

WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MINUTES
MAY 8, 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 7:04 p.m. Board members in attendance were Cyrus Baraghoush, Connie Boukidis, Sandy Brown, Lisa Chapman, Roozbeh Farahanipour, Philip Gabriel, Ann Hayman, Stephen Resnick, Marcello Robinson, and Scott Whittle. Members excused were David Lorango, Mark Rogo, and Laura Winikow. A quorum was present. There were approximately forty stakeholders and guests present.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Scott Whittle moved to approve the April 10, 2019 minutes, seconded by Lisa Chapman, and approved unanimously.

3. COMMENTS BY PUBLIC OFFICIALS

- A. County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl's representative Erin Schneider gave an update on Westwood Connect Day. It was a successful event with 140 attendees, 40 volunteers, and 40 service providers. Erin thanked CD5, WWNC, and Lisa Chapman in particular for all their help.
- B. U.S. Congressman Ted Lieu's representative Janet Turner announced that Congressman Lieu's office has moved to 1645 Corinth Avenue, Suite 101, and gave an update on some legislation.
- C. CD5 Field Deputy Jasmine Shamolian announced that CD5 is looking for sites for bridge Housing. She drove around the neighborhood with Connie Boukidis and Sandy Brown to identify potential sites. Jasmine gave an update on the City's budget process, which is currently underway, including looking at the Budget Advocates' white paper.
- D. President Lisa Chapman read a list of graduation dates sent by UCLA representative Marco Perez, who was unable to attend tonight's meeting.

4. DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT

DONE representative Jose Galdamez gave financial deadlines for the fiscal year and announced upcoming workshops for board members. Bylaw updates can be made from May 1, 2019 until March 31, 2020.

5. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Westwood Community Council President Steve Sann announced that Westwood Village's 90th anniversary is in September, and the community is working with CD5 and the mayor's office on a celebration. The next library concert will be the LAPD swing band sometime in late June.

6. STANDING COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

A. Executive

President Lisa Chapman reported that she, Sandy Brown, and Stephen Resnick had a productive meeting with Mayor Garcetti's representative Ami Fields-Meyer regarding the grievance filed over NWWNC LUPC's non-posted agenda and DONE's lack of response. Ami will speak to Grayce Liu, Semee Park, and BONC.

B. Budget

1. Approval of Monthly Expenditures

Lisa Chapman listed the expenditures to be approved: copies \$52.22 and staffing

services \$91.48. Both expenditures were approved unanimously. Lisa reported that all of the \$37,000 went to NPGs, leaving \$6,090 in the budget. All NPGs were approved except for the library's, which is waiting on a clarification.

2. Motion to approve \$50 for Adobe Reader Pro software for one month to ease the ability to edit the Board Action Count sheets both in preparation and at the meetings. Lisa Chapman moved the above motion, seconded by Scott Whittle, and carried unanimously.

C. Land Use & Planning – no report

D. Outreach & Communications – no report

E. Homeless Task Force

Lisa Chapman reported that contacts were made at Westwood Connect Day with St. Joseph's Center. Westwood could use a street outreach team.

F. Budget Advocates – no report

G. Public Safety/ Transportation & Parking – no report

H. Bylaws– no report

I. WRAC

1. The Westwood Neighborhood Council supports the findings of the Blue Ribbon Panel on school Safety, convened by the City Attorney, and urges LAUSD to adopt the priorities of the report recommending steps towards increased school safety.

WRAC representative Roozbeh Farahanipour moved the above motion, seconded by Scott Whittle, and carried unanimously.

2. The Westwood Neighborhood Council supports the formation of a Wildland-Urban Interface Hazard Mitigation Task Force (motion by CM Bonin), and urges the task force to conduct neighborhood outreach to community stakeholders and understand/consider their thoughts and concerns.

Roozbeh Farahanipour moved the above motion, seconded by Philip Gabriel, and carried unanimously.

3. The Westwood Neighborhood Council requests that the City develop planning, zoning and leasing regulations for co-living developments, which are residential in nature but have aspects of hotels/ transient occupancy. Issues include: 1. Length of leases; 2. Parking for "units," which have larger bedroom counts; 3. Compliance with density bonus ordinances– regulatory framework.

Roozbeh Farahanipour moved the above motion, seconded by Scott Whittle, and carried by a vote of Yes: 9, No: 1 (Marcello Robinson), and Abstain: 0.

4. The Westwood Neighborhood Council requests that the Housing and Community Investment Dept. fully comply with the regulations of the State and City affordable housing density bonuses ordinances (SB1818 and Prop. JJJ/TOC), per the concerns stated in the City Controller's audit report of Jan 2017.

Roozbeh Farahanipour moved the above motion, seconded by Connie Boukidis, and carried unanimously.

7. COMMUNITY INTEREST GRANT—PRESENTATION & AWARDING OF GRANT

A. Los Angeles Police Department: Bicycle Safety Lights - \$500

West LAPD Sergeant Eun gave a presentation on the need for bike safety lights. West LAPD would like to give out bike safety lights to riders who don't have them as educational outreach, but doesn't have the money for them. Nine hundred lights can be purchased for \$495. Six NCs were contacted about funding this project and WWNC was the only NC that responded. Lisa Chapman stated that this is not a community interest grant but straight funding. West LAPD should invoice WWNC in order to get it paid. Lisa Chapman moved, "WWNC authorizes up to \$500 to West LAPD for bike safety lights," seconded by Marcello

Robinson and carried unanimously.

8. UPDATE ON GRIEVANCE FILED AGAINST THE NORTH WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL FOR THE IMPROPER USE OF THE TERM AND MONIKER "WESTWOOD COUNCIL" IN PLACE OF THEIR PROPER NAME OF NORTH WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Lisa Chapman reported that a grievance was filed against NWWNC for not using its actual name, but calling itself "Westwood Council" on its website and in election materials. NWWNC was given a warning by DONE representative Gibson Nyambura to use the proper name the council was certified under but they refused. DONE is in the process of drafting a letter and having it reviewed by the City Attorney. DONE representative Jose Galdamez said that he did not know the details. He was requested to ask DONE to expedite the process.

9. DISCUSSION ON PROPOSED NEW SOCCER FIELD AT THE WESTWOOD RECREATION CENTER

Stephen Resnick explained that he only became aware of the effort to build another soccer field at the park a few weeks ago. There was no outreach at all to the Westwood Homeowners Association (WHA) or WWNC, both of whose areas the park is located in. The only meeting that the Park Advisory Board (PAB) was going to hold on the field was the same night as WHA's meeting (May 7th), but he managed to get another meeting about it scheduled for May 23rd. The PAB did not notify anyone about the May 7th meeting and only put up a notice in the park two days before the meeting.

Nikki Mark, who has raised \$1.2 million for the project which is in memory of her son, said that talks about the field began several years ago with the Department of Recreation & Parks, targeting the area between the tennis courts and the recreation center. The field will be 60 feet by 300 feet with an east-west orientation, will have a four-foot tall fence around it and will be unlocked. It will be a permitted field but also have free play hours, though Nikki did not have any details about how that would work. A bathroom will be installed as part of the project. Two tennis courts will have to be removed for the field. The field is expensive because the city will only install artificial turf.

CD5 Field Deputy Jasmine Shamolian said that CD5 is supporting the project because the PAB voted to approve it, but it is not finalized. No one on the PAB is from Westwood. Two years ago WWNC asked to have a representative on the PAB, but the request was refused by Recreation Center Director Lizka Mendoza. WWNC board members requested project details from Jasmine since the community should be able to see the details and have input. Jasmine will send the details and ask Recreation & Parks to make a presentation.

About a dozen stakeholders spoke in opposition to the project. Reasons given were that the park already has a soccer field so other venues such as Cheviot Hills Recreation Center should be considered, many people like and use the open green space and Westwood is underserved in this respect, no outreach was made to the local community during the process although it would be directly affected, another field will bring more traffic and the parking lots there are already full on game days, the field would primarily serve the club soccer community instead of the broader community, and tennis courts will have to be removed - reducing the number from six courts to four - when there aren't enough tennis courts to fill demand now.

10. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE INTRODUCTION OF MOTION IN REGARD TO THE GREEN TARIFF PROPOSAL (EMPOWER CUSTOMERS WITH THE OPTION OF PURCHASING A PORTION OF THEIR GAS FROM RENEWABLE SOURCES) BY THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GAS COMPANY

Roosbeh Farahanipour moved to remove this item from the agenda until further notice, seconded by Marcello Robinson and carried unanimously.

11. DISCUSSION AND INTRODUCTION OF MOTION IN REGARD TO MEASURE EE (QUALITY TEACHER, CLASS SIZE REDUCTION, AND LOCAL SCHOOL SAFETY MEASURE) TO APPEAR ON THE JUNE 4, 2019 LOS ANGELES MUNICIPAL SPECIAL ELECTION BALLOT
MOTION REGARDING MEASURE EE (QUALITY TEACHER, CLASS SIZE REDUCTION, AND LOCAL SCHOOL SAFETY MEASURE)

On Feb. 28, 2019, the Los Angeles Unified School District's (LAUSD) Board of Education unanimously voted to place on a June 4th Special Election ballot a new \$500 million property tax on homes, apartments and business properties throughout the LAUSD's service area. The district's proposed property tax would assess a tax of 16-cents per square foot on all properties, which is in addition to an existing 12-cent per square foot property tax already levied by the district, and statewide tax increases dedicated to schools passed by voters in 2012 and 2016. The property tax requires two-thirds voter approval.

The Board's decision to tax homeowners, renters and businesses is in direct response to the promises made by the district to meet union demands to end the strike earlier this year. These promises were made knowing the district did not have the funds to pay for the union's demands. In fact, the district projects a more than \$400 million annual shortfall, due in large measure to skyrocketing retiree health care costs and pension debt.

WHEREAS, the LAUSD has an annual budget of \$13.7 billion and spends more than \$7.5 billion a year and has a structural budget deficit;

WHEREAS, the LAUSD has lost 245,000 students over the last 15 years. The district has 65,000 employees, but only 24,000 teachers. In spite of the fact that the district has lost students, it has increased the number of administrative staff;

WHEREAS, the LAUSD, by a number of impartial measurements, fails to educate students. The district is plagued by low graduation rates, lack of proficiency in math and English and chronic student absenteeism. As reported recently in the Los Angeles Times, half of all LAUSD students do not have grades to qualify them to attend schools in the University of California or California State University system;

WHEREAS, Measure EE, a \$500 million/year property tax for 12-years contains no language guaranteeing that monies raised by the tax will go toward students or the classroom, has no independent financial oversight and provides no guarantee that the district will implement much-needed reform;

WHEREAS, by placing Measure EE on a June 4, 2019 Special Election, this off-year election will cost taxpayers \$12.5 million - funds that could have been saved had this tax measure been added to a regularly scheduled election in 2020;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Westwood NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL opposes Measure EE and will communicate this opposition publicly. Furthermore, Westwood NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL will urge city council to educate the community about Measure EE.

Matt Klink spoke against Measure EE. Roozbeh Farahanipour moved the above motion, seconded by Stephen Resnick. The motion carried by a vote of Yes: 8, No: 0, and Abstain: 2 (Connie Boukidis, Marcello Robinson).

12. ELECTION UPDATE

Sandy Brown did a walk-through at Belmont Village with Renee to address set-up concerns. Parking abatement was requested for surrounding streets but no reply has been received.

13. ADJOURNMENT

President Lisa Chapman adjourned the meeting at 9:33 p.m.