

## WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MINUTES

MARCH 9, 2016

WESTWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 10822 WILSHIRE BLVD. LOS ANGELES, CA  
90024

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

President Jerry Brown called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Board members in attendance were Angus Beverly, Connie Boukidis, Jerry Brown, Sandy Brown, David Burke, Lisa Chapman, Ian Cocroft, Ann Hayman, Mitchell Keiter, David Lorango, Stephen Resnick, Marcello Robinson, Eugene Tseng, Scott Whittle, and Laura Winikow. Board members excused were Dean Abell, Roozbeh Farahanipour, Jacob Finn, and Mark Rogo. A quorum was present. There were 14 stakeholders and guests present.

### 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Scott Whittle moved to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2016 meeting. Ann Hayman seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

### 3. COMMENTS BY PUBLIC OFFICIALS

A. President Jerry Brown read a memo from mayoral representative Daniel Tamm, who was unable to attend the meeting.

B. SoCalGas representative Ray Verches reported on upcoming maintenance and repair projects in May, one of which will be in WWNC's area at Wilshire & Sepulveda.

C. West LAPD Senior Lead Officer Chris Ragsdale reported that last night a UCLA student was robbed at gunpoint east of campus near Hilgard & Westholme. Speeding complaints were received about the intersection at Midvale & Ashton. There was a cleanup of the homeless encampment at the Ohio underpass and three narcotics arrests were made there.

D. UCLA representative Marco Perez reported that a scoping meeting for Geffen Academy was held on February 25th and announced that tomorrow is the last day for public comment on it.

E. CD5 Field Deputy Jasmine Shamolian announced that a Nooruz event will be held on Westwood Blvd. between Ohio & Wilkins on March 27th. That block will be closed to traffic from 5 a.m. to 7 p.m. Hearings on the zoning recoding project are upcoming. The City Planning Commission voted to retain Westwood Blvd. for a bike lane, but the process isn't finished.

#### 4. WESTWOOD VILLAGE BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

Megan Furey reported that sidewalks in Westwood Village will be undergoing construction for a two week period. The City has moved half of the monthly parkers out of the Broxton garage. A new vendor is coming in to run the garage. Stakeholder Steve Sann reported that three mature trees were removed in front of Sarah Leonard Jewelers without any posting.

## 5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

A. Eugene Tseng announced on behalf of State Senator Ben Allen that he is holding a book drive this month and there is a donation box at the Westwood Branch Library.

B. Stakeholder Steve Sann announced that Mark Rogo will be speaking at the next Author's Club at the Westwood Branch Library on March 28th. A free concert by the Upside Trio will be held on April 17th at the library.

## 6. STANDING COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

A. The Executive Committee had no report.

### B. Budget

Treasurer Laura Winikow listed the expenditures to be approved: \$84.09 for February staffing services, \$2.30 for postage, and \$26.92 for business cards for Ann Hayman.

February's expenditure report includes \$33,400 remaining in the budget. All expenses and the February expenditure report were unanimously approved. An expenditure of \$62.35 for printed material for the March meeting was unanimously approved.

### C. Land Use

1. The Bermuda Apartments FACADE IMPROVEMENT project:

Case Number: DIR 2015-4292-DRB-SPP (10354 West Wilshire Boulevard,  
Los Angeles, CA 90024)

The Westwood Neighborhood Council urges that the Westwood Design Review Board and City Planning Department require Applicant's facade improvements on the Ashton parcel of The Bermuda Apartments property (that parcel which fronts Ashton Avenue) conform with the [Q]RD1.5-1XL zoning and be architecturally consistent with the historically significant district, Devon-Ashton Historic District, within which it sits.

Project representative John Maak of Landry Design Group showed drawings of the proposed building design.

Chair Connie Boukidis moved the above motion, seconded by Ann Hayman. The motion carried by a vote of Yes: 12 (Angus Beverly, Connie Boukidis, Jerry Brown, Sandy Brown, David Burke, Lisa Chapman, Ian Cocroft, Ann Hayman, Mitchell Keiter, Stephen Resnick, Scott Whittle, Laura Winikow), No: 0, and Abstain: 3 (David Lorango, Marcello Robinson, Eugene Tseng).

#### D. Outreach & Communications

##### 1. Elections

Chair Lisa Chapman reported that everything is posted on the website, a call for candidates has gone out, and the agreement with Westwood Recreation Center is being finalized.

E. Homeless Task Force had no report.

F. Budget Advocates

Marcello Robinson reported that the Budget Advocates met with Mayor Garcetti on March 4th. This year's theme is "Building Trust in City Hall". Marcello read selections from the 11 page white paper.

G. Public Safety had no report.

H. Traffic

Chair Angus Beverly found out that traffic lights on Wilshire Blvd. are calibrated. There were a couple of complaints about apron parking in the North Village. Ian Cocroft recommended that the intersection at Gayley & Landfair have a warning sign for drivers that a crosswalk is coming up.

I. WRAC

1. Motion to support the Los Angeles Homeless Veterans Leasing Act of 2015

Sandy Brown moved, Ann Hayman seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Motion to support the Draft master Plan for the Department of Veterans Affairs WLA Campus

Sandy Brown moved, Connie Boukidis seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Motion to Enforce All Zoning & Building Codes

Connie Boukdis moved, Ann Hayman seconded, and the motion carried by a vote of Yes: 12 (Angus Beverly, Connie Boukidis, Jerry Brown, Sandy Brown, Ian Cocroft, Ann Hayman, Mitchell Keiter, David Lorango, Stephen Resnick, Eugene Tseng, Scott Whittle,

Laura Winikow), No: 1 (David Burke), and Abstain: 2 (Lisa Chapman, Marcello Robinson).

4. Motion to support amending the Small Lot Subdivision Ordinance

Sandy Brown moved, Marcello Robinson seconded, and the motion carried by a vote of Yes: 13 (Angus Beverly, Connie Boukidis, Jerry Brown, Sandy Brown, Lisa Chapman, Ann Hayman, Mitchell Keiter, David Lorango, Stephen Resnick, Marcello Robinson, Eugene Tseng, Scott Whittle, Laura Winikow), No: 0, and Abstain: 2 (David Burke, Ian Cocroft).

5. Motion that the City Administrative Code be amended to define Neighborhood Council stakeholders

Sandy Brown moved, Ann Hayman seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

6. Motion in regard to Short Term Rentals

Connie Boukidis moved, Ann Hayman seconded, and the motion carried by a vote of Yes: 7 (Connie Boukidis, Sandy Brown, Ann Hayman, David Lorango, Stephen Resnick, Eugene Tseng, Scott Whittle), No: 6 (David Burke, Lisa Chapman, Ian Cocroft, Mitchell Keiter, Marcello Robinson, Laura Winikow), and Abstain: 2 (Angus Beverly, Jerry Brown).

7. Motion in regard to the LADWP Ballot Measure

Sandy Brown moved, Marcello Robinson seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

8. Motion to support CF: 13-1493 in regard to Street Vending

Sandy Brown moved, Ann Hayman seconded, and the motion carried by a vote of Yes: 13

(Angus Beverly, Connie Boukidis, Jerry Brown, Sandy Brown, David Burke, Lisa Chapman, Ann Hayman, Mitchell Keiter, David Lorango, Stephen Resnick, Marcello Robinson, Eugene Tseng, Scott Whittle), No: 1 (Laura Winikow), and Abstain: 1 (Ian Cocroft).

## 7. INITIATIVE MEASURE TO BE SUBMITTED DIRECTLY TO THE VOTERS

- A. Discussion regarding restrictions on General Plan Amendments, Required Review of General Plan; Building Moratorium. Initiative Ordinance

Sandy Brown reported that this is about a spot zoning measure and there will be a discussion on it after the meeting.

## 8. PROPOSED CITY SCHOOL

- A. Introduction of Motion to oppose a new City School at Motor Avenue & National Blvd.

### MOTION TO OPPOSE NEW CITY SCHOOL LOCATION

The Westwood Neighborhood Council stands with StandUp4Neighborhoods and opposes the City's approval of a new location of the City School, a charter school, at the corner of Motor Avenue and National Boulevard. This Middle School/High School will bring 890+ students, faculty, and staff to this location and our opposition is based on the following reasons:

- i Their traffic study shows the school would generate over 2,000 new car trips daily.

ï At least four times a day, cars headed to and from the school will be traveling up and down Manning, Motor, Northvale, Earlmarr, Queensbury, Shelby, and Club, with adjacent side streets used as cut-throughs.

ï City School is currently located on Pico Boulevard near Barrington, with the majority of its students coming from West Los Angeles.

ï Their design calls for a single driveway for all cars to enter eastbound on National and exit northbound on Motor, which already is 10% over legal capacity. Manning, National, Northvale, and all of this neighborhoods' side streets also will be severely impacted but were not included in City School's traffic study.

ï City School is located within 100 feet of the freeway and adjacent to Metro Line train tracks. California SB 352 prohibits a school being located within 500 feet of the freeway unless it can be proven that exposure to the air quality at the site does not pose significant health risks to pupils or staff.

ï **THIS IS NOT A NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL.** Admission is by lottery only, with preferences given to founding families and current students.

ï Neighborhood educational gems like Hamilton High School, University High School, Palms Middle School, and Emerson Middle School stand to lose community support and vital funding with the addition of a charter school at this site.

ï City School has not committed to ANY meaningful traffic mitigation.

ï Our position is about the impact of this relocation on our neighborhoods. It will dramatically increase traffic on our already gridlocked streets, lead to unsafe conditions for pedestrians and cyclists, and undermine our neighborhood schools.

Ann Hayman and two representatives from StandUp4Neighborhoods spoke about the school's proposed location.

Marcello Robinson moved, seconded by Eugene Tseng, to table the vote until the next meeting when the other side of the issue can be presented. The motion was defeated by a vote of No: 11 (Angus Beverly, Connie Boukidis, Jerry Brown, Sandy Brown, Lisa Chapman,



Ian Cocroft, Ann Hayman, David Lorango, Stephen Resnick, Scott Whittle, Laura Winikow),

Yes: 3 (Mitchell Keiter, Marcello Robinson, Eugene Tseng,) and Abstain: 0.

Ann Hayman moved the above motion, seconded by Connie Boukidis. The motion carried by a vote of Yes: 8 (Angus Beverly, Connie Boukidis, Jerry Brown, Sandy Brown, Ann Hayman, Stephen Resnick, Scott Whittle, Laura Winikow), No: 6 (Lisa Chapman, Ian Cocroft, Mitchell Keiter, David Lorango, Marcello Robinson, Eugene Tseng) and Abstain: 0.

## 9. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

A. Discussion: If a Boardmember has a child/grandchild attending a school (little league etc.), may the Board allocate money to that school so long as the board member is recused from the decision, or does the conflict infect the entire Board, recusal or not?

Mitchell Keiter researched this issue and reported that there is not much casework on it but from what he has reviewed, disclosure and recusal should be adequate according to the law. The board authorized him to write up his findings.

Jerry Brown reported that he had asked the City Attorney's office about this issue but they couldn't reply because it is currently under consideration. Mitchell Keiter's writeup could be used as a memo to submit to the City Attorney.

## 10. CITY HALL TOUR

A. Report on the visit to City Hall

Sandy Brown reported that the tour was a success. WWNC is the first Neighborhood Council to tour City Hall and the City Council was impressed. ATSAC is closed on Fridays so it couldn't be visited but it would be beneficial to tour in the future.

## 11. IMPACT OF NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS

- A. Discussion of how to assess the impact/success (or lack thereof) of Neighborhood Councils and the Neighborhood Council system

This topic was not discussed.

## 12. ADJOURNMENT

President Jerry Brown adjourned the meeting at 9:44 p.m.