

WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MINUTES
OCTOBER 9, 2024
BELMONT VILLAGE SENIOR LIVING
10475 WILSHIRE BLVD. LOS ANGELES, CA 90024

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Lisa Chapman began the meeting at 7:07 p.m.. Board members in attendance were Connie Boukidis, Sandy Brown, Lisa Chapman, Roozbeh Farahanipour, Philip Gabriel, Ann Hayman, Stephen Resnick, Michael Telerant. and Laura Winikow. Members excused were Amie Baron, Tracey Fitzgerald and David Lorango. There were approximately 12 stakeholders and guests attending.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lisa Chapman announced that there are four open seats now. Amie Baron will attend the next meeting, which will be her last, and Doug Mark has resigned.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Lisa Chapman moved to approve the September 11, 2024 minutes, seconded by Roozbeh Farahanipour, and approved unanimously.

4. CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLYMEMBER FOR THE 51ST DISTRICT RICK CHAVEZ ZBUR

Assemblymember and Assembly Democratic Caucus Chair Rick Chavez Zbur introduced himself and discussed bills in the legislature and his legislative priorities, some of which are housing and homelessness, health care, public safety including retail theft, gun violence, the environment, and rare diseases, creating the first Rare Diseases Advisory Council. He received complaints from students about antisemitism at UCLA, sent staff there and called for an investigation. He supports the Sepulveda Transit Corridor Project. A priority for the next legislative session is helping the film and entertainment industry. After his discussion, he answered many questions.

5. COMMENTS BY PUBLIC OFFICIALS

A. 3rd District County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath's representative Amanda Laflin gave a report on the September 24th meeting on homelessness and the founding of the Emergency Centralized Response Center, and said that Supervisor Horvath is currently focusing on antisemitism and homelessness.

B. U.S. Congressman Ted Lieu's representative Janet Turner gave a legislative update, including funding for UCLA's Samueli School of Engineering, and announced a Conversation with Veterans on November 9th.

C. UCLA representative Marco Perez enumerated upcoming events at UCLA for October and November, including a forum on local ballot measures on October 15th and a Veterans Day celebration on November 4th.

D. State Senator Ben Allen's representative Samantha Gallegos gave a legislative update and announced a webinar on hazardous waste on October 29th.

E. CD5 Field Deputy Patricia Macias reported that Westwood south of Wilshire is being worked on and trash cans have been added, a clean team is being deployed, and bus benches and sidewalks are being power washed.

6. DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT

DONE NEA Vincent Autiero reported that the survey of Neighborhood Councils will be processed and shared. DONE will assist in filling the vacant seats.

7. TREASURER'S REPORT

A. Motion to approve the Monthly Expenditure Report for September 2024

Treasurer Laura Winikow reported that the September 2024 MER had a beginning balance of \$47,313.29, \$239.88 spent, and a net available amount of \$47,073.44. Laura moved to approve the MER, seconded by Lisa Chapman, and approved unanimously.

8. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Stakeholder Steve Sann reported that he attended a Sepulveda Transit Corridor Project event on October 8th along with Lisa Chapman and Stephen Resnick. He announced an October 19th free concert at the library.

9. TRAFFIC CONTROL

A. Introduction of Motion: The WWNC requests traffic control at the four Wilshire intersections in Westwood to keep the intersections clear due to Metro construction

Stephen Resnick reported that he contacted DOT because Metro is closing lanes on Wilshire and it is causing blockages at the intersections. Philip Gabriel also requested a meeting with DOT. CD5 Field Deputy Patricia Macias will set up a meeting.

10. WWNC ATTENDANCE

This item was not discussed.

11. DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT BRIEFING FORM

A. Discussion regarding DONE form

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

12. WESTWOOD PARK ADVISORY BOARD

Lisa Chapman, Philip Gabriel, Stephen Resnick and Stakeholder Linda Blank attended the PAB meeting.

A. Pickleball

This was discussed but Councilmember Yaroslavsky needs to support and advocate for it because the way it is being run is counterproductive. RAP didn't want anybody to manage or supervise it, so there is no way to rent the court and players must bring their own net.

B. Proposed Garden

This was discussed at the meeting but there was no update.

13. HOLMBY PARK ADVISORY BOARD

Ann Hayman reported that the park looks better, there is a new supervisor and an effort is being made to bring back golf. Vendors are at the park constantly and there are still problems with dogs and exercise people because there is no enforcement.

14. STANDING COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

A. Executive - no report

B. Land Use & Planning

A developer wants to build a 67 unit building at 1515 S. Veteran Ave. A motion on this item on the November agenda was requested.

C. Outreach & Communications - no report

D. Homeless Task Force - no report

E. Budget Advocates -no report

F. Public Safety/ Transportation & Parking - no report

G. WRAC - Emergency Preparedness - no report

H. Bylaws – no report

I. WRAC – Report and Motions

1. Support CF 24-0140-S1 (Report of Impact of Grants Pass)

This was done last month.

2. Oppose CF 21-0329-S5 /Support LAMC Sec. 41.18

This was done last month.

3. Support: Suspend Work on Westside Community Plans until Housing Element Policies Adopted

“The Westwood Neighborhood Council, a member of the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC), requests the City Planning Department suspend further work on the Westside Community Plans until the policies and mapping to implement the Housing Element have been adopted by the City and approved by the State and their impacts on local land use and each community plan are known.”

Connie Boukidis moved the above motion, seconded by Sandy Brown, and carried unanimously.

4. Support: Support the “Housing Unhoused Disabled Veterans Act (HR 8340 / Sherman)

“The Westwood Neighborhood Council, a member of the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils, strongly supports the “Housing Unhoused Disabled Veterans Act” (HR 8340 / Sherman) and urges our Councilmembers to submit a resolution in City Council forthwith to add support for HR 8340 to the Council’s federal legislative priorities for 2024-2025.”

Lisa Chapman moved the above motion, seconded by Laura Winikow, and carried unanimously.

5. Support: Support for CF-24-0602 (report on impact of artificial turf installations)

Refers to City Council file 24-0602

“Westwood Neighborhood Council, a member of the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils, strongly supports CF 24-0602, which requests a report back from the CLA on the costs, environmental hazards, and human health consequences of artificial turf installations in Los Angeles, and recommendations to effectuate transitioning away from the future use of synthetic turf or artificial grass and to incentivize drought-friendly landscaping.”

Lisa Chapman moved the above motion, seconded by Connie Boukidis, and carried unanimously.

6. Support: Request Revision of Landscape Ordinance / Front Yard Paving Prohibition

“The Westwood Neighborhood Council, a member of the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC), requests that the City revise the Landscape Ordinance to clarify that pavement for extra parking is prohibited in the front yards of all parcels, except for garage driveways and circular driveways (maximum of 50% of the front yard). The Planning Dept. shall add that prohibited excess pavement shall be removed at the owner’s cost, or a citation issued.”

Lisa Chapman moved the above motion, seconded by Connie Boukidis, and carried unanimously.

7. Support: Investigate Funds for Homeless

“Westwood Neighborhood Council, a member of the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC), urges (1) the federal government to intervene and conduct a federal investigation into the use by the city of Los Angeles, the county of Los Angeles, the state of California and all city, county and state agencies of federal funds received to address homelessness; (2) the state government to investigate the use of state funds for such purpose; (3) the county government to investigate the use of county funds for such purpose; and (4) the city government to investigate the use of city funds for such purpose, due to the mismanagement and non-accountability of taxpayer dollars being squandered while leaving a humanitarian crisis on our streets.

Westwood Neighborhood Council further calls upon our city Councilmembers to communicate this request with the relevant respective federal, state, county and city authorities, including our U.S. Senators, Congressmembers, the U.S. Attorney General and Dept. of Justice; our Governor, state Senators, Assemblymembers and state Attorney General; our county Supervisors and District Attorney; and our Mayor and City Attorney.”

Lisa Chapman moved the above motion, seconded by Connie Boukidis, and carried unanimously.

15. ADJOURNMENT

President Lisa Chapman adjourned the meeting at 10 p.m.