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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
March 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/32m9tnyw>

Items on the Agenda may be taken in any order at the discretion of the Chair

1. **Welcome/Introductions:** Chair Wersinger called the meeting to order at 6:02pm, welcomed all in attendance and called the roll.
10 Present: Matt Wersinger (WRAC Chair) (DRNC), Christina Spitz (WRAC Vice-Chair) (PPCC), Robin Greenberg (WRAC Secretary) (BABCNC), James Murez (VNC), Steve Sann (WCC), Jane Wishon (WNC), Lisa Chapman (WWNC,) Kathryn Wheeler (MVCC), Andrew Lewis (NWWNC), and Randell Erving who arrived at 6:24 pm (PalmsNC).
Nonvoting Alternates present: Nickie Miner (BABCNC) and Ravi Sankaran (DRNC)
Also present: Kay Hartman, Michelle Persoff, Janet Turner, Veronica de la Cruz, Kasey Kokenda, Nick Melvoin, Deborah Hong, and Jarrett Thompson
 - a. **Chair Updates** – None
 - b. **Upcoming Guests** – None at this time.

Discussion was held on who may be a guest in light of the fact that we don't want to bring people into our board meetings who are in competitive races. Following discussion, Chair Wersinger would be reaching out to Nury Martinez, Metro & Sheila Kuehl, noting we can skip a guest next month and reset. Member Murez (VNC) noted that CalTrans also has a regional person.

In addition to agenda item #4.a. below (Elections Forum Committee-scheduled Council District Candidate Debates), Member Chapman (WWNC) announced a CD5 Candidate Forum April 13th hosted by Westwood NC, Westwood CC and UCLA; Vice Chair Spitz (PPCC) announced that PPCC & BCC are hosting CD11 Candidates Forum May 3rd. Member Lewis (NWWNC) announced that North Westwood will likely host another debate with UCLA Government Relations for September.

2. Government Reports –

- a. **LAUSD Board Member Nick Melvoin** arrived after the conclusion of board business at approximately 6:56pm. He gave some general district updates and took some questions. Some comments included that 100% of the schools have been kept open in person since August and come Wednesday, they will be removing the indoor masking requirement, from “requiring” to “recommending” masking. State and County made the decision; they negotiated with some labor partners and as of Wednesday will transition to optional masking. They are testing air filtration systems. They welcomed a new Superintendent, Alberto Carvalho, from Miami-Dade. Nick recommended having him as a speaker at WRAC soon. Nick noted that he is doing a town hall with the Superintendent on Wednesday, presenting on his 100-day plan, trying to introduce him to the communities. He discussed investing in local schools and communities; they have a historic infusion of onetime resources... towards increasing outdoor and green space, after school and summer programs and wraparound services as kids recover from the pandemic. Questions were asked and answered.
- b. **Mayor’s Office** – Vishesh Anand was not present.
- c. **Council Reports:** Chair Wersinger noted that we can expect new reps next month.
- d. **Additional Government Reports –**
Michelle Persoff, Field Rep for Assemblymember Isaac Bryan in District 54 gave update including but not limited to that the Assemblymember hosted a town hall on his legislative package and all of his bills are already being heard. See the assembly website for updates. He became the Chair of the Poverty & Economic Inclusion Committee. District Office News: They had a meeting to clear up some troubling questions about the Housing is Key rental assistance program. Send people her way who are using the program and struggling. She mentioned some of the events they attended. Contact her at Michelle.persoff@asm.ca.gov
Janet Turner, Representative of Congressman Ted Lieu, 33rd District: The Congressman was able to get 11 million dollars in community project funding for California 33. They are accepting applications again. Deadline has been extended into April. They recommend you partner with a City department or a council member or a 501(c)(3). Janet mentioned a project in the Palisades that is receiving some of this funding. Member Lewis praised Janet and the Congressman for their good work and for the funding for the communities.
Veronica de la Cruz, LA City Neighborhood Prosecutor, noted that she regularly attends our meetings; though she doesn’t usually speak, she stays and listens and is here for questions.

3. Board Member Updates – None other than the notes on upcoming candidate forums above.

4. Committee Reports – Matt gave update on the dates set for the forum debates

- a. Elections Forum Committee – virtual forum schedule for top candidates
 - i. 4/25 –CD11 candidates (2hrs)
 - ii. 4/26 –CD5 candidates (2hrs)
 - iii. 4/27 possibly 4/28 – date to be determined for the City Attorney (90 mins) & County Supervisor District 3 (90 mins)

5. Public Comment – Kay Hartman noted that the Budget Advocates are sponsoring a candidate forum for City Controller and all seven candidates have agreed to attend on 04-10-2022. Registration is open See link to register at <https://www.budgetadvocates.org/> As part of the registration, there is an opportunity to provide a question for the controller candidates.

Chair Wersinger expressed his appreciation for Ms. Hartman’s time and work in the role as Land Use Committee Chair, in the event that we pick a new chair this evening and she offered to assist the new person transitioning into the role.

[Randell Erving (PalmsNC) joined the meeting at approximately 6:24 pm.]

6. Approval of Minutes —

- a. **Motion (Matt Wersinger)** – The February 2022 meeting minutes were **approved** by 8 yeases, 0 noes and 2 abstentions from Members Wheeler and Chapman, as **moved** by Wersinger.

7. New Business

- a. **Discussion (Matt Wersinger)** – Discussion of WCC membership status. – **Deferred** - To be discussed further in the Executive Committee.
- b. **Motion Possible (Matt Wersinger)** – Appointment of Co-Chairs of WRAC LUPC. Chair Wersinger **moved** to appoint Kathryn Wheeler and Mary Hruska of Mar Vista; Vice Chair Spitz **seconded**; Member Wheeler spoke on behalf of herself and Mary (who was not present). The motion **passed** unanimously. Wersinger and Spitz thanked her and welcomed them both aboard.
- c. **Motion (Traffic & Transportation Committee)** - The Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC) supports Council File CF 21-1223 regarding Speed Limit Reduction / Fatal and Severe Injury Collision Streets / AB 43 (Friedman) / Vulnerable Road Users / Vision Zero Goals. Specifically, WRAC supports LADOT's selection of streets on the Westside for speed limit reductions as identified in Ordinance 187427. In addition, WRAC also requests that LADOT and the Council offices work with the member Councils to identify other streets that could be considered for speed limit reduction.
Moved by Chair Wersinger, **seconded** by Member Sann. Chair Wersinger noted that this has already passed council; the City has already taken the first set of 40 or so roads and already reduced speed limits. Discussion was held on whether or not to chime in.
Motion to send it back to committee to see if there are other ways to deal with this issue was **moved** by Wersinger and Wishon and **passed** unanimously.
- d. **Motion (HOC/Jay Handal)** – The Westside Regional Alliance of Councils requests the City Council and City Attorney, when drafting and considering the council file item CF 22-0158, take into account the below requests by the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils:
 - Consideration of automatically including LAMC 41.18 protections on any location providing a homeless shelter and authorized pursuant to a declared shelter emergency.
 - Consideration of mandatory CEQA compliance.
 - Consideration of consequences of “Cutting red tape” by removing the public’s right to a transparent approval process including right to notification and the opportunity for public comment, including early notification to NCs and recognized CCs.
 - Consider the differences and effects of allowing shelters in R1 zones as proposed versus the existing ordinances allowing them in R2 & R3 zones.
 - Consideration of the effects of limiting shelters within a reasonable radius of sensitive sites such as parks, schools and daycares.

In the absence of Member Handal (WLASNC) Chair Wersinger noted that this is a Bonin/Raman motion looking at R1 sites for shelters and requests a report back. **Motion** was **moved** by Wersinger, **seconded** by Murez and following discussion **passed** by 8 yeases; 1 no from Wheeler (MVCC) and 1 abstention from Lewis (NWWNC).

8. Old Business

- a. **21-16 Oppose Misuse of Specific Plan Process** – June 21, 2021 (*passage deadline March 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 March 2022*); 4 councils adopted: MVCC, WLASNC, WNC, SORONC

Motion to extend the deadline for passage of item 8a & 8b to April was **moved** by Vice Chair Spitz/Member Chapman. Discussion was held, in which Member Wishon noted that SB 330 has been signed in Sacramento, has passed and the bill is signed into law. She doesn't believe that we should extend b. She would rather have a new motion of what we want to see in Land Use. Member Lewis agreed that once it has been passed into law, would need a new bill. Member Wheeler noted that she believes that you can do revisions to any law, e.g., the Brown Act, and doesn't see the harm in keeping it up. She sees no reason to remove it.

Amend motion: To sever b from the main motion was **moved** by Wishon, **seconded** by Lewis, and **passed**. The members then went back to deal with the motions separately. **The main motion** to consider extending 8.a on its own **passed**. Item 8.a was extended.

Motion to consider extending 8.b. was **moved** by Wheeler, **seconded** by Spitz, and **failed**. Item 8.b. expires as of the end of March.

- c. **21.22 Support for CF 21-0002-S186 (Koretz)** – Nov. 15, 2021 (*passage deadline March 2022*); 8 councils adopted: BABCNC, BCC, PalmsNC, PPCC, WLASNC, WNC, WWNC, MVCC **motion passed**
- 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
Member Wishon noted that this is reviving a motion originally made in 2014; it is just to provide free parking passes for people who are vehicle dwellers in controlled areas so they are close to services, encouraged to park in places where they can get bathroom and social services.
- e. **21.25 Request Use of “cool asphalt” for paving** – Feb. 21, 2022 (*passage deadline May 2022*); 3 councils adopted: DRNC, WNC, WWNC* (*modified version*)
Chair Wersinger encouraged everyone to take this up in the next few months.

9. The meeting adjourned at 7:12pm, upon a motion by Chair Wersinger and Member Wishon.

Next meeting will be held on April 18th 2022 at 6pm.