

WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 15, 2011
WESTWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
10822 WILSHIRE BLVD.
LOS ANGELES, CA 90024

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Jerry Brown called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m. Board members in attendance were Connie Boukidis, Jerry Brown, Lisa Chapman, David Crew, Roozbeh Farahanipour, Brent Gaisford, Toni Gray, Mark Herd, Stephen Resnick, Yoni Riemer, Mark Rogo, Clinton Schudy, Kurt Smalberg, Michael Stajura, George Torbay, Scott Whittle, and Laura Winikow. Board member absent was Steve Somers. There were also 23 stakeholders and guests in attendance.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Brent Gaisford moved to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Michael Stajura and carried unanimously.

3. COMMENTS BY PUBLIC OFFICIALS

Eric Norton of Councilmember Koretz's office said that the Councilmember wants to keep the FlyAway shuttle bus to LAX in Westwood and has written to the Los Angeles World Airports Board of Commissioners about this issue. LADWP will be having public meetings on its proposed rate increases, with one scheduled on June 22nd at 6:30 p.m. at Stephen S. Wise Temple. The City Council has approved a citizens committee which would pick a ratepayer advocate. No rate increase will happen until the ratepayer advocate is in place. The Westside Mobility Plan has finished the parking portion of its study and is moving on to its Rail Connectivity Study. A public meeting on this will be held at Felicia Mahood Senior Center on June 29th. Eric met with Toni Gray, Clinton Schudy, the DOT and others to talk about the DOT's proposed rate increases for the Broxton garage, and were able to get the increases postponed from July 2011 to October 2011. Eric also mentioned the upcoming I-405 closure between I-10 and 101 on July 15 - 17, 2011.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Stakeholder Roxane Stern made suggestions to improve WWNC's website.

5. STANDING COMMITTEES STATUS REPORTS

The Executive Committee has not met.

The Budget Committee's report was given by Treasurer Yoni Riemer, who announced that WWNC has spent 94% of its allotted funds for this year. Funds have been disbursed to six Neighborhood Grant Proposals, WOMP clean up day in Westwood Village, and pre-payment of an earthquake simulator machine for the Disaster Preparedness Fair which is scheduled for October 2011, among other things. DONE has more details of how the budget was spent. Next year's budget will be cut by about 10%.

Land Use Chair Connie Boukidis said that the Land Use Committee had its meeting right before WWNC's meeting, where two projects were discussed: Extreme Pizza and UCLA's development at Landfair and Glenrock. Board and stakeholder discussion of these two projects followed.

Extreme Pizza has moved into the Casden development on Glendon and is seeking a wine and beer license and operating hours of 10 a.m. to 2 a.m. This franchise would be subject to the rules of both the franchise and their lease agreement. They have a zoning hearing coming up on June 23rd. After some discussion about whether to support this project, Connie Boukidis moved that WWNC send a letter stating it takes no position on the project. Michael Stajura seconded, and the motion was defeated by a vote of Yes:5, No:8, Abstain:4. Connie then moved that WWNC send a letter stating disapproval of the project, seconded by Brent Gaisford. The motion was defeated by a vote of Yes:4, No:13, Abstain:0. Connie then moved that WWNC send a letter in support of the project, seconded by Michael Stajura. The motion passed with a vote of Yes:9, No:6, Abstain:2. Jerry Brown then moved that WWNC support operating hours of 10 a.m. to midnight, with a second by Stephen Resnick. The motion was defeated by a vote of Yes:2, No: 15, Abstain:0.

Wolfgang Veith made a presentation at the Land Use Committee meeting on the proposed UCLA project at Landfair and Glenrock in the North Village. UCLA will be demolishing the buildings at four current addresses and building a large structure in their place which has no open space and will be two or three stories taller than the current buildings there. It will impede the views of and cast shadows on neighboring buildings.

Connie Boukidis moved to support the following motion written by Wolfgang Veith, with a correction to change Westwood Community Council to Westwood Neighborhood Council. Scott Whittle seconded the motion as follows:

Whereas the Los Angeles City Community and the North Village Specific Plans mandate that all new projects “Protect and Enhance the Unique Character of the Neighborhood”, and, whereas the UCLA Administration has always maintained that UCLA will abide by all Los Angeles City Planning standards and do its best to mitigate impacts on the beautiful residential neighborhood in which UCLA resides, it is resolved that:

The Westwood Community opposes the Landfair/Glenrock project as proposed by UCLA because it is not compatible with the traditional North Village buildings that determine the protected unique neighborhood character.

Findings:

1. The project has more dwelling units than the North Village Specific Plan allows.
2. The project will provide substantially less than 1 parking space per occupant and therefore aggravate the existing severe parking shortage in the North Village.
3. The project provides less than the required “open space” at ground level of 200 square feet per dwelling unit.
4. The project’s “open space” areas are not planted to the North Village Specific Plan minimum standards.
5. The size and massing of the project is out of character with the protected traditional buildings in the general North Village area and in particular with the many neighboring buildings.
6. The square box shape of the project, not following the land contours is out of character with the protected North Village traditional buildings and with the traditional buildings directly adjacent to it.
7. The massive flat-top roof design of the project presents a particular hardship for residents in the protected traditional buildings overlooking it because it will expose a multitude of unsightly plumbing, heating/air conditioning, and other duct structures that, even if screened, will generate substantial noise levels.

Therefore the Westwood Neighborhood Council urges UCLA to reconsider the planned project and offer an alternate project that is in full compliance with the intent and letter of both the Westwood Community and the North Village Specific Plans, and the neighbors directly adjacent can support.

Furthermore the Westwood Neighborhood Council urges Councilman Paul Koretz to mediate between North Village residents and the UCLA administration.

Stakeholders and board members made brief statements and then a vote was taken which carried by a vote of Yes:16, No:0, Abstain:1.

Chair Lisa Chapman said that the Outreach Committee has a new member, Stakeholder Sandy Throop. Lisa also said that WWNC has organizations which are sending WWNC information to their email lists on WWNC's behalf.

The Transportation and Traffic Committee has not met.

6. MAYOR'S OFFICE REPRESENTATIVE

Joseph Hari is Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa's new representative for the Westside. His area is Councilmember Rosendahl's district and half of Councilmember Koretz's district. He is also the liaison to DONE. He proposed an idea for the weekend of July 15 to 17, 2011 when the I-405 freeway closure will happen to make something positive out of a negative situation. He proposed to ask movie theater owners to give discounts or free popcorn for Westwood residents on Saturday night. The Mayor would do a press release if it comes to fruition. He also said that any locations of potholes which haven't been filled should be given to him so that they will get filled.

7. NEIGHBORHOOD PURPOSES GRANTS

Yoni Riemer had three suggestions for the administration of next year's grant proposal submissions, as follows:

Suggested monthly meetings in September 2011 and March 2012 at which NPG proposals would be heard.

Suggested process: half of the budgeted funds would be awarded at each meeting.

Applications for NPGs would be due to the board no later than two weeks prior to the meeting and would be posted on the website.

After discussion, these suggestions were amended. The September 2011 meeting month was changed to November 2011, and the applications would be due three weeks prior to the meeting dates instead of two weeks prior.

Yoni moved that “WWNC write up a program with the three above amended points for next year’s grant proposal process.” Scott Whittle seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

8. BROXTON GARAGE

Toni Gray discussed the Broxton garage meeting she attended with Clinton Schudy, Councilmember Paul Koretz’s office, a DOT representative, Westwood Community Council President Steve Sann, and Kam Hekmat. Among the issues discussed were the DOT’s proposed rate increases, the BID being in charge of who parks there, a possible parking validation system, and abuse of the parking system by students and employees. The DOT’s numbers were from the same parking consultant who recommended the sale of the nine City garages. The rate increases were delayed from going into effect on July 1, 2011 until October 2011. Discussion about the pros and cons of validation followed Toni’s report and it was decided to solicit input about that from business owners.

An amendment to the Broxton garage motion voted upon at the last meeting was proposed by Toni Gray and seconded by Connie Boukidis. The amendment was to remove the phrase “and \$3 after 6 p.m.” The amended motion follows:

“Whereas the Westwood Broxton garage is an integral part of the Los Angeles planning process and was fully funded by Westwood stakeholders through parking meter fees, Therefore Westwood Neighborhood Council remains steadfast in their previous position that the two hour free parking at the Broxton garage must remain indefinitely in order for Westwood to be competitive and to support Westwood and Westwood Village residents and businesses.”

9. WESTWOOD FLYAWAY

Brent Gaisford discussed the recommendation of Los Angeles World Airports Board of Commissioners to suspend FlyAway shuttle bus service from Westwood to LAX. This recommendation will be voted on June 20th. Stephen Resnick said that the Westwood Homeowners Association voted to support the retention of the FlyAway in Westwood. Brent proposed a motion to support the FlyAway in Westwood, which was seconded by Connie Boukidis. A vote was taken which carried unanimously. After discussion, an amendment to Brent’s motion was proposed by Brent, seconded by Connie Boukidis, and carried unanimously. The amended motion follows:

“WHEREAS, affordable transportation to and from Los Angeles International Airport is an essential resource to the Westwood Community, and;

WHEREAS, FlyAway service provides the most affordable and efficient transportation option from UCLA to LAX, for which a trip by city bus can take as much as two hours, and;

WHEREAS, there are extremely limited alternative transportation options available, with shared ride van services costing \$20 - \$24 and cab fares costing \$40 - \$50, and;

WHEREAS the FlyAway served more than 110,000 passengers in the last year, and;

WHEREAS, the FlyAway is a rare successful public transportation option in West Los Angeles, keeping more than 94,000 vehicles off the streets last year;

WHEREAS, the service is of particular importance during periods of heavy use on weekends, around holidays, and school vacations,

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT the Westwood Neighborhood Council urges the Los Angeles World Airports Board of Commissioners to maintain FlyAway service to Westwood.

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Westwood Neighborhood Council recognizes that the Westwood FlyAway service is not running at a sustainable level and is prepared to work with local officials to find a reasonable solution.

LET IT BE FINALLY RESOLVED THAT the Westwood Neighborhood Council believes that service must be maintained even if fares must be increased to \$10.

10. AD HOC GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

This item was tabled until the next meeting.

11. RESIGNATION OF BOARD MEMBER TERRY PULLAN

This item was tabled until the next meeting. Yoni Riemer moved to post the vacancy on the website with a notice that all candidates will be told to speak at the next meeting. This was seconded by George Torbay, and carried unanimously. Toni Gray moved to amend the motion by adding that the candidates should fill out the same form as the original candidates for the board and submit it to the board. Stephen Resnick seconded the amended motion which carried unanimously.

12. RESIGNATION OF BOARD MEMBER YONI RIEMER

As Treasurer Yoni Riemer will be resigning effective July 1, 2011, Lisa Chapman nominated Brent Gaisford to be the new treasurer. Connie Boukidis seconded. A vote was taken which carried unanimously.

13. WESTSIDE REGIONAL ALLIANCE OF COUNCILS (WRAC)

Stephen Resnick reported that he attended the last WRAC meeting but nothing of importance happened.

14. TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC COMMITTEE

This committee doesn't exist yet and President Jerry Brown recommended that it be an ad hoc committee. Jerry volunteered to respond to any traffic questions with a referral to the correct contact person, Councilmember Koretz's Transportation Deputy Jay Greenstein.

15. BYLAWS

There was nothing to discuss.

16. ADJOURMENT OF MEETING

The meeting was adjourned at 10:11 p.m.