

WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MINUTES

MARCH 13, 2019

BELMONT VILLAGE SENIOR LIVING, 10475 WILSHIRE BLVD. LOS ANGELES, CA 90024

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Lisa Chapman called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. Board members in attendance were Connie Boukidis, Sandy Brown, Lisa Chapman, Roozbeh Farahanipour, Philip Gabriel, Ann Hayman, Stephen Resnick, Marcello Robinson, Scott Whittle, and Laura Winikow. Members excused were Cyrus Baraghoush, David Lorango, and Mark Rogo. A quorum was present. There were 26 stakeholders and guests present.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Sandy Brown moved to approve the February 13, 2019 minutes, seconded by Scott Whittle, and approved unanimously.

3. COMMENTS BY PUBLIC OFFICIALS

A. CD5 Field Deputy Jasmine Shamolian announced that the Nowruz Festival usually held in March has been canceled due to scheduling it on the same day as the Los Angeles Marathon. Westwood Village will be participating in a pilot program in which 15% of its parking revenue will be returned to the BID to be spent on infrastructure.

B. Mayor Garcetti's representative, Ami Fields-Meyer, gave an update on initiatives from the Mayor's office.

C. SLO Chris Ragsdale reported on recent residential burglaries which have been happening in and around Westwood, and discussed deterrents.

D. U.S. Congressman Ted Lieu's representative Janet Turner gave an update on legislation that the Congressman is involved with.

E. UCLA representative Marco Perez read a statement from UCLA about the college admissions scandal.

F. County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl's representative Erin Schneider gave a legislative update and talked about the many organizations which will be providing services for Homeless Connect Day on April 24th.

4. DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT

DONE representative Jose Galdamez reported on what is happening at DONE and gave financial deadlines for the end of the fiscal year. The board requested Jose to invite Mike Fong to a WWNC meeting since he is the head of policy.

5. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Westwood Community Council President Steve Sann announced that a new restaurant, Audrey's, opened at the Hammer Museum.

6. DISCUSSION/EXPLANATION IN REGARD TO CALIFORNIA SENATE BILL 50 (HOUSING)

CD5 Director of Policy & Legislation Jeff Ebenstein explained how drastic the density bill California Senate Bill 50 is. For example, it would allow a 55 foot tall building right next to a single family home and would remove all local control of zoning.

7. DISCUSSION/EXPLANATION IN REGARD TO CALIFORNIA SENATE BILL 58 (ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES)

CD5 Director of Policy & Legislation Jeff Ebenstein explained that this is the third try to pass this bill which would extend bar hours until 4 a.m.

8. INTRODUCTION OF MOTION IN SUPPORT OF COUNCILMEMBER PAUL KORETZ
MOTION ON SENATE BILL 50 (HOUSING)

Connie Boukidis explained that the bill means that the state would control all zoning, removing any city control, which is an extreme solution. The LUPC at its meeting earlier today voted unanimously to recommend supporting Councilmember Koretz's motion. Connie moved, "Due to the fact that our City of Los Angeles has responded in a reasonable manner to the housing shortage through its implementation of JJJ with our Transit Oriented Communities Affordable Housing Incentive Program Guidelines (TOC Guidelines), the Westwood Neighborhood Council expresses its appreciation to our Councilman Paul Koretz for, and stands in support of, his Resolution entitled "SENATE BILL 50 WEINER" (attached hereto) and urges our remaining City of Los Angeles councilmen to join him in passing this RESOLUTION such that by its adoption, the City of Los Angeles will include in its 2019-20 State Legislative Program **OPPOSITION to SB 50 (Wiener)**, which would allow construction of higher density multi-family housing developments near major transit stops that are out-of-compliance with local land use regulations and procedures, unless amended to exclude the City of Los Angeles from its provisions."

Further, our Secretary is directed to file our position as a Community Impact Statement in COUNCIL FILE NO. 19-0002-S38.

Philip Gabriel seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

9. BIRD SCOOTER PRESENTATION

Bird representative Kim Pluth discussed Bird scooters in the neighborhood, answered questions, and replied to complaints. Most of the complaints had to do with scooters being parked incorrectly and she said that this will be integrated into 311 to report problems. A suggestion was made to set a financial penalty for parking scooters incorrectly.

10. NEIGHBORHOOD PURPOSES GRANT PRESENTATIONS & AWARDING OF GRANTS

The Friends of Westwood Library's presentation was taken out of order, presenting its application last, because several board members had to be recused from the vote.

A. Emerson Middle School

Laura Winikow moved, "WWNC awards \$5,000 to Emerson Middle School," seconded by Lisa Chapman and carried unanimously.

B. Fairburn Elementary School

Scott Whittle moved, "WWNC awards \$5,000 to Fairburn Elementary School," seconded by Philip Gabriel and carried unanimously.

C. Friends of Westwood Library

Roosbeh Farahanipour, Ann Hayman, Stephen Resnick, and Laura Winikow recused themselves from the vote and left the room. No vote could be taken because that left only six board members to vote and a quorum is eight so this item was tabled. The board requested DONE representative Jose Galdamez to bring this problem back to the City Attorney's office since it is not right that volunteers and the organization they volunteer at are being penalized in this way.

D. Warner Avenue Elementary School

Lisa Chapman moved, "WWNC awards \$5,000 to Warner Avenue Elementary School," seconded by Marcello Robinson and carried unanimously.

E. West L. A. Little League

Philip Gabriel moved, "WWNC awards \$5,000 to the West L. A. Little League," seconded by Scott Whittle and carried unanimously.

F. Salvation Army

Salvation Army on Sepulveda representative Diane presented an application for \$5,000 for a new van to be used to take residents to doctor's appointments etc. No award could be voted on since it was not on the agenda. Lisa Chapman moved to table the matter, seconded by Philip Gabriel and carried unanimously.

11. INTRODUCTION OF MOTION

“The WWNC supports a Grievance to be Officially Filed against DONE and Reviewed by the L.A. City Attorney or Mayor for the Non-Posting to the Public of the Land Use Agenda of the North Westwood Neighborhood Council from 12/5/2018.”

Lisa Chapman reported that she finally got a response from Lorenzo Briceno at DONE about this issue, to the effect that it wasn't the North Westwood Neighborhood Council's (NWWNC) fault that the agenda didn't get posted, but DONE's fault. NWWNC is the only NC that doesn't have its own website, so DONE has to post its information.

Lisa Chapman moved the above motion, seconded by Stephen Resnick. The motion carried by a vote of Yes: 9, No: 0, and Abstain: 1 (Marcello Robinson).

12. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE INTRODUCTION OF MOTION IN REGARD TO THE MISLEADING INFORMATION ON WWNC IN A LOS ANGELES TIMES STORY ON IRAN'S REVOLUTION AND THE IRANIAN COMMUNITY IN WESTWOOD

Roozbeh Farahanipour reported that misleading information about WWNC was included in a Los Angeles Times (LAT) article. He spoke to the author, who said that she tried to call President Lisa Chapman but couldn't reach her because she was out of work on medical leave. She did not try to contact anyone else on the board, including Roozbeh, despite the fact that they have many connections and she knew how to contact him. She didn't use the language of the motion which was referred to in the article, but incorrect information about what was in the motion. The LAT said that it would post a retraction only online but that is inadequate. Stakeholder Steve Sann recommended that Roozbeh contact the reader advocate at the LAT to request that a new story be written correcting the record or to file a grievance.

Roozbeh moved, “WWNC requests the Los Angeles Times to issue a retraction both online and in print, using the actual language of the motion referenced, or write a new story using the actual language of the motion referenced.” Marcello Robinson seconded and the motion carried by a vote of Yes: 8, No: 0, and Abstain: 2 (Connie Boukidis, Laura Winikow).

13. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE INTRODUCTION OF MOTION IN REGARD TO THE GREEN TARIFF PROPOSAL (Empower customers with the option of purchasing a portion of their gas from renewable sources) BY THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GAS COMPANY

Lisa Chapman moved to table this motion, seconded by Philip Gabriel and carried unanimously.

14. UPDATE AND MOTION ON WESTWOOD CONNECT DAY

A. Joint Homelessness Taskforce Committee Meeting (Westwood Neighborhood Council/Westwood Community Council/North Westwood Neighborhood Council)

Lisa Chapman reported that a meeting was held with CD5 Field Deputy Jasmine Shamolian, Westwood Community Council President Steve Sann, and Chantelle Eastman. The Connect Day will be held at the Westwood Recreation Center from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. There are many partners involved and it is also for homeless from West L. A. and Brentwood.

B. Introduction of Motion: “The Westwood Neighborhood Council will provide up to

\$1,500 towards food, purchase of blankets or hygiene materials for the event.”
An attempt to revise the amount to \$3,000 was not allowed because the motion on the agenda said \$1,500.

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

15. ELECTION UPDATE

Lisa Chapman reported that WWNC's June 2, 2019 election will be held at Belmont Village.

16. STANDING COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

A. Executive – no report

B. Budget

1. Approval of Monthly Expenditures

Treasurer Laura Winikow listed the expenditures to be approved: \$374 to Media 81 for yearly web posting, an outstanding amount for September 2018 staffing services for \$139.37, February staffing services \$75.46, and March printed material \$59.45. The February MER included \$36,711.53 available, of which \$30,000 is budgeted for Neighborhood Purpose Grants, leaving \$6,711.53 for the rest of the fiscal year. Both the February MER and the expenditures were approved unanimously.

C. Land Use & Planning

1. NOHO WEST SIGN DISTRICT ORDINANCE

Discussion and possible motion to support or oppose the NoHo West Sign District Ordinance

Case Number: CF 18-0364-S1 / CPC-2018-3276-SN

This item was presented at WRAC with a request to oppose the installation of two 50 foot digital billboards adjacent to the 170 freeway between Oxnard and Victory. The LUPC at its meeting earlier today voted unanimously to recommend opposing it. Chair Marcello Robinson moved, “WWNC opposes the installation of two 50 foot digital display billboards immediately adjacent to the 170 freeway between Oxnard and Victory, and further opposes digital display billboards within 2,500 feet of any freeway in Southern California.” Ann Hayman seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

2. 1427-1431 S. GREENFIELD AVE

Project Address: 1427-1431 S. Greenfield Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90025

Contact Info: Tony Russo, Crest Real Estate, (408) 655-0998

Case Number: DIR-2019-277-TOC-DRB-SPP / EVN-2019-278-EAF

Project Description: Demo of the (e) 5 unit multi fam building (1427) and the 2 unit family building (1431) and the construction of an (n) 29 unit 36,239 sf multi family building w/ a 21,101 sf underground garage. The (n) units will be: 24 market rate, 3 ELI, and 2 VL. Haul Route for 14000 CY.

Chair Marcello Robinson reported that this item has been tabled until May since the project is making changes suggested by the DRB.

D. Outreach & Communications – no report

E. Homeless Task Force

See agenda item 14.

F. Budget Advocates

Marcello Robinson sent out the white paper.

G. Public Safety/ Transportation & Parking – no report

H. Bylaws– no report

I. WRAC

Roobeh Farahanipour attended the meeting, where WRAC voted to include NWWNC.

J. Zoning & Violations

There is no need for this committee anymore as the business district is no longer within WWNC's boundaries.

17. ADJOURNMENT

President Lisa Chapman adjourned the meeting at 9:57 p.m.