

## WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

AUGUST 13, 2014

WESTWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 10822 WILSHIRE BLVD. LOS ANGELES, CA 90024

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

President Jerry Brown called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m. Board members in attendance were Dean Abell, Connie Boukidis, Jerry Brown, Sandy Brown, Lisa Chapman, Roozbeh Farahanipour, Aurelia Friedman, Mitchell Keiter, Stephen Resnick, Scott Whittle, and Laura Winikow. Members excused were Angus Beverly, Jacob Finn, Armen Hadjimanoukian, Marjan Jamshidi, Marcello Robinson, Mark Rogo, Eugene Tseng, and Austin Velez. A quorum was present. There were 19 stakeholders and guests present.

### 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Connie Boukidis moved to amend the minutes to correct an inaccuracy regarding the vote by the LUPC on conditions for Barbacoa's liquor license. Sandy Brown seconded and the amendment was approved unanimously with the exception of an abstention by Dean Abell. Connie Boukidis moved to amend the minutes to record a yes vote on the cell tower, seconded by Scott Whittle. The motion carried unanimously with the exception of an abstention by Dean Abell.

### 3. COMMENTS BY PUBLIC OFFICIALS

A. State Assemblymember Sebastian Ridley-Thomas' representative Scott Nelson reported that the Assemblymember attended a hearing on interaction between

police officers and the mentally ill, met with members of the Westwood Village BID to discuss the abuse of handicapped placards in the village, and met with Metro representatives to discuss the subway extension.

B. State Senator Ted Lieu's representative Janet Turner read a letter from the DMV about an action taken on handicapped placard abuse on June 26, 2014 in Westwood. Out of 167 people whose placards were looked at, 22 citations were given. Changing the laws governing handicapped placard parking is being considered. Requiring payment has made a big difference in parking at both UCLA and in Santa Monica.

Tomorrow night is an invitation-only hearing with officials from the ABC and the City Attorney's office to discuss how communities can put conditions on ABC licenses, what is legal, and what the City is allowed to do.

C. CD5 Economic Development Director Katherine Hennigan announced that Councilmember Koretz's office has moved to Wilshire Blvd. near Crescent Heights. The Councilmember will be attending Westwood Village BID's annual meeting next week on August 21st at 8:30 a.m. at the Geffen Playhouse and the grand opening of the AYSO synthetic turf field at Westwood Park on the same day at 11 a.m.

D. Mayoral Representative Daniel Tamm reported that Mayor Garcetti was in Sacramento today to lobby for expanded film tax credits and discuss water bond funding. The Mayor met with Governor Brown and legislators. The Mayor's Budget Day will take place on August 16th.

E. West LAPD Senior Lead Officer Chris Ragsdale reported that there have been some hot prowl burglaries in the North Village. The burglars are targeting students and entering through unlocked doors and windows. Laptops and small electronics have been taken. Package thefts from front porches and building lobbies have been occurring around the neighborhood.

F. SoCalGas representatives announced that pipes are being replaced and work on Sepulveda Blvd. will be starting later this month. A noise variance has been applied for so that the project can be worked on at night. Work will be ongoing during the hours of 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. The work should be finished before Thanksgiving.

#### 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Stakeholder Steve Sann made three comments. Tender Greens is moving into the old Acapulco building, which is a historic building. They will be reopening the patio which has been covered over. They will apply for a beer & wine license instead of a full liquor license.

None of the conditions that WWNC approved for the granting of Barbacoa's liquor license were upheld by the City so he has filed an appeal.

The nightly homeless population has increased in Westwood Village. Fifteen to twenty homeless people are sleeping in doorways which are private property.

#### 5. STANDING COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

A. Executive Committee--no report.

B. Budget

1. Approval of Monthly Expenditures

Treasurer Laura Winikow said that the annual \$1,200 fee for website maintenance can't be taken out of last year's budget but must come out of this year's. Scott Whittle moved that WWNC spend the \$1,200 for website maintenance with a second by Sandy Brown. The motion carried unanimously.

The July monthly expenditures were \$75 for facility setup, \$100 for facility rental, and \$41.64 and \$36.19 for copies, for a total of \$252.83 not including staffing service charges, which should not exceed \$200. Laura moved to approve the staffing service charges not to exceed \$200, seconded by Stephen Resnick, which carried unanimously.

Scott Whittle moved to approve the July expenses, seconded by Connie Boukidis, which carried unanimously.

2. Strategic Outreach Survey Vote

Treasurer Laura Winikow started to go over the questions on the survey but the board decided to finish the survey under the Outreach Committee report.

## C. Land Use

### 1. Gayley Fraternity Project Presentation

This topic was tabled for now.

### 2. DILU Project

Chair Connie Boukidis said that DILU representatives did not attend the LUPC meeting. Four members of the LUPC committee voted to support the appeal of the project.

DILU representatives reported that they are working with the City on parking and said that other restaurants on Gayley don't have designated parking spots. It is very expensive and they would like to use a valet service.

Connie Boukidis moved:

Be it resolved, that the Westwood Neighborhood Council supports the appeal of the DILU Project (Case # DIR-2014-1683-SPP) and calls on the Area Planning Commission to deny the Project Determination due to insufficient space for kitchen, seating, and parking for a full-scale restaurant.

Stephen Resnick seconded the motion. The motion carried with six yes votes by

Connie Boukidis, Jerry Brown, Sandy Brown, Roozbeh Farahanipour, Stephen Resnick, and Scott Whittle; two no votes by Dean Abell and Mitchell Keiter; and three abstentions by Lisa Chapman, Aurelia Friedman, and Laura Winikow.

#### D. Outreach & Communications

##### 1. Committee Meeting

Chair Lisa Chapman reported that at the meeting the committee discussed becoming more involved in community events and would like to get a banner for a table for such events.

##### 2. Business Cards

Eleven board members want business cards, with some wanting WWNC to pay for them and some willing to pay for their own.

##### 3. Strategic Outreach Survey Vote

Laura Winikow went through the questions on the survey. Connie Boukidis moved to approve the outreach assessment, seconded by Dean Abell, and the motion carried unanimously.

Lisa Chapman moved to approve the new Strategic Plan, seconded by Connie Boukidis. The motion carried unanimously.

E. Public Safety--there was no report.

F. Traffic--there was no report.

G. WRAC--there was no report.

## 6. NEIGHBORHOOD COMPLAINTS REGARDING THE W HOTEL

Lisa Chapman received multiple complaints about noise from Sunday pool parties during the summer at the W Hotel. She will be meeting with CD5 Economic Development Director Katherine Hennigan about zoning issues because the W doesn't have a permit for amplified sound. The police have been involved. Stakeholder and nearby resident Bob Gediman spoke about the parties and said that there are three issues: the hotel is out of compliance with noise regulations, the hotel claims to have permits but refuses to show them, and a search in 2008 turned up no permits. Residents have approached the hotel but got nowhere with management and complaints to the LAPD were passed between departments, so nothing has been done. W management was invited to tonight's meeting but declined to come.

## 7. HISTORIC PRESERVATION OF THE BULLOCK'S WESTWOOD BUILDING

### A. Introduction of Motion

Sandy Brown introduced the following motion:

Whereas, the 1951 Bullock's Westwood building at 10861 Weyburn Avenue was created by Welton Becket & Associates in a prize-winning Mid-Century Modern architectural design

that utilized a variety of contrasting building materials including concrete, fieldstone, Arizona mint stone, and custom-designed glazed ceramic decorative tiles for exterior cladding, together with clusters of specimen palm trees at building corners and other lush landscaping; and

Whereas, master architect Welton Becket is widely recognized as one of Southern California's most significant Modern architects of the 20th Century, whose works include Hollywood's iconic Capital Records Tower which was the world's first round office building, UCLA's legendary Pauley Pavilion, UCLA's Schoenberg Music Hall, the Century City Master Plan, and the world famous Los Angeles Music Center, including the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, Ahmanson Theater, and Mark Taper Forum, among many other landmark structures throughout Southern California; and

Whereas, the monumentally-scaled Bullock's Westwood building is listed in the Westwood Village Specific Plan as one of 46 Historic-Cultural Resource buildings in the Village, and is the most significant example of Post-War Modern architecture in Westwood Village that remains today, and its exterior is highly intact; and

Whereas, the Bullock's Westwood building was designated in a comprehensive 1985 Cultural Resource Documentation Report conducted for the City of Los Angeles as one of only ten buildings in Westwood Village eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, the nation's listing of its most important cultural treasures; and

Whereas, this 1985 Report specifically identified the clusters of specimen palm trees at building corners originally designed and planted in 1951 as a significant "character-defining feature" of the landmark Bullock's Westwood building, expressly noting that these



“clustered palms provide a suitably suburban and tropical vertical accent to the store”; and

Whereas, in 2001 a major rehabilitation of the Bullock's Westwood building by Kanner Architects, Pamela Burton & Co. Landscape Architecture, and Sussman-Prejza & Co. Environmental Graphic Design converted the former department store building into a multi-tenant retail center, and was awarded a Los Angeles Conservancy Preservation Award in 2002 for its sensitive adaptive reuse of the historic structure by taking care to ensure that any new exterior elements were compatible with the historic design; and

Whereas, in July 2014 most of the original 63-year-old specimen palm trees located in the geometric planting bed at the south façade on Weyburn Avenue were suddenly cut down and destroyed without any public notice, and without a legally-required "Certificate of Appropriateness" having been issued by the Director of Planning of the City of Los Angeles in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Rehabilitation, as required by the Westwood Village Specific Plan, the Westwood Community Plan, the City's General Plan, the Los Angeles Municipal Code, and the California Environmental Quality Act; and

Whereas, the Los Angeles Conservancy, joined by members of the Westwood Community Council, Westwood Neighborhood Council, Westwood Homeowners Association, Westwood Hills Property Owners Association, Holmby-Westwood Property Owners Association, North Westwood Village Residents Association, and Westwood-Holmby Historical Society all have demonstrated support for the Welton Becket-designed 1951 Bullock's Westwood building to be maintained in full compliance with all standards for historic preservation under the Westwood Village Specific Plan and all other applicable regulations of the City of Los Angeles and the State of California:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Westwood Neighborhood Council calls on the Westwood Community Design Review Board, the Director of Planning, and the Los Angeles City Council to require the full and immediate restoration and/or replacement in-kind of all of the character-defining specimen palm trees, the geometric planting bed at the south façade, and all other landscaped areas that have been destroyed or removed from the historic 1951 Bullock's Westwood property; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Westwood Neighborhood Council calls on the Westwood Community Design Review Board, the Director of Planning, and the City Council to require full compliance with all applicable laws and regulations, including the issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness, and all other required Environmental and Traffic studies as called for under the California Environmental Quality Act, including visual impacts, traffic impacts, impacts on pedestrian safety, impacts on cultural resources, and any other significant environmental impacts, before any other alterations are made to this historic cultural treasure in Westwood Village.

Connie Boukidis seconded the motion which carried with 10 yes votes and one abstention by Mitchell Keiter.

## 8. VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE FOR THE NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTION

Aurelia Friedman requested help with voter registration, suggesting an ad hoc committee and co-programming with UCLAx, with information to be posted on WWNC's website.

## 9. PARKING IN THE NORTH VILLAGE

### A. Introduction of motion to structure the way cars are parked

Aurelia Friedman introduced the following motion:

There is severe parking congestion in Westwood Village and its surrounding areas, such as the North Village of Westwood. Due to this congestion, the WWNC highly recommends that the Department of Street Services/Transportation add painted parking lines to streets in the North Village such as Gayley Avenue, Strathmore Avenue, and Veteran Avenue etc., to help structure the way cars park in order to alleviate this congestion.

The motion was seconded by Lisa Chapman and carried unanimously.

## 10. FOOD TRUCKS ON VACANT LOT IN THE VILLAGE

### A. Discussion and possible introduction of motion

CD5 Economic Development Director Katherine Hennigan said that CD5 is working with the Department of Building & Safety on the food truck issue. The City has a permanent injunction against enforcing laws against food trucks since 1996 because the City was sued and lost. Therefore the City has to proceed in a different way. The

Westwood Village Specific Plan forbids merchandising in open lots so that is a way to approach it.

## 11. WESTWOOD VILLAGE SPECIFIC PLAN

### A. Review of the Specific Plan

This topic was not discussed.

## 12. OLD BUSINESS: RESPONSE FROM COUNCILMEMBER KORETZ'S OFFICE REGARDING THE WWNC MOTION ABOUT THE WESTWOOD DESIGN REVIEW BOARD COMPOSITION

Jerry Brown spoke with CD5 Economic Development Director Katherine Hennigan about this. Katherine Hennigan reported that the Councilmember requested recommendations for appointees to two seats on the board. Jerry Brown will contact HOA presidents in the area for suggestions and anyone who has a recommendation should let him know.

## 13. IMPACT OF NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS

### A. Discussion of how to assess the impact/success (or lack thereof) of Neighborhood Councils and the Neighborhood Council system

This topic was not discussed.

#### 14. ADJOURNMENT

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