

WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MINUTES
APRIL 12, 2023
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, Tracey Fitzgerald, Philip Gabriel, Ann Hayman, David Lorango, and Stephen Resnick. Members excused were Marcello Robinson, Paula Rogers, Mark Rogo, and Laura Winikow. A quorum was present. There were approximately 16 stakeholders and guests attending.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lisa Chapman announced that Philip Gabriel and Marcello Robinson were elected to NWWNC. Congratulations to Sandy on her 60th anniversary!

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Lisa moved to approve the March 8, 2023 minutes, seconded by Tracey Fitzgerald and carried unanimously.

4. COMMENTS BY PUBLIC OFFICIALS

A. U.S. Congressman Ted Lieu's Representative Janet Turner reported that the West L.A. V.A. will have a grand opening for buildings 205 and 208 (208 occupancy) on May 2nd. The V.A. is moving forward to add an additional 263 units. Four more buildings are planned, with an expected 500+ units by 2025. They will support nursing home staffing standards.

B. LAPD SLO James Allen, Basic Car 8A29, gave a crime report. Burglaries are a problem. Homicides are up (triple). An abatement unit is working on the party house where three murders occurred as there was a second party. There have been three homicides in the last five years and all happened at short-term rentals. Robberies are down year-to-date, 5 vs. 7. Aggravated assaults are down, 13 vs. 15 and are mostly domestic issues. Burglaries are up year-to-date, 72 vs. 53. The biggest problem streets for burglaries are Gayley and Roebing. Also up are thefts from motor vehicles, 84 vs. 75. UCLA has a new police chief. A BMW with the City logo is at the station to borrow for citizens to patrol with a uniform available.

C. Councilmember Yaroslavsky's field deputy Patricia Macias is now the only Westwood deputy. CD5 is gearing up for hearings for the Budget/Finance Committee. A clean-up team has been set up; send photos to Patty. There have been complaints about asphalt patches in Westwood Hills. CD5 is working with UCLA to clean up trash. The homeless team is doing outreach and working on housing opportunities. They work with St. Joseph. Lisa asked about the pothole list. Philip asked about enforcing Building & Safety rules such as at Habibi and Rocco's. Sandy asked about relaxing parking during holidays and would appreciate a notice when a politician is in town. Philip asked for help for a 4th of July parade. Roozbeh asked about the permit process for closing streets in Westwood. Patty said she would follow up. Connie asked for CD5 to look into getting UCLA a food closet in WWNC's area.

D. UCLA representative Marco Perez reported that First Thursdays are successful. The next one will take place on May 4th. On May 25th there will be a Memorial Day ceremony at 11 a.m. and the community is invited. A movie night will be held June 1st. Commencement is at the same time as the U.S. Open. The Hammer Museum has been renovated and is worth checking out. Marco is working with Center of Art of Performance for a Nimoy Theatre tour. An open house will be held in September. Testimonials and personal statements are requested to be posted online for the Sepulveda Transit Corridor Project. Lisa asked about UCLA's Food Closet. It is still in operation.

E. State Assemblymember Zbur's representative Sherman Shamoeil introduced himself. He is a

resource for the community. Zbur is an advocate for Westwood. His office is in Santa Monica but may move to West Hollywood.

5. DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT

Freddy Cupen-Ames reported that the Congress of Neighborhoods will take place in-person at City Hall on September 23, 2023. Workshop applications deadline is in May. The link is neighborhoodcongress.la. Comments on SB411 are due by 12 pm Thursday. This would allow NCs to continue to meet virtually. Lisa asked about AB2449 that allows some virtual meetings. Lisa requests an agenda item for next month to vote on in-person and virtual meetings. NC board affirmation – board members will serve until June 30th and new members will be seated July 1st. Lisa wants to nominate Freddy for General Manager.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

A. Motion to approve the Monthly Expenditure Report for March 2023

Lisa Chapman moved to table this item until next month, seconded by Tracey Fitzgerald and carried unanimously.

7. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There was no public comment.

8. DISCUSSION & INTRODUCTION OF MOTION TO APPROVE BELMONT VILLAGE SENIOR LIVING FOR WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETINGS

A. "The Westwood Neighborhood Council (WWNC) approves Belmont Village Senior Living, 10475 Wilshire Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90024, as its regular meeting location, which Belmont is donating to the WWNC."

Lisa Chapman moved the above motion, seconded by Philip Gabriel and carried unanimously. Laura Winikow will have to fill out the BAC form.

9. WESTWOOD PARK ADVISORY BOARD

Tracey Fitzgerald reported that the PAB is still working on the wish list. The garden is at the top of the list and the task force has a concept. The location is the "pit" near Veteran. A survey has been distributed. A presentation is possible at the next meeting. The next PAB election of officers could possibly take place in May. Lisa asked about status of pickleball courts.

10. HOLMBY PARK ADVISORY BOARD

Ann Hayman reported that new leadership is needed for the PAB. The playground is popular but there is nothing for very young children. There is no sand for children but space may be available. There are continuing problems with dogs and private uses of the park. Sandy is working with the RAP GM to resolve these problems. Strong enforcement for one weekend is suggested. New sidewalks are needed. Lisa requested that CD5 Field Deputy Patricia Macias provide the amount of Quimby funds available for Holmby and Westwood Parks.

11. STANDING COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

A. Executive – no report

B. Land Use & Planning – no report

C. Outreach & Communications – no report

D. Homeless Task Force

The homeless count sent a letter to LAHSA about issues. A meeting is in the works.

E. Budget Advocates – no report

F. Public Safety/ Transportation & Parking – no report

G. WRAC – Emergency Preparedness – no report

H. Bylaws – no report

I. WRAC – Report and Motions

1. Support: Request for Audit of STAP Program

Refers to City Council file 20-1536-S4

“The Westwood Neighborhood Council, a member of the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils, is concerned about the current status and management of the STAP program under the new contractor Tranzito-Vector and requests an audit of the program by the City Controller and Chief Administration Officer’s (CAO) office of the revenues and expenditures for this new STAP program. (relevant Council File: Council File No. 20-1536-S4) Read more

Tracey Fitzgerald moved the above motion, seconded by Ann Hayman and carried unanimously.

2. Support: Request re: Housing Replacement Program

The Westwood Neighborhood Council requests that the Los Angeles Housing Department presume that 100% of RSO units slated for demolition per the Ellis Act are inhabited by low-income households, and 100% of the replacement units shall be rented at the corresponding low-income rent.

If the Housing Department or the developer wish to lower that standard and require that fewer replacement units are affordable, then they must do the outreach and secure estoppels from the tenant households that demonstrate their income exceeds the low-income requirements (instead of putting the burden on low-income households to prove that they are low-income tenants).

We further request that the Housing Department formulate and implement alternative income verification methods for current tenants who are elderly, disabled or undocumented to be able to qualify for their right of return.” Read more

Lisa Chapman moved the above motion, seconded by Tracey Fitzgerald.

Tracey moved to amend the motion, adding, “We further request that the Housing Department develop and implement a mechanism for tracking affordable housing citywide and making the information public quarterly.” Ann Hayman seconded the amended motion, which carried unanimously.

3. Support: Community Plan Update Requests

“The Westwood Neighborhood Council insists, on behalf of the stakeholders it represents, that prior to the completion of Community Plan updates, the City inform communities of the methodology by which it determines the allocation of RHNA numbers and the calculations that derive density housing goals in order to meet the aims of the Housing Element.

These include, for each Community Plan and Community or Neighborhood Council area:

A) Current zoning capacity (including existing density bonuses & commercial zones that allow residential uses) and reasonably expected population change.

B) The methodology which will be used to allocate RHNA growth numbers.

C) RHNA allocation of units in each community.

We also urge the Planning Department to thoughtfully consider the input (submitted by previous written comment or imparted in real time) of Neighborhood and Community Councils as well as stakeholders that come together for the purpose of contributing to the Community Plan update process with informed and productive input, insight and/or suggestions. This essential input must be implemented by Planning staff, and the contributions reflected by being substantively included in the outcome/drafting of revised Community Plans. We urge that a report back mechanism be implemented by Planning staff, in order to inform communities of where and how their input has been received and incorporated into the final drafting process.

We would like to understand the role of the Westside Community Plan Advisory Group (WCPAG) and be assured that the WCPAG’s voice will not outweigh that of local stakeholders.”

Read more

Discussion: Tracey Fitzgerald felt that the motion covers too much information and is not clear. She wants to know who the members of the WCPAG are. Sandy Brown indicated Planning has an agenda that they want the community to agree to. Ann Hayman said Santa Monica Blvd. is untouched for higher density. It's important to know how many people exist in low income housing and how many units are needed. Connie Boukidis suggested that this may be worth supporting now. Lisa Chapman said WWNC needs to support this due to time constraints. We can learn from WCPAG. We can craft our own motion later. Perhaps Barbara Broide can attend our meeting.

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

14. ADJOURNMENT

President Lisa Chapman adjourned the meeting at 9:09 p.m.