

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Westwood Neighborhood Council

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Date of NC Board Action: 05/09/2012

Type of NC Board Action: General Comments

Impact Information

Date: 05/13/2012

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 12-0600

Agenda Date: 05/15/2012

Item Number:

Brief Summary: The Westwood Neighborhood Council strongly supports a Condition Compliance Unit be added back into the final budget by the City Council.

Additional Information

WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MAY 9, 2012

WESTWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

10822 WILSHIRE BLVD.

LOS ANGELES, CA 90024

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Jerry Brown called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Board members in attendance were Connie Boukidis, Jerry Brown, Lisa Chapman, David Crew, Roozbeh Farahanipour, Brent Gaisford, Mark Herd, Stephen Resnick, Tom Schneider, Clinton Schudy, Kurt Smalberg, Michael Stajura, George Torbay, and Laura Winikow. Board members excused were Joseph Gilliard, Toni Gray, Mark Rogo, Steve Somers, and Scott Whittle. There were also 15 stakeholders and guests in attendance.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Michael Stajura moved to approve the April minutes. Kurt Smalberg seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

3. COMMENTS BY PUBLIC OFFICIALS

CD5 Representative Sarah Mallory announced that Neighborhood Council elections will be held in 2012. DONE will be running the elections and has been given \$650,000 to do it. Elections will be held late October through early November. There are no final details on how much each NC will have to spend on elections. Michael Stajura raised a question about opting out of the elections. Councilmember Koretz tried to put an opt-out clause into the elections but no one else voted for it so there isn't one. Some NC's have four year terms instead of two year terms so those NC's aren't having elections since they aren't due for elections yet, and some NC's have boards with some members serving two year terms and some serving four year terms. Lisa Chapman pointed out that WWNC members never knew that it was possible to have four year terms. Sarah Mallory will set up a meeting with DONE to discuss this issue.

Bettie Jo McKinney, the representative of Karen Bass who represents District 33 in Congress, introduced herself and said that Congresswoman Bass is interested in attending a WWNC meeting in the future.

#### 4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

#### 5. STANDING COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

A. The Executive Committee has no report.

B. Budget Committee Chair and Treasurer Brent Gaisford has not received all of WOMP's invoices, but he should receive them by Friday. There is \$1,380 remaining in this year's budget. After paying for meeting expenses, there will be approximately \$1,200 left. There are three ways the money could be spent: to

prepay next year's rent, for business cards for board members, or the funds can be encumbered to pay for the election.

Michael Stajura moved that the funds be spent to prepay next year's rent. Connie Boukidis seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

C. Land Use and Planning Committee Chair Connie Boukidis said that the committee has not met. Brent Gaisford has uploaded all LUPC committee meetings minutes onto the website.

a. The creation of a Condition Compliance Unit was discussed. Councilmember Koretz is in favor of creating such a unit. Jerry Brown moved that the following motion be accepted and sent to Councilmember Koretz,

“The Westwood Neighborhood Council is deeply concerned with the City of Los Angeles' ability to enforce its planning and zoning regulations to protect neighborhood quality of life. We are therefore incredibly disappointed that the Mayor's proposed 2012 - 2013 budget does not contain a request from the Department of City Planning for a Condition Compliance Unit.

A Condition Compliance Unit will generate fee revenue and is paid for out of a special fund. Most critically, this unit is absolutely necessary to protect the quality of life within neighborhoods. Under the present system, conditions imposed by the Planning Department are oftentimes disregarded, and no entity actively enforces these conditions. However, it is not only neighborhoods that suffer. Businesses that do follow all the rules, often at considerable expense, have their economic competitors operate with impunity in violation of conditions and rules. We are writing to urge that the

Condition Compliance Unit be added back into the final budget by the City Council.

## Westwood Neighborhood Council

Jerome Brown, President”

Brent Gaisford seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

D. Outreach and Communications Committee Chair Lisa Chapman said that the full committee met on May 1st, including stakeholder members.

a. Election outreach can be done under the committee’s budget.

b. DONE and WRAC have both recommended that each NC have an election representative to be a point person for information and handle administrative tasks. Michael Stajura volunteered to be the election representative, as he is already the WRAC representative but he will have to miss the WWNC meeting in July and WRAC meetings in July and August. Mark Herd volunteered to cover the WRAC meetings for those months.

c. WWNC needs a better website. The website is not user friendly on the front or back side. The committee discussed spending money next year to upgrade the website. A professional opinion is that it would cost \$8,000 to improve it.

E. Public Safety Committee Chair Michael Stajura announced that May 12th is Fire Service Recognition Day. Certain fire stations will have visiting hours from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The closest fire stations with visiting hours are Station 69 in Pacific Palisades and Station 99 on Mulholland Drive. May 17th is Law Enforcement Recognition Day at the West L.A. Veterans Administration.

The date picked for the Disaster Preparedness Fair is Saturday, October 20, 2012 on Broxton Avenue. Broxton will have to be closed off. Business owners there should be contacted about these plans. Stakeholder Steve Sann volunteered to help contact business owners.

Laura Winikow is drafting a letter to solicit leaders for Neighborhood Watch and Emergency Preparedness in the neighborhood.

#### F. WRAC

a. WRAC Representative Michael Stajura introduced the following motion from WRAC regarding a proposed development on Pico & Sepulveda.

“Whereas the proposed Alan Casden project at Pico and Sepulveda is only one of several projects in the West Los Angeles region along the Expo line, and whereas the West Los Angeles Community plan has not been completed and adopted,

WRAC recommends that the DEIR, ENV-2008-3989-EIR, be redrafted to reflect these additional projects and their cumulative impacts upon regional infrastructure: water, traffic, sewerage, power, schools, parks, and public safety departments (police and fire).

We also request a 60 day extension to review and comment on the DEIR.”

Connie Boukidis seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

#### 6. VACANCY OF RENTER SEAT #5

WWNC has 60 days to recruit candidates for the vacant board member seat. The 60 days start from the actual vacancy so when Brent Gaisford vacates his seat in June, a replacement board member can't be voted in until August. Elections will be held in October so that means the new board member would only be serving a two month term. Ways to try and avoid this were dicussed.

## 7. LOS ANGELES CITY BUDGET

Brent Gaisford is a budget advocate. Budget advocates are all Neighborhood Council members who make suggestions for the budget each year. They put together 21 recommendations for this year's budget to be voted on. After discussion, Brent Gaisford moved to approve the recommendations except for #9 and #21. Lisa Chapman seconded the motion which carried with a vote of Yes: 12 and No: 2.

## 8. WESTWOOD ORGANIZED MEGA PROJECT (WOMP)

UCLA has decided to pull out of WOMP in the future. UCLA claims it takes too many resources and too much staff time from their volunteer center. Michael Stajura made the point that this is a once a year event which is very positive and productive and a good way for students to bond with the Westwood Village community. UCLA does not provide any money, just student volunteers. Several stakeholders said that students were very enthusiastic about participating in this event and this year's WOMP was the biggest, with 714 volunteers.

UCLA representative Vincent Wong said that he had no comment but was just at the meeting to observe and report back. He did say that UCLA isn't backing away from Westwood but it will be involved in a different iteration.

## 9. FAIRBURN/STERRY BOUNDARY CHANGE

No action is needed at this time because the plan has been temporarily suspended.

## 10. ADJOURNMENT

President Jerry Brown adjourned the meeting at 9:18 p.m.



# WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

May 9, 2012

Agenda Item #5(C)(a)

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Westwood Neighborhood Council,

Jerome Brown, President