**Minutes**

Board of Directors | February 20, 2019

**Location
Lenny’s Deli: 2379 Westwood Blvd., LA 90064**

The WRAC Board met on February 20, 2019 at Lenny's Deli, 2379 Westwood Blvd., Westwood, CA

90064. Rob Kadota acted initially as Chair and called the meeting to order at about 8:35 a.m.

**I. Welcome/Introductions.**

Chair asked members and guests to introduce themselves.

 Representatives present**:** Robin Greenberg (BABCNC); Larry Watts (BCC); Rob Kadota (MVCC); Andrew Lewis (NWWNC); George Wolfberg (PPCC): Thomas Eliopoulos (SORONC); Ira Koslow (VNC); Jane Wishon (WNC); Steve Sann (WWCC) and Roozbeh Farahanipour (WWNC).

 Alternates present: Sara Roos (MVCC); Chantelle Eastman (NWWNC); Chris Spitz (PPCC), Krystal Navar (SORONC) and Barbara Broide (WNC).

 Also present: Maryam Zar (WRAC Chair), Steve Twining (BABCNC and WRAC Mobility Chair), Robert Schlesinger (BABCNC); Sandy Brown (WWNC); Sharon Commins (ReCodeLA Advisory Committee Co-Chair and WRAC-LUPC Co-Chair); Wajenda Chambeshi (Manager LA Great Streets Initiative); Aneesa Andrabi (LA Great Streets Initiative) and the government representatives identified below.

**II. Approval of Minutes**. Member Zar arrived and assumed the Chair. She noted a number of minutes of past meetings have yet to be approved by the Board. Thereupon motions duly made and seconded the minutes of the following WRAC Board meetings were approved: November 2017; January, February, March, September, October and November 2018; and January 2019 were approved. She noted there are no minutes available for the April 2018 meeting.

**III. Committee Updates.**

*Chair:* Chair attended a recent BCC board meeting at which West LA VA representatives gave an update on the status of the VA lease. She noted that BCC is fully engaged with this issue and as a result she will not be agendizing this matter for a WRAC discussion at this time.

*Vice-Chair:* No report*. [Note: Cyclavia report given at the January 2019 meeting.]*

*Land Use*: Co-Chair Commins noted LUPC had proposed two motions, one now mooted by City Council action and the second related to LA River can be addressed at March meeting. She also mentioned LUPC will be looking at the congestion demand parking fees concept.

*Mobility:* No report.

*501(c)(3):* No formal report, though Chair noted that a WRAC 501(c)(3) could collect and apply funds in ways not available to a Neighborhood Council. *Events:* No report.

**IV. Government Rep. Updates.**

* Mayor Garcetti’s Office: Ami Fields-Meyer introduced himself and expressed enthusiasm as the Mayor’s liaison to reach out to WRAC communities.
	+ Dept. of City Planning: Fabiola Inzunza was not present.
	+ LADWP: Deborah Hong gave a lengthy report on the LADWP Newsletter, the installation of new steel polls starting to replace old wooden poles in the mountain area, and other subjects.
	+ LA City Councilmember Koretz’s Office (CD 5): Debbie Dyner Harris spoke briefly and will inquire about Planning Department’s population growth projections.
	+ LA City Councilmember Bonin’s Office (CD 11): Len Nguyen addressed the ongoing three year Community Plan updating process. He stressed the City’s desire to obtain community input. He urged members to participate with planning staff in walks through community plan areas to allow planners and council staff to see first-hand planning issues faced in the community and get first-hand feedback from residents. He also noted Planning Director Bertoni personally reads community comments received by his department.
	+ LA City Attorney Feuer’s Office: Veronica de la Cruz Robles was not present.
	+ Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment: Mike Fong spoke briefly about several upcoming events.
	+ Board of Neighborhood Commissioners: Eli Lipmen assured members that the current review of the Alliance system is not an attempt to eliminate or restrict the role of an Alliance like WRAC. Rather, the City hopes to develop a definition of what constitutes an alliance, ways they can be improved and made more effective, including having the ability to submit community impact statements on matters under consideration by the City and be provided with funding.
	+ LA County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl’s Office: Erin Schneider spoke briefly on actions recently taken by the Board of Supervisors, including prohibit the use of pepper spray in juvenile detention facilities.
	+ LA County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas’s Office: Omar Prioleau was not present.
	+ U.S. Representative Karen Bass’s Office: Jacqueline Hamilton was not present.
	+ U.S. Representative Ted Lieu’s Office: Janet Turner handed our flyers announcing the Congressman’s youth art competition.
	+ CA Senator Ben Allen’s Office: Samuel Liu / Eugene Tseng were not present.
	+ CA Assemblymember Richard Bloom’s Office: Josh Kurpies informed the board of bills Assemblymember Bloom intends to introduce.

**V. Presentations.**

1. Great Streets: Wajenda Chambeshi and Aneesa Andrabi explained the purpose of the Great Streets Initiative and the Great Streets Challenge Grant which will provide four $500,000 grants for infrastructure investment to community groups and 501(c)(3) organizations to implement a street project that reimagines it as a vibrant public space. Basically any city street is eligible to compete.
2. City Planning – Community Plans update: *See CD11 Report/Len Nguyen above.*

**VI. New Business.**

* 1. The Bylaws discussion was deferred.
	2. The Chair introduced and welcomed Andrew Lewis and Chantelle Eastman of the new North Westwood NC. She next explained that a question had arisen as to whether under the WRAC Bylaws a newly created neighborhood council becomes automatically eligible for WRAC membership upon being created or whether the Bylaws themselves must first be amended before a new NC can be admitted.

A motion was made and seconded to admit North Westwood Neighborhood Neighborhood Council (NWWNC) at this time and to thereafter consider an amendment to correct what appears to be an anomaly or ambiguity in Article I, Section 2 and related sections of the Bylaws. There followed a lengthy discussion of this motion. Essentially two competing arguments were advanced, one in opposition and one in furtherance of the motion. Neither argument challenged whether NWWNC should become a member of WRAC. The question raised was simply the timing of NWWNC becoming a WRAC member.

Those opposed to the motion stressed the action taken in 2010 when the Westwood Neighborhood Council was created. At that time, because Westwood Neighborhood Council was not listed as a Member Organization in the list of Member Organizations in Article I, Section 2, the Bylaws were amended by adding Westwood NC to the list.

Those in favor of the motion relied primarily on the express definition of the term Member Organization in Article I, Section 2. Because NWWNC satisfies the express definition of a Member Organization, the bylaws need not be amended before NWWNC can become a member.

Both proponents and opponents of the motion agreed the Bylaws should be amended to eliminate the lack of clarity concerning when a new neighborhood council meeting the Bylaws definition of a Member Organization becomes a voting member of WRAC.

The question was called and the following resolution was adopted by a vote of 5 in favor, 4 opposed [NWWNC not voting]

RESOLVED, North Westwood Neighborhood Council is hereby recognized as a voting member of WRAC at this time and the Chair should proceed in due course to present a clarifying amendment to the Bylaws addressing the recognition of new neighborhood and community councils as WRAC members.

**VII. Old Business.**

The Chair recognized Barbara Broide who asked the Board to consider supporting a City Council motion by Councilmember Blumenfield pertaining to video advertisements mounted on taxicab and other “for-hire” vehicles. There is already a law which makes such signage illegal in LA. However, there is a need to remove action taken previously by the Board of Public Works many years ago - known as TaxiCab Rule 415(c) which was passed by the Board of Public Works prior to digital signage and prior to the establishment of a Taxicab Commission. These signs are illegal in LA and this will be one more issue where communities will have to press for enforcement if the signs are allowed to continue in operation. It is in everyone's best interests to reduce roadway distractions that could lead to injuries of pedestrians, bike riders and those in vehicles.

Following discussion, the Board voted to recommend to member councils a motion to support the motion by Councilmember Blumenfield to change TaxiCab Rule 415(c) and oppose legalization of video advertisements mounted on taxicabs (and for-hire vehicles), as set forth in Council File 19-0104.

The Chair asked Barbara Broide to draft language implementing the foregoing for distribution to each WRAC member organization.

**VIII. Updates on Pending Motions.** This item was deferred. Full motion text available at westsidecouncils.com/pending.

**IX. Adjourn.** The meeting adjourned at about 10:30 a.m.

Next meeting, March 20, 2019; 8:30am

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Watts, Secretary