

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Westwood Neighborhood Council

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Date of NC Board Action: 01/14/2015

Type of NC Board Action: For

Impact Information

Date: 01/29/2015

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 14-1690

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Brief Summary: The Westwood Neighborhood Council unanimously supports Councilmember Paul Koretz' Power Grid Upgrade motion.

Additional Information:

WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MINUTES

JANUARY 14, 2015

WESTWOOD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 10822 WILSHIRE BLVD., LOS ANGELES, CA 90024

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Lisa Chapman called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. Board members in attendance were Dean Abell, Angus Beverly, Connie Boukidis, Sandy Brown, Lisa Chapman, Roozbeh Farahanipour, Jacob Finn, Aurelia Friedman, Armen Hadjimanoukian, Mitchell Keiter, Stephen Resnick, Mark Rogo, Austin Velez, Scott Whittle, and Laura Winikow. Board members excused were Jerry Brown, Marjan Jamshidi, Marcello Robinson, and Eugene Tseng. A quorum was present. There were 15 stakeholders and guests present.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Scott Whittle moved to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2014 meeting. Angus Beverly seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

3. COMMENTS BY PUBLIC OFFICIALS

A. California State Assemblymember Sebastian Ridley-Thomas' representative Scott Nelson announced

that the Assemblymember will be hosting a California budget priorities forum on January 24, 2015 at

9:30 a.m. at Dorsey High School and invited members of WWNC to attend.

B. CD5 Field Deputy Jeff Ebenstein reported that CD5 will be meeting with the Mayor, the Department

of Transportation, Bureau of Street Services, and the Department of Building & Safety regarding the

Great Street initiative for Westwood Blvd. in Westwood Village and requested attendance of

representatives from community organizations such as WWNC. Councilmember Koretz is open to

listening to community input on bicycle lanes on Westwood Blvd.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS

A. Matthew Gibbons, publisher for the West Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce (WLA COC), announced

that 2015 is the 70th anniversary of the WLA COC, which includes Westwood. He provided 70th

anniversary edition guides for all to take.

B. Stakeholder Steve Sann announced that 75 volunteers are needed for the homeless count, part of a

national census, that will take place on the evening of January 28, 2015 from about 9 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

A training session will be held tomorrow night.

5. STANDING COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

A. Executive Committee—There was no report.

B. Budget

Treasurer Laura Winikow listed the items for the new October 2014 expenses to be approved: Copy to

Go \$79.13, and Westwood Presbyterian Church rental \$100 and setup fee \$75. Scott Whittle moved to

approve the expenses, seconded by Dean Abell. The motion carried unanimously. Expenses for

November 2014 were \$100 rent and \$75 setup fee to Westwood Presbyterian Church, and December

2014 expenses were \$58.21 for copies and \$100 rental fee to Blair House. Dean Abell moved to approve

the expenses, seconded by Scott Whittle. The motion carried unanimously.

C. Land Use

1. Gayley Fraternity Project

Case Number: ZA 2014 1095 CU DRB SPP

Contact Info: Kevin McDonnell, Jeffer Mangels, 310-201-359

Project Description: Conditional Use for four story building over two level subterranean garage, 57

feet height, 15,461 square foot fraternity house with 22 guest rooms and 31 parking spaces and

Project Permit Compliance with North Westwood Village Specific Plan and the West Los Angeles

Transportation Improvement and Mitigation Specific Plan.

Project Address: 611 Gayley Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90024

Motion regarding Applicant's application for a Conditional Use for four story building over two level

subterranean garage, 57 feet height, 15,461 square foot fraternity house with 22 guest rooms and 31

parking spaces and Project Permit Compliance with North Westwood Village Specific Plan and the

West Los Angeles Transportation Improvement and Mitigation Specific Plan.

Chair Connie Boukidis reported that the project was presented at the LUPC meeting today and the

LUPC voted 3 to 1 in favor. The project went to the Design Review Board (DRB) last week and the DRB

recommended approval with some slight variations. It needs a Conditional Use Permit for a fraternity

house.

The owner, architect, and lawyer were present and there was discussion about a rooftop terrace.

After discussion, Connie Boukidis made the following motion, seconded by Scott Whittle:

The WWNC approves the proposed exterior design conditional on Applicant providing a letter to the

WWNC stating unequivocally that this property will always be used as a fraternity and that Applicant

will return to the WWNC for a vote on its Conditional Use Permit prior to hearing on same.

The motion carried by a vote of Yes: 13, No: 0, and Abstain: 2. Connie Boukidis and Roozbeh

Farahanipour abstained.

2. Power Grid System

Motion in favor of Councilmember Paul Koretz's Power Grid Upgrade motion, introduced by

Councilmember Koretz in the Energy and Environment Committee on December 9, 2014. Motion

to be filed as a Community Impact Statement.

CD5 Environmental Director Andy Schrader and stakeholder Charles Edelson presented the power

grid motion.

Connie Boukidis moved to approve the motion, seconded by Scott Whittle:

WHEREAS, the Westwood Neighborhood Council recognizes that the Los Angeles Department of

Water and Power (LADWP) provides essential utility services to the City of Los Angeles, including a

reliable grid.

WHEREAS, reliability of the power grid is critical to life, health, public safety, and economic

advancement of the City and surrounding region.

WHEREAS, electric utility properties and equipment are distributed over a large region and there may

be vulnerabilities to this equipment including but not limited to: extraordinary solar flares creating

damaging Electromagnetic Pulse (EMP) effects, geomagnetic disturbances, nuclear and nonnuclear

EMP weapons, physical attacks, cyber attacks, equipment failures, and power overloads.

WHEREAS, it is important that LADWP maintain the historical reliability of the power system and

address the power grid vulnerabilities described.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the WWNC wholeheartedly and emphatically supports Councilmember Paul

Koretz's Motion to Maintain Historical Reliability of the Power System/Power Grid Vulnerabilities/

Department of Water and Power which calls on the LADWP to report to the Energy and Environment

Committee within 60 days regarding the vulnerability of our power grid, the costs and feasibility of

upgrading and protecting the grid, and other related items. The WWNC urges all other Neighborhood

and Community Councils and other stakeholder groups to join in and support this important effort.

This WWNC position is to be filed as a Community Impact Statement in Council File Number [14-1690](#).

The motion carried unanimously.

D. Outreach & Communications

Chair Lisa Chapman announced that the training session for the January 28, 2015 homeless count will

be held tomorrow night, January 15th, here at the Westwood Presbyterian Church at 7 p.m. Dinner will

be served.

The board decided to hear Neighborhood Purpose Grants at the March meeting. Lisa will post this information on the website.

E. Public Safety

Chair Angus Beverly reported that the intersection at Westwood Blvd. and Weyburn Avenue has been

identified as needing improvement. There are no lanes marked for left or right turns so either signage

or street markings are needed there.

F. Traffic—There was no report.

G. WRAC

WRAC representative Sandy Brown said she would bring the power grid motion to WRAC and asked

stakeholder Charles Edelson to come and introduce the motion at WRAC.

6. BICYCLE LANE COMMITTEE

A. Formation of a new Council committee to study the Westwood Blvd. bike route and report findings

to the Council for further discussion

Sandy Brown expressed the need for a committee to keep abreast of what is happening with the bike

lane issue. She volunteered to be on the committee, along with Lisa Chapman, Mitchell Keiter, and

stakeholder Steve Sann.

7. BY-LAW CHANGES

A. Formation of an ad hoc committee to study possible changes to the Council by-laws

Sandy Brown reminded the board that by-law changes were sent to DONE awhile back but nothing has

happened with them. The by-laws should be looked at before the election. Sandy volunteered to chair a

committee to look at the current by-laws. Scott Whittle recommended contacting DONE to see about the

by-law changes that were sent.

8. REVISED SIGN ORDINANCE

A. Introduction of motion against the revised sign ordinance per PLUM Committee of December 12, 2014.

Connie Boukidis reported that PLUM has changed the ordinance to bring back digital billboards and

remove districts where each can choose whether to have them or not.

Stakeholder Steve Sann reported that 90% of the digital billboards erected previously were in Council

Districts 5 and 11.

Connie Boukidis moved to approve the motion, seconded by Stephen Resnick:

WHEREAS, on December 17, 2014, the three member City Planning and Land Use Management

Committee (PLUM), voted to approve a new revised city sign ordinance, which would protect the

revenue of the sign companies and its property owners at the expense of the public, and grant amnesty

to more than 1,300 billboards that are either un-permitted or in violation of their permits, and allow

hundreds of new digital billboards throughout the City including commercial billboards on public

property,

WHEREAS, the WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL recognizes that allowing new digital billboards

on public property amounts to turning over our city to the highest bidder. The results will be park

patrons seeking relaxation and recreation will now be bombarded with blinking commercial ads.

Drivers on the public roadways already preoccupied with cellphone texting and talking will face even

more distractions.

WHEREAS any sign company wanting to show that their signs are permitted and legal must produce

said permit.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL supports the following:

No new digital signage installed unless a Council District specifically requests them;

No “community benefits”;

No billboards on any public property;

Sign districts must be limited to those identified in 2009 City Planning Commission ordinance version; and

No exception for Specific Plan or development agreement areas.

The motion carried unanimously.

Lisa Chapman reported that Tanzy restaurant has a digital billboard and requested
agendization of this

item for the next meeting.

9. WESTWOOD FLYAWAY

Stephen Resnick reported that there have been about 100 complaints about the Flyaway in the last three months. Corinthian is the contractor for the Flyaway. The supervisor at LAX who is in charge of external transport will have random and anonymous checks performed on the Flyaway. The contract comes up for renewal in 2015.

10. IMPACT OF NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS

This topic was not discussed.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Vice President Lisa Chapman adjourned the meeting at 9:30 p.m.