$16.50/mo x 12 = \$198.00), 27.2 (Minute Taker/Temporary Staff: up to \$175.00/mo x 12 = \$2,100.00), 27.3*

*(LAUSD Meeting Room Rental: up to \$150.00/mo x 12 = \$1,800.00) be approved as ongoing operational expenses to be deducted from the NC checking account, seconded by Linda Gravani.*

AYE: Arazi, Brown, Davis, Joseph, Pruett, Riley, Weichelt, Bonney, Gravani, Doxsee, Schwering, Pennomon, Tessier, Brennan

ABSTAIN: Pammit

**VOTE (14-0-1) MOTION PASSES**

**28. Board Member Reimbursement to Linda Schwering for \$23.83.**

*Linda Schwering made a motion that Linda Schwering be reimbursed \$23.83 in funds to be taken from the fiscal year 2014/2015 Budget which was used to purchase ice/snacks as a direct cost of the Mural 2 project held June 27 & 28, 2014 that was approved in the fiscal year 2013/2014, seconded by James Brown.*

AYE: Arazi, Brown, Davis, Joseph, Pruett, Riley, Weichelt, Bonney, Gravani, Doxsee, Schwering, Pennomon, Tessier, Brennan

ABSTAIN: Pammit

**VOTE (14-0-1) MOTION PASSES**

**29. Board Member Reimbursement to Linda Pruett for \$55.00**

*Linda Schwering made a motion that Linda Pruett be reimbursed \$55.00 in funds to be taken from the fiscal year 2014/2015 Budget for the purchase of a rubber stamp that was approved in fiscal year 2013/2014 Budget, seconded by James Brown.*

AYE: Arazi, Brown, Davis, Joseph, Pruett, Riley, Weichelt, Bonney, Gravani, Doxsee, Schwering, Pennomon, Tessier, Brennan

ABSTAIN: Pammit

**VOTE (14-0-1) MOTION PASSES**

**30. Board Member Reimbursement to Linda Pruett for \$66.90**

*Linda Schwering made a motion that Linda Pruett be reimbursed \$66.90 in funds that comes from the fiscal year 2014/2015 budget for the purchase of food/drinks/supplies as a direct cost of the Mural 2 project held June 27, & 28, 2014 that was approved in fiscal year 2013/2014 budget, seconded by James Brown.*

AYE: Arazi, Brown, Davis, Joseph, Pruett, Riley, Weichelt, Bonney, Gravani, Doxsee, Schwering, Pennomon, Tessier, Brennan

ABSTAIN: Pammit

**VOTE (14-0-1) MOTION PASSES**

**31. Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 9:43pm.

DRAFT2

**Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council Special Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, August 6, 2014 9:45 pm**  
Gault Elementary School - Auditorium  
17000 Gault St., Lake Balboa, California 91406

**1. Meeting called to order by Linda Gravani, President, at 9:45 pm.**

**2. Roll Call**

Natalie Arazi	Residential Stakeholder Representative (RSR); 1 <sup>ST</sup> Vice President	P
James C. Brown	RSR; 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	P
Sandy Joseph	RSR	P
Linda Pruett	RSR; Emergency Preparedness Co-Chair	P
Tom Riley	RSR	P
Cynthia Weichelt	RSR	P
Justin T. Bonney	Business Stakeholder Representative (BSR); Communications Officer	P
Gary Davis	BSR	P
Linda Gravani	BSR; President	P
Ruth Doxsee	Organizational SR; Secretary	P
Bethany Harris	OSR	A
Linda Schwering	OSR; Treasurer	P
Mary L Pennomon	Senior Stakeholder Representative	P
Madeline J. Pammit	Youth Stakeholder Representative	P
Brian Tessier	At-Large Elected Community Interest SR; EP Co-Chair	P
Tom Brennan	At-Large Appointed SR	P
Vacant	At-Large Appointed SR	

**3. ADOPTED Agenda by unanimous vote:** Ruth Doxsee *made a motion to approve the agenda for the August 6, 2014 Special Meeting, seconded by James Brown.*

AYE: Arazi, Brown, Joseph, Pruett, Riley, Weichelt, Bonney, Davis, Gravani, Doxsee, Schwering, Pennomon, Pammit, Tessier, Brennan

**VOTE: (15-0-0) MOTION PASSES**

**4. Board Vote on Funding Request: To spend up to \$500 for 700 EP kits at the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Valley Disaster Preparedness Fair event on Saturday 9/27/14.**

Linda Pruett *made a motion that Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council purchase up to \$500 for 700 EP kits at the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Valley Disaster Preparedness Fair Event Saturday 9/27/14, seconded by Linda Gravani*

AYE: Arazi, Brown, Joseph, Pruett, Riley, Weichelt, Bonney, Davis, Gravani, Doxsee, Schwering, Pennomon, Tessier, Brennan

ABSTENTION: Pammit

**VOTE: (14-0-1) MOTION PASSES**

**5. Board Vote on Funding Request: to spend up to \$250 for food at the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Valley Disaster Preparedness Fair Event.**

*Linda Pruett made a motion that Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council approve up to \$250 for food at the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Valley Disaster Preparedness Fair Event, seconded by Linda Gravani.*

AYE: Arazi, Brown, Joseph, Pruett, Riley, Weichelt, Bonney, Davis, Gravani, Doxsee, Schwering, Pennomon, Tessier, Brennan

ABSTENTION: Pammit

**VOTE: (14-0-1) MOTION PASSES**

**6. Board Vote on Land Use Committee Recommendation: 6635 North De Celis Place, Lake Balboa, CA**

*Tom Riley made a motion that the Lake Balboa Neighborhood Council recommend that the permit be denied for the garage conversion at 6635 N. De Celis Place, Lake Balboa, and a letter be sent to the Building & Safety Department in support of the board's decision, seconded by Linda Pruett.*

AYE: Joseph, Pruett, Riley, Weichelt, Davis, Gravani, Doxsee, Schwering, Brennan

NAY: Arazi

ABSTENTION: Brown, Bonney, Pammit, Pennomon, Tessier

**VOTE: (9-1-5) MOTION PASSES**

**7. Board Vote on Land Use Committee Recommendation: 17512 West Lemay Place, Lake Balboa, CA**

*Tom Riley made a motion that the Lake Balboa NC recommend the permit for the garage conversion at 17512 W. Lemay Place be denied by the Department of Building & Safety, and a letter be sent to the Building & Safety Department in support of the board's decision, seconded by Brian Tessier.*

AYE: Joseph, Pruett, Riley, Weichelt, Gravani, Doxsee, Schwering, Brennan

NAY: Arazi

ABSTENTION: Bonney, Brown, Davis, Pammit, Pennomon, Tessier

**VOTE: (8-1-6) MOTION PASSES**

**8. Direct By Laws committee to draft and present to the board proposed bylaw amendments.**

President Linda Gravani asked the by laws committee, which consists of herself, Linda Schwering and Brian Tessier to draft and present proposed by law amendments to the board.

**9. Adjournment**

Special Meeting adjourned at 10:00pm.