

WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

AUGUST 8, 2012

WESTWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

10822 WILSHIRE BLVD.

LOS ANGELES, CA 90024

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Jerry Brown called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. Board members in attendance were Connie Boukidis, Jerry Brown, Lisa Chapman, David Crew, Roozbeh Farahanipour, Mark Herd, Stephen Resnick, Mark Rogo, Clinton Schudy, George Torbay, Scott Whittle, and Laura Winikow. Board members excused were Toni Gray, Tom Schneider, Kurt Smalberg, Steve Somers, and Michael Stajura. There were also 14 stakeholders and guests in attendance.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Scott Whittle moved to approve the July minutes as written. Connie Boukidis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

3. COMMENTS BY PUBLIC OFFICIALS

Councilmember Koretz's Westwood Field Deputy Sarah Mallory was asked by Lisa Chapman about how to get traffic lights changed. Lisa mentioned a terrible accident at the corner of Westwood Blvd. and LeConte Avenue where a car making a left turn hit a motorcycle, and said she believes left turn signals should be installed there in the interest of public safety. Sarah said she would call the investigating officer on the accident and have a traffic engineer come look at the intersection. If it's a public safety issue, it can be pushed ahead. Stakeholder Wolfgang Veith commented about the diagonal pedestrian crossing there and how confusing it is and suggested that "No Right Turn on Red" signs should be posted there. Jerry Brown asked about the repaving of Wilshire Blvd. Sarah said it will be repaved from Comstock Avenue to Beverly Glen, including that intersection, but no further at this point because there is a hold on the section west to Westwood Blvd.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Stakeholder Steve Sann announced the following Westwood Village news. The new City Target would like feedback from patrons. The old AVCO theater is being remodeled into a luxury theater by iPic and will have a restaurant in it. The Westwood Village BID will have its first annual meeting on August 16th at 8:30 a.m. at the Geffen Playhouse. The public is invited but must RSVP.

5. STANDING COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

A. The Executive Committee had no report.

B. The Budget Committee had no report.

C. The Land Use and Planning Committee didn't meet. Tom Schneider resigned from the committee. Stakeholder Steve Sann attended the August 1st DRB

hearing and reported that the 1670 Kelton Avenue project failed to appear so will be heard in September and Wolfgang Veith's appeal against the facade on the old building by architect Stiles Clements at Kinross and Gayley was upheld. Stephen Resnick also attended and reported that 1240 Devon made a presentation and that they have two permits, one which is for a two story garage so it can house stacked parking.

Stakeholder Steve Sann reported that Target was denied a liquor license but the board voted to reconsider the matter on October 3, 2012.

D. Outreach and Communications Chair Lisa Chapman said that Kevin has changed the formatting of WWNC's website and is working on adding features. Posters for the upcoming election have been printed, thanks to Laura Winikow's help, and are available to be posted in storefronts etc. "Watch the Road" signs with WWNC's name on them from LADOT are available as well. Lisa attended the elections meeting where she got good information on social media, and is working on a Facebook page and putting a Twitter link on the website. The committee hasn't met over the summer but a meeting will be scheduled. Stakeholder Roxane Stern mentioned that Empower L.A. needs poll workers for the elections.

E. The Public Safety Committee had no report.

F. WRAC had no report. WRAC's next meeting will be on August 15th.

6. CANDIDATES FOR VACANT BOARD SEATS

There was one candidate for the open business seat, Marcello Robinson. He gave a short speech, answered questions, and then the board voted. He was elected to the board by a vote of Yes: 11 and No:1.

There were two candidates for the open renter's seat, Angus Beverly and Geoff Moss. Each gave a short speech, answered questions, and then the board voted. Angus Beverly was elected to the board by a vote of ten affirmative votes to Geoff Moss's two affirmative votes.

7. UCLA HOSPITAL HELICOPTERS

Stakeholder Roxane Stern explained that helicopters going to UCLA fly over the North Village constantly, which is very noisy and disturbing to residents there. It has been going on for a long time but residents have complained to UCLA in vain. Roxane presented a motion protesting helicopter noise over Westwood. After lengthy discussion, it was decided that more information is necessary to properly deal with the issue. CD5 Field Deputy Sarah Mallory mentioned HR 2677, the Los Angeles Helicopter Noise Relief Act sponsored by Congressman Howard Berman, and said that she would get it brought before the City Council in response to this. Lisa Chapman volunteered to email Dr. David Feinberg, President of the UCLA Health System, and get feedback from him. Jerry Brown appointed a committee of six people to meet with UCLA representatives to discuss the matter. The six committee members are Jerry Brown, Lisa Chapman, Stephen Resnick, and Mark Rogo, and stakeholders Roxane Stern and Wolfgang Veith.

8. CONGRESS OF NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS 2012

The annual Congress features training workshops, networking, and city officials talking about their departments and how to work with them. Donations from neighborhood councils to fund the event are requested. Last year WWNC donated \$500. The board was divided on the merits of the Congress, with some feeling it is worthwhile and some a waste of time. Lisa Chapman moved, "WWNC donates \$500 to the Congress of Neighborhood Councils." Laura Winikow seconded the motion. The motion did not pass as the vote was Yes: 7 and No: 7.

9. VENICE BEACH ATTRACTIONS

Mark Herd explained that the Venice community was opposed to a ferris wheel in their neighborhood but when that idea was rejected, Councilmember Rosendahl proposed a zipline instead. One problem is that it will attract lots of people to an area where there is no parking. Another problem is a broader one: the inappropriate commercialization of the City's parks and beaches. Possibly the intent is to say it's temporary but then make it permanent.

Mark Herd moved,

“Whereas the Westwood Neighborhood Council (the WWNC) welcomes the recent decision to place on hold plans for the installation of the ‘Great Observation Ferris Wheel’ on our city park in Venice Beach; and

Whereas, the proposed Greenheart/Flightlinez Zipline attraction and ‘Great Observation Ferris Wheel’ are perceived to be incompatible with the historical values and vision of our city’s parks as they will have negative traffic, noise and visual impacts.

Therefore, be it resolved, the Westwood Neighborhood Council (the WWNC) opposes the installation of the Greenheart/Flightlinez Zipline attraction and ‘Great Observation Ferris Wheel’ at any of our city parks and any other commercialization of our city parks and beaches.”

Roozbeh Farahanipour seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

10. GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOOD

Although there was a disagreement about whether this is an issue that WWNC should spend time on, the guest who wanted this issue on the agenda was not present so it was tabled.

11. ADJOURNMENT

President Jerry Brown adjourned the meeting at 9:18 p.m.