

**Westwood Neighborhood Council (WWNC)**  
**www.wwnc.org**  
**BOARD MEETING**  
**Wednesday, July 9, 2014 - 7:00 PM**  
**Westwood Presbyterian Church**  
**10822 Wilshire Blvd, Hoffman Hall Los Angeles 90024**

**1. Call to Order**

Fifteen members of the WWNC were present, along with over twenty stakeholders.

Constance Boukidis	Jacob Michael Finn	Marcello Robinson
Jerry Brown	Aurelia Friedman	Mark Rogo
Sandra Brown	Marjan Jamshidi	Eugene Tseng
Lisa Chapman	Mitchell Keiter	Scott Whittle
Roozbeh Farahanipour	Stephen Resnick	Laura Winikow

Hence, a quorum was declared.

Four members of the WWNC were absent: Dean Abell, Angus Beverly, Armen Hadjimanoukian, and Austin Velez.

**2. Approval of June 11 Minutes**

Scott Whittle made a motion to accept the minutes of June 11; Jacob Michael Finn seconded this motion. There were no objections or abstentions. The motion carried unanimously.

**3. Comments by Public Officials**

There were no comments by public officials.

**4. Public Comments**

There were no comments by the public.

**5. Standing Committee Status/Reports**

**A. Executive**

There were no comments by the executive committee

**B. Budget**

Outreach and Communications Co-Chair Lisa Chapman incurred the Rental Set-Up fee of \$75 as indicated below; and the other expenses listed are for WWNC:

Facility Rental Set-Up	\$75.00
Facility Rental Fee (if paid via credit card)	103.00
Facility Rental Fee (if paid via another method other than credit card)	100.00
July Printing Material (To reimburse Laura Winikow)	77.79
Totals	255.79
	or 252.79

A motion was made to

- Accept these aforementioned expenditures,
- Accept the treasurer’s report, and
- Authorize Laura Winikow to carry the WWNC debit card, and
- That Laura Winikow and Jerry Brown will be the only signatories for the debit card.

The motion carried unanimously, with no opposition.

Laura Winikow mentioned that she would like assistance in generating the budget (Due September 1).

C. Land Use

1. Verizon Unmanned Telecommunications Facility Project

*Request CUP to allow installation of wireless rooftop telecommunications facility consisting of 16 panel antennas and supporting equipment mounted behind antenna screens, etc. Equipment not to exceed 41'-10". Panel zoned [Q]M1-2 and in compliance with "Q" height requirements. 1606 Cotner Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90025 Case Number ZA-2014-1666-CUW Community Response Opportunity Contact Person: Sarah Freed, Synergy Development Services, Inc. 818-472- 4933*

Verizon requests a letter approving the placement of screen antennas atop the Public Storage building, 1606 Cotner Avenue, at Massachusetts Avenue. As this is a four-story building, this is the best compromise of height. Verizon has multiple relationships with Public Storage throughout the City of Los Angeles. The remainder of the equipment will reside in a storage locker, paid by Verizon, within the Public Storage building.

WWNC members Mark Rogo and Constance Boukidis stated their concerns regarding the radiation emitted by cellular towers and telephones. The radiation from the towers is equal to the radiation from 100 cellular telephones. However, there are more than 100 cellular telephones in any area of Westwood at any given time.

Sarah Freed from Verizon offered that the most dangerous place to be is within 3’ of a cellular tower. Hence, the placement of cellular towers on rooftops or placed upon a poll. The radiation is from the antenna, not the poll itself.

Constance Boukidis made a motion to write a letter to support this cellular tower; Marcello Robinson seconded this motion. The motion carried.

YES (10)	Lisa Chapman, Jacob Michael Finn, Aurelia Friedman, Marjan Jamshidi, Mitchell Keiter, Stephen Resnick, Marcello Robinson, Mark Rogo, Scott Whittle, and Laura Winikow
NO (4)	Constance Boukidis, Jerry Brown, Sandra Brown, and Roozbeh Farahanipour
ABSTAIN (1)	Eugene Tseng
ABSENT (4)	Dean Abell, Angus Beverly, Armen Hadjimanoukian, and Austin Velez

2. Dilu Project 952 Gayley Avenue, Los Angeles 90024

*Case Number DIR-2014-1683-SPP Contact Person: Phim Mason, PermitXpress, 714-815-4455 Applicant: Steven Cruise. Conversion of a 661 square foot existing retail space into a restaurant that involves a minor tenant improvement. **MOTION:** Be it*

*resolved, The Westwood Neighborhood Council supports the appeal of the DILU Project (Case # DIR-2014-1683-SPP) and calls on the Area Planning Commission to deny the Project Determination due to insufficient space for kitchen, seating, and parking for full-scale restaurant.*

The owner's agent, Phim Mason, would like to include the three designated parking spaces to service this new gourmet Chinese restaurant. This restaurant will include full table service and seating for fourteen people. They anticipate four to six employees on staff at any time. The restaurant will operate from 9AM to 2.30AM. Take-out will be available, but they will not initially offer delivery. There will be one bathroom to service this restaurant.

Stakeholder Wolfgang Veith mentioned that he does not believe that 661 square feet is sufficient space for a full-service restaurant. He predicted that this restaurant will probably roll over to fast food.

Jerry Brown mentioned that this restaurant has not yet been fully appealed.

Stakeholder Steve Sann feels that Westwood is underserved by table service restaurants. He cited multiple examples of restaurants that came in as one thing, than transitioned to fast food. He also agrees with Wolfgang that 661 square feet is insufficient for a restaurant. Steve explained a few of the rules for fast food versus table service, such as the food must be served on china, with silverware, and must be served by a waiter or waitress. He mentioned that a parking lot company has acquired all the parking for that building. There is no business-owned tenant parking.

Lisa Chapman asked if the restaurant owners researched other locations for their Chinese restaurant.

Sandy Brown reviewed the process by which restaurants receive their approval by the Planning Commission.

Mark Rogo felt that we, the WWNC, are throwing hurdles in the way of businesses attempting to operate in Westwood Village.

Constance Boukidis made a motion to table the appeal of this new Chinese full service restaurant until the WWNC's August meeting; Marjan Jamshidi seconded this motion. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Barbacoa Project, 1030 Glendon Avenue, Los Angeles 90024  
*Case Number ZA 20214 1191 Contact person: Sheryl Brady, Permit Place 818-427-1688 CUB to allow the on-site consumption of beer and wine at Barbacoa Mexican Grill. Barbacoa seeks to provide 40 indoor seats and expand its operating hours from 10 am - 2 am; seven days a week. MOTION: The Westwood Neighborhood Council supports the application by Barbacoa Mexican Grill for a Conditional Use Permit pursuant to Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 12.24, W-1, for the addition of on-site consumption of beer and wine with 40 seats and the expansion of their business hours to 10 am to 2 am pursuant to LAMC 12.22.A23.b.3 subject to the following voluntary conditions identified for consideration by the State Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control Relative to Sale and Distribution of Alcoholic Beverages:*

The following will be prohibited:

- Pitcher service, merely individual glasses of beer and wine
- Hard liquor, only beer and wine will be served
- Outdoor consumption of alcohol; all alcohol must be consumed indoors
- No happy hour discounted alcoholic beverages; merely food will be discounted during a certain time

Stakeholder Wolfgang Veith felt that this sets a dangerous precedent. Westwood currently has fourteen liquor licenses, yet merely seven are permitted.

Stakeholder Steve Sann initially worked with and supported Barbacoa manager, Mr. Kelly, and their service of alcohol. However, Steve recently learned that Mr. Kelly is no longer the manager of this restaurant. Now that Mr. Kelly is out of the picture, Steve no longer feels strong support for alcohol service at this restaurant. Baja Fresh, Chipotle, and La Salsa, with similar food in Westwood Village, do not have liquor licenses. While other Chipotles serve beer and pre-mixed alcoholic beverages, Chipotle chose not to serve any alcohol in their Westwood location.

Marcello Robinson asked the new manager about his employment tenure with Barbacoa. The new manager has been with Barbacoa for eight years, recently moved here from Utah, and is looking forward to relocating here with his family.

Sandy Brown offered that the village is currently very low in high-end retail establishments, and would prefer that sort of business.

Mark Rogo asked Barbacoa's management "what can we do to help you be successful?" Mark feels that Westwood must be a more business-friendly environment where businesses can make more money. Mark would prefer that Westwood Village have plenty of alcohol and rock-and-roll, rather than retail and empty storefronts.

Constance Boukidis made a motion to support Barbacoa Restaurant, by permitting them to expand their business until 2AM on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings, as well as add individual servings of alcohol. Marcello Robinson seconded this motion. The motion carried.

YES (13)	Jerry Brown, Sandra Brown, Lisa Chapman, Roozbeh Farahanipour, Jacob Michael Finn, Aurelia Friedman, Marjan Jamshidi, Mitchell Keiter, Stephen Resnick, Marcello Robinson, Mark Rogo, Scott Whittle, and Laura Winikow
NO (2)	Constance Boukidis and Eugene Tseng
ABSENT (4)	Dean Abell, Angus Beverly, Armen Hadjimanoukian, and Austin Velez

E. Outreach and Communications

Laura Winikow mentioned that we must perform a strategic plan for 2014/15 for assessment. Jerry Brown offered that if we do not perform this strategic plan, the city could block access to our money. Lisa Chapman, with assistance from Aurelia Friedman, will generate this strategic plan. As the UCLA Student Director, Aurelia will focus on attracting her fellow UCLA students. When there is an election, the UCLA students become very involved. We will encourage the UCLA students to be further interested.

Thomas Soong from the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) addressed the WWNC. He oversees the twenty neighborhood councils in the Westside, as well as the harbor area. Thomas recommends that while developing a strategic plan; review the top five concerns of the neighborhood. Thomas encouraged all WWNC members to attend the Congress/Meeting of Neighborhood Councils in downtown Los Angeles on Saturday, September 20. Representatives from the 95 neighborhood councils from throughout the City of Los Angeles will be there.

Thomas also mentioned the Empower LA Awards; they will choose one neighborhood council from each of the seven districts as an award recipient.

Thomas reiterated the requirement for ethics training. This is available online, as well as downtown Los Angeles. There were multiple requests that this training occur on Thursday evening, at the end of August.

Lisa Chapman mentioned that the different neighborhood councils have different values of metrics. Whereas WWNC spends money on purchase grants to libraries, other neighborhood councils may spent their money on other issues.

Sandy Brown offered that 95% of the homeowner's associates in this area are not familiar with the WWNC. Two members (Stephen Resnick and Sandy Brown) are presidents of their local homeowner's associates.

A stakeholder asked if they had a representative of UCLA employees. Lisa Chapman mentioned that was her task.

#### F. Public Safety

Stakeholder Michael Stajura offered that UCLA and the City of Los Angeles are working on getting a crosswalk at the corner of Gayley and Landfair Avenues.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Westwood Disaster Fair will be held on Sunday, July 27, here at the Westwood Presbyterian Church. It is yet to be fully publicized.

#### G. Traffic

There was no discussion regarding traffic.

#### H. Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC)

Eugene Tseng, Aurelia Friedman, and Chair Sandy Brown recently attended a meeting of WRAC from 8.30AM to 10AM on a Wednesday morning. Other attendees were representatives of thirteen neighborhood and community councils of the Westside, including Brentwood, Bel Air and Venice.

Among things discussed during these meetings are council members, members of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, as well as the firefighter motion, authored by Michael Stajura. WRAC does not have formal agendas; it is up to the thirteen individually represented Westside neighborhood councils to develop their own agendas.

1. Introduction of motion to adequately fund Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) hiring

Michael Stajura mentioned that, per an executive order from Mayor Garcetti, the LAFD recently initiated hiring. The LAFD has had a hiring freeze since 2008. They now have extra money for hiring. Starting in January 2015, and again in July 2015, they will train 200 new recruits.

The LAFD is currently 500 to 750 firefighters short of their requirement; their goal is to be at full strength by 2019. The LAFD loses 125 firefighters each year due to death, retirement, or firefighters moving to another fire department.

Jerry Brown made a motion to urge the City of Los Angeles to continue to adequately fund the recruitment, hiring, and training of new firefighters to bring the Los Angeles Fire Department back to full strength by FY2019; Scott Whittle seconded this motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**6. Voter Registration Drive for the November General Election**

Aurelia Friedman is putting together a voter registration drive at UCLA in August, and would like to gain interest in this issue.

As this is primarily a November issue, further discussion of this issue was skipped.

**7. Design Review Board (DRB)**

A. Discussion and Introduction of Motion Regarding the Appointment of Members

Nothing has changed regarding the seven-member DRB since 2007. There are people on the DRB who no longer reside within the designated Westwood area.

Wolfgang Veith mentioned that DRB membership should include an architect, as well as a landscape architect. However, these occupations have not been represented in the DRB for several years. He feels they should work or reside in Westwood. As a few members of the DRB no longer qualify, perhaps the city attorney should be notified?

Steve Sann offered that the DRB has jurisdiction over many historical buildings of Westwood Village. Recently, Target took down six or seven palm trees that had been in place since 1951.

Members of the DRB are allowed to serve for two four-year terms; the chairwoman of the DRB has been chairman for seventeen years.

Perhaps we can do a letter to the city attorney and/or Councilman Paul Koretz, stating "it's time to replace members of the DRB" as they do not meet the Westwood residency requirements.

Stephen Resnick made a motion to call on Councilmember Paul Koretz to nominate qualified candidates to replace those who do not meet the residency requirements to serve on the Westwood Community Design Review Board; Sandy Brown seconded this motion. The motion carried.

YES (14)	Constance Boukidis, Jerry Brown, Sandra Brown, Lisa Chapman, Roozbeh Farahanipour, Jacob Michael Finn, Aurelia Friedman, Marjan Jamshidi, Mitchell Keiter, Stephen Resnick, Mark Rogo, Eugene Tseng, Scott Whittle, and Laura Winikow
ABSTENTION (1)	Marcello Robinson
ABSENT (4)	Dean Abell, Angus Beverly, Armen Hadjimanoukian, and Austin Velez

**8. Westwood Gardens Park**

- A. Status report on restoring the park

There was no discussion regarding the Westwood Gardens Park.

**9. 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 recommends that people follow the news regarding Council File (CF) 13-1493 entitled "Street Vending/Special Sidewalk Vending District Program".

Lisa Chapman mentioned that street vending is not legal in Westwood or the City of Los Angeles. The Daily Bruin asked Lisa how the WWNC feels about the food trucks operating on a dirt lot near the old Shell Gas Station. Lisa asked if we want to take a stand regarding food trucks parking in that area.

In addition, Scott Whittle mentions that food trucks park daily in a red zone, on Gayley Avenue.

Laura Winikow mentioned that this Westwood Presbyterian Church also hosts food trucks.

Lisa requested that this item be agendaized to a future meeting; Constance Boukidis seconded the motion. This item will be brought up at a future meeting of the WWNC.

**10. Westside Mobility Element**

- A. Discussion Regarding Submitting Comments

Sandy Brown mentioned that comments are due on the Westside Mobility Element. This is in response to a letter that Sandy wrote to the city as president of her homeowner's association (not as a member of the WWNC).

Councilman Paul Koretz rejects Westwood Boulevard for bicycle lanes. However, other streets in Westwood are open to bicycle lanes. Scott Whittle recommends that our secretary write a letter to Councilman Koretz, thanking him for his support against a bicycle lane on Westwood Boulevard.

**11. Parking Enforcement for Parkways**

- A. Discussion and Introduction of Motion to Change the Definition of “Parkway”

Stakeholder Wolfgang Veith mentioned that apron parking (blocking a driveway and/or access to a garage) is an issue. It is illegal to park on the sidewalk (including that area nearest to driveways). If we redefine the word “parkway”, this will alleviate this problem.

Scott Whittle made a motion regarding the definition of parkway. Due to issues with parking enforcement not issuing citations to vehicles parking on parkways in order to allow parking on the driveway portion of parkways (AKA aprons) as defined in the Los Angeles Municipal Code, the WWNC urges the council office to direct the City of Los Angeles to immediately change the definition of “parkway” in the Los Angeles Municipal Code to exclude “driveways only” to enable Parking Enforcement to operate under clear guidelines and cite vehicles parking on parkways between the curb and the sidewalk, while allowing parking in driveways. Laura Winikow seconded this motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**12. Great Streets Initiative/Bike Lanes**

- A. Discussion and Introduction of Motion for a Community Impact Statement Regarding Westwood Boulevard Bicycle Lanes

Lisa Chapman made a motion [the latter part of which was] regarding Mayor Garcetti’s remark during a debate whereupon he mentioned that he supports bicycle lanes. However, bicycle lanes may not work in Westwood. Sandy Brown seconded this motion, stating she supported this, yet it is probably not going to go very far. The motion carried unanimously.

**13. Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates**

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

Marcello Robinson is not interested in running for re-election, and is seeking volunteers for the Budget Advocates Committee. The next budget day meeting is August 16, and, in addition to the members, Mayor Garcetti has been invited to these meetings.

Jerry Brown asked if anyone was interested in volunteering for the Budget Advocacy Committee. There were no volunteers.

**14. Board Member Business Cards**

- A. Discussion and Introduction of Motion to Purchase Business Cards for Each Board Member

Lisa Chapman mentioned that they looked at two options for business cards:

- \$21.99/box of 500-cards, with the person’s name, including the city seal.
- \$6.95/box of [unknown quantity, yet less than 500] cards, with the person’s name, from Vistaprint with City Seal

Jerry Brown took a straw vote regarding how many board members would like cards. Four members of WWNC would like the cards.



Constance Boukidis requested that one person coordinate the business cards.

Aurelia Friedman mentioned that most of her conversations are via Facebook, and hence, she would not need cards.

Stakeholder Steve Sann voiced his opinion that this could be a waste of money. He feels that if anyone really wanted the cards, they could purchase the cards themselves for \$6.99. Alternatively, they could use their own personal business cards for networking.

Sandy Brown made a motion that if someone wants cards, they can go to Vistaprint, and purchase their own cards. Mark Rogo seconded the motion. Laura Winikow felt that this was not a good idea.

Constance felt that this will not be more than \$70, and made a motion that the WWNC pay for the business cards; Laura Winikow seconded this motion. The motion carried.

YES (12)	Constance Boukidis, Jerry Brown, Lisa Chapman, Roozbeh Farahanipour, Jacob Michael Finn, Aurelia Friedman, Marjan Jamshidi, Mitchell Keiter, Stephen Resnick, Marcello Robinson, Scott Whittle, and Laura Winikow
NO (3)	Sandra Brown, Mark Rogo, and Eugene Tseng
ABSENT (4)	Dean Abell, Angus Beverly, Armen Hadjimanoukian, and Austin Velez

**15. Impact of Neighborhood Councils**

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

There was no discussion regarding how to assess the impact/success (or lack thereof) of Neighborhood Councils and the Neighborhood Council system.

**OTHER**

Stakeholder Nancy Meyers mentioned Assembly Bill (AB) 2222, which recently (May 23) passed the State Assembly, and is headed for the State Senate. The digest of this bill is as follows:

- The Planning and Zoning Law requires, when a developer of housing proposes a housing development within the jurisdiction of the local government, that the city, county, or city and county provide the developer with a density bonus and other incentives or concessions for the production of lower income housing units or the donation of land within the development if the developer, among other things, agrees to construct a specified percentage of units for very low, low-, or moderate-income households or qualifying residents.

Laura Winikow mentioned that this Sunday, July 13, the Westwood Public Library will be open for a string quartet Concert.

The next meeting of the WWNC will be held at Wednesday, August 13, 2014.

The meeting adjourned at 10.15PM