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Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council  
Brentwood Community Council  
Del Rey Neighborhood Council  
Mar Vista Community Council  
Neighborhood Council of Westchester/Playa  
Pacific Palisades Community Council

Palms Neighborhood Council  
South Robertson Neighborhoods Council  
Venice Neighborhood Council  
West LA-Sawtelle Neighborhood Council  
Westside Neighborhood Council  
Westwood Community Council  
Westwood Neighborhood Council

## MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

March 21, 2018

Lenny's Deli (Westwood), 2379 Westwood Blvd., Westwood, CA 90064

- I. Vice-Chair Maryam Zar acted as meeting Chair and welcomed the various attendees.
- II. The Chair called the meeting to order at about 8:35 a.m.
- III. Members present: Members present: Larry Watts (BCC); Nikki Miner (BABCNC); Robin Greenberg (BABC NC); Steve Twining (BABCNC); Robert Schleisinger (BABCNC); Nick Greif (PNC); Maryam Zar (PPCC); Chris Spitz (PPCC) Ira Koslow (VNC); Barbara Broide (WNC); Rob Kadota (MVNC); Sharon Commins (MVCC); and Steve Zann (WCC)
- IV. Also present: Amanda Mejia from Athens Services, Linda Whitford and the government representatives noted below .
- V. No action taken on minutes of the February 2018 meeting.
- VI. Government Rep. Updates
  - *Mayor Garcetti's Office*: Daniel Tamm urged all to review the Mayor's Resilience Plan website at <http://www.resilience.la>
  - *Dept of City Planning*: Fabiola Inunza reported on the Planning 101 training, part 2 on April 9 at Iman Cultural Center and responded to numerous suggestions that more advanced planning training should be conducted for those who already understand the fundamental planning issues addressed in 101 course and that the class be offered in a more convenient location further west.
  - *LAPD*: Officer Michael Moore SLO for Pacific Palisades, Sgt, Justin Scott and Captain Brian Wendling There has been a slight increase in thefts from vehicles. LAPD oppose lifting beach curfew. .
  - *LADWP*: Deborah Hong had no formal report, but responded to questions concerning upcoming project at Mulholland Dr.and Benedict Canyon which will close a portion of Mulholland Drive for an estimated 6 months.
  - *LA City Councilmember Koretz's Office (CD 5)*: Joseph Galloway not present.
  - *LA City Councilmember Bonin's Office (CD 11)*: Lisa Cahill was present but did not have a formal report.
  - *LA City Attorney Feuer's Office*: Veronica de la Cruz Robles not present.
  - *Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment*: Mike Fong was questioned extensively concerning the process followed in connection with a proposed subdivision of the Westwood NC area. Following a lengthy discussion and upon a motion duly made and seconded the following resolution was adopted:
    - RESOLVED:** WRAC urges no further action be taken on subdividing existing Neighborhood Council districts, including Westwood Neighborhood Council, until after the shortcomings identified by BONC and others have been addressed following receipt of public input and appropriate changes have been adopted by the City.
    - RESOLVED FURTHER,** that the subdivision process for Neighborhood Council districts should include a mediation procedure prior to conducting a subdivision election.
  - *Board of Neighborhood Commissioners*: Commissioner Eli Lipmen not present.
  - *LA County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl's Office*: Stephanie Cohen not present.

- *U.S. Representative Karen Bass's Office:* Jacqueline Hamilton not present.
- *U.S. Representative Ted Lieu's Office:* Janet Turner not present.
- *CA Senator Ben Allen's Office:* Samuel Liu / Eugene Tseng not present.
- *CA Assemblymember Richard Bloom's Office:* Josh Kurpies present but made no formal report.
- *CA Assemblymember Sebastian Ridley-Thomas's Office:* Brian Ross Adams not present.
- *Re-Code LA Zoning Advisory Committee:* Sharon Commins gave an update and urged people pay attention to new and proposed state legislation that will limit local land use decisions. In particular SB 824, SB 828 and 831. She warned that there are numerous other bills pending and that WRAC members should take firm action in opposition. The Chair will draft and deliver additional letters on behalf of WRAC where the latter has heretofore adopted a position.

## VII. Guest Presentations

- Amanda Mejia from Athens Services introduced herself and explained she is the company ReCycle LA community outreach person and that she can present to NC's and MC's. Her contact information is:  
[Amanda.mejia@athensservices.org](mailto:Amanda.mejia@athensservices.org).
- Linda Whitford gave an extensive update on the City's failure to implement strong protected tree ordinance. She compared the narrow LA tree ordinance covering Oaks, Sycamores and Walnuts with the ar moe extensive Pasadena tree ordinance. Thereafter following further discussion and upon a motion duly made and seconded, the following was adopted:

**RESOLVED**, WRAC supports the initiative of Councilmembers Paul Koretz (CD5) and Mike Bonin (CD11) in their November 22, 2017 Motion to City Council to strengthen the City's Protected Tree Ordinance #177404 and encourages Neighborhood & Community Councils to submit a supporting position letter or Community Impact Statement (CIS) to Council File # 03-1459-S3.

## VIII. Committee Updates- There was not time for this subject.

## IX. New Business —

- The issue of subdividing WW NC was addressed and action taken as indicated above in connection with the Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment report by Mike Fong connection.
- The Chair raised the issue of the not infrequent situation involving the failure of WRAC constituent members failing to take action upon the resolutions approved and recommended to them by WRAC and the related issue of certain WRAC constituent members to send a representative to the monthly WRAC meetings. There was discussion whether a parliamentary whip might help and whether representatives be encouraged to attend telephonically if unable to appear in person.  
There was also discussion of other WRAC procedures, including starting meetings earlier, whether to have WRAC old and new business take priority on the WRAC agenda over routine government reports, conducting a goal setting and strategic planning meeting annually in June..
- Overnight Beach Access. The Chair inquired of the LAPD representatives concerning their views on the Coastal Commission proposal to allow this and they expressed opposition to the idea because allowing overnight access would jeopardize public safety.. There followed an extensive discussion and upon a motion duly made and seconded, the following resolution was unanimously adopted.

**RESOLVED**, WRAC opposes lifting the current beach curfew restricting beach access daily from midnight to 5 a.m., The current curfew is reasonably required to protect of public health and safety. This long standing practice is supported by LAPD and LA County Beaches and Harbors, who are tasked with maintaining the safety and integrity of the beach and the shoreline, respectively.

#### X. Old Business

- a. Reserved seating for NC and CC at City meetings: The chair recognized Robin Greenberg who asked that action be taken on the issue of reserved seating for representatives of NC and CC at official City meetings. This is important because representatives of NC and CC, often after having submitted a community impact statement or adopted a resolution upon an agenda item under consideration, have been unable to attend meetings because of inadequate seating. This has frequently been due to paid advocates appearing in large numbers, thereby leaving no room for NC or CC representatives. There followed a discussion and upon a motion duly made and seconded, the following resolution was adopted.

**RESOLVED**, WRAC requests that seating be reserved at City departmental hearings, commission meetings, and Council meetings for members of Neighborhood and Community Councils (either with or without Community Impact Statements or adopted resolutions) and allow them to comment on item(s) before the body.

**RESOLVED FURTHER**, that the City Administrative Code (Section 22.819) be amended to implement this policy.

- b. WRAC LUC recommendation concerning bus shelter contract. The chair recognized various representatives to address the AC Ducaux street furniture contract that is currently under renegotiation with City Attorney. The WRAC LUPC has recommended that this contract not be automatically renewed and without community input. This recommendation was supported by several members and upon a motion duly made and seconded, the following resolutions was adopted:

**RESOLVED**, WRAC strongly opposes the automatic renewal of the City's Bus Shelter/Advertising 20-year contract with AC Decaux.

**RESOLVED FURTHER**, WRAC requests the City to withdraw the pending renegotiation of the sidewalk furniture contract with Decaux from the City Attorney's office and issue an RFP for a new sidewalk furniture contract that reflects community input and impacts and ridership needs. .

XI. The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:35 a.m.

XII. : Next meeting: April 26, 2018 at 8:00 a.m.

## **Motions from WRAC meeting 3/21/18:**

### **Westwood Subdivision matter:**

**Motion:** immediately Stay any subdivision process for NCs, including the one currently underway for Westwood NC, until BONC has had an opportunity to complete the review process, that is duly unfolding, for the subdivision ordinance (including City Council hearings that take into account community input). We further ask that BONC put in place a mechanism for professional mediation before any subdivision election is considered.

*Passed with one abstention (Nicholas Grief)*

*(Note: Members resolved to have Acting Chair send a letter to DONE reflecting this vote and ask for the subdivision process to be stayed in order to give time for the ordinance redraft to work through its normal course, to completion. The argument was made that time is of the essence and that this represented an exigent circumstance that merits an executive action.)*

### **Beach Access matter:**

**Motion:** WRAC Communities oppose the lifting of the beach curfew currently in place, restricting beach access from midnight to 5am, daily. This is in consideration of public health and safety concerns and in keeping with long standing practice, supported by LAPD and LA County Beaches and Harbors, who are tasked with maintaining the safety and integrity of the beach and the shoreline, respectively.

*Motion passed unanimously*

### **Protected Tree Ordinance matter:**

**Motion:** WRAC supports the initiative of Councilmembers Paul Koretz (CD5) and Mike Bonin (CD11) in their November 22, 2017 Motion to City Council to strengthen the City's Protected Tree Ordinance #177404 and encourages Neighborhood & Community Councils submit a supporting position letter or Community Impact Statement (CIS) to the Council File # 03-1459-S3.

*Motion passes unanimously*

## **Preferred Seating matter (added back on to the agenda at the request of BABC)**

### **Motion**

*Refers to City Council file 15-0524*

WRAC requests that seating be reserved at City departmental hearings, commission meetings, and Council meetings for members of Neighborhood and Community Councils (either with or without Community Impact Statements) to comment on item(s) before the body. This strong request is made in the interest of ensuring that local constituencies represented by Los Angeles Neighborhood and Community Councils are heard, and that paid advocates do not usurp the role of community residents and volunteers who take the time to hear from the stakeholders most impacted by any single issue, and retain leadership roles that are tasked with expressing the voice of the community to our City leaders. We further request that City Council introduces a motion to amend the Administrative Code (Section 22.819) to reflect this policy.

*Motion passes unanimously. (already affirmed by BABC, Westside, BCC, Venice, PPCC, palms, SORO)*

## **AC Duceaux Street Furniture Contract matter**

### **Motion**

*Referred to WRAC by LUPC*

WRAC strongly opposes the automatic renewal of the City's Bus Shelter/Advertising 20-year contract with AC Decaux. WRAC further requests the City to withdraw the renegotiation of the sidewalk furniture contract with Decaux from the City Attorney's office, and to allow a process of community input which can culminate in an open RFP, awarded based on parameters laid out by community impact and ridership needs. The City should solicit comments from the community about problems/issues, and then issue an open RFP that addresses these issues/problems to numerous advertising firms.

*Motion unanimously approved*

## ***We further resolved (informally, after we lost quorum)***

- a. to appoint a Whip for each important motion, and coral the vote we need for those issues where we believe a super majority is warranted.*
- b. flip the order so of agenda so WRAC business is conducted first, while reps are in the room and can hear the issues being debated, can chime in when it affects their work or they have substantive/productive input, and can get a sense of our issues/positions.*
- c. Acting Chair will submit a letter reflecting WRAC supermajority in opposition to SB 827*