

WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
JULY 14, 2021
ZOOM MEETING ONLINE OR BY TELEPHONE

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Lisa Chapman called the meeting to order at 6:59 p.m. Board members in attendance were Mark Blocker, Sandy Brown, Lisa Chapman, Tracey Fitzgerald, Philip Gabriel, Ann Hayman, Stephen Resnick, Marcello Robinson, Paula Rogers, Mark Rogo, and Laura Winikow. Members excused were Connie Boukidis, Roozbeh Farahanipour, David Lorango, and Eloise Metcalfe. A quorum was present. There were approximately 15 stakeholders and guests attending.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements were made.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Sandy Brown moved to approve the June 9, 2021 minutes. Tracey Fitzgerald seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

4. COMMENTS BY PUBLIC OFFICIALS

A. CD5 Field Deputy Jasmine Shamolian reported that redistricting hearings are being held and CD5's hearing was on July 7th but comments can still be submitted. A contract with PATH is being negotiated with the priority being Westwood Recreation Center.

B. UCLA Associate Vice Chancellor Jennifer Poulakidas reported that UCLA is requiring masks indoors now. Fall classes will be 85% in person with some evening classes. September 19, 2021 is the date for welcoming students back in Westwood Village.

C. U.S. Congressman Ted Lieu's representative Janet Turner gave an update on recent legislation, including on homelessness, which is a priority for the Congressman.

D. Mayor Garcetti's representative Brad Fingard reported that the mayor was nominated for Ambassador to India but it will take a few months. An update on COVID was given. Sandy Brown requested a meeting with representatives from DONE and the mayor's office.

5. RENTER SEAT APPLICANT

A. Discussion, Q & A, and Motion to Approve

Renter seat applicant Mark Blocker introduced himself.

Lisa Chapman moved, "WWNC approves Mark Blocker to fill the renter's seat." Philip Gabriel seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

6. FEATURED SPEAKER: WEST L.A. HOMELESS ORGANIZATION PRESENTATION AND Q & A
President Michael Stevenson, along with Jeffrey Ellis, Sean McMillan, and Mary Williams, spoke about the organization and its goals. It is a 501(c)(3) organization formed in March 2020, made of volunteers who are raising funds for several social workers to fill a social outreach void among the homeless. Its boundaries are 405 to the west, Wilshire Blvd. to the north, Club View Drive to the east and National Blvd. and I-10 to the south. Its annual budget is \$211,000 of which it has raised \$193,000. A formal launch is being planned for August 2nd. WLAH could apply for a Neighborhood Purpose Grant for outreach in Westwood Park.

7. PRESENTATION BY SUPERPEDESTRIAN (LINK) SCOOTERS TO WESTWOOD

Paul Seymour and Sharon Zhang presented their company and its policy of safety first, with features like triple brakes and visible on board geofences. The company is looking at hubs in Westwood Village and on Westwood Blvd.

8. DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT

DONE NEA Jose Galdamez, filling in for Freddy Cupen-Ames, announced that BONC will continue to hold virtual meetings through the end of 2021. He told WWNC members to pay attention to their email because NC members have been getting phishing emails.

9. TREASURER'S REPORT

A. Motion to approve Monthly Expenditure Report for June 2021

Treasurer Laura Winikow reported that June's MER included a beginning balance of \$14,000, \$3,850 outstanding for Emerson's NPG, and a net available balance of \$11,012.98. Laura Winikow moved to approve the June MER, seconded by Philip Gabriel and approved unanimously with the exception of new board member Mark Blocker who was not eligible to vote on this yet.

10. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There was no public comment.

11. MOTION TO APPROVE YEARLY INVOICE TO MEDIA 81 GROUP FOR WWNC WEBSITE MAINTENANCE AND DOMAIN USE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,534.95

Treasurer Laura Winikow moved to approve \$2,534.95 for Media 81, seconded by Lisa Chapman and approved unanimously.

12. APPROVAL OF \$3,850 FOR NEIGHBORHOOD PURPOSES GRANT TO EMERSON MIDDLE SCHOOL

A. Discussion and Possible Approval of NPG for Accelerated Reading Program

Treasurer Laura Winikow moved to approve \$3,850 for Emerson's NPG, seconded by Lisa Chapman and approved unanimously.

13. WESTWOOD CONNECT DAY

A. Introduction of Motion: "Approval for up to \$ 1000.00 from community project funds for public use hygiene kit items for Westwood Community Connect Day on Sept. 28, 2021."

DONE NEA Jose Galdamez told the board that a gift of public funds for this is not allowed and suggested that this item be tabled pending contacting the City Clerk's office to find out how to fund it. Philip Gabriel asked if the Rotary Club could apply for an NPG to buy items and Jose said yes. Lisa Chapman moved to table this item, seconded by Ann Hayman and carried unanimously.

14. REDISTRICTING

A. Discussion and Introduction of Motion: "To support a single Council District south of Mulholland Drive" See 3 page letter from Carole Magnuson for reference as motion language. Positions from Carole Magnuson's letter:

1. **Westwood is geographically compact and has strong historical communities of interest**

Westwood's boundaries and identity date from the 1920's when the Janss Investment Corporation undertook to develop eleven tracts extending west from Beverly Hills to Sepulveda Blvd. and south from Sunset Blvd. to Pico Blvd. North of Wilshire Blvd., the Janss plan provided a new University of California campus surrounded by residential neighborhoods (Westwood Hills and Holmby Westwood), served by a new business district (Westwood Village). These areas, together with

residential tracts south of Wilshire and North of Santa Monica comprise the Westwood Community Plan area.

Within the Westwood Community Plan Area, residents are served by established schools and religious institutions, including Warner Ave., Fairburn Ave., and St. Paul's elementary schools and Emerson Junior High School. Churches include St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church, Sinai Temple, Westwood United Methodist Church, Westwood Presbyterian Church, and Westwood Hills Christian Church among others.

In the services realm, Westwood has two parks, the Westwood Recreation Center and Holmby Park, two Los Angeles Fire Stations and a Level 1 Emergency Trauma Center, located at UCLA's Reagan Hospital, and is represented within the City neighborhood council system by the Westwood Neighborhood Council.

In other areas, Westwood is fortunate to have UCLA as an economic, intellectual, and cultural engine, driving its economy by providing jobs and generating billions of dollars in spending. UCLA's daily population, which includes many residents in the Westwood Community Plan area, exceeds 80,000 students, faculty and employees. In addition thousands of hospital and medical center patients and visitors, adult education students, museum and theater patrons, sports fans and tourists visit Westwood daily.

2. Shared Issues Unite Westwood Community

*TRANSPORTATION is the biggest single issue confronting the Westwood Community. Westwood is home to one of the country's busiest intersections and three major transportation corridors; the 405 Freeway linking northern and southern county areas; Wilshire Blvd. linking east and west; and Westwood Blvd. linking the newly completed EXPO line with the UCLA Campus. The 405 Freeway serves as a clearly defined community boundary as does the City of Beverly Hills. A major subway terminal is under construction at Wilshire and Westwood Blvds. and a new north-south rail connection to LAX via the Sepulveda Pass and 405 is proposed.

*PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE is an issue closely related to expansion of the roadway and transit network. How to plan to accommodate changes brought about by changes in modes of transportation and the possibility of increased population and at the same time retain the unique qualities of place related to Westwood's history.

*UCLA EXPANSION: How to accommodate expansion of UCLA enrollment and facilities without sacrificing quality of life for residents has and will continue to be a major issue among Westwood Community Plan area residents who are challenged to accommodate demands for new transportation modes, such as bicycle lanes, additional housing and facilities.

*INFRASTRUCTURE AND CITY SERVICES: Residents of the area share a concern arising from aging infrastructure demonstrated most recently by a major project underway to replace deteriorating water pipes under Sunset Blvd. Off-campus student housing generates special demands on building code enforcement and sanitation. Similarly, Westwood's two parks experience very heavy use and recently have become encampments for un-housed persons.

3. Westwood should be included within a single council district located south of Mulholland Drive.

While there may be other communities of interest with Westwood which should be grouped with Westwood in a single Council district, because of the short notice for this hearing and the lack of demographic data, we are not able to provide a comprehensive proposal at this time. The Committee should expect to receive additional submissions of written testimony after the requisite data become available.

Meanwhile, in the interest of fair and efficient government, this Committee should recognize the common interests and issues shared by the Westwood community by including the entire Westwood Community Plan Area within a single Council district located south of Mulholland Dr. In addition, if at all possible, in the interest of shared concerns and efficiency, that district should include the entire original Westwood Janss tract area.

Sandy Brown moved, "WWNC will send Carole Magnuson's letter to Rocky Delgadillo and Councilmember Koretz as WWNC's position." Stephen Resnick seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

15. CD5 HOMELESS WORKING GROUP

Committee member Lisa Chapman reported that she and Philip Gabriel drove around West Los Angeles to identify possible sites for housing and identified six sites.

16. WESTWOOD TOMORROW (WESTWOOD COMMUNITY PLAN)

Sandy Brown reported that the next meeting will be held in September.

17. STANDING COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

A. Executive

Many emails have been exchanged with DONE.

B. Land Use & Planning - no report

C. Outreach & Communications - no report

D. Homeless Task Force - see agenda item 15

E. Budget Advocates - no report

F. Public Safety/ Transportation & Parking - no report

G. Bylaws - no report

H. WRAC - Report and Motions

1. Support: Request to Postpone CF 12-0464-S4 (Processes & Procedures Amendment)

Refers to City Council file [12-0460-S4](#)

"The Westwood Neighborhood Council) requests that the Los Angeles City Council postpone consideration of Council File #12-0460-S4 (the Processes and Procedures Amendment to the City Charter) for a minimum of six months in order to enable further community presentations and feedback. The document in this file, including technical amendments and attachments, are over 900 pages. To date there have been approximately 3 meetings of 1.5 hours each for the Department of Planning to summarize this extensive document and receive limited feedback. Further, "technical amendments" were made prior to the PLUM committee's June 1

consideration which incorporated more than just technical changes and that need review and feedback. The language supporting the Neighborhood Councils' charter-given authority to hold public hearings and provide public comment and feedback concerning matters of land use must be restored to the Processes and Procedures Amendment sections to ensure it complies with the Los Angeles City Charter and the specific authority it grants to Neighborhood Councils. The community engagement has been insufficient to conduct a full review of the substantial changes involving land use authority and procedures. Further we encourage that the Los Angeles City Council obtain Cumis counsel (independent counsel) to review the document in its entirety to ensure that no transfer of City Council authority occurs as a result of this document

and that final decision regarding land use matters remains with the City Council pursuant to the City Charter. There are numerous instances where authority appears to be vested in the Director of Planning, an unelected official, which may be in violation of the City Charter.”

Stephen Resnick moved the above motion, seconded by Tracey Fitzgerald and carried unanimously

2. Support: Oppose Misuse of Specific Plan Process (that that would result in upzoning)

“The Westwood Neighborhood Council opposes the City’s use of Specific Plans that would result in upzoning open space and/or low-density residential neighborhoods. The use of specific plans in this manner creates significant negative impacts for all residential communities, the environment and natural resources. We urge our City Councilmembers to reject land use applications for individual development projects that represent a misuse of the Specific plan process. We ask that the City Council inform Planning not to process these types of requests.”

Lisa Chapman moved the above motion, seconded by Sandy Brown and carried unanimously.

3. Support: Support for ACA 7 (Assembly Constitutional Amendment to restore local governmental control over land use) (Muratsuchi/Glazer)

“The Westwood Neighborhood Council supports Assembly Constitutional Amendment 7 (Muratsuchi/Glazer), which would place on the ballot for voter decision a Constitutional amendment to restore local governmental control over land use, zoning and planning decisions. WWNC has expressed support for local land use control in five of its adopted positions (Oppose SB 827, SB 50, SB 9 and SB 10; Support SB 15).”

Stephen Resnick moved the above motion, seconded by Ann Hayman and carried unanimously.

4. Support: Support CF 20-0584 and 20-0498 – Incentives to Work from Home

Refers to City Council file [20-0584 and 20-0498](#)

“The Westwood Neighborhood Council supports motions (City Council File: 20-0584 and 20-0498) introduced by Councilmembers David Ryu/Koretz and O’Farrell/Martinez to create incentives for employees of businesses and for government officials and employees to work from home.

While remote work is not a panacea for the climate crisis, making the practice more widespread and available in Los Angeles could help to reduce commuter traffic, which would have the benefit of reducing vehicle air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. Teleworking is just one of many tools in our toolbox that we must utilize to fight the climate crisis and create sustainable air quality improvements to our region.

By improving air quality, we also create healthier Angelenos. Air pollution is linked to a host of health problems and makes people more vulnerable to COVID-19. A recent UCLA study found that approximately 14,000 premature deaths could be avoided annually if California decreases greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050. Underserved communities who suffer the most from air pollution would see disproportionately higher level of benefits from cleaner air, the study also found.

WWNC actively supports the City studying these issues further and exploring their timely implementation in the City of Los Angeles.”

Stephen Resnick moved the above motion, seconded by Tracey Fitzgerald. The motion was defeated by a vote of Yes: 0, No: 9, and Abstain: 2 (Marcello Robinson, Paula Rogers).

I. Park Advisory

Westwood Park PAB member Tracey Fitzgerald reported that no meeting has taken place. Marcello Robinson volunteered to be on the Holmby Park PAB so Lisa Chapman will speak with Holmby Park PAB President Robert Ringler about it.

18. ADJOURNMENT

President Lisa Chapman adjourned the meeting at 9:53 p.m.

