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West LA-Sawtelle Neighborhood Council
Westside Neighborhood Council
Westwood Community Council
Westwood Neighborhood Council

Minutes

Board of Directors Breakfast | November 16, 2016, 8:30-10:00am

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

One hour free parking (with a restaurant validation) in the surface parking lot immediately north of Lenny's, on Westwood Boulevard.
After the first hour free (with validation), it is \$2 for the next hour.

I. Welcome/Introductions (2 mins)

- *Members present:* Larry Watts (BCC); Steve Twining (BABCNC), Nickie Miner (BABCNC), Leslie Wiesberg (BABCNC); Bob Schlesinger (BABCNC); Robin Greenberg (BABCNC); Latrice Williams (MVCC); Sharon Cummins (MVCC); Maryam Zar (PPCC); Chris Spitz (PPCC); Ira Koslow (VNC); Barbara Broide (WNC); Doug Fitzsimmons (SRNC); Mike Newhouse (VNC); Jamie Keeton (WLASNC).
- *Also present:* Vince Bertoni, Dir. of Planning, City of LA; Kevin Keller, Dep. Dir. Citywide Policy. City of LA; Eli Lipmen (BONC), Daniel Tamm, Office of the Mayor; Debbie Dyner-Harris (CD-11); Rafi Sands, UCLA; Maddie Powell, UCLA; Isabelle Beck, UCLA; and Janet Turner, Office of Cong. Lieu

II. Approval of Minutes (1 min) — September 2016 minutes, tabled.

III. Government Rep. Updates (10 mins as time permits after presentations)

- *DONE:* Mike Fong — Announced November 30 meeting at City Hall, 20th Floor at 6:00 p.m.
- *U.S. Representative Ted Lieu's Office:* Janet Turner- announced Lisa Pinto resigned to accept staff position with Supervisor Kuehl. Congressman has introduces bills on climate change and infrastructure.
- *LA City Councilmember Bonin's Office (CD 11):* Debbie Dyner-Harris — Praised passage of County Measure M concerning transportation and City Proposition HHH concerning supportive housing for the homeless.
- *BONC:* Eli Lipmen — Announced retreat to take place at 10:00 a.m. on December 13.

IV. Committee Updates (6 mins)

- *Land Use:* Sharon Commins— no report
- *Mobility:* Steve Twining — no report
- *Website:* Doug Fitzsimmons — no report.

V. Discussions & Presentations

The Chair next introduced Vince Bertoni and Kevin Keller. Mr. Bertoni reviewed his history as a community activist in Windsor Square neighborhood and his professional experience as a city planner. He briefly reviewed the challenges of planning in a city with the population, geographic size and diversity of communities, from its urban core to rural communities and land uses. He identified current major issues include gentrification and its impact upon affordable housing and the continuing problems associated with traffic congestion.

Mr. Bertoni explained that he has recently reorganized the Planning Department along geographic lines, created more understandable planning procedures, including an improved website and clearer public notices to facilitate the ability of the public to interact with and obtain information from the Planning Department. In that regard, he has also a fulltime liaison with city council offices.

He said the entire general plan for the city is being updated for the first time ever and all 35 community plans are scheduled to be updated within ten years. Part of the challenge for planning today is how the city will grow in population without growing geographically. He explained that as the zoning code is updated, including 16 new zones, the task will be to apply those zones to the updated general and community plans. He predicts some citywide issues such as sustainability goals, will become part of the general plan rather than the community plans.

He briefly discussed the Westside Mobility Plan, including the Expo Line Transit Plan which is in progress. Additionally, Planning is attempting to address housing affordability, which is a rather intractable problem. Consideration is being given to facilitating accessory dwellings (granny flats) and group housing. Latter raises AirBnB issues.

There followed a Q & A session.

VI. New Business

a. WRAC OFFICER ELECTIONS:

In view of Chairman Newhouse's appointment to the Area Planning Commission it is necessary to elect a new chairman. Thereupon a nomination duly made and seconded, Douglas Fitzsimmons was unanimously elected Chairman of WRAC.

After discussion, action on a new vice-chairman was deferred until the January 2017 meeting of WRAC.

b. **MOTION:** Upon motion duly made and seconded and following discussion the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

That Council Districts 5 and 11 be asked to prepare regular email planning bulletins that compile current land use issues, including citywide policy issues, current hearing dates, and details about Westside developments being considered by the City.

c. **Discussion concerning proposed** City Council rule limiting public comment on an individual item to one minute (10 minutes total) and requiring comments on multiple items be consolidated into a single three-minute comment during a new "Multiple Agenda Item Comment" period (20 minutes total). This proposal arose because the extensive time taken by so-called gad flies at council meetings that are not directed to the merits of matters before the council who simply expound upon whatever is on their minds, which is often virulent and abusive in tone and substance. Many however, while acknowledging the problem, feel this to be a rather heavy handed solution that will prevent a full presentation by the public of legitimate observations and critique. No action taken.

d. **MOTION:** Upon motion duly made and seconded and following discussion the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

RESOLVED, WRAC supports the passage of the *Cannabis Regulation After Citizen Input, Taxation and Enforcement* ballot measure as an important first step towards establishing a community forward framework for the regulation, enforcement, and taxation of recreational marijuana in the City of Los Angeles (Council File 14-03660).

VII. Updates on Pending Motions (2 min each) — Full motion text available at westsidecouncils.com/pending.

Asterisk = Council passed a modified version of the motion.

a. **Amendment to the Small Lot Subdivision Ordinance** (Sharon Commins)

September 2016 Passage Deadline / Passed by WNC, WCC, WWNC, VNC, WLANC, MVCC, BABCNC*, PNC. Expiration date extended to January 2017.

b. **Recommendation to Modify NC Community Stakeholder Definition** (Doug Fitzsimmons)

Matter removed from agenda for failure to achieve sufficient member support

VIII. **Positions Adopted** — Full motion text available at westsidecouncils.com/positions.

Letters still need to be sent. Will co-ordinate with executive team.

IX. **WRAC Goals Moving Forward, and Discussion of General WRAC Direction Moving Forward** (15 mins)

Item tabled.

X. **WRAC Town Halls going forward** (5 mins)

Item tabled.

XI. **Adjourn:** Next meeting: January 18, 2017 at 8:30 a.m.