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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
North Westwood Neighborhood 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

Exceptional Digital Meeting of the Board of Directors | April 2, 2020 - 10:00am

Location

Online using Google Hangout

I. Welcome/Introductions

Convene: 10:18am (after technical difficulties were addressed)

Members Present:

Robin Greenberg (Bel Air Beverly Crest NC), Jane Wishon (Westside NC), Eryn Block (Palms NC), Ira Kaslow (Venice NC), Matt Wersinger (Del Rey NC), Steve Sann (Westwood CC), Chris Spitz (Pacific Palisades CC), Andrew Lewis (N. Westwood NC), Larry Watts (Brentwood CC), Mark Ryavec (Venice Alternate), Maryam Zar (WRAC Chair).

II. Approval of Minutes —

February 2020 minutes unanimously approved with no amendments

III. Committee Updates

None

IV. Government Rep. Updates

There were no Gov't reps present at this exceptional digital meeting of the Board

V. Presentations

All deferred (Chance Kawar from LA Parks Foundation was scheduled)

VI. New Business:

- a) Support for rolling over unused NC funds from this fiscal year to the next. In line with SLAANC position and many member NCs. This is an administrative vote that we can take assuming we have quorum.

Discussion: This is an administrative move that all supported within the limited confines of asking for the funding to roll over to the next fiscal year. There is no action or determination on how to spend the

money, but just as an administrative move to keep the funds intact for next fiscal year given the exceptional circumstances of the times. All acknowledged the inability of NCs to meet, and the affirmation of the limited scope of this move – to ask the city to preserve the funding and roll it over in this particular year, under these particular circumstances.

Ira notes DONE guidelines and Brown Act limitations.

Matt acknowledges those limitations but proposes a narrow administrative move.

Steve makes a point of not having gone to councils but reflecting preference of singular members.

Chair notes the limitation of the WRAC position and commits to writing a narrow letter reflecting the preference of Board members in support of this unanimous ask by NCs and lend an expression of support to SLA ANC.

- b) Chair has urged CM Bonin to ensure that information about the City's strategy to repurpose Recreation Centers into temporary shelters for the un-housed flows to Westside Councils. Chair is aware his office has open lines of communication Councils, but has asked him to use WRAC as a conduit if need be, as well as an additional source through which he ensures that information flows and gets out to community members who are rightfully concerned and need to be informed.

Discussion: Chair asks people who have the repurposed Rec centers in their neighborhoods to speak first.

Steve Sann: Westwood at capacity. Beds are being spaced apart. Trash cans for belongings. Blankets and hygiene material being supplied. Occupants are from Westwood Armory, which was taken over by the National Guard.

State has parked 41 trailers on Sepulveda for use by COVID-19 high risk homeless individuals. (photos attached)

LAHSA is administering that and managing the inflow/services.

Impact on community: They are free to come and go. They congregate without observing social distancing guidelines.

The opening of the Rec center shelter has not demonstrably or measurably impacted the number of homeless people on the streets and in encampments or tents in Westwood.

Jane: neighborhood provided towels, etc

Karen Bass informs her that new tents are being provided to people with old and dirty tents so that hygiene can be improved and social distancing is enforced.

Steve: Social distancing is an issue. Mayor's office is aware. Interim field deputy for Garcetti's office; Tanaz Golshan (tansaz.golshan@lacity.org) is proactive and also aware. She is the point person for the Westside on this effort.

Andrew: What about hotels and motels?

Larry: 138 beds have been made available in Bldg 214 for Covid patients. April 4th they'll be opening a new shelter on the VA property for Veterans. April 6th they'll begin to allow people to camp on the property with their own tents and services will come out to them. Starting with 25 tents.

Mark: Heard from City's Chief Park Ranger that Oakwood is no longer being prepared for a temporary shelter. No reason given. Assuming the small space for social distancing and subpar bathroom amenities. 1000 homeless people on the streets of Venice means there's no social distancing going on. How come the County is moving people out of prison settings which are shared living, and the city is putting them

in. Likes trailers in county parking lots (not tents) which can be monitored and distanced.

Chair: Notes that Bonin has been advocating for motel/hotel rooms but it hasn't come on line. There's another idea of county Parking lots, but it seems Mayor is singularly focused on repurposing the Recreation centers, perhaps using motel/hotel rooms for high risk or quarantine. Not sure there's a role for WRAC here other than to advocate to Bonin and Koretz to keep information flowing to our communities and keep impacted NC and CCs informed as can be.

Letter can be sent saying the virtual meeting with NC leaders revealed a unanimous concern over common issues and a preference for singular units rather than shred living spaces. Let's get info flowing please.

Robin: wants questions answered: what are the numbers of people we plan to house in each of these shelters. There are 13 out of a possible 42 shelters in operation now for asymptomatic people. How many county parking lots can be available. Some of the smaller ones are being taken off the list given the new distancing guidelines.

- c) Chair has asked CM Bonin to work with WRAC as a means though which to get meaningful COVID-19 resource ideas out to the public – for example on child care, healthy entertainment, mental health exercises to maintain a sound mind and other helpful hints and tips to keep people safe and engaged though these uncharted time.

Discussion: Mayor alerts, County alerts, Robo calls, Koretz newsletter and other alerts to push out weekly (testing, stats, guidelines) are available.

Enforcement of park closures for beaches trails and parks – nothing at Rancho, nothing at Venice beaches and parks. (Westside, Del Rey, Venice)

Chair says she'll send an email to West Bureau Captain Tom to impress upon Pacific Captain to step up enforcement.

- d) Member Council thoughts and ideas on COVID-19 response and WRAC's role.

- a. Does WRAC have a role to play

Discussion: push out the available info from various sources

- b. How can this alliance support your individual NC/CC activities/messaging

Help get the info from one council to others.

- c. Like the virtual meeting idea and will try to set up zoom for monthly meetings this way

IX. Adjourn

11:20 am.