

WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MINUTES

NOVEMBER 14, 2018

BELMONT VILLAGE SENIOR LIVING, 10475 WILSHIRE BLVD. LOS ANGELES, CA 90024

1. CALL TO ORDER

Acting President Sandy Brown called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. Board members in attendance were Cyrus Baraghoush, Connie Boukidis, Sandy Brown, Chantelle Eastman, Roozbeh Farahanipour, Philip Gabriel, Ann Hayman, Stephen Resnick, Marcello Robinson, Scott Whittle, and Laura Winikow. Members excused were Lisa Chapman and David Lorango. A quorum was present. There were four stakeholders and guests present.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Sandy Brown moved to approve the October 18, 2018 minutes, seconded by Ann Hayman, and approved unanimously.

3. COMMENTS BY PUBLIC OFFICIALS

A. CD5 Field Deputy Jasmine Shamolian reported that a shade structure was installed in the dog park. Trees had to be removed for the dog park so 40 new mature trees will be planted but not in the dog park area. Westwood Chabad will house homeless students and veterans in its Gayley Avenue building as a temporary measure for two or three years. The PLUM Committee decided on a 120 day cap for short term rentals, with 365 days allowed under certain conditions.

4. DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT

New representative Jose Galdamez introduced himself and gave an update on what is going on at DONE.

5. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Stakeholder Steve Sann gave a report on the BID's recent annual meeting at the Hammer Museum and announced two library events: a book sale on December 1st and the last free concert of the year on December 16th.

Ethan Senser talked about Stand L.A., the organization he represents which is focused on the health impacts of oil drilling and advocates for buffer zones around active sites. This will be on the December agenda.

6. SKIP SCOOTERS

A. Presentation

No representative attended to make the presentation.

7. WWNC BYLAWS

A. Discussion and introduction of Motion to Ratify the WWNC Bylaws

This item was tabled until the December meeting.

8. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO TRANSFER CURRENT WWNC BOARD MEMBERS INTO THE NEW BOARD SEATS APPROVED BY BONC ON OCTOBER 29, 2018

This item was tabled until the December meeting.

9. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION IN REGARD TO WWNC BOARD MEMBERS PROVIDING THE REQUIRED PROOF OF QUALIFICATION

This item was tabled until the December meeting.

10. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE CHANGE TO WWNC BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION
APPROVED BY BONC ON OCTOBER 29, 2018

This item was tabled until the December meeting.

11. FUNDING

A. Discussion & Introduction of Motion to Retain WWNC Funding at the End of the Fiscal Year

Sandy Brown explained that there is a process that WWNC has been unaware of whereby WWNC's unspent money can be appropriated and placed in a trust fund that WWNC. No action was taken on this item. Sandy wanted the board to know about this and it will be revisited closer to June. CD5 Field Deputy Jasmine Shamolian said that CD5 would work with WWNC to facilitate the process.

12. PROCESS AND PROCEDURES ORDINANCE

A. Discussion and Introduction of Motion: The WWNC Opposes the Process and Procedures Ordinance

INFORMATION IN REGARD TO THE PROPOSED PROCESS AND PROCEDURES ORDINANCE

Summary

PLANNING POWER GRAB

In October the City Planning Commission approved the proposed Processes & Procedures Ordinance. If approved by the City Council, this ordinance would add a new chapter to the LA Municipal Code, and bring about substantial changes to the way plans and projects are approved. Among the concerns are:

- > Allowing the Director of Planning to grant approvals without public input.
- > Reduced notification requirements.
- > Limiting some appeals only to adjacent property owners.
- > Creating an alternative approval process.
- > Weakening protections for HPOZs.

But the biggest problem is that this new addition to the LAMC would take planning authority from elected officials and give it to unelected bureaucrats. It will make it much easier for City Planning to grant developers' wishes, and much harder for the public to stop them.

Analysis from

United Neighborhoods of Los Angeles

HOW TO TAKE PLANNING POWER AWAY FROM THE PEOPLE

City Hall has finally figured out how to cut you out of the planning process. They've finally found a way to make sure you don't have a voice in decisions about your community's future.

For years they've been working on re:code LA, a comprehensive revision of the City's zoning code. The first stage of that revision is now moving forward. It's called the Processes & Procedures Ordinance. If adopted, it will add a new chapter to the Los Angeles Municipal Code. Basically it's a power grab by the Department of City Planning (DCP). The best way

to sum up what's happening here is to talk about how it would limit the authority of your elected officials....

LA's City Charter says that all legislative power of the City is vested in the City Council, except as otherwise provided in the Charter. That includes power over planning and zoning. But by adding this new chapter to the Municipal Code, Processes & Procedures seems intended to change that. Under "General Authority" the new language states....

"The City Council generally exercises all legislative authority associated with the Zoning Code, except where otherwise provided by the Charter, State law, or the Zoning Code."

In other words, the Zoning Code itself could limit the Council's power over zoning. And since the DCP is rewriting the zoning code, the idea seems to be to take planning power from elected officials and give it to unelected planning bureaucrats.

The addition of the words "State law" is also disturbing, since this could potentially limit the City's ability to challenge legislation from Sacramento, like maybe something along the lines of SB 827. And there are other problems. This ordinance restricts appeals, weakens safeguards for HPOZs, and allows the DCP to grant conditional use permits without public input.

The City Planning Commission has already approved Processes & Procedures. Next it goes to the Planning & Land Use Management (PLUM) Committee, and it seems to be on the fast track. Even though City Planning staff told members of the public they were open to revising the language, the ordinance was forwarded to PLUM with no changes.

After discussion of the above information, Sandy Brown moved, "The WWNC opposes the Process and Procedures Ordinance." Ann Hayman seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

13. STANDING COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

A. Executive - no report

B. Budget

1. Approval of Monthly Expenditures

Treasurer Laura Winikow listed the expenditures to be approved: \$79.70 for October staffing services and \$113.79 for November's printed material. The September MER included expenditures of approximately \$1,100, with \$100 owed to Lisa Chapman, \$200 outstanding, and an ending balance of \$40,529.61. Both expenditures and the September MER were approved unanimously.

C. Land Use & Planning - no report

D. Outreach & Communications - no report

E. Homeless Task Force

Co-Chair Chantelle Eastman reported that she attended a Homeless Alliance meeting and passed out information from the meeting. Chantelle recommended a documentary on the homeless issue in Los Angeles called "The Advocates."

F. Budget Advocates - Nominations for Committee Chairperson - no report

G. Public Safety - no report

H. Transportation & Parking - no report

I. Bylaws

1. Discussion and Possible Motion Regarding Board Members

Chair Sandy Brown will make a report at the next meeting.

J. WRAC

WRAC representative Ann Hayman reported that she didn't attend the last meeting and would like to resign. Roozbeh Farahanipour volunteered to be an alternate so Ann agreed to stay on and they will both be representatives.

K. Zoning & Violations – no report

14. ADJOURNMENT

Acting President Sandy Brown adjourned the meeting at 8:29 p.m.