

WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MINUTES  
AUGUST 12, 2020  
ZOOM MEETING ONLINE OR BY TELEPHONE

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Lisa Chapman called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Board members in attendance were Cyrus Baraghoush, Connie Boukidis, Sandy Brown, Lisa Chapman, Tracey Fitzgerald, Philip Gabriel, Ann Hayman, David Lorango , Eloise Metcalfe, Stephen Resnick, Paula Rogers, Mark Rogo, and Laura Winikow. Members excused were Roozbeh Farahanipour and Marcello Robinson. A quorum was present. There were approximately 32 stakeholders and guests attending.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Tracey Fitzgerald and Laura Winikow each had a correction to the July 8, 2020 minutes. Lisa Chapman moved to approve the amended minutes, seconded by Sandy Brown and approved unanimously.

3. COMMENTS BY PUBLIC OFFICIALS

A. CD5 Field Deputy Jasmine Shamolian reported that about 50 people are still sheltering at Westwood Recreation Center, but it should be closing soon. Eric is no longer the director there. Board members made comments about the Westwood Village Improvement Association's (WVIA) survey, which was just sent out, and asked if Councilmember Koretz supported it, since it has misleading statements, wrong information, doesn't mention homeowners/residents as users of Westwood Village at all, and was only sent to people on WVIA's list.

B. UCLA representative Marco Perez reported that athletic games have been canceled, staff will not be returning to campus until January, and UCLA is still grappling with how the fall will look in terms of classes and housing. The SAFE recycling center is open. A number of construction projects are on hold including the Crest Theater. Board members commented about how students are not wearing masks or social distancing. Students will be tested on arrival and mask-wearing will be enforced on campus.

C. LAPD Captain Jonathan Tom, Commanding Officer of the West LA Area, introduced himself and gave a crime report. Grand theft auto numbers were up recently and Captain Tom mentioned that of ten cars stolen in a week, seven of them had keys inside. Car thefts and burglaries from cars are rampant all over the city because cars are easy targets, though many stolen cars are recovered. To deal with party houses during the pandemic, the mayor's office has announced that party houses can have their water and power shut off for violations. LAPD has two dedicated "party cars" which respond to those violations on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights.

4. DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT

New DONE representative Freddy Cupen-Ames introduced himself. Julien Antelin introduced himself as DONE's Director of Innovation and supervisor of Freddy Cupen-Ames. DONE will experience furloughs and restricted hours.

5. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

One comment was made about emergency preparation.

6. DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE INTRODUCTION OF A MOTION IN REGARD TO THE LAPD

## RESPONSE TO RECENT PROTESTS

Laura Winikow moved to withdraw the motion, seconded by Philip Gabriel and carried unanimously.

## 7. PRESENTATION & POSSIBLE MOTION ON REPORT FROM HOLMBY-WESTWOOD PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION, COMMITTEE ON THE VILLAGE

The committee was set up to look at changes to the Westwood Village Specific Plan for restaurants and parking being recommended by the Westwood Village Improvement Association (WVIA). Chair Jann Williams reported on the work the committee did, the conclusions they came to, and letters written to the WVIA and the City Planning Department.

Sandy Brown moved, "WWNC accepts both the letter to WVIA and the letter to the City Planning Department and will send both letters to CD 5's office." Ann Hayman seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

## 8. UPDATE ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE PURPLE LINE

CD 5 Transportation Deputy Jay Greenstein and Metro representatives Glyssa Robles and Marlon Walker reported on what will be happening. Originally the piling work was going to be done between May – September 2020 but now it will all be done from February to September 2021. The schedules for piling will be combined for the tunnel and the station box with less impact. Community meetings on major construction will be held online and no haul routes will be on residential streets.

## 9. TREASURER'S REPORT

### A. Motion to approve Monthly Expenditure Report for July 2020

Treasurer Laura Winikow reported that no money was spent so the beginning and available balances were the same, \$37,910.32. This amount includes a rollover amount of \$5,910.32. Laura moved to approve the MER. Sandy Brown seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

### B. . Motion to amend the 2020-21 budget allocation to include the rollover amount of \$5910.32 from fiscal year 2019-20

Treasurer Laura Winikow recommended that the \$5,910.32 rollover amount be allocated as follows: \$5,000 to Neighborhood Purpose Grants and \$910.32 to Community Improvement Projects. Tracey Fitzgerald seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

### C. Motion to approve AppleOne invoice for \$140.37

No motion was needed on this item.

### D. Motion to approve Media81 annual maintenance invoice for \$2534.95

No motion was needed on this item.

### E. Motion to reapprove the \$5,000 NPG encumbrance for the LA Conservancy to allow funds from Fiscal Year 2019-2020 during the 2020-2021 year.

Treasurer Laura Winikow moved the above motion, seconded by Ann Hayman, and carried unanimously.

### F. Introduction of Motion: The WWNC moves to cancel the WWNC post office box

Treasurer Laura Winikow moved the above motion, seconded by Lisa Chapman. The motion carried by a vote of Yes: 9, No: 2 (Philip Gabriel, Mark Rogo), and Abstain: 1 (Cyrus Baraghoush).

## 10. UPDATE ON THE RENAMING OF LECONTE AVENUE

Lisa Chapman reported that LeConte Avenue is named after Professor Joseph LeConte Jr., not his father, who was the racist. The research on this item done by Grayson Peters of the

North Westwood Neighborhood Council was wrong so there is no need to change the street name.

11. DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE WWNC MOTION TO SUPPORT LISA CHAPMAN'S GRIEVANCE AGAINST MICHAEL SKILES OF THE NORTH WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

Lisa Chapman attended NWWNC's August meeting last week on Zoom in order to have her grievance, filed with NWWNC as a stakeholder, heard. The meeting lasted 4.5 hours and before Lisa's grievance was to be heard, four NWWNC members left the meeting so there was no quorum, which seemed like deliberate manipulation to delay.

DONE representative Freddy Cupen-Ames will look at this grievance and the others where no action was taken and will look into DONE's double standards and favoritism in the way its regulations are enforced.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Lisa Chapman**

Date: Tue, Jun 23, 2020 at 10:20 PM

Subject: Grievance Matter

To: Lisa Chapman

Dear North Westwood Neighborhood Council Board Members,

I am a stakeholder within your NC boundaries. My husband and I own a store in Westwood Village, and I am employed at UCLA Health.

I wish to file a grievance with your council, per your by-law instructions.

Article XI: Grievance Process

"Any grievance by a stakeholder must be submitted in writing to the board who shall cause the matter to be placed on the agenda for the next regular council meeting"

It has come to my attention that the president of your board, Michael Skiles, no longer meets the requirements of the renter seat which he holds. I understand that he has not met his renter status seat requirements for quite some time, when he moved from Westwood many months ago. I directly emailed Mr. Skiles months ago regarding this matter, and he did not return my email, nor answered my question on his seat status.

Mr. Skiles, to date, has not publicly declared this fact at any of your board meetings, which is required per your by-laws:

Article V Governing Board

Section 10

"Any member of the board who ceases to be a stakeholder is required to submit his or her resignation to the board for discussion and action at a board meeting"

"However board members who remain stakeholders but whose stakeholder status has shifted may serve out the remainder of their term in the seat to which they were elected or selected"

Mr. Skiles is no longer a stakeholder in Westwood.

I understand that his on-line business now uses a business address located in a building owned by another of your board members, Mr. Alex Helmi. This just happened recently, after my email to Mr. Skiles questioning his seat status. In my opinion, this is similar to someone who uses someone else's address to get their child into a better school district.

Please place this grievance matter on your next meeting agenda, to be heard before the entire board for discussion and action. At this meeting, I am also requesting that each of your board members publicly declares that they still meet the requirements of their seat. If any of your board members are absent at this meeting, they will need to have their written statement read aloud publicly.

I have sent this via email to the addresses on your EmpowerLA page, so please make sure all of your board members are listed here as that list may not be up to date.

Thank you in advance for your diligent and quick response to this very important matter.

Best regards,  
Lisa Chapman

## 12. DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE MOTION REGARDING PENDING BILLS IN THE CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE: SB1120 (LAND USE), SB902 (PLANNING/ZONING), AND AB3040 (LOCAL PLANNING)

Tracey Fitzgerald reported that these three bills bypass local control, environmental standards, and voters' input. DONE representative Freddy Cupen-Ames stated that NCs can't advise the state, only the City Council, so filing a CIS is the action to take and semicolons should be inserted between each bill number so that a CIS can be filed for each of the three bills. Tracey Fitzgerald moved to amend the motion to change the last line to read: Be it resolved, that the Westwood Neighborhood Council will file a Community Impact Statement with the Los Angeles City Council in opposition to Senate Bill 1120; Senate Bill 902; and Assembly Bill 3040.

Ann Hayman seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Tracey Fitzgerald moved to pass the amended motion, seconded by Lisa Chapman and carried unanimously.

### **MOTION ON SENATE BILL 1120, SENATE BILL 902 AND ASSMBLY BILL 3040**

Whereas, Senate Bill 1120, Senate Bill 902 and Assembly Bill 3040 allow the State to override existing local and regional planning, zoning and building codes and development covenants and/or overturn voter-approved measures regarding open space; and  
Whereas, each of these bills allows and/or promotes the development of multi-unit housing on lots zoned for single-family housing; and  
Whereas, as an incentive to developers, each of these bills eliminates or reduces requirements for parking, subdivision, lot coverage, property setbacks and environmental protections; and  
Whereas, each of these bills exempts developers from paying fees associated with infrastructure, schools and police; and  
Whereas, none of these bills guarantees the addition of affordable housing units: therefore  
Be it resolved, that the Westwood Neighborhood Council will file a Community Impact Statement with the Los Angeles City Council in opposition to Senate Bill 1120; Senate Bill 902; and Assembly Bill 3040.

13. DISCUSSION FROM RECENT BOARD OF NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONERS MEETING ON CREATING A FAIR AND EQUITABLE NC FUNDING MODEL

Lisa Chapman was on the call where this was discussed but nothing will be voted on until the next meeting. Discussion topics were about cutting NC funding and "equitable funding" which means different amounts for different NCs.

Lisa Chapman moved, "WWNC supports all Neighborhood Councils getting the same amount of money across the board." Philip Gabriel seconded and the motion carried by a vote of Yes: 10 (Cyrus Baraghoush, Connie Boukidis, Sandy Brown, Lisa Chapman, Tracey Fitzgerald, Philip Gabriel, Stephen Resnick, Paula Rogers, Mark Rogo, Laura Winikow), No: 2 (Ann Hayman, David Lorango), and Abstain: 0.

14. STANDING COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

A. Executive – no report

B. Land Use & Planning – no report

C. Outreach & Communications

1. Nominations for Chairperson – no action was taken on this item

D. Homeless Task Force

1. Discussion in regard to the latest homeless numbers from the Los Angeles Homeless Authority – tabled until the next meeting

E. Budget Advocates – no report

F. Public Safety/ Transportation & Parking

1. Discussion and Introduction of Motion: "The Westwood Neighborhood Council requests that the City establish consistent rates for all parking meters throughout the city"

Philip Gabriel moved to table this item until the next meeting, seconded by Lisa Chapman and carried unanimously.

G. Bylaws – no report

H. WRAC – no report

I. Park Advisory – no report

15. ADJOURNMENT

President Lisa Chapman adjourned the meeting at 10:40 p.m.