

WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 8, 2021
ZOOM MEETING ONLINE OR BY TELEPHONE

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Lisa Chapman called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Board members in attendance were Connie Boukidis, Sandy Brown, Lisa Chapman, Tracey Fitzgerald, Philip Gabriel, Ann Hayman, David Lorango, Eloise Metcalfe, Stephen Resnick, Mark Rogo, and Laura Winikow. Members excused were Mark Blocker, Roozbeh Farahanipour, Marcello Robinson, and Paula Rogers. A quorum was present. There were approximately nine stakeholders and guests attending.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements were made.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Tracey Fitzgerald amended the wording in agenda item 11 (I) of the August 11, 2021 minutes. Lisa Chapman moved to approve the amended minutes. Sandy Brown seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

4. COMMENTS BY PUBLIC OFFICIALS

A. UCLA representative Marco Perez gave an update on the fall quarter: a Westwood Block Party will be held on September 19th in Westwood Village, September 23rd is the first day of class, and Volunteer Day will be September 25th. A Westwood clean-up project will be scheduled. In-person classes will be at 80% capacity and large lectures will be held remotely. Face masks will be required indoors but not outdoors. UCLA Associate Vice Chancellor Jennifer Poulakidas reported that all students are required to be vaccinated unless they have an exemption. Unvaccinated students will be tested twice weekly and housed in single rooms. The new dorm being built on the former UCLA Extension site should be opening in spring 2022 and Warren Hall should be opening in September 2022. There has been a delay in bidding on the renovation of the Crest Theatre and a theatre tour may be held in the fall.

B. State Assemblymember Isaac Bryan's representative Michelle Persoff gave an update on state legislation, vaccine drives and other activities. The Assemblymember voted NVR on SB9 and SB10. He could not attend the votes due to being exposed to COVID. Sandy Brown suggested that the Assemblymember be invited to a meeting.

C. U.S. Congressman Ted Lieu's representative Janet Turner gave an update on recent legislation. The Barrington Post Office manager will be at tonight's Brentwood Community Council meeting, which she will report back on.

5. DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT

DONE NEA Freddy Cupen-Ames announced that the Congress of Neighborhoods will be on September 25th, there will be a Cornerstone name change so everyone will need a new username and password, and ABLE training, created by CF 20-0090, has been added to trainings which need to be completed. Civic U is open but only four board members can attend. There will be upcoming information sessions on the amendments to the Code of Conduct Policy.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

A. Motion to approve Monthly Expenditure Report for August 2021

Treasurer Laura Winikow reported that August's MER included a beginning balance of \$32,000, \$308.48 spent, and a remaining balance of \$31,691.52. Laura Winikow moved to approve

the August MER, seconded by Tracey Fitzgerald, and approved unanimously.

B. Motion to amend the Budget to roll over \$10,000 from last fiscal year's budget
Treasurer Laura Winikow moved to add the \$10,000 rolled over to the Neighborhood Purpose
Grants budget, seconded by Lisa Chapman and carried unanimously.

7. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There was no public comment.

8. ROCCO'S TAVERN IN WESTWOOD

A. Discussion / update on installation of Operable garage doors and window against Area
Planning Commission orders, and Violation of ABC license conditions.

Last month Rocco's illegally installed garage style opening doors on its Gayley side and a week
later installed opening windows on the Weyburn side. This is the second time Rocco's has
installed illegal windows. The Area Planning Commission (APC) ordered that Rocco's have fixed
and sound-proofed windows on both sides and its ABC license states it should have only fixed
windows. The Department of Building & Safety (DBS) issued an order to comply. Rocco's has 20
days to comply starting August 23rd. Sandy Brown suggested writing a letter to CD5, DBS, and the
Design Review Board about this. DONE NEA Freddy Cupen-Ames stated that a writing a letter is
fine and would be considered public comment but it has to be agendized first.

9. PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT (DONE) CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY

A. Discussion and Introduction of Motion in Opposition

After discussion, Lisa Chapman moved the following motion, seconded by Ann Hayman and
carried unanimously.

"Whereas, the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners has before it consideration of
amendments to the Code of Conduct Policy, that are extreme, anti-democratic, and un-American,
and

Whereas, these amendments include the following:

"If a Board Member or Committee Member is alleged to have violated either the City's Workplace
Equity Policy or the Commission's Code of Conduct, the Department, with written approval from
the General Manager, may immediately suspend the Board Member or Committee Member for a
period of up to 90 days."

and

Whereas, punitive action should never be based on an allegation and occur only following due
process involving investigation and a hearing and provide the accused the right to a
presumption of innocence and opportunity to mount a defense, and

Whereas, the following clause grants authority to arbitrarily impose suspensions at the sole
discretion of an individual who is not accountable to anyone.

"The Department shall be the sole decision-maker with respect to a suspension. The Board
Member or Committee Member may not appeal the suspension decision."

and

Whereas, this clause fails to provide adequate protections for the rights of individuals accused of
misconduct and states that any board or committee member may be suspended solely on an
allegation, and

Whereas, this is a direct disenfranchisement of the voters who elected the board member and
removing a board member without due process gives DONE the unilateral ability to overturn an
election;

Therefore, be it resolved that:

The Westwood Neighborhood Council expresses grave concern regarding proposed

amendments to the Code of Conduct Policy submitted by the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment to the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners.

Be it further resolved that:

1. BONC is strongly advised to immediately withdraw consideration of the proposed amendments to the Code of Conduct;
2. In connection with future revisions of Neighborhood Council paperwork, DONE shall request the Neighborhood Councils appoint a group of representatives to consult with BONC, DONE and the City Attorney on an ad hoc basis;
3. An aggregate majority of those meeting shall at all times be Neighborhood Council board members;
4. The initial focus of this group shall be to develop and incorporate rules under the City's recently adopted Workplace Violence Policy into the existing Code of Conduct, including appropriate enforcement actions;
5. Discussion about incorporating the proposed Workplace Equity Policy shall be deferred until such a policy is formally adopted by the City, if at all; and
6. Any amendments to the Code of Conduct must take into account varying degrees of conduct when considering suspension and appropriate penalties, if warranted.
7. At all times, policy should require that the minimum correction necessary to address any issue be used;
8. No person shall be suspended or otherwise penalized for that which is protected political speech.
9. No board member or Neighborhood Council affiliate shall be required to waive rights granted under the Constitution of the United States and the State of California, including but not limited to freedom of speech and assembly, probable cause and due process."
- B. <https://citywatchla.com/index.php/cw/los-angeles/22244-fascism-with-a-smiling-face>
- C. <https://www.citywatchla.com/index.php/cw/los-angeles/22132-the-city-of-la-descends-into-full-on-fascism>

[into-full-on-fascism](https://www.citywatchla.com/index.php/cw/los-angeles/22132-the-city-of-la-descends-into-full-on-fascism)

10. WESTWOOD CONNECT DAY UPDATE

A. General update on event. Homeless Connect day event to be held on Sept. 28, 2021 at Westwood Park

Lisa Chapman reported that the vendors are all set up, hygiene kits will be put together on September 25th and asked for volunteers to work on the day from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Lisa thanked Mark Rogo for the donation from the Rotary Club.

11. CD5 HOMELESS WORKING GROUP

Committee member Lisa Chapman reported that there is no new information yet.

12. STANDING COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

- A. Executive – no report
- B. Land Use & Planning – no report
- C. Outreach & Communications – no report
- D. Homeless Task Force – no report
- E. Budget Advocates – no report
- F. Public Safety/ Transportation & Parking – no report
- G. Bylaws
 1. Appointment of Ad Hoc Committee
Committee members are Sandy Brown, Lisa Chapman, and Tracey Fitzgerald.
- H. WRAC – Report and Motions - no report
- I. Park Advisory

Westwood PAB member Tracey Fitzgerald reported that an emergency meeting was held on August 20th to discuss the demolition of the bunker-style bathrooms. Many comments were made and no answers were given. Tommy's Field will have a ribbon cutting on September 26th, flag football will begin on October 2nd, and there will be no Halloween activities. The Park Commissioners approved \$600,000 for Aidan's Place in addition to \$750,00 previously approved and another \$200,000 will be raised for a total of \$1.55 million. The design has been sent back to the PAB and the Park Commissioners want feedback by October 2nd. A meeting to discuss the design was scheduled for September 14th but then rescheduled to September 17th which Tracey can't attend.

Several comments were made about the lack of community involvement by RAP and that Mike Shull should be invited to a WWNC meeting.

Lisa Chapman reported that she emailed Robert Ringler to request that a WWNC member sit on the Holmby Park PAB but has had no reply in a month.

13. ADJOURNMENT

President Lisa Chapman adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m.