

WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 10, 2011
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, Roozbeh Farahanipour, Toni Gray, Mark Herd, Stephen Resnick, Mark Rogo, Clinton Schudy, Kurt Smalberg, Michael Stajura, George Torbay, Scott Whittle, and Laura Winikow. Board members absent were David Crew, Brent Gaisford, and Steve Somers. There were also 18 stakeholders and guests in attendance.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Kurt Smalberg moved to approve the July minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Sephen Resnick and carried unanimously.

3. COMMENTS BY PUBLIC OFFICIALS

Mayoral representative Johan Hari announced a town hall meeting with Mayor Villaraigosa on September 24th at 6:30 p.m. at Felicia Mahood Senior Center. He also said that he meets with small groups of all Neighborhood Councils across the city & would like to meet with a group of five board members from WWNC, including the President, Treasurer, the Outreach Committee Chair, and anyone interested in community service.

Councilmember Koretz's Planning Deputy Christopher Koontz announced that the Westwood Village BID had its first meeting yesterday. He also introduced Sarah Mallory as the Councilmember's new representative, replacing Eric Norton.

Eric Norton announced that he is now Assistant to the Executive Director of the Westwood Village BID.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Stakeholder Roxane Stern announced that the Broxton garage issue was brought up at today's City Council meeting which she attended. Plans to lease city garages are still being talked about.

Stakeholder Steve Sann announced that the Westwood Village BID just had its first meeting yesterday. There are 14 board members and Clinton Schudy is one of them. Their monthly meetings are on the third Thursday of the month at 8:30 a.m.

5. BOARD OF DIRECTORS VACANCIES, SEATS 10 AND 12

After the vote at the July meeting to elect new board members to fill the vacancies, a stakeholder filed a challenge to the vote claiming that it violated the Brown Act. Jerry Brown spoke with the City Attorney who sustained the allegation because hands weren't shown during voting. The vote was then retaken by a show of hands. Eleven board members who were present at the July meeting when the vote was taken voted.

Candidate Tom Schneider received 11 votes. The votes were cast by Connie Boukidis, Jerry Brown, Lisa Chapman, Roozbeh Farahanipour, Toni Gray, Mark Herd, Stephen Resnick, Mark Rogo, Clinton Schudy, Scott Whittle, and Laura Winikow.

Candidate Joseph Gilliard received 11 votes. Those votes were cast by Connie Boukidis, Jerry Brown, Lisa Chapman, Roozbeh Farahanipour, Toni Gray, Mark Herd, Stephen Resnick, Mark Rogo, Clinton Schudy, Scott Whittle, and Laura Winikow. He was present at the meeting and was seated after the vote.

Candidate Richard Armida received no votes.

6. STANDING COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

The Executive Committee has not met.

The Budget Committee has not met since the last meeting.

The Land Use Committee met earlier today. Two of the three projects presented to them were then discussed.

The first project, 1666 - 72 South Greenfield Avenue, is a four story condominium project. The developer is requesting a four foot height variance because of a storm drain that runs underneath the property. Chair Connie Boukidis said that the committee recommended approval of this request because it is a one time unique request and does not set a precedent. Project representative Jonathan Razbannia explained that they are actually making a zoning administrator request, not asking for a variance. He stated that the request for 49 feet in height is due to the disabled parking requirements which they cannot fit into 45 feet because of the storm drain. The Design Review

Board has approved the project and it has now gone to the Zoning Administrator. Connie Boukidis moved that “WWNC approves the project at 1666 Greenfield with the qualification that it is a one time approval of the height variance due to the storm drain.” Michael Stajura seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

The second project was Cafe Chez Marie, which is expanding its hours and applying for a wine & beer license to sell both on site and off site as part of picnic basket sales. The restaurant will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. seven days a week, which they already are allowed due to an entitlement. The committee voted two to one in support of Cafe Chez Marie. All three committee members agreed that there should be no on-premises advertising of alcohol and that alcohol should be served in single servings. Owner Steve Saltzman explained that the restaurant doesn’t have a CUP because it operates under a variance but it is applying for a CUP because the ABC won’t approve the wine & beer license unless they have a CUP. Connie Boukidis moved that “WWNC supports Cafe Chez Marie’s application with two conditions: no on site alcohol advertising and only single servings of alcohol on site.” Michael Stajura seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Connie then discussed the venue for the Land Use Committee meetings in the future. The committee met at the library today which is free but only open until 5:15 p.m. The Westwood Presbyterian Church charges \$50 to meet in the regular meeting room before the board meeting. Mark Rogo volunteered to let the committee meet at Blair House which is free but may need valet parking which could be in the amount of \$80. Connie asked the other board members whether it would be all right to spend money for a venue on an as-needed basis. She will check with WWNC’s Treasurer Brent Gaisford and DONE about the legality. Lisa Chapman recommended Belmont Village which is free but they had not wanted to host WWNC meetings previously.

The Outreach Committee has been receiving questions on various issues. Chair Lisa Chapman said that today she received a question about the flashing red lights at the pedestrian crosswalk by Whole Foods on Gayley Avenue. Clinton Schudy recommended that flashing lights be embedded in the street there to make the crosswalk less dangerous. Councilmember Koretz’s representative Sarah Mallory will look into it.

7. AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORT ON THE DISASTER PREPAREDNESS FAIR

The Disaster Preparedness Fair is planned for October 15th from 1 to 4 p.m. on Glendon Avenue between Wellworth Avenue and Wilshire Blvd., and will close Glendon down to one lane. Michael Stajura reported that the fair’s budget of \$5,125 came out of last year’s budget and \$3,000 has already been spent. The remaining \$2,125 was to go towards a firetruck (now free), marketing & ads,

and DWP street closure fees. The CD5 office can help get chairs and tables.

8. GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Jerry Brown asked who has taken the ethics training. George Torbay was the only board member present who hasn't but said he will have completed it by the next meeting. The new board members will need to complete the training also.

9. BAN OF PLASTIC BAGS ISSUED BY RETAILERS IN LOS ANGELES

Stephen Resnick said that the plastic bag ban issue has been referred to the Energy and Environment Committee. It has not been voted on by the City Council yet.

A representative from Heal the Bay quoted statistics about how much beach litter and ocean debris is composed of plastic bags and styrofoam and passed around photos illustrating this. She requested a letter of support.

Connie Boukidis moved that "WWNC supports the banning of plastic bags issued by retail establishments in Los Angeles." Lisa Chapman seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

10. POLYSTYRENE FOAM TAKEOUT FOOD PACKAGING

Stephen Resnick said that SB 568, a state bill to ban styrofoam take out containers starting in 2016, was first introduced in February. It has been through several committees and garnered positive votes in the small committees. It has now gone to the Appropriations Committee.

Connie Boukidis moved that "WWNC urges Councilmember Koretz to support passage of SB 568." Michael Stajura seconded the motion which carried unanimously. Jerry Brown recommended that the Outreach Committee post this.

11. DWP RATE INCREASE

Michael Stajura moved that,

"Whereas the citizens of the City of Los Angeles passed Charter Amendment I in the March, 2011 election by a 74.54% margin, that calls for the establishment of an independent DWP Office of Accountability and the Ratepayer Advocate, and;

Whereas the City Council must pass an enabling ordinance to determine the method of selecting the managing executive of the DWP Office of Accountability (by whatever title: Executive Director, President, Managing Director, etc.), and;

Whereas the managing executive will be responsible for hiring, firing, and managing all staff of the DWP Office of Accountability, including the Ratepayer Advocate, and;

Whereas it is of critical importance that neighborhood input be included in the process of selecting the managing executive;

Therefore, the Westwood Neighborhood Council hereby requests that the Mayor of Los Angeles and the Los Angeles City Council insure that any selection committee impaneled to recommend, select, or appoint the managing executive of the DWP Office of Accountability be comprised with at least one third of its members taken from representatives of Neighborhood Councils or Community Councils.”

Connie Boukidis seconded this motion and it carried unanimously.

12. DOWNTOWN STADIUM AND CONVENTION CENTER

After some discussion on the issue, Michael Stajura moved that,

“The Westwood Neighborhood Council hereby opposes public funding of the proposed Downtown Stadium and Convention Center project (including interest on infrastructure bonds and no forgiveness of loans), requests that the City of Los Angeles require market-rate lease of city land, and require a full EIR (no exemption).”

Connie Boukidis seconded the motion. Lisa Chapman recused herself from the vote. The motion passed with a vote of Yes: 13, No: 1, Abstain: 0.

13. LAX MASTER PLAN

Michael Stajura moved that,

“Whereas LAX enhances tourism and economic growth in the entire region. Any revised LAX Master Plan should:

1. Retain the existing LAX footprint and forego runway modifications which increase runway protection zone impacts on surrounding neighborhoods, or result in wholesale removal of local business/tax base. Improve placement of taxiways to handle the new larger aircraft,

and incorporate safety enhancements that do not require movement of runway

2. Reduce freeway traffic and discourage traffic flow into local neighborhoods while avoiding any new Lincoln Boulevard connection tunnels. Improve Central Terminal area accessibility, including signage, physical roadway, multi modal passenger drop off and pick up, a consolidated Rental Car Facility, and rail connection

3. Hold LAX capacity to its current theoretical threshold of 78.9 Million Annual Passengers and preclude easily added passenger gates or cargo facilities after the 2020 prohibition ends. Encourage development and maintenance of capacity at other regional airports, such as Palmdale and Ontario, which can act as a back up to LAX and which both have available capacity

The Westwood Neighborhood Council supports the improvement of safety, security, and convenience at LAX but has concerns which should be addressed by the LAX Master Plan update process, including appropriate EIR scrutiny.”

Connie Boukidis seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Michael Stajura announced that he is unable to attend the next WRAC meeting and asked for a volunteer to attend in his place. Mark Herd volunteered to attend the meeting.

14. CONGRESS OF NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS

Michael Stajura said that the Congress of Neighborhood Councils is asking for donations from each council. Michael moved that “WWNC will donate \$500 to the Congress of Neighborhood Councils.” After some discussion, Connie Boukidis amended the motion to “WWNC will donate \$250 to the Congress of Neighborhood Councils.” Scott Whittle seconded the amended motion. The motion passed with a vote of Yes: 13, No: 2, Abstain: 0.

15. BYLAWS

Jerry Brown opened a discussion on changing the posting locations of WWNC’s meeting and the best way to notify stakeholders. The posting locations are not specified in the bylaws but are listed in the certification paperwork, which is mentioned in the bylaws. The notices are currently posted in five locations but there is no mention of any required number of posting locations in the Brown Act. When the Brown Act was passed, public posting of meetings was the most efficient way of notifying people but that isn’t the case now. Outreach

Committee Chair Lisa Chapman said that her committee has discussed advertising in the Daily Bruin and Brent Gaisford is looking into it. Other suggestions were that HOAs email their members and possibly the bylaws should be amended to broaden the ways in which meetings are posted. Secretary Stephen Resnick said that he will research the topic and present his findings at the next meeting.

16. MOTION TO ADJOURN

Jerry Brown moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Toni Gray. The meeting was adjourned at 9:18 p.m.