

Westwood Neighborhood Council Meeting Minutes
Westwood Presbyterian Church, 10822 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90024
July 8, 2015

1. Call to Order

President Jerry Brown called the meeting to order at 7:09pm.

Board members in attendance were: Constance Boukidis, Aurelia Friedman, Lisa Chapman, Angus Beverly, Stephen Resnick, Jerry Brown, Armen Hadjimanoukian, Sandy Brown, Jacob Finn, Mitchell Keiter, Ann Hayman, Roozbeh Farahanipour, and Dean Abell

Board members excused were: Eugene Tseng, Austin Velez, Mark Rogo, Laura Wikinow, and Marcello Robinson.

A quorum was present.

There were 14 guests present.

2. Approval of Minutes

Stephen Resnick **moved** to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2015 meeting. Roozbeh Farahanipour seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

3. Comments by Public Officials:

- Janet Turner, a representative for Congressman Ted Lieu, announced upcoming community meetings regarding the West LA VA. The VA will send a team to address and take questions from Westwood, West LA, and Brentwood. Topics will include housing homeless veterans and the master plan for the West LA VA campus.
- CD5 Field Deputy Jeff Ebenstein announced the Special Olympic Torch Run for July 23rd. He also announced progress of the DWP water main project moving into phase two on Hilgard Ave. Additionally, a partnership was announced with assembly member Ridley Thomas regarding a senior scam stopping event on August 12th.
- Officer Velez from West LAPD addressed questions from Ann Hayman regarding the 405 freeway underpass and transients and refuse in the area. Officer Velez detailed a police unit that is specifically addressing issues of homelessness and also remarked that certain areas in and

around the 405 are under CHP jurisdiction and that there are special VA affairs teams tasked with handling homeless veterans. Officer Velez also announced a recent spat of motor vehicle break-ins and that the recent vitalization of the Brentwood School has yielded no suspects, but surveillance footage is pending.

- Marco Perez, UCLA's representative for Government and Community Relationship, announced his new involvement in lieu of former representative Rachel Rashir's resignation. Mr. Perez announced an upcoming UCLA volunteer day on September 26th.

4. Public Comments

- Resident and business owner Jessica Worack addressed the council regarding legalizing street vending in Los Angeles; she asked for the support of the neighborhood council in voicing concerns about vendors taking business from local businesses because they do not have to adhere to regulations and safety standards. She suggested an opt-in policy and cited a petition of support signed by 700 others.
- Stakeholder Steve Sinn announced a VA open forum for Tuesday the 21st.

5. Standing Committee Status Reports

- The Executive Committee had no report
- Budget Committee
 - o Approval of Monthly Expenditures
 - i. Approval of Monthly Expenditures
 - 1. Expenses listed, including copies, meeting setup, banners, easel, and mail postage.
 - 2. **Motion to approve:** Lisa Chapman moves, Dean Abell seconds; all approve, motion unanimously passed.
 - ii. Budget for Fiscal Year 2015-2016
 - 1. **Motion to approve:** Sandy Brown moves, Constance Boukidis seconds it, all approve: motion unanimously passed
 - iii. Annual Web Maintenance for \$1200

1. **Motion to approve:** Jerry Brown moves to approve, Lisa Chapman seconded, all approve; motion unanimously passed.
- b. Land Use Committee
 - i. BJ'S Pizza Grill Project – Connie Boukidis
 1. Further discussion pending, vote on hold
 - c. Outreach and Communications Committee
 - i. Strategic Plan – Lisa Chapman
 1. Vote to submit strategic plan, by Lisa Chapman
 - a. **Motion to submit strategic plan:** Jerry Brown moves to approve paperwork, seconded by Constance Boukidis, all approve: motion passes unanimously.
 2. Outreach Survey: pending submission
 3. Armen Hadjimanoukian – resignation effective after August meeting
 - d. Public Safety Committee had no report
 - e. Traffic
 - i. Angus Beverly details documenting Uber drivers between Santa Monica Blvd. and Wilshire, then collecting findings and sending it to DOT for more oversight.
 - f. WRAC
 - i. Motion to oppose AB57, limiting local regulations of cell towers
 1. **Motion to oppose:** Angus Beverly move to oppose AB57, motion seconded by Roozbeh Farahanipour, all approve, motion passes unanimously
 - ii. Mobility Plan 2035
 1. The Westwood Neighborhood Council recommends a vote of 'no confidence' in the City of Los Angeles Mobility Plan 2035 (Case Number: ENV 2013-0911-EIR and CPC-2013-0910-GPA-SP-CA-MS; State Clearinghouse No. 2013041012) because of its failure to resolve and mitigate critical issues per the Statement of Overriding Considerations, including but not limited to emergency response time, insufficient infrastructure, and broader significant negative impacts on public health, safety and welfare.
 - a. **Motion to vote “no confidence”** by Sandy Brown, seconded by Constance Boukidis; all approve, motion passed unanimously

iii. Sign Ordinance

1. Introduced by Sandy Brown, the Westwood

Neighborhood Council moves that:

- a. Digital signs to be placed only within sign districts (and none outside of sign districts).
- b. Mandatory take down requirement to be a minimum of 4 signs for each new sign erected (if community benefits are to be provided, those benefits should be IN ADDITION to mandatory sign removal provisions).
- c. No grandfathering or “amnesty” of billboards erected without permits or altered in violation of their permits.
- d. Passage of the Sign Ordinance as soon as possible in its current form (without attempts to turn back on the now illegal/turned off digital signs) and with its strong penalty provisions for noncompliance.
 - i. **Motion of the above** moved by Sandy Brown, seconded by Ann Hayman, all approve; motion passes unanimously
- e. The council reaffirms its support of the WRAC’s version of this ordinance.

iv. Motion 5G(6)

1. The Westwood Neighborhood Council moves that the land use and planning-related recommendations shall be disclosed in all City determinations in a “standing” section of City Staff Reports and City Determinations called “Neighborhood Council Recommendations.”

Along with those recommendations, an explanation to be provided by the City decision maker if the NC recommendations are NOT followed.

- a. **Motion** by Dean Abell, seconded by Constance Boukidis, all approve; motion is unanimously passed

6. Great Streets Challenge Grant

- a. Those presenting on the Great Streets Challenge are absent pending further review of the viability of the Great Streets Challenge Grant

7. WWNC Constitutional Review Committee

- a. Jacob Finn posed the idea of a constitutional review committee for Westwood Neighborhood Council bylaws, asking that they be

reviewed and appropriately amended. Jerry Brown suggests an ad hoc committee to review bylaws and amend them, then submit to DONE. However, Stakeholder Steve Sann announced that bylaws for the forthcoming year were already approved and any new changes would not be possible until the following year. Jacob Finn suggest getting in touch with members of DONE and putting this issue on the agenda for the following meeting.

8. Impact of Neighborhood Councils

- a. Neighborhood Council President Jerry Brown spoke on the lack of responsiveness from DONE and regulations that prevent the neighborhood council from being effective

9. **Adjournment** – Meeting adjourned 9:13pm by Neighborhood Council President Jerry Brown