

WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MINUTES
APRIL 14, 2021
ZOOM MEETING ONLINE OR BY TELEPHONE

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Lisa Chapman called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Board members in attendance were Connie Boukidis, Sandy Brown, Lisa Chapman, Tracey Fitzgerald, Philip Gabriel, Ann Hayman, David Lorango, Stephen Resnick, Paula Rogers, Mark Rogo, and Laura Winikow. Members excused were Roozbeh Farahanipour, Eloise Metcalfe, and Marcello Robinson. A quorum was present. There were approximately 14 stakeholders and guests attending.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Lisa Chapman announced that she might miss the May meeting, in which case Vice President Sandy Brown will chair the meeting.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Lisa Chapman moved to approve the March 10, 2021 minutes, seconded by Laura Winikow and approved unanimously.

4. COMMENTS BY PUBLIC OFFICIALS

- A. UCLA representatives Marco Perez and Associate Vice Chancellor Jennifer Poulakidas reported that UCLA is planning for a primarily in-person fall, with classrooms at 50% capacity. Athletic events will be open to a limited number of spectators with priority given to the families of coaches and athletes. The campus is slowly opening in accordance with county guidelines. Graduation this year will be held virtually.
- B. SLO Pete Ojeda gave a crim report, mainly stolen cars and burglaries. A tent caught on fire at Westwood Park today, possibly started by a candle. LAPD will be having a meeting next week with the park director and other agencies about offering the homeless services and helping them move out of the park.

5. DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT

DONE NEA Freddy Cupen-Ames announced that up to \$10,000 can be rolled over to next year, and gave dates for financial deadlines and upcoming workshops and training.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

- A. Motion to approve Monthly Expenditure Report for March 2021
Treasurer Laura Winikow reported that March's MER included a beginning balance of \$34,392.50, \$65.28 spent, and an ending balance of \$34,327.22. Outstanding are two NPGs which were approved in the amount of \$7,700, a staffing services bill for \$110.51, and a pending amount for the other five NPGs of \$19,250 which brought the final available balance down to \$7,266.71. Laura Winikow moved to approve the MER, seconded by Ann Hayman, and approved unanimously.
Laura reported that two NPGs, West L.A. Little League and Salvation Army, were approved. Emerson, Fairburn, Warner, Friends of Westwood Library, and the L.A. Conservancy have to resubmit their applications because an old form was used.

7. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Candidate for State Assembly District 54 Heather Hutt introduced herself.

8. PLANNING & LAND USE COMMITTEE (PLUM) – TECHNICAL ISSUES

A. Discussion in regard to technical issues that have caused the last 2 monthly PLUM meetings to be terminated, leaving all items unresolved. Because no business has taken place, we call upon Councilmember Koretz to advocate for a resolution.

Stephen Resnick reported that the last PLUM meeting was terminated due to audio problems. The previous PLUM meeting was also terminated due to technical issues. CD5 Planning Deputy Daniel Skolnick advised contacting IT in General Services or the PLUM Chair, and said PLUM is trying to make up for lost time in hearing items.

9. WESTWOOD VILLAGE SPECIFIC PLAN

A. Discussion of new changes to the community agreement and Introduction of Motion: “The WWNC continues to support its previous decision of agreed upon changes to the Westwood Village Specific Plan and opposes any additional motion or change that would modify the existing consensus.”

Sandy Brown reported that she was contacted by the Planning Department last month about a new motion incorporating items that WWNC and other neighborhood groups were unaware of. CD5 Planning Deputy Daniel Skolnick stated that there is no new motion and nothing to discuss yet, but that he will work with WWNC and the whole community if there is a new or amended motion. Sandy Brown withdrew the motion.

10. HABIBI CAFÉ – PUBLIC HEARING

A. Introduction of Motion: “The Westwood Neighborhood Council supports the request by the Planning Department, West LAPD, City Attorney, and Council Office to terminate and revoke this long troubled use at this site in Westwood Village.”

Prior to the vote, some serious issues raised in the discussion of this site’s long history of problems over the years included the fact that it has no permits for anything, LAPD has been called there many times for various infractions, it is open at 4 a.m. and has been operating illegally as a nightclub with entertainment for 20 years, and there have been two homicides, one inside the café and one across the street, committed by its patrons. Sandy Brown moved the above motion, seconded by Ann Hayman, and carried unanimously.

11. WESTWOOD PARK ADVISORY BOARD – UPDATE

A. Appointment of WWNC member

Lisa Chapman congratulated Tracey Fitzgerald on being a newly appointed board member.

12. WESTWOOD TOMORROW

Sandy Brown reported that UCLA Administrative Vice Chancellor Michael Beck will speak and the group would like to get UCLA’s Executive Director of Events & Transportation Renee Fortier to speak as well.

13. RENTER SEAT APPLICANTS - UPDATE

Lisa Chapman announced that there are still no applicants. Ann Hayman and David Lorango will work on it.

14. STANDING COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

A. Executive – no report

B. Land Use & Planning – no report

C. Outreach & Communications – no report

D. Homeless Task Force

Chair Lisa Chapman reported that she is active on WRAC's Homeless Committee. They met yesterday and had speakers talk about Judge Carter's ruling and flooding people with services. Meetings are recorded so she can send it.

E. Budget Advocates - no report

F. Public Safety/ Transportation & Parking

Chair Philip Gabriel stated that the current issues are speeding on Wilshire Blvd. and changing the timing of lights on Wilshire Blvd. so that traffic heading onto the freeway moves instead of backing up.

G. Bylaws - no report

H. WRAC - no report

I. Park Advisory - no report

12. ADJOURNMENT

President Lisa Chapman adjourned the meeting at 9:50 p.m.