

WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 14, 2012

WESTWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

10822 WILSHIRE BLVD.

LOS ANGELES, CA 90024

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Jerry Brown called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m. Board members in attendance were Connie Boukidis, Jerry Brown, Lisa Chapman, Roozbeh Farahanipour, Brent Gaisford, Mark Herd, Stephen Resnick, Clinton Schudy, Kurt Smalberg, Steve Somers, Michael Stajura, and Scott Whittle. Board members absent were David Crew, Joseph Gilliard, Toni Gray, Mark Rogo, Tom Schneider, George Torbay, and Laura Winikow. There were also 17 stakeholders and guests in attendance.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Kurt Smalberg moved to approve the February minutes. Scott Whittle seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

3. COMMENTS BY PUBLIC OFFICIALS

Eric Norton of the Westwood Village Business Improvement District (BID) announced that the BID is having an outreach meeting on March 20th, during which issues such as boundaries and budget will be discussed. The BID signed a contract with People Assisting the Homeless (PATH) to help with the homeless in the village and PATH has had one success so far. The BID has also finished trimming the trees, dug new wells for trees on Broxton Avenue, and is continuing to sweep streets and pressure wash.

CD5 Representative Sarah Mallory said that a City Council vote is upcoming this week on the redistricting map and Westwood will remain intact and in CD5 under Councilmember Koretz if the map is approved. Plans for Westwood Gardens Park and the proposed AYSO field at Westwood Park are in the preliminary stages. An update on street closures for the L.A. Marathon on March 18th will be coming out tomorrow and will be emailed. Vehicular restriction signs were posted on Beverly Glen Blvd. about two weeks ago and Parking Enforcement has been contacted to make sure they are on top of it. CD5 would like Metro to push back the I-405 project's upcoming Wilshire Blvd. closure to June after UCLA is out and graduation is over but this is uncertain. A traffic plan for the closure will be out next week. The Mayor's budget is due April 20th.

#### 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Stakeholder Steve Sann announced that the third annual WOMP day will be held on April 28th. This year WOMP will be working at two sites, Westwood Village and the North Village. A request for funding will be made at the next WWNC meeting.

#### 5. STANDING COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

The Executive Committee has no report.

Treasurer Brent Gaisford said that WWNC has \$18,500 to disburse before the end of the fiscal year. Next year's rent should be prepaid out of this amount.

He urged the board to appoint a new treasurer at this meeting to ensure continuity in WWNC's ability to pay for expenses.

Land Use & Planning Committee (LUPC) Chair Connie Boukidis said the LUPC voted to support the redesigned Lindbrook/Gayley project with the exemptions the developers are requesting. Attorney Ben Resnik explained that the project consists of three levels of apartments over a level of retail space with two levels of underground parking, and that three exemptions and one zoning administrator adjustment are being requested. Jerry Brown moved that, "WWNC accepts the Lindbrook/Gayley project design as presented with the exemptions that are being requested." Kurt Smalberg seconded the motion. Lisa Chapman recused herself from the vote. The motion passed unanimously.

Outreach & Communications Committee Chair Lisa Chapman reported that the committee will be meeting in a week or two, and that Brent Gaisford is doing a great job on the website. Lisa attended a NC Education meeting chaired by Councilmember Bernard Parks where she found out that it is possible that each NC may only receive \$25,000 next year, out of which election expenses will have to be paid. Jerry Brown requested agendaization for next month's meeting of a Community Impact Statement on this issue.

Public Safety Committee Chair Michael Stajura reported that the committee held its first meeting on February 29th. The committee voted to hold a Disaster Preparedness Fair in October 2012. Stakeholder Paul Soroudi has volunteered to work on forming a neighborhood emergency team and a Neighborhood Watch program for those residents who don't have one. Crime is up 7% from last year, due partly to prison realignment. The LAPD is promoting "Lock It, Hide It, Keep It" to reduce the number of crimes of opportunity.

WRAC Representative Michael Stajura said that there is no plan to file suit yet on the proposed Bergamot Transit Village project. If a lawsuit is filed, the legal

basis will be that all of the development is being funded by the same HUD grant. WRAC put forward two motions for WWNC to vote on.

Regarding the first motion on the DONE Election Task Force's 8 Points on NC elections, Jerry Brown said that WWNC stands by its previously taken position that the City Clerk should conduct the elections. Connie Boukidis moved that, "WWNC does not support the Election Task Force's 8 points and recommends that WRAC take this position as well." Lisa Chapman seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Michael Stajura explained that the DWP motion is about making sure that the DWP's ratepayer advocate is a current NC member. Because there was no urgency on this motion and it was somewhat vague, it was tabled until the next meeting. Michael will tell WRAC at its next meeting on March 21st that the motion needs to be reworded because it is too vague.

Michael Stajura requested agendaization for the next meeting of the issue of whether people who are chronically absent can be removed from the board.

## 6. GRANT REQUEST--HAMMER MUSEUM

Associate Director of Development Laurie McGahey requested a grant of \$5,000 for the Hammer's Family Flicks program, which shows a free family-oriented movie one Sunday a month and has a total budget of \$14,000. Michael Stajura moved that, "WWNC approves the Hammer Museum's request for \$5,000." Clinton Schudy seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

## 7. GRANT REQUEST--FRIENDS OF THE WESTWOOD LIBRARY

Friends of the Westwood Library Vice President Amy Smith requested a grant of \$2,500 for an annual Hot Off the Press subscription, which has a total cost of \$6,000. Hot Off the Press is a very popular program that sends new books to the library at the same time they are available in bookstores. These bestselling books do not circulate to other library branches but are reserved for Westwood Library patrons. Michael Stajura moved that, "WWNC raises the grant amount to \$4,500 and approves that amount." Clinton Schudy seconded the motion. Stephen Resnick recused himself from the vote. The motion carried unanimously.

#### 8. TREASURER VACANCY

After no board member present volunteered to take over as treasurer, Mark Rogo's name was brought forward as a possible candidate. Clinton Schudy moved that, "WWNC nominates Mark Rogo for the position of treasurer pending his approval." Lisa Chapman seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

#### 9. ADJOURNMENT

President Jerry Brown adjourned the meeting at 8:58 p.m.