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

Minutes

Board of Directors Regular Meeting, June 19, 2019

Location

Lenny's Deli: 2379 Westwood Blvd., LA 90064

The WRAC Board met for its regular monthly meeting on May 19, 2019 at Lenny's Deli, 2379 Westwood Blvd., Westwood, CA 90064. Maryam Zar acted as Chair and called the meeting to order at about 8:30 a.m. and asked members and guests to introduce themselves.

Representatives Present: Larry Watts (BCC); Andrew Lewis (NWWNC); George Wolfberg (PPCC); Ira Koslow (VNC); Steve Sann (WWCC); Jane Wishon (WNC) and Roozbeh Farahanipour (WWNC).

Alternates present: Robert Schlesinger (BABCNC); Chris Spitz (PPCC); Mark Ryavec (VNC)

Also present: Maryam Zar (WRAC Chair); Steve Twining (Mobility Chair); and the government representatives identified below.

I. Approval of Minutes. The posted April 2019 minutes (regular and special meetings) were approved by unanimous consent. The Chair noted there was quorum present in May 2019, but asked for those who attended the WRAC May meeting to advise the secretary so the minutes can reflect their presence.

II. Officer and Committee Updates

- a. The Chair recognized Steve Twining who gave a brief Mobility Committee, including an LADOT survey and possible changes to the 405 Sepulveda Pass commuter services.
- b. The Chair recognized Chris Spitz who presented a report on the status of dockless electric scooter regulations. She noted the City Council had adopted a resolution by Koretz requiring personal mobility customers to cooperate with police. She noted six WRAC member councils had adopted a similar motions, She stressed the importance of member councils promptly addressing this and other WRAC motions, otherwise they will become moot. She also discussed AB 1112 which would prevent the collection of individual trip date from users. AB 1112 passed in the Assembly and has been sent to the Senate Transportation Committee. AB1112 has been unanimously opposed by the LA City Council. She reported that AB 1286, require that a provider of shared mobility devices maintain a specified amount of commercial general liability insurance and would prohibit the provider from including specified provisions in a user agreement, such as mandatory arbitration, before distributing a shared mobility device. AB 1286 has passed the Assembly is pending before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

III. Special Presentations:

- a. **Tom Rothmann.** The Chair recognized Tom Rothmann, Senior City Planner who addressed the board on the status of pending billboard sign regulations, including Sign Districts in commercial zones, which he anticipates will be limited to regional commercial centers, not every commercial district. He said the Planning Department sent its recommendations to the PLUM Committee, which has begun its review and is looking for community input. Among unresolved issues, how to remove old and unpermitted billboards and those located on public land. In the meantime, the Planning Department is waiting for direction from PLUM. He indicated that specific plan, parks and scenic highway ordinances should control over the new sign ordinance.
- b. **Daniel Tamm:** The Chair recognized Daniel Tamm, Program Marketing Specialist for the Department of Sanitation and Environment who reported the City is today using the same volume of imported water as it did 40 years ago, which reflects the success of water conservation efforts have generally succeeded. He also announced a Discover Recycling Open House, will be held at the West Los Angeles District Yard on Saturday, June 29, 2019 and urged the Board to encourage community members to attend and learn more about the current practices and policies regarding recycling.

IV. Government Rep. Updates

- Mayor Garcetti's Office: Ami Fields-Meyer reported on the recent uptick in the homeless count which arose despite the placement last year of 20,000 formerly homeless into shelter. There was a short discussion of WRAC possibly conducting a Town Hall type meeting on homelessness .
- Department of City Planning: Fabiola Inzunza reviewed Planning 101 training sessions.
- Deborah Hong reported the start date on the Bel Air Power Upgrade Project has been moved to Tuesday June 25, starting at 9:00 am.
- LA City Councilmember Koretz's Office (CD 5): Not present
- LA City Councilmember Bonin's Office (CD 11): Not present.
- LA City Attorney Feuer's Office: Not present.
- Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment: Mike Fong spoke briefly about upcoming Budget Day and the Civic University.
- Board of Neighborhood Commissioners: Not present.
- LA County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl's Office: Zachary Gaidzik, West/Metro LA Field Deputy & Caseworker for Supervisor Kuehl was present.
- LA County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas's Office: Not present.
- U.S. Representative Karen Bass's Office: Jacqueline Hamilton was present
- U.S. Representative Ted Lieu's Office: Not present.
- CA Senator Ben Allen's Office: Will Gaines introduced was present.
- CA Assembly Member Richard Bloom's Office: Josh Kurpies was present and announced Assemblyman Bloom will host his annual community open house tomorrow, June 20, 2019. He also stated that AB 1279, a bill introduced by Assemblyman Bloom has been tabled. Under the bill the Department of Housing and Community Development would designate certain areas as high resource areas. In such areas

a housing development project would be a use by right, upon the request of a developer, if those projects meet specified requirements, including specified affordability requirement.

V. New Business

The Chair announced that Member for the Mar Vista NC and WRAC Vice-Chair Rob Kadota had resigned. Pursuant to Article VII, Section 1, the Chair nominated Larry Watts to the position of Vice-Chair. Watts was elected Vice-Chair with no member dissenting. The Chair asked for Secretary nominations.

VI. Old Business

a. City Sign Ordinance – Support for Plan B.

It was resolved that member Councils re-issue the motion to support the Plan B proposed by the City PLUM Committee with respect to the draft sign ordinance, which addresses both digital and print billboards across the city. Discussion was also had about city parks being autonomous in their decision making, and how this may adversely impact the ability of communities to have a say in signage cropping up in community parks, which can be integral parts of neighborhoods and can impact the surrounding community, residents and quality of life.

Motion: _____ NC/CC supports the sign ordinance version B+, regarding CF 11-1705, as approved by the City Planning Commission on 10/22/2015 and urges the PLUM Committee and City Council to adopt that version of the ordinance that:

- a) Disapproves any AMNESTY for existing billboards that lack permits or have been altered in violation of their permits.
- b) Disapproves “grandfathering” of any sign districts that weren’t approved or applied for in April 2009, when the CPC approved the initial version of the new sign ordinance,
- c) Restricts any new off-site signs, including digital billboards, to sign districts in 22 areas zoned for high-intensity commercial use,
- d) Requires existing billboards to be taken down before any new off-site signs can go up in sign districts. The takedown ratio of existing signs to new signs should be 5 removals to 1 new static sign for conventional and 10 takedowns to 1 for digital,
- e) Sets administrative civil penalties for sign violators that will act as a real deterrent to illegal billboards and other signage,
- f) Prohibits off-site signage in city parks and recreation facilities.

Council file link:

<https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=11-1705>

Background info:

a link to a recent Planning FAQ, which summaries and also includes a link to Version B+:

<https://planning.lacity.org/ordinances/docs/CityWideSignOrd/FactSheet.pdf>.

VII. Updates on Pending Motions. Full motion text available on WRAC Website.

*Council passed a modified version of the motion.

- a. Requesting ZA deny drill site approval for CEB industrial equipment within Rancho Park public golf course (Update available on this and possibly can be tabled or modified to suit current developments). [See Chair Letter](#)
- b. State of CA mandate that localities be empowered to assess the impact of traffic and congestion of ride share services by mandating comprehensive data sharing from ride-share companies.
Passed by PPCC
- c. SB 50 – Motion to oppose SB50 (Weiner)
PPCC, BCC, BABCNC, WLANC, WWCC, WWNC, WNC, NCDR, MVNC
Super majority – Chair can write letter but bill has been sent to “Suspense” file.
- d. Opposition to car for hire digital advertising
Passed by PPCC, BCC, WLANC
- e. LA River Motion
Passed by PPCC*, BCC, WLASNC, BABC
- f. Wildland motion by CM Bonin
Passed by BABC, PPCC,
- g. Regulation of personal electric scooters – *New Motion proposed based on current circumstances*
Passed by WNC*, WLASNC
- h. Rancho Park Oil and Gas Drilling - *New Motion proposed based on current circumstances*
Passed by BCC, MVCC, WNC, WLANC
- i. Campaign Contributions Motion by CM Ryu
Passed by PPCC, BABC,
- j. Blue Ribbon Panel findings support (City Attorney)
Passed by PPCC
- k. Co living developments
Passed by PPCC
- l. Density bonus tracking
Passed by PPCC
- m. Annual Drill Site Compliance Inspections Motion by CM Koretz
Passed by _____
- n. Denial of permits to dockless mobility device providers that fail or refuse to cooperate with law enforcement
Passed by PPCC, BABCNC, BCC, WCC, WWNC, WNC, DRNC

VIII. Adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at about 10:13 a.m.

Next meeting, July 17, 2019; 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Larry Watts, Secretary