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Westwood Community Council
Westwood Neighborhood Council

MINUTES OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

October 18, 2017

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

- I.
- II. Doug Fitzsimmons acted as Chair and called the meeting to order at about 8:45 a.m.
- III. Members present: Members present: Larry Watts (BCC); Steve Twining (BABCNC); Robin Greenberg (BABCNC); Nikki Miner (BABCNC); Robert Schleisinger (BABCNC); Nick Greif (PNC); Matyam Zar (PPCC); Ira Koslow (VNC); Mike Newhouse (VNC); Doug Fitzsimmons (SORONC);; Barbara Broide (WNC); and Sharon Commins (MVCC).
- IV. Also present: Sheila Simmons, Travis Longcore of the Urban Wildlife Group and the government representatives noted below.
- V. The September 2017 minutes were approved.
- VI. The Chair introduced.
- VII. Government Rep. Updates
 - *Mayor Garcetti's Office*: Daniel Tamm not present.
 - *Dept of City Planning*: Lisette Covarrubias not present.
 - *LADWP*: Jason Stinnett introduced Sylvia Beltran, who joins LADWP's community outreach team. LADWP will present at next month's meeting on five topics picked by WRAC membership: 1. Power system reliability program; 2. Water system probability of failure & planned replacements; 3. Average frequency & duration of power outages; 4. Home energy improvement program; 5. New hire/promotion demographics.
 - *LA City Councilmember Koretz's Office (CD 5)*: Joseph Galloway not present.
 - *LA City Councilmember Bonin's Office (CD 11)*: Debbie Dyer-Harris acknowledged there are continuing problems with RecycLA Franchise Waste Program, but progress is being made in ironing out the bugs.
 - *LA City Attorney Feuer's Office*: Veronica de la Cruz Robles not present.
 - *Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment*: John Darnell spoke on BONC consideration of NC subdivision policy, equitable funding (NC size varies wildly, yet everyone gets the same amount), and stakeholder definition. Sign up online to apply to be part of working group discussions
 - *Board of Neighborhood Commissioners*: Commissioner Eli Lipmen discussed the matter of permanent supportive housing and urged WRAC members to invite affordable and low cost housing builders such as Tom Safran to address them.
 - *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 not present.
- *CA Assemblymember Sebastian Ridley-Thomas's Office*: Brian Ross Adams invited everyone to the new Constituent Center opening on November 4.
- *Re-Code LA Zoning Advisory Committee*: Sharon Commins gave an update and urged people to attend Re-Code LA planning meetings and pay attention to new and proposed state legislation that may limit local land use decisions.

VIII. Committee Updates

- *Executive*: Doug Fitzsimmons briefly discussed the decision to form a non-profit WRAC corporation and said there will shortly be a meeting with Pepperdine Law School representatives to initiate the process.
- *Land Use and Planning*: Sharon Commins (No report)
- *Mobility*: Steve Twining stated WRAC should invite the MTA to present a transportation update on its various pending projects.
- *Events*: The chair recognized Maryam Zar who said she is beginning work on an Emergency Preparedness event for all WRAC members. She will keep us apprised.
- *Homelessness*: Member Maryam Zar reported that the Pacific Palisades Democratic Club, will be hosting a town hall on homelessness on October 24 from 6:30 to 7:30 at Pacific Palisades Library, 861 Alma Real Drive, Pacific Palisades. All are welcomed.

IX. New Business — Additional motion background information available at westsidecouncils.com/pending.

- a. The Chair recognized and thanked Member Spitz for her hard work which contributed to Gov. Brown's decision to veto SB 64. Member Spitz pointed out that the subject is far from over and the City Council should be urged to make the revisions to CF 09-2645 (Regulation of Cell Towers) that have been pending and require action by the Council.
- b. Motion: Citywide Cat Program (Elizabeth Pollock)
- c. The City is considering a modified trap, neuter, and return (TNR) policy for free-roaming cats (CF 17-0413). However, even neutered free-roaming cats have significant negative effects, particularly;
 - i. Impact of predatory feral cats on bird, rodent, reptile, and insect populations;
 - ii. Transmission of diseases via feces, fleas, and bites and scratches;
 - iii. Attraction of other wild animals to outdoor cat feeding locations.
 - iv. For these reasons, the _____NC/CC does not support returning stray, abandoned, or feral cats to the community after they have been trapped and neutered. Further, in order to monitor the cat population and identify the person responsible for a cat's welfare, the City should implement a mandatory licensing and microchipping requirement for all owned cats.
- d. The Chair recognized Sheila Simmons to present her proposal concerning misuse of the "service dog" label.
 - i. She explained that federal ADA rules limit the questions that an operator of public facilities may ask where there is a concern as to whether the claim of "service dog" is legitimate. Essentially only two questions are permitted: (1) is the dog a service animal required because of a disability, and (2) what work or task has the dog been trained to perform. However,

questions about the person's disability, a requirement to show medical documentation, a special identification card or training documentation for the dog, or ask that the dog demonstrate its ability to perform the work or task are not permitted. The result has been a growth in the number of people masquerading pets as service animals, thereby exploiting the disabled and infringing the rights of others.

- ii. Simmons proposes the State implement a certification process an assistance dog organization would set standards of training for dogs to qualify as "service dogs." It close the loophole in the existing provision and prohibit
- iii. After discussion it was decided that WRAC would not act upon this until after the presentation contrary positions and assurances that this would not impose unreasonable no action was taken

X. 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. Recommendations for the Sidewalk Repair Program (Greenberg / BABCNC) December 2017 Passage deadline / Passed by BABCNC
- b. Issues with RecycLA Franchise Waste Program (Fitzsimmons / SORO NC) December 2017 Passage deadline / Passed by —
- c. Divestment from Wells Fargo (Fitzsimmons / SORO NC) December 2017 Passage deadline / Passed by —
- d. Reduced Parking Requirements for Therapy Practices December 2017 Passage deadline / Passed by —
- e. Reserved Seating for Board Reps with a CIS of Board Resolution (Greenberg / BABCNC) October 2017 passage deadline / Passed by BABCNC, WNC, SORO NC, BCC, PPCC, PNC
- f. Increased transparency into the relationship between LADWP and the IBEW (Broide / WNC) October 2017 passage deadline / Passed by —

XI. Adjourn: Next meeting: November 15, 2017 at 8:30am