

WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

NOVEMBER 13, 2013

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 Dean Abell, Sarah Austerlitz, Angus Beverly, Jerry Brown, Lisa Chapman, Carole Cohen, Jolie Duhon, Roozbeh Farahanipour, Armen Hadjimanoukian, Ryan Krebs, Stephen Resnick, Mark Rogo, Michael Stajura, and Laura Winikow. Members excused were Connie Boukidis, Samuel Haws, Mark Herd, Clinton Schudy, and Scott Whittle. A quorum was present. There were 14 stakeholders and guests present.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Lisa Chapman moved to approve the October 9, 2013 meeting minutes, seconded by Michael Stajura; the motion carried unanimously.

3. COMMENTS BY PUBLIC OFFICIALS

UCLA representative Marco Perez announced a Beat USC Rally on November 26th on campus.

Budget Advocate Marcello Robinson asked for Westwood issues that he can bring to the meetings at City Hall, where the Budget Advocates are working on a white paper for the Mayor.

West LAPD Officer Hope gave an overview of crime in the neighborhood. Two transients are being sought for shoplifting and burglary. West LAPD is having a holiday food drive on November 24th. The food will be donated to shelters.

Stakeholder Steve Sann spoke on behalf of CD 5 Director of Economic Development Katherine Hennigan about a proposed bike lane on Westwood Blvd. All councils are opposed to a bike lane, which would necessitate removal of one traffic lane. Councilmember Koretz is opposed as well and has told the City Planning Commission that Westwood Boulevard is not to be studied for this project.

Neighborhood Legislature representative Crystal Litz explained the upcoming 2014 ballot initiative.

Palms NC board member Marquis Oliver explained what nextdoor.com is and recommended that Westwood have it. Michael Stajura concurred.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Steve Sann announced that Arts Restore LA is open in Westwood Village for two more weekends, from Thursday through Sunday, and is worth checking out.

Marcello Robinson said that the North Village is neglected and requested that WWNC spend some money to help fix its problems such as graffiti and terrible sidewalks.

Alex Johnson spoke on behalf of Sebastian Ridley-Thomas, a candidate in the upcoming special election for State Assembly.

5. STANDING COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

A. Executive

The Executive Committee had no report.

B. Budget

Treasurer Laura Winikow moved that WWNC approve \$124 for the rental of the post office box for next year. Angus Beverly seconded and the motion carried by a show of hands. Michael Stajura abstained from the vote.

C. Land Use

Laura Winikow said that the Stars Inn developer changed the plans and moved,

“ The WWNC now supports the project located at 10269 Santa Monica Boulevard in its current and final rendition, a building with four above-ground floors, guest parking, and 19 units, a project that shall be built and approved by the City of Los Angeles without invoking the density bonus options offered in the Los Angeles Municipal Code under the California State law commonly known as SB1818.”

Jerry Brown seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

D. Outreach & Communications

Chair Lisa Chapman said that the church is not available for the December 11th

meeting next month and proposed the 18th as an alternative. A tentative reservation will be made with the church for the 18th while Mark Rogo finds out if Blair House is available on December 11th.

E. Public Safety

Chair Michael Stajura said that the LAFD is very understaffed and it is a crisis. Not enough graduates are coming out of the two classes at the training academy to replace the firefighters who have left. He recommended funding more training academies. President Jerry Brown asked Michael to bring a motion on this issue to the next meeting.

F. Traffic

Chair Angus Beverly said that he was not sure what the scope of the committee would be yet as it has only met once but would like to coordinate with other committees. The committee should have a space on the website. Lisa Chapman will get the webmaster to work on it.

Lisa Chapman mentioned that the intersection at LeConte Avenue and Westwood Boulevard needs a left turn signal. Stakeholder Wolfgang Veith added that a right turn signal should be installed too because of the diagonal crosswalk.

G. WRAC

Representative Ryan Krebs introduced the following motions:

1. Updated Billboard Motion

“WRAC moves to advise the elected officials that any potential settlement agreement by and between the City of Los Angeles and any and all outdoor media companies with regards to any type of billboards should be vetted for a minimum of 90 days to all neighborhood councils, community councils, Alliances and HOA’s prior to council taking action.”

Jerry Brown seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Metro Rail Motion

“Resolved, the Westwood Neighborhood Council supports a Metro rail station on the Crenshaw Line (that could also serve as an additional station for the Green Line) at the Intermodal Transit Facility (ITF) proposed for LAX.”

Angus Beverly seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

3. Motion for Leadership on the Consolidation of City Departments and Funding
Code Enforcement

“WRAC supports the consolidation of departments, per Council File 13-0046. WRAC believes that to fully implement the consolidation, it is necessary to establish a

financing mechanism (or fee) to grow the Condition Compliance and Code Enforcement units. “

This motion was tabled.

4. Traffic and Parking Motion

“Resolved, the Westwood Neighborhood Council moves that Traffic and Parking requirements per SB 731 should be considered in the discussion and presentation of new building projects including all CEQA projects.”

This motion was tabled.

5. DWP FIT-100 Program

“WRAC votes to support additional cost evaluations for future branches of the FIT-100 program.”

This motion was tabled.

6. BOARD OF NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONERS/DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT

Jerry Brown introduced the following motions.

1. Elections

"The Department of Neighborhood Empowerment is to be permanently placed in charge of administering elections."

Dean Abell moved to modify the motion by appending:

"In the event it occurs, it is only with the understanding that the election of May 2014 is for an 18 month term to begin at the conclusion of the current two year term of duly elected members." Lisa Chapman seconded and it carried unanimously.

2. Training and Leadership Development (Part 1)

"Neighborhood Council board members be required to complete Ethics, Financial Policy, Sexual Harassment, and ADA Compliance training, and that the Department offer classes including, but not limited to leadership, City government basics, parliamentary procedures, land use, and candidate training."

Jolie Duhon moved to disagree with the motion, seconded by Dean Abell. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Training and Leadership Development (Part 2)

"There be a citywide standard period of time from date of seating, not to exceed 90 days, that a Board member will have to pass the required training, and that this be enforced by the Neighborhood Council bylaws, which shall prohibit voting on any matter coming before the

Neighborhood Council board. Inability of any board member(s) to vote for failure to timely complete training will not affect quorum."

Dean Abell moved to amend the motion to replace "90 days" with "180 days". Jolie Duhon seconded, and it carried unanimously.

4. Training and Leadership Development (Part 3 - Added Item)

NO OFFICIAL MOTION HERE, BUT COMMISSION ASKS FOR YOUR INPUT ON THE FOLLOWING: During discussion it was proposed that the Commission may amend the recommendation regarding training to include consequences for failure to complete the training within the allowed period of time. The ultimate consequence discussed was the removal by action of the Department of any offending board member.

Jerry Brown moved to disagree with the proposal, seconded by Michael Stajura. The motion carried by a show of hands.

5. Training and Leadership Development (Part 4 - Added Item)

NO OFFICIAL MOTION HERE, BUT COMMISSION ASKS FOR YOUR INPUT ON THE FOLLOWING: During discussion it was also proposed that the Commission may amend the recommendation regarding training to include Workplace Violence/Bullying Prevention training.

Jerry Brown moved to disagree with the proposal, seconded by Jolie Duhon. The motion

carried by a show of hands.

6. Early Notification System

"An Early Notification System be established by each city department, commission, and the City Council, and its committees to provide Neighborhood Councils with a minimum of 60 days notice of any proposed action.

For any proposed ballot measure or ordinance Neighborhood Councils must receive at least 60 days notice."

Dean Abell moved to approve the motion, seconded by Jolie Duhon. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Initiation of Council Files

"Neighborhood Councils should have the right to open Council files. No Neighborhood Council board member shall be required to file a financial disclosure form for a Neighborhood Council to open a Council file. There shall be no limit on the number of Council files that a Neighborhood Council may open each year."

Angus Beverly moved to approve the motion, seconded by Lisa Chapman. The motion carried unanimously.

8. Review of Delivery of City Services

"The Board of Neighborhood Commissioners, with the aid and advice of citywide Neighborhood Councils, will adopt policies establishing best practices for monitoring the delivery of City services."

Jerry Brown moved to approve the motion, seconded by Michael Stajura. The motion carried by a show of hands.

9. Community Impact Statements

"City agendas should once again include the full text of the brief Community Impact Statement (CIS) from each NC submitting one, with links to any background materials that were provided as support. Any time a CIS is, for whatever reason removed from a subsequent agenda, the City Clerk will send a notice to the Neighborhood Council."

Stephen Resnick moved to approve the motion, seconded by Michael Stajura. The motion carried by a vote of Yes: 13 and No: 1.

10. Neighborhood Councils Presenting at Public Meetings

"Official Neighborhood Council or Neighborhood Council Alliance representatives addressing the City Council, its committees, City commissions, and boards be granted up to 5 minutes of presentation time separate from general public comment, to present the official view of the Neighborhood Council Board or Alliance. Neighborhood Councils should receive priority as City entities and be called for comment before general public comment."

Lisa Chapman moved to approve the motion, seconded by Dean Abell. It carried unanimously.

11. Funding and Grants (Part 1)

"Unexpended Neighborhood Council funds should be kept in the Neighborhood Council system, received and administered by the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment."

Michael Stajura moved to approve the motion, seconded by Lisa Chapman. It carried by a show of hands.

12. Funding and Grants (Part 2)

"Neighborhood Councils should be allowed to provide funds to City departments provided that the equipment benefits stakeholders, that in addition to the initial requestor there is documentation of the need from a higher level of the department, and that the transfer is accompanied by an MOU, agreement, or a form similar to a neighborhood purposes grant."

Michael Stajura moved to approve the motion, seconded by Armen Hadjimanoukian. It carried unanimously.

13. Funding and Grants (Part 3)

"Overriding principle should be that in the absence of conflicts of interests, the Department

of Neighborhood Empowerment should be empowered to seek and receive funds appropriate to their mission.”

Michael Stajura moved to disagree with the motion, seconded by Jerry Brown. The motion carried by a vote of Yes: 11 and No: 3.

7. ADJOURNMENT

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