

WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 8, 2012

WESTWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

10822 WILSHIRE BLVD.

LOS ANGELES, CA 90024

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Jerry Brown called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m. Board members in attendance were Connie Boukidis, Jerry Brown, Lisa Chapman, David Crew, Brent Gaisford, Mark Herd, Stephen Resnick, Mark Rogo, Tom Schneider, Clinton Schudy, Kurt Smalberg, Michael Stajura, George Torbay, Scott Whittle, and Laura Winikow. Board members absent were Roozbeh Farahanipour, Joseph Gilliard, Toni Gray, and Steve Somers. There were also 14 stakeholders and guests in attendance.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Scott Whittle moved to approve the January minutes. Kurt Smalberg seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

3. COMMENTS BY PUBLIC OFFICIALS

Historic Resources Department volunteer Megan spoke about community input on historical material from Westwood. As part of Survey L.A., the department would like to identify historic buildings which haven't been identified yet, and to collect any other historical material. She left brochures and forms, and said information can be submitted through the website.

CD5 Representative Sarah Mallory said that there has been no progress made on neighborhood council elections, and that Westwood will remain intact and in CD5 under Councilmember Koretz under the proposed redistricting plans.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jumpstart UCLA representatives Ayla Stern and John Loden explained that their organization is a branch of a national non-profit which deals with early childhood education. The organization trains and sends UCLA students out to seven free preschools across the westside to work with lower income children. Jumpstart UCLA will be holding a literacy festival on May 12, 2012 at UCLA and requested WWNC's help with publicity and referrals of other organizations which may want to participate in the festival. Lisa Chapman will post the festival information on the website.

Stakeholder Steve Sann announced that the Westwood Village BID has contracted with PATH (People Assisting the Homeless) for \$45,000 worth of services this year to help with the homeless problem in Westwood Village.

5. STANDING COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

The Executive Committee has no report.

Treasurer Brent Gaisford announced that WWNC has spent \$18,500 and has \$22,000 remaining for the rest of the fiscal year. He told the board he will be resigning from WWNC after the June meeting so a new treasurer will need to be chosen.

Michael Stajura requested that Kate Anderson, director of Children Now, and a board member of Mar Vista Community Council, be allowed to speak at this point due to time constraints (originally item 8 on the agenda). The board agreed.

Kate Anderson explained that Children Now is a 501c3 non-profit group which prioritizes children's health care and education in public policy. She asked the board to pass a resolution joining the movement.

Stephen Resnick moved to accept the following resolution:

“Whereas, our society's future depends on enhancing the lives of today's children; and

Whereas an unprecedented level of untapped people power exists for kids through countless organizations serving them and unparalleled goodwill towards them; and

Whereas, the voices of those concerned about children's well-being have been disconnected, making it unnecessarily difficult for children's policy issues to get the attention the public desires vis-a-vis the many better organized and more powerful interest groups vying for policymakers' attention; and

Whereas, the Children's Movement of California, spearheaded by Children Now, is connecting all those who want to change this unfortunate dynamic by leveraging their collective force to generate the major policy changes kids need; and

Whereas, cities and commissions and school boards up and down the state as well as non-profits, community organizations, businesses, and faith-based communities are joining the Children's Movement; and

Whereas, joining the Children's Movement simply signifies support for prioritizing children's health and education in public policymaking and does not indicate support for any specific policy; and

Whereas, joining the Children's Movement allows the Westwood Neighborhood Council to connect to the hundreds of organizations that have signed on already:

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Westwood Neighborhood Council hereby joins the Children's Movement of California.”

Tom Schneider seconded the motion. Michael Stajura recused himself from the vote. The motion carried unanimously.

For the Land Use & Planning Committee (LUPC), Stephen Resnick gave an update on a hearing for 1650 Veteran Avenue, which is a building with 23 condominium units and one apartment, and the owner wants to convert the apartment into a condominium. This variance could have been applied for earlier but never was. There is no illegal unit and the building has the required parking. The case was sent to the Department of Building & Safety.

LUPC Chair Connie Boukidis said that the developer of the Lindbrook/Gayley lot showed a rendition of the proposed project. There is a hearing on this project on February 29th. It could come up for a vote at WWNC's March meeting. She also said that the 613 S.Gayley Avenue project is one which has already been approved and there is only a question about the route which will

be used to haul away the dirt, but there was no information on which possible routes are being considered.

Outreach & Communications Committee Chair Lisa Chapman said that Michael Stajura has updated Google addresses and Kevin is working on the email issue.

Public Safety Committee Chair Michael Stajura said that the other committee members are David Crew, Roozbeh Farahanipour, Clinton Schudy, and Laura Winikow. The committee has decided to meet on the 4th Wednesday of every other month, unless otherwise warranted.

Michael passed along information from LAPD Officer Ragsdale: West Fest LA, which is a fundraiser for West LAPD youth programs, will be held on July 28, 2012.

Michael said that WRAC is of the opinion that NC elections could be held but not before September 2012. The question is how because there is no process or standardization yet.

The City of Santa Monica is planning to build a transit village at Bergamot Station and develop a 140 acre parcel near Cloverfield and Olympic Blvds. with a large office building, some condominiums, and not enough parking. The 140 acres is made up of lots with different owners so Santa Monica wants it to be approved piecemeal, without any master plan. WRAC has proposed the Bergamot Station Draft EIR. Michael moved to adopt the Bergamot Station Draft EIR, as follows:

“In regard to the regional impacts that will result from multiple large development projects pending in the 140-acre Bergamot Area in Santa Monica as shown on the attached Exhibit “1”, including the 7-acre development known as the Hines Bergamot Transit Village at 26th and Olympic Boulevard in Santa Monica, WRAC supports review and comment on the project’s Draft

Environmental Impact Report by the City of Los Angeles, by and through its City Attorney, City Council, responsible City departments, and CalTrans; and

Further, because the 140-acre Bergamot Area is presently being planned by the City of Santa Monica under a HUD grant, WRAC supports the need for a comprehensive EIR that fully considers the regional impacts on the City of Los Angeles and that takes into account the cumulative impact of all the major development projects pending in this area as shown on Exhibits “1” and “2”; and

WRAC recommends that all neighborhood and community councils that have not already done so vote at their next meeting to have one or more members act as a liaison with the nonprofit group known as the Santa Monica Coalition for a Livable City (www.smclc.org) in order to be kept apprised of the Hines project DEIR and the other issues raised in this motion.”

Connie Boukidis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

6. DONE GRANT GUIDELINE PROPOSAL

Mark Rogo and Laura Winikow put together a document for a procedure to handle Neighborhood Grant Proposals. After discussion, Kurt Smalberg moved to accept the proposal. Connie Boukidis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. The guidelines will be posted on WWNC’s website.

7. VOLUNTARY CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT CONDITIONS

Jerry Brown discussed Barney’s Beanery in Westwood Village wanting to delete one of the CUP conditions it agreed to previously, regarding having happy

hours, and the zoning administrator's decision that alcohol is not the City's purview so this voluntary condition can't be enforced. The issue of the enforceability of voluntary CUP conditions is much broader than that and opinion on their enforceability is divided. CD5 Representative Sarah Mallory said that they are waiting for the City Attorney's office to give clarification on this matter so that there can be a city-wide standard. There followed a discussion between board members and stakeholders centering on the deleterious effects that would follow if voluntary CUP conditions are unenforceable.

Jerry Brown moved that, "Westwood Neighborhood Council wants voluntary conditions to be part of the CUP application process and once the conditions have been accepted and the application is approved, those conditions are enforceable." Stephen Resnick seconded the motion.

Clinton Schudy moved to amend the motion by adding the following paragraph to it: "Westwood Neighborhood Council opposes an applicant volunteering conditions to gain community support and then, at a later stage, apply to have those volunteered conditions removed without demonstrating to the community a justifiable change of circumstances." Michael Stajura seconded, and it carried unanimously.

A vote on the full motion was taken, "Westwood Neighborhood Council wants voluntary conditions to be part of the CUP application process and once the conditions have been accepted and the application is approved, those conditions are enforceable. Westwood Neighborhood Council opposes an applicant volunteering conditions to gain community support and then, at a later stage, apply to have those volunteered conditions removed without demonstrating to the community a justifiable change of circumstances."

The motion carried unanimously.

The next Barney's Beanery hearing is next Wednesday, February 15th, at 4:30 p.m. at the Medina Building.

8. MAYOR'S BUDGET SURVEY

Jerry Brown announced that the Mayor's budget survey is available for input online. David Crew encouraged everyone to take the survey.

9. ADJOURNMENT

President Jerry Brown adjourned the meeting at 9:07 p.m.