

WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MINUTES
JANUARY 10, 2024
BELMONT VILLAGE SENIOR LIVING
10475 WILSHIRE BLVD. LOS ANGELES, CA 90024

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Lisa Chapman called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. Board members in attendance were Amie Baron, Connie Boukidis, Sandy Brown, Lisa Chapman, Lucas Dickey, Roozbeh Farahanipour, Tracey Fitzgerald, Philip Gabriel, Stephen Resnick, Laura Winikow, and Jonathan York. Members excused were Ann Hayman, David Lorango, Doug Mark, and Michael Telerant, There were approximately 14 stakeholders and guests attending.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Philip Gabriel closed his store in Westwood Village after 26 years and is now doing business online only.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Lisa Chapman moved to approve the November 8, 2023 minutes, seconded by Tracey Fitzgerald, and approved unanimously.

4. COMMENTS BY PUBLIC OFFICIALS

A. Officer Bermudez, filling in for SLO Allen, reported that violent crime is down 50%, thefts are down 57%, and property crime is down 84%. Burglaries were high but the LAPD arrested 12 members of a South American burglary crew, with more search warrants to come, so burglaries are currently down. Westwood Gardens Park will be getting a task force because the homeless there won't leave. The gate is broken and homeless are camping in the playground equipment.

B. LAFD representative Jesse de la Cruz reported that sandbags for rain protection are available at Fire Stations 23, 19, and 71. The LAFD is offering a Candidate Advancement Program for those interested in applying for a job. There are about 100 vacancies.

C. U.S. Congressman Ted Lieu's representative Janet Turner gave a legislative update.

D. UCLA representative Marco Perez introduced Leeor Alpern, the new director of UCLA Government & Community Relations. He also reported that UCLA bought Westside Pavilion, which will become a research park; the botanical garden will open February 3rd for public tours; and a memorial for Chancellor Young will be held at Royce Hall on January 18th.

E. State Assemblymember Rick Chavez Zbur's representative Sherwin Shamoeil said that the Assemblymember will reschedule and attend a future meeting. Assemblymember Zbur is chairing the Retail Theft Committee.

F. 3rd District County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath's representative Amanda Laflin reported that the supervisor is chair of the board now and gave a legislative update.

G. Mayor Bass's representative Marian Ensley reported that the mayor's office will be active in the homeless count and gave some highlights from the mayor's year end review, available on the mayor's website.

5. DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT

There is still no NEA yet.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

A. Motion to approve the Monthly Expenditure Reports for November 2023 and December 2023 Treasurer Laura Winikow reported that the November 2023 and December 2023 MERs are the same. The beginning balance was \$36,194.73 with \$93.02 spent, \$87.91

outstanding, and a net available amount of \$36,013.85. Laura moved to approve the November 2023 MER, seconded by Tracey Fitzgerald, and approved unanimously. The December 2023 MER's beginning balance was \$36,194.73 with \$93.02 spent, \$87.91 outstanding, and a net available amount of \$36,013.85. Laura moved to approve the December 2023 MER, seconded by Tracey Fitzgerald, and approved unanimously.

7. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Stakeholder Michael Woods, a parent at St. Paul's, said that they are opposing the development as proposed at 10756 Wilkins. As proposed, the driveway will be on Ohio. Ohio is a street where 1,000 children travel twice a day to and from schools. This is not a by right project. The developer is asking for floor area ratio doubling, raising of the height limit from 45 to 56 feet, and reduction of the front yard setback from 15 feet to 11 feet on Ohio where there are visibility issues because it is at an intersection where three streets meet. The final planning commission vote will be on February 8th. He has just met with Patricia Macias at CD5. The pastor has met with representatives from Emerson, Fairburn, and the Mormon church. The developer has not made a presentation to any neighborhood organization. He requested an LUPC meeting about this. Connie Boukidis will be in contact and set it up.

8. OPEN BUSINESS GROUP DIRECTOR SEAT

A. Motion to approve Amie Baron for the open Business Group Director Seat

Amie Baron introduced herself and gave some biographical information. Lisa Chapman moved, "The WWNC approves Amie Baron for the open Business Group Director Seat." Philip Gabriel seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

9. OUTREACH EFFORTS TO IMPROVE WESTWOOD GARDENS PARK

A. Introduction of Motion: The Westwood Neighborhood Council approves the result of the outreach survey

Support for Community's Indication of Westwood Gardens Park Expansion and Revitalization

"The Westwood Neighborhood Council expresses our strong support for a proposed expansion and revitalization of Westwood Gardens Park. Our commitment is rooted in the recent community survey (attached), which has provided valuable insights directly and indirectly related to park revitalization efforts including:

1. Community Engagement: The survey indicates high engagement, with all respondents living within 1-2 miles of the park. All respondents are parents of students at Fairburn Elementary School, and represented >10% coverage of parents with students at the school and thus representing a statistically significant sample size.
2. Safety Concerns: A continuing primary concern is the presence of homeless individuals at the Westwood Gardens Park, which raises safety and cleanliness issues.
3. Improvement Suggestions: Community members suggest adding swings, repairing the gate, planting trees, and constructing a soccer field.
4. Addressing Homelessness: Resolving homelessness issues is seen as a prerequisite for making other improvements effective.

Key survey results include:

1. Overwhelming safety concerns of parents: 84% of survey respondents said safety concerns, due to the homeless population, are a major deterrent to using the park.
2. Larger play structure: 80+% of respondents indicated a desire for a larger play structure at the park for older children.

3. Reconfiguration for utilization: 85% of respondents indicated that they'd like to see reconfigured seating for picnics, parties and other uses.

4. Intent to Use Following Revitalization: 60+% of respondents indicated they'd utilize the park more following changes to the park.

The survey results highlight the community's desire for a safe, clean, and family-friendly park.

We believe that the revitalization of Westwood Gardens Park will not only enhance the quality of life for our residents but also serve as a beacon of community pride and engagement.

We urge Councilmember Katy Yaroslavsky's office to consider these findings and support the park's expansion and improvement. Together, we can create a space that reflects our community's values and needs.

Based on the groundswell of community support, the Westwood Neighborhood Council urges Councilmember Yaroslavsky to implement a LAMC 41.18 designation for this park."

The motion above is amended. Lucas Dickey moved, "The Westwood Neighborhood Council approves the amended motion." Tracey Fitzgerald seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Lucas will send the motion and survey to CD5.

10. WESTWOOD PARK ADVISORY BOARD

Tracey Fitzgerald didn't attend the meeting so she had no report.

11. HOLMBY PARK ADVISORY BOARD

Lisa Chapman reported that Robert Ringler resigned. It turns out that there was no paperwork for the Holmby PAB going back 20 years so there were no background checks and no live scan screenings for all that time. Right now the PAB is in limbo. Lisa emailed RAP but has gotten no response.

12. STANDING COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

A. Executive – no report

B. Land Use & Planning

Connie Boukidis asked to agendaize the LUPC for the next meeting because there are new rules.

C. Outreach & Communications – no report

D. Homeless Task Force

Lisa Chapman announced that the homeless count will take place on January 24th and volunteers are needed.

E. Budget Advocates -no report

F. Public Safety/ Transportation & Parking – no report

G. WRAC – Emergency Preparedness – no report

H. Bylaws

Sandy Brown asked for any proposed changes to be brought to the February meeting.

I. WRAC – Report and Motions

1. Support: Corrective Sidewalk Repairs

Support CF 21-1469-S2/ Alternative Corrective Sidewalk Repairs

Refers to City Council file [21-1469-S2](#)

The Westwood Neighborhood Council supports CF 21-1469-S2 in addressing the need for more cost effective and efficient processes for repairing sidewalks, which are dangerously risky throughout the Westside.

The Westwood Neighborhood Council further requests that the report-back include recommendations for measures to protect existing street trees during sidewalk repair.

[Read more](#)

Stephen Resnick moved the above motion, seconded by Lisa Chapman. The motion carried with a vote of Yes: 9, No: 0, and Abstain: 1 (Lucas Dickey). Roozbeh Farahanipour had already left so he didn't vote.

13. ADJOURNMENT

President Lisa Chapman adjourned the meeting at 9:20 p.m.