

WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MINUTES
FEBRUARY 10, 2021
ZOOM MEETING ONLINE OR BY TELEPHONE

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Lisa Chapman called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. Board members in attendance were Connie Boukidis, Lisa Chapman, Tracey Fitzgerald, Philip Gabriel, Ann Hayman, Eloise Metcalfe, Stephen Resnick, Paula Rogers, Marcello Robinson, and Laura Winikow. Members excused were Sandy Brown, Roozbeh Farahanipour, David Lorango, and Mark Rogo. A quorum was present. There were approximately 19 stakeholders and guests attending.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Tracey Fitzgerald moved to approve the January 13, 2021 minutes, seconded by Eloise Metcalfe and approved unanimously, except for Marcello Robinson who abstained as he wasn't present at the January meeting.

3. COMMENTS BY PUBLIC OFFICIALS

- A. U.S. Congressman Ted Lieu's representative Janet Turner gave an update on legislation and offered help with USPS problems.
- B. County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl's field deputy Zac Gaidzik reported that the peak of COVID-19 cases in L. A. County was in early January and new case numbers are decreasing daily and explained the vaccine process.
- C. Mayor Garcetti's representative Brad Fingard reported that the Mayor's priorities are vaccinations and reopening schools, and reported on vaccination statistics.
- D. UCLA representative Marco Perez announced that the campus is still closed to the general public and construction on new residence halls is continuing. The Nimoy Theater renovation is scheduled to break ground this summer and be finished in July 2022.
- E. LAPD Officer Brian Espin reported that there have been car break-ins and a catalytic converter stolen but otherwise things look good.

4. DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT

DONE NEA Freddy Cupen-Ames announced upcoming funding and NPG training dates. Canva graphics accounts and the data portal are available on the website. NC members who have a conflict of interest with NPGs must inform the City Attorney first.

5. SPECIAL GUEST: ERIC MELLEM, PARK DIRECTOR, WESTWOOD RECREATION CENTER

Park Director Eric Mellem reported that there are currently no programs but Aidan's Place, the tennis courts, and the dog park are open. The new field is now underway and the turf soccer field is for open play (there are no competitions). There are homeless encampments and trash is an ongoing issue but Mayor Garcetti is following CDC guidelines which limit what can be done. Organizations offering services to the homeless should have a "right of entry" permit, which many outside organizations do not have and there is no staff on the weekends when many of these services are offered. Interviews for Park Advisory Board members will be held after the pandemic is over.

6. CITYWIDE SIGN ORDINANCE (NEW VERSION) PRESENTATION - DANIEL SKOLNICK, PLANNING DEPUTY, COUNCIL DISTRICT 5

CD5 Planning Deputy Daniel Skolnick discussed the sign ordinance. The latest rendition started in 2015 and includes tiered sign districts, bigger penalties for violations, and a reduction scheme with trade-off benefits. The draft ordinance, including an overview, is on the City Planner's website under CF 11-1705. A Community Impact Statement (CIS) can be submitted to Andrew Pennington. LUPC Chair Marcello Robinson will have the committee draft a CIS.

7. TREASURER'S REPORT

A. Motion to approve Monthly Expenditure Report for January 2021

Treasurer Laura Winikow reported that January's MER included a beginning balance of \$34,514, \$122.03 spent, and an available ending balance of \$34,392.50. Laura moved to approve the MER, seconded by Lisa Chapman and approved unanimously.

8. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There was no public comment.

9. REGIONAL GRIEVANCE PANEL

A. Appointment of panel member and alternate

Lisa Chapman moved to approve the appointment of Tracey Fitzgerald and Philip Gabriel, seconded by Ann Hayman, and carried unanimously.

10. DATA LIAISON

A. Appointment of up to three council members

Lisa Chapman moved to approve Marcello Robinson as data liaison, seconded by Philip Gabriel and carried unanimously.

11. RENTER SEAT APPLICANTS - UPDATE

Lisa Chapman reported that there are no applicants so far.

12. STANDING COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

A. Executive - no report

B. Land Use & Planning

Connie Boukidis and Paula Rogers both completed the LUPC training.

C. Outreach & Communications - no report

D. Homeless Task Force

Chair Lisa Chapman reported that there is a new WRAC homeless committee, which will look at this area including Westwood Park and Westwood Village.

E. Budget Advocates - no report

F. Public Safety/ Transportation & Parking

Chair Philip Gabriel reported that there has been no reply to his parking meter request. He will email CD5 Field Deputy Jasmine Shamolian about the intersection of Westwood & Le Conte.

G. Bylaws - no report

H. WRAC

Stephen Resnick explained that these two bills, SB9 and SB10, are focused on removing community input and local control, removing single family zoning, do not contain any affordable housing requirement, and are giveaways to developers.

1. Oppose SB9 - Housing development: approvals

WRAC MOTION Oppose Senate Bill 9-Housing development approvals

Motion Refers to City Council file 21-0002-S18

Whereas, Senate Bill 9 violates the California Coastal Act (Public Resources Code §§30000 et seq.) by failing to exempt parcels within the Coastal zone, by purporting to eliminate hearings for Coastal Development Permits, and by requiring by-right/expedited approval of all projects permitted under the bill, including projects within the Coastal zone which otherwise require discretionary review, including hearings, under the Coastal Act;

Whereas, Senate Bill 9 violates the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code §§ 21065 and 21080) and shortcuts required CEQA review by declaring preemptively that a project permitted under the bill is not a “project” under CEQA, without regard to the test established by controlling case law, that is, whether the ordinance in a given case is “capable of causing a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect change in the environment” (Union of Medical Marijuana Patients, Inc. v. City of San Diego (California Coastal Commission, Real Party in Interest), (2019) 7 Cal.5th 1171);

Whereas, Senate Bill 9 compromises public safety and puts the lives and property of thousands of California residents in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ) at risk from increased density by failing to provide any exemption for parcels within the VHFHSZ;

Whereas, Senate Bill 9 fails to address the state’s affordable housing crisis or to further the purported goal of “ensuring an adequate supply of affordable housing” by not specifying or requiring any particular amount or level of affordable housing (low to moderate income/workforce housing) in projects permitted pursuant to the bill;

Whereas, Councilmember Paul Koretz has introduced a resolution in Los Angeles City Council, CF 21-0002-S18, calling for the City of Los Angeles to oppose Senate Bill 9;

Therefore, the Westwood Neighborhood Council opposes Senate Bill 9 (Atkins) and supports the resolution in CF 21-0002-S18 (Koretz) calling for the City of Los Angeles to oppose Senate Bill 9.

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

2. Oppose SB10 Planning and zoning: housing development: density

WRAC MOTION Oppose SB10 -Planning and zoning: housing development: density
Motion Refers to City Council file 21-0002-S21

Whereas, Senate Bill 10 violates the California Constitution (Art. II, Sec. 10(c)) and principles of democracy and true local control by allowing local governments (i.e., a majority of the current or future City Council) to upzone single family residential properties and speed approval processes for increased density/multi-unit housing, without stakeholder involvement and by overriding community-driven local restrictions on adopting zoning ordinances, including restrictions enacted by voter initiatives;

Whereas, Senate Bill 10 violates the California Coastal Act (Public Resources Code §§30000 et seq.) by failing to exempt parcels within the Coastal zone and by allowing by-right/expedited approval of development projects with up to 10 dwelling units on properties that are upzoned under the bill, including projects within the Coastal zone

which require discretionary review under the Coastal Act;

Whereas, Senate Bill 10 violates the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code §§ 21065 and 21080) and shortcuts required CEQA review by declaring preemptively that an ordinance by a local government (i.e., a majority of the current or future City Council) to upzone a single family residential property pursuant to the bill is not a “project” under CEQA, without consideration of whether the ordinance in a given case is “capable of causing a direct or reasonably foreseeable indirect change in the environment” (Union of Medical Marijuana Patients, Inc. v. City of San Diego (California Coastal Commission, Real Party in Interest), (2019) 7 Cal.5th 1171);

Whereas, Senate Bill 10 potentially compromises public safety and may put the lives and property of thousands of California residents in single family residential areas that are also in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ) at risk from increased density by failing to provide for an unconditional exemption from upzoning under the bill for properties in the VHFHSZ;

Whereas, Senate Bill 10 prevents public scrutiny and bypasses democratic process by providing that state agencies alone, without local community input, would identify and maintain a controlling map of so-called “jobs-rich” areas throughout the state for purposes of upzoning single family residential properties under the bill;

Whereas, Senate Bill 10 circumvents controlling case law by, in effect, allowing for “spot zoning” by local governments (i.e., a majority of the current or future City Council) without consideration of whether upzoning a single family residential property would be of substantial benefit to the public in a given case (Foothills Communities Coalition v. County of Orange (2014) 222 Cal.App.4th 1302);

Whereas, Senate Bill 10 fails to address the state’s affordable housing crisis or to further the purported goal of “ensuring an adequate supply of affordable housing” by not requiring any particular amount or level of affordable (low to moderate income/workforce) housing in development projects to be built on properties that are upzoned under the bill;

Whereas, Councilmember Paul Koretz has introduced a resolution in Los Angeles City Council, CF 21-0002-S21, calling for the City of Los Angeles to oppose Senate Bill 10;

Therefore, the Westwood Neighborhood Council opposes Senate Bill 10 (Wiener) and supports the resolution in CF 21-0002-S21 (Koretz), calling for the City of Los Angeles to oppose Senate Bill 10.

Connie Boukidis moved the above motion, seconded by Philip Gabriel and carried unanimously.

I. Park Advisory – no report

13. ADJOURNMENT

President Lisa Chapman adjourned the meeting at 9:53 p.m.

