

WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

APRIL 11, 2012

WESTWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

10822 WILSHIRE BLVD.

LOS ANGELES, CA 90024

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Jerry Brown called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Board members in attendance were Connie Boukidis, Jerry Brown, Lisa Chapman, David Crew, Roozbeh Farahanipour, Brent Gaisford, Toni Gray, Mark Herd, Stephen Resnick, Mark Rogo, Tom Schneider, Clinton Schudy, Kurt Smalberg, Steve Somers, Michael Stajura, George Torbay, Scott Whittle, and Laura Winikow. Board member excused was Joseph Gilliard. There were also 20 stakeholders and guests in attendance.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

3. COMMENTS BY PUBLIC OFFICIALS

CD5 Representative Sarah Mallory said that CD5 is still working on the North Village trash can issue. There is no final date for the I-405 project's Wilshire freeway ramp closure yet. CD5 has requested no closure until after UCLA's semester and graduation are over. The delay is due to a Chevron gas line which needs to be moved. Metro has indicated it may delay closure for two weeks to accommodate UCLA, but not a month. Authority for neighborhood council elections has been transferred to DONE but NC's can opt out of elections if they so desire. Cars have been ticketed for apron parking in the North Village. Residents should be aware that if a car is one inch over the line into the sidewalk that is a ticketable offense.

West L. A. LAPD Senior Lead Officer Chris Ragsdale announced that vehicle crimes are still a problem so nothing should be left visible in a parked car, burglaries are trending down, arrests have been made in car and residential burglaries, and to be aware of flash mob parties in the neighborhood.

Marcello Robinson of the Neighborhood Council Election Task Force announced that the Mayor's budget team has allotted \$600,000 for NC elections in 2012. NC elections will be held from August through November. Elections will be regulated by DONE, which has set up a leadership academy with workshops to teach NC board members how to run an election. It is recommended that at least one board member attends.

Brent Gaisford announced a mayoral candidate debate at UCLA on April 27th.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Stakeholder Carol Horowitz discussed LAUSD's plan to change Fairburn Avenue Elementary School's boundaries. The proposal has been tabled for this year but LAUSD is planning to revisit it with public input in the future. The area which will be affected is between Veteran Avenue and Sepulveda Blvd. Under this boundary change proposal, that area would have to send children to

Nora Sterry Elementary School, which isn't as strong academically and necessitates crossing traffic heading onto I-405. This change could affect property values. Stephen Resnick spoke with someone from the boundary department at LAUSD who said that public input isn't usually involved in boundary changes. Jerry Brown requested that Carol Horowitz keep WWNC's board informed on this issue.

Stakeholder Brendan McMahon of the West L. A. Chamber of Commerce announced the Walk for Warriors, a five kilometer walk and run in support of homeless veterans on Memorial Day, May 28, 2012 at the Veterans Administration. A combat veteran spoke in support of the walk. Information about the walk and its website were handed out. This information will be posted on WWNC's website.

Stakeholder Steve Sann announced that the next Homeless Task Force meeting will be on April 17th at Jerry's Deli in Westwood Village at 3 p.m.

5. STANDING COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

A. The Executive Committee has no report.

B. Budget Committee Chair and Treasurer Brent Gaisford said that WWNC has \$5,000 left in the budget.

C. Land Use & Planning Committee (LUPC)

a. LUPC Chair Connie Boukidis said that the committee had heard a presentation from Waffle Chix on Broxton Avenue regarding its CUP application. The committee voted not to support Waffle Chix's CUP application.

Steve Wesson, representing the owner of Waffle Chix, detailed the items it is asking for in its CUP application. They included an on-site wine & beer license, live entertainment (only four musicians, no dance music), and hours from 11 a.m. to 2 a.m. Alcohol would only be sold until midnight. After the presentation, a lengthy discussion ensued. Points made were that voluntary conditions concerning alcohol are unenforceable by the City so essentially meaningless, once a liquor license is granted it goes with the land and is there forever, and that the owner changed the facade of the restaurant without going through the DRB and getting permits.

Connie Boukidis moved, "Is the WWNC board in concordance with the LUPC's recommendation to not support the CUP application of Waffle Chix?" The motion carried with a vote of Yes: 7, No: 4, and Abstain: 6.

b. The final EIR for the subway extension will be voted on April 26th. In Century City, the stop will be at Constellation Avenue and Avenue of the Stars. In Westwood there will be a stop at the L.A. Fitness Building with two portals, one in Lot 36 and one at Wilshire Blvd. & Westwood Blvd., which will be a split portal with one on the north side and one on the south side of Wilshire.

D. Outreach and Communications Committee Chair Lisa Chapman tabled her committee report until the next meeting in the interest of time but said a board member should be designated as election representative to DONE. Michael Stajura advised that an ad hoc committee for election outreach should be formed soon.

E. Public Safety Committee Chair Michael Stajura announced that the next committee meeting will be on April 25th. The committee is working on expanding and formalizing Neighborhood Watch, with a dual purpose to include emergency preparedness as well. Two dates are being considered for the Distaster Preparedness Fair: October 13, 2012 and October 20, 2012.

Agenda Item 9 was then voted on as it pertained to the business at hand.

Michael Stajura moved, “Whereas the Neighborhood Council has an interest in promoting the wellbeing and safety of the neighborhood and its stakeholders, be it resolved that the Westwood Neighborhood Council shall amend its budget to allocate \$3,000 to provide for an earthquake simulator as part of a Westwood Neighborhood Council Disaster Preparedness Fair in October 2012.” Scott Whittle seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

6. LAUSD ADULT EDUCATION

Adult education teacher Ann explained why LAUSD’s plan to eliminate adult education is a bad idea. Adult schools are only 2% of LAUSD’s budget but they serve approximately 300,000 students. Eliminating them is the wrong move because it prevents poor people from moving up the economic ladder, especially with the current economic situation, and is a public safety issue. The people who are being served by adult education are not all able to attend community college for financial and other reasons. A student from the adult education program read a statement about how it helped her. Michael Stajura invited Ann to make a presentation to WRAC.

Brent Gaisford moved,

“Whereas, the LAUSD Superintendent, John Deasy, and the LAUSD school board are proposing the elimination of adult education in Los Angeles;

Whereas, Adult Education is essential to the communities it serves;

Whereas, Adult Education teaches basic skills and job training that are essential to working class communities;

Whereas, Adult Education is teaching parents to help their children succeed in school;

Whereas, the elimination of adult education will decrease opportunities for communities that need these educational services the most;

Whereas, the elimination of Adult Education will make the recession worse especially in this economic climate;

Now, therefore, let it be resolved that the Westwood Neighborhood Council officially takes a position of support for Adult Education.

Finally, be it resolved, the Westwood Neighborhood Council encourages other Neighborhood Councils to pass a resolution in support of Adult Education.”

Connie Boukidis seconded the motion, which carried with a vote of Yes: 15, No: 0, and Abstain: 1.

7. TREASURER VACANCY

At the last meeting Mark Rogo was nominated as treasurer pending his approval but he declined to give his approval. Laura Winikow nominated herself for treasurer. Jerry Brown moved that “WWNC accepts Laura Winikow’s nomination for treasurer.” Lisa Chapman seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

8. BOARD VACANCIES

Brent Gaisford's position, which is a renter seat that he is vacating after the June board meeting, must be filled. Michael Stajura requested agendaization of applications for the candidacy for the next meeting. Jerry Brown requested that the criteria for candidacy and notice of vacant board position be published on the website so that the matter can be voted on at the June board meeting.

9. FLASH MOB PARTIES

Scott Whittle announced that he has information on what to do if a flash mob party develops on a neighborhood street.

10. WESTWOOD ORGANIZED MEGA PROJECT (WOMP)

Stakeholder Steve Sann introduced UCLA student Nick Dietz, the WOMP student co-chair, who explained WOMP's projects and needs. In the North Village, aside from painting and removing graffiti, metal placards will be installed with a phone number for bulky item pickup. Items WOMP needs will mostly be consumable items such as decomposed granite, soil, mulch, gloves, paint, sand paper, and paint brushes.

Connie Boukidis moved, "Motion to allocate a sum of \$7,500 out of existing "Neighborhood Beautification" line item of the Westwood Neighborhood Council, to support neighborhood beautification projects during the 2012 "Westwood Organized Mega Project" (WOMP), to be held on Saturday, April 28, 2012 in Westwood Village and Westwood's North Village. Note: all such funds shall be paid directly by the Treasurer of the WWNC to approved vendors and suppliers providing goods, equipment, and/or services for these neighborhood beautification projects." Laura Winikow seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. Michael Stajura recused himself from the vote.

11. BROXTON PARKING GARAGE

The Mayor's proposal to lease out the Broxton parking garage has come up again. A motion opposing the leasing of the Broxton parking garage was proposed for a vote but since WWNC has already voted on a motion on this issue, Jerry Brown moved, "WWNC reconfirms its previous motion voted on regarding the Broxton parking garage." Toni Gray seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

12. BOARD ABSENCES

The bylaws state that three unexcused absences in a six month period is grounds for removal from the board. The key is "unexcused"

absence. The procedure will be if a board member has to miss a meeting, the secretary or president should be notified via email. Tom Schneider recommended that whether a board member's absence is excused be noted in the minutes.

13. ADJOURNMENT

President Jerry Brown adjourned the meeting at 9:20 p.m.