

## WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

MAY 14, 2014

WESTWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 10822 WILSHIRE BLVD. LOS ANGELES, CA 90024

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

President Jerry Brown called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m. Board members in attendance were Sarah Austerlitz, Connie Boukidis, Jerry Brown, Lisa Chapman, Carole Cohen, Roozbeh Farahanipour, Armen Hadjimanoukian, Stephen Resnick, Michael Stajura, Scott Whittle, and Laura Winikow. Members excused were Dean Abell, Angus Beverly, Jolie Duhon, Samuel Haws, Mark Herd, Ryan Krebs, Mark Rogo, and Clinton Schudy. A quorum was present. There were 16 stakeholders and guests present.

### 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Connie Boukidis moved to approve the minutes of the April 9, 2014 board meeting. Scott Whittle seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

### 3. COMMENTS BY PUBLIC OFFICIALS

A. UCLA Representative Rachel Brashier announced that UCLA is starting its centennial campaign kickoff. Graduations will be held from June 12th through June 15th.

B. SoCal Gas Company representative Ray Verches reported that 90% of the network

for the electronic upgrade of gas meters has been installed. Phase 2 is the upgrade of gas meters. Customers will receive a letter detailing when the upgrade will be done, which takes 10 to 15 minutes. Information about the process will be sent to Lisa Chapman to post on WWNC's website.

C. CD5 Economic Development Director Katherine Hennigan passed out certificates of appreciation to all the board members. The City budget has been finished and is going to the Mayor. Councilmember Koretz came to the 50th anniversary celebration of Stan's Donuts on May 3rd.

D. West LAPD Senior Lead Officer Christopher Ragsdale reported that crime is down 9.5% compared to last year except for a slight increase in grand theft auto. Cars most stolen are Honda, Infiniti, Nissan, and Toyota. The LAPD Memorial Foundation Golf Tournament, which is a fund raiser for the families of injured or fallen officers, will be held in Pasadena on May 31st.

E. Mayoral Representative Daniel Tamm reported that Mayor Garcetti attended meetings in Washington D.C. on economic development. The Mayor named Krisztina Holly and Amir Tehrzani as Entrepreneurs in Residence. They will develop ways to stimulate entrepreneurship and streamline the business process.

F. DONE Independent Elections Administrator Alisa Smith reminded everyone that WWNC's elections are Sunday May 18th. 140 mail-in ballots have already been received. Jay Handal will be in charge of elections with two assistants. Poll workers are needed.

#### 4. PUBLIC COMMENT

New Directions for Veterans representative Mayra Plascencia announced a Memorial Day Walk & Run on May 26th on the West L.A. VA campus, a family friendly event which benefits homeless veterans.

Stakeholder Wolfgang Veith said that there is a problem with cars being parked on the parkways (green lawn between sidewalk and street) in the North Village. It is illegal but prohibited to write a ticket for it. This is because it is commingled with the apron parking issue but it is different and should be addressed.

#### 5. STANDING COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

A. Executive--there was no report.

B. Budget

Treasurer Laura Winikow enumerated the items in the amended budget which had been changed. Connie Boukidis moved to approve the amended budget, seconded by Lisa Chapman. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Land Use

1. Discussion of AB 2222, which is pending in the state legislature, to address

concerns of SB1818

Chair Connie Boukidis reported that Councilmember Mike Bonin, along with Councilmembers Paul Koretz and Paul Krekorian, brought a resolution before the City Council to support State Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian on a bill, AB 2222, that would put curbs on SB 1818 into state law. Jerry Brown requested agendization of this item for the next meeting.

#### D. Outreach & Communications

##### 1. Elections

Chair Lisa Chapman asked about purchasing food for poll workers. Treasurer Laura Winikow said that this item is already in the budget and can be purchased with the Pcard.

#### E. Public Safety

##### 1. Community Policing--Representatives from LAPD and UCLAPD

UCLAPD Operating Captain Ray Garza announced that the next undie run, which is held three times a year, will take place on June 11th. Last time a party in the North Village which was advertised on social media caused a lot of non-UCLA people to show up and there was an overflow. For the June event, 80 to 90 UCPD officers will

be deployed and LAPD will have 20 to 30 officers there as well. UCLAPD has a MOU with the LAPD.

West LAPD Senior Lead Officer Christopher Ragsdale said that the LAPD works with and shares information with UCLAPD.

2. Motion urging the City to increase L. A. Fire Department hiring to alleviate existing staffing shortage

Chair Michael Stajura proposed the motion, seconded by Stephen Resnick. Michael then amended his motion, changing the date from December 31, 2014 to April 1, 2015 as a more realistic goal. Connie Boukidis seconded the amended motion, below.

The Westwood Neighborhood Council urges the City of Los Angeles to resume and adequately fund the recruitment, hiring, and training of new firefighters by April 1, 2015. The strength of the Los Angeles Fire Department is reduced by over 100 firefighters per year due to retirement, injury, or death. The Los Angeles Fire Department has not hired new firefighters since 2008, and the current force is stretched to a point that places both its health and the safety of Angelenos at risk. Furthermore, the reduced strength of the force contributes substantially to the LAFD's overtime budget to adequately staff each shift, especially on "red flag" days. The current evaluation and reconfiguration of LAFD recruitment and hiring practices should be completed without delay. The structural deficit in personnel cannot be easily overcome without a substantial effort placed on accelerated hiring to address the foreseeable and increasing shortfall in staffing. Hiring must occur at a

faster rate than attrition to overcome the force's structural personnel deficit.

The motion carried unanimously. It will be brought to WRAC.

There will be a Disaster Preparedness Fair on September 7, 2014.

G. Traffic--there was no report.

H. WRAC --this item was struck from the agenda.

Mark Herd arrived at 8:55 p.m.

## 6. NEIGHBORHOOD PURPOSE GRANTS

Friends of the Westwood Library representative Steve Sann presented their new NPG request. The library is now requesting \$4,300 for Hot Off the Press (HOTP), which is a program where the library gets new books when they are published. These HOTP books stay at the branch and are not allowed to be requested by other branches or returned elsewhere.

Connie Boukidis moved to approve the Friends of the Westwood Library's NPG request, seconded by Lisa Chapman. The motion carried by a vote of Yes: 9, No: 0, and Abstain: 3. The three abstentions were Roozbeh Farahanipour, Stephen Resnick, and Laura Winikow as they recused themselves.

## 7. SIMMS PROJECT (GAYLEY & LINDBROOK)

A. Introduction of motion: The Westwood Neighborhood Council supports the appeal of the Simms Project (Case # DIR-2014-251-SPP) filed by the Holmby Westwood Property Owners Association, and requests that the Project Determination be denied

Stephen Resnick explained that the Simms project, where the old National Theater used to be, had its first design rejected by the community. Mr. Simms then returned with a new design which was good, cut a deal to get what he wanted, and then pulled a bait & switch by changing the design, which is unacceptable.

Stephen Resnick proposed a motion, seconded by Scott Whittle. Connie Boukidis then proposed an amended motion, seconded by Michael Stajura. The amended motion (below) carried by a vote of Yes: 11, No: 0, and Abstain: 1. The abstention was Lisa Chapman who recused herself.

Whereas, the Westwood Neighborhood Council (WWNC) Land Use and Planning Committee (LUPC) met with Sheri Bonestelle and Ben Reznik, attorneys with Jeffers Mangels Butler & Marmaro and Dale Yonkin, architect with Nadel, a number of times regarding the Simms Project **(10925 Lindbrook Drive/1130 South Gayley Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90024; Case Number: CPC 2010-1087-SPOSPP-ZAA)** and on February 29, 2012, **voted unanimously to recommend that the WWNC Board of Directors vote in support of all of Applicant's requests (Nos. 1-4) outlined below:**

**1) Specific Plan Exceptions for:**

**a)** An increase in density from 1 dwelling unit/800 sf of lot area to 1 dwelling unit/516 sf of lot area (an increase from 20 units to 34 units). Westwood Specific Plan, Section 5.B.13.

**b)** A reduction in required setback at the corner of Lindbrook and Gayley, which is a 5 foot setback at the 40 foot height with a 45 degree angle setback thereafter. Westwood Specific Plan, Section 8.C.1.

**c)** A reduction in the amount of floor area on the ground level devoted to retail, restaurant or other food services to less than 80% of the frontage of the building, excluding vehicular access to on-site parking. Westwood Specific Plan, Section 5.D.1.

**2) Zoning Administrator's Adjustment for:**

**a)** Elimination of the side yard required adjacent to the existing commercial building to the east.

**3) Project Permit Compliance for:**

**a)** Compliance with the Westwood Design Review Board Specific Plan, the Westwood Village Specific Plan, and the West Los Angeles Transportation Improvement and Mitigation Specific Plan. LAMC Section 11.5.7

**4) Additional Approvals for:**

**a)** Partial subterranean vacation under the alley and public sidewalk, and a revocable permit from Public Works for building under the sidewalk on Lindbrook and under the alley, and for projection of canopies over the public sidewalk.

Whereas, on March 13, 2012, at the regular Board Meeting of the WWNC, upon the WWNC LUPC's recommendation, with 14 of the 19



Board Members present, **13 voted to support all of Applicant's requests above, with one abstention.**

**BE IT RESOLVED,** The Westwood Neighborhood Council reaffirms its position set forth at its meeting on March 13, 2012 and supports the appeal of the Simms Project (Case # DIR-2014-251-SPP) filed by the Holmby Westwood Property Owners Association, and calls on the Area Planning Commission to deny the Project Determination.

#### 8. NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL BUDGET ADVOCATE WHITE PAPER

A. Introduction of motion: the Westwood Neighborhood Council supports the budget advocates white paper recommendations and requests the council to instruct the CAO and CLA to report back within 30 days on the budget advocates findings.

NC Budget Advocate Marcello Robinson reported that the white paper which just came out contains 14 recommendations, which he summarized. The white paper will be presented before the City Council.

Scott Whittle moved,

The Westwood Neighborhood Council supports the budget advocates white paper recommendations and requests the council to instruct the CAO and CLA to report back within 30 days on the budget advocates findings.

Stephen Resnick seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

#### 9. IMPACT OF NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS

Michael Stajura recommended that this topic be given to a sub-committee or discussed at a special meeting. President Jerry Brown thanked all the board members and wished the candidates good luck.

#### 10. ADJOURNMENT

President Jerry Brown adjourned the meeting at 9:29 p.m.