

WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 17, 2010
BLAIR HOUSE, 10490 WILSHIRE BLVD.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Terry Pullan called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. Roll call was taken. In attendance were Connie Boukidis, Jerry Brown, Lisa Chapman, David Crew, Roozbeh Farahnipour, Brent Gaisford, Toni Gray, Mark Herd, Terry Pullan, Stephen Resnick, Mark Rogo, Clinton Schudy, Steven Somers, Kurt Smalberg, Michael Stajura, Scott Whittle, and Laura Winikow. Members not present were Yoni Riemer, who was excused for last minute travel, and George Torbay.

2. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER MINUTES

Scott Whittle motioned to approve the minutes as written. Clinton Schudy seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Connie Boukidis withdrew from consideration for Outreach and Communications, and nominated Lisa Chapman in her place. The slate of officers then was proposed as follows: Jerry Brown for President, Toni Gray for Vice President, Stephen Resnick for Secretary, Yoni Riemer for Treasurer, and Lisa Chapman for Outreach and Communications. Kurt Smalberg proposed the council move to approve the slate and Laura Winikow seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. The board thanked Terry Pullan for handling the voting process. Jerry Brown accepted with gratitude and took over the meeting.

4. FORMATION OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Jerry Brown asked for volunteers interested in chairing a committee. After discussion, the deadline for nominations for committee chairs was set for November 30th. Michael Stajura explained that the standing committees are those listed under the Brown Act and it is recommended, but not required, that no more than five people be on a committee in order to prevent a small number of people from controlling the board. Five is the recommended number because the council's quorum is eleven.

5. ETHICS TRAINING

Stephen Resnick explained that board members can take a class held by DONE to fulfill the ethics training requirement or do the class online. DONE is not offering any classes at present. The online class has three parts and takes about three hours total including the test at the end. Stephen will email board members a link to the website.

6. BUDGET DAY AND BUDGET CREATION

David Crew and Toni Gray attended Budget Day at City Hall on October 16th.. The Mayor, City Attorney, and City Controller spoke about the budget crisis and said they were 100% positive that the City will not go bankrupt this year. As part of budgetary measures, furloughs of between 16 and 26 days a year for city workers will be put in place. This will have an effect on citizens of Los Angeles because City departments and courts will be closed certain days. The City Attorney is being very proactive on the budget, reducing his budget from \$90 million to \$76 million. The downside is that there will be less investigation and enforcement. Pension reform will take place in the police and fire departments with a two tier system. The City wants to focus on core services and asked Neighborhood Councils for recommendations on what they consider to be core services, such as what is necessary and what could be cut. Soon there will be no free parking at City Hall any more, which is part of an incremental withdrawal of City services. David Crew was elected as a Neighborhood Council Budget Advocate for the Western Region.

Terry Pullan said that Yoni Riemer received a template from DONE for submitting a budget for approval. WWNC can't pay bills until its budget is approved. Jerry Brown requested agendaing a motion for budget approval.

DONE representative Amber Meshack announced a treasurer training class on December 2nd at 6:30 p.m.in Little Tokyo at 305 E. 1st Street. She can arrange parking for the class. The class isn't mandatory for everyone, only the treasurer and president. She also announced that the new treasurer training handbook is on DONE's website.

7. PROCESS FOR BRINGING ISSUES TO COUNCIL

Discussion of the process for bringing issues before the council elicited the following points. The process is usually done by committee, the council doesn't have to act on every issue submitted to it, all board members should have the right to place an item on the agenda,

stakeholders could be asked for input via the website when it is set up but the board should decide which suggestions are worthy and a threshold should be set for what to weigh in on and what not to, and recommendations should be made quickly because they can be time-sensitive and involve deadlines. Mark Rogo suggested that WWNC look at other Neighborhood Councils to see what is working for them. Amber Meshack offered to help with the process and said that under the Brown Act the board can't discuss or vote on any issue not on the agenda, but it can be referred to committee. Writing a motion beforehand is useful and it can be amended. Amber also recommended that the executive board meet beforehand to finalize the agenda.

Stephen Resnick mentioned an issue that he received email about from Terri Dickerhoff. The email was regarding two neighborhood restaurants that want to expand, Soleil on Westwood Blvd. and Native Foods in Westwood Village. Terri Dickerhoff will be speaking at the next Westwood Homeowners Association board meeting.

8. BROXTON PARKING GARAGE

Toni Gray spoke with Councilmember Koretz and told him that WWNC voted on the sale of the garage and nobody in Westwood wants to sell the garage.

The City Controller spoke at Budget Day and said that the City will reap \$53 million from the sale of the garages and shouldn't be in private business and that people don't care, but the Mayor is aware that people are opposed. Westwood competes with cities that do give free parking so it must do the same or lose business. Scott Whittle pointed out that the Broxton garage was paid for with money from Westwood parking meters and business assessments, it took years to get, and should not be squandered.

Toni introduced the following motion, "Motion to authorize \$2,500 outreach expenditure for bus transportation, T-shirts and yard signs. The purpose is to make known WWNC's unanimous position regarding permanent free parking and \$3 after 6 p.m at the Broxton Garage by testifying at City Council on December 8, 2010 and February 16, 2011 and to the community at large."

Clinton Schudy seconded the motion and a lengthy discussion followed. During the discussion the following objections and points were raised: Something cheaper than T-shirts, such as visors, should be purchased instead or possibly reusable vests which say "District 5"; \$2,500 is too much but a lesser amount such as \$1,500 is preferable; the council doesn't have a budget so can't spend money yet; this is the most important issue for Westwood and a motion needs to be passed.

Council District 5 Representative Eric Norton said that Councilmember Koretz met with the Chief Budget Officer about the Broxton garage, who said that he would work with the Councilmember on the garage issue. He also told Councilmember Koretz that if bids were too low, the City would not accept them. Eric also said that a January 2011 meeting on the garage issue is likely but would not be the final meeting on the issue.

Laura Lake stated that nine communities are against the sale of City garages and she is in contact with the communities opposed such as Studio City and Hollywood.

Toni revised the motion as follows: "Motion to authorize up to \$2,500 outreach expenditure as soon as funds are received for bus transportation, T-shirts and yard signs. The purpose is to make known WWNC's unanimous position regarding permanent free parking and \$3 after 6 p.m at the Broxton Garage by testifying at City Council on December 8, 2010 and February 16, 2011 and to the community at large." Michael Stajura seconded the motion. The motion passed with 16 votes for and one opposed.

Toni introduced another motion: "Motion to authorize Community Impact Statement to be submitted to L.A. City Council along with the Studio City Resolution on this matter. The impact statement will be the previous motion that was passed at our last meeting on the Broxton garage matter." The motion was seconded by Connie Boukidis, and carried unanimously.

9. BYLAWS COMMITTEE UPDATE

The ad hoc committee formed to look at the bylaws consists of Connie Boukidis, Jerry Brown, Toni Gray, and Kurt Smalberg. Jerry Brown listed some areas the committee will focus on in the bylaws. They are the definition of stakeholders, the boundaries of the council itself, and board structure and composition. Laura Winikow suggested that bylaws be kept flexible and standing rules be detailed.

10. WEBSITE COMMITTEE

Roosbeh Farahnipour has interviewed some students who could design a website for the council but felt it is preferable to spend more money to get a professional who could do the job quicker, and he got a quote for designing the website for \$1200 in less than a week. Michael Stajura recommended that this matter go through the Outreach and

Communications Chair and should be put on the agenda for next month's meeting. He volunteered to work on an interim website.

11. WILSHIRE BOULEVARD BUS LANE

Connie Boukidis attended an MTA hearing today on the Wilshire Blvd. dedicated bus lane where Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky spoke on Westwood's behalf, as well as Richard Katz. Connie reported that the former proposal to remove jutouts in the area of Wilshie Blvd. between Glendon Ave. and Comstock Ave. was revised to leave the jutouts in place, which will save \$7 million. However, all HOA's and condominium associations in Westwood oppose this project. Since Beverly Hills is not participating in the project it will create both a bottleneck and gridlock in the Westwood corridor during its proposed hours of operation, from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. In the original EIR in 2001, MTA exempted Westwood from the bus lane. Now MTA is claiming that it will lose federal funding if Westwood is exempt but has not offered any proof for this claim. Park View has an exemption, so Westwood would not be the only exempt area.

12. WESTSIDE SUBWAY EXTENSION PROJECT

Connie Boukidis said that the location of the Century City subway stop is still being debated. The two possible locations are along Avenue of the Stars either by Santa Monica Blvd. or Constellation Avenue. Councilmember Koretz supports the Constellation Avenue location. Tunneling underneath homes in Westwood is part of the current plan. Jerry Brown received an email of MTA's EIR for this project.

13. MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS

Michael Stajura discussed the Google group whereby board members share documents and communicate on council business. He explained that settings can be modified and features manipulated by those joining the Google group. He has modified the way replies are sent to make it more convenient. He will send board members an email on this subject.

14. AD HOC COMMITTEES

Lisa Chapman asked for suggestions for ad hoc committees. Suggestions offered included UCLA Relations, Public Safety, and ad hoc committees

on emergent issues as needed. There are questions about whether the Brown Act applies to ad hoc committees.

15. REVISION OF WWNC MEETING POSTING LOCATIONS

Jerry Brown told the board that the meeting posting locations cannot be changed since they are listed in the bylaws. However, locations can be added through an amendment. Brent Gaisford suggested that email notifications would be more effective than adding physical posting locations.

16. NEXT MEETING DATE AND LOCATION

A meeting to approve a budget is necessary soon. Mark Rogo asked Steve Sann to send the budget template from Westwood Community Council to help facilitate the process. Lisa Chapman has been looking into possible meeting locations and reported on her findings. Westwood Presbyterian Church has a room WWNC could rent for \$100. She also contacted the Methodist church and Belmont Village, but is waiting to hear from them. Connie Boukidis said that Emerson Middle School has a room which rents for \$28 per hour. The second Wednesday of the month seems to be a good date on which WWNC's meetings should take place in the future, as it avoids conflicts with other meetings. Michael Stajura proposed a motion to have WWNC's next meeting on December 8, 2010 at 7 p.m. The motion was seconded by Brent Gaisford and carried unanimously.

17. GOOD AND WELFARE

Jerry Brown thanked Terry Pullan for acting as interim leader and compiling the agendas.

18. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Items were suggested for agendaization at the next council meeting. They included passing a budget, setting a regular meeting time and place, planning attendance at the next Broxton garage hearing, putting up a website, the UCLA Faculty Center, comments on the City budget for David Crew as the Neighborhood Council Budget Advocate, and hiring a secretary.

The question of whether WWNC can affect anything UCLA does arose. Jerry Brown said that UCLA wants community input. Steve Sann said

that originally UCLA had tried to get the campus excluded from the council boundaries but BONC didn't exclude UCLA, and tonight UCLA sent its representative Vincent Wong to the meeting.

19. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

Scott Whittle proposed that the meeting be adjourned. Jerry Brown seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.