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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 | June 17, 2020 - 10:00am

Location

On-line

I. Welcome/Introductions.

- a. The WRAC Board conducted its regular monthly meeting on-line video and audio on June 17, 2020, Chair Maryam Zar called the meeting to order and began introductions at approximately 10:00 a.m.
- b. **Representatives Participating:** Robin Greenberg (BABCNC;); Larry Watts (BCC); Matt Wersinger (DRNC); Andrew Lewis (NWWNC); Chris Spitz (PPCC); Ira Koslow (VNC); Paula Gerez (NCWP); Eryn Piper-Block (PNC); Steve Sann (WWCC).
- c. **Alternates present:** Nickie Miner (BABCNC); Robert Schlesinger (BABCNC) David Card (PPCC); Mark Ryavec (VNC); Ann Hayman (WWNC); and Barbara Broide (WNC).
- d. **Also present:** Steve Twining, Secretary (BABCNC); Sharon Commins (WRAC LUC); Ellen Evans and the government representatives identified below.

II. Approval of Minutes.

- a. The draft minutes of the May 13, 2020 meeting were approved.

III. Committee Updates

- a. *Land Use:* No report.
- b. *Mobility:* No report.
- c. *501(C)(3):* No discussion.
- d. *Events:* None were announced.

IV. Member Updates.

- a. Member Wersinger has asked LAPD Capt. Steve Embrich to be more responsive to the community and improve lines of communications LAPD and local NC leaders. In that regard he is working to establish weekly calls between Pacific Division and NC leaders. Westchester and Palms having good relationships with their SLOs and would also welcome more division engagement. MVCC agreed.
- b. The Chair proposed WRAC draft platform addressing foundational principles for administrative issues as distinguished from policy positions. She stated this shall be deemed to be a draft review. More review to come. The proposed amendment is attached.

V. Presentation.

- a. The Chair introduced City Controller Ron Galperin and his colleague Christina Ibarra.
 - i. He provided an update on how the role of the controller has evolved since he became controller from being primarily an accounting function to a planning resource. He urged members to visit the City Controller's website which contains extensive information and data beyond financial data. He gave an overview of the City's response to the COVID pandemic, which includes aid to small businesses through LA Cares and Small Business Microloans. He noted food security is a major problem. The most highly visited page on the Controller's website is the one providing information concerning food centers. He reviewed the City's financial situation. The City received a \$94 million use it or lose it federal grant that is restricted to expenses directly related to COVID. He hopes to use all before grant expires on December 31, 2020. He noted his office has a higher average age than most city departments, with 30% eligible for retirement. It may become necessary to furlough some City staff and re-negotiate CBAs.
 - ii. While homelessness is up, he questions the accuracy of the homeless census given the archaic methods used to conduct the count. He is developing new census techniques, including use of AI. In the meantime he thinks more resources should be devoted to immediate needs, rather than to major construction projects. He said boarding houses may return.
 - iii. An extensive Q & A followed the presentation.
- b. The Chair next called upon LAPD West Area C.O. Capt. Jonathan Tom.
 - i. He began by condemning killing of George Floyd and is confident his view reflects the view of all members of LAPD. He reviewed use of deadly force statistics by LAPD in 2019. Out of 1.7 million interactions with the public that year, only 26 involved the use of deadly force, a 30 year low. The technique used to against Floyd is prohibited under LAPD policy. LAPD also now has recently instituted a policy whereby it is the duty of the senior officer present on scene to take command and control of the situation. Under old policy, it was necessary to wait for a supervisor to arrive on scene.

VI. Government Rep. Updates

- a. Office of Mayor Garcetti: Ami Fields-Meyer was not present.
- b. Dept. of City Planning: Fipe Leilua was not present.
- c. Los Angeles Department of Water & Power: Deborah Hong gave a brief report the concerning pending projects. In particular she announced the CEQA process was beginning for the new WLA headquarters building.
- 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 reported that a 50 unit affordable housing project on Santa Monica Blvd. has been approved with construction to start in several months and an affordable housing property at Pico and Robertson is accepting applications.
- f. Office of L.A. City Attorney Mike Feuer: Veronica de la Cruz Robles was present.
- g. Los Angeles Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment: Semee Park not present.
- h. Los Angeles Board of Neighborhood Commissioners: Eli Lipmen not present.
- i. Office of L.A. County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl: Zachary Gaidzik was present.
- j. Office of LA County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas: Omar Prioleau not present.
- k. Office of CA Senator Ben Allen: Colby Harriman/Lauren Robinson not present.
- l. Office of Assembly member Richard Bloom: Josh Kurpies was present.
- m. Office of U.S. Representative Karen Bass: Jacqueline Hamilton not present.
 - a. Office of U.S. Representative Ted Lieu: Janet Turner was present.
 - b. Office of U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein: Jeanette Christian not present.

VII. New Business:

1. Review and consideration of Platform language. Discussion continued from last meeting and a reading of new drafts with edits (see attached). Language suggestions and collective input towards final draft, to be read at the next meeting for approval, and then proper adoption, per WRAC Bylaws.

2. The following motion made by the Del Rey NC and seconded was adopted following discussion for distribution Member Organizations:

RESOLVED ____ NC/CC insists that Neighborhood Councils are not prohibited from communicating with non-City of Los Angeles government representatives and/or staff not with entities other than those within the City, regarding issues impacting their neighborhoods; and that Neighborhood Councils are free to discuss any issues of local concern.

3. The following motion made by the Del Rey NC was withdrawn to be revised:

- 1. The ____ NC/CC believes black lives matter and that the frustration of people demanding accountability on the part of law enforcement and a stop to brutal methods of policing is a justified call. The national chorus of protests against prejudice and discrimination against any people represents a demand for systemic change everywhere. Institutionalized racism and the systematic oppression of black people in education, healthcare, employment, housing and the criminal justice system, among others, have everyday impacts on Los Angeles and its residents. Noting that LAPD has over the past two decades shown significant improvements in training and increased diversity within its ranks, its most successful policing has been where it has

engaged the community in a proactive way, by listening and engaging with people. We think the City budget must take into account a broad swath of priorities in Los Angeles and should carefully balance public safety with lifting up our most marginalized communities. Therefore, the _____ Neighborhood/Community Council supports a city budget that reprioritizes crime prevention and social services in a manner that lifts the burden from LAPD while exploring funding new agencies and initiatives that can take on responsibilities that fairly should not fall within law enforcement, and supports substantial reform within LAPD to reassess their responsibilities and performance within some of our most marginalized neighborhoods. Moreover we support legislation that removes systemic racism and societal inequities from our City and encourages city agencies, including LAPD, to engage habitually with communities and create procedures and guidelines in consultation with neighborhood input.

4. The following motion recommended by the WRAC LUC was duly made, seconded was adopted following discussion for distribution Member Organizations:

2. WHEREAS, the statewide Covid-19 emergency has reduced the action calendar time frame of the California State Legislature, and thus greatly reduced the ability of California's citizens to weigh in on legislation having to do with land use planning;

WHEREAS the proposed Atkins Housing Package of bills has not been sufficiently vetted for integration with previously approved Regional Housing Needs Assessment legislation, which modernized the methodology for anticipating growth in the state;

WHEREAS communities continue to urge greater accountability, fairness, transparency, and responsiveness from public officials in the area of land use planning;

WHEREAS the proposed Atkins Housing Package of bills has *not* been sufficiently vetted for growth induced impacts and substantial hidden state mandated costs upon:

- a. Local General Plans and Community Plans;
- b. Communities in environmentally sensitive areas such as High Fire Hazard zones; Coastal zones; Earthquake fault zones and others as listed in the California Environmental Quality Act [CEQA];
- c. Traditionally underserved communities and the impact on displacement in those areas;
- d. Critical local infrastructures for the public health, welfare and safety;

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED: _____ NC /CC recommends a postponement of action on this suite of housing bills until such time as the previously enacted 2018 and 2019 housing legislation has been given a chance to increase housing production as promised.

VII. Old Business- None.

VIII. Updates on Pending Motions—

Updates on Pending Motions (2 min each) — We can go over motions. I am still trying to sort out the website page on this topic. I may pay for some help....

- a. State of CA mandate that localities be empowered to assess the impact of traffic and congestion of ride share services by mandating comprehensive data sharing from ride-share companies.
- b. Opposition to car for hire digital advertising PPCC, BCC, WLANC
- c. LA River Motion PPCC*, BCC, WLASNC, BABC
- d. Wildland motion by CM Bonin BABC, PPCC,
- e. Regulation of personal electric scooters – New Motion proposed based on current circumstances Passed by WNC*, WLASNC
- f. Rancho Park Oil and Gas Drilling - New Motion proposed based on current circumstances Passed by BCC, MVCC, WNC, WLANC
- g. Campaign Contributions Motion by CM Ryu PPCC, BABC,
- h. Blue Ribbon Panel findings support (City Attorney)
- i. Supporting City Sign Ordinance, Version B, from PLUM, regulating billboard signage on buildings and moving vehicles, in digital or traditional formats, so as to guard against blight and maintain community integrity as well as public safety. PPCC
- j. Deny business license or dockless mobility permit, or revoke such license or permit, to any operator or provide which fails or refuses to cooperate fully with law enforcement in providing information about the user of its device, if/when involved in a an accident causing injury. PPCC
- k. Requesting that they State mandate the gathering and sharing of ride-share data/information with cities and towns in order for communities to be able to better asses of ride-share services add to or detract from traffic, and/or impact mobility. PPCC
- l. Denial of permits to dockless mobility device providers that fail or refuse to cooperate with law enforcement. PPCC, BABCNC, BCC, WCC, WWNC, WNC, DRNC*

IX. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at about 12:30 and the next regular meeting will be likely again be virtual on June 17, 2020. The Chair will provide notice.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Twinning, Secretary

PROPOSED BYLAWS AMENDMENT

WRAC is an alliance of Community and Neighborhood Councils which span the entire west side of the city of Los Angeles. Our regional concerns are brought up for discussion by our board members and our board is comprised of Community and Neighborhood Council leaders appointed to our board. Our positions are adopted only after a super-majority of member councils has affirmed the position in question.

WRAC holds to the following foundational principles in the areas that we have determined to be our alliance priorities:

- Land Use and Zoning - We hold that the LA Department of City Planning and its Planning & Zoning Department adhere strictly to existing planning and zoning codes and ordinances. We urge that regulations be upheld and that communities impacted by land use and development projects be allowed ample time to review and comment on any matter seeking discretionary action that is up for review.
- Housing and Homelessness - WRAC urges governing bodies to adhere to strict scrutiny of community plans, local character, zoning and building regulations as well as building and safety codes and zoning restrictions. We expect agencies and entities to conduct meaningful outreach to the communities represented at WRAC, through our member councils, and address housing and homelessness relief in a responsible way that is mindful of existing communities as well as the need for increased housing density.
- Mobility and Transportation - WRAC is acutely aware of the need for new and creative solutions to gridlock and Westside mobility, as well as mass transportation. We expect research results on transit and mobility to be made available to communities impacted by pending infrastructure or mobility planning. We urge sufficient notification all affected parties to allow them to comment on any proposed developments or transportation infrastructure proposals in areas that impact our member councils.
- Public Safety – We urge a review of public safety priorities by all agencies from time to time, and we insist on law enforcement ties to be maintained to community based organizations, such as NCs and CCs, so that public safety is done in tandem with the needs and circumstances of localized communities across the city.
- Education – We believe education is the cornerstone of our collective future, and we urge city, county and state agencies to keep a focus on funding a diverse and enriched education for our public schools, in order to ensure that no student is unable to attain a quality education, and that all students feel safe within their school environment.
- Environment – We insist that CEQA regulations be scrupulously applied and coastal guidelines be strictly adhered to, while standards for development of any sort with impact on the environment, particularly in hillside and coastal areas which disproportionately impact the Westside,

be applied with strict scrutiny, and remain reviewable by local review boards and community based entities including our member councils.