

WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MINUTES
NOVEMBER 12, 2025
BELMONT VILLAGE SENIOR LIVING
10475 WILSHIRE BLVD. LOS ANGELES, CA 90024

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Lisa Chapman called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Board members in attendance were Marcy Agmon, Connie Boukidis, Sandy Brown, Lisa Chapman, Roozbeh Farahanipour, Tracey Fitzgerald, Philip Gabriel, Ann Hayman, Stephen Resnick, Chris Schroeder, Scott Shelton, Michael Telerant and Laura Winikow. Members excused were Stephen Cropper and Samantha Goldstein. There were approximately 32 stakeholders and guests attending.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lisa Chapman, as one of the artists, announced the opening reception of Belmont Village's new art show in the meeting room tomorrow from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Lisa Chapman moved to approve the October 8, 2025 minutes, seconded by Marcy Agmon and approved unanimously with the exception of Roozbeh Farahanipour, who couldn't vote.

4. COMMENTS BY PUBLIC OFFICIALS

A. U.S. Congressman Ted Lieu's representative Janet Turner reported that the government may re-open tomorrow.

B. 3rd District County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath's representative Amanda Laflin announced an Emergency Preparedness Fair at the Skirball on Sunday November 16th from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

C. LAPD SLO Rick Ballesteros reported that there has been a decrease in crime in the area with the exception of aggravated assault, which includes road rage and mental illness incidents, and theft such as items being stolen from a front yard or off a table at a coffee shop.

D. CD5 Field Deputy Patricia Macias reported that LADOT is in phase 1 of the Westwood Mobility Plan, getting community feedback. Veteran Ave. between Ohio and Massachusetts has been fixed. A Westwood Blvd. clean up took place on October 15th and a power wash will be scheduled.

E. UCLA representative Marco Perez listed upcoming events on campus, including a holiday botany event at Mathias Botanical Garden on December 4th.

5. DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT

DONE NEA Erica Gatica-Doughty reported that she attended the swing concert at the Westwood Library and thought it was a great event. She had a table with information about Neighborhood Councils there and said she would be willing to attend other events.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

A. Motion to approve the Monthly Expenditure Report for October 2025

Treasurer Laura Winikow reported that the October 2025 MER had a beginning balance of \$36,855.41, \$2,943.08 spent, and a net available balance of \$33,761.23. Laura moved to approve the MER, seconded by Lisa Chapman and approved unanimously, with the exception of Roozbeh Farahanipour who couldn't vote.

7. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Stakeholder Steve Sann reported that the swing concert at Westwood Library on November 9th was phenomenal, with more than 200 people attending. He thanked Belmont Village for its support.

Upcoming library events are a book sale on December 6th, a barbershop quartet concert on December 13th, and a magic show for kids on December 20th.

8. SELECTION OF CANDIDATE TO FILL VACANT BUSINESS GROUP DIRECTOR SEAT

Scott Shelton introduced himself. Lisa Chapman moved, "The WWNC approves Scott Shelton for the open business director seat." Tracey Fitzgerald seconded and the motion was approved unanimously, with the exception of Roozbeh Farahanipour, who couldn't vote.

9. WESTWOOD BOULEVARD SAFETY AND MOBILITY PROJECT PRESENTATION

A. Introduction of Motion to consider a position on Westwood Blvd. bicycle lanes and Request for Action to Councilmember Katy Yaroslavsky

Matthews Criboli of LADOT gave the presentation. The project is for traffic safety, last mile access to public transportation and enhancing community connectivity and will be on Westwood Blvd. from Le Conte to Exposition but there is no design yet. Westwood Blvd. will have bus lanes and bike lanes. It is in the first phase of outreach and there is a survey on safety to be distributed. Councilmember Yaroslavsky is supportive. Concerns raised by board members were that removing parking means businesses will close, there is no mandated bike lane in Westwood Village on Westwood Blvd. but on Gayley, the survey is for bikers only and nobody else, and whether Westwood Blvd. will be reduced to one lane each north and south. No motion was introduced.

10. OHIO AVENUE SAFETY AND MOBILITY PROJECT PRESENTATION

A. Introduction of Motion to consider a position on Ohio Blvd. bicycle lanes and Request for Action to Councilmember Katy Yaroslavsky

Alek Bartrosouf of LADOT gave the presentation. The project is about traffic safety, last mile access to public transportation and enhancing community connectivity. The plan was adopted in 2016 and construction is expected to start in 2026. It calls for a protected two-way bike lane on the north side of Ohio which will connect to bike lanes in Santa Monica. The trade-offs will be left turn restrictions in the eastbound direction and parking reduced to only one side of Ohio, with a net loss of 27 parking spots. Community engagement is being done through a website and a survey. During the Q & A many concerns were raised, including why no left turn on Veteran when it's a major thoroughfare, if a study was done about where cars will go when they can't make a left turn, if access to the VA will be affected, how many bikers will actually use the new lanes, the project seems to benefit the few at the expense of the many and is discriminatory against the elderly and the survey is only for bikers and not drivers. No motion was introduced.

11. SUNRISE WILSHIRE PROJECT – OPPOSITION PRESENTATION

A. link to the current plans:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/hh05c8rgjzjh3e5bug6r2/AKQJQXSRryUFLmZ7rZRN3yE?rlkey=2lqnc736smmnok640yybbb1xy&st=u1aj4cv3&dl=0>

B. Introduction of Motion to consider a position on this project

Linda Smith represents the Diplomat and the building to the west of it. She explained why neighbors are opposed: the developer is trying to get around zoning laws by using Expedited Administrative Review so that there is no review by the DRB, City Council or CEQA. The law says that affordable housing cannot be segregated but the affordable housing in this project is in a separate building. Forty rent-stabilized units will be demolished to build a 20-story tower. Zoning overlays are being violated, the square footage is more than allowed and setbacks have been reduced, and parking has been reduced. Nearby residents also spoke about mitigation for noise, pollution, trash pickup & deliveries and said that no outreach has been made to them. Sandy Brown recused herself from this discussion because she lives in the Diplomat.

Representatives of the Sunrise Wilshire project rebutted some of Linda Smith's statements and said that only 21 of the 40 units to be demolished are rent-controlled, it is legal to have a licensed senior facility and affordable housing in separate buildings and said they were doing outreach even if it is not required. They explained how deliveries, trash pickup and laundry service would work.

No motion was introduced. There will be an information-only hearing on December 2nd with the city planner.

12. WESTWOOD PARK ADVISORY BOARD

No report was given.

13. HOLMBY PARK ADVISORY BOARD

No report was given.

14. STANDING COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

A. WRAC – Report & Motions

1. Support: STC Project UCLA Station at UCLA Gateway Plaza

Support STC Project, including on-campus UCLA Station at UCLA Gateway Plaza; oppose changing UCLA Station location to Gayley Ave. & Strathmore Dr.

"The Westwood Neighborhood Council, a member of the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC), supports the Sepulveda Transit Corridor Project (STCP), including an on-campus UCLA Station located at UCLA Gateway Plaza, near the center of campus, as described in the STCP Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR). We do not support changing the location of the UCLA Station to the intersection of Gayley Avenue and Strathmore Drive, at the far west end of campus, or to any other location on the UCLA campus that has not been studied and analyzed by Metro in accordance with CEQA. If Metro considers any change to the location of the UCLA Station other than at UCLA Gateway Plaza, Metro must: 1) prepare an amendment to the DEIR; and 2) in conformance with CEQA conduct outreach to the community for additional public comment on the environmental impacts of this proposed change in location."

Lisa Chapman moved the above motion, seconded by Tracey Fitzgerald, and carried unanimously.

B. Executive – no report

C. Land Use & Planning – no report

D. Ad Hoc Committee on WWNC Boundary Adjustments – no report

E. Outreach & Communications – no report

F. Homeless Committee - no report

G. Budget Advocates

1. Discussion and Motion to appoint a WWNC board member to the Budget Advocates Team – no discussion

H. Public Safety/ Transportation & Parking – no report

I. WRAC – Emergency Preparedness – no report

J. WRAC – Transportation and Mobility Committee – no report

K. Bylaws – no report

15. ADJOURNMENT

President Lisa Chapman adjourned the meeting at 10:46 p.m.

