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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

November 16th 2020 – 6:00pm on Zoom

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS <https://tinyurl.com/y47swx4d>

1. Welcome/Introductions

- a. The WRAC Board conducted its regular monthly meeting by on-line video and audio on November 16, 2020. Chair Matt Wersinger called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 p.m.
- b. **Representatives present:** Matt Wersinger (DRNC), Christina Spitz (PPCC), Robin Greenberg (BABCNC), Larry Watts (BCC), Steve Sann (WWCC), Jay Handal (WLASNC), Ann Hayman, Voting Alternate (WWNC), Barbara Broide (WNC), Stacey Shure, Voting Alternate (MVCC).
Paula Gerez (NCWP) and Andrew Lewis Voting Alternate (NWWNC) arrived much later in the meeting and Andrew Lewis left shortly thereafter. *[WNC primary is now Barbara Broide & Alternate Jane Wishon.]*
- c. **Non-voting Alternates present:** Jane Wishon (WNC) and Nicole Miner, (BABCNC)
- d. **Also present:** Kay Hartman (WRAC LUPC Co-Chair) and government representatives identified below.
- e. **Chair Updates:**
 - Chair Wersinger invited CD11 Councilman Mike Bonin to our December 21st meeting, Council Member Paul Koretz in January and Mayor Garcetti in February.
 - LUPC Co-Chair Kay Hartman reported having led her 1st meeting with Marlene Savage, Co-Chair. They had Daniel Skolnik, Paul Koretz's new Planning Deputy, who spoke for one hour and answered questions. Didn't pass any motions at LUPC.

2. Board Member Updates:

- Member Shure from MVCC related that she attended an LAUSD Board meeting, where an initiative was discussed regarding removing playgrounds at 10 school locations to construct affordable housing for teachers, with Palms Junior High School being the closest concerning WRAC, and, she is working with CD5's Paul Koretz on a proposal for LAUSD. She noted that they punted but will discuss this in December, having done no community outreach. She recommended inviting Nick Melvoin back to discuss the initiative and if other schools will be involved at later dates. Chair Wersinger will reach out to Nick as to time frame.
- Member Sann from WWCC recalled having had the General Manager from Rec & Parks speak to us earlier in the year, and that the School Board was supposed to do a joint program, making playgrounds available in park-poor communities. He is concerned that if they take playground space for housing, there will not be playground space for shared parks for communities.
- Member Sann congratulated Westside NC and some in Westwood for a rare success with the area City Planning Commission on 4th November: Thirty units of housing will be preserved and not converted to hotel units. He thanked Terri Tippit's and Member Broide's council and others who worked hard on this.

- Member Broide of WNC noted that City Council PLUM passed two motions:

PLUM approved extension of Homesharing program to allow rentals as second vacation homes, up to 1% of housing units, per Community Plan area.

- See Council File #18-1246 “Vacation Rentals in Non-primary homes/Ordinance”

<https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=18-1246>

- See Draft Ordinance: https://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2018/18-1246_misc_10-27-2020.pdf

PLUM voted to approve a weakened measure that allows temporary wall signs to be placed on properties where there are existing businesses in operation. PLUM discussion went further to permit expanded barricades beyond what would normally be required by B&S. Outdoor advertisers lobbied to remove the required gaps between series of advertising posters.

- CF# 17-0893 “Temporary Signs / Vacant Lots / Los Angeles Municipal Code / Ordinance Amendment”

<https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=17-0893>

This is about amendments, clarification of regulations pertaining to temporary signs on temporary construction walls and on solid fences surrounding vacant lots.

Member Broide further announced program tomorrow at 6:00pm put on by Coalition for Scenic Los Angeles, formerly Coalition to Ban Billboard Blight. Public Works & BSS/StreetsLA are working to craft a new program on the street furniture program (STAP), as the old program failed on financial and other bases. The city is developing a new program to replace the current one which expires December 20, 2021 as community outrage caused them to revisit as no outreach was done to NCs or CCs as to how this may serve communities. Extensive outreach was done to industry to design the new program but not to communities for those that live with these things. Meeting tomorrow is to discuss, and they are seeking NCs to give comment. Link will be provided. Scenic America will host the Zoom.

3. Government Report

a. **Mayor Garcetti’s office – Kevin Taylor** shared new information from the Mayor:

- It is now mandatory to quarantine for 14 days if you travel to California or Los Angeles from anywhere else – a new aspect to the orders. Please cancel any non-essential travel plans.
- Please be strict about it and help get the word about no non-essential travel.
- The Mayor has instructed departments to be more vigilant on enforcement on people/businesses who are noncompliant with COVID-related restrictions.
- Mobile testing has been ramped up; 9/10 of the biggest hotspots are in North SF Valley, where there is now increased mobile testing, and walk-up sites daily. They are working the County.
- Holidays: Please do not mix with other households, please cancel travel plans. These holidays will be different than others from the past as it is an emergency time. Kevin.taylor@lacity.org

b. **Councilman Koretz’ Office** – Debbie Dyner-Harris was not present.

c. **Councilman Bonin’s Office – Vishesh Anand, Field Deputy**, introduced himself, noting that this is his first meeting here, and new to the office, having joined three months ago. He covers Mar Vista and Del Rey. His update included:

- FEMA meals have been extended through to November 31, and may be extended further.
- CD 11 is doing a number of virtual town halls, the first on public safety and crime. People can

submit topics. The town halls are specific to CD11 but all WRAC might be interested and could advertise them; they have public officials, agents and agencies. Today they had Chief Moore.

- On November 24th there is a special Council meeting discussing Mike Bonin's alternate motion calling for the City Attorney to draft ordinances to make use of underutilized motels and hotels, and calls for Judge Carter to settle the case between LA Alliance, the County & the City.

- They are planning a curbside tree adoption event at Venice High for December 5th when they'll be giving away free trees to beautify the community. Vivesh.anand@lacity.org

d. **LAPD West LA** – Captain Tom was not present.

e. **LAPD Pacific** – Captain Embrich was not present.

f. **Fipe Leilua from City Planning** gave update:

- Tomorrow they begin having the “[Community Planning 101](#)” for community planning training. Topics include development of new policies and goals to local zoning rules. Dates are tomorrow, Thursday and Saturday, which they will stream live on Facebook, and after Saturday, will post on their YouTube channel. *[Additional dates will be forthcoming for “[Planning 101](#).”]*

- Reminder that the Housing Element Webinars started last week on November 10th and will have two more, tomorrow, Tuesday in Spanish, and Wednesday 18th in English.

- Ridgeline Ordinance Webinar, which will affect parts of WLA area, will be introduced into LA Municipal Code as a new Supplemental Use District (SUD) and applied initially to Bel Air-Beverly Crest Community Plan and the Hollywood Community Plan. The ordinance is designed to provide additional tools to help manage development in sensitive ridgeline areas to protect and preserve these ecological and scenic resources. Webinar is Friday 11/20/2020 from 1-2pm.

Contact her with any questions at Fipe.Leilua@lacity.org

g. **Deborah Hong, LADWP:** Deborah announced new utility grant assistance program for households impacted by COVID-19, a one-time \$500 payment for qualifying customers, to help pay their utility bill. Deadline has been extended to November 22nd. See flyer & spread the word.

- Jay asked Deborah for an update on the DWP site on Nebraska, including issues raised by the community two years ago so he could update his stakeholders. She will connect with him.

Deborah.Hong@ladwp.com

h. **Julien Antelin, Department of Neighborhood Empowerment:**

- Julien related that he can speak on the Social Media Policy on our agenda this evening.

- He reminded us to make sure all NC members are compliant with trainings; check Monthly Profiles for template to list planning committee members regarding “101 Planning” requirement.

- Region 11 Election is happening June 8th and February 6th is opening date for candidate filing.

- City Council approved funding for elections outreach for the department with approximately \$450,000 dedicated for the next few months.

- For questions on any of the above, feel free to contact him at Julien.antelin@lacity.org

i. **Eli Lipmen, President, BONC** was present. See Item 7.b. below.

4. **Public Comment** – **Robert Schlesinger** asked and Vice Chair Spitz clarified that each WRAC member has only one alternate; Nickie Miner is the Alternate for BABCNC.

5. Approval of Minutes

- a. **Motion** – Approval of October 2020 meeting minutes: **Moved** by Chair Wersinger; **Seconded** by Member Handal from WLASNC; **approved by all 9 present and voting**

6. By-Laws Amendments – Second Reading

- a. **Motion (Wersinger)** – Approval of revisions as proposed by WRAC Executive Officers and BCC Member Larry Watts. **Moved** by Vice Chair Spitz; **Seconded** by Secretary Greenberg. - Chair Wersinger introduced the item, to review and approve the draft bylaws & three draft amendments, to begin with amendments. Any additional amendments could be considered orally.

ARTICLE VI, Committees, Section 1, e. Regarding Homelessness Committee

Amendment: To change item e to the “Homelessness Committee” rather than “Unhoused.” **Moved** by Member Sann from WWCC; **seconded** by Member Handal from WLASNC. Member Sann noted that the term most commonly used nationally, by LAHSA and the Mayor, is “Homelessness” and that this is the appropriate term for the committee. He wants to focus on solutions with Jay. **8 yes; 1 no; 0 abstentions; passed.**

ARTICLE VI, Establishment & Membership on Committees, Section 2, b. Other Standing Committees

Amendment: To change the language that begins with the 2nd paragraph of 2.b. to: “The membership of such committees may include stakeholders of Member Organizations who are not WRAC Representatives or Alternates. No committee shall have the authority of the WRAC or the Board. Each committee, unless otherwise structured by the Board, shall form its membership according to the terms of Article II Section 6 of these bylaws.” **Moved** by Vice Chair Spitz; **seconded** by Chair Wersinger. Vice Chair Spitz noted that we have another provision for this in the bylaws, Article 2, Section 6, which we’ve been following for years which basically says that each council appoints its own primaries and/or alternates to committees. We don’t have committee chairs appoint the reps because only a representative appointed for a board is entitled to vote. Chairs appointing whomever they want to appoint doesn’t square with the rest of our bylaws. This change is almost the same as what is in the bylaws. **9 yes; 0 no; 0 abstentions; passed.**

Amendment to Add the New Standing Rule #8:

Chair Wersinger wrote the following additional standing rule, as read by Vice Chair Spitz: “8. If a Member Organization makes a request to place a policy item on the agenda pursuant to Article V, Section 4, the Chair shall evaluate the request based upon the following criteria:

- a. Is the topic of broad regional concern?
- b. Is the topic urgent, subject to a deadline or directly related to other pending issues?
- c. Has the Member Organization taken a position on the topic?
- d. Should the item first be considered by a relevant WRAC committee?
- e. Have sufficient supporting reports and documents been submitted?

At the discretion of the Chair, all items for potential action by WRAC should first be assigned for consideration by a relevant WRAC committee, if possible, before being placed on the WRAC board meeting agenda.

Motions that have not been passed by either a WRAC Committee or Member Council first shall not be placed on the agenda unless an exception is made by the Chair.”

Moved by Vice Chair Spitz; **seconded** by Member Sann. Alternate Member Wishon of WNC asked and Vice Chair Spitz clarified that the standing rules are not a part of the bylaws and are included for reference only. Vice Chair Spitz related that this came about as sometimes members will request items be placed on agenda, and it has not always been clear if vetted or if the member’s organization supports it; recommends having a process. One item of the process is whether or not it should go to a committee first or has the item be passed by the organization proposing it. She added that the way the bylaws are written, another section talks about the representative representing their organization and not themselves. The representative bringing the motion to WRAC is speaking on behalf of the organization. Make it clear what the organization feels about the motion to be placed on the agenda. This gives discretion to the chair to decide what to do with it. Chair Wersinger thinks this is a great amendment; to codify and have a baseline on how things are placed on the agenda. **9 yes; 0 no; 0 abstentions; passed.**

Motion: To approve the Bylaws as amended **moved** by Vice Chair Spitz; **seconded** by Secretary Greenberg; **9 yes; 0 no; 0 abstentions; passed.** The group thanked those who worked on this.

7. New Business

- a. **Motion** - Nomination of Jay Handal to Chair WRAC Homelessness Committee.

Moved by Chair Wersinger, **seconded** by Stacy. Jay spoke on the rise in homelessness all around the city and the encampments in his district, WLA Sawtelle. He is on the street every day with the SLOs and LAHSA and noted that we need to help these people. He feels that having a strong voice from WRAC will make a huge difference. Palisades & Venice have done a great job but we need a unified effort to try to end what we have on the Westside. This is a quality of life issue for stakeholders, businesses and the persons who are homeless. Member Shure of MVCC related her shock as to the lack of resources to provide services to get these people off the streets. Member Handal noted, as a Budget Advocate, that we have almost 11 departments spending well over half a billion dollars a year with a net effect of not much; that LAHSA is ineffective and that we have government entities that don’t have a plan. The work is not being done by the County and we are now being charged with taking care of this. The citizens need to have their voices heard to reach the elected officials to get the people off the street. He related his opposition to HHH which was to build 10,000 homes over 10 years. He wrote the opposition to HHH, when we had 23,000 homeless in the city and increasing numbers by over 26% a year and they built \$700,000 units instead of building temporary housing to get them off the street. He feels that this has been a misguided not well-led effort and that WRAC could be the impetus to really put their feet to the fire. He knows that CM Bonin wants to fix it and is 100% onboard. *[Chair Wersinger noted that Paula Gerez of NCWP and Andrew Lewis of NWWNC were now present.]*

Public Comment: Robert Schlesinger noted when Mike Feuer was at WRAC half a year ago, he told him that those who need the most help are not getting it, to which Mike Feuer replied “we help those we can.” Robert feels this was not an answer for those who need help the most.

10 yes; 0 no; 0 abstentions; passed. Contact Jay if interested.

- b. Motion (Matt Wersinger) -** Nomination of Nancy Matson and Selena Inuoye to Co-Chair WRAC Transportation Committee. **Moved** by Chair Wersinger; **seconded** by Member Handal from WLASNC.

Member Shure of MVCC noted that these nominees are not representatives of WRAC, to which Chair Wersinger noted that our bylaws allow the Chair to nominate committee chairs.

Nancy Matson introduced herself, as on the Del Rey Committer, Chair of the Transportation Committee for the NC Sustainability Alliance and would like to address peoples' transportation needs while reducing greenhouse gases and moving towards less of a stranglehold of the one-car/one person habit; to have more shared electric vehicles as well as to cater to those people who are purchasing bicycles recently. She appreciates the opportunity.

Selena Inuoye related that she was elected to Mar Vista CC based on her advocacy efforts on transportation issues for 3-1/2 years; currently she is an appointed member of the Venice NC Parking and Transportation Committee, a recent Past Vice Chair of the MVCC Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and a current Co-Chair of their ad-hoc COVID 19 Community Response Committee, which she noted is having a big impact on transportation issues. She is also on the Transportation Committee for the NC Sustainability Alliance. In the past year she has participated with the SCAG Connect So-Cal Outreach and Metro NextGen Bus Plan, and Westside Cities Council of Governments' Mobility Study. She is excited that WRAC is going to sponsor a regional committee to discuss transportation and mobility issues, a regional issue though each neighborhood has their own concerns. In her role working on transportation, she has a good relationship with Alek Bartrosouf, Mike Bonin's Mobility Deputy, and with CD5.

Chair Wersinger noted that Nancy recommended Selena and that he likes the broad-spectrum of ideas from the two of them. Barbara appreciates the interest and welcomes new involvement. She wants to be sure to know what the focus of the committees will be and if goals will relate to the goals of the neighborhood and community councils to which Chair Wersinger noted that at the first committee meeting there should be conversation about the goals. He'll leave it to the chairs to decide. He asked that motions come out from the committees.

Member Shure would like to have Mar Vista's involvement and would like the chairs of the transportation committee's involvement. Vice Chair Spitz feels it is important to have people who are enthusiastic, interested, and who want to do the job.

Member Handal opined that people should just get on the committee; committee work is done by the committee and who is leading it is not going to steer the committee, but the committee steers the co-chairs. He supports voting the people in.

8 yes; 1 no: Member Shure of MVCC; **1 abstention:** Member Broide of WNC; **passed.**

- c. **Discussion of Public Safety Committee (No motion planned)** Venice has formed a new PSC. Chair Wersinger noted that this is still a work in progress to get people to come to the surface to say that they are interested in running this. Share your questions and thoughts with him.
- d. **Motion (Michelle Bisnoff/BCC) – Referral of CF 20-1376 to Unhoused Homelessness Committee.** Michelle is absent. Take this to committee. **Postponed to next month**
- e. **Motion (Andrew Lewis/NWWNC) – Motion possible regarding DONE digital communications policy. Postponed due to Andrew being absent.** Chair Wersinger gave brief update noting that Secretary Greenberg’s NC has a motion on this in our supporting documents, and spoke to BONC. Secretary Greenberg related that the BABCNC response is 4 pages; we discussed it at BONC today and our feeling is that we are in favor of the digital media policy but do not want to put undue burden on the volunteers to administer it. The BABCNC’s motion would be that we are in favor but have to take it with a grain of salt because we are only unpaid volunteers and we cannot do more than we can physically do with regard to any policy that DONE comes up with. Member Handal from WLASNC noted that DONE is dumping a lot of rules and regulations on NCs as well as on the Budget Advocates.

BONC President, Eli Lipmen, was invited to speak to what this policy does. He briefly described the policy being proposed by the department, looks at and will consider having a digital media policy for each NC, for issues of security, to what it can be used for, and standards of terms of standard practices, e.g., sharing passwords, etc., especially when there is a transition, and defining what its terms are in terms of social media, website, newsletter, etc. He noted that there are some issues with content and what a government entity can and cannot do. He noted that they had 100 people on today’s BONC call. Several dozen people spoke on public comment. He noted that the next BONC meeting will have this as a single item for a robust conversation. He believes there is need to create some structure, accountability and clear guidance on it. Big concern is first amendment issues, as there is a section on use of personal media, personal profile, etc., and they will entertain and look at amending the policy. He noted that it became an issue because of a spate of cyber blowing occurring between members and NCs and disgusting things people have posted about fellow board members, and abuses of city resources. Creating and managing a city FB page represents the city of LA and they ask, what does that mean for what can and should be posted there.

Eli would like to give time for NCs to read it, digest it and write policy, taking CISs and giving them increased time to speak. Jay is extremely concerned about 1st amendment issue, mentioned “Citywatch.” The new manager is taking reins on NCs. He recommends looking at this policy in depth and come back with a statement to WRAC to bring to BONC; he feels this should be done quickly, and that we need to form an ad-hoc committee; come up with things to send to NCs and get feedback, so everyone in our area can weigh in on it. Chair Wersinger noted that we can do this as a working group; it should be on the December agenda. Member Gerez from MCWP would like to participate in this, and echoes some of the same concerns.

Eli Lipmen thanked the group for their willingness to work on this. He noted need to distinguish between commenting as your own person versus the NC. He'll try to get here more often.

Member Shure noted that MVCC has already considered the motion and Chair Wersinger welcomed her to join the discussion. He will bring Robin's NC's position as well.

8. Old Business

- a. **19-01 Support for Sign Ordinance Version B+ - June 19th, 2019; 10 Councils adopted – Adopted Motion**
- b. **19-02 Dockless Mobility Device Permit Denial – May 15th, 2019; 8 Councils adopted**
Chris opined that this is calling for something the city won't give us. There's a lawsuit and other issues, e.g., privacy rights. Still it's good. **Adopted Motion**
- c. **19-03 Data from Ride Sharing Companies – May 15th, 2019; was 7 Councils adopted; Chris would be checking the count. Per Chair Wersinger, Member Shure's MVCC also passed this for a total of 8 Councils. Adopted Motion**
- d. **20-01 Allow NCs to Communicate with non-City entities/elected – June 17th, 2020; 3 Councils adopted Motion: To continue moved by Member Broide of WNC and seconded by Secretary Greenberg; 9/0/0; passed – Continued**
- e. **20-02 Oppose State Housing Density Bills/Support Other Measures re Affordable Housing – August 19th, 2020; 0 Councils Adopted – Member Watts of BCC noted this is moot now. This will be removed from website pending list.**
- f. **20-03 Request City to Comply with Ellis Act Provisions – August 19th, 2020; 2 Councils adopted – Member Shure from MVCC noted that this is moot now, on September 20th the LA City Council passed those enforcement measures for SB330. This will be removed from website pending list.**
- g. **20-04 Eliminate “Gut and Amend” Bill Process – September 16th, 2020; 5 Councils adopted**
- h. **20-05 Support for CF 20-1213 supporting evacuation routes – October 19th, 2020; 3 Councils adopted – *PASSED CITY COUNCIL 11/10/20.* This will be removed from website pending list.**
- i. **20-06 Community Plan Update Process – October 19th, 2020; 7 Councils adopted Adopted Motion**
- j. **20-07 CF 20-1174 Unfinished Development/Enforcement – October 19th, 2020; 1 Council adopted (WNC)**
- k. **20-08 CF 20-1175 Vacant Structures/ACE Citations – October 19th, 2020; 2 Council adopted (BABCNC & WNC)**
Chair Wersinger related that whoever sponsors a motion should get things out there to support it after it passes WRAC. Vice Chair Spitz related that she has updated the website. Let her know if you've passed motions right away.

9. **Adjourn:** Member Handal **moved** to adjourn; Member Gerez **seconded** and the meeting adjourned at 7:27 pm.

Next meeting will be held on December 21st at 6pm (subject to change).