

# Westwood Neighborhood Council

## Community Impact Statement

December 13, 2010

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Westwood Neighborhood Council

Stephen Resnick, Secretary

[stephenresnick@westwoodnc.net](mailto:stephenresnick@westwoodnc.net)

“Be it resolved that permanent 2 hour free parking is essential to the revitalization of Westwood Village. Westwood Neighborhood Council opposes the sale or long term lease of this public asset to any entity other than the Westwood Village Business Improvement District (BID) currently in formation.”

WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
OCTOBER 6, 2010  
BLAIR HOUSE, 10490 WILSHIRE BLVD.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Terry Pullan called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. He welcomed all stakeholders and guests to the first meeting of the Westwood Neighborhood Council (WWNC). He then introduced the following guests:

Al Abrams, President of the Bureau of Neighborhood Councils  
Jay Greenstein, Los Angeles City Councilmember Koretz' Chief Deputy and Transportation Planner  
Eric Norton, from Councilmember Koretz' office, representing the Westside

2. INTRODUCTIONS

All 19 WWNC board members were present and introduced themselves. Board members are Connie Boukidis, Jerry Brown, Lisa Chapman, David Crew, Roozbeh Farahanipour, Brent Gaisford, Toni Gray, Mark Herd, Terry Pullan, Stephen Resnick, Yoni Riemer, Mark Rogo, Clinton Schudy, Steven Somers, Kurt Smalberg, Michael Stajura, George Torbay, Scott Whittle, and Laura Winikow.

3. COUNCILMEMBER PAUL KORETZ

Los Angeles City Councilmember Paul Koretz was introduced by Terry Pullan. Councilmember Koretz reintroduced his staff members Jay Greenstein and Eric Norton, said he looked forward to working with the council, and placed his office at the council's disposal.

4. BROWN ACT

The Brown Act mandates that all meetings and discussions of WWNC must be open to the public. All board members are required to view the Brown Act training video or undergo training within 1 year of certification as a WWNC board member. Michael Stajura will send other councilmembers a link to the video.

5. SELECTION OF OFFICERS/MEETING FREQUENCY

Terry Pullan suggested a nominating committee be created to make recommendations for a slate of officers for the next meeting. Discussion followed, with the following points made:

Forming a nominating committee may not be the best way of selecting officers because people don't know each other yet. Other suggestions were that councilmembers interested in being officers should be interviewed, or that they should each be given 3 minutes at the next meeting to make a statement about running for office. Interested candidates could submit their names and positions they are interested in within a week to one person who would make a list or they could post it on the Google group site, which is a shared document and not dependent on one person.

Toni Gray moved to create a nominating committee. The motion was seconded by Kurt Smalberg. It was defeated, with 15 opposed to the motion and 4 in agreement.

Kurt Smalberg moved, with a second by Brent Gaisford, that those interested in being a candidate should submit their names and the positions they are interested in to Google docs by October 15th. The motion carried unanimously.

Neighborhood Council meetings can be held once a month or less frequently. Terry Pullan recommended that the council meet once a month since there are lots of issues to deal with. The council will meet next month and take a hiatus in December.

## 6. STANDING COMMITTEES

According to the bylaws, six standing committees are to be formed: Executive, Budget, Land Use and Development, Outreach and Communications, Transportation and Traffic, and Standing Rules and Regulations. Michael Stajura suggested as other possible committees UCLA Relations and Public Safety.

DONE representative Amber Meshak told the council that all committees have to follow the Brown Act and must be public. For regular meetings, 72 hours notice is required and for special meetings, 24 hour notice is required. Amber also announced that an ethics training session will be held on October 14th in the evening which fulfills the training requirement. She will send more information on this. Board meeting agendas should be sent to DONE (ncsupport@lacity.org, amber.meshak@lacity.org). Amber can also be reached at 213-485-1360.

## 7. AD HOC COMMITTEES

Connie Boukidis, Jerry Brown, Toni Gray, and Kurt Smalberg volunteered to be on an ad hoc committee to go over the bylaws.

## 8. BUDGET DAY

The Mayor's office is holding Budget Day on October 16th. Two representatives from the WWNC are needed to attend. Jennifer Badger from the Mayor's office explained that as many representatives as want to can attend, but only two are allowed to vote. David Crew and Yoni Riemer volunteered to attend.

## 9. INTRODUCTION TO NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS

Ron Galperin, Vice President of Bel Air Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council, spoke about what is necessary to be an effective neighborhood council. Ron will email everyone his handout with information about how to navigate City Hall, find out who's in charge of what, how to use the Council File Management System, and other pertinent information. Ron said that the Brown Act is full of good information too. He also recommended a book, "Structure of a City Government" by Raphael J. Sonenshein.

## 10. BROXTON PARKING STRUCTURE

Toni Gray announced that Westwood Village's Broxton Parking Structure is in danger of being leased to an outside company by the City as part of a package of garages so designated. Toni explained that Westwood Village competes with Century City, Santa Monica's Promenade, and Beverly Hills, which all have several hours of free parking. If Westwood Village loses the 2 hours of free parking the Broxton garage currently gives, it will be disastrous for business. Business owners in the Village are concerned because there are a lot of empty storefronts and if free parking goes, it won't be able to attract new businesses or keep the ones it has.

Councilmember Koretz stated that the City is in favor of leasing the garages as a package, and considers eight garages as a less attractive package than nine. He will recommend that the City lease the Broxton garage separately to the Westwood Village BID. He recommended that members of Westwood Village BID and WWNC speak out about this issue at a City Council meeting.

Jennifer Badger said this move has been discussed for several years and the expected money from this lease is being counted in the City budget. Details are being worked out but not made public since that might ruin the negotiations.

Toni proposed a motion: “Be it resolved that permanent 2 hour free parking is essential to the revitalization of Westwood Village. Westwood Neighborhood Council opposes the sale or long term lease of this public asset to any entity other than the Westwood Village Business Improvement District (BID) currently in formation.” This motion was seconded by Clinton Schudy, and carried unanimously.

#### 11. MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS

WWNC needs to set up a website. The domain [www.westwoodnc.net](http://www.westwoodnc.net) has been reserved but not set up yet. Terry Pullan got 2 quotes for setting up a website, and requested volunteers to help with deciding which company to hire. Roozbeh Farahanipour and George Torbay volunteered to help. Terry can set up email addresses for each board member.

#### 12. REVISED LOCATIONS OF PUBLIC POSTING OF MEETING NOTICE

Currently the five places where notices are posted are at Sterling Cleaners, Damoka Gallery, Print-Run, Westwood Public Library, and on the walkway between Bunche Hall and Public Policy on the UCLA campus. UCLA has rules about posting so the administration should be contacted to find out where it would be possible to post notices. The possible revised locations are Fairburn Elementary, Warner Elementary, Westwood Public Library, Gallery Judaica, and Oakley’s Barbershop. Connie Boukidis recommended Emerson Middle School and Clementine’s or Johnnie’s New York Pizza. No resolution on these changes was made.

#### 13. GOOD AND WELFARE

Stephen Resnick said that he appreciated all the work Terry Pullan put into tonight’s meeting.

Mark Rogo, President of Friends of Westwood Library, announced that a successful fundraising event for the library was held at the Playboy Mansion.

Roxanne Stern congratulated Eric Norton on becoming a stakeholder in Westwood.

Jerry Brown announced that he had received an email about St. Paul’s school remodel.

#### 14. WILSHIRE BLVD. BUS LANE

Jerry Brown discussed the proposed dedicated bus lane on Wilshire Blvd. which would be operative from 7 to 9 a.m. and from 4 to 7 p.m. Jerry explained that it would remove two lanes from Wilshire during those times, and Wilshire Blvd. would possibly lose jutouts and trees. This bus lane already excludes Santa Monica and Beverly Hills and there is substantial opposition from Westwood HOA's and condominium associations. This issue should be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

Brent Gaisford said that he has read through the Draft EIR and recommended inviting someone from MTA to attend WWNC's next meeting. He volunteered to extend the invitation. Sandy Brown noted that she would like the MTA to address the issues raised by the travel consultants who researched the bus lane and the impacts it would have.

Connie Boukidis noted that there is only one bus stop in the area between Glendon Ave. and Comstock Ave., which is at Beverly Glen Blvd.

#### 15. BUREAU OF NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS

Al Abrams, President of BONC, explained that BONC is a seven member commission appointed by the Mayor and ratified by the City Council which meets twice a month, once in City Hall and once somewhere in the City. BONC makes policy for the 92 neighborhood councils and DONE. Its primary job is to advise City Councilmembers and put them on notice about what is happening, which makes a big difference. Al said that he looks forward to working with WWNC.

#### 16. FREQUENCY AND LOCATION OF MEETINGS

Frequency of meetings was discussed earlier under Item 5. The next meeting will be November 17, 2010, location TBD. Stephen Resnick suggested Belmont Village as a possibility, though Belmont Village had said previously that they couldn't host WWNC because they were already hosting the Westwood Community Council. Other possible venues mentioned were St. Paul's Catholic Church, Westwood Public Library, Emerson Middle School, Westwood Presbyterian Church, and Westwood Village Synagogue.

#### 17. ADJOURNMENT

Michael Stajura moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:21 p.m. Steve Somers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.