**Minutes**

Board of Directors Regular Meeting, March 20, 2019

**Location  
Lenny’s Deli: 2379 Westwood Blvd., LA 90064**

The WRAC Board met for its regular monthly meeting on March 20, 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:** Robin Greenberg (BABCNC); Larry Watts (BCC); Rob Kadota (MVCC); Andrew Lewis (NWWNC); George Wolfberg (PPCC): Eli Lipmen (PNC); Ira Koslow (VNC); Jane Wishon (WNC); Steve Sann (WWCC) and Roozbeh Farahanipour (WWNC).

**Alternates present**: Robert Schlesinger (BABCNC); Nicole Miner (BABCNC); Chris Spitz (PPCC); and Barbara Broide (WNC).

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

1. **Approval of Minutes**. The Chair deferred action on the February minutes.
2. **Officer and Committee Updates**

The Chair recognized member C. Spitz who announced there will be a public meeting jointly sponsored by the PPCC and BCC on the Revised LA Zoning Code on March 30 at Palisades Charter HS from 10:30 -12:30. Tom Rothman Principal City Planner and Sharon Commins Co-Chair LA Zoning Advisory Committee will be the presenters.

Steve Twining announced a Purple Line update meeting in Westwood, a proposed 1/2% sales tax to be used for air quality improvements and congestion pricing study and pilot project.

There was a brief discussion of SB58 and the Chair asked members Sann and Miner to draft a motion for consideration at the April WRAC meeting. SB 58 would require the ABC to conduct a pilot program authorizing the sale of alcohol from 2 a.m. to 4 a.m.

1. **Government Rep. Updates**

* Mayor Garcetti’s Office: Ami Fields-Meyer will continue to assist in obtaining projections used by City Planners to inform the process as they draft community plans.
* Department of City Planning: Fabiola Inzunza distributed a brochure on the Housing Progress Report and also noted that Planning is working on Citywide Design Guidelines. These will be discussed at PlanCheckNC on Saturday April 13 and NC/CC representatives are encouraged to attend. She further stated the CPC is adopting new CEQA threshold determination criteria to be consistent with State of California guidelines. She also indicated there will be a Planning 101 session at Henry Medina Bldg. in May.
  + LADWP: Michael Ventri reminded members that the installation of new concrete poles to replace old wooden poles in mountain areas is continuing.
  + LA City Councilmember Koretz’s Office (CD 5): Jeff Ebenstein spoke briefly on the Councilman Koretz’s opposition to SB 50 (housing density) and SB 58 (4:00 a.m. bar closing).
  + LA City Councilmember Bonin’s Office (CD 11): Not present.
  + LA City Attorney Feuer’s Office: Veronica de la Cruz Robles was present and noted she is also the school prosecutor.
  + Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment: Mike Fong spoke briefly about several upcoming events.
  + Board of Neighborhood Commissioners: Eli Lipmen observed that becoming a new Neighborhood Council is not an easy task - you must first organize a committee, file paperwork with the Department, collect petition signatures from stakeholders, hold an election (if a subdivision), and then if the Department and the stakeholders approve, it must go before BONC to be certified. This process takes many months or even a year and commitment from those leading it. The bar is set very high and to then set another bar to be a member of WRAC seems unnecessary
  + LA County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl’s Office: Erin Schneider was not present.
  + LA County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas’s Office: Omar Prioleau was not present.
  + U.S. Representative Karen Bass’s Office: Jacqueline Hamilton was present and introduced Pamela Kaiser who was visiting from the Washington, D.C. office.
  + U.S. Representative Ted Lieu’s Office: Janet Turner was present and provided a copy of Congressman Lieu’s letter to the VA in connection with the WLA VA PEIS.
  + CA Senator Ben Allen’s Office: Colby Harriman was present and reported that Sen. Allen opposes SB 50.
  + CA Assembly Member Richard Bloom’s Office: Josh Kurpies was present.

1. **Presentations**
2. The Chair recognized Dep. City Attorney Rob Wilcox who reported on a recent Blue Ribbon Committee study and recommendations from the City Attorney concerning school safety. The recommendations and full report can be found at www.lacityattorney.org/schoolsafety. A major recommendation supported by the City is for the LAUSD to appoint a district wide Safety Officer. The City Attorney can send a representative to NCs and CCs to describe the Committee’s findings and recommendations and request their support.
3. The Chair recognized Devon Clunis of Matrix, which has conducted a Basic Car Area Boundary Study and analysis on LAPD services and responsiveness to community needs. He distributed a confidential questionnaire for members to complete for use in the study. It must be submitted by April 30, 2019.
4. The Chair recognized Jonathan Hershey of the Dept. of City Planning who provided the current population and housing projections being used by City Planning in connection with the community plan updates for WLA, Venice, Palms-MV-Del Rey and Westchester-PDR. This data was derived by adjustments to the SCAG 2016-20140 Regional Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy’s demographic and socioeconomic forecasts that are based on historic and recent growth trends. City Planning is continuing its research and analysis and the 20140 projections may change from those presented. He noted, for example, the current data probably underestimates population and housing for Westchester-PDR. He also noted that the goal is to have the updated Venice CP to be consistent with California Coastal Commission policies.
5. LAPD West Operations Captain Davalos was not present.
6. **New Business**

The Chair introduced a discussion concerning the need for an inter-governmental review of flooding risks in the greater LA basin. There followed a discussion and the following resolution was offered for consideration by Member Organizations.

“The——- NC/CC requests that the County of Los Angeles coordinate flood protection and mitigation of existing flooding risks in the LA River area, with the US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps of Engineers) and the City of Los Angeles and it’s various departments tasked with city planning, architecture, flood mitigation and street services, among others. We ask that all agencies study options to reduce the impact of flood, the costs of which will largely be borne by tax payers, and that these studies include taking actions such as removing g sediment build-up, reducing hardscape (eg. parking lots, building footprints), expanding open spaces and increasing the size of spreading grounds, adding drywall to infiltrate stormwater into aquifers, adding swales to small medians and yards, strengthening dams and levees, and evaluating land use and zoning designations within the proximity of the river (which may result in downzoning).

The Board unanimously voted to recommend the above resolution for consideration by Member Organizations.

1. **Old Business.**

A majority of Board members voted to recommend for Member Organization consideration a resolution supporting Councilmember Blumenfield’s motion pertaining to video advertisements mounted on taxicab and for-hire vehicles.

1. **Updates on Pending Motions**. Full motion text available on WRAC Website.

\*Council passed a modified version of the motion.

* 1. SB 50 – Motion to oppose SB50 (Weiner) – *update postponed.*

Request for Planning data prior to start of Community Plan update -- tabled until we hear from CP (arranged by Mayor Garcetti’s Westside Field rep for 3/20/19; *see Item IV.C above)*

* 1. Regulation of personal electric scooters -- Passed by WNC\*, WLASNC – *update postponed.*
  2. Support for the CEQA Appeals Code Amendment of June 6, 2018 (update by Barbara Broide) -- Passed by WNC, WLASNC – *update postponed.*
  3. Oil drilling safety conditions at Rancho Park Golf Course -- Passed by BCC, MVCC, WNC – *update postponed.*

1. **Adjourn.** The meeting adjourned at about 10:15 a.m.

Next meeting, April 17, 2019; 8:30am

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Watts, Secretary