

Your Community Impact Statement has been successfully submitted to City Council and Committees.

If you have questions and/or concerns, please contact the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment at NCsupport@lacity.org.

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Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Westwood Neighborhood Council

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The Board approved this CIS by a vote of: Yea(13) Nay(0) Abstain(0) Ineligible(0) Recusal(0)

Date of NC Board Action: 03/10/2021

Type of NC Board Action: Against

Impact Information

Date: 04/02/2021

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 09-0969-s3

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Summary: The Westwood Neighborhood Council unanimously opposes the proposed increase in the fee to appeal a land use decision from the current \$89 to \$16,097. This is an outrageous and discriminatory. This outlandish amount that has no basis in reality will prohibit the majority of stakeholders in the City of Los Angeles from having meaningful access to any city land use appeal procedure.

WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MINUTES
MARCH 10, 2021
ZOOM MEETING ONLINE OR BY TELEPHONE

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Lisa Chapman called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Board members in attendance were Connie Boukidis, Sandy Brown, Lisa Chapman, Tracey Fitzgerald, Philip Gabriel, Ann Hayman, David Lorango, Eloise Metcalfe, Stephen Resnick, Marcello Robinson, Paula Rogers, Mark Rogo, and Laura Winikow. Member excused was Roozbeh Farahanipour. A quorum was present. There were approximately 13 stakeholders and guests attending.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Lisa Chapman moved to approve the February 10, 2021 minutes, seconded by Ann Hayman and approved unanimously.

3. COMMENTS BY PUBLIC OFFICIALS

A. CD5 Field Deputy Jasmine Shamolian reported on the following issues.

1. Aidan's Place project (Westwood Park)

\$650,000 was first requested last year and approved. More money was requested this year, up to \$1.3 million in total. It has not been approved yet. There was no notice to the community so it has been tabled so that RAP has a chance to do some outreach. There is about \$2 million in new Quimby money to spend on other projects.

2. The "Pit" area construction (Westwood Park)

This area will be covered with natural turf.

3. Status of vacant land next to Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) for temporary supportive housing

There are 27 open acres near LAX which could be used for bridge housing. CD11 is working on this.

4. Status of left-turn arrows for Tiverton-Le Conte intersection

This intersection got left-turn arrows installed because UCLA paid for it. A request for left-turn arrows at the intersection of Westwood & Le Conte has gone nowhere. The DOT will do a study first and then afterwards the community can see about the money needed for installation.

CD5 Field Deputy Jasmine Shamolian responded to complaints of speeding on Wilshire with suggestions to combat it: installing speed feedback signs, legislation to increase fines for street racing, changeable message signs, and working with LAPD on this. A possible community clean-up event at Westwood Park was discussed. DONE NEA Freddy Cupen-Ames stated that no in-person events are allowed now through NCS, but CD5 can arrange a private event to do a clean-up.

B. Mayor Garcetti's representative Brad Fingard gave an update on vaccines and reported on the ADU pilot program and emergency rent fund.

C. California State Assemblymember Sydney Kamlager's representative Jamie Kennerk reported that the Assemblymember will be sworn in as a State Senator tomorrow and will be representing a different district, so this is her last meeting.

D. LAPD Officer Brian Espin gave a crime update, which included burglary and theft from cars, and two robberies.

E. UCLA representative Marco Perez reported that two different transit plans are being considered for Westwood. One plan is a monorail without a station on UCLA's campus, and the other a heavy rail plan which would have a station on campus. Public

meetings will be held on this on March 18th and March 25th. The Charles Young Library will be opening at a reduced capacity on March 15th, with reservations required.

F. U.S. Congressman Ted Lieu's representative Janet Turner gave an update on federal money from recent legislation which will be coming to the state, county and city.

4. DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD EMPOWERMENT

DONE NEA Freddy Cupen-Ames reported that the digital media policy is in its final stage and comments are being reviewed. A board seating policy is being worked on. AB 992 amended the Brown Act because of social media.

5. NEIGHBORHOOD PURPOSES GRANT PRESENTATIONS & AWARDING OF GRANTS

Treasurer Laura Winikow stated that there is \$25,000 for NPGs and another \$2,000 that can be added to that from Community Improvement Projects (CIP).

Eloise Metcalfe suggested that Friends of the Westwood Library, West L.A. Little League, and the Salvation Army Transition Center should receive larger grants than the others because they serve more people, but there was disagreement. Lisa Chapman moved, "WWNC will allocate its NPG money, including the \$2,000 from CIP, equally." Philip Gabriel seconded and the motion carried by a vote of Yes: 5 (Sandy Brown, Lisa Chapman, Philip Gabriel, David Lorango, Paula Rogers), No: 4 (Connie Boukidis, Tracey Fitzgerald, Eloise Metcalfe, Marcello Robinson), and Abstain: 0. Ann Hayman, Stephen Resnick, Mark Rogo, and Laura Winikow recused themselves from the vote.

Tracey Fitzgerald moved, "WWNC will add \$2,000 from the CIP budget to NPGs." Ann Hayman seconded and the motion carried unanimously. This gave \$27,000 to be divided by seven grant requests, equaling \$3,857.14, and rounded to \$3,850 per request.

A. Emerson Middle School-To fund Accelerated Reader Program: promotes reading by assessing students current reading and allowing teachers to match curriculum with student reading needs. Request up to \$5,000.

Nancy Geller made the presentation. Tracey Fitzgerald moved, "WWNC awards \$3,850 to Emerson Middle School." Philip Gabriel seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

B. Fairburn Elementary School-To fund Planet Bravo to teach computer literacy for all grades TK-5. In addition, they provide all computers and software as well as technical support for teachers and classrooms. Request up to \$5,000.

Shlomi made the presentation. Laura Winikow moved, "WWNC awards \$3,850 to Fairburn Elementary School." Tracey Fitzgerald seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

C. Friends of Westwood Library-To purchase physical books and DVDs for its collection due to budget cuts from the City. The library has remained open for pickup during Covid as a designated hub and needs to add to its inventory. Request up to \$5,000.

Steve Sann made the presentation. Tracey Fitzgerald moved, "WWNC awards \$3,850 to the Friends of Westwood Library." David Lorango seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Ann Hayman, Stephen Resnick, Mark Rogo, and Laura Winikow recused themselves from the vote.

D. Los Angeles Conservancy: To fund designation and preservation of historical buildings within the WWNC boundaries. Request up to \$5,000.

Steve Sann made the presentation. Laura Winikow moved, "WWNC awards \$3,850 to the Los Angeles Conservancy." Eloise Metcalfe seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

E. Salvation Army Transition Center: To fund installment of air filtration system in child care facility to help protect the young lungs of at risk students ages 2.9-5 years old. Request up to \$5,000.

Diane made the presentation. Laura Winikow moved, "WWNC awards \$3,850 to the Salvation Army Transition Center." Marcello Robinson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

F. Warner Avenue Elementary School–30 Chromebook laptop computers and an accompanying commercial charging station/cart to securely store and charge the devices. The laptops will be used to support the 4th and 5th grade students and the quantity ensures that each class will have an adequate number of devices during allotted instruction time. Request up to \$5,000.

Amy Colvin made the presentation. Laura Winikow moved, "WWNC awards \$3,850 to Warner Avenue Elementary School." Marcello Robinson seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

G. West L.A. Little League-To provide Covid-19 safety protocol services such as temperature checks and security screening at Bad News Bears Field during practices and games. Request up to \$5,000.

Matthew Fiorello made the presentation. Laura Winikow moved, "WWNC awards \$3,850 to West L.A. Little League." Ann Hayman seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

A. Motion to approve Monthly Expenditure Report for February 2021

Treasurer Laura Winikow reported that February's MER included a beginning balance of \$34,392.50, \$65.28 outstanding, and an available ending balance of \$34,327.22. Tracey Fitzgerald moved to approve the MER, seconded by Philip Gabriel, and approved unanimously.

7. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There was no public comment.

8. CITY PLANNING APPEAL FEE

Motion: "The WWNC opposes the proposal by the City's Chief Administrative Officer (Rich Llewellyn), to raise the fee for a citizen (or a community group, such as an HOA) to file an appeal of any city land use (or Building & Safety) decision, from the current \$89 to the outrageous and discriminatory amount of \$16,000. This outlandish amount that has no basis in reality will prohibit the majority of stakeholders in the City of Los Angeles from having meaningful access to any city land use appeal procedure." Council File 0-0969-S3
Connie Boukidis moved the above motion, seconded by Stephen Resnick, and carried unanimously.

9. WESTWOOD TOMORROW

Lisa Chapman moved to table this item, seconded by Tracey Fitzgerald, and carried unanimously.

10. RENTER SEAT APPLICANTS - UPDATE

Lisa Chapman announced that outreach is needed since there are still no applicants.

11. STANDING COMMITTEE STATUS REPORTS

A. Executive – no report

B. Land Use & Planning – no report

C. Outreach & Communications – no report

D. Homeless Task Force

Chair Lisa Chapman reported that she spoke with UCLA's Executive Director of Events &

Transportation Renee Fortier about safe parking for students.

E. Budget Advocates – no report

F. Public Safety/ Transportation & Parking – no report

G. Bylaws – no report

H. WRAC

1. Support: Affordable Housing Legislation/Support for SB 15 (Portantino) and SCA 2 (Allen & Wiener)

WRAC MOTION

[Support: Affordable Housing Legislation/Support for SB 15 \(Portantino\) and SCA 2 \(Allen & Wiener\)](#)

Motion

The Westwood Neighborhood Council (WWNC) recognizes the need for positive solutions to the state's affordable housing crisis, specifically as it relates to workforce and low-to-moderate income housing. Solutions should involve legislation that 1) focuses on increasing the production and supply of truly affordable housing; 2) does not compromise public safety or the environment; and 3) respects principles of democracy, local land use control and self-determination of local governments to expand housing opportunities unique to their jurisdictions.

The Westwood Neighborhood Council supports Senate Bill 15 (Portantino) and Senate Constitutional Amendment 2 (Allen and Wiener) as examples of positive legislation that forward the goal of achieving more affordable housing consistent with these principles.

Lisa Chapman moved the above motion, seconded by Eloise Metcalfe and carried by a vote of Yes: 6 (Connie Boukidis, Lisa Chapman, Philip Gabriel, Eloise Metcalfe, Mark Rogo, Laura Winikow), No: 1 (Stephen Resnick), and Abstain: 0.

I. Park Advisory – no report

12. ADJOURNMENT

President Lisa Chapman adjourned the meeting at 10:19 p.m.