

WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 11, 2012
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, Joseph Gilliard, Stephen Resnick, Mark Rogo, Tom Schneider, Kurt Smalberg, Steve Somers, Michael Stajura, Scott Whittle, and Laura Winikow. Board members absent were Toni Gray, Mark Herd, Clinton Schudy, and George Torbay. There were also 22 stakeholders and guests in attendance.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Scott Whittle moved to approve the November minutes. Roozbeh Farahanipour seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

3. COMMENTS BY PUBLIC OFFICIALS

Councilmember Koretz's Planning Deputy Chris Koontz introduced himself and said he will be discussing various issues as they come up during the meeting.

LAPD Senior Lead Officer Chris Ragsdale passed out community alerts and contact information. He said that there has been an increase in property crime such as burglaries and car break-ins.

State Assembly Member Mike Feuer's representative Ellen Isaacs explained some of the bills he has introduced in Sacramento recently and passed out literature describing the bills. She also discussed the "Rampture", the closing of two Wilshire Blvd. freeway ramps at a time for up to 90 days, scheduled to start in March. Traffic mitigation plans are being worked on now and there will be a community meeting 30 days before the closure.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Stakeholder Steve Sann announced that a significant court decision came down on December 14, 2011 which was a victory for the community, regarding the Gayley/Landfair project in the North Village. The project had been to the

DRB four times and was never approved, but on her way out former Director of City Planning Gail Goldberg approved it. Bonus density was granted for affordable housing units but the units in the project went from four down to one. The court agreed with the community and said that provisions of the SB1818 law had been granted without review, and that the City of Los Angeles was playing “three card monte” and not following its own rules.

5. STANDING COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

The Executive Committee has not met.

Budget Committee Chair Brent Gaisford said that WWNC has spent \$17,000 so far this fiscal year including grants and that he received a thank you note from Friends of the Library for the grant it received.

Land Use Committee Chair Connie Boukidis said that the committee met this afternoon. They heard a presentation on 800 Degrees, a new pizza restaurant in Westwood Village which is requesting a CUP for wine & beer sales. The committee unanimously recommended supporting this request under three conditions: that the restaurant serves no pitchers of beer, doesn't have discounted alcohol, and doesn't permit take-out orders of alcohol without food also. Connie Boukidis moved, “Does the Westwood Neighborhood Council support 800 Degrees Pizzeria Westwood's requests:

1) for a Conditional Use Permit, pursuant to the provisions of Section 12.24-W,1 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code, to allow the sale and dispensing of beer and wine only for on-site consumption, including accessory off-site consumption (take-out sales), in conjunction with a 2,900 square-foot restaurant, accomodating 62 seats interior and 6 seats on the sidewalk, with hours of operation from 10 a.m. to 2 a.m. daily, on property located in the C4-2D-P Zone.” The board voted unanimously in favor of supporting 800 Degrees' request for a CUP to sell wine & beer under the three conditions.

The Land Use Committee also heard from Target, which is moving into the vacated space underneath Ralphs and is scheduled to open in July 2012. It has made a request to sell alcohol at its store. Connie Boukidis moved, “Does the WWNC support Target Corporation's requests: 1) pursuant to LAMC Sections 12.24-W,1, a Conditional Use to allow the sale of a full line of alcoholic beverages for off-site consumption in conjunction with a proposed 93,818 square-foot Target Store with hours of operation and alcohol sales from 8 a.m. - 11 p.m. (Monday - Saturday) and 8 a.m. - 10 p.m. (Sunday) in the C42D-O Zone; and 2) pursuant to Section 21081.1(c)(3) of the California Public Resources Code, to adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration (ENV-2011-2042-MND) for the above-referenced project.” There followed a lengthy conversation between the board, stakeholders, Target's lawyer and a representative from its La Cienega store, and Councilmember Koretz's Planning Deputy Chris Koontz

about whether to support Target's request to sell alcohol or not. The board voted Yes: 2, No: 10, and Abstain: 3 on the motion, which was defeated.

Outreach Committee Chair Lisa Chapman said that the committee is hiring webmaster Kevin at \$375 for five hours of website maintenance per year and that they want more web space.

Public Safety Chair Michael Stajura said that the committee hasn't met yet but he would like to add a WRAC update to the next meeting's agenda

6. NEIGHBORHOOD PURPOSE GRANTS

Lisa Chapman spoke about NPG applications, which she said shouldn't request more than \$5,000. The problem is that for amounts above \$5,000 there is more paperwork required, more bureaucracy involved, and getting the money takes much longer. If the money is held up, it may disappear if it doesn't get used because if grant approval is uncertain then that money can't be granted to anyone else either. Emerson Middle School made a request larger than \$5,000 which means a contract with DONE must be signed. Lisa has been in contact with Emerson parent Dara Williams, who wasn't aware of this. Emerson is interviewing someone for the music position now. Dara Williams told Lisa that if there is no contract by March, Emerson will accept \$5,000 instead of the larger amount originally granted. Planning Deputy Chris Koontz said that the contract must be sent to the City Attorney's office and the office has one attorney who goes over contracts.

Jerry Brown moved, "WWNC reduces Emerson Middle School's grant from \$8,000 to \$5,000." Michael Stajura seconded the motion. The board voted Yes: 5, No: 10 and the motion was defeated.

7. DONE GRANT GUIDELINE PROPOSAL

Mark Rogo and Laura Winikow formed an ad hoc committee to look into grant guidelines. Mark Rogo reported that they met with Amber Meshack of DONE and looked at other NC's rules. The conclusion was that three things are necessary:

1. Guidelines to smooth the process through City Hall
2. Strict rules should be laid out
3. Rules should be posted in writing on the website

For grants under \$300, a full board vote isn't needed. For grants between \$300 and \$5,000 a full board vote is required and for more than \$5,000 a contract is also required. Jerry Brown recommended that a vote on this be postponed until the next meeting so that board members have time to inform themselves on the subject.

8. NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL ELECTION ALTERNATIVES SURVEY

Mayor Villaraigosa wants to postpone the NC elections until 2014 because of budgetary issues and the City Clerk sent out a survey to all NC's to get their opinion on alternatives. The City Clerk's survey was supposed to be completed by January 6th but Jerry Brown got an extension for WWNC. Jerry went through the questions on the survey with the board.

Question 1: The board voted yes unanimously. They are willing to postpone elections until 2014. (With a yes vote, question 2 can be skipped.)

Question 3: The board voted unanimously to select the Office of the City Clerk as the first option to administer their election. Jerry Brown moved that, "WWNC has no second choice of who to have conduct their elections." Connie Boukidis seconded the motion. The board voted Yes: 9, No: 5, Abstain: 1. The motion carried.

Question 4: Jerry Brown moved that, "The WWNC board prefers an at-polls election." Steve Resnick seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Question 5: Steve Resnick moved that "WWNC will not answer question 5." Kurt Smalberg seconded the motion. The board voted yes unanimously.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:29 p.m.