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Westwood Neighborhood Council

MINUTES

WRAC Meeting of the Board of Directors
April 18th 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
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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 6:02 pm. He called the roll and quorum was met. Three members arrived shortly thereafter for a total of 10 members present. 10 Present: Matt Wersinger (WRAC Chair) (DRNC), Christina Spitz (WRAC Vice-Chair) (PPCC), Robin Greenberg (WRAC Secretary) (BABCNC), James Murez (VNC), Jane Wishon (WNC), Lisa Chapman (WWNC,) Kathryn Wheeler (MVCC), Steve Sann (WCC), Andrew Lewis (NWWNC), Randell Erving (PalmsNC).
Nonvoting Alternates: Barbara Broide (WNC), Nickie Miner (BABCNC), Ravi Sankaran (DRNC).
Also present: Janet Turner, Michelle Persoff, Vishesh Anand, Jarrett Thompson, Noah Fleishman, Veronica de la Cruz and Deborah Hong.
2. **Government Reports –**
 - a. **Mayor’s Office –** Vishesh Anand noted that the Mayor will not be able to come speak to WRAC. Updates included but were not limited to LA’s Small Business Rental Assistance Program application is opened today through May 6th. <https://bit.ly/lasmallbizgrant> The Beautify LA Grant is open but closes May 4th. <http://LAocb.org/beautify-la-grant>. The Mayor gave his State of the City Address which was recorded and is available on the city’s FB page and on their website: <https://www.lacity.org/highlights/watch-mayor-eric-garcettis-state-city-address-april-14> There is an Earth Day Event Saturday. They are looking for volunteers and donations for Connect Day in Westwood May 11th. The Climate Emergency Mobilization office’s Climate Equity Series is happening on April 21st 6:00pm. Email him at Vishesh.anand@lacity.org for questions and to sign up for his newsletter. Questions were asked and answered. President Wersinger urged Vishesh to have the Mayor schedule a speaking engagement with WRAC.
 - b. **Council Reports –**
Noah Fleishman, CD 11 Deputy District Director and former Field Deputy, Pacific Palisades and Brentwood introduced himself and provided updates including events last week and upcoming Homeless Connect Day at the WLA Municipal building this Wednesday 9:00 am.

He noted that the Councilmember introduced legislation last week to help fund rent relief and addiction prevention. Regarding Community Development Block Grants, he noted if you know of nonprofits, the Community Investment for Families Department is doing an informational event next week. Email him at Noah.Fleishman@lacity.org. Vice Chair Spitz (PPCC) thanked Noah for his work on filing an application with Congressman Lieu's office for federal funding for a trail connecting a regional park under development in the Palisades at Potrero Canyon with Temescal Canyon and Will Rogers State Beach. Noah noted that his office also submitted a budget request for the trail funding to the Mayor for the 2023 budget, and various applications to Congressman Lieu's office.

Jarrett Thompson, CD5 Field Deputy, Bel Air, Western District Office gave update noting that they have money for mural locations, and are looking for locations, to be approved by owners of course. For the hillsides, the Draft Wildlife Ordinance will be released by the end of the week. They are doing a Westwood Connect Day May 11th 10-4 at Westwood Rec Center; accepting donations. Otherwise, he noted that there are no major updates as Council is in recess this week. Jarrett.Thompson@lacity.org Questions were asked and answered on issues including but not limited to taking land from golf courses for housing. It was noted that AB 672 died, and that ASM Cristina Garcia has reintroduced this as AB 1910. The bill would establish a grant program to provide incentives in the form of grants to local governments that make publicly-owned golf courses available for housing and publicly accessible open spaces. Member Sann (WCC) noted that, if adopted, this bill removes open space designation and protection under State law, allows it to be repurposed and removes CEQA protection.

c. Additional Government Reports –

Michelle Persoff, Field Rep for Assemblymember Isaac Bryan in District 54 was present and answered questions raised under Jarrett Thompson's report Q&A.

Deborah Hong, Senior Public Relations Specialist for LADWP, noted that they will be holding a public community meeting Wednesday 04/20/2022, 6-7:30 pm on Zoom to review some of the major projects in WLA, including WLA District Yard which facility is in need of a major renovation. All are welcome. Register at www.ladwp.com/wladistrictyard

Janet Turner, Representative of Congressman Ted Lieu, 33rd District, noted that the application period for Community Project funding is closed; applications are being processed. She mentioned the Youth Advisory Council for high school students who live or go to school in CA 33. Go to <https://lieu.house.gov/> for the application. Janet noted that the Congressman got Veteran funding through. <https://lieu.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/rep-lieu-helps-secure-increased-federal-funding-our-veterans> Questions were asked and answered.

- 3. Board Member Updates** - President Wersinger (DRNC) noted the importance of the upcoming Elections Committee candidate forums hosted by WRAC. Vice Chair Spitz (PPCC) stressed the importance of attending the forum on County Supervisorial District 3 as well as City Attorney. Member Wheeler noted that MVCC has their own candidate forum on April 30th for CD5 and CD11 candidates, who will speak with no questions, and Secretary Greenberg noted that BABCNC has a town hall on the 21st for CD5 candidates, moderated by the League of Women Voters on Zoom. Vice Chair Spitz noted that PPCC & BCC are co-sponsoring a CD11 forum on May 3rd.

Member Broide (WNC) noted that AB 2097 is the successor to Assembly Bill 1401 (sponsored by YIMBY). The measure seeks to reduce parking requirements, removing all minimum parking requirements for both residential and commercial developments within proximity to transit, with no

requirement to apply the savings gained for affordable housing. (This undermines density incentives offered by the City in the TOC guidelines.) She also noted that Vince Bertoni spoke at a summit last week. His comments focused on the need and importance of streamlining the review and entitlement process, increasing administrative by right approvals over any discretionary actions. As a result of state and local adopted measures, the average time for administrative clearance time at the LA City Department of Planning is now four days, and currently, only 13% of projects are considered to be discretionary and subject to review, whereas 60% are administrative or by right. President Wersinger suggested taking this up at Land Use.

Secretary Greenberg noted that Hillside Federation has its 70th year anniversary party Saturday May 7th 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM at Tree People.

4. Committee Reports –

- a. Elections Forum Committee – virtual forum schedule for top candidates
 - i. 4/25 –CD11 candidates 7-9p
 - ii. 4/26 –CD5 candidates 730-930p
 - iii. 4/27 – County Supervisor District 3 7-9p
 - iv. 4/28 – City Attorney 7-9p

5. Public Comment –

6. Approval of Minutes —

- a. **Motion (Matt Wersinger)** – Approval of the March 2022 meeting minutes was **moved** by Wersinger, seconded by Wheeler and **passed** by 9 yeases and 1 abstention from Member Lewis.

7. New Business

- a. **Motion (WRAC LUPC)** - WRAC requests from Department of City Planning the Dwelling Unit Capacity calculations for all WRAC community plans in process (Palms-Mar Vista-Del Rey, Venice, Westchester/Playa, West Los Angeles). The motion was **moved** by Land Use Chair Member Wheeler and seconded by Vice Chair Spitz. Discussion was held and the motion **passed** by 9 yeases and 1 abstention from Member Lewis.

8. Old Business

- a. **21-16 Oppose Misuse of Specific Plan Process** – June 21, 2021 (*passage deadline March 2022*); 8 councils adopted: BABCNC, MVCC, NCWP, SORONC, WLASNC,* WCC, WNC, WWNC (**modified version*) – **Passed** by majority of Member Councils.
- b. **21.24 Support for CF 14-1057-S9 (Buscaino/Koretz)** – Jan. 17, 2022 (*passage deadline April 2022*); 8 councils adopted: BCC, MVCC, PPCC, VNC, WCC, WWNC, DRNC, WNC – **Passed** by a majority of Member Councils
- c. **21.25 Request Use of “Cool Asphalt” for Paving** – Feb. 21, 2022 (*passage deadline May 2022*); 6 councils adopted: DRNC, NWWNC, PPCC, WLASNC, WNC, WWNC* (**modified version*)
- d. **21.26. Requests for Consideration re CF 22-0158** – March 21, 2022 (*passage deadline June 2022*); 4 councils adopted: WCC, WLASNC, DRNC, WNC

- 9. Motion to adjourn was moved, seconded and the meeting ended at 6:53 pm.

Next meeting is on May 16th 2022 at 6pm.