

WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MINUTES
NOVEMBER 9, 2022
ZOOM MEETING ONLINE OR BY TELEPHONE

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Lisa Chapman called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Board members in attendance were Connie Boukidis, Lisa Chapman, Tracey Fitzgerald, Philip Gabriel, Ann Hayman, Stephen Resnick, Marcello Robinson, and Laura Winikow. Members excused were Sandy Brown, Roozbeh Farahanipour, David Lorange, Paula Rogers, and Mark Rogo. A quorum was present. There were approximately eight stakeholders and guests attending.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Laura Winikow announced a book sale at the Westwood library on December 3rd from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Lisa Chapman moved to approve the August 10, 2022 and September 14, 2022 minutes, seconded by Ann Hayman, and carried unanimously.

4. COMMENTS BY PUBLIC OFFICIALS

A. UCLA representative Marco Perez gave an update on events at UCLA and announced that California State Assembly Transportation Committee Chair Laura Friedman sent a letter of support for a campus station for the Sepulveda Transit Corridor Project and a seamless connection to the Purple Line.

B. U.S. Congressman Ted Lieu's representative Janet Turner gave a legislative update and announced that the Congressman was re-elected to his new district. Lisa Chapman requested that Congressman Lieu be asked to sign on to the Sepulveda Transit Corridor Project.

5. DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT

DONE NEA Freddy Cupen-Ames discussed the upcoming Region 11 NC elections and recommended a slide show, Crisis at the Los Angeles City Council, by Raphael Sonenshein about the secret recording of several City Council members in which racist statements were made.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

A. Motion to approve the Monthly Expenditure Report for September 2022

Treasurer Laura Winikow reported that the beginning balance was \$27,333.60, \$307.88 was spent, leaving a remaining balance of \$27,025.72, with an outstanding balance of \$2,621.99 and a net available balance of \$24,403.73. Laura moved to approve the MER, seconded by Tracey Fitzgerald and approved unanimously.

B. Motion to approve the Monthly Expenditure Report for October 2022

Treasurer Laura Winikow reported that the October MER was the same as the September MER since no money was spent. Laura moved to approve the October MER, seconded by Lisa Chapman and approved unanimously.

7. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There was no public comment.

8. PRESENTATION ON THE 2023 WESTWOOD NEIGHBOR COUNCIL ELECTION

Election Administrator Lanee Basulto explained that the election will be hybrid, with voting either in person or by mail, which requires submitting an application. The election has been approved for

Sunday March 26, 2023 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Westwood Recreation Center. The candidate filing period is from November 26, 2022 to January 10, 2023. Ballots will be mailed out 35 days prior. Votes will be tallied the day after the election, five days later preliminary results will be released, and 13 days later full results will be available.

9. ROCCO'S TAVERN

A. Discussion in regard to Rocco's L.A. Planning Application for operable windows
Stephen Resnick reported that Rocco's has installed garage doors which roll up and are opened. These must be fixed because they were denied open windows. Rocco's installed them once and the Department of Building & Safety made them remove them but they were later re-installed. There have been complaints but Building & Safety is not enforcing it, and Rocco's now has an application before the DRB to legalize what is illegal. A Building & Safety inspector said that they are short staffed. The ABC was contacted but there has been no response. Comments made were that it is a public safety issue because people are blocking the sidewalk and that the DRB can't reverse the decision.

10. UPDATE ON HABIBI CAFÉ REVOCATION OF USE

The Habibi Café hearing was 3 ½ hours long and between 60 and 70 callers made comments. Sandy Brown, Stephen Resnick, Steve Sann, and the LAPD commented. It was a unanimous vote to revoke use. During the hearing, Habibi's owner called out both Sandy Brown and Steve Sann. Steve Sann said he has received threats. This decision only affects 923 and 925 Broxton but Habibi's owner also runs 927 and the old Gypsy Café.

11. DISCUSSION & INTRODUCTION OF MOTION IN REGARD TO A WWNC HOLIDAY EVENT TO HELP OTHERS

This item was not discussed.

12. OPEN RENTAL DIRECTOR SEAT

A. Discussion for a replacement as Rental Residential Director.
Candidates need to be found since the election is coming up and some members are not running for re-election.

13. OPEN OWNER RESIDENTIAL AREA 4 DIRECTOR SEAT

A. Discussion for a replacement as Owner Residential Director.
Candidates are needed because the election is coming up and some members are not running for re-election.

14. 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. WRAC – Emergency Preparedness – no report
- H. Bylaws – no report
- I. WRAC – Report and Motions

Lisa Chapman moved the motion below, seconded by Ann Hayman. The motion carried by a vote of Yes: 7, No: 1 (Philip Gabriel), and Abstain: 0.

SUPPORT RE ORDINANCE 187427 (SPEED LIMIT REDUCTIONS)

Motion

Refers to City Council file [21-1223](#)

The Westwood Neighborhood Council supports the following position in regards to the recent adoption of Ordinance 187427 regarding speed limit reductions:

i The Westwood Neighborhood Council supports the action taken by the LA City Council on March 7, 2022 in passing Council File 21-1223 regarding Speed Limit Reductions.

ii The Westwood Neighborhood Council supports the efforts to reduce the speed limit by 5 MPH on streets that were recently identified for 5 MPH speed limit increases. (See the attached Ordinance number 187427 with the complete list of streets effected.)

iii Moving forward, it is the suggestion of the Westwood Neighborhood Council that City Council open a Council File to consider that future speed limit reductions be discussed and planned as neighborhood or regional traffic improvements rather than individual street improvements. These improvements should be coupled with measures to minimize vehicle traffic being redirected onto adjacent neighborhood streets. For example, we would like to see LADOT incorporate traffic calming measures and active transportation elements. Traffic calming measures might include compact traffic circles/mini roundabouts, restricted turns, curb extensions/bulb-outs, speed humps and tables, and diagonal diverters, half closures, full closures, and median barriers to reduce cut-through traffic.

iv In addition, the Westwood Neighborhood Council requests that the Council Offices engage the local Westside Councils in ongoing discussions about what additional streets should be considered for speed limit reductions as well as establish a method whereby Council and stakeholder feedback on this issue can be submitted directly to LADOT.

Background

See [MTC Motion Background/Ordinance 187427](#)

J. Park Advisory

Tracey Fitzgerald reported that at the Westwood PAB meeting it was decided that pickleball should be forwarded to RAP to be placed on the master list. The wish list was divided into small, medium, and large items for prioritization. The motion to have a Westwood Homeowners Association member on the PAB was received and discussed. A member will be appointed at the discretion of the park director and there will be an opportunity when terms are up next year.

Ann Hayman attended the Holmby PAB's Zoom meeting and will now be serving on the PAB. She reported that there is a new playground on the north side of the park, the lawn tennis area is being redone, tree trimming is a big item, and the sidewalks need repairs. Lisa Chapman said that there have been complaints about unleashed dogs and trainers using the park who are attaching equipment to trees which is against park regulations.

15. ADJOURNMENT

President Lisa Chapman moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Stephen Resnick, and unanimously approved at 9:13 p.m.