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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

February 15<sup>th</sup> 2021 – 6:00pm

#### 1. Welcome/Introductions:

- a. The WRAC Board conducted its regular monthly meeting by on-line video and audio on February 15, 2021. 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), Ira Koslow (VNC), Jane Wishon (WNC), Larry Watts (BCC), Lisa Chapman (WWNC); Andrew Lewis (NWWNC) Paula Gerez (NCWP); Steve Sann (WCC), **10 present**
- c. **Non-voting Alternates present:** Barbara Broide (WNC) & Nickie Miner (BABCNC)
- d. **Also present:** Marlene Savage & Kay Hartman (WRAC LUPC Co-Chairs), Robert Schlesinger (BABCNC) and Glenn Bailey (LANCC)
- e. **Chair Updates:**
  - Chair Wersinger has been sending letters on all of our motions and will follow up with phone calls. He will try to set up meetings with some of our elected officials.
  - He acknowledged the recent anniversary of the Sylmar earthquake and the Northridge quake some years later. He noted that Del Rey NC has taken up active participation in the LAFD's emergency preparedness programs, and encourages us all to look at this.
  - There will be an online Westside Safety and Preparedness Fair on March 7<sup>th</sup>. Link to RSVP: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/3rd-annual-westside-safety-and-preparedness-fair-los-angeles-tickets-136716393413>
- f. **President's Day Recognition:** Chair Wersinger acknowledged President's Day as an important holiday which is forgotten at times. He noted that it gives us a moment to reflect on our system and leadership and credited the WRAC reps for representing leadership throughout our communities, which he noted was what the founding fathers were all about.
- g. **Upcoming Guests:**
  - i. **March** – Congressman Ted Lieu
  - ii. **April** – LA Councilmember Paul Koretz
  - iii. **May** – LAPD Chief Michel Moore

#### 2. Government Report:

- a. **LA County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl**
  - **Representative Erin Seinfeld** gave a brief update on the vaccine and noted that COVID cases are climbing, which we do not want to see; we want to be safe.
  - As of the end of last week, the County administered 1.35 million doses; just over a million for the first doses, and 300,000 for the second doses. The County is still only vaccinating the first tier as well as to those 65 and over. The majority of appointments this week are 2<sup>nd</sup> doses.
  - There are nearly 400 sites, e.g., pharmacies, clinics, hospitals, etc. The County operates seven of those and is only administering 2<sup>nd</sup> doses.

- Data released last week highlighted inequities in distribution of the vaccine in primarily communities of color.
- They are expecting a significant increase in available doses in the coming week.
- The County does not determine how many doses were allocated and Erin explained the process from states to Federal government.
- The County is mobilizing mobile units and community health workers to go block by block to talk directly with the communities about inequities and to dispel misinformation.
- Go to: [www.vaccinatelacounty.com](http://www.vaccinatelacounty.com) and sign up through My Turn and sign up for updates.
- Governor Newsom is saying California teachers, childcare workers, law enforcement, education and food workers could be vaccinated in LA County in about three weeks.
- Residents 60 to 64 years of age with certain health conditions and disabilities can also start getting vaccinated on March 15<sup>th</sup>. Keep an eye on the newsletter.
- Chair Wersinger expressed interest in having the Supervisor here.
- Member Broide of WNC asked Erin to transmit a message to the Supervisor's Health Deputy regarding the danger of aerosols, to send a message to the County Public Health people about the importance of explaining that danger to people, to reinforce the importance of mitigations such as distancing. She referenced busses with closed windows, analogous to cigarette smoke, a concept that people are missing.

**b. Mayor Eric Garcetti – Brad Fingard**

- As to our request to have the Mayor Garcetti back, he will tour NC Alliances over the summer.
- Mayor Garcetti will prioritize 2<sup>nd</sup> doses of the COVID vaccine this week. The City expects to receive 54,000 doses of Moderna and 4,000 of Pfizer, which is a greater number than last week.
- Sites should open Tuesday to Saturday for 2<sup>nd</sup> doses that were automatically scheduled for those who had 1<sup>st</sup> doses in January; the city is opening other sites: Pierce College & mobile sites.
- Since launching in December, the city has administered more than 315,000 doses. Starting tomorrow more doses will be available.
- Nickie Miner asked about the procedure for the 2<sup>nd</sup> doses at Dodger Stadium, to which Brad noted that this week Dodger Stadium will be almost exclusively for 2<sup>nd</sup> doses. First doses will primarily be given at Pierce College and by mobile sites.
- Three to seven days is traditionally the window for notice to be given.
- Go to the Carbonhealth website. <https://carbonhealth.com/covid-19-vaccines/los-angeles>
- Member Sann of WCC related that he learned from Captain Tom, at WLA Police Station, that the LAPD has not been vaccinated yet. He feels it is super important that the LAPD get the vaccine as soon as possible. He had heard that eight LAPD officers have died of COVID-related causes. Brad acknowledged these concerns and noted that these decisions are based on the governor's classification system and the PD are eligible in the next weeks with other categories.
- Member Broide noted that marijuana dispensary sales people are now considered healthcare workers, and are eligible for the vaccine.

- Member Broide noted concern about land use issues, and that the WRAC Land Use committee is concerned about the current process for cities to complete their housing elements, to be approved by October. She noted that with COVID and its impacts, this timeline is unrealistic. As to procedures and requirements, by virtue of state laws that require additional work at the city level, we are being asked to have a document in to the Planning Department, a response to the NOP for the Housing Element, and we do not have the draft housing element doc to look at. She is concerned that the City keeps tell us that planning for housing is the most important thing we should be doing, and would like the Mayor to extend the deadline for the goals of the Housing Elements. She noted that appeals are still underway and will affect the numbers; the whole machine is broken badly, and it will take someone like the governor, who is very pro-housing, and saying we need to get this right. She asked Brad to convey to the Mayor that more time needs to be added to the process, this can only be added by a legislative action and a governor's emergency action. She will email Brad the points.
- Nickie Miner gave public comment on this, noting that she would like the Mayor and everyone to take a strong stand and put a stop to this housing elements thing.

**c. Council Reports**

- Secretary Greenberg related that the BABCNC is interested in short-term rentals & party houses, and that tomorrow @ 2:00pm, the PLUM Committee will be discussing short-term rentals. If you have experiences let her know as she will attempt to get on that.
- Vice Chair Spitz of PPCC mentioned the March 7<sup>th</sup> Westside Safety and Preparedness Fair.
- Her council has been having two forums, one to bring in LAPD and LAFD, and the next to include CERT, RYLAN and a coordinator for LAFD's Auxiliary Communications Service (ACS), whose members are ham radio operators. She understand that ham radios are making a comeback.

**d. Additional Government Reports – At the discretion of the Chair – None**

**3. Board Member Updates - None**

**4. Committee Reports:**

- Chair Wersinger related that the Land Use & Planning Committee has been running efficiently.
- LUPC Co-Chair Marlene Savage noted that they had a very good meeting and that LUPC Co-Chair Kay Hartman has been working hard on the minutes; Member Sann has done an excellent job, on a revised draft of guidelines for the LUPC, which they will discuss at their next meeting.
- They will have Capri Maddox, who will speak on equity from 11 to 12, after regular business 10 to 11.
- LUPC Co-Chair Hartman noted that the committee passed the one motion on the agenda this evening.
- Chair Wersinger related that Member Jay Handal of WLASNC is not here to discuss the Homelessness Committee; however, that Jay held a great meeting last week, setting goals for that group, and taking the lead on new ideas. (*Brief discussion was held on which councils have reps in this committee.*)
- Member Sann reiterated that this is an excellent group, with hats off to Jay. He noted that it is a very smart group, with a lot of very informed folks, especially from the Palisades. They want to create

options and change to address this issue, would like the WRAC to make a difference. He is encouraged.  
- The Transportation Committee is having its first meeting February 17<sup>th</sup>. They are missing reps for this committee. Member Gerez related that she is short of volunteers right now. Nickie Miner mentioned that she is looking forward to the Transportation Committee meeting Wednesday.

- Member Broide listed the following council files of interest, up tomorrow at Council:

CF# 20-1042: Land Use Reform - Zoning Ballot Measure

CF# 20-1045: Land Use Reform / Increasing Transparency / Processes & Procedures Ordinance Update.

CF#20-1044: Land Use Reform / High Value Projects which seeks to have projects bypass the PLUM Committee and go directly to the full City Council to be voted on.

CF# 09-0969-S3: Comprehensive Fee Update. One of the fees to be increased is to appeal projects.

#### 5. **Public Comment:**

- Glenn Bailey from LANCC noted, as to Item 8.b., below, on February 9<sup>th</sup> a motion was introduced and there is a new Council File # 21-0178 on LAUSD School Reopening and In-Person Instruction.

- He noted that NC leadership and alliances aware of the city's financial challenges, have been discussing whether we will get rollover funds. This starts with the Mayor when he releases his budget on April 20<sup>th</sup>. That's half the battle, having it proposed in the budget and having Council approve it.

- He related that last year, CM Bonin introduced a motion to allow NCs to roll over all remaining funds, and then there were the encumbrance requests. He noted that the NC funding is such a small amount of the City's budget that he would like to work across the city through the NCs, as he hears there will be zero rollover and no encumbrances. Even if they cut our allocation to less than \$32,000, it would be helpful at least for those with any unspent monies. He will try to get LANCC to consider this.

#### 6. **Approval of Minutes:**

- a. **Motion (Matt Wersinger)** – Approval of January 2020 meeting minutes **moved** by Chair Wersinger, **seconded** by Secretary Greenberg **10-0-0, passed**

#### 7. **New Business:**

- a. **Motion (WRAC LUPC / Chris Spitz)** –

The Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC) recognizes the need for positive solutions to the state's affordable housing crisis, specifically as it relates to workforce and low-to-moderate income housing. Solutions should involve legislation that 1) focuses on increasing the production and supply of truly affordable housing; 2) does not compromise public safety or the environment; and 3) respects principles of democracy, local land use control and self-determination of local governments to expand housing opportunities unique to their jurisdictions.

WRAC supports Senate Bill 15 (Portantino) and Senate Constitutional Amendment 2 (Allen and Wiener) as examples of positive legislation that forward the goal of achieving more affordable housing consistent with these principles. **Moved** by Vice Chair Spitz; **seconded** by Secretary Greenberg. Member Broide noted that she heard from a Professor Patrick Condon, whose book, Sick Cities, demonstrated that adding density in cities does not increase affordability.

**9 yes; 0 no; 1 abstention**: Andrew Lewis, **passed**.

- b. **Discussion** was held on future speaking guests.
- Chair Wersinger has been trying to get a County Supervisor, either Holly J. Mitchell or Sheila Kuehl. Member Wishon offered to ask Holly Mitchell. Chair Wersinger said he could move the meeting if that would help.
  - Chair Wersinger would like to have Councilmembers Bonin and Koretz back in the summer.
  - He wants to keep it to top level guests, so committees can bring people to their committees.
  - Steve Sann would like to have Senator Ben Allen, to discuss redistricting. He noted that in the last week, Councilmembers Bonin and Koretz have representatives for redistricting; CD5 has Rocky Delgadillo, and CD11 has Michele Prichard.
  - He noted that because of the delay in the Census, the census data is coming out only in April for preliminary numbers which will be useless for redistricting, as it is statewide data. We have an obligation to finish this by December, and will be under a compressed schedule. We may want to weigh in on a WRAC level, before the maps are finalized.
  - Other possible speakers mentioned included Richard Bloom, the Controller, and Jeffrey Prang.
  - Secretary Greenberg added that we may want to have someone from LA Metro regarding Sepulveda Transit Corridor Project <https://www.metro.net/projects/sepulvedacorridor/>
  - Chair Wersinger would also like to have congestion pricing addressed.
  - Vice Chair Chris Spitz mentioned Adel Hagekhalil with StreetsLA give an update on the bus benches program, maybe in the summer. Chair Wersinger suggested having him speak to the Land Use Committee. Chair Wersinger will reach out.

## 8. Old Business

- a. **20-07 Support CF 20-1174 (unfinished development/enforcement)** – October 19, 2020 (*passage deadline February 2021*); 8 councils adopted: BABCNC, BCC, DRNC, NCWP, PPCC, WLASNC, WNC, WWNC **[MAJORITY PASSAGE] Adopted**
- b. **20-10 Prioritize school reopenings** – December 21, 2020 (*passage deadline March 2021*); 6 councils adopted: DRNC, NCWP,\* PPCC,\* WLASNC,\* WNC,\* WWNC (*\*modified version*)
- c. **21-01 Oppose SB 9 (Atkins); Support CF 21-0002-S18 (Koretz)** – January 18, 2020 (*passage deadline April 2021*); 8 councils adopted: BABCNC,\* BCC,\* MVCC, NCWP, NWWNC, PPCC,\* WNC,\* WWNC (*\*modified version*) **[MAJORITY PASSAGE] Adopted**
- d. **21-02 Oppose SB 10 (Wiener); Support CF 21-0002-S21 (Koretz)** – January 18, 2020 (*passage deadline April 2021*); 8 councils adopted: BABCNC,\* BCC,\* MVCC, NCWP, NWWNC, PPCC, WNC,\* WWNC (*\*modified version*) **[MAJORITY PASSAGE] Adopted**

9. **Adjourn: moved** by Chair Wersinger, **seconded** by Member Watts; meeting adjourned at **7:02pm**.

Next meeting will be held on March 15<sup>th</sup> 2021 at 6pm.