

WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 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 7:05 p.m. Board members in attendance were Dean Abell, Sarah Austerlitz, Angus Beverly, Connie Boukidis, Jerry Brown, Lisa Chapman, Carole Cohen, Jolie Duhon, Rozbeh Farahanipour, Armen Hadjimanoukian, Samuel Haws, Mark Herd, Ryan Krebs, Stephen Resnick, Michael Stajura, Scott Whittle, and Laura Winikow. Board members excused were Mark Rogo and Clinton Schudy. There were also 15 stakeholders and guests in attendance.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Scott Whittle moved to approve the November 2012 minutes as written. Ryan Krebs seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

3. COMMENTS BY PUBLIC OFFICIALS

CD5 Field Deputy Sarah Mallory reported that copper wiring theft from street lights is becoming a problem in Westwood, and is mostly occurring in residential neighborhoods. Michael Stajura asked about the intersection at Landfair & Gayley, to which Sarah replied that she is in the process of looking at it. She will notify LADOT about the situation on Gayley where people jaywalk and there is no visibility.

Rebecca Hutman, a field organizer for Eric Garcetti's mayoral campaign, said that she wanted to reach out to residents. She put a sign up sheet on the table for anyone interested in volunteering to work on his campaign.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Joseph Riser, a member of Arroyo Seco NC and a WWNC stakeholder, reported on the Neighborhood Council Plan Review. BONC appointed 45 NC board members to review NCs and recommend rule changes to improve their functioning. This should happen by May or June. Board member terms may be shortened and new elections may be held in March or April 2014. It is important that board members and stakeholders have input in this process. Comments can be emailed to Empower L.A. at ncplan@empowerla.org.

Stakeholder Sandy Brown reported that there will be a debate with the two candidates for Council District 5, Councilmember Paul Koretz and Mark Herd. It will be held February 26th at St. Paul's from 7 pm. to 8:30 p.m.

Stakeholder Steve Sann announced that WOMP will be on Sunday April 21st this year, and will be supported by UCLA's Volunteer Center. Volunteers will be working to help plant 20 trees and do other work in Westwood Village and the North Village.

5. STANDING COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

A. The Executive Committee had no report.

B. Treasurer Laura Winikow said that procedures have been changed a bit to make them more detailed and streamlined. Board motions are now required for expenditures, and motions followed for expenditures already submitted and those that will be submitted.

The Westwood Presbyterian Church charges a \$75 set up and break down fee for each board meeting. Laura Winikow moved that WWNC approves the reimbursement to Lisa Chapman of \$500, which is \$200 for the election website and \$300 for four monthly meeting charges. Connie Boukidis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Laura Winikow moved that WWNC approves the expenditure of \$58.72 for copies. Connie Boukidis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Laura Winikow moved that WWNC approves the expenditure of \$2.50 for postage. Connie Boukidis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Laura Winikow moved that WWNC approves the expenditure of \$179.88 for the website. Lisa Chapman seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Laura made purchases with WWNC's credit card, and those charges needed to be approved as well. She moved that WWNC approves the charges of \$17.40 for copies, \$120 for the post office box, and \$43.08 for copies. Lisa Chapman seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Laura Winikow moved that WWNC approves the charges of \$2,000 for website redesign and \$38.28 for copies. Scott Whittle seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

C. Land Use & Planning Committee (LUPC)

1. A CCFO Update was given by Sharon Commins. The current situation is that on January 30th, the City Council voted to send amending motion 31B, the Alarcon/Rosendahl motion, which was written by United Way, to an Ad Hoc Committee. This motion deleted all the definitions without which the CCFO is useless, and added a nuisance abatement process. Proponents of this motion claim that sober living homes will have their federal civil rights violated and the City can be sued if the CCFO passes. Other cities such as Anaheim, Fontana, Oakland, Pasadena, and San Diego have regulated these homes with CUPs and Santa Monica prohibits them. None of these cities has been sued by the federal government.

Stakeholder Steve Sann noted that Los Angeles Police Chief Charlie Beck wrote a letter in support of the CCFO because of public safety concerns.

Connie Boukidis moved,

We, the Westwood Neighborhood Council, as members of the Western Regional Alliance of Councils, oppose Amending Motion 31B, submitted January 30, 2013 to Council File 11-0262, on the following grounds:

1. Lack of sufficient staff support and lack of a funding mechanism
2. Inability to presently enforce codes
3. Anticipated 10% across the board budget cuts to all City departments
slated for FY 2013 - 2014
4. Complete lack of transparent fiscal analysis

We further strongly oppose the continued gutting of the R1 and other low density residential zones in the City of Los Angeles. The General Plan of the City of Los Angeles protects the residential character of these zones. The City is therefore required by law to prepare a General Plan Amendment and to produce a full Environmental Impact Report in compliance with CEQA to establish any ordinance adding boarding houses as a by-right use into low density residential zones.

Michael Stajura seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

2. Veggie Grill has moved into the space at 10916 Lindbrook Drive. It is open from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. and is applying for an on-site beer & wine license. The LUPC voted 3 to 2 to support Veggie Grill's application, subject to amending conditions. Bruce Miller and Mike Carnes of Veggie Grill presented their case for a beer & wine license. Veggie Grill will abide by Los Angeles Police Department conditions, which follow.

1. All graffiti on the site shall be removed or painted over to match the

to surface to which it is applied within 24 hours of its occurrence.

2. Hours of Operation shall not exceed 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., seven days a week.
3. The establishment shall not be operated where an admission is charged at the door or other manner similar to a nightclub or after-hours establishment.
4. No live entertainment or dancing is permitted.
5. A 24 hour “hot line” phone number shall be provided for the receipt of complaints from the community regarding the subject facility and shall be posted at the entry, posted at the customer service desk and provided to the immediate neighbors, schools, and local neighborhood council groups.
6. The property owner/operator shall keep a log of complaints received, the date and time received, and the disposition of the response. This shall be available for inspection by the Department.
7. Within 6 months of the effective date of this determination, all personnel acting in the capacity of a manager, bartender, and server of the premises shall attend a Standardized Training for Alcohol Retailers (STAR) session sponsored by the Police Department. The applicant

shall contact the WLA Vice Unit of the Los Angeles Police Department and make arrangements for such training.

8. The premises shall be maintained as a bona-fide restaurant with an operating kitchen and shall provide a menu containing an assortment of foods normally offered in restaurants. Food service shall be available at all times during normal operating hours.
9. Any alcoholic beverage sold or dispensed for consideration shall only be for consumption on the premises and shall be served at tables or sit-down counters by employees of the restaurant.
10. Alcohol sales shall be incidental to food orders only. Drink orders shall only be taken in conjunction with a food order.
11. The only on-site advertisement indicating the availability of alcoholic beverages shall be the posting on a menu.
12. There shall be no bar or lounge area upon the licensed premises. The main purposes and use of the facility shall always be a full service restaurant.
13. No "Happy Hour" type of reduced-price alcoholic beverage or "2 for 1" promotion shall be allowed at any time. Discounted food promotions are encouraged.

14. The approved conditions shall be retained on the premises at all times and produced immediately upon request of the Police Department and City Planning.
15. No pennants, banners, ribbons, streamers, spinners or balloon signs shall be permitted.
16. The quarterly gross sales of alcoholic beverages shall not exceed the gross sales of food during the same period. The applicant shall at all times maintain records which reflect separately the gross sales of food and the gross sales of alcoholic beverages of the licensed business. Said records shall be kept no less frequently than on a quarterly basis and shall be available to the Department upon demand.
17. No employee or agent shall be permitted to accept money or any other thing of value from a customer for the purpose of sitting or otherwise spending time with customers while in the premises, nor shall the licensee(s) provide, permit, or make available, either gratuitous or for compensation, male or female patrons who act as escorts, companions or guests of and for the customers.
18. No employee or agent shall solicit or accept any alcoholic or non-alcoholic beverage from any customer while in the premises.

19. Applicant shall not allow the premises to be used for private parties.
20. Applicant shall not require an admission charge or a cover charge, nor shall there be a requirement to purchase a minimum number of drinks.
21. There shall be no karaoke, disc jockey, topless entertainment, male or female performers or fashion shows.
22. Amplified recorded music shall not be audible beyond the area under control of the applicant.
23. There shall be no pool tables, coin-operated games, or video machines permitted on the premises at any time.
24. There shall be no dancing allowed on the premises.
25. The subject alcoholic beverage license shall not be exchanged for a public premise type license nor operated as a public premise.
26. No obstructions shall be attached, fastened, or connected to the partitions or ceiling to separate the booths/dining areas within the interior space of the licensed premises.
27. The applicant shall not maintain or construct any type of enclosed room intended for use by patrons or customers for any purpose, except

for the restrooms. There shall not be any type of VIP Room or similar type of room on the premises.

28. No alcoholic beverages shall be consumed on any property adjacent to the licensed premises. No open alcoholic beverages shall be taken out of the restaurant, except in an enclosed patio area.

29. There shall be no exterior advertising or sign of any kind or type, including advertising directed to the exterior from within, promoting or indicating the availability of alcoholic beverages. Interior displays of alcoholic beverages or signs which are clearly visible to the exterior shall constitute a violation of this condition.

30. Applicant shall comply with 6404.5(b) of the Labor Code, which prohibits smoking within any place of employment.

31. Applicant shall not possess ashtrays or other receptacles used for the purpose of collecting trash or cigarette/cigar butts.

32. Loitering is prohibited on or around these premises or the area under the control of the applicant.

33. The applicant shall be responsible for maintaining free of litter the area adjacent to the premises over which they have control.

34. The business operator shall install and maintain at each point-of-sale an age-verification device to preclude sales to minors.
35. A 6-month review/inspection shall be conducted to ensure permittee's compliance with all operating conditions.
36. Only single servings of beer will be allowed. No beer will be served in pitchers.
37. Only single glasses of wine will be served. No wine will be served in carafes.

Connie Boukidis moved,

Does the WWNC support the application by Veggie Grill pursuant to Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 12.24 - W1, for a Conditional Use Permit to allow sale and dispensing of beer and wine for on-site consumption in conjunction with new full-service restaurant from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily?

Scott Whittle seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

3. Westfield Parking

Connie Boukidis proposed the following motion as a working draft subject to change:

The Westwood Neighborhood Council disapproves of the process the City of Los Angeles followed in its approval of the plan by the Westfield Shopping Mall in Century City to begin charging for parking at “market rates”. This action was taken with no meaningful notice or input from the surrounding communities. We are particularly mindful of the domino effect this action can have on parking facilities in the entire Westside as well as the unjustified cost to customers and Mall employees, creating an overflow parking effect on surrounding neighborhoods. In the future, when the City is processing a project with a potential regional impact, we urge the City to reach out to all surrounding neighborhoods and provide them with both meaningful notice and an opportunity for input regarding the project.

Michael Stajura seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. This working draft will be brought to WRAC’s Land Use Committee.

4. City Target

Target needs a City Council vote in order to obtain its liquor license. CD5 Field Deputy Sarah Mallory said that CD5 hasn’t heard from Target about bringing the matter before City Council yet. Stakeholder Steve Sann said that Target is lobbying other Councilmembers to try to get the eight votes necessary.

Connie Boukidis moved,

Whereas, Target is applying for a determination of “Public Convenience or Necessity” (aka “Caldera” finding) by the Los Angeles City Council to permit CityTarget to sell a full-line of alcoholic beverages, including hard liquor, beer, and wine at its Westwood Village location; and

Whereas, Target’s request is for an unprecedented sixth off-site alcohol license that would exceed the maximum number of five off-site alcohol licenses allowed by ABC within the Westwood Village census tract area, for the first time in Westwood’s history; and

Whereas, there are three existing off-site licensees selling a full-line of alcoholic beverages, including hard liquor, beer, and wine, within 100 feet of CityTarget in Westwood, and a total of five retail outlets selling alcoholic beverages for off-site consumption within three blocks of CityTarget; and

Whereas, there is a severe and long-term level of undue overconcentration of alcoholic beverage outlets in Westwood Village, including both on-site and off-site outlets; and

Whereas, the City’s own Zoning Administration staff within the City Planning Department denied Target’s request for a Conditional Use Beverage Permit to sell a full-line of alcohol for off-site consumption at CityTarget in Westwood; and

Whereas, many other national brand and local retailers previously have been denied off-site alcohol licenses in Westwood due to the severe and long-term level of undue overconcentration of alcohol in Westwood, including CVS, Sav-on, Walgreens, Famima, and Westwood Village Mart; and

Whereas, numerous sensitive uses are located in close proximity to CityTarget in Westwood including the UCLA campus, a child care facility within the

CityTarget building, religious institutions, an abutting senior assisted living facility, and residential apartments directly across the street; and

Whereas, Westwood Village has higher than average crime and elevated levels of alcohol-related crimes, and has been a target of special law enforcement by ABC and LAPD to reduce alcohol related crimes and vice including sale of alcohol to minors, underage drinking, public intoxication, and aggressive panhandling, among others; and

Whereas, significant public health and safety concerns exist within the Westwood community over many alcohol related issues including excessive alcohol consumption, underage drinking, binge drinking, DUIs, alcohol-related injuries, alcohol-induced fatalities, a large presence of underage residents in the Westwood community, and other alcohol-related harms; and

Whereas, according to the Los Angeles County Health Department, there is a direct correlation between an increase in the number of outlets that sell alcohol for off-site consumption and an increase in the frequency and severity and of these alcohol-related harms within that community; and

Whereas, the general public in Westwood already has abundant and convenient access to alcohol in Westwood Village and throughout the Westwood community, including the same building in which CityTarget is located, as well as directly across the street, and there is no necessity for more off-site alcohol in Westwood Village; and

Whereas, the Westwood community, UCLA students, and general public have other significant unmet shopping needs in Westwood including a larger selection of men's and women's shoes, apparel, computers, electronics, school and office supplies, baby and toddler clothing, household items, and other general merchandise, rather than more alcohol; and

Whereas, based on all these facts, there is no reasonable basis upon which to make a “Public Convenience or Necessity” determination in this case; and

Whereas, if the Los Angeles City Council were to make an unwarranted and unjustified “Public Convenience or Necessity” determination as a special favor to CityTarget, this would cause significant harmful impacts on the Westwood community and set a very dangerous precedent that there is no enforceable limit on the number of off-site alcohol licenses in Westwood:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Westwood Neighborhood Council strongly opposes Target’s application for a “Public Convenience or Necessity” determination by the Los Angeles City Council; and

Be it further resolved that the Westwood Neighborhood Council calls upon our Councilmember Paul Koretz to support the unanimous position of the elected and organized Westwood community, including the Westwood Neighborhood Council, Westwood Community Council, Holmby-Westwood Property Owners Association, Westwood Homeowners Association, Westwood Hills Property Owners Association, and North Westwood Village Residents Association, among others, and to oppose this “Public Convenience or Necessity” application as strongly as possible; and

Be it finally resolved that the Westwood Neighborhood Council calls upon the members of the Los Angeles City Council to deny this unwarranted and unjustified application by Target for a “Public Convenience and Necessity” determination for its CityTarget location in Westwood Village.

Lisa Chapman seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

5. Los Angeles City Attorney’s Dispute Resolution Program

Connie Boukidis, who is involved in the program, said that the program is a free, confidential, voluntary process. It was started in 1989, and has three locations: downtown, West L.A. and the Valley. It handles civil matters such as noise, parking, and landlord/tenant disputes.

E. Outreach & Communications

Chair Lisa Chapman asked new board members and those who have not done so yet to set up a Google email account, and she will issue passwords. She also asked for bios and pictures. She brought up the issue of having a co-chair, which Samuel Haws agreed to become. Lisa Chapman moved that WWNC approves Samuel Haws as Outreach & Communications co-chair. Michael Stajura seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

F. Public Safety

The Public Safety Committee did not meet. Carole Cohen, Armen Hadjimanoukian, and stakeholder Marcello Robinson volunteered to be on the committee. Chair Michael Stajura moved that Carole Cohen, Armen Hadjimanoukian, and Marcello Robinson be appointed to the Public Safety Committee. Samuel Haws seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

G. WRAC

Mark Herd attended the last WRAC meeting and said the CCFO was discussed.

6. ADVANCED METER PROJECT--SOCAL GAS COMPANY

Mona Verches was not present so there was no presentation.

7. PERSIAN NEW YEAR FESTIVAL

Roozbeh Farahanipour introduced Bijan Khalili, who announced that this year's festival will be held on Sunday March 24th. Westwood Blvd. between Ohio and Wilkins will be closed off for the festival. WWNC will have a booth at the festival.

8. NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL BUDGET ADVOCATES REPORT

Stakeholder Marcello Robinson, who is the Co-Chair of the Budget Advocates, said that they met in November 2012. They looked at the budget gap and made recommendations about how to improve the City's finances. They will be presenting a white paper with 21 recommendations to Mayor Villaraigosa sometime in March. Marcello urged everyone to take the Mayor's budget challenge (same as budget survey) at la.budgetchallenge.org by March 4th. Lisa Chapman said that the budget survey is not specific enough and is disingenuous and Michael Stajura thought that it promotes a false sense of inclusion. Marcello invited anyone who has comments about it to email him at marcellorobinson@gmail.com.

9. BYLAWS COMMITTEE

This item was tabled.

10. MAYORAL RUN-OFF DEBATE

A debate between the two run-off candidates is being scheduled for April 29, 2013 at Sinai Temple. Sponsorships are being solicited, which involve no financial commitment.

Connie Boukidis moved that WWNC agrees to co-sponsor the debate, with a second by Mark Herd. The motion carried unanimously.

11. RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CITY COUNCIL & NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS

Jerry Brown stated that Connie Boukidis' motion under agenda item 5c3 encompasses this topic so another motion is not necessary.

12. MAYOR'S BUDGET SURVEY

Angus Beverly said that the survey wasn't available today when he tried to access it so he will follow up. CD5 Field Deputy Sarah Mallory urged everyone to complete the budget survey and said that Councilmember Koretz wants WWNC's input.

13. THE BICYCLE PLAN 2010

Stephen Resnick introduced Debbie Nussbaum, who spoke about the bicycle plan. The City has a five year plan to install bicycle paths. The first year of the plan will be implemented in 2013. The plan calls for eliminating a traffic lane on both Westwood Blvd. between Santa Monica Blvd. and National Blvd. and on Sepulveda Blvd. between Ohio Ave. and National Blvd. during rush hour. A transit lane would be established for buses and bicycles to share. Parking would also be eliminated during rush hour according to this plan.

Stephen Resnick attended a meeting on this topic with representatives from CD5 and LADOT. He pointed to two major issues. One is that because of the Expo Line, the City thinks Westwood Blvd. should be a transit corridor. The second is that the bicycle plan would cause a loss of parking which is detrimental to businesses. Councilmember Koretz has major concerns with this plan.

Connie Boukidis moved,

“WWNC opposes the establishment of any bicycle, bus, or transit lanes on Westwood and Sepulveda Boulevards.”

Scott Whittle seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

This motion will be taken to WRAC.

14. iPHONE APP PROPOSAL

It was suggested that WWNC create its own app. Differing opinions on this were offered about whether it's necessary. An app may increase use but WWNC's website can also be googled. There is no money in the budget for it.

Lisa Chapman requested help with WWNC's facebook page.

15. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 p.m.