

WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 13, 2011
WESTWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
10822 WILSHIRE BLVD.
LOS ANGELES, CA 90024

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Jerry Brown called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. Board members in attendance were Connie Boukidis, Jerry Brown, Lisa Chapman, David Crew, Roozbeh Farahanipour, Brent Gaisford, Toni Gray, Mark Herd, Stephen Resnick, Clinton Schudy, Kurt Smalberg, Steven Somers, Michael Stajura, Sptt Whittle, and Laura Winikow. Board members absent were Terry Pullan, Yoni Riemer, Mark Rogo, and George Torbay. There were also 22 stakeholders and guests in attendance.

2. APPROVAL OF MARCH 9, 2011 MINUTES

David Crew moved to approve the minutes as written. Brent Gaisford seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. (Yes: 15, No: 0, Abstain: 0)

3. COMMENTS BY PUBLIC OFFICIALS

Eric Norton of Councilmember Koretz's office spoke about an upcoming City Council bill which would make it easier to cite developers for administrative violations.

Ellen Isaacs of State Assemblyman Mike Feuer's office announced that Assemblyman Feuer is co-sponsoring AB 52, a bill that would give the Department of Insurance the power to reject excessive rate increases by health care insurers.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Metro representative Kasey Shuda announced that there will be construction ongoing at the I-405 Wilshire on-ramps and off-ramps which will affect traffic in the area. Ramps will be closed at some point at night for this purpose.

Several stakeholders spoke on issues, including UCLA's proposed redevelopment of student housing at Landfair and Glenrock.

5. STANDING COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

The Executive Committee has not met.

Michael Stajura announced in place of Budget Committee Chair Yoni Riemer, who was not present, that approving in full all of the grant requests on the agenda would result in going over budget.

The Land Use Committee has met with representatives of Soleil, a restaurant on Westwood Blvd. which wishes to expand into existing space and is seeking three changes: longer hours, a full alcohol license in place of wine & beer only, and a parking variance. The Land Use Committee's recommendation was to support longer hours and full alcohol license but to deny the parking variance. After some discussion, Brent Gaisford moved to approve all three of the requests: longer hours, full alcohol license, and a parking variance. David Crew seconded the motion. The motion carried. (Yes: 9, No: 3, Abstain: 3)

The Outreach and Communications Committee had its first meeting two weeks ago. Webmaster Kevin will be holding a training session for committee members so that they can post on the website directly.

The Transportation and Traffic Committee has not met.

6. NEIGHBORHOOD PURPOSES GRANT

Stakeholder Andy Horn requested \$5,000 for Warner Avenue Elementary to complete a technology update. The budget and details of the request was made available to the public for review, comment, and consideration.

7. NEIGHBORHOOD PURPOSES GRANT

Stakeholder Jennifer Wells Green of the Hammer Museum requested \$5,000 to fund "Family Flicks", a monthly free showing of new and classic family-friendly movies at the Hammer. The budget and details of the request was made available to the public for review, comment, and consideration.

8. NEIGHBORHOOD PURPOSES GRANT

Stakeholder Steve Sann requested \$5,000 to fund Westwood Live, a new monthly event in Westwood Village starting in April. The budget and details of

the request was made available to the public for review, comment, and consideration.

9. WOMP

Stakeholder Steve Sann stated that WOMP's costs have been allocated differently since the last meeting when he made his grant proposal.

10. WWNC DISASTER PREPAREDNESS FAIR/GRANT APPROVAL MOTION

Michael Stajura has arranged for the fair to be held May 22, 2011 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Westwood Gardens Park, the Westwood Library Community Room, and on Glendon between Wellworth Avenue and the Community Room with a street closure. The library parking structure's 60 spaces will be available and CVS is being negotiated with to possibly provide parking in their lot. Neighbors are opposed to relaxed street parking for the day. He said that the fair was asking for \$5,000 in funding instead of the \$6,000 previously mentioned.

It was decided to hear all grant proposals and funding requests before voting to fund any of them because of the budgetary issues. After discussion on funding the three grant proposals and the Disaster Preparedness Fair, Jerry Brown moved that WWNC approve the grant proposals in the amount of \$3,500 each to Warner Avenue Elementary, the Hammer Museum, and Westwood Live; and to allocate \$4,500 to the Disaster Preparedness Fair. Kurt Smalberg seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. (Yes: 14, No: 0, Abstain: 0). Clinton Schudy recused himself from the vote.

11. DISASTER SUPPLIES

Michael Stajura stated that he realized there is no money in the budget for disaster supplies.

12. OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATIONS

Lisa Chapman moved that WWNC approve \$300 for a website training session for the Outreach and Communications Committee members so that they will be able to manage the site on their own. Jerry Brown seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. (Yes: 15, No: 0, Abstain: 0)

13. PURCHASE OF MICROPHONE AND SPEAKERS FOR BOARD MEETINGS

Jerry Brown decided that if the stakeholders and guests sit closer to the board at meetings there is no need for a sound system, plus it would save WWNC money not to purchase one.

14. WESTWOOD COMMUNITY DESIGN REVIEW BOARD

After a brief discussion on the topic, Jerry Brown moved to vote on the following motion:

“Whereas the Westwood Community Design Review Board has members whose terms have expired, and

Whereas the Westwood Community Design Review Board has members who do not meet the legal requirements of the Los Angeles Municipal Code or Westwood Design Review Board Ordinance, and

Whereas the Westwood Community Design Review Board does not meet in the Westwood Specific Plan area,

Therefore the Westwood Neighborhood Council calls on Councilmember Paul Koretz to immediately nominate qualified candidates to replace those whose terms have expired or who do not meet the legal requirements to serve on the Westwood Community Design Review Board; and direct the Planning Department to immediately relocate DRB meetings into the Westwood Specific Plan area or the Westwood Community Plan area.”

David Crew seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. (Yes: 15, No: 0, Abstain:0)

15. COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Connie Boukidis moved to file the following motion which was approved at WWNC’s December 8, 2010 board meeting as a Community Impact Statement:

“Be it resolved that the Westwood Neighborhood Council supports the Century City Subway Station on the Purple Line/Westside Subway Extension to be located at Constellation Boulevard and Avenue of the Stars because it is the hub of Century City offices, condominiums, shops, hotels, and restaurants and will serve the greatest amount of commuters, shoppers, tourists, and residents.”

Laura Winikow seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. (Yes: 15, No: 0, Abstain: 0)

16. COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENTS

Stephen Resnick stated that Jerry Brown, as President, should appoint five board members who are authorized to submit Community Impact Statements on behalf of WWNC when approved by its board. Jerry Brown appointed himself as President, Vice President Toni Gray, Secretary Stephen Resnick, Treasurer Yoni Riemer, and Land Use Chair Connie Boukidis as the five board members authorized to submit a CIS.

17. AD HOC BYLAW COMMITTEE UPDATE

Article V in the bylaws, which covers board composition and elections, was not discussed at the March board meeting so there was an extremely lengthy discussion on this issue that went on for more than an hour between board members and stakeholders. Discussion centered mainly on how many homeowners versus renters should have seats on the board. DONE has a deadline of May 5th for bylaw amendments to be submitted for approval, so it was decided that a vote had to be taken or a special meeting would have to be called in order to discuss it more and then take a vote.

Clinton Schudy moved that WWNC make the board a 21 member board, adding back two renter seats which were removed in the Article V bylaws amendments; and to approve all other bylaw amendments recommended by the Bylaw Committee. Laura Winikow seconded the motion, which carried. (Yes: 9, No: 2, Abstain: 3) Michael Stajura had to leave early, so he did not vote.

18. GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

Stephen Resnick said he is in the process of coordinating a day to meet with Stakeholder Roxane Stern, who has volunteered to be on the committee.

19. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

President Jerry Brown adjourned the meeting at 10:20 p.m.

The next board meeting is May 11, 2011 at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debby Wagger
Recording Secretary