

WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 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, Connie Boukidis, Jerry Brown, Lisa Chapman, Roozbeh Farahanipour, Armen Hadjimanoukian, Samuel Haws, Mark Herd, Ryan Krebs, Stephen Resnick, Mark Rogo, Clinton Schudy, Michael Stajura, Scott Whittle, and Laura Winikow. Board members excused were Carole Cohen and Jolie Duhon. A quorum was present. There were approximately 35 stakeholders and guests in attendance.

2. SPECIAL COMMENT

Scott Whittle announced that former WWNC Vice President Toni Gray is ill and currently at the City of Hope. He had contact information for Caring Bridge, which is being used to send her messages.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Scott Whittle moved to approve the February minutes as written. Dean Abell seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

4. COMMENTS BY PUBLIC OFFICIALS

Jodi Litvak from Metro reported that there are a number of buses which lay over in Westwood since many bus routes begin and end there. Westwood is crowded so there are not a lot of layover spots. One place where they lay over is on the west side of Veteran Avenue just south of Wilshire Blvd. by the Federal Building. Because of the 405 construction, buses can't make a right turn onto Sepulveda Blvd. so they have to cut through on Wellworth on their way to Westwood Blvd. and back to Wilshire, which is not ideal. UCLA is going to help out with overnight hours from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. so that buses can go down Veteran to Kinross to Gayley and back out to Wilshire that way during those hours. This will start next Monday March 18th. Jodi thanked UCLA and said that Sepulveda should be back to normal by the end of June 2013.

Two veterans representing Walk for Warriors, which is scheduled for May 27, 2013, urged people to participate in the walk. It raises money for housing and outreach for veterans.

Council District 5 Field Deputy Sarah Mallory thanked everyone for their support of Councilmember Koretz in the election. She has asked LADOT to check out the intersection at Gayley & Landfair, but it is a slow process.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

6. STANDING COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

A. The Executive Committee had no report.

B. Treasurer Laura Winikow spent \$93.70 on copies for tonight's meeting. Connie Boukidis moved that WWNC approves the expenditure of \$93.70 for copies for tonight's meeting. Scott Whittle seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

C. Land Use & Planning (LUPC)

1. Chair Connie Boukidis took the draft motion on Westfield Century City parking to WRAC's LUPC meeting, where the wording was changed slightly. It needs to be passed by the WRAC board and will then go back to the NCs to be passed. Jerry Brown suggested that the wording be sharpened because referring to "the City" is too vague. Specific City entities should be named.
2. At the meeting, the LUPC voted 2-0 to approve Sprouts request for an off-site beer & wine license. Sprouts hammered out a deal with WHA and neighbors, mostly over delivery issues.

Connie Boukidis moved,

Does the Westwood Neighborhood Council support the application by

Sprouts Market made pursuant to LAMC 12.24 - W1, for a Conditional Use Permit to allow sale of beer and wine for off-site consumption all in conjunction with construction, use, operation, and maintenance of a full-service grocery store with hours 7 days a week from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. and pursuant to LAMC 23.24 W L 7, for a Commercial Corner Exception to allow for relief from Development Standards and Conditions of Operation.

Scott Whittle seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

D. Outreach & Communications Chair Lisa Chapman reported that website updates are being made and she has people to help with facebook.

E. Public Safety Chair Michael Stajura said that the committee has not met but if there is going to be a disaster fair again this year a meeting will be necessary. He would like to see a community fair involving other community organizations also. At April's WWNC meeting a request for \$3,000 for the earthquake shaker machine will be made.

F. WRAC

1. The draft motion was already talked about.

2. Motion Regarding Digital Billboards

Michael Stajura moved,

The Westwood Neighborhood Council urges the City of Los Angeles to fully implement the appeals court ruling in Summit Media LLC v. City of Los Angeles and to remove the 103 illegal digital billboards blanketing our city. We further request that the City refrain from making any changes to the zoning laws relative to digital billboards until the illegal boards are removed and any such proposed change has been subjected to an open and transparent outreach process to community stakeholders.

G. Ad Hoc Helicopter Noise

Jerry Brown said that an investigation is underway and the committee will have a meeting in the near future. Committee member Wolfgang Veith said there has been some improvement recently.

7. ADVANCED METER PROJECT

Southern California Gas Company representative Ray Verches reported that the company is automating gas meters. This project started in 2012 and has two phases. The first phase is setting up a communications network which consists of installing devices on lampposts. Six months later there will be retrofitting of gas meters. Customers will receive a letter telling them the date of the retrofit in case they need to be home then, and will receive a note that the meter has been retrofitted. This will make the system more efficient and accurate, and lessen traffic. The 1,100 meter readers will be retrained within the company if they wish. Cell phones emit more radiation than the communication devices will, and the devices will be 35 feet off the ground.

8. RECONSIDERATION OF THE PROCESS OF RECEIVING AND REVIEWING NEIGHBORHOOD PURPOSE GRANTS

Laura Winikow outlined the current process whereby NPGs are given out twice during the year. Moving to a once a year process because there is less money to give out, paperwork would be cut in half, and some organizations apply both times are reasons that a change to once a year might be better.

DONE representative Amber Meshack said that all funding requests must be submitted by May 15th.

9. AYSO TURF FIELD PROPOSAL AT WESTWOOD PARK/QUIMBY FUNDS

CD5 representative David Giron said that there is between \$2 million and \$3 million in Quimby funds, of which \$1.5 million to \$1.7 million has been allocated. There is \$450,000 in Quimby funds available for the field. The money will be allocated after bids on the field have been solicited.

Mark Herd brought a motion to rescind a previous motion that WWNC passed in support of the field in June 2012, with a substitute motion in its place, because he was worried that there might not be enough money to fix the bathrooms and other items the park needs if it all goes to the field. Lisa Chapman strongly objected to the repeal of WWNC's previous motion. Jerry Brown seconded the motion in order to facilitate discussion. AYSO representative Larry Snegg said that all the HOAs and the Park Advisory Board (PAB) had approved the field, and the PAB said that the field was their highest priority item. He further stated that this motion would kill the field and he opposed it. Approximately 15 stakeholders also spoke on the issue. After a lengthy discussion, Mark Herd withdrew his motion. Jerry Brown withdrew his second.

10. FUTURE CONDUCT OF BOARD MEETINGS

There was no discussion on this issue.

11. WESTWOOD ORGANIZED MEGA PROJECT (WOMP)

Stakeholders John Heidt and Steve Sann announced that the 4th annual WOMP will be held Sunday April 21, 2013 and requested \$7,500 for the projects it will be doing.

Michael Stajura moved that WWNC donates \$7,500 in support of neighborhood beautification projects to WOMP. Connie Boukidis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:49 p.m.