

WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MINUTES
JUNE 14, 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 7:10 p.m. Board members in attendance were Connie Boukidis, Sandy Brown, Lisa Chapman, Tracey Fitzgerald, Philip Gabriel, Ann Hayman, David Lorango, Stephen Resnick, Marcello Robinson, Paula Rogers, and Laura Winikow. Members excused were Roozbeh Farahanipour and Mark Rogo. A quorum was present. There were approximately 7 stakeholders and guests attending.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stephen Resnick announced his 50th anniversary. Lisa Chapman mentioned the artwork in the Belmont meeting room.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Lisa Chapman moved to approve the April 12, 2023 minutes, seconded by Ann Hayman, and carried unanimously.

4. COMMENTS BY PUBLIC OFFICIALS

A. LAPD SLO James Allen reported that neighborhood issues are thefts and homelessness. He does not recommend giving money or food to the homeless but donating to shelters and food banks instead. There have been continued and increased thefts at retail stores but the policy at stores is not to intervene. Coffee with a Cop was a success. There was an issue at Holmby Park because Bounce L.A. complained that LAPD wasn't being equitable. Bounce L.A. doesn't have a permit to use the park but claimed that Brenda Aguirre of Rec & Parks (RAP) gave the OK to use it. SLO Allen spoke with RAP General Manager Jimmy Kim and was told that Bounce L.A. does not have permission. Lisa Chapman asked CD5 Deputy Chief of Staff Fernando Morales about this. He and Field Deputy Patricia Macias are looking into it. Fernando discussed the fact that permits are needed to use Holmby Park and permits for other parks can't be used at Holmby. Lisa said that this is an ongoing issue. SLO Allen said he will continue to respond to crimes at the park. Connie Boukidis asked about the removal of Neighborhood Prosecutors from meetings.

B. UCLA representative Marco Perez announced that commencement will take place from Friday through Sunday, with Sunday as the main commencement day. USAC in the past has called for UCLA to have safe parking for homeless students. UCLA is revisiting the issue and trying to identify a parking structure to use. Originally parking structure 7 was being considered. UCLA will hold a virtual public meeting on June 26th at 6 p.m. on the Gayley Tower Project. UCLA wants to demolish the existing six-story building and construct an eight-story building. UCLA is advocating for a campus stop for the Sepulveda Transit Corridor Project and would like to identify commuters who could give a testimonial in support of a campus stop. Sandy Brown asked if UCLA would participate in the Housing Element. Jennifer Poulakidas said it is unknown right now, she thought UCLA might not participate but will check into it. SLO Allen mentioned that there is a joint venture with UCLA on party houses, with bi-weekly meetings.

C. CD5 Deputy Chief of Staff Fernando Morales, in place of Field Deputy Patricia Macias, stated that he should have enough information about the Holmby Park issues by Friday July 16th.

D. State Assemblymember Rick Chavez Zbur's representative Sherwin Shamoeil reported that the Assemblymember made an appearance in West Hollywood and gave a legislative update, mentioning that nine bills are expected to pass and get the governor's signature. Assemblymember Zbur's office will be moving to North Stanley Avenue.

5. DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT

DONE NEA Freddy Cupen-Ames reported that three new directors and two new NEAs were hired. June 17th is budget day and September 23rd is the Congress of Neighborhood Councils. Lisa Chapman commented that WWNC has a new funding rep and changing reps makes it harder to get funding approved. Marcello Robinson commented on the lack of new people being hired by DONE. Lisa said she was in a meeting where the City Attorney said that DONE was supposed to be eliminated ten years ago.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

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

Treasurer Laura Winikow reported that the beginning balance was \$34,135.36, with \$8,537.12 spent, \$171.40 outstanding, and a net available amount of \$7,678.32. Laura moved to approve the March MER, seconded by Lisa Chapman, and approved unanimously with the exception of Laura and Sandy Brown who didn't vote.

B. Motion to approve the Monthly Expenditure Report for April 2023

Treasurer Laura Winikow reported that the beginning balance was \$25,400.24 with \$8,651.92 spent, \$8,570 outstanding, and a net available amount of \$7,678.32. Laura moved to approve the April MER, seconded by Tracey Fitzgerald, and approved unanimously with the exception of Laura and Sandy Brown who didn't vote.

C. Motion to approve the Monthly Expenditure Report for May 2023

Treasurer Laura Winikow reported that the beginning balance was \$16,748.32, with \$8,570 spent, a \$500 commitment, and a net available amount of \$7,678.32. Laura moved to approve the May MER, seconded by Marcello Robinson, and approved unanimously with the exception of Laura and Sandy Brown who didn't vote.

D. Motion to approve an invoice from Axiom Suite for website hosting and maintenance in the amount of \$2,834.95

This item was tabled until the July meeting.

E. Update on the funding of Neighborhood Purpose Grants (NPG) that have been approved

Treasurer Laura Winikow reported that funding for all NPGs was approved with the exception of the L.A. Conservancy, and the funds will roll over to next year.

7. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

No public comment was made.

8. DISCUSSION & QUESTIONS ON COUNCILMEMBER KATY YAROSLAVSKY'S HOMELESSNESS POLICIES AND PROGRESS IN CD5

CD5 Deputy Chief of Staff Fernando Morales and Matthew Tenchavez explained that every week they get two Care Plus days (full comprehensive clean-up). Care is a smaller sanitation team. Two people from the office are on the Care team. They are assisting LAHSA in getting faster response to housing requests. Over 100 people have been housed from CD5. First hotels are called but most are too expensive, then they reach out to other districts. The rate is about \$110 per night. They are in touch with the homeless that are in hotels and there is a 95% retention rate. CD5 has a public storage location which costs \$400 to \$500 per month. Lisa Chapman asked about people who can't follow rules due to substance abuse or mental health. More case management and support are provided for them. People's Concern helps. An interim facility in CD5 is planned for the future. Lisa also asked if CD5 connects with other service providers in the area like Westwood Village. CD5 meets with other teams every Wednesday. Two sites in CD5 are being looked at for Project Roomkey. Sandy Brown asked about sites in Westwood. Three have been looked at but are not feasible. Marcello Robinson mentioned a large case-worker load and said that third party agencies

are getting funding but not providing proper help. Several board members mentioned that groups that help the homeless should be under one umbrella organization and cases need to be tracked. There is no way to know how much money is being spent.

9. PRESENTATION ON A NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL BILL OF RIGHTS

A. Possible Introduction of Motion in Support

This item was not discussed.

10. WESTWOOD PARK ADVISORY BOARD

Tracey Fitzgerald reported that a proposed garden was discussed and a survey was distributed to the community. It is assumed that Quimby funds will be used. Pickleball is moving forward and eight pickleball courts will be made from two tennis courts. There will be an online reservation system. Camp started this week. The next PAB meeting is June 28th.

11. UPDATE ON THE CLOSURE OF HABIBI CAFÉ

Stephen Resnick reported that the responsibility for the closure was turned over to Building & Safety on June 12th. Habibi Café has 15 days to vacate the property. If not, Building & Safety will remove people and board up windows and LADWP will be contacted to shut off the water.

12. DISCUSSION OF WHETHER THE WWNC WILL HAVE HYBRID MEETINGS MOVING FORWARD OR IN-PERSON ONLY MEETINGS

A. Possible Introduction of Motion

Lisa Chapman moved, "WWNC will have only in-person meetings in the future." Connie Boukidis seconded and the motion carried by a vote of Yes: 5, No: 0, and Abstain: 3. Ann Hayman, David Lorango, and Paula Rogers had left the meeting so did not take part in the vote.

13. DISCUSSION AND INTRODUCTION OF MOTION IN REGARD TO THE RECENT APPOINTMENT OF HAYLEY FENG TO THE WEST LOS ANGELES AREA PLANNING COMMISSION

A. "The Westwood Neighborhood Council calls upon Mayor Karen Bass to reconsider her appointment of Hayley Feng to the West Los Angeles Planning Commission. We ask that the Los Angeles City Council not approve this appointment. While the candidate is talented, she lacks the necessary planning experience to serve on this very important board serving the West LA community."

Lisa Chapman moved the above motion, seconded by Tracey Fitzgerald, and carried by a vote of Yes: 6, No: 0, and Abstain: 2 (Sandy Brown, Marcello Robinson). Ann Hayman, David Lorango, and Paula Rogers had left the meeting so did not take part in the vote.

14. ISSUES AT HOLMBY PARK

A. Introduction of Motion: "The Westwood Neighborhood Council supports the concerns and approves the issuing of the letter."

Sandy Brown moved the above motion, seconded by Lisa Chapman, and carried unanimously. Ann Hayman, David Lorango, and Paula Rogers had left the meeting so did not take part in the vote. (See agenda item 4A for discussion of this issue.)

Holmby Westwood Property Owners Association
P.O. Box 49180
Los Angeles, California 90049
(310) 470-1785 hwpoa@aol.com

June 13, 2023

Jimmy Kim, GM, R&P
jimmy.kim@lacity.org

Councilmember Katy Yaroslavsky, CM 5th CD
councilmember.yaroslavsky@lacity.org

George Hakopiants, DDD, 5th CD
george.hakopiants@lacity.org

Patricia Macias, FD, 5th CD
patricia.macias@lacity.org

SLO James Allen
39318@lapd.online

cc: Lisa Chapman, Pres., Westwood NC
lchapman@wwnc.org

Dear GM Kim, Councilmember Yaroslavsky, DDD Hakopiants, Deputy Macias, and SLO Allen;

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Holmby Westwood Property Owners Association, I want to call your attention to persistent, long term issues at Holmby Park, around which our residents reside. These problems have festered for several years: the off-leash dogs problem (which should have been addressed as previously discussed with GM Kim) and the use of the park by those in recreational businesses.

Section 63.44(B) "Vend or Vending" addresses the many users of our park who day after day bring their clients to the park for class or work as private trainers. This began even prior to COVID, and has taken up precious park space, including the golf course. (Amended by Ordinance No. 183,815 effective 9/27/15. Many have boom boxes with amplified sound (Code 115.02.LAMC) that begins as early as 7 am.

It is not unusual to see sidewalks obstructed or tree limbs, benches and light posts used with ropes and bungees for exercises. There are two large vans that haul portable equipment for children's groups that use Holmby Park. Their set-up is adjacent to our new children's playground.

The second issue is the unleashed dogs that congregate on the golf green daily. This has been reported to Rec & Park with no relief to date, though I was told park rangers would handle it. It is a safety issue as several park users have been bitten, seniors are afraid to walk for fear of being knocked over, and small dogs on leash are attacked by dogs off leash.

We ask that attention be given to these problems immediately and that corrective measures be taken, including fines.

Our Board of Directors would appreciate a report back as to what is being done to restore Holmby Park to a safe environment so that young and old can recreate without fear of being attacked, without hearing boom boxes blasting, without dodging personal gym equipment, and without seeing tree limbs being broken by those exercising. There are signs posted throughout the park

informing users what is not allowed. Unfortunately, these signs are ignored.

Please give some attention to this beautiful park!

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Sandy Brown
Pres., Holmby Westwood Property Owners Association

cc: Holmby Westwood Property Owners Association
Robert Ringler, Pres., Holmby Park Advisory Board
Lisa Chapman, Pres., Westwood Neighborhood Council

15. HOLMBY PARK ADVISORY BOARD

This item was not discussed.

16. APPOINTMENT OF BUDGET ADVOCATE REPRESENTATIVE

Philip Gabriel nominated Marcello Robinson for the position, seconded by Lisa Chapman, and approved unanimously.

17. STANDING COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

- A. Executive
- B. Land Use & Planning
- C. Outreach & Communications
- D. Homeless Task Force
- E. Budget Advocates
- F. Public Safety/ Transportation & Parking
- G. WRAC – Emergency Preparedness
- H. Bylaws
- I. WRAC – Report and Motions
 - 1. Support: Minimize Light Pollution
 - 2. Support: Director’s Determination re Murphy Drilling Site

None of the above items were discussed.

18. ADJOURNMENT

President Lisa Chapman adjourned the meeting at 9:51 p.m.