

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: West Los Angeles Neighborhood Council

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Date of NC Board Action: 06/24/2015

Type of NC Board Action: Against

Impact Information

Date: 08/17/2015

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 13-1493

Agenda Date: 06/24/2015

Item Number: 4.8

Brief Summary: Motion to request that sidewalk vending hearings be held in all geographic areas per CF 13-1493 (6)

Additional Information:

MINUTES OF THE WEST LA SAWTELLE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
West L.A Neighborhood Council Office-In WLA Municipal Building
1645 Corinth Avenue West L.A., CA 90025
June 24, 2015, 7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER:

Board Chair Jay Handal called the meeting to order at 7:00PM. 7:11PM achieved quorum.

Council members present: Jay Handal, Grace Tabib, Jean Shigematsu, Tom Donovan, Rosie Kato, Xochitl Gonzalez, Zana Glisovic, Jack Fujimoto, Helga Hakimi, David Levitus.

Absent: Kirk Watanabe, Mo Moshiri, Greg Ericksen, Jeronimo Garcia, Al Casas.

PUBLIC COMMENT ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA:

Steve Little, West LA Chamber of Commerce. Authors Club meeting at Westwood library on Monday. July 1, LA City Attorney and Veronica de La Cruz will attend WLA Chamber of Commerce monthly meeting.

Ruben, District 49 permit parking is almost there. Few blocks to confirm the signatures. Have been informed that City Council will conduct a survey on why parking is so bad. Will hopefully begin posting parking signs by the end of summer

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

April and May Minutes -

Motion was made (Levitus) seconded (Glisovic). Approved.

PRESENTATIONS:

DWP REPORT (Watanabe):

Excused absence.

Public Work Report (Kato):

Nothing to report.

The WLASNC moves to recommend that the City Council add the below marijuana pesticide guidelines issued by the State of California to LA's H&S code:

<http://blog.sfgate.com/smellthetruth/2015/04/08/marijuana-pesticide-guidelines-issued-by-state-of-california/>

Asking that the City include the State's pesticide code. Right now no regulation on pesticides going into medical marijuana. State water board issued these guidelines. Currently the City has very little to protect patient's health.

Gonzales, Will they be testing marijuana? Is this just a suggestion? Not enforcing, just testing?
Response: Correct. No marijuana inspector. Motion to urge the City Council to pass an

ordinance to start regulating medical marijuana.

Kato, Don't the shops check their sources? Response: Some will check the sources. A lot of fraud though.

Motion was made (Glisovic) seconded (Gonzales). Approved.

Motion to ask CM Bonin to oppose AB 1373 Re Outdoor signage downtown (4)

Handal, Basically this bill will allow a big part of downtown to be electronic bill boards. Once they do it there, they'll carve out a place in other communities.

Motion was made (Fujimoto) seconded (Glisovic). Donovan Abstain. Approved.

Motion to ask CM Bonin to oppose MP35 in its current state. (1)

Laura Lake, Representing those who think we should oppose it. Representing a group called Fix the City which monitors infrastructure city wide. Mobility plan is the wrong name, it's actually an immobility plan. What's not said about this plan is that any plan or amendment of our general plan that makes it harder for first responders needs to be sent back. This is not an argument about transit improvements, it's an up-zoning of the city - property owners would have an entitlement - 80% of the city would be entitled to up-zone and get higher density. No business pushing the city further in the hole for additional congestion. Area most impacted by this immobility plan is the west side.

Handal, Read aloud draft motion. Suggesting Neighborhood Council takes an action on it with the option to come back and reconsider if the vote is not on June 30th. The way the motion is written says they need to resolve issues.

Gonzalez, Would like to be more familiar with the mobility plan itself. Could this come before PLUM perhaps? There might be things in the mobility plan that I'm not adverse to that the statement of overriding consideration would include. Would ask that the community be given more time to respond to this. Response: Understanding the plan is not the same as understanding the impact. Originally this was going to go to City PLUM today. There is very little time. Will not be given more time. This plan amends the West LA community plan and putting on certain transit enhancements by group (PASS, dedicated bus lanes) which will allow up-zoning.

Glisovic, You're against bike lanes? We're going to end up up-zoning every month. Not saying anything against what you're saying. General attitude of the west side is that busing is negative. Would like for the city to make rules that would encourage us to bike more, bus more, walk more. Like the idea of dedicated bus lanes and would like to learn more about the regional plan before I say yes. Response: Westwood Blvd example: In theory connecting Exposition to UCLA is a good idea. It's an area that has very little code required parking just like this area. What happens is it's not safe to force buses and bikes to share a lane that won't get any larger.

Gonzalez, My husband, who walks to UCLA from Bundy area, is in support of bus/bicycle lanes. Other problem, look at Westwood which is an island - all these students without access to transportation. Dedicated bus/bike lanes are not a problem. Against up-zoning, but still want more information on the mobility plan. Slowing traffic would be better for pedestrians. Would

like to have traffic slowed. LA has one of the highest rates of hit and runs. My problem is that there are a lot of things I like about the mobility plan. The only thing I don't like is the up-zoning. Response: Agree but a new signal would be added for the bicyclists would impeded cars from turning right at Westwood and Wilshire. This would slow traffic. Diametrically opposed goals.

Fujimoto, What's the alternative if we don't take an action? Response: The general plan would be amended. Other neighborhood councils have gone on record and are filing opposition statements. People will die as a result of added congestion affecting emergency response teams.

Levitus, Lots of reasons to be wary but also a lot of good - don't want to oppose until more information.

Kato, Forgetting that LA didn't have public transportation - now adding expo line, biking, buses. But the mobility plan will provide incentives for developers because it will allow them to make the buildings more dense. This is an opportunity for us to tell the City that this can't continue.

Nguyen, Can check with mobility deputy about timeline.

Motion was made to recommend a vote of no confidence (Fujimoto) seconded (Kato). Hakimi, Glisovic, Tabib Abstain. Levitus and Gonzales Against. Approved.

Motion to ask CM Bonin to oppose AB 57 taking away cities right to regulate cell towers (2)

State wants to take the City's ability to regulate anything to do with cell towers.

Motion was made (Hakimi) seconded (Glisovic). Approved.

Motion to ask CM Bonin to oppose AB744 limiting local government authority in sb1818 cases involving parking issues (3)

We can't tell them how many parking spaces in 1818 cases. This would allow the developer to decide how many parking spots and the City can't say no. Taking away City's ability to regulate properties.

Motion was made (Glisovic) seconded (Fujimoto). Approved.

Motion to request that sidewalk vending hearings be held in all geographic areas per CF 13-1493 (6)

Reason this was put on the agenda is there were 4 hearings and none were near the west side. Not including the west side. Merely a request to ask City Council to remember that the west side is part of the city and include us in the dialogue of outdoor vending.

Levitus, Believe this Council defeated a motion to keep a ban on sidewalk vending. Important to note that LA has an across the board ban on sidewalk vendors. Doesn't really work. Important to put this request in the context of west side opposition to this. Response, this is being brought by the neighborhood councils without a pro/con. Motion was not defeated it was postponed.

Glisovic, Can we get more information? Have not heard there have been problems since they approved. Response: Would like to bring it to PLUM as a discussion item.

Motion was made (Shigematsu) seconded (Gonzales). Levitus Against. Approved.

Motion to support LAANC motion requesting the city council to not support the current proposal regarding short term rentals, and demand hearings citywide on the issue CF 14-1635 (5)

This is not a motion saying we're for or against airbnb - this motion saying that CM Bonin's motion is ambiguous. He is trying to limit airbnb but there's a statement in the motion that says if you're out of your place sometimes, it's ok to rent it out.

Glisovic, Isn't the problem with rent control units? Response: In Venice, yes. This city is trying to regulate it without regulating it. Different than a planning issue.

Nguyen, Haven't read the proposed ordinance. Response: Has already gone to City Attorney.

Julie Snyder, Reading letter that was filed with Bonin. Supporter of home-sharing. Have opened their home to renters. Has been a community building experience. Have supported the quality of their family life. Hoping for a clear, fair resolution to be drafted.

Liam Galling, May be jumping the gun but like Julie would like to add positive experience using airbnb. Have a tiny 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Airbnb is great to find short term renters. Local businesses getting more business.

Tony, Have been with airbnb for the last 2.5 years. Guests have had very low impact on community, it's a good thing for the community. Think it's a great thing. Understand the tax part but to eliminate airbnb is totally wrong.

Motion is to tell Bonin that his resolution is not good. Just saying bring it back to the drawing board. We support hold some public hearings and do it right.

Gonzales, Would like to see the motion.

Donovan, Would also like to see the motion. At last Planning Committee meeting, heard a lot of testimony in Venice about developers buying up properties and kicking out the tenants in order to use them for airbnb. Becomes a nuisance and a quiet residential street becomes a boarding house. Not just going to stay in Venice. We're close enough to the beach so we need something to regulate this. Devil is always in the details. Can't say for sure where the flaws may be. Question: Is there different zoning for short term rentals? Response: No laws to regulate.

Nguyen, Read the ordinance aloud. Where is the loophole?

Handal, The paragraph about they may be out of town. Santa Monica saying you have to be on premise otherwise you can't rent it. We should postpone this.

Levitus, Santa Monica enforcing by people going door to door. Not hearing the loop hole.

Motion was made to postpone (Handal) seconded (Fujimoto). Approved.

Motion to request the Mayor and City Council declare homelessness and lack of housing as a State of Emergency in Los Angeles. (7)

Kato, Are they going to investigate why we have a situation to begin with? Developers coming in, ejecting residents? Response: Yes.

Motion was made (Levitus) seconded (Shigematsu). Approved.

Motion to request CM Bonin to introduce an ordinance requiring developers to dedicate 25% of all housing projects as low affordable housing.

Pulled. He can't do anything until the state changes the law.

WLASNC recommends to CM Bonin that land use and planning-related recommendations shall be disclosed in all City determinations in a "standing" section of City Staff Reports and City Determinations called "Neighborhood Council/Community Council recommendations." Along with those recommendations, an explanation is to be provided by the City decision maker if the NC /CC recommendations are NOT accepted.

Asking that downtown should justify why they're blowing off our recommendations. City wide has become an issue because jam-ups of developments, and downtown is just saying yes. Neighborhood Councils are saying no. Would be nice to tell us what we're doing wrong so we can start to do it right. Asking that they have to give a justification.

Donovan, At Planning Commission, I'm always interested in what the NCs said. As someone who makes decisions at the planning level always interested in the NCs position so it can be evaluated. Is this the motion? Response: No. We just want to know why the recommendation is not being taken.

Gonzales, Would like to amend this to include mention of developers who do not come before the Council.

Donovan, Now that I understand the motion, opposed to it. This will make the commission put in documentation on why not agreeing with the NCs recommendations.

Gonzales, Understand your position. We should strike the last line and include mine.

Motion was made as amended by (Gonzales) seconded (Levitus). Donovan and Hakimi Abstain. Approved.

REPRESENTATIVES OF CITY/STATE/FEDERAL OFFICES AND DEPARTMENTS:
CD 11 - Councilman Bonin (Represented by Len Nguyen, Field Deputy),

Mayor of LA - Garcetti (Represented by Daniel Tamm -Westside Area),
Absent.

Assembly Member Bloom (Represented by Stephanie Cohen),

While cleaning up trash is a good idea but cleaning up their things does not take them out of homelessness. Speaking with Hakimi to create a coalition of neighborhood community councils to address homelessness. Sharon Shapiro will represent CD11 to create best practices. In Hollywood, all the officers cleaning out encampments have a card with all the services in the area available to homeless individuals that makes it acceptable to clear peoples things out of the ground. Handal, For the record, years ago they put out a card with all the services in the area. But, the homeless didn't care. Response: They probably won't care but at least exposing them to the services available. Wanting support of the neighborhoods to create a solution. Today, budget signed by governor Brown. Big increases for higher education and continuing education. Saw severe cuts over the last few years. Other things that received money: MediCal. Governor will hold further meetings on highway restructuring and road restructuring. Bloom has many bills in the senate. Targeting homeless and foster youth to help them through the education system. July 16 from 5-8PM will be having an open house and school supply drive in their office. Will go to Hollywood. Chance to meet the assemblyman. Office at 2800 28th Street Suite 105 in Santa Monica.

Question: Thing with the homelessness did it come as an outgrowth from what the neighborhood councils signed? Response: State of Emergency for Homelessness and Lack of Homes.

Speaker and Bloom have been in multiple conversations to address lack of housing. LAUSD cut older adults learning program. In effect all those teachers who were part of that program received notices.

Congressman Ted Lieu (Represented by Janet Turner),
Absent.

Library Representative,
Absent.

Assembly Member Ridley Thomas (Represented by Scott Mailsen),
Absent.

Stoner Park Report (Jason Liss),

Field improvements are moving along - grass is growing. Movies begin July 10th by picnic area. Have a homeless gentlemen who would love housing but they won't accept his dog. Handal, Give him my number. Violation of ADA to turn down an emotional attachment pet. Have gotten 3-4 people housing in the last few months. Community member, There's a state booklet with information on homelessness and pets. Had adult programs cut but have a volunteer who will continue to teach classes. Received a check from Nike to keep skate park open on holidays.

PUBLIC SAFETY:

Officer Kirk Report, Only thing up is burglary of motor vehicles. New developments in security cameras: ex) door bell hooked up to camera. Fujimoto, Need to reach out to plan a meeting for emergency preparedness. Property under Ohio overpass? Response: Request in to remove homeless property under Ohio overpass. Have sent a request. Handal, New ordinance: New ordinance passed yesterday. 24 hours. Tents allowed but not encampments. Requesting that a meeting be arranged between police representatives and Hakimi and Fujimoto. Citing that our area is up 70% in homelessness.

Public Safety Committee report (Fujimoto),
Nothing to report.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT (Ericksen):
Absent.

BY LAWS COMMITTEE (DONOVAN):
Nothing to report.

FINANCE AND BUDGET REPORT (Handal):
Review and Approve Outstanding Monthly Funding Reports,
May expenses mailing services and Verizon bill.

Motion was made (Glisovic) seconded (Gonzales). Approved.

Review and Amend Annual Budget Categories as Needed,
Finishing last month of fiscal year and we have some money to spend. Will most likely spend on office supplies, advertising for movies. Need to allocate \$15 as of now from outreach to office expenses. Since we don't know how we would spend it, we would like to allocate \$500 from outreach.

Handal, Let's just postpone until the June meeting.

Gonzales, Can we discuss getting back out professional note taker. Response: We can discuss it.

PLUM COMMITTEE PROJECT PRESENTATION, REPORTS AND/OR PLUM ACTION RE PROJECTS:
Nothing to report.

BOARD COMMENTS:

Kato, Any way to curb trash collectors at 6AM? Response: Get the license plates if they're coming before 6AM. Trash cans? Supposed to get that for Sawtelle, what's happening? Having problems with dog owners who aren't picking up? We need to evaluate the side walk dining situation. Would like to ask the other board members to turn off their cell phones and not be texting throughout the meeting and not be distracted by cell phones. Response: Len has been working on the trash cans. Reality is there aren't enough people working for the City. Did an enforcement at the Yamaguchi building a year ago to mitigate the food trucks. Problem with trying to make a citizen enforce the law is that you have to have a law enforcement agent. Understaffed and under policed and overregulated in some situations. We need to talk to Al about the sidewalks.

Glisovic, I complained about the trash being taken before 6AM. Now they roll out the dumpsters which is louder. Had conversation with them and they said it's hard to have everything on a schedule.

Fujimoto, Last weekend of July, Obong Festival. Practice is Tuesdays and Thursday from 7-9PM

ADJOURN.

Meeting adjourned at 9:23PM.