

WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MINUTES
JULY 8, 2020
ZOOM MEETING ONLINE OR BY TELEPHONE

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Lisa Chapman called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Board members in attendance were Cyrus Baraghoush, Connie Boukidis, Sandy Brown, Lisa Chapman, Roozbeh Farahanipour, Tracey Fitzgerald, Philip Gabriel, Ann Hayman, Eloise Metcalfe, Stephen Resnick, Marcello Robinson, Paula Rogers, Mark Rogo, and Laura Winikow. Member excused was David Lorango. A quorum was present. There were approximately 28 stakeholders and guests attending.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Sandy Brown moved to approve the June 4, 2020 minutes, seconded by Tracey Fitzgerald and approved unanimously.

3. COMMENTS BY PUBLIC OFFICIALS

A. CD5 Field Deputy Jasmine Shamolian reported that the City Council is in recess. Westwood Recreation Center is still being used as a shelter and there are 44 people there. The trailers in the parking lot are fully occupied. There is currently no coronavirus testing center on the west side.

Emergency renter assistance will be available beginning July 13th.

B. County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl's field deputy Zac Gaidzik gave an update on coronavirus cases, hospitalizations, and deaths in the county. Though some testing sites have closed, there is more testing and more contact tracing being done.

C. U.S. Congressman Ted Lieu's representative Janet Turner gave a legislative update. New members for the Youth Advisory Council are being sought, the Congressional App Challenge is ongoing and this is dog bite awareness month for the USPS. The VA will re-open the coronavirus testing site again if the city or county requests it.

D. California State Assemblymember Sydney Kamlager-Dove's representative Jamie Kennerk reported on current legislation in Sacramento. Nine bills are the progeny of SB 50 but the Assemblymember has not taken a position on them yet.

E. LAPD Officer Allen reported that crime in the neighborhood is down 1.7% but grand theft auto and robberies were up. Crime in general has gone up because there is no bail and criminals get released. There has been an influx of people in Westwood Park.

F. UCLA representative Marco Perez reported on coronavirus cases on campus. Remote working has been extended to January 2021. Royce Hall and the Fowler Museum are closed. UCLA is still evaluating what the fall will look like.

4. DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT

DONE representative Jose Galdamez reported that WWNC's bylaws were approved with the new internal boundary map. Workshops will be held on July 27th.

5. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Westwood Community Council Chair Steve Sann reported that the Los Angeles Public Library has opened 14 branches for pickup of books on hold from your car. Westwood is one of the open branches. They are open Monday – Friday from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

6. DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE INTRODUCTION OF A MOTION IN REGARD TO APPROVE THE PEOPLE'S BUDGET L.A.

Lisa Chapman moved to remove this item, seconded by Ann Hayman. The motion carried by a vote of Yes: 13, No: 1 (Marcello Robinson), and Abstain: 0.

7. DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE MOTION TO RENAME LECONTE AVENUE

Lisa Chapman read a motion and CD5 Field Deputy Jasmine Shamolian explained the process of changing a street name: part of the process is the people at affected addresses have to agree to change the name. The street is divided between NCs though most of it is in WWNC's boundaries. After a lengthy discussion, Philip Gabriel moved to table this item until the next meeting. Cyrus Baraghoush seconded and the motion carried by a vote of Yes: 13, No: 1 (Mark Rogo), and Abstain: 0.

8. DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE INTRODUCTION OF A MOTION IN REGARD TO THE LAPD RESPONSE TO RECENT PROTESTS

Laura Winikow moved to table this item until the next meeting, seconded by Lisa Chapman, and carried unanimously.

9. STANDING COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

A. Executive – no report

B. Budget

1. Approval of Monthly Expenditures

Treasurer Laura Winikow reported that all the NPGs were approved except the LA Conservancy. The May and June MERs were the same. May's and June's MERs had a beginning balance of \$43,634.15, \$12,723.83 was spent, and they had one encumbrance, the LA Conservancy NPG, and an available balance of \$10,910.32. The May and June MERs were approved unanimously.

2. Approval of Budget for 2020-2021 Fiscal Year

Treasurer Laura Winikow announced that next year's budget will be reduced to \$32,000, and went through the new budget line by line. Lisa Chapman was second signer last year and she will continue with Ann Hayman as the alternate signer. Marcello Robinson was the second card holder last year and will continue. Laura Winikow moved to adopt the 2020-2021 budget package and the administrative packet including signers and second card holder. Lisa Chapman seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

C. Land Use & Planning

1. Discussion and possible introduction of a motion in regard to the 1427-1431

Greenfield Ave Project (a proposed 29 unit apartment building under the City's Transit Oriented Community regulations)

Project manager Tony Russo reported that when the project was presented to the DRB earlier, changes were suggested. The project has been tweaked to respond to the DRB and to neighborhood concerns. Photos were shown and changes discussed, with comments by board members and neighbors. Marcello Robinson moved, "WWNC approves the project as presented." Lisa Chapman seconded and the motion failed by a vote of No: 6 (Connie Boukidis, Sandy Brown, Philip Gabriel, Ann Hayman, Stephen Resnick, Laura Winikow), Yes: 6 (Cyrus Baraghoush, Lisa Chapman, Eloise Metcalfe, Marcello Robinson, Paula Rogers, Mark Rogo), and Abstain: 0.

D. Outreach & Communications

1. Nominations for Chairperson

Lisa Chapman moved to table this item, seconded by Philip Gabriel and carried unanimously.

E. Homeless Task Force

1. Discussion in regard to the latest homeless numbers from the Los Angeles Homeless Authority

Lisa Chapman moved to table this item, seconded by Philip Gabriel and carried unanimously.

F. Budget Advocates

1. Update

Marcello Robinson reported that the city is \$400 million in debt, unions got raises and furloughs are coming.

G. Public Safety/ Transportation & Parking – no report

H. Bylaws – no report

I. WRAC – no report

J. Park Advisory – no report

10. ADJOURNMENT

President Lisa Chapman adjourned the meeting at 11 p.m.