

WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 13, 2012

WESTWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

10822 WILSHIRE BLVD.

LOS ANGELES, CA 90024

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Toni Gray called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. Board members in attendance were Connie Boukidis, Jerry Brown, Lisa Chapman, Roozbeh Farahanipour, Brent Gaisford, Toni Gray, Stephen Resnick, Tom Schneider, Clinton Schudy, Kurt Smalberg, Steve Somers, Michael Stajura, George Torbay, Scott Whittle, and Laura Winikow. Board members excused were David Crew, Mark Herd, and Mark Rogo. There were also 22 stakeholders and guests in attendance.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Kurt Smalberg moved to approve the May minutes. Scott Whittle seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

3. COMMENTS BY PUBLIC OFFICIALS

Eric Norton of Westwood Village BID announced that the BID's inaugural annual meeting will be held on August 16, 2012. In answer to a question about possible ficus tree removal in Westwood Village, the BID has requested removal of 20 ficus trees and one eucalyptus tree because the roots are destroying the sidewalks. However, the decision on whether to remove the trees rests with the Department of Urban Forestry.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

5. STANDING COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

A. The Executive Committee has no report.

B. Budget Committee Chair and Treasurer Brent Gaisford presented and moved to approve the 2012 - 2013 budget. Scott Whittle seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

C. LAND USE AND PLANNING

I. Target representatives announced the grand opening of the City Target in Westwood Village on July 29th. Target Community and Government Relations Specialist Florence Chung said that Target likes to give back to the community by funding K - 12 education through grants to local schools. Target customers can sign up local schools, and money

is available for both public and private schools.

- II. AYSO Region 70 Field Liaison Larry Snegg presented AYSO's proposal to build an artificial turf field at Westwood Park using Quimby funds. The field would be constructed on the park's south field and would be fenced so that it is not destroyed, with a keypad for entry. During the months AYSO doesn't use the field, it can be rented out as a source of revenue for the City.

A lengthy discussion on the proposal between board members and stakeholders followed. In answer to concerns about whether it is a good use of Quimby funds, Council District 5 Field Deputy David Giron explained that AYSO's field proposal is well within the scope of the allowable use of Quimby funds and that Quimby funds expire after five years if they are not used. In addition, Quimby funds are not allowed to be used for maintenance, only for capital improvements.

LUPC Committee Chair Connie Boukidis moved, "The WWNC supports the AYSO Region 70 project to build a fenced-in artificial turf field at Westwood Park funded by up to \$450,000 in designated Quimby funds with the understanding that the City of Los Angeles Parks and Recreation is committed to maintaining the field year round." Brent Gaisford seconded the motion, which carried with 11 votes in favor.

III. Connie Boukidis explained that the Marine Corps Officer Selection Office on the ground floor at 1069 Broxton Avenue doesn't conform to the Westwood Village Specific Plan because it isn't retail or restaurant space. The Marines can get a letter from the federal government that will exempt them, but that hasn't been done so the discussion was about whether they should be pressured to get the letter.

Connie Boukidis moved, "WWNC requests the Marines to obtain a letter from the federal government exempting them from the Westwood Village Specific Plan's requirements." Jerry Brown seconded the motion, which carried by a vote of Yes: 8 and No: 7.

D. OUTREACH & COMMUNICATIONS

I. Michael Stajura went over the Election Procedures Stipulation Worksheet and board members chose how to answer each question. The Vote by Mail option was left as "no" on the worksheet.

Michael Stajura moved, "WWNC approves the information on the 2012 Election Procedures Stipulation Worksheet." Jerry Brown seconded the motion, which carried by a vote of Yes: 13 and Abstain: 2.

E. There was no Public Safety business.

F. There was no WRAC business.

6. VACANCY OF BUSINESS SEAT #12

Jerry Brown announced that Joseph Gillard sent a letter to Secretary

Stephen Resnick stating that he could no longer fulfill his duties as a WWNC board member. His resignation was accepted and his seat needs to be filled.

Board members discussed whether to fill the vacant business seat, and the renter's seat being vacated by Brent Gaisford as of June 15th at 5 p.m., before the elections in October. Although bylaws stipulate that there must be a 60 day period to receive and process candidates' applications, it does not give a deadline on how soon a vacant seat must be filled.

Scott Whittle moved, "WWNC will accept applications for the two vacant board seats for 60 days beginning June 15th and at the next board meeting after the 60 day period will select replacements to fill the two seats." Brent

Gaisford seconded the motion, which carried with eight votes in favor.

7. COMMUNITY CARE FACILITIES ORDINANCE

Stephen Resnick gave background on and discussed the proposed ordinance.

It is a land use issue. Unregulated, for-profit facilities have opened in neighborhoods all across Los Angeles and have impacted quality of life for neighbors. They affect property values and parking, which are both big issues. Many HOA's, neighborhood councils, and community councils have come out in support of the ordinance. CD5 Field Deputy Sarah Mallory said that

Councilmember Koretz supports the ordinance but would like to see a few changes, one of which is to permit no more than two leases at one property.

Stephen Resnick moved,

“WHEREAS the low density residential communities of this City deserve to have reasonable protections; and

WHEREAS property owners in low density residential neighborhoods should feel confident that zoning will remain unchanged; and property owners should not have their property value reduced due to problems with group living facilities; and

WHEREAS the city, with a vastly reduced budget cannot afford to have untested new regulations; and

WHEREAS inhabitants of Community Care Facilities deserve protections they will receive from the proposed ordinance.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Westwood Neighborhood Council calls on the city council to adopt the Proposed Community Care Facilities Ordinance.”

Kurt Smalberg seconded the motion. Jerry Brown then proposed several amendments to the motion, which after discussion were adopted as follows:

No unlicensed facilities serving more than six people.

Facilities must be at least 300 feet apart.

Facilities must be at least 500 feet from any school or place of religious worship.

Facilities must require a public hearing.

No grandfathering in of existing facilities.

The vote to approve the amended motion carried by a vote of Yes: 12 and Abstain: 3.

8. HOUSING HOMELESS VETS AT THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

This discussion was tabled.

9. ADJOURNMENT

President Jerry Brown adjourned the meeting at 9:52 p.m.