

WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 11, 2019
BELMONT VILLAGE SENIOR LIVING, 10475 WILSHIRE BLVD. LOS ANGELES, CA 90024

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Lisa Chapman called the meeting to order at 7:01 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 22 stakeholders and guests present.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

President Lisa Chapman moved to table approval of the July 2019 minutes until next month because they need revision. Philip Gabriel seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

3. COMMENTS BY PUBLIC OFFICIALS

- A. County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl's representative Erin Seinfeld gave an update on legislation, including tenant protections that were passed. Installing free wi-fi in L. A. County parks is being considered.
- B. SLO Chris Ragsdale reported that crime is down in all categories except for thefts. Most thefts have occurred in retail locations in Westwood Village. The Village will have its own patrol on peak days of occurrence along with a volunteer community patrol that wears uniforms and has a visible presence.
- C. UCLA representative Marco Perez reported that September 19th through 22nd is move-in weekend and classes begin September 26th. True Bruin week is September 19th to 29th, with a block party on Broxton on the 22nd. The 11th annual Volunteer Day will be held on September 29th.
- D. CD5 Transportation Deputy Jay Greenstein gave an update on the Purple Line subway extension.
- E. California State Assemblymember Sydney Kamlager-Dove's representative Jamie Kennerk reported that there will be a Neighborhood Council Leadership Roundtable on September 25th from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Assemblymember's office in Culver City.
- F. U.S. Congressman Ted Lieu's representative Janet Turner reported on current legislation. Congressman Lieu spoke with V. A. officials with ideas for beds for veterans, which they said were not feasible. Environmental studies are complete and construction will begin on Buildings 205 and 208 in 2020.
- G. CD5 Field Deputy Jasmine Shamolian reported that Planning will start outreach for amendments to the Westwood Specific Plan, involving food definitions, number of restaurants, and parking. The Council File number is 18-1101.

4. DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT

DONE representative Jose Galdamez reported that DONE will be getting a new general manager, Raquel Beltran. The Congress of Neighborhood Councils will be held on September 28th. Inventory reports were sent out and board action is needed even if there is no inventory. Election materials from the last election are available at 555 Ramirez and as of yet there is no deadline to pick them up.

5. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Westwood Community Council President Steve Sann announced that the Cultural Heritage

Commission will have a hearing on September 18th for 1043 Westwood Blvd., the former Tanino. A representative of CARE WestLA spoke about the organization.

6. STANDING COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

A. Executive – no report

B. Budget

1. Approval of Monthly Expenditures

Treasurer Laura Winikow reported that the May MER ended with \$5,310 in the budget. Expenditures were \$139.36 for May staffing services and \$180 for Adobe for the year. Both the MER and the expenditures were unanimously approved.

2. Discussion and Motion to Approve

Treasurer Laura Winikow went over the budget line by line, and moved to approve it. Lisa Chapman seconded and the budget was unanimously approved.

3. Appointment of Alternate Signer

Ann Hayman is unable to take the training so another alternate signer is needed. Philip Gabriel volunteered to be the alternate signer. Laura Winikow moved to approve Philip Gabriel as the alternate signer, seconded by Cyrus Baraghoush, and approved unanimously.

C. Land Use & Planning – no report

D. Outreach & Communications – no report

E. Homeless Task Force

Lisa Chapman is in touch with Chantelle Eastman and they are working on scheduling a meeting.

F. Budget Advocates – no report

G. Public Safety/ Transportation & Parking

1. Discussion in regard to a request for a Traffic Study at Wilshire/Veteran

The committee hasn't met yet. Philip Gabriel will post the agenda.

H. Bylaws

1. Motion to amend WWNC bylaws and add co-chair for Vice President

Sandy Brown stated that this is on the agenda at the request of Marcello Robinson but he is not here tonight and wasn't present for the last meeting so it will be removed from the agenda until he requests it.

I. WRAC – no report

J. Park Advisory

1. Update on Westwood Park Soccer Field

There is a meeting next Wednesday at 8:30 a.m. before the Recreation & Parks Task Force meeting at 9:30 a.m. on the proposed second soccer field at Westwood Park. Sandy Brown is planning to attend. The current plan is to leave the open space but remove the tennis courts and basketball courts in order to install the soccer field, which will cost another \$2.9 million on top of the cost of the field. The Department of Recreation & Parks promised documents but is refusing to release them although they are public documents.

7. DISCUSSION & INTRODUCTION OF MOTION TO OPPOSE THE SHARING OF WESTWOOD PARK (WHICH IS TOTALLY WITHIN THE WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL BOUNDARY) WITH THE NORTH WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL (NWWNC)

The NWWNC wants a voice on Westwood Park now, though previously they had stated that Westwood Park was too far away from UCLA and it was wrong to hold NC elections there. According to Semee Park, the park is contiguous to NWWNC's boundaries so this request will be granted. In that case, the list of shared facilities that WWNC requested and was

denied should be revisited. DONE representative Jose Galdamez stated that if the exact same shared facilities are being requested, no other community outreach is needed. Connie Boukidis moved, "WWNC opposes sharing Westwood Park with NWWNC," seconded by Tracey Fitzgerald. The motion carried by a vote of Yes: 11 (Cyrus Baraghoush, Connie Boukidis, Sandy Brown, Lisa Chapman, Tracey Fitzgerald, Philip Gabriel, Ann Hayman, Stephen Resnick, Paula Rogers, Mark Rogo, Laura Winikow), No: 0, and Abstain: 1 (Eloise Metcalfe).

8. DISCUSSION IN REGARD TO QUIMBY FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR HOLMBY/WESTWOOD PARKS & ALREADY ALLOCATED QUIMBY FUNDS AND PROJECTS

CD5 Field Deputy Jasmine Shamolian reported that Westwood Park has approximately \$3 million in Quimby funds, with no amount allocated. Holmby Park has approximately \$3.7 million in Quimby funds with \$1.3 million allocated, of which \$250,000 has been spent. Trash cans and the children's bathrooms were upgraded. The golf offices, lawn bowling building and the bathrooms inside need to be upgraded also.

9. PRESENTATION FROM RECREATION & PARKS REGARDING THE USE OF QUIMBY FUNDS, MAINTENANCE AND CONSTRUCTION, AND SAFETY AND SECURITY AT WESTWOOD PARKS

Recreation & Parks representative Deanne Dedmon explained that she oversees 67 recreation centers and works with park advisory boards (PAB) citywide. She informed the board that PAB agendas are posted online now. PAB terms are two years and can be renewed without limit, but if new members are waiting to come on then current members must leave after their terms are over in order to allow new members to serve. Park directors are in charge of their PABs and recruit new members, and PABs can have between five to nine members. CD5 Field Deputy Jasmine Shamolian stated that the Westwood PAB board recused itself from voting on the proposed second soccer field at Westwood Park. It was pointed out that they attended every meeting about it so were still influencing the process.

The bathrooms that were promised at Westwood Park with the first soccer field and the dog park still have not materialized. Deanne recommended that Lisa Chapman write a letter asking for the promised bathrooms. When asked about how safety issues are handled at parks, Deanne replied that the more calls and complaints that are made, the more attention is paid to the situation.

The Holmby PAB is dysfunctional and only meets every other month so Deanne was asked to handle the problem.

10. PRESENTATION ON FIRST MILE/LAST MILE FOR THE PURPLE LINE EXTENSION

Metro Senior Director Jacob Lieb discussed solutions that would make a safer environment for those walking, biking, and using scooters to get to and from the station at Wilshire & Westwood, which will have three portals, one each on both the north and south sides of the intersection, and one on Lot 36. A pick up/drop off location in Lot 42 is planned, and a scrambled crossing for pedestrians is being considered. Board members objected to the map portraying a bike route on Westwood Blvd., as it has already been decided that it will be on Gayley Avenue and the issue should not be revisited. If safety is a priority, then the bike lane should not be on Westwood Blvd. and Metro should look at the data. It was also pointed out that only the portal at Lot 36 will have bike racks so Gayley makes more sense. Comments were made that Lot 42 is too far away for a pick up/drop off lot.

11. PRESENTATION ON WHEELS (E-SCOOTERS)

Wheels representatives Arturo Gonzalez and Joanna spoke about Wheels, which is the only scooter company on UCLA campus. Wheels has one of the lowest rates of complaints and has an equity plan for low income users.

12. DISCUSSION ON THE NORTH WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL (NWWNC) GRIEVANCE FILED BY LISA CHAPMAN IN REGARD TO THEIR MINUTES OF 5/21/19 AND APPROVED ON 9/3/19

Philip Gabriel and Steve Sann attended NWWNC's September meeting at which their May minutes were approved. Lisa Chapman reported that she is not allowed to file another grievance because she has filed three already. Philip Gabriel will file a grievance. DONE has already sent a letter regarding NWWNC's conduct but it does not force them to behave. The only effect is that if NWWNC is sued, the City Attorney won't defend them. After exhaustive efforts, their money can be frozen and the council can be taken over. DONE representative Jose Galdamez said that the Neighborhood Council Plan defines "exhaustive efforts" and that DONE enforces the plan but must consult with the City Attorney before doing anything.

13. DISCUSSION ON COMPLAINTS SENT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT IN REGARD TO THE NORTH WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL'S (NWWNC) NEW POLICY OF PUBLIC COMMENT: PUBLIC COMMENTS BY NWWNC ARE ONLY HEARD AT THE BEGINNING OF MEETINGS, NOT AFTER ANY DISCUSSION OF AGENDA ITEMS

The public is being disenfranchised because they are only allowed to make comments at the beginning of the meeting, so they can't comment on any agenda item. NWWNC President Michael Skiles changed the agenda with regard to public comment without notice, which is a Brown Act violation.

14. ADJOURNMENT

President Lisa Chapman adjourned the meeting at 10:30 p.m.