

WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MINUTES
MAY 12, 2021
ZOOM MEETING ONLINE OR BY TELEPHONE

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Lisa Chapman called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Board members in attendance were Connie Boukidis, Sandy Brown, Lisa Chapman, Tracey Fitzgerald, Philip Gabriel, Ann Hayman, David Lorango, Eloise Metcalfe, Stephen Resnick, Marcello Robinson, Paula Rogers, Mark Rogo, and Laura Winikow. Member excused was Roozbeh Farahanipour. A quorum was present. There were approximately 15 stakeholders and guests attending.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Board members made various personal announcements.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Sandy Brown made a correction to agenda item 9 in the April 14, 2021 minutes, and moved to approve the amended minutes. Tracey Fitzgerald seconded and the motion carried unanimously, with the exception of Marcello Robinson who did not vote.

4. COMMENTS BY PUBLIC OFFICIALS

A. CD5 Field Deputy Jasmine Shamolian announced that CD5 is dealing with a lot of homeless issues and has set up a committee to work on solutions, which Lisa Chapman is on. CD5 field deputy Angel Izard will be working on homeless issues as well. There was a re-appropriation of LAPD funds to the council districts. Councilmember Koretz allocated \$450,000 to PATH and \$10,000 to West L.A. Homeless. Illegal dumping of furniture near Westwood Park is a problem because if items are not picked up, they are taken into the park. A flyer about bulky item pickup will be sent out. Speed feedback signs will be placed on Wilshire Blvd. by Beverly Glen and Comstock, and a program called Rest on Red will be implemented.

B. County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl's field deputy Zac Gaidzik reported that the county is now in the yellow tier and things are starting to open up more.

C. UCLA representative Marco Perez announced that the Hammer Museum is open, the Fowler will be opening in June, and day camp will be held on campus over the summer. Associate Vice Chancellor Jennifer Poulakidas expressed disappointment that Councilmember Koretz changed his mind on the question of the Metro subway vs. monorail line, and now supports a monorail.

D. U.S. Congressman Ted Lieu's representative Janet Turner announced that the West L.A. VA campus is now open for walking and biking, and gave an update on current legislation.

5. DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT

DONE NEA Freddy Cupen-Ames announced that the city clerk has a new website, reminded about the administrative packet for 2021-2022, and gave updates on various programs and deadlines.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

A. Motion to approve Monthly Expenditure Report for April 2021

Treasurer Laura Winikow reported that April's MER included a beginning balance of \$34,327.22, \$7,790.51 spent, \$11,550 outstanding, \$3,850 pending, and an available balance of \$11,136.71. Two NPGs in the amount of \$7,700 have not been paid out yet

so that brings the available balance down to \$3,436. There will be approximately \$123 more in staffing services expenses, bringing the ending balance down to \$3,313, which will be rolled over. Laura Winikow moved to approve the April MER, seconded by Tracey Fitzgerald and approved unanimously.

7. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There was no public comment.

8. PUBLIC BANK LOS ANGELES

A. Presentation on forming The Municipal Bank of Los Angeles, which would be the nation's first state-chartered municipal public bank.

B. Introduction of Motion in support of the formation of the Public Bank

The presenter did not attend the meeting. Stephen Resnick moved to table this item, seconded by Lisa Chapman and carried unanimously.

9. WESTWOOD VILLAGE SPECIFIC PLAN

A. Discussion of new changes to the community agreement and Introduction of Motion: "The WWNC continues to support its previous decision of agreed upon changes to the Westwood Village Specific Plan and opposes any additional motion or change that would modify the existing consensus."

Sandy Brown reported that Councilmember Koretz introduced a motion on May 4th with new issues such as changes on signage, amending parking requirements, and no DRB. Sandy Brown moved the above motion, seconded by Ann Hayman, and carried unanimously.

10. CD5 HOMELESS WORKING GROUP

Lisa Chapman reported that she attended the first meeting of this group that CD5 Field Deputy Jasmine Shamolian mentioned previously. A second meeting is scheduled for May 20th.

11. WESTWOOD TOMORROW

Sandy Brown announced that tomorrow's meeting will feature UCLA Administrative Vice Chancellor Michael Beck and Robert Gray on Westwood Village and the Crest Theatre.

12. RENTER SEAT APPLICANTS - UPDATE

Philip Gabriel may have found a candidate for the vacant seat.

13. STANDING COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

A. Executive – no report

B. Land Use & Planning – no report

C. Outreach & Communications – no report

D. Homeless Task Force – see agenda item 10

E. Budget Advocates

Budget Day will take place on August 25, 2021.

F. Public Safety/ Transportation & Parking

Chair Philip Gabriel stated that fixing the timing of lights on Wilshire between Glendon and the freeway may not happen due to the Rest on Red program. Construction on Wilshire is scheduled to start in the fall.

G. Bylaws – no report

H. WRAC – Report and Motions

1. Support: Oppose use of Beaches, Beach Parking Lots and Public Lots to House the Unhoused

"In reference to Council File 21-0350, the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC) strongly advises the members of the Los Angeles City Council and the Mayor that WRAC opposes using the beaches, beach parking lots, and public parks* for housing of the unhoused. Neighborhood or Community Councils where these sites are listed in the Council motion shall work in good faith to identify alternative sites within their boundaries.

*The parks are subject to approval of the stakeholders and Neighborhood Council in the area of the parks."

Lisa Chapman moved the above motion, seconded by Marcello Robinson, and carried unanimously.

2. Support: Enforcement of Crimes in or near Homeless Encampments

"The Westside Regional Alliance of Councils calls on the Los Angeles City Council and Mayor Eric Garcetti to direct the Los Angeles Police Department and other relevant law enforcement agencies to enforce all existing, enforceable laws prohibiting the sale and distribution of illegal drugs, human trafficking, and other serious crimes taking place in or near homeless encampments on the Westside of Los Angeles."

Lisa Chapman moved the above motion, seconded by Ann Hayman, and carried unanimously.

3. Support: Abate and Correct Unsafe and Unhealthy Conditions in Homeless Encampments

"The Westside Regional Alliance of Councils calls on the Los Angeles City Council and Mayor Eric Garcetti to immediately direct the Los Angeles City Bureau of Sanitation ("LA Sanitation") to undertake site clean-ups, trash collection, and sanitizing of all homeless encampments located in the neighborhoods represented by WRAC on the Westside of Los Angeles, in order to abate, correct, and remove hazardous, unsafe, unhealthy, and unsanitary conditions, **including without limitation all combustible materials such as propane tanks**, at all homeless encampments forthwith."

Lisa Chapman moved the above motion, seconded by Marcello Robinson, and carried by a vote of Yes: 10, No: 1 (Lisa Chapman), and Abstain: 1 (Mark Rogo).

4. Support: Increase Funding to Support Additional Safe Parking Programs

"The Westside Regional Alliance of Councils calls for additional funding and resources, from all available sources, in order to implement more Safe Parking Programs and to support existing, reputable safe parking programs, including those operated by organizations such as Safe Parking LA, throughout the Westside of Los Angeles."

Lisa Chapman moved the above motion, seconded by Stephen Resnick. The motion failed by a vote of No: 6 (Sandy Brown, Lisa Chapman, Tracey Fitzgerald, Philip Gabriel, Mark Rogo, Marcello Robinson), Yes: 5 (Connie Boukidis, Eloise Metcalfe, Stephen Resnick, Paula Rogers, Laura Winikow) and Abstain: 0.

The motion was then amended to add, "WWNC does not support the increase of any parking meter rates to be used as funding. The money is to come from identified homeless funds." Lisa Chapman moved the amended motion, seconded by Marcello Robinson, and carried unanimously.

5. Support: Enforce Laws Prohibiting Blockage of Public Right of Way

"The Westside Regional Alliance of Councils calls on the Los Angeles City Council and Mayor Eric Garcetti to direct the Los Angeles Police Department and the Department of Public Works' Bureau of Engineering Street Services Division, as well as the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, and the Department of Veterans Affairs to direct the Veterans Affairs Police Department and other relevant law enforcement agencies to

enforce all existing, enforceable laws prohibiting the blockage of the public right of way on the Westside of Los Angeles, including all applicable provisions of the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA).”

Lisa Chapman moved the above motion, seconded by Stephen Resnick, and carried unanimously.

I. Park Advisory

Westwood Park PAB member Tracey Fitzgerald reported that she attended its first meeting, which lasted three hours and had more than 100 attendees. Among the items discussed were Aidan’s Place and the park’s old master plan. The next meeting will be May 25th.

14. ADJOURNMENT

President Lisa Chapman adjourned the meeting at 10:14 p.m.