

WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 12, 2020  
BELMONT VILLAGE SENIOR LIVING, 10475 WILSHIRE BLVD. LOS ANGELES, CA 90024

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Sandy Brown called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Board members in attendance were Cyrus Baraghoush, Connie Boukidis, Sandy Brown, Philip Gabriel, Ann Hayman, Eloise Metcalfe, Stephen Resnick, Marcello Robinson, Mark Rogo, and Laura Winikow. Members excused were Lisa Chapman, Roozbeh Farahanipour, Tracey Fitzgerald, David Lorango, and Paula Rogers. A quorum was present. There were approximately 12 stakeholders and guests present.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JULY 10, 2019

The July 10, 2019 minutes were approved unanimously.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – DECEMBER 11, 2019

The December 11, 2019 minutes were approved unanimously.

4. COMMENTS BY PUBLIC OFFICIALS

A. CD5 Director of Policy & Legislation Jeff Ebenstein presented Kevin with a certificate to mark the 10<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of his running WWNC's website.

B. County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl's new field deputy Zachary Gaidzik introduced himself and gave an update on recent legislation and new voting centers for the March 3<sup>rd</sup> election.

C. SLO Chris Ragsdale reported on crime in the neighborhood, which had a 10% reduction year-to-date at the end of 2019. Westwood is a victim of its own success because it has the lowest crime rate in the city so it gets less resources.

D. CD5 Field Deputy Jasmine Shamolian announced that Tommy's Field will be placed at Westwood Park, the number of homeless encampments in the park has increased, mobile showers have been coming to the park a couple of times a week, and the taxi stand that is on Lindbrook at the back of the Hammer Museum will be moved to LeConte and will be replaced by metered parking.

5. DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT

DONE representative Jose Galdamez reported that a dispute resolution process was approved at BONC's last meeting on February 4<sup>th</sup> and gave an update on upcoming workshops and meetings.

Board members asked Jose about the fact that North Westwood Neighborhood Council (NWWNC) President Michael Skiles moved out of Westwood but continues to be the president even though that is against NWWNC's bylaws. Jose's reply was that it is up to NWWNC to enforce its own bylaws and Semee Park is the person that should be contacted about this issue.

6. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There was no public comment.

7. PRESENTATION & DISCUSSION: WESTWOOD VILLAGE SPECIFIC PLAN AMENDMENT (CF 18-1101)

Los Angeles City Planner Zuriel Espinoza gave a presentation on Councilmember Koretz's motion to amend the Westwood Village Specific Plan. Some suggested changes are revising food establishment definitions and having more flexible parking provisions. This process is

now in the initial outreach stage. A public hearing will probably be held in June or July but there is no timeline yet. Board members and stakeholders commented that the comparison of Westwood Village's vacancy rate to the county's vacancy rate makes no sense because its vacancy rate should be compared to Westwood south of Wilshire's, Larchmont's or another similar area nor does it take into account the vacancy rate's causes such as landlords not sharing risks with tenants or landlords not caring if their properties are rented at all and the fact that there are also vacancies south of Wilshire which can't be blamed on the Specific Plan. Other comments made were that Councilmember Koretz's motion implies that only students use the Village and doesn't accommodate anyone else although the Village can't survive with only student use; although the subway will help it doesn't help anyone in the neighborhood so parking is still necessary; and the BID's parking study is not useful because there are plenty of places which don't have enough parking.

8. PRESENTATION: UNIFICATION OF HOMELESS FAMILY MEMBERS-CHAMBER OF HOPE  
Chamber of Hope Executive Director Will Hawkins reported on his organization's program, which negotiates with the families of homeless individuals so they can return home and helps set up supportive services so that family members are not handling it all alone. Each homeless person costs the city \$60,000 to \$65,000 a year and it costs between \$500 and \$600 to help reunite homeless people with their families and get them off the street. Last year the Chamber of Hope got 150 people, 140 of whom came from east of the Mississippi, off the streets and reunited them with their families.

#### 9. STANDING COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

A. Executive – no report

B. Budget

##### 1. Approval of Monthly Expenditures

Treasurer Laura Winikow listed the expenses to be approved: December AppleOne \$72.77 and January AppleOne \$37.35. Philip Gabriel seconded and the expenses were approved unanimously, with the exception of Cyrus Baraghoush who was not allowed to vote. December 2019's MER included a beginning balance of \$44,254.11, \$158.14 spent and an ending net available balance of 43,963.14. The January MER included a beginning balance of \$44,095.97, \$42.15 spent, and an ending available balance of \$43,920.99. Philip Gabriel seconded and both MERs were approved unanimously with the exception of Cyrus Baraghoush, who was not allowed to vote.

##### 2. Reminder of NPG application approvals in March

Treasurer Laura Winikow read a list of organizations that have been contacted, and other suggestions were made.

C. Land Use & Planning – no report

D. Outreach & Communications

##### 1. Nominations for Chairperson – tabled

E. Homeless Task Force – no report

F. Budget Advocates – no report

G. Public Safety/ Transportation & Parking

A stakeholder reported that cars constantly run stop signs on Manning south of Wilshire, with the worst intersection being Manning & Wellworth, and it is dangerous because there have been many close calls where pedestrians were almost hit by a car.

H. Bylaws

##### 1. Updated Language to Internal Boundary Area 2

Sandy Brown reported on the updated language that she went over with Jose Galdamez.

Philip Gabriel moved to approve the bylaw changes, seconded by Mark Rogo and carried unanimously.

I. WRAC – no report

J. Park Advisory – no report

10. MOTION & DISCUSSION IN REGARD TO THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES SIDEWALK REPAIR PROGRAM DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (EIR)

This item was not discussed since Lisa Chapman was unable to attend.

11. HOMELESS COUNT UPDATE

This item was not discussed since Lisa Chapman was unable to attend.

12. WESTWOOD RECREATION CENTER SOCCER FIELD—UPDATE

This item was not discussed.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Vice President Sandy Brown adjourned the meeting at 9:29 p.m.