

WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 9, 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 Connie Boukidis, Sandy Brown, Lisa Chapman, Roozbeh Farahanipour, Tracey Fitzgerald, Philip Gabriel, Ann Hayman, David Lorango, Eloise Metcalfe, Stephen Resnick, Marcello Robinson, and Laura Winikow. Members excused were Cyrus Baraghoush, Paula Rogers, and Mark Rogo. A quorum was present. There were approximately 19 stakeholders and guests attending.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Tracey Fitzgerald moved to approve the August 12, 2020 minutes, seconded by Eloise Metcalfe, and approved unanimously.

3. COMMENTS BY PUBLIC OFFICIALS

A. CD5 Field Deputy Jasmine Shamolian reported that 52 people are still sheltering at Westwood Recreation Center, and ten people in trailers. The city is dismantling shelters and the park will be opened up soon, including the tennis courts. Applications for speed humps will open up on September 16<sup>th</sup>.

B. California State Assemblymember Sydney Kamlager-Dove's representative Jamie Kennerk reported that housing bills SB 902 and SB 1120 both died. The Assemblymember voted no on SB 1120.

C. County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl's field deputy Zac Gaidzik gave an update on coronavirus cases, testing, hospitalizations, and deaths in the county. He reported on voting procedures such as mail-in ballots sent to all voters and more drop boxes for ballots.

D. UCLA representative Marco Perez reported that October 1<sup>st</sup> will be the first day of classes. A limited number of students will be living on campus. The campus is closed to the public. UCLA will have three voting centers, including the Hammer Museum, and a drop box at the Westwood Blvd. kiosk for ballots.

E. U.S. Congressman Ted Lieu's representative Janet Turner reported that two new mailboxes have been installed at the Federal Building and the post office on Gayley has a ten year lease. The CTRS program at the V. A. campus has been expanded so those in tents on Federal Avenue will be able to move onto the campus.

4. DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT

DONE representative Freddy Cupen-Ames reported that the website is being redesigned. The NC Congress will be held on September 26<sup>th</sup> and an online information session will be held on September 29<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 9 p.m.

5. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There was no public comment.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

A. Motion to approve Monthly Expenditure Report for August 2020

Treasurer Laura Winikow reported that the August MER had a beginning balance of \$42,910.32, including the rollover money. \$242.77 was spent, an outstanding balance

of \$5,000 for the L. A. Conservancy's NPG is included, and \$2,534.95 is committed for the website, leaving approximately \$35,000 available. Laura moved to approve the MER, seconded by Lisa Chapman, and the motion carried unanimously.

#### 7. PRESENTATION IN REGARDS TO NEW/OPEN/REOPENED BUSINESSES IN WESTWOOD VILLAGE

Stephen Resnick reported that Westwood Community Council President Steve Sann put together a list of the status of businesses in Westwood Village. The list includes 83 businesses that never closed, 20 which are waiting to reopen when the county gives permission, and 19 new businesses of which 18 are in the Village and one south of it. Aahs and Bollywood Bites are reopening, Alfred Coffee will take Peet's space, and Primo's Donuts will take Stan's space.

#### 8. INTRODUCTION OF MOTION IN REGARD TO THE PROPOSED UPLIFT MELROSE PROJECT

Connie Boukidis explained that there is no need for the motion now, and moved to withdraw the motion, seconded by Sandy Brown, and carried unanimously.

#### 9. WESTWOOD PARK UPDATE

Darryl Ford of Recreation & Parks reported that the trailers will be demobilized by Friday, the shelter will be demobilized next week, and fencing will be removed. There is no information yet about people inside the recreation center but if anyone is under quarantine, they will remain there. A notice to proceed will soon be issued to contractors for the soccer field. The identity of the park's new director is not known but Jackie Lopez is currently in charge. The tennis courts will be open for singles play only and the dog park will be open but playgrounds will remain closed. WWNC has received comments from the community about people being afraid to use the eastern part of the park and the park being inaccessible because of the homeless. Darryl Ford said he would relay these concerns to management.

#### 10. WESTWOOD VILLAGE UPDATE

Sandy Brown stated that Westwood Village's management doesn't care about the surrounding community but residents should be involved in planning. She requested that this issue be a monthly agenda item.

#### 11. STANDING COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

##### A. Executive

President Lisa Chapman thanked Secretary Stephen Resnick for the fantastic job he does with all the behind-the-scenes work he is inundated with.

##### B. Land Use & Planning - no report

##### C. Outreach & Communications

1. Nominations for Chairperson - no action was taken on this item

##### D. Homeless Task Force

1. Discussion of committee's plans for the future

Chair Lisa Chapman reported that she has been talking with Chantelle Eastman. She will get in touch with Michael Stevenson, who is looking to hire two caseworkers from People Concern, and has been speaking to many community organizations.

##### E. Budget Advocates - no report

##### F. Public Safety/ Transportation & Parking

1. Discussion and Introduction of Motion: "The Westwood Neighborhood Council requests that the City establish consistent rates for all parking meters throughout the

city”

Philip Gabriel moved to postpone this item, seconded by Sandy Brown, and carried unanimously.

G. Bylaws – no report

H. WRAC

1. Introduction of Motion: “The Westwood Neighborhood Council supports Version B+ of the proposed sign ordinance as approved by the City Planning Commission on 10/22/15, Council File 11-1705”

Roozbeh Farahanipour moved the following motion, seconded by Stephen Resnick, and carried unanimously.

**MOTION TO SUPPORT VERSION B+ OF THE PROPOSED SIGN ORDINANCE AS APPROVED BY THE CITY PLANNING COMMISSION ON 10/22/2015, COUNCIL FILE 11-1705**

The Westwood Neighborhood Council fully supports Version B+ of the proposed sign ordinance as approved by the City Planning Commission on 10/22/2015, CouncilFile 11-1705.

We request the PLUM Committee and full Los Angeles City Council adopt a version of the ordinance, which accomplishes the following goals that are important to the stakeholders of our community:

1. Disapproves any amnesty for existing billboards that lack permits or have been altered in violation of their permits
2. Disapproves the “grandfathering” of any sign districts that were not approved in the ordinance when it was reviewed by CPC in 2009.
3. Disapproves any new process, including a Conditional Use Permit process to authorize construction or operation of digital off-site signs outside of sign districts
4. Restricts any new off-site signs, including digital billboards, to sign districts in the 22 areas already zoned as Regional Commercial for high-intensity commercial use
5. Requires existing billboards to be taken down before any new off-site signs can go up in sign districts. The take down ratio of existing signs to new signs should be 5:1 for conventional and 10:1 for digital
6. Bans new digital billboards or conversion of existing billboards to digital outside of sign districts in existing 22 Regional Commercial zones as of 10/2015.
7. Request that the City Attorney review all signs without permits and those altered in violation of their permits for enforcement action and compliance.
8. Prohibits any off-site signage in city parks, recreation facilities and open spaces
9. Provides for stiff civil penalties with escalating penalties for erecting or maintaining illegal signs and for multiple or repeat offenses so that penalties are not viewed as a cost of doing business

We do not support the many changes to the ordinance introduced by PLUM and request that the original CPC version be returned to the table

2. Introduction of Motion: “The Westwood Neighborhood Council moves to oppose car for hire digital advertising”

Roozbeh Farahanipour moved the above motion, seconded by Ann Hayman, and carried unanimously.

3. Introduction of Motion: “The Westwood Neighborhood Council moves to deny business license or permit to dockless mobility operators, or revoke such license or permit from any operator or provider which fails or refuses to cooperate fully with law

enforcement in providing information about the user of its device, if/when involved in an accident causing injury”

Roozbeh Farahanipour moved the above motion, seconded by Ann Hayman, and carried unanimously.

I. Park Advisory – no report

## 12. ADJOURNMENT

President Lisa Chapman adjourned the meeting at 9:49 p.m.