

WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

February 9, 2022

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

Agenda Item # 3

THE WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL OPPOSES THE CURRENT DRAFT OF THE WESTWOOD VILLAGE SPECIFIC PLAN (CF 18-1101)

Council File # - 10-0139-S1

Be it resolved that the Westwood Neighborhood Council OPPOSES the adoption of Council File 18-1101, proposed amendments to the Westwood Village Specific Plan, as the current draft before the City Planning Commission FAILS to include all of the 18 elements that have been agreed upon by the Fifth District Councilmember and Council Planning Deputy, Westwood community, Westwood business community, and UCLA, and specifically in that it fails to include “one-look” review of signage by the Westwood Community Design Review Board, among other material omissions that have been agreed upon by the aforementioned parties.

We therefore call for the deletion of proposed Section 4.A.1.a. of the proposed draft ordinance, as well as correction of the definition of “Restaurant” to be consistent with the definition used in the Restaurant Beverage Program (RBP), as well as retention of section 6.B.16 in order to cover businesses selling alcoholic beverages between the hours of 11:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. which are beyond the scope of the RBP. Absent these changes, we call on the City Planning Commission and Council Office to continue this item to allow for corrections to the draft ordinance by the Planning staff, Council Office, and the City Attorney’s office in order to make these corrections and reflect the agreement reached by the parties noted above.

Westwood Village Specific Plan Amendment
Amendments agreed to by the
Council Office, Westwood neighbors, Westwood BID, and UCLA

PARKING

New Construction:

1. Default to citywide parking requirements. AGREE
2. New Construction: Covenanted off-street parking is required for new construction to be within 750 feet based on citywide requirements. AGREE
3. Allow for off-street parking to be unbundled and allocated at market prices to ensure efficient allocation. AGREE
4. No replacement of surface parking lot spaces at 50%, as currently required by the Plan. AGREE

EXISTING BUILDINGS

5. Allow for off-street parking to be unbundled and allocated at market prices to ensure efficient allocation. AGREE
6. Commercial buildings with a Certificate of Occupancy that predates this amendment to the Specific Plan shall be exempt from new parking requirements in the event of any change of use. AGREE

CHANGE OF USE

7. Change of Use shall be eligible for an Administrative Clearance (ministerial review) by the Director of Planning for projects that do not propose a façade alteration, new construction, expansion, or a Limited Use identified in Section 6B of the Specific Plan. AGREE

FOOD USES

8. Revise definitions of restaurants and fast-food establishments. AGREE
9. Remove the restrictions on the types and number of restaurants and fast food establishments. AGREE
10. Removed ratios for food uses or limits on types of food use establishments. AGREE

11. Continue the Alfresco Dining Program. AGREE
12. Conditional Use Beverage (CUB) Permits for alcoholic beverage service shall follow the citywide Restaurant Beverage Program (RBP). AGREE

OTHER USE RESTRICTIONS AND RATIOS

13. Leave existing ratios for financial services in place. AGREE
14. Prohibit auto-oriented uses such as drive-thrus and delivery-only uses including, but not limited to, commissaries and ghost kitchens. AGREE
15. Delivery and take-out accessory services for full-service restaurants will continue to be allowed. AGREE
16. NEW: Expressly allow the following amusement-oriented uses including all of the following: “Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 12.16 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code to the contrary, bowling alleys, roller skating rinks, ice skating rinks, penny arcades, game arcades, laser tag game facilities, escape game rooms, and puzzle rooms shall be permitted within the Specific Plan area with a Conditional Use Permit in accordance with the LAMC.” AGREE

SIGNAGE

17. Review of Signage: Administrative clearance (ministerial approval issued by the Director of Planning) for signs that comply with Section 12 of the Specific Plan, and which do not require an adjustment, modification, exception, or a Certificate of Appropriateness), subject to a “one-look” process by the Westwood Design Review Board at a publicly noticed meeting, following submission of a completed submittal package. This “one-look” process will be an abbreviated DRB review involving one public review and recommendation by the DRB to the Director of Planning (Planning Deputy), during publicly agendized “office hours” in accordance with the Brown Act, after which time the Planning Deputy will have the authority to stamp the plans at that meeting for conforming signs, or for signs that are non-conforming, the Planning Deputy will have the authority to confirm that any DRB recommended conditions have been met, and then approve the sign and stamp the plans. No Letter of Determination (LOD) will be issued in such cases. This process would eliminate the need for any follow up DRB meeting, and any delay arising from drafting, approving, and signing an LOD. Such administrative clearance for signage approval is not subject to an appeal. AGREE
18. Update the description of prohibited sign types to include “internally lit box/cabinet signs” and add “color, context, proportion, and placement” to the design criteria in section 12.B. (Note: this is unanimously recommended by the Westwood Design Review Board.) AGREE