

WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MAY 9, 2012

WESTWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

10822 WILSHIRE BLVD.

LOS ANGELES, CA 90024

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Jerry Brown called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Board members in attendance were Connie Boukidis, Jerry Brown, Lisa Chapman, David Crew, Roozbeh Farahanipour, Brent Gaisford, Mark Herd, Stephen Resnick, Tom Schneider, Clinton Schudy, Kurt Smalberg, Michael Stajura, George Torbay, and Laura Winikow. Board members excused were Joseph Gilliard, Toni Gray, Mark Rogo, Steve Somers, and Scott Whittle. There were also 15 stakeholders and guests in attendance.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Michael Stajura moved to approve the April minutes. Kurt Smalberg seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

3. COMMENTS BY PUBLIC OFFICIALS

CD5 Representative Sarah Mallory announced that Neighborhood Council elections will be held in 2012. DONE will be running the elections and has been given \$650,000 to do it. Elections will be held late October through early November. There are no final details on how much each NC will have to spend on elections. Michael Stajura raised a question about opting out of the elections. Councilmember Koretz tried to put an opt-out clause into the elections but no one else voted for it so there isn't one. Some NC's have four year terms instead of two year terms so those NC's aren't having elections since they aren't due for elections yet, and some NC's have boards with some members serving two year terms and some serving four year terms. Lisa Chapman pointed out that WWNC members never knew that it was possible to have four year terms. Sarah Mallory will set up a meeting with DONE to discuss this issue.

Bettie Jo McKinney, the representative of Karen Bass who represents District 33 in Congress, introduced herself and said that Congresswoman Bass is interested in attending a WWNC meeting in the future.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

5. STANDING COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

A. The Executive Committee has no report.

B. Budget Committee Chair and Treasurer Brent Gaisford has not received all of WOMP's invoices, but he should receive them by Friday. There is \$1,380 remaining in this year's budget. After paying for meeting expenses, there will be approximately \$1,200 left. There are three ways the money could be spent: to

prepay next year's rent, for business cards for board members, or the funds can be encumbered to pay for the election.

Michael Stajura moved that the funds be spent to prepay next year's rent. Connie Boukidis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

C. Land Use and Planning Committee Chair Connie Boukidis said that the committee has not met. Brent Gaisford has uploaded all LUPC committee meetings minutes onto the website.

a. The creation of a Condition Compliance Unit was discussed. Councilmember Koretz is in favor of creating such a unit. Jerry Brown moved that the following motion be accepted and sent to Councilmember Koretz,

“The Westwood Neighborhood Council is deeply concerned with the City of Los Angeles' ability to enforce its planning and zoning regulations to protect neighborhood quality of life. We are therefore incredibly disappointed that the Mayor's proposed 2012 - 2013 budget does not contain a request from the Department of City Planning for a Condition Compliance Unit.

A Condition Compliance Unit will generate fee revenue and is paid for out of a special fund. Most critically, this unit is absolutely necessary to protect the quality of life within neighborhoods. Under the present system, conditions imposed by the Planning Department are oftentimes disregarded, and no entity actively enforces these conditions. However, it is not only neighborhoods that suffer. Businesses that do follow all the rules, often at considerable expense, have their economic competitors operate with impunity in violation of conditions and rules. We are writing to urge that the

Condition Compliance Unit be added back into the final budget by the City Council.

Westwood Neighborhood Council

Jerome Brown, President”

Brent Gaisford seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

D. Outreach and Communications Committee Chair Lisa Chapman said that the full committee met on May 1st, including stakeholder members.

a. Election outreach can be done under the committee’s budget.

b. DONE and WRAC have both recommended that each NC have an election representative to be a point person for information and to handle administrative tasks. Michael Stajura volunteered to be the election representative, as he is already the WRAC representative but he will have to miss the WWNC meeting in July and WRAC meetings in July and August. Mark Herd volunteered to cover the WRAC meetings for those months.

c. WWNC needs a better website. The website is not user friendly on the front or back side. The committee discussed spending money next year to upgrade the website. A professional opinion is that it would cost \$8,000 to improve it.

E. Public Safety Committee Chair Michael Stajura announced that May 12th is Fire Service Recognition Day. Certain fire stations will have visiting hours from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The closest fire stations with visiting hours are Station 69 in Pacific Palisades and Station 99 on Mulholland Drive. May 17th is Law Enforcement Recognition Day at the West L.A. Veterans Administration.

The date picked for the Disaster Preparedness Fair is Saturday, October 20, 2012 on Broxton Avenue. Broxton will have to be closed off. Business owners there should be contacted about these plans. Stakeholder Steve Sann volunteered to help contact business owners.

Laura Winikow is drafting a letter to solicit leaders for Neighborhood Watch and Emergency Preparedness in the neighborhood.

F. WRAC

a. WRAC Representative Michael Stajura introduced the following motion from WRAC regarding a proposed development on Pico & Sepulveda.

“Whereas the proposed Alan Casden project at Pico and Sepulveda is only one of several projects in the West Los Angeles region along the Expo line, and whereas the West Los Angeles Community plan has not been completed and adopted,

WRAC recommends that the DEIR, ENV-2008-3989-EIR, be redrafted to reflect these additional projects and their cumulative impacts upon regional infrastructure: water, traffic, sewerage, power, schools, parks, and public safety departments (police and fire).

We also request a 60 day extension to review and comment on the DEIR.”

Connie Boukidis seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

6. VACANCY OF RENTER SEAT #5

WWNC has 60 days to recruit candidates for the vacant board member seat. The 60 days start from the actual vacancy so when Brent Gaisford vacates his seat in June, a replacement board member can't be voted in until August.

Elections will be held in October so that means the new board member would only be serving a two month term. Ways to try and avoid this were discussed.

7. LOS ANGELES CITY BUDGET

Brent Gaisford is a budget advocate. Budget advocates are all Neighborhood Council members who make suggestions for the budget each year. They put together 21 recommendations for the new budget to be voted on.

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL BUDGET ADVOCATES' SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Declare a Fiscal Emergency for the City of Los Angeles thereby allowing the Mayor to invoke a one-year salary reduction in order to close the deficit.
2. Require the City to develop a Five-Year Strategic Operational and Financial Plan mandating multi-year Balanced Budgets based on Generally Accepted Accounting Principles that provides full funding for our infrastructure and pensions.
3. The City's prime priority is to Control Employee Costs focusing on current and future employee compensation, benefits packages, pension contributions and Worker's Compensation.
4. Engage in real Pension Plan Reform starting with raising the

retirement age from 55 to 65 or 67 years of age.

5. Investigate the replacement of the Gross Receipts Tax with well-defined offsetting income.
6. Reach more specific definition of the City's "Core Services." Search for Cost-Effective Departmental Consolidations. Reduce all expenditures for all "non-Core Services."
7. Implement Performance-Based Budgeting which will quantiate the Workloads necessary for each Department to fulfill its mission ... with parameters which are compatible across all departments and, once subjected to Cost-Benefit Analysis, these data can be used to allocate the City's personnel, equipment, supplies, and funds.
8. Define, describe, and fund a 21st Century, comprehensive Information Technology System (data collection, data storage, & data processing) which will consistently document and improve the services of all City Departments and enhance City Government-Public interaction. All Systems Analyses must integrate the Programs involved with the expertise, staffing, hardware & software necessary to operate them.
9. Implement a Public-Private-Partnership for the Zoo and negotiate either Public-Private-Partnerships or more efficient Management Contracts for the Convention Center, the Parking Facilities, the Golf

Courses, the Animal Shelters and other City facilities while expanding the definition of “partnerships” to include municipal sponsorships to bring in corporate money and offering support to local non-profits working in the field on quality of life issues.

10. Recover the costs of Judgments, Settlements and Contingent Liabilities from the responsible department.
11. Promptly review and implement the unfulfilled recommendations in the Controller’s Audits; including a Central Billing/Collections Program. (see item #13)
12. Implement the Commission on Revenue Enhancement (CORE) recommendations including (but not limited to) the newly established office of Inspector General.
13. Implement a comprehensive, efficient, and effective Central Billing/Collections Program which serves all City Departments.
14. Partner with International Government Non-profits as incubators of new small businesses.
15. Revert all (100%) of currently “split” funds from the sale of City-owned property, the Oil Franchise income, the Street Furniture Funds, etc. to the General Fund.

16. Return DOT Parking Enforcement & Traffic Control activities to LAPD, if cost-effective.
17. Review the City's hiring policies ... currently under a "Managed Hiring" plan ... to assure that the City secures qualified personnel in all positions.
18. Fund new civilian hires with savings derived from a one-year (only) closure of the Police Training Academy in order to redeploy jailers and administrative staff LAPD officers.
19. Authorize Private sector Veterinarians to issue and collect Dog License Fees.
20. Reestablish and fund the 50-50% Sidewalk Repair Program and consider funding similar programs for Tree Trimming, Pot Holes, etc.
21. Bolster the Neighborhood Council System by bringing in a foundation as a partner, providing additional financial and training support and Reinstate NCs to full \$50,000/year funding.

After discussion, Brent Gaisford moved, "Westwood Neighborhood Council endorses the recommendations of the Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates regarding the finances of the City of Los Angeles with the exception of #9 and #21." Lisa Chapman seconded the motion which carried with a vote of Yes: 12 and No: 2.

8. WESTWOOD ORGANIZED MEGA PROJECT (WOMP)

UCLA has decided to pull out of supporting WOMP for the future. UCLA claims it takes too many resources and too much staff time from their volunteer center. Michael Stajura made the point that this is a once a year event which is very positive and productive and a good way for students to bond with the Westwood Village community. It is preferable for UCLA to be an official partner than to get student volunteers ad hoc. UCLA does not provide any money, just student volunteers. Several stakeholders said that students were very enthusiastic about participating in this event and this year's WOMP was the biggest, with 714 volunteers.

UCLA representative Vincent Wong said that he had no comment but was just at the meeting to observe and report back. He did say that UCLA isn't backing away from Westwood but it will be involved in a different iteration.

Michael Stajura moved,

“Whereas, the inaugural Westwood Organized MEGA Project (WOMP) was launched in April 2010 as a collaboration between the Westwood community and UCLA, to create a “Town and Gown” partnership and to build a bridge between campus and community, between students and neighbors, and between merchants and property owners, to work together to improve the conditions of Westwood Village, the “front door” to UCLA since 1929, and to foster a sense of “community” in Westwood; and

WHEREAS, the Westwood Neighborhood Council is a major sponsor of WOMP, along with the Westwood Community Council, and the nationally acclaimed UCLA Volunteer Center; and

WHEREAS the third annual WOMP was held on Saturday April 28, 2012, and welcomed a record number of more than 700 volunteers including Los Angeles Fifth District City Councilmember Paul Koretz, UCLA students, faculty, staff, administrators, Bruin alumni, Westwood neighbors and homeowner leaders, Westwood Village merchants and property owners, Westwood Business Improvement District members, Target volunteers, Westwood Village Rotary Club members, UCLA Undergraduate Students Association Council leaders, Westwood faith-based community members, LAPD officers and cadets, and California Conservation Corps members, among others; and

WHEREAS, WOMP 2012 undertook 30 community improvement projects in Westwood Village and, for the first time, Westwood's North Village, home to thousands of UCLA students, faculty, and staff, in order to make them safer and more beautiful, including planting new landscaping, filling in degraded tree wells to protect street trees and improve public safety, weeding, painting, installing North Village neighborhood beautification signs, creating Hygiene Kits for PATH (People Assisting the Homeless), and many other worthwhile volunteer projects; and

WHEREAS, WOMP is a leading example of UCLA Chancellor Gene Block's expressed commitment to civic engagement, which builds goodwill among UCLA's Westwood neighbors and provides tangible assistance to UCLA's immediately surrounding communities; and

WHEREAS, WOMP is the one day out of the year that brings the entire Westwood community together with UCLA community members, to work side-by-side to improve the Westwood neighborhoods in which tens of thousands of UCLA students, faculty, and staff live, work, and play; and

WHEREAS, 100 percent of the entire cost and expenses of WOMP are raised from voluntary private contributions and in-kind donations from the Westwood community, including businesses, property owners, homeowner associations, and civic groups, with no funds whatsoever coming from UCLA; and

WHEREAS, the principal commitment by UCLA to WOMP for the past three years has been to provide the administrative support services of the UCLA Volunteer Center to help plan WOMP and serve as a central gateway for students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community members to volunteer for WOMP;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Westwood Neighborhood Council calls on Chancellor Block to reaffirm and renew UCLA's commitment to the continuation of WOMP, and to pledge the active support and partnership with the UCLA Volunteer Center, to ensure that this powerful expression of UCLA's values of civic engagement and commitment to a partnership with its Westwood neighbors can continue for the betterment of both the Westwood and UCLA communities."

Mark Herd seconded this motion, which carried unanimously.

9. FAIRBURN/STERRY BOUNDARY CHANGE

No action is needed at this time because the plan has been temporarily suspended.

10. ADJOURNMENT

President Jerry Brown adjourned the meeting at 9:18 p.m.