

WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MINUTES

DECEMBER 12, 2018

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 Connie Boukidis, Sandy Brown, Lisa Chapman, Chantelle Eastman, Roozbeh Farahanipour, Philip Gabriel, Ann Hayman, Stephen Resnick, Marcello Robinson, Scott Whittle, and Laura Winikow. Members excused were Cyrus Baraghoush, David Lorango, and Mark Rogo. A quorum was present. There were six stakeholders and guests present.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Sandy Brown moved to approve the November 14, 2018 minutes, seconded by Scott Whittle, and approved unanimously.

3. COMMENTS BY PUBLIC OFFICIALS

A. U.S. Congressman Ted Lieu's representative Janet Turner announced that the EIS/EIR for housing on VA property will be released to the public on December 14th, and there will be at least a month for public comment. Congressman Lieu and Senator Dianne Feinstein wrote a letter to the Department of Justice and the Department of Veterans Affairs requesting that money recovered from the VA parking lot go to the West L. A. VA for veteran services instead of to the general fund.

B. UCLA representative Carmen reported that UCLA will be closed December 22nd and will reopen January 2, 2019. Next year UCLA will celebrate its centennial year.

4. DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT

Representative Jose Galdamez gave an update on DONE and announced a funding roundtable on January 12, 2019 from 10 a.m. to noon in Reseda.

Stakeholder Steve Sann mentioned that the City Clerk said there will be no online voting or vote by mail because there is no budget for it, though WWNC funded its own vote by mail before. Jose said that Chris Garcia at the City Clerk's office can be contacted about this. Lisa Chapman will contact him. This issue will be on next month's agenda.

Lisa Chapman reported that the North Westwood Neighborhood Council (NWWNC) had its LUPC meeting without posting an agenda, and she has been in contact with Gibson Nyambura and Semee Park about this, who claim that it is a problem with ITA and ENS, because NWWNC doesn't have its own website yet. Gibson claimed that posting wasn't done because DONE is short-staffed. Lisa requested that any votes taken at the NWWNC LUPC meeting be vacated and redone in January. Several board members told of other instances of NWWNC's violations of the Brown Act, including an outreach committee meeting without posting and a meeting that was moved from one UCLA building to another with no signage or notification and which was supposedly an emergency meeting. Jose told the board that Brown Act violations must be reported to the City Attorney. Lisa stated that she filed a grievance with the City Attorney's office six weeks ago and has had no reply. Board members requested that Jose take these complaints about double standards in how NCs are treated back to DONE.

5. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Stakeholder Steve Sann announced Westwood Library's last free concert of the year on December 16th. Fellow Restaurant will be open for dinner starting the last week of

December and the Hammer Museum's new restaurant will open in January 2019. A 16 story dormitory has been proposed next to the W Hotel but it would require spot zoning to be allowed.

6. DISCUSSION AND MOTION TO SUPPORT A BUFFER ZONE AROUND OIL DRILLING OPERATIONS

STAND-L.A. representative Ethan Senser discussed the motion. Sandy Brown moved the motion below, seconded by Laura Winikow, and carried unanimously. A CIS will be prepared.

Resolution in support of establishing a 2500-foot human health and safety buffer around oil drilling operations in the City of Los Angeles

Whereas Los Angeles is one of the only places in the United States where oil drilling occurs right in the middle of a densely-populated urban metropolis. Over 620,000 Angelenos live within a mile of an active oil well;

Whereas the City of Los Angeles contains over 1,000 active oil wells and 80% are located within 2,500 feet of a sensitive land use, impacting residents, students, and workers;

Whereas neighborhood drilling threatens the health and safety of those living along the fence line of these oil wells;

Whereas oil and gas extraction sites routinely use and emit as byproducts toxic chemicals that are known carcinogens, endocrine disruptors, and are harmful to multiple organ systems. These include but are not limited to formaldehyde, hydrochloric acid, hydrofluoric acid, naphthalene, xylene, benzene and volatile organic compounds;

Whereas the primary health risk factor associated with oil and gas development within urban areas is proximity to active sites, because any toxic emission will be at its highest and most dangerous concentration at the source of pollution;

Whereas the closer you live, work, and play to an active oil well, the more severely your health and safety are threatened. Whereas living next door to neighborhood drilling means chronic headaches and migraines, frequent nosebleeds, exacerbated asthma and other respiratory illness, reproductive harm and an increased risk of cancer;

Whereas the transport, onsite storage and use of toxic and flammable chemicals in industrial facilities in close proximity to homes and other sensitive land uses also raises the risk of catastrophic accidents;

Whereas neighborhood drilling is incompatible with public health and has no place near sensitive land uses such as homes, schools, churches or daycare facilities; and studies show that a buffer of at least 2,500 feet between active oil wells and these sensitive land uses is necessary to protect community health from oil extraction;

Whereas the City of Los Angeles is a leader at the forefront of enacting policies to protect the environment and address global climate change, including the Sustainability City pLAN requiring dramatic reductions in GHG emissions with an 80% GHG reduction target by 2050;

Whereas the City of Los Angeles has a duty to protect the health and safety of its residents and can use its power over land use and oil operations to protect those residents in this instance;

The Westwood Neighborhood Council resolves to call on the City of Los Angeles, and the Los Angeles City Council specifically to establish a human health and safety buffer that prohibits oil drilling within 2,500 feet of sensitive land uses including homes, schools, early childhood centers, senior centers, hospitals and medical clinics, parks, etc.

The Westwood Neighborhood Council resolves to submit a Community Impact Statement to Council File 17-0447 and to communicate support to our City Council member expressing support for this position.

7. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE MOTION: WWNC REAFFIRMS ITS POSITION IN REGARD TO ROCCO'S TAVERN THAT THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES DOES NOT PERMIT THIS BUSINESS TO OPEN ITS WINDOWS, NOR ALLOW DANCING AND LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
Stephen Resnick reported that this issue was brought up at the North Westwood Neighborhood Council's (NWWNC) LUPC meeting, which wasn't posted as required by law. Chantelle Eastman, who also is on the board of NWWNC, reported that she told them to slow down on this because they don't know the history and that the Rocco's representative agreed with her. Stakeholder Steve Sann said that the owner of the apartment building across the street wasn't notified about the LUPC meeting and that the owner of Rocco's, Josh Trifunovic, put an item of removing all conditions from Rocco's on the LUPC agenda immediately after being elected to NWWNC's board. These conditions were imposed by the ABC 23 years ago on Maloney's license and Josh Trifunovic knew when he bought the building that they were on there and that there was an apartment building across the street whose owner and tenants would object to loud noise.

Sandy Brown moved, "WWNC will draft a letter to be sent to the ABC, Councilmember Koretz, LAPD, and the LAFD Fire Marshal, stating that these conditions have served the neighborhood well and kept the peace for the past 23 years so no change should be made." The motion was seconded by Stephen Resnick and carried unanimously. The letter will be on next month's agenda.

8. WWNC BYLAWS

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

Sandy Brown moved, "WWNC ratifies the new bylaws." Scott Whittle seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

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

Sandy Brown went over the changes in board seats. The new list of board members is as follows. In Seat 1: Connie Boukidis, Seat 2: Philip Gabriel, Seat 3: Scott Whittle, Seat 4: Stephen Resnick, Seat 5: Sandy Brown, Seat 6: open, Seat 7: Cyrus Baraghoush, Seat 8: David Lorango, Seat 9: Mark Rogo, Seat 10: Marcello Robinson, Seat 11: Ann Hayman, Seat 12: Lisa Chapman, Seat 13: Laura Winikow, Seat 14: Chantelle Eastman, and Seat 15: Roozbeh Farahanipour. Mitchell Keiter will not remain on the board.

Sandy Brown moved, "WWNC approves the board members in the new seats." Scott Whittle seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

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

Sandy Brown stated that the following board members will need to bring proof of qualification to the next meeting: Sandy Brown, Lisa Chapman, Chantelle Eastman, Roozbeh Farahanipour, and Philip Gabriel.

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

Sandy Brown moved, "WWNC approves the boundary description." Scott Whittle seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

12. STANDING COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

A. Executive – no report

B. Budget

1. Approval of Monthly Expenditures

Treasurer Laura Winikow listed the expenditures to be approved: August 2018 staffing services \$145.15 and November 2018 staffing services \$66.61. The October and November MERs are the same: \$200 was spent with \$282.47 outstanding, and \$40,247.32 left in the budget. The expenses and MERs were approved unanimously.

C. Land Use & Planning

Chair Marcello Robinson reported that no meetings have been held in the last few months because he has not received any email about new projects.

D. Outreach & Communications – no report

E. Homeless Task Force

The homeless count will take place on January 23, 2019, co-chaired by Lisa Chapman and Steve Sann. Training will take place at the Westwood Presbyterian Church at 10 p.m. and the count will begin at 11 p.m. Volunteers can sign up on the website.

Stephen Resnick reported that the Westwood Presbyterian Church owns a house on Ashton which it has rented for a year to A Safe Place for Youth, which serves homeless youth. The house will have transitional housing for up to ten people there.

F. Budget Advocates – no report

G. Public Safety

Chair Chantelle Eastman no longer has a co-chair and suggested combining this committee with another one. It was decided to leave it a separate committee but have joint meetings with another committee.

Stakeholder Steve Sann reported that the homeless are having an impact on the Westwood Library and giving it a bad reputation. There have been people with weapons there and librarians have been threatened. Some librarians have left due to the problems.

H. Transportation & Parking – no report

I. Bylaws

1. Discussion and Possible Motion Regarding Board Members

See agenda items 8 and 9.

J. WRAC – no report

K. Zoning & Violations – no report

13. ADJOURNMENT

President Lisa Chapman adjourned the meeting at 9:11 p.m.

