

WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MINUTES

JUNE 10, 2015

WESTWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 10822 WILSHIRE BLVD., LOS ANGELES, CA 90024

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Jerry Brown called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. Board members in attendance were Angus Beverly, Connie Boukidis, Jerry Brown, Sandy Brown, Lisa Chapman, Roozbeh Farahanipour, Jacob Finn, Ann Hayman (voted in during the course of the meeting), Mitchell Keiter, Stephen Resnick, Marcello Robinson, Scott Whittle, and Laura Winikow. Board members excused were Dean Abell, Aurelia Friedman, Armen Hadjimanoukian, Mark Rogo, Eugene Tseng, and Austin Velez. A quorum was present. There were 18 stakeholders and guests present.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Scott Whittle moved to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2015 meeting. Angus Beverly seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

3. COMMENTS BY PUBLIC OFFICIALS

A. A sergeant from West Los Angeles police station reported on traffic impacts which will occur during the Special Olympics from July 24th when the athletes will move into UCLA, on July 25th with the opening ceremonies, and through August 2nd when the competition ends. The DWP's Sunset Project will also be ongoing at that time.

B. Stakeholder Steve Sann mentioned an incident which happened the previous evening at Palomino. An aggressive transient entered the restaurant, necessitating intervention. This caused three patrons to leave. There has been an uptick in transient incidents recently.

C. Los Angeles County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl's representative Rachel Dagan reported that the Supervisor will be opening a westside office soon.

D. State Assemblymember Sebastian Ridley-Thomas' representative Scott Nelson talked about four bills of interest to the community. He did not know the Assemblymember's view on SB 608, but he will find out.

E. Congressman Ted Lieu's representative Janet Turner reported that hearings on the VA master plan will be held over the summer.

F. UCLA representative Rachel Brashier reported that UCLA will have a Volunteer Day on September 26, 2015.

G. CD5 Field Deputy Jeff Ebenstein reported that the Special Olympics will have a torch run through Westwood Village on July 23rd. Members of WWNC and other community organizations are invited to speak. The new budget effective as of July 1st will have more street repair money in it for resurfacing and tree trimming.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

A. Stakeholder Steve Sann announced that on Sunday June 28th there will be a free concert at the Westwood Branch Library and June 28th is also Westwood Village's 6th Annual Night Out.

B. Minoo Toobian, co-owner of a barbershop on Westwood Blvd., said that her customers have lost parking because of the Uber cars that take up all the available metered spaces on Westwood Blvd. from Massachusetts to Santa Monica Blvd. when the Uber office is open. President Jerry Brown asked Angus Beverly to look into this. CD5 Planning Deputy Shawn Bayliss will let Councilmember Koretz know. Saeed Sarshad, co-owner of the barbershop, reported that the hookah bar has taken over the parking lot so there is no parking for customers there. The hookah bar took the parking lot over as a patio, and then covered it with a roof. CD5 Planning Deputy Shawn Bayliss will let the Department of Building & Safety know.

5. STANDING COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

A. The Executive Committee had no report.

B. Budget

Treasurer Laura Winikow listed the June expenses to be approved as \$40.11 for copies and \$1.61 for mailing. The expenses were approved unanimously. May expenses to be

approved were \$100 for room rental and \$99.21 for printing. These expenses were approved unanimously. A new budget will have to be voted on in July and Laura asked for any recommended changes.

C. Land Use

1. Simms/Lemonade Project

Case Number: ZA 2015-1400 CUB/DIR 2015-1523-DRB-SPP

Contact Information: Manny Diaz, FE Design, 213-687-696

Project Title: Lemonade Restaurant Group, LLC

Project Address: 1140 South Gayley Avenue, Los Angeles , CA 90024

Project Description: Conditional Use Permit to allow sale of beer and wine for on-site consumption in conjunction with a new 3,000 square foot restaurant having 62 seats inside, and 12 seats outside in a 338 square foot patio area located on private property, for a total of 74 seats and having hours of operation from 11 am to 11 pm daily. LAMC Code Sections 11.5.7 and 16.50 re façade improvements in conjunction with restaurant.

Supporting Documents: [http://www.wwnc.org/Simms Lindbrook/Gayley project](http://www.wwnc.org/Simms%20Lindbrook/Gayley%20project)

Action(s) Requested: Stakeholders seek explicit information regarding exact location and number of code-required parking spaces as dictated by the Westwood Village Specific Plan requirements and a restaurant as defined in the City Planning Commission decision dated December 12, 2002.

a. Introduction of Motion

Sandy Brown moved, seconded by Stephen Resnick,

WWNC asks Councilmember Koretz to add to the Westwood Village Specific Plan the definition of a restaurant as defined by the City Planning Commission dated December 12, 2002.

The motion carried unanimously.

2. Simms/Le Pain Quotidien Project

Case Number: DIR 2015-1503-DRB-SPP ENV 2015-1504CE

Contact Info: Howard Robinson, 310-838-0180

Project Title: Le Pain Quotidien

Project Address: 1130 South Gayley Avenue, Los Angeles , CA 90024

Project Description: Design Review and Project Permit Compliance for the installation of signs with a combined sign area of approximately 27 square feet, an outdoor dining railing, and new operable windows and new entry door within existing openings in new tenant space.

Supporting Documents: [http://www.wwnc.org/Simms Lindbrook/Gayley project](http://www.wwnc.org/Simms%20Lindbrook/Gayley%20project)

Action(s) Requested: Stakeholders seek explicit information regarding exact location and number of code-required parking spaces as dictated by the Westwood Village Specific Plan requirements and a restaurant as defined in the City Planning Commission decision dated December 12, 2002.

a. Introduction of Motion

Chair Connie Boukidis said that Le Pain Quotidien came to the LUPC meeting today.

Concessions were made in parking and the community is asking the tenants or owner to produce a covenant with specific parking information. That information was not available today. No motion was introduced.

3. Nushii Project

Case Number: ZA 2015-1589 DRB-SPP-COA

Contact Info: Robert Ward, Robert Ward & Associates, 310-392-0232

Project Title: NUSHII

Project Address: 1055 South Broxton Avenue, Los Angeles , CA 90024

Project Description: Change of use from restaurant establishment to fast food establishment, sign installation and façade improvements within a storefront of a locally significant historic resource.

Action(s) Requested: Stakeholders seek WWNC taking position against change of use.

Chair Connie Boukidis said that Nushii was dealt with at the DRB last week and should be considered “fast-casual”. Connie amended the motion to add the word “Village” after the word “Westwood” , seconded by Stephen Resnick. The motion carried by a vote of Yes: 12, No: 0, and Abstain: 1 (Lisa Chapman).

Motion: The WWNC expresses its great displeasure to the City of Los Angeles' Department of City Planning which continues to brazenly ignore the Westwood Specific Plan requirements. We are unequivocally opposed to the Department granting a change of use from restaurant establishment to fast food establishment to Nushii located at 1055 South Broxton, Los Angeles, CA 90024 and any further changes of use that are in direct violation of the Westwood Specific Plan.

D. Outreach & Communications (Note: this agenda item was taken out of order, in between agenda items 3 and 4. Mitchell Keiter didn't participate in the vote due to late arrival.)

1. Board discussion and vote on whether the vacant seat must be filled by a candidate whose activities are clearly related to Westwood

President Jerry Brown said that he spoke with Darren Martinez in the City Attorney's office and the bylaws are ambiguous on this issue. No vote was taken.

2. Candidates filing for the Non-Profit/Arts/Culture/Recreational Community Director
Open Board Position: David Burke; Shaun Golshani; Ann Hayman

David Burke and Ann Hayman were present at the meeting and each made a statement.

3. Voting to select candidate for Non-Profit/Arts/Culture/Recreational Community
Director Open Board Position

Ten votes were cast in favor of Ann Hayman and one vote was cast by Angus Beverly for David Burke. Ann Hayman was elected to the open board position.

4. Motion to approve the purchase of a timer and a banner

Chair Lisa Chapman reported on the quotes she got for a five to six foot banner in four

colors along with a sign and easel and for a timer. Lisa moved to approve spending up to \$400 for the banner and up to \$60 for the timer. Steve Resnick got quotes for portable speakers and a microphone, and moved to amend the motion to add spending up to \$225 for these items, seconded by Angus Beverly. Laura Winikow moved to amend the motion to add spending \$85 for printer ink to print out WWNC material at home, seconded by Angus Beverly. The motion was approved unanimously.

E. Public Safety

Chair Angus Beverly reported that a crosswalk will not be put in on Hilgard as it is too dangerous.

F. Traffic

The Traffic report is the same as Public Safety.

G. WRAC

1. Introduction of motion regarding the closing of LAUSD School Readiness and Language Development (SRLDP) Program

Zeena Pliska, a LAUSD teacher, introduced the motion. Connie Boukidis moved to approve the motion, seconded by Marcello Robinson. The motion carried by a vote of Yes: 11, No: 2 (Lisa Chapman, Mitchell Keiter), and Abstain: 0.

After the vote on the basic motion, Jerry Brown moved to amend the motion to add WRAC to the list of people and organizations to send a letter to and Sandy Brown moved to add LAUSD board member Steve Zimmer to the list also, both seconded by Connie Boukidis. The amended motion carried by a vote of Yes:11, No: 2 (Lisa Chapman, Mitchell Keiter), and Abstain: 0.

MOTION REGARDING THE CLOSING OF LAUSD SCHOOL READINESS AND LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT (SRLDP) PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the preschool program known as School Readiness and Language Development (SRLDP) was created almost 40 years ago in response to the Federal Government's order to integrate public schools, it has been a model of excellence in both educating our youngest students, but also training their parents in classes once a week;

WHEREAS, seven years ago, the program served 16,500 four year olds, it now currently enrolls about 10,000 with 45% of them slated to be cut off from services this June, 2015. The remaining 55% will be dismissed in one year. In the majority of cases, the young students are offered no alternative preschool program;

WHEREAS, a myriad of studies have shown the significant positive role early education plays in closing the achievement gap,

BE IT RESOLVED, the WWNC opposes the closing of the LAUSD's preschool program known as School Readiness and Language Development (SRLDP). This position shall be communicated by our President in writing to the LAUSD Board of Education, the superintendent and the mayor of Los Angeles.

6. STOP SIGNS AT LE CONTE AND LEVERING

A. Introduction of motion to install stop signs at this intersection

Chair Angus Beverly moved to approve the following motion, seconded by Sandy Brown.

The motion carried unanimously.

MOTION REGARDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF STOP SIGNS AT THE INTERSECTION
OF

LE CONTE AND LEVERING

There is a large amount of foot traffic in the intersection of Le Conte Ave and Levering Ave. Right now, there is a crosswalk connecting the Chevron Gas Station and the other side of Levering, but there is not a demarcated crosswalk from the Gas Station to the North Village on the east side of the street. The line at the STOP sign at this intersection is not clear enough and it proves to be dangerous to pedestrians crossing who cross this street to get to and from Westwood Village.

Due to this situation, the WWNC highly recommends that the Department of Transportation add stop signs to help pedestrians cross safely and indicate to drivers where to stop their cars. We also urge Councilman Paul Koretz to fully utilize his influence as our elected representative to advocate installing stop signs into the proposed area in Westwood.

7. SB 608—RIGHT TO REST ACT

A. Discussion and possible introduction of a motion

Mitchell Keiter volunteered to write an article about SB 608 and submit it to a California legal journal which would be seen all over the state. SB 608 does nothing to help the

homeless or provide any services for them. Jerry Brown suggested that he identify himself as a WWNC board member when submitting the article.

8. IMPACT OF NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS

This topic was not discussed.

9. ADJOURNMENT

President Jerry Brown adjourned the meeting at 10:00 p.m.