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MINUTES

WRAC Meeting of the Board of Directors
February 21st 2022 – 6:00pm

Webinar link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85804559642>
Or Dial 888 475 4499 (Toll Free) Webinar ID 858 0455 9642

ALL SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE AT
<https://tinyurl.com/56dxv2vx>

- 1. Welcome/Introductions:** Chair Wersinger called the meeting to order at 6:02pm. He called the roll.
11 Present: Matt Wersinger (WRAC Chair) (DRNC), Christina Spitz (WRAC Vice-Chair) (PPCC), Robin Greenberg (WRAC Secretary) (BABCNC), Michael Lynn (SORONC), James Murez (VNC), Steve Sann (WCC), Carolyn Jordan (BCC), Jane Wishon (WNC) Andrew Marton (MVCC Alternate), Randell Erving (PalmsNC) and Paula Gerez (NCWP).

Nonvoting Alternates or Members present: Ravi Sankaran (DRNC) and Barbara Broide (WNC).

Also Present: Ana Cozma from the Office of LA County DA George Gascón (*for followup questions*).

- a. Chair Updates & Recognition of President's Day**

- b. Upcoming Guests –**

- March - LAUSD Board Member Nick Melvoin
- TBD – US Congresswoman Karen Bass; US Congressmen Ted Lieu

- 2. Government Reports –**

- a. LA County District Attorney George Gascón** was welcomed and gave a presentation, following which questions were asked and answered. President Wersinger thanked him for coming and Mr. Gascón thanked everyone for their questions, noting that he looks forward to coming back.
- b. Mayor's Office** – Vishesh Anand was not present this evening.
- c. Council Reports TBD**
- d. Additional Government Reports** – Michelle Persoff, Field Rep for Assemblymember Isaac Bryan in District 54, noted that he will be having a town hall on Thursday the 24th to discuss his legislative package.

- 3. Board Member Updates –**

Vice Chair Spitz (PPCC), noted that there is a motion in the Homelessness and Poverty Committee Thursday, fast tracked by Bonin & Raman to allow construction or placement of homeless shelters throughout the city, including in residential zones if built by nonprofits or religious institutions; should

not be by right. It calls for transforming temporary into permanent shelters, she believes, by right. Chair Wersinger noted that this motion is a report-back request for the city to look into it and report back within 45-days and he is sure there will be time for debate but keep eyes open on it.

Paula Gerez (NCWP) suggested discussion of a request, based on the Standing Rules, for a 30-day extension of the hearing of the motion. Wersinger reiterated this calls for reports on feasibility in a report-back that Council can review, and discuss how to proceed, and that we will have plenty of time.

James Murez (VNC) commented on the same topic, noting that Venice is having an emergency Special 24-hour meeting tomorrow night as “within 45 days” could be two weeks from now. Wersinger recommended looking at this at the Homeless Committee and maybe Land Use, and respond next month. We could make a statement that we need ample time to respond for at least 45 days. He’ll look at it again. Vice Chair Spitz and Member Murez think that there is a move to get this through quickly.

Barbara Broide (WNC) has observed that Council and some departments have been moving forward without a usual process. Some council files are stalled forever, then suddenly a motion can get through City Council in two months, e.g., SB9, requested that the Planning Department create a report and examine those. She noted that the day after it passed PLUM, Planning issued a memorandum... She noted that the Processes and Procedures changes as part of RecodeLA have not yet been considered by City Council, yet Planning is rolling it out in Community Plans as approved. To her there is an intentional effort to move things forward without public participation and we need to demand our right to participate in what affects our communities. Wersinger asked her to draft something.

Carolyn Jordan (BCC) noted that her council has some additional challenges because of the frequency or lack of frequency of meetings. They are trying to have an emergency meeting. She feels that getting more time would be beneficial, though it is a report back motion. Wersinger concluded that there is time before drafting an ordinance on this and that there will be opportunities to dig into it.

4. Committee Reports –

- a. Call for candidates to Chair Land Use Committee – None. Chair Wersinger noted that some people have reached out to him for Land Use Chair. Kay Hartman agreed to stay one or two more months.

5. Public Comment – None

6. Approval of Minutes

- a. **Motion (Chris Spitz)** – The January 2022 meeting minutes were approved as **moved** by Vice Chair Spitz & Member Murez, by **8 yeses** (Wishon gave Broide the vote), **0 noes**, and **3 abstentions** by Chair Wersinger and Members Gerez & Erving.

7. New Business

- a. **Motion (Matt Wersinger)** – WRAC shall sponsor a candidates debate for CD11 candidates prior to the June Primary Election was **moved** by Chair Wersinger and **seconded** by Member Lewis. Wersinger introduced this, and discussion included consideration of having both CD11 and CD5 for the candidates’ forum as well as a forum for City Attorneys and other officials. **Amendment:** WRAC shall sponsor a candidates’ debate for city offices to be determined prior to the June Primary Election **moved** by Wersinger, and **seconded** by Member Wishon (WNC). Member Sann (WCC) would include the County 3rd Supervisorial District candidates as well.

Amendment Reworded: WRAC shall sponsor candidates' debates for relevant offices to be held prior to the June Primary Election **moved** by Wersinger, **seconded** by Wishon, and **approved** by all but Murez who recused himself.

The **motion as amended** was **approved** by all but Member Murez who recused himself.

b. Discussion (Matt Wersinger) – Creation of an Ad-Hoc Committee to organize and promote any candidate forums. Member Murez suggested Vicky Holiday from Venice. Board volunteers at this time include Members Sann, Lewis, Wersinger and Randell. Chair Wersinger will look for dates. Discussion was held on possibly limiting number of candidates to those who are serious, and note that March 31st is the funding reporting deadline, with reports coming in mid-April. We have a timeline on the website. Also discussed was not having candidates in campaign mode other than those who are running unopposed. **No action.**

c. Motion (WRAC Traffic & Transportation Committee) – WRAC Requests that the City Bureau of Engineering uses “cool asphalt” for paving with the following recommendations:

- i** Request that StreetsLA prioritizes its program for cooling, including that the Bureau of Engineering coat roads and sidewalks with “cool asphalt”.
- ii** Request that Council Districts allocate discretionary funding to StreetsLA to expand coating with cool asphalt in their areas.
- iii** Request that the City prioritize and implement the program by allocating sufficient funding
- iv** Request that the City publicize the streets that are scheduled to be coated.
- v** Request the City consider streets within Farmers Markets as Pilot Programs (West L.A.’s Purdue Ave., Mar Vista’s Grand View Ave, etc.).
- vi** Request that the City prioritize implementation based on areas with high heat temperatures and low tree canopy cover.
- vii** Request that the City study the feasibility and cost of producing, installing and maintaining its own product (the cool street coating).
- viii** Request that the City plant street trees where coating is applied, to increase the effectiveness of the coating and provide a holistic approach.

Moved by Wersinger (DRNC) and **seconded** by Member Wishon (WNC). Discussion was held; some comments included that this is a retooled motion, which a lot of research went into and need to put the pilot where it is most needed most; e.g., the Valley.

Amendment was **moved** by Spitz/Wersinger to **strike “v” in its entirety**:

~~“Request the City consider streets within Farmers Markets as Pilot Programs (West L.A.’s Purdue Ave., Mar Vista’s Grand View Ave, etc.)”~~, which **passed** by all but Wersinger who voted no.

Amendment was **moved** by Member Lynn to **strike viii** however, he **withdrew** this.

Amendment was **moved** by Member Randell to add place where there are bus stops – **“high use transit stops and areas with high pedestrian usage”** **seconded** by Murez, and the amendment was approved unanimously.

The main motion as amended: WRAC Requests that the City Bureau of Engineering uses “cool asphalt” for paving with the following recommendations:

- i.** Request that StreetsLA prioritizes its program for cooling, including that the Bureau of Engineering coat roads and sidewalks with “cool asphalt”.

- ii. Request that Council Districts allocate discretionary funding to StreetsLA to expand coating with cool asphalt in their areas.
- iii. Request that the City prioritize and implement the program by allocating sufficient funding.
- iv. Request that the City publicize the streets that are scheduled to be coated.
- v. Request that the City prioritize implementation based on areas with high heat temperatures and low tree canopy cover, high use transit stops and areas with high pedestrian usage.
- vi. Request that the City study the feasibility and cost of producing, installing and maintaining its own product (the cool street coating).
- vii. Request that the City plant street trees where coating is applied, to increase the effectiveness of the coating and provide a holistic approach.

Passed unanimously by all 11 present and voting.

8. Old Business

- a. **21-16 Oppose Misuse of Specific Plan Process** – June 21, 2021 (*passage deadline February 2022*); 7 councils adopted: BABCNC, MVCC, NCWP, SORONC, WLASNC,* WNC, WWNC (**modified version*)
- b. **21.21 Request for revisions to SB 330** – Nov. 15, 2021 (*passage deadline February 2022*); 3 councils adopted: WLASNC, WNC, MVCC
- c. **21.22 Support for CF 21-0002-S186 (Koretz)** – Nov. 15, 2021 (*passage deadline February 2022*); 5 councils adopted: BCC, PalmsNC, PPCC, WNC, WWNC

Motion to extend a, b & c to March was **passed** unanimously as **moved** by Spitz.

- d. **21.24 Support for CF 14-1057-S9 (Buscaino/Koretz)** – Jan. 17, 2022 (*passage deadline April 2022*); 5 councils adopted: BCC, MVCC, PPCC, VNC, WWNC
- e. **21.25 Support for CF 21-1431 (Bonin/Raman)** – Jan. 17, 2022 (*passage deadline April 2022*); no councils adopted. *Status: Moot (CF passed in City Council 1/26/22)*

- 9. The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:05 pm to meet again on **March 21st 2022 at 6pm.**