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Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council	Palms Neighborhood Council
Brentwood Community Council	South Robertson Neighborhoods Council
Del Rey Neighborhood Council	Venice Neighborhood Council
Mar Vista Community Council	West LA-Sawtelle Neighborhood Council
Neighborhood Council of Westchester-Playa	Westside Neighborhood Council
Pacific Palisades Community Council	Westwood Community Council
North Westwood Neighborhood Council	Westwood Neighborhood Council

Minutes

Board of Directors Regular Meeting September 18, 2019

Location

West LA Municipal Building – 1645 Corinth Ave., LA 90024

The WRAC Board met for its regular monthly meeting on August 21, 2019, Maryam Zar acted as Chair and called the meeting to order at about 8:40 a.m. and asked members and guests to introduce themselves.

Representatives Present: Robin Greenberg (BABCNC;); Larry Watts (BCC); Andrew Lewis (NWWNC); Chris Spitz (PPCC); Ira Koslow (VNC); and Jane Wishon (WNC)

Alternates present: Nickie Miner (BABCNC); Barbara Broide (WNC), Eli Lipman (PNC)

Also present: Maryam Zar (Chair, PPCC Chair Emeritus), Bob Schlesinger (BABCNC); Steve Twining (Mobility Chair), Sharon Commins (WRAC LUC and ReCode LA) and the government representatives identified below.

Chair Report: The Chair noted due to the absence of a quorum nomination and election of WRAC officers will be deferred to the next meeting. She also noted in the interim the following have either been suggested for nomination or expressed a willingness to be nominated: Maryam Zar, Chair; Larry Watts, Vice-Chair; and Steve Twining, Secretary. Barbara Broide kindly volunteered to provide Mr. Twinning with her meeting notes. The Chair also indicated one option is the NC model, e.g. engage someone to perform this and other administrative tasks Another option would be for two members to share the job.

I. Approval of Minutes. Deferred that due to lack of a quorum

II. Committee Updates.

a. Land Use: Sharon Commins (WRAC LUPC Chair) reported that the motions on the agenda recommended by WRAC LUPC are not time-sensitive and therefore can be deferred due to the lack of a quorum at this meeting.

- b. Mobility:** The Chair recognized Steve Twining who gave a brief Mobility Committee report. He There will be a meeting of the Sepulveda Pass Rapid Transit proposals at the Skirball October 3 from 3 to 5 for community leaders and institutional and Council Reps.
- c. 501 (c), (3).** The Chair announced that that it was important that we decide upon whether to form a 501 (c) (3) corporation and begin to charge member organizations annual dues to enable WRAC to enable WRAC to have the financial ability to carry out its mission, including sponsoring events, maintaining its website, hiring a secretary (if necessary), etc. Payment for website for the coming year was made by the Chair. WRAC needs a better mechanism going forward;
- d. Events:** No report.

III. Member Updates.

- a. Sign ordinance.** Barbara Broide gave a brief update. She also distributed written information about the status of the Citywide Sign Ordinance and competing ordinances involving mobile advertising on cars for hire.

b.

IV. Special Presentations:

- a. City of LA Office of Petroleum and Natural Gas Administration and Safety.** The Chair recognized Uduak-Joe Ntuk, Petroleum Administrator for the City of Los Angeles. His office is within the Bureau of Public Works and is responsible for managing petroleum matters within the city, including drilling leases, safety and inter-agency (state, federal other local jurisdictions) coordination. Mr. Ntuk gave a history of petroleum production in the city for the past approximate 100 years. He explained that Los Angeles was once a major supplier of oil in the US, but production has been declining since the 1960's when its daily production was 140,000 barrels to the present 6,000 barrels. He also described recent environmental issues, including the Aliso Canyon gas leak.

Major issues with respect to closing existing and/or not issuing permits for new drilling sites include potential takings liability to fee owners and permit holders as well as environmental clean-up costs. Potential takings exposure based on estimated oil reserves let in ground is \$725 million. No estimate on clean-up exposure. Suggested creating a per barrel tax on extraction to be placed in a fund to help cover liability exposure.

- b. Senator Ben Allen.** The Chair next recognized Sen. Ben Allen of the 26th Senatorial District which includes most of the Westside and South Bay. He gave a lengthy report on various bills and other matters taking place in the legislature.

Waste Stream reduction. He explained that China is no longer accepting recyclable materials from the U.S. and this has created a waste crisis. Instead of recyclable waste generating revenues for local government, it has become a significant financial burden and a major waste disposal problem. The legislature has adopted bills addressing sustainable and resilient markets for

recycled materials plastic beverage containers regulations, establishing minimum recycled content requirements for glass containers, rigid plastic packaging containers, newsprint, trash bags, and other products.

Housing. He explained that the pressure from Sacramento on local communities to accelerate and facilitate new housing construction will continue. Bills such as SB 50 while re-referred to Committee on Appropriations can be expected to be re-introduced next year. He said a proper balance between local and state control over land use needs to be struck and local government and residents need to work together to develop solutions.

Vaping. This has become a major health issue as the industry has targeted minors. AB 1639 would criminalize possession by a minor, establish substantial penalties (sellers could face \$250 fine and lose their licenses for 30 days) and authorize a big public education campaign.

Coastal Access. He recognizes limiting overnight access is necessary and he is working with the city of Santa Monica on this issue. Ultimately he believes the solution is “better policing”.

Homelessness. Facilitating the ability of local governments to obtain conservatorships is an option.

V. Government Rep. Updates

- Mayor Garcetti’s Office: Ami Fields-Meyer was not present.
- Department of City Planning: Fabiola Inzunza was not present
- LA DWP: Deborah Hong reported on work in connection with Scattergood plant
- LA City Councilmember Koretz’s Office (CD 5): Debbie Dyer Harris was not present.
- LA City Councilmember Bonin’s Office (CD 11): Ariane Garcia was not present.
- LA City Attorney Feuer’s Office: was not present.
- Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment: Mike Fong was present and introduced Raquel Beltran, the newly appointed Gen. Mngr. of DONE. He also gave a brief report including information on the upcoming Congress of Neighborhoods on Sept. 28.
- Board of Neighborhood Commissioners: Eli Lipmen was present. He announced that he has been elected President of BONC and briefly reported on the September 16 meetin
- A County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl’s Office: Zachary Gaidzik and Erin Schneider, West/Metro LA Field Deputies for Supervisor Kuehl were present and stated why Supervisor Kuehl opposed petitioning SCOTUS to grant certiorari in the City of Boise case which found an anti-camping ordinance to be unconstitutional when the city’s homeless population exceeded the available beds to house them.
- LA County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas’ s Office: Not present.
- U.S. Representative Karen Bass’s Office: Jacqueline Hamilton was not present
- U.S. Representative Ted Lieu’s Office: Janet Turner said invitations will be sent for meeting at West LA Municipal Building on November 21 hosted by Congressman Lieu to introduce the new WLA VA Director. She also said WLA VA is establishing 100 recuperative beds to address problem of service resistant veterans and that ground will be broken for buildings 205 and 207 in January 2020 to house homeless veterans. Congressman Lieu is also sponsoring additional federal legislation for the homeless.

- CA Senator Ben Allen's Office: Colby Harriman attended but did not present.
- CA Assembly Member Richard Bloom's Office: Josh Kurpies was not present.

VI. New Business

- a. **WRAC LUPC Sponsored Motions:** Deferred due to lack of a quorum & not time sensitive

VII. Old Business.

- a. **Opposition to immigration status tracking:** Deferred

VIII. Updates on Pending Motions. Deferred

IX. Adjourn. The meeting adjourned at about 10:20 a.m.

Next meeting, October 16, 2019; 8:30 a.m. at WLA Municipal Building, 1645 Corinth Avenue, LA, CA 90024.

Respectfully submitted,
Larry Watts
Secretary