

WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MINUTES  
DECEMBER 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 p.m. Board members in attendance were Connie Boukidis, Sandy Brown, Lisa Chapman, Roozbeh Farahanipour, Tracey Fitzgerald, Philip Gabriel, Ann Hayman, Eloise Metcalfe, Stephen Resnick, Marcello Robinson, Paula Rogers, and Laura Winikow. Members excused were Cyrus Baraghoush, David Lorango, and Mark Rogo. A quorum was present. There were approximately 35 stakeholders and guests present.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JULY 10, 2019

This item was tabled until next month.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – NOVEMBER 13, 2019

4. COMMENTS BY PUBLIC OFFICIALS

A. County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl's representative Erin Seinfeld reported that the West L. A. courthouse property will be purchased from the state and redeveloped. The Westwood Village Improvement Association held a Connect day that the Supervisor's office helped with.

B. UCLA representative Marco Perez reported that UCLA's administration will be closed from next Friday until January 2, 2020.

C. U.S. Congressman Ted Lieu's representative Janet Turner reported that Congressman Lieu recovered from his surgery and will be back at work Monday, and gave an update on recent legislation.

5. DISCUSSION WITH COUNCILMEMBER PAUL KORETZ, 5<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

Councilmember Koretz's District Director Debbie Dyer Harris spoke briefly about new permanent supportive housing for seniors and senior vets. Councilmember Koretz spoke about a variety of topics including the Westwood Village Specific Plan update and incorporating new uses; helping the homeless by working on bridge housing and family reunification; sponsoring legislation on eviction defense and helping subsidize people who can't pay the rent; pushing the state to do more for the mentally ill; and the Purple Line extension. The Councilmember thanked everyone for help opposing SB 50 but warned that another version will return in January along with another bad bill to allow alcohol sales until 4 a.m. Q & A followed. In reply to questions about his position on the proposed second soccer field at Westwood Park, the Councilmember said that he supported looking at alternative locations but RAP deemed those unworkable and as they are professionals he will not second guess them so he is in favor of the field being at Westwood Park. He has asked for the data on why alternative locations are unworkable but hasn't received it yet and is not inclined to follow up because he doesn't have leverage to force RAP to release data. On the Agora project the Councilmember said that he is opposed to the height in that area but likes the project in general.

6. DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT

DONE representative Jose Galdamez reported that he sent bylaw notes to the board and is

working with Sandy Brown on boundary descriptions.

#### 7. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Five people spoke. Three people opposed the proposed second soccer field at Westwood Park citing parking problems, using public property for private interests, secrecy, and underfunding. Two people made complaints.

#### 8. STANDING COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

A. Executive – no report

B. Budget

##### 1. Approval of Monthly Expenditures

Treasurer Laura Winikow reported that the November MER included a beginning balance of \$45,946.29, expenditures of \$1,692.18 and an ending balance of \$44,254.11. Lisa Chapman seconded, and it was approved unanimously. Expenditures to be approved were \$180.96 for last month's staffing services, seconded by Lisa Chapman and approved unanimously, and \$42.15 for tonight's copies, seconded by Lisa Chapman and approved unanimously.

2. Motion to comply with DONE inventory requirements that the WWNC has no new inventory and is only in possession of a Neighborhood Council Banner

Laura Winikow moved, "WWNC has no new inventory and the Neighborhood Council banner is the only inventory item." Lisa Chapman seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

C. Land Use & Planning

Chair Marcello Robinson reported that he is looking at the library and other locations for LUPC's 2020 meetings.

D. Outreach & Communications – no report

E. Homeless Task Force

Chair Lisa Chapman attended the roundtable meeting on November 21<sup>st</sup>. She will be meeting with Chantelle Eastman and has spoken with Mayor Garcetti's representative Ami Fields-Meyer. The homeless count will be taken on January 22, 2020.

F. Budget Advocates

Marcello Robinson reported that a meeting will be held on December 21<sup>st</sup> in West L. A.

G. Public Safety/ Transportation & Parking

1. Discussion & motion in regard to increased traffic during Purple Line subway construction in Westwood

##### MOTION IN REGARD TO INCREASED TRAFFIC DURING PURPLE LINE SUBWAY CONSTRUCTION IN WESTWOOD

Whereas traffic on Wilshire Blvd will increase substantially due to the Metro Purple Line Subway Extension and,

Whereas a reduction in traffic lanes on Wilshire Blvd is expected to start in June of 2020 and is expected to last several years and,

Whereas city wide mitigation measures put in place for the 1984 Olympics worked well, Now, therefore, the Westwood Neighborhood Council calls on the City of Los Angeles to consider these mitigation measures:

- Request that the office high rises from approximately Glendon Ave to Veteran Ave and the UCLA campus to voluntarily explore the possibility of arranging work schedules to accommodate the increased traffic.
- Include a change in work schedules such as 4 days at week at 10 hour days or 3 days at 12 hour days
- Employers offer work from home

- Employers voluntarily explore all alternative modes of transportation, the use of satellite office centers, and offering Metro passes as an employee benefit.

Philip Gabriel moved the above motion, seconded by Stephen Resnick. The motion carried by a vote of Yes: 10 (Connie Boukidis, Sandy Brown, Lisa Chapman, Philip Gabriel, Ann Hayman, Eloise Metcalfe, Stephen Resnick, Marcello Robinson, Paula Rogers, Laura Winikow), No: 1 (Tracey Fitzgerald), and Abstain: 0.

#### H. Bylaws

Sandy Brown will meet with Jose Galdamez about clarifying internal boundaries.

#### I. WRAC

Westwood Community Council President Steve Sann reported that he attended the WRAC meeting where Recreation & Parks head Mike Shull spoke about the Olympics in 2028.

There is no WRAC meeting in December.

#### J. Park Advisory

Both Tracey Fitzgerald and Stephen Resnick submitted applications and got responses.

### 9. DISCUSSION & MOTION IN REGARD TO BICYCLE LANES ON WESTWOOD BLVD.

#### MOTION IN REGARD TO OPPOSING BICYCLE LANES ON WESTWOOD BOULEVARD

The WWNC voted several years ago to oppose a bike lane on Westwood Blvd. For safety reasons and because Gayley is the route to the UCLA Reagan Hospital and is opposed by Westwood Hills POA, there is no reason to reconsider our vote. Conditions that existed at the time of our vote have not changed. When the Purple Line opens and if vehicle and bus trips have changed, the WWNC position could be revisited. However, any proposal should be supported by a thorough roadway and traffic capacity analysis. Such analysis did not accompany the NWWNC motion. This was a long and hard fought battle. The map showing no bike lane on Westwood Blvd. between Wellworth and LeConte or on Gayley is embedded in the Mobility Plan 2035. It is an element of the City of LA's General Plan and requires complete analysis by LADOT and Planning to revise it. CD 5 supports no bike lane on Westwood Blvd. Gayley is undecided due to its width, traffic, and trauma center. Any action to reactivate any bike lane should wait until the impacts of the Purple Line are known. We are all stakeholders in Westwood Village and the Persian Square area south of Wilshire, as are all of the thousands of stakeholders the WWNC represents within our boundaries. Therefore, a motion to maintain the WWNC's current position on the Westwood Blvd. and Gayley Ave. bike lanes is before you and no change to the current map is requested.

Reference: The following motion was recently passed by the North Westwood Neighborhood Council. "Our bike lane resolution: Whereas the NWWNC is the sole and exclusive duly elected neighborhood council within whose boundaries Gayley Ave and Westwood Blvd north of Ohio fall, and Whereas Gayley Ave and Westwood Blvd fall outside the geographic borders of the Westwood Neighborhood Council, and Whereas the NWWNC is uniquely responsible for protecting the safety and welfare of the stakeholders of the UCLA, Westwood Village, and Persian Square communities which would benefit from safe bike lanes Be it resolved that the NWWNC express support for protected bike lanes on Gayley Ave and Westwood Blvd being included in the first mile/last mile considerations by LA Metro And be it further resolved that the NWWNC moreover urge all relevant parties to implement a bicycle lane on Westwood Blvd that connects from the UCLA campus through the southernmost portion of our council area as quickly as possible, and ideally even before first mile/last mile implementation And be it further resolved that the NWWNC invites LA Metro to send a representative to our January or February board meeting to engage with our community's concerns."

Board members and stakeholders commented on the motion.

Sandy Brown moved the above motion, seconded by Stephen Resnick. The motion carried by a vote of Yes: 7 (Connie Boukidis, Sandy Brown, Lisa Chapman, Philip Gabriel, Ann Hayman, Stephen Resnick, Paula Rogers), No: 2 (Tracey Fitzgerald, Marcello Robinson), and Abstain: 2 (Eloise Metcalfe, Laura Winikow).

10. 900 HILGARD AVENUE

Inspectors from the Department of Building & Safety went to the address and issued citations. An update will be given at the next meeting.

11. ADJOURNMENT

President Lisa Chapman adjourned the meeting at 10:09 p.m.