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Westside Neighborhood Council
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Westwood Neighborhood Council

Minutes

Exceptional Digital Meeting of the Board of Directors | July 15, 2020 - 9:30am

Location

On-line

I. Welcome/Introductions.

- a. The WRAC Board conducted its regular monthly meeting by on-line video and audio on July 15, 2020, Chair Maryam Zar called the meeting to order and began introductions at approximately 9:30 a.m.
- b. **Representatives Participating:** Robin Greenberg (BABCNC); Larry Watts (BCC); Matt Wersinger (DRNC); Stacy Shure (MVCC); Andrew Lewis (NWWNC); Chris Spitz (PPCC); Ira Koslow (VNC); Paula Gerez (NCWP); Jane Wishon (WNC); Steve Sann (WWCC); Ann Hayman (WWNC).
- c. **Alternates present:** Nickie Miner (BABCNC); David Card (PPCC); Mark Ryavec (VNC); and Barbara Broide (WNC).
- d. **Also present:** Steve Twining, Secretary, and the government representatives identified below; Howard Robinson (PPCC LUC).
- e. **Chair Updates.**
 - i. Referred to attached notes on agenda from LUC meeting.
 - ii. Referred to attached proposed bylaws amendments.
 - iii. Referred to attached WRAC Platform language.
 - iv. Suggested WRAC August business meeting could be held in the morning followed in the afternoon with a town hall presentation by LA County public Health Director Dr. Barbara Ferrer. There were no objections from representatives present.
 - v. Recognized LAPD Pacific Division Captain Steven Embrich, who gave remarks intermittently, and again during government updates.
 - vi. Briefly discussed WRAC dues and website update.
 - vii. Gave an update on her conversation with DONE GM, Raquel Beltran.

II. **Approval of Minutes.** The draft minutes of the June 2020 meeting were approved.

III. **Member Updates.**

- a. Member Wersinger from DRNC said his NC voted and passed a resolution affirming WRAC dues and also passed a motion to expand the ability of NCs to advocated their positions to entities beyond the City family. He discussed the City Attorney’s position that NCs cannot have direct contact with government officials outside the city. He shared that the Asst. City Attorney in charge of NC affairs, Steve Houchin, has advised that the City Charter which created NCs limits their reach to City actors. Member Wersinger indicated that CM Bonin thinks this position makes no sense and will introduce a motion for City Council to cure and clarify the situation.
- b. Member Koslow from VNC discussed City Attorney’s position that NCs cannot have direct contact with government officials outside the city and agreed they should be. Wished to see the City Attorney document that lays out the limitation.
- c. Member Shure from MVCC reported that their NC had approved the Platform language with amendments (forthcoming) and supported other WRAC and WRAC LUPC motions. MVCC would like WRAC’s support to convince City Council to pass a motion preventing LAPD from assisting in walk-outs or evictions. Capt. Embrich remarked that LAPD is not naturally in a position to have to assist in evictions in LA right now. Debbie Dyner Harris of CD5 indicated that CM Koretz might be interested in supporting such a motion. Member Shure said that CM Bonin is as well. MVCC will formulate a motion for the next meeting.
- d. Member Greenberg from BABCNC announced it is sponsoring another blood drive on July 26. Details are available on the BABCNC website. She also wanted to see the City Attorney letter regarding NC limitations.

IV. Committee Updates.

- a. **LUC.** There was a brief discussion of the LUC meeting and LUC member Twining stated a congestion pricing plan for parking is under consideration which would be unfair to local residents. Chair suggested we reform a Mobility Committee, and to consider a Congestion Pricing motion.

V. Presentations.

- a. The Chair introduced Stephanie Cohen, Interim Senior Health Services & Mental Health Deputy to Supervisor Kuehl who gave update on WLA Civic Center and the proposed homeless housing behind the armory on Federal Avenue. Some of the information provided included the following:
 - i. The agreement between the County and the California Judicial Council establishes a 2-year acquisition schedule.
 - ii. There appears to be public support for a redevelopment that includes affordable housing, open space, senior services, and will maintain the existing library without material changes.

- iii. The Judicial Council wants the financing in place with goal of finalizing an agreement in November 2020.
 - iv. This will likely be a phased project and it's currently unclear what will be done with exiting municipal building.
 - v. An extensive Q & A followed her presentation and her responses to questions included there is a hope that 40% of new housing will be affordable and include space for seniors. She also said the current RFP includes a skate park.
 - vi. As to the armory project, she indicated the County will provide 100% of the required financing. Since project will be located on a National Guard facility, there is a requirement to provide force protection. This increases costs, is complicated and has created financing issues. Project is moving forward, but slower than anticipated
- b.** The Chair next recognized Assemblymember Richard Bloom.
- i. He first noted that the legislature intends to resume its current session on July 27.
 - ii. He then described a bill he introduced this year, AB 3107. This bill would require that a housing development be an authorized use on a site designated in any element of a local government's general plan local zoning code for commercial uses if certain conditions apply. Among these conditions, the housing development would be subject to a recorded deed restriction requiring that at least 20% of the units have an affordable housing cost or affordable rent for lower income households and located on a site that satisfies specified criteria. The bill would require the city or county to apply certain height, density, and floor area ratio standards to a housing development that meets these criteria. He explained that the bill will allow existing commercial structures to be converted to housing if they meet the requirements set forth in the bill.
 - iii. There followed a Q&A.
 - 1. In response to a question concerning Potrero Canyon, he noted the park project will move forward, but without, for the present, a bridge over PCH.
 - 2. In response to a question concerning the deficiencies in the current Regional Housing Needs Assessment process, he acknowledged shortcomings in establishing more reasonable benchmarks and stronger enforcement mechanisms. He also agreed better financing options are required to help meet lower income goals.

VI. Government Rep. Updates.

- a.** Office of Mayor Garcetti: Kevin Taylor introduced himself and gave an update. Can be reached at kevin.taylor@lacity.org. He is happy to set up one on one meetings with Councils. The Mayor is seeking suggestions on locations to do direct outreach on LA AI

Fresco program. Please don't let up on consistent outreach around the Census. He can connect everyone with available tools as needed, to promote participation. It cannot be said enough times to remind all (including need for community leaders to help support the public health message): wear a mask, wash your hands, keep a safe social distance, stay home as much as possible. Help stop the spread.

- b. Dept. of City Planning: Fipe Leilua described a new procedure whereby application for new alcohol licensing can avoid the CUP process and reduce the cost for seeking a license to \$4,000 and be completed within 4 weeks; DCP has replaced in-person community plan presentations with webinars; a schedule is being emailed to all.
- c. Los Angeles Department of Water & Power: Deborah Hong was present.
- d. Office of L.A. City Councilmember Mike Bonin (CD 11): Ben LaZebnik was not present.
- e. Office of L.A. City Councilmember Paul Koretz (CD 5): Debbie Dyner-Harris was present and made intermittent remarks as described.
- f. Office of L.A. City Attorney Mike Feuer: Veronica de la Cruz Robles reported on the continuing problem of party houses which seems to have increased due to pandemic closures of restaurants, etc.
- g. LAPD Pacific Division: Capt. Steve Embrich made intermittent remarks as described and gave a Pacific Division update.
- h. Los Angeles Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment: Semee Park not present.
- i. Los Angeles Board of Neighborhood Commissioners: Eli Lipmen not present.
- j. Office of L.A. County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl: Zachary Gaidzik was present.
- k. Office of LA County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas: Emily Watson not present.
- l. Office of CA Senator Ben Allen: Liliana Pond not present.
- m. Office of Assembly member Richard Bloom: Josh Kurpies was present.
- n. Office of U.S. Representative Karen Bass: Jacqueline Hamilton not present.
- o. Office of U.S. Representative Ted Lieu: Janet Turner briefly discussed the \$1.5 trillion Moving Forward Act with goal of reaching zero carbon emissions by 2050.
- p. Office of U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein: Jeanette Christian not present.

VII. New Business: The Chair called for a brief discussion of the following:

- i. A bylaw amendment to create the position of WRAC Treasurer.
- ii. A bylaw amendment to formalize the WRAC Executive Committee.
- iii. A bylaw amendment to clarify existing bylaws provisions.

No action was taken on bylaws amendments.

VIII. Old Business:

- a. The Chair called for discussion of the WRAC Platform language, though no action was taken on the subject.

- b. The Chair next raised the subject of WRAC dues. She reported briefly on her conversation with the DONE GM.

IX. Updates on Pending Motions.

- a. State of California mandate that localities be empowered to assess the impact of traffic and congestion generated by ride share services by requiring ride-share companies to provide necessary data. PPCC
- b. Opposition to car-for-hire digital advertising. PPCC, BCC, WLANC
- c. LA River Motion. PPCC, WLASNC, BABCNC
- d. Bonin Wildland Motion. PPCC, BCC, BABCNC
- e. Regulation of personal electric scooters. *New motion proposed based on current circumstances.*
- f. Rancho Park Oil & Gas Drilling. *New motion proposed based on current circumstances.* MVCC, WNC, WLANC
- g. Ryu Campaign Contribution Motion. PPCC, BABCNC
- h. City Attorney's Blue Ribbon Panel Findings. PPCC
- i. Supporting City Sign Ordinance, Version B+, from PLUM, regulating billboard signage on buildings and moving vehicles, in digital or traditional formats, to guard against blight and maintain community integrity and public safety. PPCC
- j. Deny business license or dockless mobility permits, or revoke such license where device provider fails or refuse to cooperate with law enforcement. PPCC, BABCNC, BCC, WCC, WWNC, WNC, DRNC

X. Adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at about 12:30pm and the next regular meeting will again be virtual on August 19, 2020. The Chair will provide notice.