

WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MINUTES

AUGUST 9, 2017

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Lisa Chapman called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Board members in attendance were Angus Beverly, Sandy Brown, Lisa Chapman, Caroline Conway, Chantelle Eastman, Roozbeh Farahanipour, Philip Gabriel, Ann Hayman, Trent Jolly, Mitchell Keiter, David Lorango, Stephen Resnick, Marcello Robinson, and Scott Whittle. Board members excused were Cyrus Baraghoush, Connie Boukidis, Mark Rogo, and Laura Winikow. A quorum was present. There were 29 stakeholders and guests present.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Scott Whittle moved to approve the minutes of the July 12, 2017 meeting, seconded by Ann Hayman, and approved unanimously.

3. COMMENTS BY PUBLIC OFFICIALS

A. Congressman Ted Lieu's representative Janet Turner reported that she has asked for a briefing by Metro about the portals at the Westwood subway stop. She also gave an update on legislation that the Congressman is sponsoring. No more federal funds will be used for dogs in medical research at the V.A.

B. State Assemblymember Sebastian Ridley-Thomas' representative Brian Adams reported that there will be a fair with food trucks and health resource vendors at the Assemblymember's new office on November 4th.

C. UCLA representative Marco Perez reported that there are more people commuting to campus via public transportation so there is currently no wait for campus parking permits. Welcome Week

is September 21st to 24th. On the 24th there will be a block party on Broxton in conjunction with the BID, so Broxton will be closed off. Volunteer Day will be October 7th.

D. County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl's representative, West Metro Deputy Director Stephanie Cohen, gave a report on how Measure H money is being used to help the homeless. LAHSA will hold a meeting on September 28th in Santa Monica about this. In the fall a meeting with Metro will be held to discuss the Westwood subway stop portals. A decision on the portals has already been made but they are open to community input.

E. CD5 Planning Deputy Faisal Al Serri requested WWNC's input on a possible change to the Westwood Village Specific Plan regarding fast casual restaurants within the next 90 days.

F. West LAPD SLO Chris Ragsdale reported that crime is down 15.5% year to date. Residential burglaries are the only exception, but the numbers are coming down. Gangs are burglarizing homes and are targeting specific houses. Arrests were made in a burglary on Pandora Ave.

4. WESTWOOD VILLAGE BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

Executive Director Andrew Thomas gave an update on happenings in the Village. LADOT will pressure wash and paint the Broxton garage. Branding will be appearing on light poles.

5. PRESENTATION ON RESTRUCTURING OF THE CALIFORNIA BOARD OF EQUALIZATION; CANNABIS INDUSTRY

Chair of the Board of Equalization Fiona Ma gave an overview of what the board does and the recent restructuring of its functions, with some going to a new department. She discussed the problems the state has trying to collect taxes from the cannabis industry when they can't legally use banks and some possible ways to resolve the issue, such as forming a state bank.

6. GEFFEN ACADEMY

A. Presentation on the use of Westwood Park by the Academy

Head of School Sibyll Carnochan Catalan and Assistant Head of School Neil Kramer explained that the academy has no sports facilities and will be operating in a temporary building on Lot 36 until its permanent facility is built. The academy will have some sports facilities in the future but exactly what is unknown. The academy will be using Westwood

Park with permits like other public organizations and schools. Afternoon hours are needed for sports practice and games. Access to UCLA facilities is limited because there is a hierarchy for usage.

7. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

UCLA students Arielle Mokhtarzadeh and Joshua Baum commented on student voter turnout, housing, and student-friendly businesses.

Community environmental activist and veteran Steve Dunwoody introduced himself and his organization which meets in Culver City.

Stakeholder Steve Sann reported that he met with UCLA Vice Chancellor Michael Beck about a proposed 20 story building on LeConte at the UNEX site, which was originally proposed as an eight story building. This will compete with the Fox Theater tower and change the Village's skyline. He suggested to the Vice Chancellor that the project should be shifted to Warren Hall and was told that it is too far along now. The EIR is being released and there are 90 days to comment on the project.

8. STANDING COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

A. Executive

President Lisa Chapman reported on some of the issues that were raised in emails sent to WWNC's website such as the dog park and difficulty of communicating with the Park Advisory Board, and the 7/11 in the Village possibly selling liquor.

B. Budget

President Lisa Chapman listed the expenditures to be approved: facility rental \$100, facility set-up \$75, and staffing services \$88.17. Scott Whittle seconded and the expenses were approved unanimously.

C. Land Use & Planning

1. 1781 Westwood Blvd – Liwan Restaurant and Hookah Lounge

A. Introduction of Motion: The Westwood Neighborhood Council opposes the issuance of a Police Permit for Entertainment due to the non-compliance with building code

violations.”

Ann Hayman moved the above motion, seconded by Scott Whittle and carried unanimously.

D. Outreach & Communications

Chair David Lorango reported that he is working on a meet and greet event with students in October. This will be on next month’s agenda in order to allocate money for the event.

E. Homeless Task Force—no report

F. Budget Advocates

Representative Marcello Robinson would like to do community outreach.

G. Public Safety

Chair Marcello Robinson would like to do community outreach.

H. Transportation & Parking —no report

I. Bylaws—no report

J. WRAC

1. Introduction of Motion to Oppose SB 649, which removes from cities the discretionary regulation of “small cell” cell phone towers

Representative Mitchell Keiter moved the following motion, seconded by Ann Hayman, and carried unanimously with the exception of Angus Beverly, who recused himself.

“WWNC opposes SB 649, which removes from cities the discretionary regulation of “small cell” cell phone towers in the public right-of-way and on city property. Exceptions for historic zones and Coastal Zone are included, but scenic highways and R zones are not included. Local control should be maintained. Cities have capability to properly analyze applications within existing laws and balance protection of neighborhoods with the need for increased wireless capacity.”

K. Zoning & Violations

Chair Roozbeh Farahanipour reported that 100 more trees will be planted. CD5 and Moss and Company are working on a MOU regarding watering, trimming and replacing the trees.

9. DISCUSSION IN REGARD TO: CONSISTENT TIME LIMITS FOR PUBLIC COMMENT & THE PROHIBITION ON BOARD DISCUSSIONS ON ITEMS MENTIONED IN PUBLIC COMMENT

President Lisa Chapman spoke about the need to limit speakers to two minutes each, with leeway when needed. Any topic can be brought up but no discussion on the topic can be held until it is an agenda item.

10. REQUEST FOR A BYLAW CHANGE

A. Introduction of Motion: "The Westwood Neighborhood Council asks the Board of Neighborhood

Commissioners (BONC) for consideration of the following by-law change: The Westwood Neighborhood Council may add standing committees as necessary based upon need, approved motion, and majority board count"

Lisa Chapman moved the above motion, seconded by Marcello Robinson. The motion carried by a vote of Yes: 10 (Angus Beverly, Lisa Chapman, Caroline Conway, Chantelle Eastman, Philip Gabriel, Ann Hayman, Trent Jolly, Mitchell Keiter, David Lorango, Marcello Robinson), No: 4 (Sandy Brown, Roozbeh Farahanipour, Stephen Resnick, Scott Whittle), and Abstain: 0.

11. WWNC GUIDEBOOK

A. Discussion of relationship of WWNC to the city and the Westwood specific plan
No discussion took place.

12. ADJOURNMENT

President Lisa Chapman adjourned the meeting at 10:03 p.m.