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Minutes
WRAC Meeting of the Board of Directors
June 21st 2021 – 6:00pm

Webinar link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85804559642>
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1. Welcome/Introductions

- a. The WRAC Board conducted its regular monthly meeting by on-line video and audio on June 21, 2021. Chair Matt Wersinger called the meeting to order at 6:02pm, on this Summer Solstice evening. He welcomed everyone and noted that we have Michelle Prichard from the City of Los Angeles Redistricting Commission tonight. The State Redistricting Commissioner who was scheduled for this evening was not able to be here; however, during the course of the meeting we did hear from California Citizens Redistricting Commissioner, Patricia Sinay.
- b. Representatives present: Matt Wersinger (DRNC), Christina Spitz (PPCC), Robin Greenberg (BABCNC), Michelle Bisnoff (BCC); Stacy Shure (MVCC), Andrew Lewis (NWWNC); Ira Koslow, (VNC); Steve Sann (WCC); Jay Handal (WLASNC); Jane Wishon (WNC); Lisa Chapman (WWNC) **11 present**
- c. Nonvoting Alternates present: James Murez, (VNC); Barbara Broide (WNC); Nickie Miner, (BABCNC)
- d. Also present were Commissioner Michelle Pritchard, CD11 Redistricting Representative along with Rafael Gonzalez, Director of Community Outreach; Brad Fingard, West Area Rep from the office of LA City Mayor Garcetti, Janet Turner representing Congressman Ted Lieu, Robert Schlesinger of the BABCNC, Deborah Hong from DWP, Jennifer Poulakidas from UCLA.
- e. **Chair Updates – None**
- f. **Upcoming Guests –**
 - i. **July** – LA County Supervisor Holly Mitchell
 - ii. **August** – LA City Controller Ron Galperin

2. Government Reports -

- a. **City of Los Angeles Redistricting** – LA City Council Redistricting Committee Commissioner Michelle Pritchard, representing CD11, related that professionally, she works at the Liberty Hill Foundation, supporting community based groups, especially in the most disadvantaged communities and as a Commissioner, she serves as a volunteer. She shared the basics of redistricting and noted that she would hear questions but would not take official public input. She next turned the floor over to her colleague, Rafael Gonzalez, Director of Community Outreach. He thanked the WRAC Board for the opportunity to share with us about staying engaged in this process, and about what this Commission will do with this information and how the community can react to the draft maps that the Commissioners will come up with that will go before the Council and the Mayor.

Rafael Gonzalez gave a Power Point presentation beginning with the five elements of the line-drawing criteria. He noted that we have to make sure that these districts are near an equal population to comply with the US Constitution and with the Voting Rights Act. These lines must be drawn contiguously. They must minimize a division of neighborhoods and communities of interest to all extent possible. They work to ensure that communities are kept together. The lines must be drawn geographically compact so nearby areas of population are not bypassed by some of the other more distant populations. This requirement is about the density, the numbers, not the shape itself. He discussed the “communities of interest,” defined as a concentrated population which shares commonalities, social-economic interest is one, and noted that they should be included in a single district for purposes of effective and fair representation. Community interest could be your block, your neighborhood, the different organizations that make up your community; it could be the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils. Other factors are income levels, education. He noted that a community interest is not the same as a district but potentially building blocks of the district. He discussed this in greater detail. They want to hear from people, what are your community of interest? Your voice matters. He stressed the importance of your participation at these hearings, which will be the basis of how these maps are drawn. It’s about keeping communities and neighborhoods whole and not divided.

They will be organizing 19 public hearings from July through September 2021 to solicit public input. There will be one public hearing for each of the 15 Council Districts and four (4) regional public hearings, where testimony will be taken. They are organizing all neighborhood councils, faith-based communities, etc. They will have someone on staff to take the information and put it into their database for line-drawing purposes. He discussed he various phases of this process. They will start July 1st in CD12. In August the census data will be released to incorporate that information into the draft maps. In October they will host additional public hearings before sending this information to City Council and to the Mayor for approval and adoption. He encouraged you to get the word out. There will be a Virtual Redistricting Public Hearing for CD11 on July 13th 6:00pm.

Chair Wersinger opened the floor for five minutes of questions. Member Shure of MVCC thanked Commissioner Pritchard and Rafael Gonzalez for coming. She noted, as to meetings in the neighborhood councils in CD11, the Mar Vista Community Council meets on the 13th and new members will be sworn in and unable to attend. She asked if they will do more outreach to Mar Vista CC. Rafael Gonzalez noted that the scheduling was difficult, he cannot reschedule but invited her to go to some of the other meetings, e.g., the regional meeting focused on the Westside and central cities. He offered to have an offline conversation to include the Mar Vista voice in this process.

Member Murez of VNC asked if redistricting has an impact on the election process for council members up for re-election in 2022, such as for CD8, and if the constituent voting capability will be considered. He asked what happens for those who couldn’t vote for a new Councilmember in

four or five years. Commissioner Pritchard responded that there is a cascading effect due to the census delay and everyone will retain a right to vote. The schedule is set to make sure that they get the right ballots to the right voter. They will know when boundaries shift when City Council adopts the redistricting lines by the end of this year.

Member Murez asked if part of CD11 is incorporated into CD8, they are not up for election; those in CD11 will have to wait another two years before they have an opportunity to vote; he asked if this is being considered. She will make a note of this. Rafael Gonzalez thanked James for raising this issue, as they don't want to leave folks out of voting. He believes the Commission is looking into this and Member Murez will still have an opportunity to comment.

WRAC Secretary Greenberg of BABCNC noted that there was charter reform in 1999 and asked if they are discussing new charter reform, e.g., having more than 15 council districts, to which Commissioner Pritchard responded that it is not the charge of the Commission to determine if there should be fewer or more districts; that would have to go before the voters.

Member Sann of WCC thanked Commissioner Pritchard and Rafael Gonzalez. He commended the principles guiding their commission and expressed concern about some maps being circulated. He was concerned, given the lateness of getting the census numbers, that the process of receiving the maps for community to respond to is truncated. He asked if, when the maps are released, the December deadline can be adjusted due to the lateness of the census numbers. Commissioner Pritchard stressed that the maps Member Sann has seen circulating have nothing to do with this commission. They have not issued any maps and will not until going through the process. They understand the difficulty of the lateness. The census data will be in on August 15th, they'll take a few weeks; it will be released September 26th followed by public hearings until mid-October, and aims to approve their maps at the commission level October 24th. They then go to City Council. There is not much they can do about the compressed schedule. Rafael Gonzalez noted that there are no maps coming out of their commission, and their maps will not come out until September.

Member Wishon of WNC asked, based on the timeline and that the filing deadline is the first week of November, how will that work? How do they file if they are not sure where they live? Commissioner Pritchard will get back to us on this. Member Wishon noted that it is one year before the final election on November 3rd. Rafael Gonzalez acknowledged that this is a City Clerk question. Matt thanked them for coming and noted that he looks forward to seeing a real map one of these days. The presenters thanked us.

- b. State Redistricting** – Commissioner Wanda Sheffield was not present. **Commissioner Patricia Sinay** introduced herself, noting that she went to UCLA. She one of 14 citizen redistricting commissioners, made up of eight women and six men from throughout California. She is an immigrant from Mexico with one parent being Argentinian. She noted that she cannot take input tonight.

Commissioner Sinay related that we do this every 10 years, at the Congressional, Senate and Board of Equalization levels. We have 52 congressional districts this year instead of 53; all districts will be changing based on the census. It is important that your voice is heard. Commissioner Sinay noted that Criteria #4 “Communities of Interest” is important for us. When they draw the maps they want to hear from us. She related that we all belong to multiple communities. Just give a snapshot of your community; who you live, work, play, learn, pray, celebrate and protest with. This is not the same as a district but helps us in building the districts.

We do not need to wait for a public meeting. Just submit Communities of Interest now at <https://www.wedrawthelinesca.org/> which will walk you through the process. There is no right or wrong way to tell them about our community of interest. Bring them our data, what is important to us and why we don't feel heard. Put it on a map. Submit five days in advance to the commission. Early 2022 submitting to Secretary of State Shirley Webber. Vice Chair Spitz thanked her for being here. The floor was opened for questions.

Member Sann of WCC asked, are they on the same or similar compressed timetable as the city due to the lateness of the data. Commissioner Sinay related that they have an extended timeline in getting our input early. What will help is those communities that want to stay together.

Member Wishon asked, as the filing deadline is at the beginning of November how that will be accommodated where there will be significant change, especially congressional. Commissioner Sinay noted that they are working on the primaries and are trying to balance the 2022 election, doing a good job making sure you all have access and can give us your comments.

Chair Wersinger thanked Commissioner Sinay for coming and she asked that we all tell 10 people about this for greater input.

- c. **Mayor's Office** – Brad Fingard offered to do some budget presentations to NCs. He noted that the budget has passed with a couple pending items; it will take effect on July 1st.
- Regarding fireworks, they launched a complaint form and 311 anonymous tip to LAPD, an LA survey to gather the quality data about concerns, which will be to inform policy, statutes. He had a meeting from **My Safe LA** – <https://www.mysafela.org/> who will be available for presentations at NCs. <https://www.mysafela.org/fireworks/>
 - They have thousands of youth work opportunities. Summer camp enrollment is currently under-enrolled at a number of the rec centers. The Beautify LA Grant deadline is June 30th – they have \$2,500 matching grants to fund beautification projects for HOAs, BIDs and chambers.
 - Ira Koslow of VNC noted that the 1984 Olympics put us on the map, and asked if there has been any thought by the Mayor, a proponent of the Olympics, to do something about cancelling it. He wishes it would be brought up to somebody. He noted that it is in seven years and he doesn't want thousands of tourists coming to Venice and seeing what is happening there and in the rest of the city. He asked that Brad bring this to the Mayor's attention. Brad noted that there is a lot happening in the next year and that all these issues are being prioritized in this budget.

- Barbara Broide of WNC opined regarding the difficulties of helping people who cannot help themselves without serious triaging and the development of mental health facilities to move people with severe mental health issues into a setting for treatment before getting into housing. She is pleading for more attention on this from the Mayor's office on this. Brad thanked Barbara for this question, and noted that much of this is in the County, and that we also have a number of pilots for mental health crises. He noted that this is an increasing priority.

d. Council Reports TBD

e. Additional Government Reports –

- Chair Wersinger noted that Janet Turner hopes to be here next month.

- He welcomed Debbie Dyner Harris from CD5 who thanked us for inviting the Commissioner this evening. She noted that Councilmember Koretz is Chair of the Personnel, Audit & Animal Welfare Committee, looking at the 311 system where there is a lot of opportunity to do better. She noted that Councilmember Buscaino made a motion as to what it would look like if we broke away from LAHSA, as many Council offices have had issues with LAHSA and that we haven't been getting the bang for the buck. They hope that the report comes back and what opportunities are there to do better for the homeless folks.

3. Board Member Updates – None

4. Committee Reports – None

5. Public Comment – Jennifer Poulakis from UCLA urges the City Council Redistricting folks to make it clearer when the Westside meetings will be held for sufficient input from the community. She thanked Member Lewis (NWWNC) for bringing up the motion of Metro Station at UCLA on the Sepulveda Transit Corridor Line. She appreciates that the WRAC will be making some word changes and opined that 30 days at this juncture is not going to be critical either way; that time would be best spent ensuring that the motion is as strongly-worded as possible.

6. Approval of Minutes —

a. Motion (Wersinger) – Approval of May 2021 meeting minutes **Moved** by Chair Wersinger (DRNC); **Seconded** by Secretary Greenberg; **10 Yes; 0 No; 1 Abstention**: Lisa Chapman (WWNC); **Approved**

7. New Business

a. Motion (WRAC LUPC / Barbara Broide) - WRAC opposes the City's use of Specific Plans that would result in up-zoning open space and/or low-density residential neighborhoods. The use of specific plans in this manner creates significant negative impacts for all residential communities, the environment and natural resources. We urge our City Councilmembers to reject land use applications for individual development projects that represent a misuse of the Specific plan process. We ask that the City Council inform Planning not to process these types of requests. **Moved** by Member Wishon (WNC); **Seconded** by Member Shure (MVCC). **7 Yes; 1 No**; Member Lewis (NWWNC); **2 Abstentions**: Vice Chair Spitz (PPCC) & Member Bisnoff (BCC); **Passed**

b. Motion (WRAC LUPC / Stacy Shure) - WRAC requests that the Los Angeles City Council postpone consideration of Council File #12-0460-S4 (The Processes and Procedures Amendment to the City Charter) for a minimum of six months in order to enable further community

presentations and feedback. The documents in this file, including technical amendments and attachments, are over 900 pages. To date there have been approximately 3 meetings of 1.5 hours each for the Department of Planning to summarize this extensive document and receive limited feedback. Further, “technical amendments” were made prior to the PLUM committee’s June 1 consideration which incorporated more than just technical changes that need review and feedback. The language supporting the Neighborhood Councils’ charter-given authority to hold public hearings and provide public comment and feedback concerning matters of land use must be restored to the Processes and Procedures amendment sections to ensure it complies with the Los Angeles City Charter and the specific authority it grants to Neighborhood Councils. The community engagement has been insufficient to conduct a full review of the substantial changes involving land use authority and procedures. Further we encourage that the Los Angeles City Council obtain Cumis counsel (independent counsel) to review the document in its entirety to ensure that no transfer of City Council authority occurs as a result of this document and that final authority regarding land use matters remains with the City Council pursuant to the City Charter. There are numerous instances where authority appears to be vested in the Director of Planning, an unelected official, which may be in violation of the City Charter.

Moved by Member Shure (MVCC); **Seconded** by Vice Chair Spitz (PPCC); discussion was held. **10 Yes**; Members Koslow, Wishon, Handal, Shure, Greenberg, Spitz, Chapman, Sann, Bisnoff, Wersinger; **0 No**; **1 Abstentions** Member Lewis; **Passed**. Member Shure thanked us and related that this will be one of the last motions she is bringing to us during this term and asked that we please go to City Council tomorrow as we need a postponement.

- c. **Motion (Chris Spitz)** – The Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC) supports Assembly Constitutional Amendment 7 (Muratsuchi/Glazer), which would place on the ballot for voter decision a Constitutional amendment to restore local governmental control over land use, zoning and planning decisions. WRAC has expressed support for local land use control in five of its adopted positions (Oppose SB 827, SB 50, SB 9 and SB 10; Support SB 15). - Chris introduced this, and thinks the board should approve it. She noted that our letter could suggest it be assigned to a policy committee.

Moved by Vice Chair Spitz (PPCC); **Seconded** by Secretary Greenberg (BABCNC). After extensive discussion, vote to sending it to the councils **passed** by **9 Yes**; **2 No**; Members Bisnoff and Lewis; **0 Abstentions**.

- d. **Motion (WRAC Transportation / Andrew Lewis)** – The Westside Regional Alliance of Councils asks for the proposed stop on the UCLA Campus for the Sepulveda Pass Line project. We echo the sentiment of Councilman Paul Koretz who has also requested a stop on the UCLA campus for this transportation line. This would be one of the most heavily trafficked metro stops in the State, and would for the first time provide a direct connection from the UCLA campus to the San Fernando Valley.

The Sepulveda Transit Corridor is part of the Measure M expenditure plan, with approximately \$5.7 billion for new transit service to connect the San Fernando Valley and the Westside,

scheduled to open by 2033-35. Approximately \$3.8 billion is allocated to extend that service from the Westside to LAX with a 2057-59 opening date.

Metro is making strides to improve travel between the San Fernando Valley, the Westside and Los Angeles International Airport (LAX). The natural barrier created by the Santa Monica Mountains means that most people traveling between these areas are funneled primarily onto the I-405 Freeway, already ranked as one of the most traveled urban highways in the nation. More than 400,000 people travel through this area every day to commute to work, school, and other destinations along the freeway and beyond.

Having a stop at the UCLA campus would also help transport the tens of thousands of people that travel into UCLA on a Daily-basis, including: UCLA Staff, faculty, students, medical personnel, and visitors.

Not having a stop on the UCLA Campus would be a sorely missed opportunity, and have negative impacts on the West LA region for decades to come. A UCLA on-campus stop would also present the opportunity to potentially connect to the Metro Purple line extension, which will have a stop in Westwood at Wilshire & Westwood.

For this reason as well, we encourage Metro to pursue various first/last mile options, which would then connect the West San Fernando Valley to Downtown LA/Santa Monica with one transfer. These first/last mile options should include a dedicated Bike Lane between the Metro Purple Line stop at Wilshire & Westwood into the UCLA campus.

- Member Lewis presented this motion to have a direct stop for this project at the UCLA campus, which he noted would be the highest in terms of ridership in the Metro system that anticipates 17,000 to 18,000 daily boardings if there were a UCLA station. He wrote a letter from the Transportation Committee that argues this is a must do. Let them know where we stand.
Moved by Member Lewis (NWWNC); **Seconded** by Member Handal (WLASNC).

Discussion was held including but not limited to Member Sann agreeing with Member Lewis that there is strong support from NCs and the CD and that he is in support of the overall motion; however, he would **motion to table (sic) [postpone]** this for 30 days; Vice Chair Spitz **seconded**. Member Sann noted that this is not worded in the best way to get 14 councils to approve it. Member Lewis would like this to be voted on tonight, passed from the Transportation Committee as worded currently, and get this to Metro as soon as possible. He is concerned that Metro has not been transparent, and waiting 30 days, if a decision is made and we didn't have a chance to weigh in, he would feel very bad about. He'd like to send it back to our councils today. Member Chapman agrees we should table this because of the wording. It is important that all of our groups are consistent with wording on this. It is important that when the word goes out, it is worded the way it has been worded by the rest of the councils including UCLA.

Member Chapman noted a bike lane motion was thrown in there while there is an issue with Purple Line on the first and last mile stop, and feels it needs to be tweaked.

Member Handal reminded us that we are “postponing to a date” not “tabling.”

Member Koslow agrees that we could pass it with changes, but the main point is put a stop at UCLA, and the councils can remove things such as the bike lane. He sees no reason to postpone it for that long.

Member Shure asked for clarity on the stop. Member Lewis related that they are asking for a direct stop on the UCLA campus which has the unanimous support of the Westwood community; likely at Ackerman union. He noted that despite what the other stops there may be, what they are going for is that there be a dedicated direct stop at UCLA. He would be glad to accept friendly amendments. Chair Wersinger related that the motion now is to postpone this for a month.

Vice Chair Spitz agreed with comments made by Members Chapman & Sann, and personally agrees with the stop as has her council; however, her council has often said we want as strongly worded motions as possible to maximize chance of unanimous approval from councils. She thinks we can wait a month.

Member Murez agreed with Member Koslow’s comment; that the intent is that there is a stop at UCLA. If there is modified wording that it be shared early enough with the various councils that when it comes back in a month, those wordings can be incorporated into a final motion. He believes it is important to act on this now, and not to lose an opportunity to weigh in. It would be a huge mistake to not have UCLA have a stop. He would do it now and modify it next month.

Member Broide supports taking an extra month, but if there is a strong interest in having a vote today, she would recommend taking the 1st, 3rd and 4th paragraphs out and removing those for which there are heavy proposed edits. She would also take out the reference of the first mile and last mile, and the bike item which is a different item and shouldn’t be included.

Member Miner understands that they are not going to make a decision that quickly and there is a lot of talk on this UCLA stop. Whatever we contribute should be satisfactory to everybody on this committee.

Member Sann corrected misstatements, and agreed with Member Miner, Metro is at least one or two years away from decisions. The correct name is the Sepulveda Transit Corridor Project as an example of a correction. Let’s make it the best we can.

6 Yes: Members Spitz, Handal, Shure, Chapman, Broide & Sann; **5 No:** Members Koslow, Chapman, Lewis, Greenberg & Wersinger; **0 Abstentions; Motion to postpone for one month passed.**

8. Old Business:

- a. 21-06 Enforcement of Crimes In or Near Homeless Encampments** – April 19, 2021 (*passage deadline July 2021*); 6 councils adopted: BABCNC, BCC, PPCC, WLASNC, WNC, WWNC
- b. 21-07 Abate and Correct Unsafe and Unhealthy Conditions In Homeless Encampments** – April 19, 2021 (*passage deadline July 2021*); 6 councils adopted: BABCNC, BCC, PPCC,* WLASNC, WNC, WWNC* (**modified version*)
- c. 21-08 Increase Funding to Support Additional Safe Parking Program** – April 19, 2021 (*passage deadline July 2021*); 7 councils adopted: BABCNC, BCC, DRNC, PPCC, WLASNC, WNC,* WWNC* (**modified version*)
- d. 21-09 Enforce Laws Prohibiting Blockage of Public Right of Way** – April 19, 2021 (*passage deadline July 2021*); 6 councils adopted: BABCNC, BCC, PPCC, WLASNC, WNC,* WWNC (**modified version*)
- e. 21-10 Facilitate Greater Use of 5150 Holds and Conservatorship** – May 17, 2021 (*passage deadline August 2021*); 6 councils adopted: BABCNC, BCC, PPCC, WNC, WWNC, VNC
- f. 21-11 City Attorney Opinion re Financial Interest of Developer** – May 17, 2021 (*passage deadline August 2021*); 3 councils adopted: BABCNC, WNC, WWNC
- g. 21-12 Clarification regarding Cloud/Ghost Kitchens** – May 17, 2021 (*passage deadline August 2021*); 5 councils adopted: BABCNC, BCC, PPCC, WNC, WWNC
- h. 21-13 Improved Signage & Enforcement EV Charging Stations** – May 17, 2021 (*passage deadline August 2021*); 4 councils adopted: BABCNC, BCC,* WNC, WWNC (**modified version*)
- i. 21-14 Support 20-0584 & 20-0498 – Incentives to Work from Home** – May 17, 2021 (*passage deadline August 2021*); 4 councils adopted: DRNC,* MVCC,* WLASNC,* WNC (**modified version*)

Vice Chair Spitz recommended taking a look at these items on the website and click on “read more” and provide that to the councils.

9. Adjourn: Prior to adjourning, Chair Wersinger asked if the board would be interested in meeting in person again in the coming months.

Member Handal noted, from the budget standpoint, having Budget Day this year, hoping that they can have it at City Hall in late August, noted that even if so, we’ll have a hybrid, onsite as well as Zoom so those who feel uncomfortable at the beginning of the reopening can participate. At this point, he doesn’t think the city has approved meeting in person yet and recommends following the guidelines of the city.

Chair Wersinger thinks that we don’t have the technology to do hybrid meetings. Member Wishon would prefer that we continue on Zoom referencing the commute from our different councils, which Vice Chair Spitz agreed with. Member Murez would vote for a hybrid model, the technology has to be figured out. Chair Wersinger will see us again online next month.

Wersinger/Koslow moved to adjourn, at 7:25 pm, thanking Members Koslow and Shure who will be departing, and looking forward to seeing everyone next month.

Next meeting will be held on July 19th 2021 at 6pm.