

WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MINUTES
JANUARY 13, 2021
ZOOM MEETING ONLINE OR BY TELEPHONE

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Lisa Chapman called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Board members in attendance were Connie Boukidis, Sandy Brown, Lisa Chapman, Tracey Fitzgerald, Philip Gabriel, Ann Hayman, Eloise Metcalfe, Stephen Resnick, Paula Rogers, Mark Rogo, and Laura Winikow. Members excused were Roozbeh Farahanipour, David Lorango, and Marcello Robinson. A quorum was present. There were approximately ten stakeholders and guests attending.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Philip Gabriel moved to approve the December 9, 2020 minutes, seconded by Laura Winikow and approved unanimously.

3. COMMENTS BY PUBLIC OFFICIALS

A. UCLA representative Marco Perez announced that in-person instruction will not resume until September 2021. Royce Hall is hosting virtual programs. UCLA Associate Vice Chancellor Jennifer Poulakidas reported that Jackie Robinson Stadium will be a vaccination site.

B. Mayor Garcetti's representative Brad Fingard introduced himself and gave an update on COVID-19 vaccines.

C. CD5 Field Deputy Jasmine Shamolian reported that the city will increase mask enforcement. The soccer field at Westwood Park started construction last Thursday. Stakeholder Doug Mark apologized to Stephen Resnick for initiating an altercation at Westwood Park after Stephen Resnick asked construction workers working on the new soccer field a question about the existing soccer field.

D. SLO Pete Ojeda reported that mail theft in apartment buildings is ongoing, a sexual battery suspect was arrested, and efforts are being made to get housing and services for homeless in Westwood Park.

E. U.S. Congressman Ted Lieu's representative Janet Turner gave an update on legislation and reported that the USPS has received COVID-19 relief money so it can hire new employees.

4. DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT

DONE NEA Freddy Cupen-Ames announced a joint initiative with Mayor Garcetti's office, a data liaison program which will offer training to help with data mapping and other skills. Each NC can appoint up to three data liaisons. WWNC needs to appoint a representative and an alternate to its Regional Grievance Council.

5. DISCUSSION OF REDISTRICTING – GUEST SPEAKER ROCKY DELGADILLO, ESQ., FORMER LOS ANGELES CITY ATTORNEY

Sandy Brown introduced Rocky Delgadillo, who explained the redistricting process. It uses census data, divides the city into 15 districts, and is required to keep communities of interest together. Census data is late this year and may not be available until June.

6. DISCUSSION OF HOMELESS YOUTH IN LOS ANGELES – GUEST SPEAKER: LUANA COBERG, JOVENES INC.

Luana Coberg gave a presentation about the organization's home host program, which involves people hosting students who have aged out of foster care in their homes for a temporary period. There are approximately 4,000 such students a year in L. A. County, and in 2020 there was a 19% increase.

7. TREASURER'S REPORT

A. Motion to approve Monthly Expenditure Report for December 2020

Treasurer Laura Winikow reported that December's MER included a beginning balance of \$34,552, \$38.40 spent, and an ending balance of \$34,514. Laura moved to approve the MER, seconded by Philip Gabriel and approved unanimously.

Neighborhood Purpose Grants are upcoming in March.

8. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There was no public comment.

9. RENTER SEAT APPLICANTS - UPDATE

Lisa Chapman reported that one person expressed interest but didn't live in the area.

10. STANDING COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

A. Executive – no report

B. Land Use & Planning – no report

C. Outreach & Communications – no report

D. Homeless Task Force

Chair Lisa Chapman reported that she had a phone conversation with a UCLA doctor and learned that mobile units for street medicine will be set up.

E. Budget Advocates – no report

F. Public Safety/ Transportation & Parking – no report

G. Bylaws – no report

H. WRAC

1. Support CF 20-1536 (STAP Program/Digital Signs in Bus Shelter)

<https://westsidecouncils.com/motion/support-cf-20-1536-stap-program-digital-signs-in-bus-benches/>

Motion Refers to City Council file [20-1536](#)

The Westside Regional Alliance of Councils supports the Bonin/Blumenfield motion in CF 20-1536, and further requests that:

- prior to contract finalization, the City conduct an extensive and open public process, in which detailed information about STAP, the RFP and the contract negotiation process is made widely available and members of the public, community leaders and neighborhood/community councils are invited to provide ongoing input on community impacts, problems and ridership needs with respect to STAP;
- in connection with any contract that is eventually negotiated, the City 1) respect and abide by Community Plan, Specific Plan, Scenic Highway and Coastal Zone protections and requirements, including in the public right of way, and 2) address constituents' concerns about preservation of community character, protection of residential neighborhoods, public safety, environmental impacts and privacy infringement;
- all protections for scenic corridors, for local street furniture preferences and for neighborhoods with Specific Plans and codified prohibitions against off-site advertising that were negotiated and included in the JCDecaux contract be carried forward in any new contract that is negotiated; and

- the City restrict any new digital signs in or near bus shelters to sign districts in the 22 areas already zoned as Regional Commercial for high-intensity commercial use.

Lisa Chapman moved the above motion, seconded by Ann Hayman and carried unanimously.

2. Oppose BONC Social Media Policy

<https://westsidecouncils.com/motion/oppose-bonc-social-media-policy/>

Motion

Whereas the proposed BONC Social Media Policy is a direct overreach in power and scope of limiting the ability of Neighborhood Councils to effectively communicate with their constituency; it requires onerous and unenforceable clauses; is overly complicated when existing rules cover many of the issues outlined and a simpler approach would be more appropriate; Therefore the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils opposes the proposed BONC Social Media Policy.

Lisa Chapman moved the above motion, seconded by Philip Gabriel, and carried unanimously.

3. Prioritize School Reopenings

<https://westsidecouncils.com/motion/prioritize-school-reopenings/>

Motion

Whereas schools provide “essential academic and social-emotional learning” environments, and a broader array of resources including “physical, mental health, and therapeutic services”¹;

Whereas “school closures impede learning and compound inequities, disproportionately affecting disadvantaged children”²; and particularly disadvantaged are students who are at a young age, have special needs, or are from underprivileged households;

Whereas many states and countries have successfully prioritized the opening of schools over businesses, instead of the other way around;

Whereas Federal, State and local governments can offer stipends, grants, and loans to businesses and employees who may be forced to close, however the same government bodies cannot offer redress to students for lost opportunities and benefits derived from education;

Whereas “safe and consistently open schools are essential for many parents and guardians ... to reenter the workforce”¹, and forcing working parents into full time childcare is neither fair nor sustainable;

Whereas the health of all students, staff and teachers must be protected, the federal government and State of California must provide school districts with the resources needed for the safe reopening of schools and to contain outbreaks (should they occur) including the prioritization of school staff and teachers in vaccine distribution;

Therefore, the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils supports prioritizing the reopening of elementary schools and special-needs classes ahead of other services that are currently allowed to be open.

¹[Levinson M, Cevik M, Lipsitch M. Reopening primary schools during the pandemic. *New England Journal of Medicine*. 2020 Sep 3;383:981-985](#)

²[Armitage R, Nellums LB. Considering inequalities in the school closure response to COVID-19. *The Lancet Global Health*. 2020 May 1;8\(5\):e644.](#)

³[Ludvigsson JF. Children are unlikely to be the main drivers of the COVID-19 pandemic – a systematic review. *Acta Paediatrica*. 2020 May 19.](#)

Lisa Chapman moved the above motion, seconded by Philip Gabriel, and carried unanimously.

I. Park Advisory – no report

14. ADJOURNMENT

President Lisa Chapman adjourned the meeting at 9:33 p.m.