

WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MINUTES

APRIL 10, 2019

BELMONT VILLAGE SENIOR LIVING, 10475 WILSHIRE BLVD. LOS ANGELES, CA 90024

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Lisa Chapman called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Board members in attendance were Cyrus Baraghoush, Connie Boukidis, Sandy Brown, Lisa Chapman, Roozbeh Farahanipour, Philip Gabriel, David Lorango, Stephen Resnick, Marcello Robinson, Mark Rogo, Scott Whittle, and Laura Winikow. Member excused was Ann Hayman. A quorum was present. There were eleven stakeholders and guests present.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Connie Boukidis made a change to the title of her motion in agenda item 8 in the March 13, 2019 minutes. Philip Gabriel moved to approve the amended March 13, 2019 minutes, seconded by Scott Whittle, and approved unanimously.

3. COMMENTS BY PUBLIC OFFICIALS

A. CD5 Field Deputy Jasmine Shamolian announced that incorrectly parked scooters can be reported through 311 and companies are required to pick them up within two hours; fines for disabled placard abuse will be going up from \$250 to \$1,100; and Chabad will not be used for bridge housing so another location will have to be found.

B. County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl's representative Erin Schneider gave an update on legislation.

C. UCLA representative Marco Perez gave an update on sports and other upcoming events on campus. Bruin Day will be April 13th.

4. DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT

DONE representative Jose Galdamez reported on upcoming workshops and a webinar in May, and requested board members to complete a survey about what topics to cover.

5. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Westwood Community Council President Steve Sann announced that the third annual Westwood music festival will take place on Broxton Avenue on May 4th from 2 p.m. to midnight.

6. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE INTRODUCTION OF MOTION IN REGARD TO CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLY BILL 653 ("AN ACT RELATING TO ARMORIES")

County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl's representative Erin Schneider got Stephanie Cohen on the phone to discuss the county's plan, currently being worked on, to put bridge housing on the parking lot at the Armory at Wilshire and Federal. Lisa Chapman moved, "WWNC supports California Assembly Bill 653," seconded by Scott Whittle and carried unanimously.

7. NEIGHBORHOOD PURPOSES GRANT PRESENTATIONS & AWARDING OF GRANTS

Treasurer Laura Winikow reported that the NPGs for West L. A. Little League and Emerson were rejected because the spending of the grant money goes into the next fiscal year and the grant recipient must spend it in this fiscal year. DONE representative Jose Galdamez was asked about this change in the middle of the year. Jose will talk to Shawna in the City Clerk's office about this tomorrow. The grants have been done the same way for ten years and if this was always the policy, then the policy has never been followed.

A. Friends of Westwood Library - "The WWNC will provide up to \$5,000.00 in the form of

an NPG grant to the Westwood Library to support the hiring of a computer Aide to help teach computer skills to patrons of the library.” Laura Winikow, as a board member of Friends of the Library, changed the library’s spending dates on its application to June 1st to June 30th. Roozbeh Farahanipour, Stephen Resnick, Mark Rogo, and Laura Winikow recused themselves from the vote and left the room. Eight board members remained, which is a quorum. Scott Whittle moved, “WWNC awards \$5,000 to the Westwood library.” Philip Gabriel seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

B. Salvation Army Transitional Living Facility – “The WWNC will provide up to \$5,000.00 in the form of an NPG grant to The Salvation Army Westwood Transitional Living Village towards the purchase / replacement of a van to be used to take residents to medical appointments, grocery shopping, job interviews, kids to school, etc.”

Lisa Chapman moved, “WWNC awards \$5,000 to the Salvation Army Transitional Living Facility.” Marcello Robinson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

8. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE INTRODUCTION OF MOTION TO OPPOSE OR SUPPORT SENATE BILL 58 (ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES) AS IT WOULD PERMIT BARS TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES UNTIL 4 A.M.

Lisa Chapman moved, “WWNC supports California Assembly Bill 58.” Marcello Robinson seconded. The motion was defeated by a vote of No: 5 (Connie Boukidis, Sandy Brown, Philip Gabriel, Stephen Resnick, Scott Whittle), Yes: 3 (Lisa Chapman, David Lorango, Marcello Robinson), and Abstain: 4 (Cyrus Baraghoush, Roozbeh Farahanipour, Mark Rogo, Laura Winikow).

Philip Gabriel moved, “WWNC opposes California Assembly Bill 58.” Stephen Resnick seconded and the motion carried by a vote of Yes: 7 (Connie Boukidis, Sandy Brown, Roozbeh Farahanipour, Philip Gabriel, Stephen Resnick, Mark Rogo, Scott Whittle), No: 3 (Lisa Chapman, David Lorango, Marcello Robinson), and Abstain: 2 (Cyrus Baraghoush, Laura Winikow).

9. UPDATE ON GRIEVANCE FILED AGAINST DONE FOR NON-POSTING OF THE NWWNC LAND USE AGENDA OF 12/5/2018 TO THE PUBLIC

President Lisa Chapman filled out a grievance months ago and has still not received any reply, although one is supposed to be made within five to ten days. The City Attorney’s office said that there is no way to file a grievance against DONE. Mike Fong, Grayce Liu, and Semee Park have refused to attend a WWNC meeting to discuss this. Lisa contacted BONC commissioner Eli Lipman on the advice of Steve Houchin in the City Attorney’s office, but BONC has no authority. Mayor Garcetti’s representative Ami Fields-Meyer will set up a meeting with the Mayor’s office. Board members told DONE representative Jose Galdamez that they want to know why policy is only enforced for some NCs and want an explanation of DONE’s actions.

10. UPDATE AND MOTION ON WESTWOOD CONNECT DAY

A. Joint Homelessness Taskforce Committee Meeting (Westwood Neighborhood Council/Westwood Community Council/North Westwood Neighborhood Council)
County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl’s representative Erin Schneider reported that there was a meeting today where outreach, van rental, supplies, and donations were discussed.

B. Introduction of Motion: “The WWNC will provide up to \$1,500.00 towards the purchase of food, blankets, hygiene items to be used at the Westwood Connect Day to be held on April 24, 2019 at the Westwood Recreation Center.”

Lisa Chapman moved the above motion, seconded by Scott Whittle and carried unanimously.

11. HOLMBY PARK ISSUES

A. Bathroom remodel update

Sandy Brown reported that the bathrooms at Holmby Park are 50 years old and efforts have been made to renovate them for four years with no results.

B. Dogs off leash complaints

Sandy said that there is no compliance with leash laws and many complaints have been made about it. She has been informed that the LAPD will enforce the leash laws.

12. ELECTION UPDATE

Board members requested that DONE representative Jose Galdamez work with Renee in the City Clerk's office on logistics for the upcoming vote on June 2, 2019 at Belmont Village, including seating for people in line. A change of voting hours is recommended because the church service gets out around 11 a.m. Voting hours should be from noon to six p.m.

13. STANDING COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

A. Executive – no report

B. Budget

1. Approval of Monthly Expenditures

Treasurer Laura Winikow listed the expenditures to be approved: a new invoice for Media 81 for \$1,087.47, copies \$108.99, staffing services \$172.10, \$50 for Acrobat through June 30th to fill in documents, and Corner Bakery \$704 and Peet's Coffee \$250.24 for Westwood Connect Day. All expenditures were approved unanimously.

C. Land Use & Planning – no report

D. Outreach & Communications – no report

E. Homeless Task Force

See agenda item 10.

F. Budget Advocates – no report

G. Public Safety/ Transportation & Parking – no report

H. Bylaws– no report

I. WRAC

1. Introduction of Motion for the County of Los Angeles to coordinate flood protection and mitigation of existing flooding risks in the L. A. River area

MOTION REGARDING THE COORDINATION OF FLOOD PROTECTION AND MITIGATION OF EXISTING FLOODING RISKS IN THE L. A. RIVER AREA

“The Westwood Neighborhood Council requests that the County of Los Angeles coordinate flood protection and mitigating of existing flooding risks in the LA River area, with the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the City of Los Angeles and its various departments tasked with city planning, architecture, flood mitigation and street services, among others. We ask that all agencies study options to reduce the impact of flood, the costs of which will largely be borne by taxpayers, and that these studies include taking actions such as removing sediment build-up, reducing hardscape (eg. Parking lots, building footprints), expanding open spaces and increasing the size of spreading grounds, adding dry-wells to infiltrate stormwater into aquifers, adding swales to small medians and yards, strengthening dams and levees, and evaluating land use and zoning designations within the proximity of the river (which may result in downzoning).”

Lisa Chapman moved the above motion, seconded by Philip Gabriel and carried unanimously (Cyrus Baraghoush, Connie Boukidis, Sandy Brown, Lisa Chapman, Philip Gabriel, Stephen Resnick, Marcello Robinson, Scott Whittle, Laura Winikow).

2. Introduction of Motion to oppose the legalization of video advertisements mounted on

taxicabs and for-hire vehicles

MOTION REGARDING THE LEGALIZATION OF VIDEO ADVERTISEMENTS MOUNTED ON TAXICABS AND FOR-HIRE VEHICLES

“The Westwood Neighborhood Council opposes legalization of video advertisement mounted on taxicabs and for-hire vehicles (including services such as Lyft and Uber); and supports the motion by Councilmember Blumenfield to change TaxiCab Rule 415(c), as set forth in Council File 19-0104”

Lisa Chapman moved the above motion, seconded by Connie Boukidis and carried by a vote of Yes: 8 (Cyrus Baraghoush, Connie Boukidis, Sandy Brown, Lisa Chapman, Philip Gabriel, Stephen Resnick, Scott Whittle, Laura Winikow), No: 1 (Marcello Robinson), and Abstain: 0.

14. ADJOURNMENT

President Lisa Chapman adjourned the meeting at 9:26 p.m.