



westsidecouncils.com

Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council
Brentwood Community Council
Del Rey Neighborhood Council
Mar Vista Community Council
Neighborhood Council of Westchester/Playa
Pacific Palisades Community Council

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

Minutes

January 16, 2019

- I. The WRAC Board met on January 16, 2019 at Lenny's Deli, 2379 Westwood Blvd., Westwood, CA 90064. In the absence of the Chair, Vice-Chair Rob Kadota acted as Chair and called the meeting to order at about 8:40 a.m.
 - a. The following members and alternates were present : Nickie Miner (BABCNC); Larry Watts (BCC); Rob Kadota (MVCC); Chris Spitz (PPCC); George Wolfberg (PPCC); Thomas Eliopoulos (SORONC); Jon Liberman (SORONC); Ira Koslow (VNC); Jane Wishon (WNC); Barbara Broide (WNC); Steve Sann (WWCC); Jay Handal (WLASNC);
 - b. Also present: Sharon Commins (LUPC Co-Chair; Re-code LA Zoning Advisory Cmte Co-Chair); Steve Twining (Mobility Chair); Deborah Hong (LADWP); James Barner (LADWP); Eli Lipmen (VP, Board of Neighborhood Commissioners); Josh Kurpies (Assemblymember Richard Bloom); Debbie Dwyer Harris (CD-5); Veronica de la Cruz Robles (City Attorney); Carmen Hawkins (City Attorney); Steve Houchin (City Attorney); Fabiola Inzunza (City Planning Dept.); Erin Schneider (Supervisor Sheila Kuehl); Omar Prioleau (Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas); Jacqueline Hamilton (Rep. Karen Bass); and Raffi Mesrobian (Skip Scooters).
- II. Approval of Minutes – Action on the draft Minutes for September, October and November 2018 was tabled.
- III. Committee Updates
 - LUPC: Co-Chair Sharon Commins noted that Tom Rothman recently updated the committee concerning Re-Code LA, the Processes & Procedures Ordinance and other subjects.
 - Mobility: Chair Steve Twining reported LANCC has adopted policy relative to bicycles and so-called “road diet” strategies. The policy emphasizes that this strategy should be carefully studied for potential negative impacts before being implemented. He also announced there will be a community meeting on January 30, 2019 concerning LA Metro’s Sepulveda Pass Transit project at 6:30 p.m. at the Westwood Presbyterian Church.
 - The Chair noted that Cyclavia will be returning to WLA in March.
- IV. Government Rep. Updates
 - *Mayor Garcetti’s Office*: Ami Fields-Meyer was not present.
 - *Dept of City Planning*: Fabiola Inzunza gave a brief report on the community plan updates timeline and described proposed Citywide Design Guidelines.

- *LADWP*: Deborah Hong of LADWP introduced James Barner, LADWP Manager of Integrated Resource Planning, who described his agency’s targets and strategies.
- *LA City Councilmember Koretz’s Office (CD 5)*: Debbie Dyner Harris, CD 5 District Director, briefly commented on the updating of the hillside ordinance that is underway.
- *LA City Councilmember Bonin’s Office (CD 11)*: A representative was not present.
- *LA City Attorney Feuer’s Office*: Deputy C.A. Veronica de la Cruz Robles, Westside Neighborhood Prosecutor, introduced Deputy C.A. Steve Houchin. Deputy C.A. Carmen Hawkins was also recognized. She and Mr. Houchin, respectively the retiring and new Deputy City Attorneys assigned to counsel the Westside area NCs, each spoke generally about their roles and in particular the fact that newly certified neighborhood councils require time to become organized and familiar with the statutes, ordinances and rules that apply to them.
- *Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment*: Mike Fong was not present.
- *Board of Neighborhood Commissioners*: Commissioner Eli Lipmen did not make a formal report but commented in connection with Item VII.b, below, on the need to carefully analyze proposed ordinances before taking a position.
- *LA County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl’s Office*: Erin Schneider, Metro/West LA Field Representative, did not make a formal report.
- *LA County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas’ Office*: Omar Prioleau, Assistant Deputy, did not make a formal report.
- *U.S. Representative Karen Bass’s Office*: Jacqueline Hamilton, Field Representative, briefly addressed difficulties arising from the government shutdown.
- *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, District Director, did not present a report but noted in connection with Item VII.b, below, that Assemblymember Bloom is interested in the WRAC response to SB-50.
- *CA Assemblymember Sydney Kamlager-Dove’s Office*: A representative was not present.
- *Re-code LA Zoning Advisory Committee*: Sharon Commins did not present on Re-code LA, but commented as LUPC Co-Chair in connection with Item VII.b, below.

V. Guest Presentations

- A. The Chair recognized Raffi Mesrobian of Skip Scooters who announced his firm will be entering the WLA area market, intends to work with the local communities and will be sensitive to their concerns. He responded to several questions concerning safety and user education.

VI. New Business

- a. Strategy for the year, priority issues – Discussion did not take place.
- b. Introduction of N. Westwood NC – A representative of NWWNC was not present. There was brief discussion about whether a bylaws amendment would be needed to add NWWNC to the list of “Member Organizations” in Art. II, Sec. 2 of the WRAC bylaws, with some members arguing that such an amendment is necessary. No action was taken.

VII. Old Business

- a. Follow up to Wiener Bill – LUPC Motion: The Chair opened discussion on a motion proposed by the LUPC to oppose SB 50. LUPC Co-Chair Sharon Commins presented the motion, explaining that the Committee vote had been unanimous. She expanded on the reasons for the motion and expressed serious concern that SB 50 was worse than SB 831 and SB 827 (the predecessor bill to SB 50) in usurping local control over land use decisions. Following extensive discussion and upon a motion duly made and seconded, the following resolution was adopted: RESOLVED, that the following motion be presented to WRAC member councils, that they are asked to study SB 50 and respond concerning said motion at the WRAC February 2019 meeting

[Motion]: “Whereas California neighborhoods depend upon high quality, citizen driven, local community planning for justice and equity and balanced development, and Whereas State Senate Bill 50 [Scott Wiener] weaponizes state government code to eviscerate local planning statewide and thereby increases financialization of land use; intensifies inequality; encourages predatory speculative activity; and masks massive wealth transfer by shifting property ownership opportunities away from small owners to corporate investors, and Whereas the City Charter-mandated Neighborhood Council system of Los Angeles, and the Community Councils of the City of Los Angeles, represent grass roots democracy, and Whereas California State Senate Bill 50 [Scott Wiener] establishes “one size fits all” development criteria-- based on changeable municipal structures such as bus stops and employment locations--to be determined, without democratic due process or public scrutiny, by the Department of Housing and Community Development and the Office of Planning and Research, and Whereas the lack of analysis of infrastructure and other costs associated with this pen stroke planning creates grave uncertainty that any local agency would be able to “levy enough service charges, fees or assessments sufficient to pay for the program or level of service mandated by this act within the meaning of Section 17556 of the Government Code”, and given the aforementioned lack of fiscal analysis, Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution “No reimbursement” clause is wrongfully applied to this legislation, Whereas reform is needed for the present state legislative system which allows sweeping, ideological blunt instrument legislation such as SB 50 to be introduced without extensive vetting in local public hearings prior to consideration in the State Legislature, and Whereas this wholesale removal of all land use authority to the State clearly abolishes all meaningful local input into land use planning and therefore constitutes an attack upon local democracy, upon neighborhoods, and upon the Neighborhood Councils and Community Councils in the City of Los Angeles, Therefore, _____ Neighborhood/Community Council opposes SB 50 and urges our City Councilmembers to introduce a resolution in Council forthwith, opposing SB50.”

VIII. Updates on Pending Motions. There was no time for updates on pending motions.

IX. Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:20 a.m. The Chair announced that the next meeting will take place on February 20, 2019 at 8:30 a.m. at Lenny’s.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Watts, Secretary