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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
North Westwood Neighborhood Council
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

WRAC Meeting of the Board of Directors October 19th 2020 – 6:00pm on Zoom

1. Welcome/Introductions

- a. The WRAC Board conducted its regular monthly meeting by on-line video and audio on October 19, 2020. New Chair, Matt Wersinger, called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.
- b. **Representatives present:** Matt Wersinger (DRNC), Christina Spitz (PPCC), Robin Greenberg (BABCNC), Larry Watts (BCC), Steve Sann (WWCC), Jay Handal (WLASNC), Ira Koslow (VNC), as well as Voting Alternate Barbara Broide (WNC).
- c. **Non-voting Alternates present:** Mark Ryavec (VNC)
- d. **Also present:** Steve Twining [BABCNC Chair Emeritus], Marlene Savage & Kay Hartman as well as the government representatives identified below.
 - Steven Twining reported that he attended an online presentation on the redevelopment of the WLA Civic Center. Of two proposals, one featured a high-rise at market rate housing.
 - Mr. Twining also reported that the Hillside Federation has registered its opposition to the Aerial Tram in Griffith Park that takes tourists to a viewing platform to see the Hollywood Sign. Member Watts of BCC noted he has heard that this is currently off the table.
- e. **Chair Updates:** Chair Wersinger recognized Outgoing Chair, Maryam Zar, for all her good work along with WRAC Vice Chair Christina Spitz of PPCC & WRAC Secretary Robin Greenberg of BABCNC for helping him with the transition. He gave a special thanks to Sharon Commins for all her years of service. Sharon noted that there are great people in this alliance working on behalf of all of our stakeholders.

Chair Wersinger related that he wanted to know what people want to get out of WRAC and found, per his survey, that people want to make the motions more effective and give Council Members an opportunity to take these back to City Council. He'd like to continue to have elected officials come to our meetings and asks that members email him who you'd like to see; to limit presentations to one topic/month and likely to 30 minutes.

He related that the website has been updated, thanks to Vice Chair Spitz, who worked very hard on that, and that we are able to drop the \$250.00 fee since she is so good at this. Our social media won't change, per findings of the survey.

He noted that people want to get committees going, e.g., Homelessness, Public Safety, and Transportation (not agendized for tonight). Send candidate names for next month's agenda.

Chair Wersinger concluded that the survey showed motions were the number one priority; and that he would like to have elected officials come to WRAC. As we typically have 9 meetings a year, he welcomed suggestions on whom to calendar for the rest of the year.

2. Board Member Updates

- a. Secretary Member Robin Greenberg, President of BABCNC, wished us all the best year.
- b. Member Broide of WNC related that per Livable California, the Embarcadero Institute's new report on the state's regional housing needs shows the numbers are severely over counted. They estimated 941,000 units over what the actual units need to be. It ties in with Mr. Wiener's press conference to reintroduce what he will do with SB 1120 and SB 50. She will send a link.
- c. Member Broide requested that anyone who attends LANCC or BONC meetings help keep us abreast of what may affect the councils by providing a quick report on key issues that affect us.

3. Government Report

- a. Office of L.A. City Council Member Paul Koretz (CD 5): Debbie Dyner-Harris was present.
- b. Office of the Department of Water and Power: Deborah Hong was present.
- c. Office of U.S. Congressman Ted Lieu, 33rd District: Janet Turner was present.
- d. Chair Wersinger reported that Kevin Taylor, from the Office of Mayor Garcetti, sent him a brief note that he would like to spread the word about the Green New Deal.

4. Public Comment: None

5. Approval of Minutes

- a. **Motion:** Approval of August & September 2020 meeting minutes: **Moved** by Member Handal (WLASNC); **Seconded** by Member Koslow (VNC); **Unanimously Approved** by all 8 voting.

6. New Business

- a. **Motion (Matt Wersinger) Nomination of Kay Hartman & Marlene Savage to co-chair WRAC LUPC – Moved** by Chair Wersinger from DRNC; **Seconded** by Member Handal from WLASNC. Ms. Savage related that she has been around since 2008-09; one of her goals is to reach out to different NCs. Ms. Hartman related that she has been on WRAC Land Use Committee for a year and is Chair of the Palms NC PLUM Committee. She feels that she and Marlene could be a good team. **Unanimously Approved** by all 8 voting.
Chair Wersinger and Vice Chair Spitz thanked Ms. Hartman & Ms. Savage for agreeing to do this and commended Sharon Commins for her heroic efforts.
- b. **Call for Chairs of other Committees:** Homeless, Public Safety and Transportation:
- Please let Chair Wersinger know if you want to chair these committees.
- c. **Motion (Robin Greenberg) – Motion to support Council File 20-1098 (Bonin, Ryu) and its amendment.** Whereas McMansions are located in multifamily zones, we therefore ask that an update to the BHO and BMO be prepared to apply the same restrictions applicable to homes in single family zones to all new and substantially remodeled single family residences in all multi-family zones and ban construction of a new single family home where two or more units of

housing were demolished at the site in the last 5 years. The motion to amend instructs the Department of City Planning to identify and report back with an analysis of mechanisms, policies, design standards and zoning regulations that may be used to limit the size of single family homes, including but not limited to the Community Plan and Housing Elements update. [Note: the motion as amended passed in Council on 10/14/20.]

Moved by Secretary Greenberg from BABCNC; **Seconded** by Member Handal from WLASNC. Discussion was held in which it was asked since it is a land use measure, should these items go to Land Use or come here. After further discussion it was noted that it this is going to Planning who will issue a study, report and possibly a draft ordinance, at which point, we should look at it. **Motion: To table Moved** by Vice Chair Spitz; **Seconded** by Member Handal with **6 yes; 2 no & 0 abstentions; Passed.**

- d. Motion (Robin Greenberg) -** Motion to support Council File 20-1174 (Koretz and Ryu). Whereas there are unfinished development projects citywide, which were issued building permits, in some instances, more than 8 years prior, such unfinished projects causing the building sites to become eyesores and a disturbance to abutting property owners and neighborhood residents, therefore the City Council is to instruct the Department of Building and Safety, in consultation with the City Attorney, to prepare a report with the department's enforcement of Municipal Code 91.106.4.4.3 to provide remedies such as a completion bond, which sets time limits to complete projects.

Moved by Secretary Greenberg from BABCNC; **Seconded** by BCC Member Watts. Following discussion, vote was taken with **7 yes; 0 no; 1 abstention**: Vice Chair Spitz; **Passed.**

- e. Motion (Robin Greenberg) –**Motion to support CF 20-1175. Whereas the city of Los Angeles has Notices to Abate Vacant Structures that are not being adhered to, therefore, the City Attorney, with the assistance of the Department of Building and Safety (LADBS) shall begin issuing ACE citations for violations of LAMC 91.8904 that notifies property owners and financial institutions that carry a mortgage on the property via written correspondence, that they could be subject to fines, criminal prosecution and recovery of city abatement costs through a lien on the property.

Moved by Secretary Greenberg from BABCNC; **Seconded** by Member Handal from WLASNC. Following discussion, it was agreed to weigh in as NC people to protect our stakeholders & communities. **Unanimously Approved** by all 8 voting.

- f. Motion (Robin Greenberg) –** Motion to oppose allowing the General Manager of DONE use NC allocated funds to meet the 3% budget reduction. DONE shall not be able to draw from special funds such as the Congress of Neighborhoods, Budget Advocates or Awards.

Moved by Secretary Greenberg from BABCNC; **Seconded** by Member Handal from WLASNC. Discussion was held in which it was noted that this has already been adjudicated. They want to remove \$10,000 set aside for the Congress of Neighborhoods and & Awards and \$38,000 from Budget Advocates. The CAO rejected taking money from neighborhood councils.

Motion: To table Moved by Member Handal; **Seconded** by Chair Wersinger; **Passed.**

- g. **Motion (Robin Greenberg)** - Motion to support Council File 20-1213 (Bonin and Koretz). Whereas some of the hillside communities of the Pacific Palisades, Brentwood, Bel Air and the Hollywood Hills are located in very high fire hazard severity zones and because many of the streets in these hillside communities are substandard and because many of the most recent fires have started in these hillside communities, forcing evacuations in the early morning and late night hours, therefore the Department of City Planning, with assistance from the Emergency Management Department, Los Angeles Department of Transportation, the Los Angeles Fire Department is directed to report back on the capacity, safety, and viability of existing and potential evacuation routes in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones and to identify the policies and development standards, including land use and building restrictions, necessary to support these evacuation routes. **Moved** by Secretary Greenberg; **Seconded** by Member Watts.

Amendment: To include in addition to areas of high fire danger also tsunami zones and those areas subject to certain sea-level rise, which issues we face on both of those points in Venice and Playa Del Rey. **Moved** by VNC's Mark Ryavec; **Seconded** by Member Handal from WLASNC. While it was noted Community Impact Statements could be set up to "support if amended," Member Sann (WWCC) supports all three but would rather have a second motion without sacrificing the fire issue.

Public Comment: VNC's Mark Ryavec introduced VNC's LUPC Chair, Alix Gucovsky, who stated that she will put this on her land use committee agenda, asking for amendment. She noted that while there is mention in the full motion (in the council file) of flood and emergency mitigation of environmental concerns, not just fires, areas affected include but are not limited to Venice, Mar Vista, Palisades, and she feels that to omit this is a problem. VNC's Mark Ryavec would like to see that the study continue on fire while adding review of implications of sea-level rise and tsunami zones, making it clear that we want these two other emerging factors.

Vote on the Amendment: **Unanimous with 8 yes; Passed.**

Vote on the Motion as Amended: **Unanimous with 8 yes; Passed.** Vice Chair Spitz asked Secretary Greenberg to follow up with the Councils so they are aware of the motions.

Reworded Motion as Amended (Robin Greenberg) - Motion to support Council File 20-1213 (Bonin and Koretz). Whereas some of the hillside communities of the Pacific Palisades, Brentwood, Bel Air and the Hollywood Hills are located in very high fire hazard severity zones and because many of the streets in these hillside communities are substandard and because many of the most recent fires have started in these hillside communities, forcing evacuations in the early morning and late night hours, and whereas some coastal areas of CD 11 are tsunami zones and/or subject to sea level rise, therefore the Department of City Planning, with assistance from the Emergency Management Department, Los Angeles Department of Transportation, and the Los Angeles Fire Department, is directed to report back on the capacity, safety, and viability of existing and potential evacuation routes in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones and tsunami zones and those areas subject to sea level rise and to identify the policies and development standards, including land use and building restrictions, necessary to support these evacuation routes.

- h. **DONE Digital Media Policy (Motion possible)** – Discussion of proposed DONE digital media proposal and possible referral to working group for motion.
- Chair Wersinger noted that if there is an NC that wants to take it up, he'll be happy to hear it.

- i. **Motion (Barbara Broide)** – Motion to support and include for official input to the Los Angeles Department of City Planning in reference to the WRAC Member Community Plan updates, a delay of 6 months due to COVID 19 and restrictions related to public access, meetings and participation and further request the following:

An appropriate assessment of how the COVID 19 and future pandemics will impact current and future mobility, housing, design, environmental and health and safety needs and concerns,

Current and future data projections relevant to the task of updating all WRAC member Community Plans,

Incorporation of an additional step in the Community Plan update timeline that allows for presentation of the staff draft plan and an associated public comment period, or a second and revised concept plan phase. Allocation of time for staff to review public comments and incorporate changes to reflect input prior to issuing any NOP for the start of the environmental review process. It is improper to issue an NOP and conduct a DEIR for a draft plan that the community has had neither the chance to see or review.

Thorough public outreach is a must and should include all stakeholders. The Planning Department has not allocated proper time or resources, and City Council must do so moving forward so that no stakeholders are left uninformed about the process.

- Alternate Member Broide introduced this, asking for additional time, to address questions about data, and requests they come back to us in January with their draft and incorporate a public comment period.

Moved by WNC's Member Broide; **Seconded** by Chair Wersinger, who noted that this is urgent. VNC's Mr. Ryavec noted that the process in Venice is different than 20 years ago.

Amendment: Del Rey wrote Planning Department needs to do a better job of outreach; needs to be funded better to do the job they need to do; add that council properly fund planning with staff to do outreach; **Moved** by Chair Wersinger; **Seconded** by Ms. Broide;

Vote on the Amendment: Unanimous with 8 yes; Passed

Vote on the Motion as Amended: Unanimous with 8 yes; Passed.

[Last paragraph has been added to motion above based on the amendment, beginning: Thorough public outreach is a must...]

7. Old Business:

- a. **19-01 Support for Sign Ordinance Version B+ - June 19th, 2019; 7 Councils adopted**
- b. **19-02 Dockless Mobility Device Permit Denial – May 15th, 2019; 8 Councils adopted**
- c. **19-03 Data from Ride Sharing Companies – May 15th, 2019; 7 Councils adopted**
- d. **20-01 Allow NCs to Communicate with non-City entities/elected – June 17th, 2020; 2 Councils adopted**

- e. **20-02 Oppose State Housing Density Bills/Support Other Measures re Affordable Housing**
– August 19th, 2020; **0 Councils Adopted**
- f. **20-03 Request City to Comply with Ellis Act Provisions** – August 19th, 2020;
1 Council adopted
- g. **20-04 Eliminate “Gut and Amend” Bill Process** – September 16th, 2020; **0 Councils adopted**

Discussion of removal of lingering Old Business items tabled until new by-laws voted on.

- 8. **By-Laws Amendments** – First Reading of new revisions as proposed by WRAC Executive Officers and BCC Member Larry Watts. This was worked on by Vice Chair Spitz, Secretary Greenberg, Chair Wersinger and Member Watts.

Chair Wersinger reviewed the revisions to the bylaws; he noted that we will come back to this in November for second reading and possible vote and asked that you send your questions or amendments in advance to expedite.

- 9. **Adjourn: Moved** by Member Handal, **Seconded** by Member Watts, and the meeting adjourned at **7:10pm**.

Next meeting will be held on November 16th at 6pm (timing subject to change).