

WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MINUTES

FEBRUARY 13, 2019

BELMONT VILLAGE SENIOR LIVING, 10475 WILSHIRE BLVD. LOS ANGELES, CA 90024

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Lisa Chapman called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Board members in attendance were Cyrus Baraghoush, Connie Boukidis, Sandy Brown, Lisa Chapman, Roozbeh Farahanipour, Philip Gabriel, Ann Hayman, David Lorango, Mark Rogo, Stephen Resnick, and Scott Whittle. Members excused were Marcello Robinson and Laura Winikow. A quorum was present. There were 20 stakeholders and guests present.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

This agenda item was taken out of order, after agenda item 12. An addendum was added to agenda item 11 in the January 9, 2019 minutes, and the amended minutes were approved unanimously.

3. COMMENTS BY PUBLIC OFFICIALS

- A. County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl's representative Erin Schneider gave an update on legislation by the Board of Supervisors and described the recent Homeless Connect Day held in Los Feliz.
- B. SLO Chris Ragsdale gave an update on crime statistics. Year-to-date, robberies were up 15%, residential burglaries were up 35.5 % and instances of grand theft auto went up from one to seven. Two officers from West L.A. Traffic Division talked about what they do and answered questions.
- C. UCLA representative Marco Perez announced that the UC Regents will be on campus March 12th to 14th so there will be extra security during that time.
- D. U.S. Congressman Ted Lieu's representative Janet Turner announced the Congressional Institute's art contest for high school students.
- E. Mayor Garcetti's new representative, Ami Fields-Meyer, introduced himself and gave a few updates from the Mayor's office.

4. DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT

DONE representative Jose Galdamez passed out copies of policy guideline updates. Jose relayed a message from Renee at the City Clerk's office that the Westwood Recreation Center is not available for WWNC's election. Another location will have to be found.

5. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Two representatives from UCLA's Mobile Clinic project for the homeless would like to partner with WWNC on this. Lisa Chapman invited them to attend the next Homeless Task Force meeting and recommended contacting Donovan in Westwood Village through the BID.

6. CONNECT DAY IN WESTWOOD

- A. Proposed event for those in need and experiencing homelessness in the community
County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl's representative Erin Schneider described the recent Homeless Connect Day held in Los Feliz, and explained what might be done for the upcoming event in Westwood. The tentative date is April 24, 2019.

7. TRANSIT ORIENTED COMMUNITY (TOC) ORDINANCE

- A. Discussion about the ordinance that allows developers incentives for housing developments near transit centers

CD5 Planning Deputy Hagu Soloman-Cary gave an overview of the TOC ordinance and answered question. It includes a three-tier system of developer incentives. This ordinance came about because of the passage of Measure JJJ. It was developed by the Director of City Planning and is not in the City Council's purview. These projects are by-right and override the specific plans.

8. WWNC—CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR VACANT SEATS

A. Discussion in regard to At Large and Homeowner Seats and when to call for applications

Lisa Chapman moved, "WWNC will not post the two vacant seats due to time constraints and will wait until election time to fill the seats unless approached by someone who is interested." Philip Gabriel seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

9. NORTH WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL GRIEVANCES

A. Update on grievances filed against the NWWNC and next steps per conversation with Seme Park (Director of Neighborhood Councils)

President Lisa Chapman reported that she had a conversation with Seme Park, in which Lisa maintained that NWWNC's December 2018 LUPC vote should be vacated because the agenda wasn't posted and Seme claimed that even though it wasn't posted until after the meeting, it still counts. NWWNC sent the posting but DONE didn't post it until after the meeting was held. The City Attorney's position is that it is up to DONE to enforce its own policies, which means there are no checks and balances in the system. Sandy Brown will try to set up a meeting with Councilmember David Ryu in order to contact the Mayor's office about the problems with DONE.

10. LOS ANGELES HOMELESS COUNT

Lisa Chapman reported that 115 volunteers participated in the count. There was an incident in Westwood Park where a park ranger asked homeless people to leave.

11. THE AGORA PROJECT/900 HILGARD VOTE

A. The WWNC will vote yay or nay to vacate previous Agora Project/900 Hilgard item and board vote from January 9, 2019 board meeting.

Lisa Chapman and Sandy Brown spoke to Steve Houchin in the City Attorney's office and were told that vacating the vote was not required. A vote to affirm or change is sufficient.

12. THE AGORA PROJECT/900 HILGARD

A. Discussion about the Agora Project at 900 Hilgard. Possible introduction of motion to either support or not support this project. Both pro and con groups have been invited to participate in this discussion.

Afriat Consulting and Aaron Green were invited but declined to attend. Save Hilgard Avenue representative Esther Magna discussed what has transpired since the January meeting and requested that WWNC oppose the project. Four HOAs in Westwood recently passed motions opposing the project. Save Hilgard Avenue has assembled a broad coalition and will be sending a petition to CD5. Representatives from Save Hilgard Avenue attended the North Westwood Neighborhood Council (NWWNC) meeting last week. They had requested to be on NWWNC's agenda but got no response. At the meeting NWWNC board members were so rude to them that the DONE representative apologized. They also attended a USAC meeting at UCLA, where they were put on the agenda along with the Agora Project. No vote was taken at that meeting since there was no quorum.

Scott Whittle moved, “WWNC validates the vote taken at the January 9, 2019 meeting to oppose The Agora Project/900 Hilgard.” Ann Hayman seconded and the motion carried by a vote of Yes: 9, No: 0, and Abstain: 1 (David Lorango). Lisa Chapman recused herself from the vote out of an abundance of caution.

13. FULL AND FAIR FUNDING OF OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS RESOLUTION

A. Discussion and possible action to submit Community Impact Statement on Council File #: 19-0002-S12 to adopt the resolutions

Connie Boukidis moved the following motion, seconded by Ann Hayman and carried unanimously.

FULL AND FAIR FUNDING OF OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS RESOLUTION

COUNCIL FILE #19-0002-S12

City Council member Joe Buscaino has submitted the above-referenced resolution calling for Full and Fair Funding of our public schools. Council Members Mike Bonin and Marqueece Harris-Dawson seconded it. Among others, the California School Boards Association has gained similar adoption by the 31st District PTA, the California State Democratic Party, and most school districts in the State. The resolution was referred to the Rules, Elections and Inter-Governmental Relations Committee chaired by Council President Herb Wesson. That body meets next on the 3rd Friday of the month (2/15/19) at 9am.

Assuming it passes out of there, it will then go back to the full body for adoption. this is the link to the City Clerk’s tracking

system: <https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=19-0002-S12>

MOTION:

THE WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL ADOPTS THE FULL AND FAIR FUNDING RESOLUTION (COUNCIL FILE #19-0002-S12) AND URGES THE ENTIRE LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL TO ADOPT SAME:

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must first have been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, California has the fifth largest economy in the world, and the largest Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of any state in the nation; and

WHEREAS, despite California’s leadership in the global economy, the state falls in the nation’s bottom quintile on nearly every measure of public K-12 school funding and school staffing; and

WHEREAS, California ranks 45th nationally in the percentage of taxable income spent on education, 41st in per-pupil funding, 45th in pupil-teacher ratios and 48th in pupil-staff ratios; and

WHEREAS, K-12 school funding has not substantially increased, adjusting for inflation, for more than a decade; and WHEREAS, under the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), state funding for K-12 schools has only this recently returned to levels predating the Great Recession of 2007; and

WHEREAS, the modest revenue increases since the implementation of LCFF have been eroded by rapidly increasing costs for health care, pensions, transportation and utilities; and

WHEREAS, California funds schools at roughly \$1,961 per student less than the national average, which translates to approximately \$3,462 per student when adjusted for California being a high-cost state; and WHEREAS, California trails the average of the top 10 states by almost \$7,000 in per-pupil funding; and

WHEREAS, to close opportunity and achievement gaps and create a public school system that offers consistently high levels of education, the State must provide appropriate resources to meet student need;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2019-20 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for any legislative or administrative action that would fund California public schools at the national average or higher by the year 2020, and at a level that is equal to or above the average of the top 10 states nationally by 2025 and to maintain, at a minimum, this level of funding until otherwise decreed.

14. STANDING COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

A. Executive – no report

B. Budget

1. Approval of Monthly Expenditures

President Lisa Chapman listed the expenditures to be approved: For January staffing services \$132.06, \$37.13 January printed material, \$1,800 for yearly website maintenance, and \$36.16 for February's printed material. The January MER included \$39,790.34 at the beginning of the month and \$39,753.21 at the end with \$386.16 in outstanding items. Both the January MER and the expenditures were approved unanimously.

C. Land Use & Planning – no report

D. Outreach & Communications – no report

E. Homeless Task Force – no report

F. Budget Advocates – no report

G. Public Safety/ Transportation & Parking

Philip Gabriel reported that there are many more potholes after the rains, which he is keeping an eye on. The timing of traffic lights on Wilshire should be adjusted to improve traffic flow, which will require a meeting with LADOT.

H. Bylaws– no report

I. WRAC

Sandy Brown stated that SB50 should be on WRAC's agenda. Roozbeh Farahanipour has not received any email from WRAC though he is a representative. DONE representative Jose Galdamez will get him on the list.

J. Zoning & Violations – no report

14. ADJOURNMENT

President Lisa Chapman adjourned the meeting at 9:31 p.m.