

WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 19, 2014

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 Dean Abell, Sarah Austerlitz, Angus Beverly, Connie Boukidis, Jerry Brown, Lisa Chapman, Roozbeh Farahanipour, Armen Hadjimanoukian, Samuel Haws, Mark Herd, Ryan Krebs, Stephen Resnick, Michael Stajura, Scott Whittle, and Laura Winikow. Members excused were Carole Cohen, Jolie Duhon, Mark Rogo, and Clinton Schudy. A quorum was present. There were 19 stakeholders and guests present.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Scott Whittle moved to approve the minutes of the February 12, 2014 board meeting. Dean Abell seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

3. COMMENTS BY PUBLIC OFFICIALS

A. UCLA representative Rachel Brashier reported that UCLA is still in negotiations with the Veterans Administration (VA) over the baseball field on VA property. The Faculty Center had a hearing before PLUM on its nomination for designation as a historical structure but the matter was continued.

B. DONE Independent Election Administrator Alisa Smith said that April 3rd is the deadline for candidate signups. Lisa Chapman requested that WWNC's ballots be done the same way as last time, with Seats 18 and 19 to be combined and the top two vote getters to win. She also requested that WWNC be able to see the ballots before they are finalized to avoid mistakes.

C. West LAPD Senior Lead Officer Ragsdale reported that crime is down 7.5% compared to this time last year.

D. CD5 Director of Economic Development Katherine Hennigan announced that Councilmember Koretz will be at the Persian New Year festival on Westwood Blvd. on Sunday. The Councilmember is not supporting any study of bicycle lanes on Westwood Blvd. and Transportation Deputy Jay Greenstein will be holding a meeting on the issue in late April.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

5. STANDING COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

A. Executive

The Executive Board had no report.

B. Budget

Treasurer Laura Winikow reminded everyone that Neighborhood Purpose Grants (NPG) will be voted on at the next meeting. WWNC had budgeted \$2,500 for the Disaster Preparedness Fair but there will be no fair this year so the money can go towards NPGs or elections.

Laura moved, "If there are additional funds unspent prior to the end of the fiscal year the amount should be pro-rated among the NPGs not to exceed \$5,000 per NPG." Dean Abell seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

C. Land Use

Chair Connie Boukidis had no report.

Stakeholder Steve Sann said that UCLA is planning to take over the old DSW space on Gayley and got approval to not have the ground floor be retail. Originally UCLA had said that it would leave the ground floor for retail. Jerry Brown requested agendaization of this matter for the next meeting.

D. Outreach & Communications

1. Motion to approve that the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment will conduct a new board orientation (an hour and a half) at the first board meeting after elections to educate and train all board members

The motion was not voted on because it was not necessary.

E. Public Safety

Michael Stajura said that the recent earthquake should be a reminder for everyone to update their earthquake kits, plans, and supplies. Jerry Brown requested that

earthquake kit requirements and other information be posted on the website.

F. Traffic

Chair Angus Beverly had no report.

G. WRAC

WRAC representative Ryan Krebs reported that WRAC voted on a motion to require a fault study when developers proposed a new project. Jerry Brown requested agendaization of the WRAC motion for the next meeting.

6. BICYCLE LANES IN WESTWOOD

Jerry Brown sent the motion on this issue that was passed at the February meeting to Councilmember Koretz and received a reply from Transportation Deputy Jay Greenstein. Last month the UCLA representative said that UCLA had no position on the bicycle lanes but since then its position has changed.

UCLA Associate Director of Transportation David Karwaski Sr. announced that UCLA's position is that if no parking or traffic lanes are lost, it supports putting a bicycle lane on Westwood Blvd. from Wellworth to LeConte. Each traffic lane would be reduced from 14 feet wide to 11 feet wide in order to put a bicycle lane in between the parked cars and traffic lane. At UCLA, 6% of students and 3% of faculty commute by bicycle.

Jerry Brown said that there are too many buses and it would be dangerous. Lisa Chapman pointed out that buses take up more space than one traffic lane.

Stakeholder Steve Sann said that if this plan is implemented, the right turn lanes on Westwood Blvd. at Wilshire will be eliminated.

Dean Abell moved, “WWNC urges UCLA and Councilmember Koretz’s office to join it in opposing further exploration of a bicycle lane on Westwood Blvd. due to concerns of traffic and public safety. Instead we propose that LADOT explore alternative routes for safe bicycle transit.” Mark Herd seconded the motion. Connie Boukidis said the motion should be amended by switching the order of the words traffic and public safety. The following amended motion was voted on:

“WWNC urges UCLA and Councilmember Koretz’s office to join it in opposing further exploration of a bicycle lane on Westwood Blvd. due to concerns of public safety and traffic. Instead we propose that LADOT explore alternative routes for safe bicycle transit.” The motion carried by a vote of Yes: 11 and No: 4.

Stephen Resnick announced that there is a Community Planning Forum meeting on April 2nd at the Methodist Church on the code changes, mobility plan, and healthy city plan.

7. WESTWOOD ORGANIZED MEGA PROJECT

A. Motion to provide \$7,500 in support of neighborhood beautification projects

Stakeholders John Heidt and Steve Sann announced that the 5th annual WOMP will take place this year on May 3rd. Steve Sann said that WWNC needs a logo, which will appear on WOMP T-shirts. Laura Winikow requested agendaization of this item for the next meeting.

Michael Stajura moved, “WWNC will provide \$7,500 to WOMP for neighborhood beautification projects.” The motion was seconded by Scott Whittle and carried unanimously.

8. LAUSD COMMON CORE TECHNOLOGY PROJECT

A. Motion regarding the evaluation of, and funding for LAUSD technology programs

Connie Boukidis said that the representatives of the proposed motion could not attend tonight's meeting. Connie moved to vote on the motion, but no one seconded. The motion was tabled but will be agendized for the next meeting.

9. NORTH VILLAGE LIGHTING

A. Motion to increase lighting in the North Village

Armen Hadjimanoukian said that opportunistic crimes rose in February in the North Village because of several poorly lit streets. CD5 Director of Economic Development Katherine Hennigan will work with Armen, Angus Beverly, and the Bureau of Street Lighting and set up a meeting. The motion was not voted on.

10. IMPACT OF NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS

This topic was not discussed.

11. ADJOURNMENT

President Jerry Brown adjourned the meeting at 9:50 p.m.