

WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 12, 2011
WESTWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
10822 WILSHIRE BLVD.
LOS ANGELES, CA 90024

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Jerry Brown called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Board members in attendance were Connie Boukidis, Jerry Brown, Lisa Chapman, Roozbeh Farahanipour, Brent Gaisford, Terry Pullan, Stephen Resnick, Yoni Riemer, Mark Rogo, Clinton Schudy, Kurt Smalberg, Michael Stajura, and Laura Winikow. There were also 14 audience members in attendance.

2. APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 8, 2010 MINUTES

Jerry Brown moved to approve the minutes as written. Yoni Riemer seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

3. BUDGET UPDATE

Treasurer Yoni Riemer gave an update on WWNC's budget. Out of the \$45,000 budget for this year, \$283 has been spent, leaving \$44,701 remaining. He also announced that WWNC will be hearing its first grant proposal request tonight.

4. SIX AMENDMENTS TO THE L.A. CITY ZONING CODE

Stakeholder Sandy Brown said she has been working with Brentwood and Pacific Palisades representatives on the six amendments to the Zoning Code. They have all met with Alan Bell of the City Planning Department. There is a hearing downtown tomorrow on the zoning amendments. These amendments are meant to clarify the wording throughout the Zoning Code and to resolve inconsistencies. Its applicability to Neighborhood Councils is that if the Council wants to take a position on any new development or building, it needs to know whether it conforms to the law.

5. PROPOSED UCLA FACULTY CENTER DEVELOPMENT

Stakeholder Sandy Brown met with UCLA Vice Chancellor Sam Morabito on January 4th to discuss UCLA's plan to build a new hotel and conference center

on the site of the current Faculty Center at Hilgard and Westholme. The proposed new center will take up the space on campus from Westholme to Murphy Hall. It will be six stories tall, with 275 hotel rooms and 30 conference rooms. Neighbors are worried about additional traffic, noise, deliveries, and buses to take the visiting tourists sightseeing. Sandy suggested that the Vice Chancellor and project architect be invited to a WWNC meeting. A project scoping meeting is being held at UCLA tonight, and Sandy has asked them to have another meeting so that WWNC stakeholders can attend. Jerry Brown stated that this issue is of significant interest to WWNC because the center will be on the interface of the campus and a major residential area.

UCLA Representative Marco Perez apologized for the meetings conflict and short notice of the meeting tonight and will relay the board's comments to UCLA.

6. FOOD TRUCKS

Stakeholder Sandy Brown explained that there are two kinds of food trucks in the neighborhood. The first kind is the numerous food trucks for construction workers that are seen parked on Beverly Glen Blvd. for 4 or 5 hours at a time. This constitutes a "restaurant" in a residential neighborhood. The second kind is the gourmet food trucks in Westwood Village. Westwood needs some kind of ordinance so food trucks can't park all day.

Yoni Riemer and Laura Winikow were of the opinion that the gourmet food trucks are a draw and both residents and workers like them. Yoni requested this item be agendaized for the next meeting. Jerry Brown suggested an ad hoc committee look into the subject and make a report for the next meeting.

CD5 Councilmember Koretz's representative Eric Norton said that he has received many complaints about food trucks and that there is a city-wide task force on food trucks. He told the Board that the City Attorney is writing regulations for the trucks, hoping to use a permit system to regulate them. He also said that the Department of Transportation will be targeting Beverly Glen Blvd. for enforcement.

Lisa Chapman mentioned that filming trucks are also an impediment when parked in Westwood Village. Clinton Schudy suggested that filming companies should rent out parking lots such as Lot 36 instead.

7. NEIGHBORHOOD PURPOSES GRANT PROPOSAL

Stakeholder Terry Tegnazian spoke about her organization, the Los Angeles Musical Salon, a 501c3 non-profit. Its goal is to nurture both musical

performers and audiences among our neighborhood youth. It is entering its 4th season, and has put on some free children's programs at the Westwood Branch Library in the past. Terry would like to put on 10 or 12 of these programs at the library this coming year and requested a grant of \$5,000 for that purpose. She said that each program costs about \$450, of which 90% of the money goes to the musicians. Some discussion about the criteria for grants, what other entities may be applying for a grant in the future, and the amount that WWNC has budgeted for them followed. WWNC's budget for neighborhood grants is \$10,000.

Mark Rogo moved that "Westwood Neighborhood Council approves the grant request submitted by the Los Angeles Musical Salon in accordance with its 19 page proposal in the amount of \$5,000." This was seconded by Terry Pullan. Discussion followed about the amount, centering on the fact that giving away half of the budgeted grant money so early in the process without knowing what other grant proposals could come in may not be the best course to take. Brent Gaisford moved to amend the motion, with the same wording except for changing the amount to \$2,500. Connie Boukidis seconded the motion. The motion passed with 8 board members voting yes on the amended motion and 5 opposed. This was followed by a unanimous vote to accept the amended version as follows, "Westwood Neighborhood Council approves the grant request submitted by the Los Angeles Musical Salon in accordance with its 19 page proposal in the amount of \$2,500."

8. CITY PARKING GARAGES

The P3 parking garage deal was on the agenda at today's City Council meeting. Stephen Resnick attended and said there was an overflow crowd and 51 speakers. Connie Boukidis said the City Council went into closed session to discuss the P3 deal so nobody knows what happened. CD5 Representative Eric Norton said that Councilmember Koretz will not support any P3 deal unless the Westwood garage is protected, and that the deal is still out there and being amended. Jerry Brown and Lisa Chapman started to introduce a motion opposing the P3 deal but decided to table the motion until the next board meeting in order to make sure that it is consistent with other Neighborhood Councils in opposition to P3.

9. FOOTBALL STADIUM SURVEY/AGENDA ITEMS

Jerry Brown discussed how broad WWNC's concerns should be with regard to agendized items. One item is a proposed football stadium downtown and if it should be a concern of WWNC's. Michael Stajura said that there is a Westside Regional Alliance of Councils which WWNC is part of, and that is the route to go on this broad reach question. Other opinions offered were that it is too early

to make a comment on a possible football stadium, that the matter should be tabled until the next meeting, or possibly dropped.

Jerry opened a discussion about how to decide what to put on the agenda. Jerry and Michael thought the Executive Committee should decide. Mark Rogo suggested that WWNC learn how other Neighborhood Councils make this decision, and he volunteered to visit the DONE office to find out.

10. DISCUSSION OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Jerry Brown had requested that board members declare their interest in participating in or chairing one of the six standing committees. The following lists are what resulted after discussion.

The Executive Committee will be composed of Jerry Brown, Lisa Chapman, Toni Gray, Stephen Resnick, and Yoni Riemer.

The Budget Committee Chair will be Yoni Riemer, per the bylaws, and other members are Jerry Brown, David Crews, and Mark Rogo.

The Land Use and Development Committee will be co-chaired by Connie Boukidis and Terry Pullan, with Jerry Brown and Mark Herd also members.

The Outreach and Communications Committee will be chaired by Lisa Chapman as mandated, and potential other members are Roozbeh Farahanipour, Brent Gaisford, Clinton Schudy, Steve Somers, Michael Stajura, and Laura Winikow. The Committee is only allowed to have 5 members so not all who are interested can serve on the committee. Committee members are appointed so Jerry Brown will decide who will be on the committee.

The Transportation and Traffic Committee had one volunteer, Stephen Resnick. Others suggested were Connie Boukidis, David Crews, Toni Gray, and Clinton Schudy.

The Standing Rules and Regulations Committee will be Connie Boukidis, Jerry Brown, Toni Gray, Kurt Smalberg, and Scott Whittle.

DONE Representative Amber Meshack said that the public is allowed to be on any of the committees, and if the public is involved the committees are subject to the Brown Act. Committee meetings must be posted with an agenda. Jerry said that any board member can form an advisory committee of non-board member stakeholders which is not subject to the Brown Act.

11. BYLAWS UPDATE

Right now the Bylaws Committee is an ad hoc committee with only board members and is not subject to the Brown Act. DONE Representative Amber Meshack said she doesn't recommend doing that because public comments may be good. DONE administers bylaw changes and any changes must be made by July 2011.

12. MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS

Michael Stajura said he has not heard from Mark Herd regarding the website and wanted to know if Mark can post things on it. Brent Gaisford recommended building a stakeholder email list. Michael said that a way for stakeholders to sign up can be placed on the website. WWNC has access to the domain "www.westwoodnc.org" but is not using it. "www.westwoodnc.net" is a reserved domain which has not been set up yet.

13. AD HOC COMMITTEES

This agenda item was tabled until the next meeting.

14. BUSINESS CARDS

Stephen Resnick researched business card prices. For business cards from the City print shop, it costs \$25 for 200 cards. Orders can be submitted online. He was encouraged to order cards for all the members from the City print shop.

15. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Stakeholder Roxane Stern requested that stakeholders be able to see the minutes and Lisa Chapman said the minutes will be posted on the website.

Other announcements were that in Westwood Village the Mystery Bookstore will be closing and Target is expected to move into the old Bullock's building in 2012. The Post Office in the Federal Building is slated to close up and move operations to Brentwood because the FBI, which occupies the Federal Building, doesn't want the public on the property for security reasons. Congressional Representative Henry Waxman was suggested as a person who should be asked for help on this issue, via his aide Lisa Pinto. Yoni Riemer requested agendaization of this item for the next meeting.

Stakeholder Mark Bosselman asked about getting new speed humps in the neighborhood. Stephen Resnick replied that the department has been

disbanded and for further information he should speak with CD5 Representative Eric Norton.

The new Assistant Manager of DONE, Jeff Brill, introduced himself. He mentioned that all board members should be doing their ethics training. Mark Rogo and Clinton Schudy both said they took the online test and got no response from the department, and will now have to take the test on paper. Jeff said he can give recommendations about making the ethics training more focused and relevant. Jeff is making a database of contact information for Neighborhood Council board members and would like their cell phone numbers and email addresses. Lisa Chapman volunteered to send Jeff this information in an Excel spreadsheet.

Stakeholder Sandy Brown attended a Wilshire bus lane hearing today. The dedicated bus lane may stop at La Cienega because neither Beverly Hills nor Santa Monica is participating, Westwood was exempted, and Brentwood from Federal to Centinela wants out because it doesn't make sense for them to be the only isolated part on the west side.

Roozbeh Farahanipour announced that Norooz, the Persian New Year, is on March 27th this year. Westwood Blvd. between Ohio and Wilkins will be closed off for a street festival on that date.

16. VOTE ON STANDING COMMITTEES

Jerry Brown announced that the members of the Outreach and Communications Committee will be Lisa Chapman, Brent Gaisford, Clinton Schudy, Michael Stajura, and Laura Winikow. Yoni Riemer moved to approve the committees formed tonight. Mark Rogo seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. Yoni said he will be setting up a meeting close to next month's board meeting with DONE and the City Attorney's office.

17. MOTION TO ADJOURN

Kurt Smalberg moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Jerry Brown and carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.