

WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 9, 2011
WESTWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
10822 WILSHIRE BLVD.
LOS ANGELES, CA 90024

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Jerry Brown called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. Board members in attendance were Jerry Brown, Connie Boukidis, Lisa Chapman, Roozbeh Farahanipour, Brent Gaisford, Toni Gray, Mark Herd, Stephen Resnick, Yoni Riemer, Mark Rogo, Clinton Schudy, Kurt Smalberg, Michael Stajura, George Torbay, Scott Whittle, and Laura Winikow. Board members absent were David Crew, Terry Pullan, and Steven Somers. There were also 19 stakeholders and guests in attendance.

2. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 9, 2011 MINUTES

Scott Whittle moved to approve the minutes with one correction of a typo in the third paragraph. The motion was seconded by Laura Winikow and carried unanimously. (Yes: 16; No: 0; Abstains: 0)

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Senior Lead Officer Chris Ragsdale of the West Los Angeles LAPD Division announced that his division is planning a carnival in Westwood on LeConte Avenue by UCLA in May. There will be street closures to accommodate the fair. Details will be posted on WWNC's website.

Al Abrams, President of BONC, announced Budget Day on Saturday, March 12th at 8:30 a.m. at City Hall. There will be briefings by the Mayor, LAPD, and other City Departments. He also announced a joint meeting with the City Council Education and Neighborhood Committee and BONC on March 23rd at 5 p.m. at City Hall to discuss 2012 Neighborhood Council elections.

Stakeholder Steve Sann announced a town hall forum with Mayor Villaraigosa to be held on March 29th at Felicia Mahood Senior Center.

Stakeholder Roxane Stern said she has written a letter to DONE about WWNC voicing greivances. President Jerry Brown said that an ad hoc committee would be formed to review grievances. He requested that anyone who is interested in

being on such a committee give their name and contact information to the secretary.

Yoni Riemer announced that there is a cocktail reception at Napa Valley Grille on March 28th held by the Chase Foundation, which raises money for playrooms at Children's Hospital.

4. STANDING COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

The Executive Committee has not met.

The Land Use Committee has not met, but will be meeting at 6:30 p.m. on the 2nd Wednesday of the month before the WWNC meeting in the future.

Lisa Chapman, Chair of the Outreach and Communications Committee, said that WWNC's website is up and running, and asked board members to submit bios and photos for posting on the website if they have not done so.

The Transportation and Traffic Committee has not met.

The Budget Committee has met and the treasurer will give a report.

5. BUDGET UPDATE

Treasurer Yoni Riemer said the Budget Committee reallocated funds in the budget. There was discussion regarding the reallocation of funds and budget update.

Yoni moved to approve the revised budget, which was seconded by Connie Boukidis. The motion carried unanimously. (Yes: 16; No: 0; Abstains: 0)

6. NEIGHBORHOOD PURPOSES GRANTS

Michael Stajura recommended that specific dates for grant proposal applications to be turned in should be published on the website. Then a committee should be formed to vet and evaluate them. There was lengthy discussion on this topic by Board and Community members. No final agreement was made on the standing process to vet Neighborhood Purpose Grants.

7. WESTSIDE SUBWAY EXTENSION

Jody Litvak of MTA discussed the subway extension, including the history of the process, changes to the project, and current plan. The final EIR/EIS will be released in the summer and go to MTA's board in the fall. Construction is expected to start in 2013. Another round of public hearings is coming up, and there is one on March 23rd from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Westwood Methodist Church. Ms. Litvak then answered questions from board and community members about parking and tunneling under homes. President Jerry Brown stated that WWNC should make a Community Impact Statement on the subway at a later date.

8. WESTWOOD ORGANIZED MEGA PROJECT (WOMP) & VOLUNTEER DAY

Stakeholders Steve Sann and John Heidt requested \$7,500 to help fund WOMP's Volunteer Day on April 17th. Some of the projects will be sweeping, painting, removing graffiti and stickers, and helping to plant trees in Westwood Village. The budget and details of the request was made available to the public for review, comment and consideration. Yoni Riemer moved to approve the granting of \$7,500 to WOMP. Mark Herd seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. (Yes: 15; No: 0; Abstains: 0) Michael Stajura recused himself from the discussion and vote.

9. NEIGHBORHOOD PURPOSES GRANT PROPOSAL

Amy Smith of Friends of the Westwood Library requested \$2,000 for cleaning and maintenance. The Westwood Branch Library is one of the busiest libraries in the system, and heavy usage and a decline in City funding for janitorial services mean it is really necessary to bring in a separate maintenance and cleaning crew. The budget and details of the request was made available to the public for review, comment and consideration. Brent Gaisford moved to approve the granting of \$2,000 to the Friends of the Westwood Library, Mark Herd seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. (Yes: 14; No: 0; Abstains: 0) Mark Rogo and Laura Winikow recused themselves from the vote.

10. WWNC DISASTER PREPAREDNESS FAIR

Michael Stajura and Stakeholder Chris Brooks talked about holding a Disaster Preparedness Fair, which many Neighborhood Councils do. A regular fair could cost less than \$2,000 but they would like to have a special feature, a mobile earthquake simulator. This simulator costs \$3,000 a day to rent and is constructed as a living room where 8 to 10 people at a time can experience a simulated earthquake. There was lengthy discussion on this topic by Board and Community members. Brent Gaisford moved that an ad hoc committee without a budget be formed to look into having the fair, Toni Gray seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. (Yes: 16; No: 0; Abstains: 0)

11. WESTSIDE REGIONAL ALLIANCE OF COUNCILS (WRAC)

Michael Stajura recommended that WWNC becomes a member of WRAC. There was lengthy discussion on this topic by Board and Community members. Jerry Brown moved that WWNC joins WRAC, George Torbay seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. (Yes: 16; No: 0; Abstains: 0)

12. PROPOSED UCLA HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER

Board member Toni Gray spoke about UCLA's proposal to build a hotel and conference center on the site of the current Faculty Center. Her presentation included comments about proximity to housing, city tax loss, impact on Westwood businesses and other topics. Toni proposed a motion to oppose the project. Board member Lisa Chapman disagreed, saying it was premature to take a vote for numerous reasons.

Stakeholder and board member comments on the project followed, with a dozen people voicing opinions on the project.

UCLA representative Vincent Wong said the project scoping meeting with WWNC will be rescheduled, but he could not confirm whether the format will include questions and answers. He will extend an invitation to Vice Chancellor Morabito to attend a WWNC meeting.

Yoni Riemer moved to table the matter until next month's meeting and in the meantime research the project and invite the Vice Chancellor to a meeting. Brent Gaisford seconded the motion which passed. (Yes: 10; No: 4; Abstains: 2)

13. I-405 SEPULVEDA PASS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

14. AD HOC BYLAW COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Bylaw Committee has met to amend the bylaws to conform to the template suggested by DONE, which will approve the amendments to the bylaws. All articles except for Article V are being presented to the board tonight. Kurt Smalberg moved to accept the amended bylaws, seconded by Stephen Resnick. The motion carried unanimously. (Yes: 15; No: 0; Abstains: 0)

15. AD HOC COMMITTEES

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

16. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

President Jerry Brown adjourned the meeting at 10:31 p.m.