

WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 11, 2014

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Jerry Brown called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Board members in attendance were Angus Beverly, Connie Boukidis, Jerry Brown, Sandy Brown, Lisa Chapman, Roozbeh Farahanipour, Jacob Finn, Aurelia Friedman, Armen Hadjimanoukian, Marjan Jamshidi, Mitchell Keiter, Stephen Resnick, Marcello Robinson, Mark Rogo, Eugene Tseng, Austin Velez, Scott Whittle, and Laura Winikow. Member excused was Dean Abell. A quorum was present. There were 25 stakeholders and guests present.

2. SEATING OF THE NEW WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL BOARD

A. Neighborhood Council Oath

Councilmember Paul Koretz swore in the new board.

3. ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS

A. Board designation of Purchase Card Holder and Second Signatory

Laura Winikow and Jerry Brown will serve as Purchase Card Holder and Second Signatory.

B. President

Jerry Brown was unanimously elected as President.

C. Vice President

Lisa Chapman was unanimously elected as Vice President after Marcello Robinson withdrew from consideration and Dean Abell received no votes.

D. Secretary

Stephen Resnick was unanimously elected as Secretary.

E. Treasurer

Laura Winikow was unanimously elected as Treasurer.

4. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

President Jerry Brown re-appointed Connie Boukidis as Land Use & Planning Chair and Lisa Chapman as Outreach & Communications Chair. Aurelia Friedman volunteered to be Outreach & Communications Co-Chair.

Angus Beverly and Armen Hadjimanoukian volunteered to be Co-Chairs of both the Traffic and Public Safety Committees. Jacob Finn volunteered to be on the Public Safety Committee.

Sandy Brown was appointed as WRAC representative but she requested that someone attend with her to be mentored. Eugene Tseng was appointed as WRAC alternate.

Mitchell Keiter was appointed as Westwood Park representative and Sandy Brown was appointed as Holmby Park representative to the Park Advisory Board.

Roozbeh Farahanipour volunteered to chair an Ad Hoc Committee to represent the south of Wilshire and Persian Square area. Marjan Jamshidi volunteered to help.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Scott Whittle moved to approve the minutes of the May 14, 2014 meeting. Stephen Resnick seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

6. COMMENTS BY PUBLIC OFFICIALS

A. Councilmember Paul Koretz reported that a good budget was passed which included LAFD hiring and restored some proposed cuts. He is working on increasing parking in Westwood Village by changing some unused loading zones to metered parking spots, possibly removing monthly parking from the Broxton garage, and trying to reduce handicapped placard parking fraud.

B. Mayoral Representative Daniel Tamm reported that there is still a \$242 million shortfall in the budget but there were minimal cuts. Mayor Garcetti recently

announced that the Federal Government awarded a \$1.25 billion grant for the completion of the Purple Line extension on the Westside. Westwood Blvd. between LeConte Avenue and Wilshire Blvd. has been designated as a "Great Street" according to the Great Streets Initiative.

C. State Assemblymember Sebastian Ridley-Thomas' representative Scott Malsin announced that Assemblymember Ridley-Thomas will be in the area in July and is interested in knowing about any events that he should attend while here. Sandy Brown asked that the handicapped placard fraud issue be dealt with at the state level. Connie Boukidis requested that SB1818 be looked into.

D. California State Senator and candidate for the 33rd Congressional District Ted Lieu's representative Janet Turner reported that she is working on the handicapped placard fraud issue and has spoken to the DMV's Deputy Chief. She would like to get feedback about this issue and can be contacted at janet.turner@sen.ca.gov or 310-318-6994. Another issue being worked on is the ABC giving out excessive numbers of liquor licenses against the wishes of community members. She will bring a letter for WWNC to sign regarding this issue at a future meeting.

E. Congresswoman Karen Bass's representative Jacqueline Hamilton announced a Westside Community Forum on June 29, 2014 from 2 to 4 p.m. at Windward School that the Congresswoman is holding to hear from constituents.

F. UCLA Representative Rachel Brashier announced that the Undie Run is tonight at midnight and 100 LAPD and UCPD officers will be on hand. Graduations are

upcoming, starting on June 12th at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. From July 21st to July 28th, Real Madrid will be practicing at UCLA.

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS

A. Stakeholder Michael Stajura reported that it will probably take five to six years of LAFD hiring to increase the staffing of firefighters up to the level where it should be. A motion on this issue will be brought before the next WRAC meeting. The Disaster Preparedness Fair date has been changed to July 27, 2014 and will be sponsored by and held at the Westwood Presbyterian Church.

B. Stakeholder Steve Sann thanked WWNC for its support of WOMP. The second Quartet in Residence concert will be held on July 13, 2014 in the library's reading room. The Fifth Annual Night Out in Westwood Village will be held on Sunday, June 22, 2014.

8. STANDING COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

A. Executive

There was no report.

B. Budget

1. Introduction of motion to pass the proposed 2014 - 2015 fiscal year budget

Treasurer Laura Winikow moved to approve the proposed 2014 - 2015 budget, seconded by Scott Whittle. The budget was approved unanimously.

2. Approval of expenses incurred in fiscal year 2013 - 2014

Treasurer Laura Winikow listed the expenditures to be approved:

Media 81 Web Maintenance: \$1200

George Hill WOMP Expense: \$2270 (Marcello Robinson abstained, Armen Hadjimanoukian recused)

Home Depot #1 WOMP Expense \$1042 (Marcello Robinson abstained, Armen Hadjimanoukian recused)

Home Depot #2 WOMP Expense \$50.82 (Armen Hadjimanoukian recused)

Westwood Building Supply WOMP Expense \$815.70 (Marcello Robinson abstained, Armen Hadjimanoukian recused)

Budget Truck Rental (A and B) WOMP Expense \$354 (Armen Hadjimanoukian recused)

Delphi Greek Election Expense \$136.56 (Roosbeh Farahanipour recused)

Copies To Go Office Expense May \$60.44

Copies To Go Office Expense April but billed in May \$182.58

Lisa Chapman Facility Expense June \$75

Lisa Chapman Facility Expense May \$100

Westwood Presbyterian Church Facility Expense June \$103

USPS Postage Expense \$3.40

Westwood Presbyterian Church Facility Expense May \$154.50

Sinclair Lewis WOMP Expense \$496 (Armen Hadjimanoukian recused)

Merriwether and Williams Insurance Services WOMP Expense \$1451 (Marcello

Robinson abstained, Armen Hadjimanoukian recused)

Copies to Go Office Expense June \$78.92

Laura Winikow moved to approve the expenses, seconded by Lisa Chapman. The motion carried unanimously, with the exception of the recusals and abstentions listed.

Laura announced that the last day for using the Pcard is June 13th and after that WWNC will use a system with a checking account where expenses will be submitted, DONE will approve them, and checks will be cut.

C. Land Use

Chair Connie Boukidis had no report.

D. Outreach & Communications

1. Ethics & Training

Chair Lisa Chapman reminded board members that they have six months to do the

training, which can be done online or by attending a training session.

E. Public Safety

There was no report.

F. Traffic

There was no report.

G. WRAC

There was no report.

9. WESTWOOD VILLAGE DISCOUNT PROGRAM

Westwood Village BID Executive Director Andrew Thomas announced that the BID is focusing on community outreach through social media. Sales and promotions include a discount program with 24 businesses so far participating in the program. Outreach to residents, UCLA, office tenants, and new visitors is part of the plan. He introduced Megan Furey, who is the new marketing and communications manager responsible for this effort.

10. STREET VENDING

A. Discussion and possible introduction of motion regarding a motion (CF# 13-1493)

being studied to legalize street vending in the City

Jerry Brown asked for a volunteer to follow this issue through the City Council by checking the website. Jacob Finn volunteered. Stakeholder Steve Sann said this could have a big impact in Westwood on jobs and public safety.

11. WESTWOOD PARK CROSSWALK

A. Discussion and introduction of motion regarding pedestrian safety

Angus Beverly introduced his motion and after discussion the motion was amended to read:

Due to the high volume of pedestrians braving the often-dangerous motor vehicle traffic on Veteran Boulevard en route to Westwood Park, the Westwood Neighborhood Council strongly urges the City of Los Angeles and Department of Transportation to construct a crosswalk and a stop sign at the intersection of Wilkins and Veteran Avenues. In addition, there should also be multiple speed-bumps on this section of Veteran Boulevard as an attempt to slow the rate of speeding traffic. Westwood Neighborhood Council requests a response on this from Council District 5 within 30 days.

Sandy Brown seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

12. PARKING ENFORCEMENT FOR PARKWAYS

A. Discussion and introduction of motion to change the definition of “parkway”

This was tabled until the next meeting.

13. WESTSIDE MOBILITY ELEMENT

A. Discussion regarding submitting comments

This topic was not discussed.

14. SIMMS PROJECT (GAYLEY & LINDBROOK)

A. Discussion and possible motion

Sandy Brown explained that the Simms Project pulled a bait and switch on the community by cutting a deal and getting the community’s support, and then changing the project. That included changing the ground floor retail space to two restaurant spaces. The project has never been studied with the change of adding the restaurants. Holmby-Westwood Property Owners filed an appeal. The hearing will be on June 18th at the Henry Medina Building at 4:30 p.m.

15. GREAT STREETS INITIATIVE

A. Discussion regarding the selection of Westwood Blvd.

Great Streets are supposed to have vegetation, parklets, and public plazas added to them. Sandy Brown recommended that WWNC be proactive on this because it will probably be the last to know what is happening. Lisa Chapman will write a motion on this issue to be agendaized for the next meeting.

16. HOMELESS POPULATION ISSUE

A. Discussion and possible motion

Sandy Brown suggested that money be spent on the homeless problem south of Wilshire because it's hurting business in the area. Stephen Resnick seconded her comments and added that it's a public safety issue as well. Jerry Brown suggested forming an Ad Hoc Committee on the homeless. Roozbeh Farahanipour, Jacob Finn, Aurelia Friedman, Eugene Tseng, and Austin Velez volunteered to serve on the committee. Jerry Brown will serve as an alternate. Sandy Brown recommended getting in touch with Westwood Village BID for help.

17. NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL BUDGET ADVOCATES

A. Discussion and introduction of motion to appoint two board members and/or stakeholders as budget representatives

Marcello Robinson agreed to be the alternate budget representative. No one else volunteered to act as budget representative. This issue will be agendaized for the next meeting.

18. BOARD MEMBER BUSINESS CARDS

A. Discussion and introduction of motion to purchase business cards for each member

Marcello Robinson moved that WWNC allocate money for business cards for those board members who would like them. There was no second. Other board members were not in favor of this use of money. Marcello will find out if he can get them printed for free and bring the specifics to the next meeting.

19. REFRESHMENTS

A. Discussion and introduction of motion to allocate up to \$150 per meeting for refreshments and food

Marcello Robinson brought up this motion but the general consensus of other board members was that this would not be money well spent. Marcello amended his motion to say that WWNC authorizes Marcello Robinson to solicit donations of refreshments for meetings. Lisa Chapman seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

20. IMPACT OF NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS

A. Discussion of how to assess the impact/success (or lack thereof) of Neighborhood Councils and the Neighborhood Council system

Jerry Brown asked board members to think of other ways to assess Neighborhood Councils besides the metrics that DONE uses. Some ideas offered were that outreach to the community is important; the alliances such as WRAC are important because it's more empowering when councils band together; that WWNC had success in saving the Broxton garage; and that a scientific survey for quantifying purposes should be done, possibly by a UCLA statistics class.

21. ADJOURNMENT

President Jerry Brown adjourned the meeting at 10:05 p.m.