

WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MINUTES
NOVEMBER 8, 2023
BELMONT VILLAGE SENIOR LIVING
10475 WILSHIRE BLVD. LOS ANGELES, CA 90024

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Lisa Chapman called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. Board members in attendance were Connie Boukidis, Sandy Brown, Lisa Chapman, Lucas Dickey, Roozbeh Farahanipour, Philip Gabriel, Ann Hayman, Doug Mark, Stephen Resnick, Michael Telerant, Laura Winikow, and Jonathan York. Members excused were Tracey Fitzgerald and David Lorango. There were approximately nine stakeholders and guests attending.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stephen Resnick announced that he heard from a third party that 99 Ranch Market would be opening on Friday. Philip Gabriel announced that a landlord in Westwood Village died and his property would be sold.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ann Hayman added a sentence to the minutes. Lisa Chapman moved to approve the amended October 11, 2023 minutes, seconded by Laura Winikow, and approved unanimously with the exception of Ann Hayman, who was not allowed to vote.

4. COMMENTS BY PUBLIC OFFICIALS

A. UCLA representative Marco Perez introduced Julia Brown, the new Director of Community Relations, who then spoke briefly. Marco went over upcoming events at UCLA.

B. U.S. Congressman Ted Lieu's representative Janet Turner gave a legislative update and reminded everyone that she is a resource for USPS problems.

C. State Assemblymember Rick Chavez Zbur's representative Sherwin Shamoeil reported that the Assemblymember will attend WWNC's meeting next month, the office will be having an open house on December 3rd, and the Assemblymember will be chairing a committee on retail theft. He also gave a legislative update.

D. U.S. Congressman Brad Sherman's representative Sean Regan introduced himself and said he covers part of Westwood. He announced a phone-in town hall on November 16th and gave a legislative update. In answer to a question, he said that the Congressman has not made a decision on the Sepulveda Corridor Transit Project.

E. Mayor Bass's representative Marian Ensley reported that the mayor signed an executive directive on affordable housing and will chair the U.S. Conference of Mayors Homelessness Task Force. Sandy Brown and Philip Gabriel brought up issues of historic preservation and the lack of enforcement when laws pertaining to this are broken. Marian will speak with them further about this issue.

F. Officer Limon, filling in for SLO Allen, reported that all crime is up now because of the time of year including breaking & entering into motor vehicles. A question was asked about mall security and he said LAPD is working with security there.

5. DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT

Former DONE NEA Freddy Cupen-Ames took a new job and DONE is short-staffed so there is no NEA currently.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

A. Motion to approve the Monthly Expenditure Report for October 2023

Treasurer Laura Winikow reported that the beginning balance was \$39,128.76 with \$93.02 outstanding, the website paid for, and a net available amount of \$36,101.76. Laura moved to approve the October 2023 MER, seconded by Lisa Chapman, and approved unanimously.

7. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Stakeholder Amie expressed interest in the open renter seat and land use issues. Sandy Brown suggested that the table set-up be changed to a curved table so that board members can hear each other more easily.

8. REINSTATEMENT OF BOARD MEMBER

A. Introduction of Motion: “The Westwood Neighborhood Council supports the reinstatement of board member Ann Hayman.”

Ann Hayman’s code of conduct training was not done so she was suspended and then expelled from the board by DONE. Lisa Chapman moved the above motion, seconded by Stephen Resnick, and carried unanimously.

9. OPEN RESIDENTIAL OWNER DIRECTOR SEAT

A. Motion to approve Jonathan York for the open Residential Owner Director Seat

Jonathan York introduced himself and gave some biographical information. Lisa Chapman moved, “The WWNC approves Jonathan York for the open Residential Owner Director Seat.” Philip Gabriel seconded and the motion carried unanimously with the exception of Ann Hayman, who was not allowed to vote. (This agenda item was taken out of order, before item 8.)

10. PROPOSED ORDINANCE AMENDING THE LOS ANGELES MUNICIPAL CODE (LAMC) TO CREATE AN ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW PROCESS FOR 100% AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECTS

A. Discussion and Introduction of Motion in opposition

Motion to Oppose Proposed Ordinance Amending the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) to Create an Administrative Review Process for 100% Affordable Housing Projects

“The Westwood Neighborhood Council opposes the transfer of decision-making authority from appointed and elected officials to staff for “all affordable” housing projects. The proposed ordinance would authorize an administrative-only approval process for projects providing 100% affordable housing, and incorporates the so-called streamlining provisions of Mayor Karen Bass’s Executive Directive 1. The proposed ordinance bypasses due process including site selection, public hearings, community impacts, the right of appeal, and competitive bidding. It would also unjustifiably grant unaccountable power to City employees, circumvent dissent or opposing views and remove transparency. This sets the stage for potential abuse and threatens our democratic principles.”

Background

The proposed draft ordinance is now available for public review and can be found [here](#). To view more information regarding the proposed Affordable Housing Streamlining Ordinance, including the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\) Sheet](#), please visit the webpage linked [here](#) and search for “Affordable Housing Streamlining Ordinance.”

[\(Council File No. 23-0623\)](#)

[Executive Directive 1 \(ED 1\)](#)

Connie Boukidis explained that this ordinance would mean no community input, no public hearings, and no appeals, and would put staff in a position to make those decisions. Connie

Boukidis moved the above motion, seconded by Sandy Brown, and carried by a vote of Yes: 9, No: 0, and Abstain: 2 (Lucas Dickey, Doug Mark).

11. IN PERSON/VIRTUAL MEETINGS

A. Discussion and possible introduction of motion on whether to continue in person meetings or have virtual meetings in the future

Lisa Chapman moved, "The WWNC will continue to have in-person meetings in the future." Doug Mark seconded and the motion carried by a vote of Yes: 9, No: 1 (Sandy Brown), and Abstain: 1 (Laura Winikow).

12. DISCUSSION IN REGARD TO IMPLEMENTING VARIOUS OUTREACH EFFORTS TO IMPROVE WESTWOOD GARDENS PARK

A. Westwood Gardens Park update and discussion of survey from Fairburn parents in regards to the park

Lucas Dickey reported that he contacted Fairburn's booster club and got a 10% response rate on the survey. From the survey results, 82% want a new play structure, 85% want reconfigured seating, and 60% want a play structure for older kids or other changes. Of 36 comments made, 28 mentioned the homeless and safety. He will compile the data, including comments, and send it to CD5 Field Deputy Patricia Macias.

B. Follow-up on 199 letters

This item was not discussed.

C. Request that Councilmember Yaroslavsky contact the Recreation and Parks Department

This item was not discussed.

13. SCHEDULING OF NEIGHBORHOOD PURPOSE GRANTS

A. Discussion and Introduction of Motion in regard to the scheduling of Neighborhood Purpose Grants (NPGs) in 2024

Treasurer Laura Winikow reported that it is difficult to get people to submit their applications and she doesn't think applications will get done for the February meeting but in the future it should be switched to November. Laura moved, "WWNC will maintain the present NPG schedule for the March 2024 meeting but move NPGs to November in the 2024 - 2025 fiscal year." Lisa Chapman seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

14. WESTWOOD PARK ADVISORY BOARD

There was no report.

15. HOLMBY PARK ADVISORY BOARD

Ann Hayman stated that there was no meeting this month so nothing to report.

16. 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

This is inactive because there is a task force through WRAC.

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 - no report

17. ADJOURNMENT

President Lisa Chapman adjourned the meeting at 8:46 p.m.