

WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MINUTES
MAY 11, 2022
ZOOM MEETING ONLINE OR BY TELEPHONE

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Lisa Chapman called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Board members in attendance were Connie Boukidis, Sandy Brown, Lisa Chapman, Tracey Fitzgerald, Philip Gabriel, Ann Hayman, Michael Mahoney, Stephen Resnick, Marcello Robinson, Paula Rogers, Mark Rogo, and Laura Winikow. Members excused were Roozbeh Farahanipour and David Lorango. A quorum was present. There were approximately 26 stakeholders and guests attending.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sandy Brown announced that the Landmark Theatre at Pico & Westwood is closing.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Lisa Chapman moved to approve the March 9, 2022 minutes, seconded by Tracey Fitzgerald, and carried unanimously.

4. COMMENTS BY PUBLIC OFFICIALS

A. State Assemblymember Isaac Bryan's representative Michelle Persoff reported that the Assemblymember's office participated in Connect Day and gave a legislative update.

B. CD5 Field Deputy Jasmine Shamolian announced that Connect Day was successful. The Planning Department is seeking people for an advisory board on the westside and applications are due May 30th. CD5 is soliciting suggested addresses for murals to be painted.

Several board members and stakeholders expressed disappointment with Councilmember Koretz's stance on the one amendment to the Westwood Village Specific Plan that the agreement was changed on, DRB sign review. The Councilmember is in favor of removing DRB oversight and having administrative review only, which is unlike other communities and not following best practices. Furthermore, not all stakeholders were notified about the change to the agreement; the community was not. The community was also unfairly accused of too many signage appeals when actually in the last 23 years there have only been four signage appeals, three of which were by the community and one by TOPA. Jasmine replied that the issue is the time the DRB review takes, not just appeals, and said that the PLUM hearing is May 17th.

C. SLO James Allen reported that crime is down year-to-date in all categories except theft and aggravated assaults. There are many thefts at Target and aggravated assaults are due to a rise in domestic violence during the pandemic.

D. U.S. Congressman Ted Lieu's representative Janet Turner gave a legislative update and announced that the Congressman will be in his office next week and at the VA on Memorial Day. High school student applications for the Youth Advisory Council are being accepted.

E. UCLA representative Marco Perez reported that UCLA participated in Connect Day and had mobile units there. COVID cases have spiked fivefold since spring break, with 650 new cases last week so indoor masking and weekly testing are being recommended. Students in dorms are required to do weekly testing. Undergraduate graduations will be held June 10th to 12th. An update on upcoming UCLA events was given.

5. DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT

No report was given.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Laura Winikow reported that there were some snafus with the NPGs. There were portal problems and the amended budget had to be resubmitted. The Salvation Army got its money and Fairburn, Emerson and the library were approved. There was an issue with a signature for Warner.

A. Motion to approve Monthly Expenditure Report for March 2022

Treasurer Laura Winikow reported that the March MER had a beginning balance of \$28,454.88, \$186.45 was spent, there is a \$9,000 outstanding amount for two NPGs, and the net available balance is a debit of \$731.57. Laura moved to approve the March MER, seconded by Ann Hayman and approved unanimously.

B. Motion to approve Monthly Expenditure Report for April 2022

Treasurer Laura Winikow reported that the April MER had a beginning balance of \$28,268.43, \$5,000 spent on an NPG, \$12,000 outstanding for three NPGs, and a net available balance of \$3,268.43. Laura moved to approve the April MER, seconded by Philip Gabriel, and approved unanimously.

C. Discussion & motion to approve letter to Jeff Brill of the City Clerk's office regarding contracts
No letter has been written yet so no action was taken on this item.

7. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There was no public comment.

8. OPEN RENTER RESIDENTIAL DIRECTOR SEAT

A. Motion to Approve Michael Mahoney to Renter Residential Director

Michael Mahoney introduced himself and said that he had found out about the seat through Nextdoor. Lisa Chapman moved to add Michael Mahoney to WWNC's board, seconded by Sandy Brown, and approved unanimously.

9. CD5 FORUM

Lisa Chapman reported that the forum held last month went very well, with Steve Sann moderating. Steve Sann thanked board members and UCLA representatives and said that the forum recording is posted on YouTube.

10. WESTWOOD CONNECT DAY, MAY 11

Lisa Chapman reported that Connect Day was today from 11 a.m. to about 3:30 – 4 p.m. There were not as many people attending as last time. All kinds of services were available. Hygiene kits were made with \$500 donated by the Rotary Club and distributed there.

11. WWNC WEBSITE UPGRADE

A. Discussion to upgrade the WWNC website due to changes in technology, security, and the need for ADA compliance

Kevin Sade of Media81 explained that he is upgrading content and coding for speed, performance, and ADA compliance. There are different contract options for ADA compliance. One is free and one costs \$490 per year but includes legal services. EmpowerLA uses the free version but he recommended upgrading to the paid version. There are 270 pages that have to be upgraded.

B. Motion: "The WWNC approves \$4,500 for Media81 to upgrade the website"

Lisa Chapman said that WWNC can use the free service now but she will talk to DONE and get in writing what they recommend. Lisa moved, "WWNC approves \$2,285 to Media81 to upgrade at this time, with an additional balance to be considered at the July 13, 2022 meeting." Laura Winikow seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. Michael Mahoney did not vote.

12. DISCUSSION: CALIFORNIA ALLIANCE OF LOCAL ELECTEDS (CALE) – AUDIT OF THE REGIONAL HOUSING NEEDS ASSESSMENT (RHNA)

- A. <https://ourneighborhoodvoices.com/california-alliance-of-local-electeds-california-state-auditor-releases-scathing-report-on-rhna-process-report-finds-housing-goals-are-not-supported-by-evidence%ef%bf%bc/>

Sandy Brown explained that this has already passed but it's about trying to get the numbers right.

13. SEPULVEDA TRANSIT CORRIDOR PROJECT

A. Discussion and Motion: "The Westwood Neighborhood Council joins the Sepulveda Transit Corridor Project Coalition, "STC4All", organized by UCLA, that ensures a station on the UCLA campus for the Sepulveda Transit Corridor Metro Project. "

Lisa Chapman said that DONE NEA Freddy Cupen-Ames recommended not to go on record as joining the coalition but WRAC is a coalition that WWNC has joined. Lisa has asked for the City Attorney's opinion on joining a coalition.

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

14. OPEN OWNER RESIDENTIAL AREA 4 DIRECTOR SEAT

A. Discussion for a replacement as Owner Residential Area 4 Director

Lisa Chapman said she has a couple of people in mind to ask.

15. STANDING COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

A. Executive – no report

B. Land Use & Planning – no report

C. Outreach & Communications – no report

D. Homeless Task Force – see agenda item 10

E. Budget Advocates – no report

F. Public Safety/ Transportation & Parking

Philip Gabriel said that he has had no response from the city to the email he sent earlier regarding traffic timing on Wilshire and in Westwood Village.

G. Bylaws – no report

H. WRAC – Report and Motions

1. Support: Request for Dwelling Unit Capacity Calculations

REQUEST FOR DWELLING UNIT CAPACITY CALCULATIONS

The Westwood Neighborhood Council requests that the Department of City Planning provide the Dwelling Unit Capacity calculations for all WRAC community plans in process (Palms-Mar Vista-Del Rey, Venice, Westchester/Playa, West Los Angeles). The WWNC also requests that Dwelling Unit Capacity calculations be provided for future Community Plan updates.

[Background Information](#)

Stephen Resnick moved the above motion, seconded by Lisa Chapman, and carried unanimously.

2. Support: Request for Revisions to SB330 (Affordable Housing)

This was withdrawn by WRAC.

Stephen Resnick reported that WRAC's LUPC has a new chair and the meetings are now on Monday nights. Neither Stephen nor Paula Rogers can attend then so a new representative to the LUPC is needed.

I. Park Advisory Board

Sandy Brown announced that the Holmby PAB has an online meeting tomorrow night. Stephen Resnick will speak to Robert Ringler about Holmby PAB.

16. ADJOURNMENT

President Lisa Chapman adjourned the meeting at 9:42 p.m.

