

WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MINUTES
MARCH 12, 2025
BELMONT VILLAGE SENIOR LIVING
10475 WILSHIRE BLVD. LOS ANGELES, CA 90024

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Lisa Chapman began the meeting at 7:09 p.m. Board members in attendance were Marcy Agmon, Connie Boukidis, Sandy Brown, Lisa Chapman, Roozbeh Farahanipour, Tracey Fitzgerald, Philip Gabriel, Stephen Resnick, and Michael Telerant. Members excused were Ann Hayman, David Lorango, and Laura Winikow. There were approximately 16 stakeholders and guests attending.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Roozbeh Farahanipour announced that the Delphi Greek restaurant will celebrate its 40th anniversary on April 5th.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Lisa Chapman moved to approve the February 12, 2025 minutes, seconded by Tracey Fitzgerald, and approved unanimously.

4. COMMENTS BY PUBLIC OFFICIALS

A. New LAPD SLO Rick Ballesteros introduced himself, gave an overview of crime in the area, and gave tips on how to keep homes and property safe.

B. U.S. Congressman Ted Lieu's representative Janet Turner gave a legislative update and announced the Congressman's art contest for high school students.

C. CD5 Field Deputy Patricia Macias announced that on February 26th the City Council adopted the Westwood branch library, Westwood Gardens Park, Westwood Recreation Center and Bad News Bears Park as 41.18 zones. She also announced upcoming events, including street closures in Westwood on March 16th when the L.A. Marathon takes place. CD5 Homeless Liaison Loren Jackson, who does homeless outreach in Westwood, said that he has a team of three people, there are many mental health issues, and the majority come from out of state. He and his team have helped 15 people get off the street and back to their families.

D. UCLA representative Marco Perez gave an update on what is happening at UCLA. Spring break is from March 22nd to March 30th. Events are being held for Women's History Month.

5. DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT

DONE NEA Vincent Autiero announced upcoming DONE events and online resources.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

A. Motion to approve the Monthly Expenditure Report for January 2025

Stephen Resnick reported that the January 2025 MER had a beginning balance of \$43,966.80, \$1,316.34 spent, \$15,101.98 outstanding, and a net available amount of \$22,548.48. Stephen moved to approve the MER, seconded by Tracey Fitzgerald, and approved unanimously.

B. Motion to approve the Monthly Expenditure Report for February 2025

Stephen Resnick reported that the February 2025 MER had a beginning balance of \$42,650.46, \$15,101.98 outstanding, and a net available amount of \$22,548.48. Stephen moved to approve the MER, seconded by Lisa Chapman, and approved unanimously.

7. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Stakeholder Steve Sann thanked everyone for their help with the homeless count. He announced that the Westwood branch library will be celebrating its 20th anniversary on May 10th.

Westwood Village Improvement Association Executive Director Michael Russell announced that Broxton Plaza is open.

8. CARMEN CHANG, GENERAL MANAGER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT

A. Discussion followed by Questions & Answers

Carmen Chang thanked board members for supporting their community and talked about her background and goals, which include supporting Neighborhood Councils in various ways and motivating people to get involved. She has visited a WRAC meeting and will visit all 99 Neighborhood Councils (NC). Questions were asked about how much stock DONE puts in Community Impact Statements, whether NC members should be able to speak for more than one minute at City Council meetings, the timing of City Council legislation vs. getting it onto the NC agenda which needs 72 hours notification to comply with the Brown Act, sharing best practices from NCs, and how many of the NCs are dysfunctional. General Manager Chang said that DONE puts together a weekly legislative report and has a newsletter. She presented a certificate to the board thanking them for their service.

9. NEIGHBORHOOD PURPOSES GRANT PRESENTATIONS & AWARDING OF GRANTS

A. Fairburn Elementary School - To purchase smart boards for several elementary school Classrooms. Smart boards allow teachers to present digital content like videos, images, and websites in a more attractive and engaging way, keeping students more focused and motivated. Request up to \$5,000.

Haley McIntosh made the presentation. Lisa Chapman moved, "The WWNC will award up to \$5,000 to Fairburn Elementary School." Philip Gabriel seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

B. The Salvation Army - To purchase a GMC Savana cargo van for use to pick up food and supplies for the shelter. It would also be used to help families move into their permanent housing when they leave the shelter. Request up to \$5,000.

The Salvation Army will return in April so no vote was taken.

C. Warner Avenue Elementary School - To create an outdoor science and explorers experimental garden. The grant will be used to purchase items such as a shed, microscopes, an exploration set, etc. Request up to \$5,000.

No Warner representative was present so no vote was taken.

10. WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL PROPOSED BOUNDARY ADDITION

A. Discussion and possible introduction of motion to share Westwood Village and the business area south of Wilshire with the North Westwood Neighborhood Council

Several board members explained the reasons behind the motion, one being that it is a shared asset. A discussion followed, including stakeholders and several NWWNC members present who all spoke. Philip Gabriel started to amend the motion but then changed his mind.

Philip Gabriel moved, "WWNC will apply to share Westwood Village and the business area south of Wilshire with the North Westwood Neighborhood Council." Stephen Resnick seconded, and the motion passed by a vote of Yes: 5 (Marcy Agmon, Connie Boukidis, Sandy Brown, Lisa Chapman, Stephen Resnick), No: 2 (Tracey Fitzgerald, Philip Gabriel), and Abstain: 1 (Michael Telerant).

11. PICKLEBALL AT WESTWOOD PARK

This item was not discussed.

12. DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT BRIEFING FORM

- A. Discussion regarding DONE form
This item was not discussed.

13. WESTWOOD PARK ADVISORY BOARD
No report was given.

14. HOLMBY PARK ADVISORY BOARD
No report was given.

15. STANDING COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

A. WRAC – Report & Motions

1. Support CF 25-0006-S38 re Creation of Climate Resilience District

“The Westwood Neighborhood Council, a member of the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC), supports Council File 25-0006-S38, which calls for a report back on creation of a Climate Resilience District for the directly impacted and adjacent areas of the Pacific Palisades Fire.”

No action was taken on this item.

2. Support CF 25-0172 re Repair of Fire Hydrants

“The Westwood Neighborhood Council, a member of the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC), supports Council File 25-0172, which calls for a report back on inspection and repair of the City’s network of fire hydrants.”

No action was taken on this item.

- B. Executive – no report
- C. Land Use & Planning – no report
- D. Outreach & Communications – no report
- E. Homeless Committee - no report
- F. Budget Advocates -no report
- G. Public Safety/ Transportation & Parking – no report
- H. WRAC – Emergency Preparedness – no report
- I. Bylaws – no report

17. ADJOURNMENT

President Lisa Chapman adjourned the meeting at 9:52 p.m.