

WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MINUTES
DECEMBER 9, 2020
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, Sandy Brown, Lisa Chapman, Tracey Fitzgerald, Philip Gabriel, Ann Hayman, Eloise Metcalfe, Stephen Resnick, Paula Rogers, Mark Rogo, and Laura Winikow. Members excused were Roozbeh Farahanipour, David Lorango, and Marcello Robinson. A quorum was present. There were approximately 23 stakeholders and guests attending.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Sandy Brown moved to approve the October 14, 2020 minutes, seconded by Philip Gabriel and approved unanimously.

3. COMMENTS BY PUBLIC OFFICIALS

A. U.S. Congressman Ted Lieu's representative Janet Turner gave an update on current legislation and announced that the USPS may start delivering mail every other day as a temporary measure due to COVID-19.

B. County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl's field deputy Zac Gaidzik gave an update on L. A. County COVID-19 statistics and said that the surge is severe.

C. UCLA representative Marco Perez reported that UCLA's winter closure will be five days longer than usual, starting December 19th until January 4, 2021. Working remotely will continue through the winter quarter. UCLA Associate Vice Chancellor Jennifer Poulakidas reported that UCLA's positivity rate is low and there are testing facilities on campus.

D. CD5 Field Deputy Jasmine Shamolian reported that the shelter is gone from the Westwood Rec Center but there are a lot of homeless encampments on the east side of the park. There have been many complaints about them but the city can't remove tents or bulky items currently. There is a new right turn only lane at the intersection of Massachusetts and Sepulveda. In answer to a question about getting a left turn only lane at Le Conte and Westwood, Jasmine said that the DOT has criteria but DOT requests are on hold so she will look into it.

4. DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT

DONE NEA Freddy Cupen-Ames announced upcoming BONC meetings and sessions and reported that required training for LUPC members will take place on December 11th and 15th. Both of these training sessions will be held during work hours so board members asked him about alternatives. Two updates to NC bylaws were emailed to board members.

5. CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLYMEMBER SYDNEY KAMLAGER

Assemblymember Kamlager spoke about legislation in 2020, priorities for 2021, the committees she serves on, and said that more housing bills will be coming in 2021. A number of comments were made about problems with one-size-fits-all housing rules that remove local control and encourage predatory development.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

A. Motion to approve Monthly Expenditure Report for October 2020

Treasurer Laura Winikow reported that the October MER had a beginning balance of

\$34,775 with \$112.84 spent and \$148.48 outstanding, and an ending available balance of \$34,514.53. The November MER had a beginning balance of \$34,663 with \$110.08 spent, \$38.40 outstanding, and an ending available balance of \$34,514.53. Laura moved to approve both MERS, seconded by Lisa Chapman, and approved unanimously with the exception of Mark Rogo, who did not participate in the vote.

7. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Sandy Brown announced that redistricting for City Council districts is coming up. Rocky Delgadillo is CD5's representative for redistricting. WWNC should invite him to attend a future meeting.

8. DISCUSSION & UPDATE WITH QUESTIONS IN REGARD TO PREVIOUSLY AWARDED NPG TO PESA

PESA representative Seymour Amster reported that 25 students in WWNC's area have participated in the program so far but the goal is to get 100 students in the area. Intensive social media outreach is being done, and PESA is working on meeting the goal by the end of the fiscal year. The program deals with racism issues caused by the pandemic, and diverted youth who have been referred because of behavioral problems. PESA reached out to Emerson, Fairburn, and Warner but hasn't had commitments from the schools. Comments made in the discussion were that the program seems ill-defined and has not produced much for the amount of money donated (PESA was given \$2,500 because of uncertainty about how many students in the area would benefit). PESA has solicited money from many NCs and organizations and the money goes to pay presenters.

9. WESTWOOD BRANCH LIBRARY: DISCUSSION & INTRODUCTION OF MOTION: "THE WWNC SUPPORTS THE FRIENDS OF WESTWOOD LIBRARY IN OPPOSING THE DECISION OF THE BOARD OF LIBRARY COMMISSIONERS FOR A 'POLICE-FREE' LIBRARY"

A vocal group of people asked the Library Commission to defund security guards for the library and they voted to defund. The defunded money will go to Mayor Garcetti and the letter asks him to reverse the decision. The Westwood library has the fourth highest number of incidents of librarians or patrons being threatened etc. that security guards are needed for.

Ann Hayman, Stephen Resnick, Mark Rogo, and Laura Winikow recused themselves from voting on the motion. Lisa Chapman moved the above motion, seconded by Philip Gabriel, and carried unanimously.

10. RENTER SEAT APPLICANTS-UPDATE

Lisa Chapman reported that no applications have been received.

11. WESTWOOD PARK/RECREATION CENTER UPDATE

Stephen Resnick reported that Park Director Eric Mellem has been back since mid-October but he moves around and is not always at the park. The rec center has been painted and the gym floors resurfaced but the building is closed. Not many people are using the park because the homeless are keeping them away. Mike Shull had said that the fence around the existing soccer field would be removed but it hasn't been yet. A contractor for the new soccer field has been selected and they will also remove that fence. Construction will start in January 2021 and is projected to take nine months.

12. WESTWOOD VILLAGE UPDATE

Sandy Brown reported that Westwood Village's BID wanted to get rid of the Westwood Village Specific Plan but Councilmember Koretz did not agree to this.

13. STANDING COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

A. Executive – no report

B. Land Use & Planning

1. Discussion/Action

10939 Ohio Avenue

Transit-Oriented Community project for a new 6-story, 18-unit, apartment building over 2 subterranean parking levels

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1CI941AtFfYAehPVGgmRFhAFktsDVVo8E>

The project will be presented next month because Chair Marcello Robinson could not attend tonight's meeting due to illness. It will be going to the DRB next week so people may want to attend that meeting.

C. Outreach & Communications – no report

D. Homeless Task Force

1. Discussion of committee's plans for the future

Chair Lisa Chapman reported that there will be no homeless count this year due to COVID-19.

E. Budget Advocates

Lisa Chapman will send everyone the Budget Advocates information.

F. Public Safety/ Transportation & Parking

Chair Philip Gabriel reported that there has been no reply to the parking meter changes requested in the last meeting's motion.

G. Bylaws – no report

H. WRAC

1. Allow NCs to Communicate with Non-City Entities/Electeds

20-01.Allow NCs to Communicate with Non-City Entities/Electeds: June 17, 2020; Matt Wersinger (approved minutes: <https://westsidecouncils.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/WRAC-June-FIN-minutes-1.pdf>): RESOLVED ___ NC/CC

insists that Neighborhood Councils are not prohibited from communicating with non-City of Los Angeles government representatives and/or staff not with entities other than those within the City, regarding issues impacting their neighborhoods; and that Neighborhood Councils are free to discuss any issues of local concern.

Lisa Chapman moved the above motion, seconded by Ann Hayman and carried unanimously.

2. Oppose State Housing Density Bills/Support Other Measures re Affordable Housing

No action was taken on this item because it is moot.

3. Request City to Comply with Ellis Act Provisions

No action was taken on this item because it is moot.

4. Eliminate "Gut and Amend" Bill Process

20-04. Eliminate "Gut and Amend" Bill Process: September 16, 2020; WRAC

LUPC/Barbara Broide (approved minutes:<https://westsidecouncils.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/WRAC-September-2020-Minutes.pdf>). Whereas the

Sacramento Legislative process known as "gut and amend" eliminates transparency and public participation by misleading the intent and content of the bill being considered,

The NC/CC _____ recommends the following reform: Eliminate the "gut and amend" bill process and request the City of Los Angeles include in its Sacramento legislative priorities the elimination of the "gut and amend" bill process.

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

unanimously.

5. Support Council File 20-1174 (Unfinished Development/Enforcement)

20-05. Support Council File 20-1174 (Unfinished Development/Enforcement): October 19, 2020; Robin Greenberg (draft minutes: <https://westsidecouncils.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/WRAC-October-19-2020-Minutes.pdf>). Motion to support Council File 20-1174 (Koretz and Ryu). Whereas there are unfinished development projects citywide, which were issued building permits, in some instances, more than 8 years prior, such unfinished projects causing the building sites to become eyesores and a disturbance to abutting property owners and neighborhood residents, therefore the City Council is to instruct the Department of Building and Safety, in consultation with the City Attorney, to prepare a report with the department's enforcement of Municipal Code 91.106.4.4.3 to provide remedies such as a completion bond, which sets time limits to complete projects.

Lisa Chapman moved the above motion, seconded by Ann Hayman and carried unanimously.

6. Support Council File 20-1175 (Vacant Structures/ACE Citations)

No action was taken on this item because it has already passed.

7. Support Council File 20-1213 (Evacuation Routes)

No action was taken on this item because it has already passed.

8. Community Plan Update Process - Requests to Planning

20-08. Community Plan Update Process -Requests to Planning: October 19, 2020;

Barbara Broide (draft minutes: <https://westsidecouncils.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/WRAC-October-19-2020-Minutes.pdf>). Motion to support and include for official input to the Los Angeles Department of City Planning in reference to the WRAC Member Community Plan updates, a delay of 6 months due to COVID 19 and restrictions related to public access, meetings and participation and further request the following: An appropriate assessment of how the COVID 19 and future pandemics will impact current and future mobility, housing, design, environmental and health and safety needs and concerns, Current and future data projections relevant to the task of updating all WRAC member Community Plans, Incorporation of an additional step in the Community Plan update timeline that allows for presentation of the staff draft plan and an associated public comment period, or a second and revised concept plan phase. Allocation of time for staff to review public comments and incorporate changes to reflect input prior to issuing any NOP for the start of the environmental review process. It is improper to issue an NOP and conduct a DEIR for a draft plan that the community has had neither the chance to see or review. Thorough public outreach is a must and should include all stakeholders. The Planning Department has not allocated proper time or resources, and City Council must do so moving forward so that no stakeholders are left uninformed about the process.

Lisa Chapman moved the above motion, seconded by Stephen Resnick and carried unanimously.

9. Appointments to WRAC Homeless Committee and Transportation Committee

Roozbeh Farahanipour is no longer able to be the WRAC representative. Lisa Chapman volunteered to be the representative and Stephen Resnick will be the alternate. Paula Rogers will be the WRAC LUPC representative with Stephen Resnick as the alternate. Lisa Chapman will be the Homeless representative. Philip Gabriel will be the Transportation representative.

I. Park Advisory

Sandy Brown reported that Holmby Park is really crowded and the grass is being ruined by equipment used on it. Signs were put up requesting park patrons not to use bungee

cords on tree limbs but there is no enforcement.

14. ADJOURNMENT

President Lisa Chapman adjourned the meeting at 9:51 p.m.