



MINUTES
WRAC Meeting of the Board of Directors
January 16th 2023 – 6:30pm

ALL SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE AT
<https://tinyurl.com/mv594fm4>

1. Welcome/Introductions

Chair Greenberg (BABCNC) called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm and gave welcoming comments, including a tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, remarking on the significance of the day.

Roll was called with 11 members present initially and quorum met. Member Lynn (SORONC) arrived a few minutes later for a total of **12 Present:**

Robin Greenberg (WRAC Chair) (BABCNC), Chris Spitz (WRAC Vice-Chair) (PPCC), Tyler Laferriere-Holloway (WRAC Secretary & Treasurer) (MVCC), Jane Wishon (WNC), Matt Wersinger (DRNC), Lisa Chapman (WWNC), Andrew Lewis (NWNC), Steve Sann (WCC), Matthew Wait (PalmsNC), Jay Handal (WLASNC), James Murez (VNC), and Michael Lynn (SORONC).

Nonvoting Alternates Present: Nickie Miner (BABCNC), Barbara Broide (WNC), and Andrew Marton, (MVCC).

Also Present:

Jeanette Sanchez, District Director, Office of Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin;
 Jake Ettinger, Field Representative, Office of Senator Ben Allen;
 Hannah Wenger, Office of Assemblymember Rick Chavez Zbur;
 Fernando Morales, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of Katy Yaroslavsky, CD5;
 Veronica de la Cruz, WLA Division Neighborhood Prosecutor, LA City Attorney’s Office;
 Selena Inouye, WRAC MTC Chair;
 Maryam Zar, WRAC LUPC Chair & PPCC President;
 Travis Longcore, Ph.D., BABCNC Board President.

Chair updates:

(1) **WRAC roundtables with elected officials:** Chair Greenberg related that we will have roundtables at Belmont Village Senior Living on Wilshire Boulevard in Westwood on Monday mornings, **9am-10:30am** as follows:

February 27: Traci Park, Councilwoman CD 11

March 13: Katy Yaroslavsky, Councilwoman CD 5

April 10: Lindsey Horvath, County Supervisor District 3

Chair Greenberg noted that we have invited **Mayor Karen Bass** for a Roundtable in May or June (TBD) and will be inviting City Attorney **Hydee Feldstein-Soto** in due course. *(As with past WRAC Roundtables, in order to promote intimate discussion and*

allow for space limitations, attendance will be limited to the elected official/s, their staff, and two representatives from each WRAC member council (the primary rep & alternate, or other appointee).

(2) Guest speakers at upcoming WRAC meetings:

In addition, we will welcome state and other county elected officials as **guest speakers** at upcoming Monday evening **online Board meetings:**

February 20 (confirmed): *new* Assemblymember **Jacqui Irwin** (42nd District; represents Pacific Palisades, Brentwood, Bel-Air Beverly Crest & a part of Westwood/Westwood Hills)

March 20 (invited/tentative): *new* Assemblymember **Rick Chavez Zbur** (51st District; represents most of Westwood, West LA-Sawtelle and parts of Bel Air-Beverly Crest and the Westside area)

Also invited for possible spring/summer online Board meetings (dates TBD): *new* Sen. Lola Smallwood-Cuevas (28th District); Sen. Ben Allen (24th District); *new* Asm. Tina McKinnor (61st District); Asm. Isaac Bryan (55th District); and Supervisor Holly Mitchell (2nd District).

2. Government Reports

a. **Mayor's Office** – None.

b. **Council Reports:**

(1) Fernando Morales, Deputy Chief of Staff/District Operations, for the office of CD5 *new* Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky. Mr. Morales arrived near the end of the meeting, with some comments noted below. Fernando.morales@lacity.org

(2) Gabriela Medina, District Director for Councilwoman Traci Park/CD11, was not present.

c. **Additional Government Reports** – At the discretion of the Chair (possible reports from representatives of Congressmembers Ted Lieu, Brad Sherman & Sydney Kamlager; state Senators Ben Allen & Lola Smallwood-Cuevas; Assemblymembers Isaac Bryan, Jacqui Irwin, Rick Chavez Zbur & Tina McKinnor; County Supervisors Lindsey Horvath & Holly Mitchell; Council Districts 4 and 10; City Attorney's office; LAPD; and LADWP)

Jeanette Sanchez, District Director, Office of Assembly Member Jacqui Irwin, AD-42, noted that she came to share information and give an update. Ms. Sanchez related that they will be starting to gather legislative ideas and invited WRAC to share those. She noted that Asm. Irwin will meet with WRAC in February, and that they do coffee or sidewalk sessions throughout the year to make appointments and meet with constituents. They are looking for an office on the Westside. Their main office is in Thousand Oaks. Questions were asked and answered with some comments including from Member Broide (WNC) who welcomed Ms. Sanchez and the Assemblymember (*in her absence*) to the Westside. Member Broide noted that most of these communities would like to maintain local authority for planning & land use matters and have difficulty with the state's "one-size fits all" land use policy generation. She hopes that the Assemblymember will support this approach, to which Ms. Sanchez confirmed that this is Asm. Irwin's approach. Vice-Chair Spitz (PPCC) also welcomed Ms. Sanchez. Member Sann (WCC) raised attention to Ms. Sanchez that Westwood Hills has 625 homes on the west side of the UCLA campus, just west of Veteran Avenue, within Asm. Irwin's district while Asm. Rick Zbur represents the eastside of Veteran (AD-51). Member Sann noted that Westwood Hills is a wonderful neighborhood, with a wonderful community

of civically-minded neighbors. Ms. Sanchez acknowledged awareness of this and wishes to know it better. Jeannette.sanchez@asm.ca.gov.

Jake Ettinger, Westside Field Rep for Senator Ben Allen Jake.ettinger@sen.ca.gov

Mr. Ettinger noted that the Senator was elected to a third term, and is now in the 24th Senate District (having previously been in the 26th District). He mentioned communities in their boundaries and gave a brief State budget update. Mr. Ettinger noted that the Senator is finalizing his bill package, and expects to introduce around 20 bills. Mr. Ettinger noted that the Senator is proud of the passage of his bill, SB-54 (*known as the “The Plastic Pollution Prevention and Packaging Producer Responsibility Act.”*)

Questions were asked and answered with Member Broide asking if it is too late to bring legislative ideas, to which he noted that they have until February 17th to introduce legislation but if urgent send it to him; if not able to take them this year, would consider them next year.

Member Sann asked who will be the representative for the Westwood area, to which Mr. Ettinger noted he will be their main liaison for parts and District Rep Rad Nowroozi Rad.Nowroozi@sen.ca.gov will be liaison for Pacific Palisades, Brentwood, near Westwood, Venice, Hollywood, parts of Miracle Mile. Contact his office.

Chair Greenberg related a question from BABCNC President, Dr. Travis Longcore, if the Brown Act can be modified so that neighborhood councils can have online meetings, to which Jake noted that he did not know but would follow-up via email.

Veronica de la Cruz, Neighborhood Prosecutor of the West Los Angeles Police Division, on behalf of the City Attorney’s office.

Ms. de la Cruz noted that she came to hear from reps from elected offices, and that they’ve started to reach out to field deputies from various areas, having made contacts with them, and continue to collaborate. She noted that their new City Attorney has not indicated plans for changes at her office, and, if any, she’ll let us know.

Hannah Wenger, New Field Representative for Assemblymember Rick Chavez Zbur,

Assembly District 51, representing areas of districts west of Beverly Hills, Westwood, Santa Monica and West Los Angeles, noted that she is excited to work with us, and to serve as a resource. Their office is in Santa Monica, and they’ll be moving to West Hollywood. Feel free to email her with issues, concerns and bill ideas to: Hannah.wenger@asm.ca.gov. Member Lewis (NWNC) noted that North Westwood’s district was redrawn and they are looking forward to being represented by Assemblymember Zbur.

3. Board Member Updates – None.

4. Committee Reports – Limited to 5 minutes total

- a. WRAC Mobility & Transportation Committee** WRAC’s MTC Chair, Selena Inouye, reported that the MTC is meeting this week on January 18 and will continue the discussion of important transportation and mobility matters and send motions to the board. They continue to meet via Zoom.

- b. **WRAC Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness Committee:** PSEPC Chair Judie Hulett was not present.
- c. **WRAC Land Use & Planning Committee:** LUPC Co-Chair Maryam Zar gave a report, noting that Co-Chair Mary Hruska resigned as LUPC Co-Chair, and that she (Ms. Zar) is new and now the sole Chair. She noted that they met in December without motions, but have motions coming up and a guest speaker for the January 23rd LUPC meeting. Co-Chair Zar will continue on as Chair but is also looking for a replacement Co-Chair. *She noted PPCC passed the IKE motion.*
- d. **WRAC Homelessness Committee:** HOC Chair Jay Handal (WLASNC) related that he is happy to report the HOC is meeting January 30th at 7:00 pm and hopes that all NCs with issues they want brought to the table will email him ahead of time. Member Murez (VNC) related that City Council is taking up CF# 23-4118-S1 regarding implementing 41.18 within CD11 that has had very little public comment on it.
https://clkrep.lacity.org/online/docs/2023/23-4118-s1_misc_01-10-23.pdf

5. **Public Comment** – Non-member attendees are allowed 1 minute for comment on items NOT on the agenda; comment time may be amended by the Chair

Comments from Member Broide included but were not limited to note of the upcoming open house meetings with Metro on the Sepulveda Transit Corridor Project on January 21st and 24th in-person and on 26th virtually. She also noted that the Metro board will be considering the acceptance or rejection of the final EIR for the Metro Transit Communications Network Program, to install 97 digital billboards. She reported that we were lucky to get it removed from December’s meeting as a consent item, and now there will be an opportunity for public input.

Member Lewis wanted to plug the LAHSA Homelessness Count coming up.

Member Sann thanked Member Broide for the notice of the important Metro Meeting, noting that WRAC unanimously approved the motion related to the Sepulveda Transit Corridor Project, reiterating the times and locations and noting that there will be no formal presentations, and that one can drop in at any time. He stressed the urgent need to reaffirm WRAC’s position to build a station on the UCLA campus.

Member Miner (BABCNC) asked about the signage issue, to which Member Broide noted that there are three signage programs for consideration, acknowledging that the STAP program was approved previously.

City Council Agenda Item #20 (23-0002-S16) and Item #21 (23-0002-S17) were to be heard in City Council tomorrow morning at 10 am.

6. **Approval of Minutes**

- a. **Motion (Robin Greenberg)** – Approval of the November 2022 meeting minutes was moved by Member Wishon (WNC) and Vice Chair Spitz, and **approved** by all present and voting with the one exception of Member Wersinger (DRNC), who abstained.

7. **New Business** – None.

8. Old Business

- a. **22.28. Support for Position re Ordinance 187427 (Speed Limit Reductions)** – July 18, 2022 (passage deadline January 2023); 6 councils adopted: MVCC, PPCC, VNC, WLASNC,* WNC,* WWNC (**modified version*).
Motion to extend this one month **passed**, as **moved** by Vice-Chair Spitz and Member Lynn.
- b. **22.31. Support for Letter re Mistreatment of Animals at City Animal Shelters** – August 15, 2022 (passage deadline January 2023; formally adopted by WRAC December 2022); 10 councils adopted: BABCNC, BCC, DRNC, MVCC, NCWP, PalmsNC,* SORONC, WLASNC,* WNC, WWNC. Position letter sent 12/7/22:
<https://westsidecouncils.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/WRAC-letter-re-Animal-Shelter-Conditions.pdf>
(Note: NCWP passed motion after WRAC position letter sent.)
- c. **22.32. Venice Blvd. Improvement Project Concerns/Withhold Support** – October 24, 2022 (passage deadline January 2023); 6 councils adopted: BCC, NCWP, VNC, WLASNC, WNC,* WWNC (**modified version*).
Motion to extend this one month **passed** as **moved** by Member Wishon & Vice-Chair Spitz.
- d. **22.33. Call for Resignation of CMs de Leon and Cedillo** – October 26, 2022 (passage deadline January 2023; formally adopted by WRAC November 2022); 13 councils passed motions calling for the CMs' resignation, thus authorizing original and supplemental WRAC position letters: BCC, BABCNC, DRNC, MVCC, PPCC, NCWP, NWWNC, VNC, WLASNC, WCC, WNC, WWNNC, WWNC & SORONC.
Original letter was sent 11/14/22:
<https://westsidecouncils.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/WRAC-letter-re-CM-Resignations.pdf>;
Supplemental letter sent 12/2/22:
<https://westsidecouncils.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/WRAC-Supp-letter-re-CM-Resignations-.pdf>
(Note: BCC passed motion after WRAC supplemental letter sent.)
- Member Lynn noted that **SORONC** also **passed** this; however, their vote was accidentally put on the bus lane that they did *not* do. Vice Chair Spitz noted that the letters have been sent but will correct it.
- e. **22.34. Oppose IKE (interactive kiosk) Program (CF 22-1154)** – November 21, 2022 (passage deadline February 2023); 8 councils adopted: BABCNC,* BCC, MVCC, NCWP, PPCC,* WLASNC,* WNC,* WWNC (**modified version*). This had passed by majority of member councils.

Vice Chair Spitz noted that councils can still take this up, and if passed between now and the 27th, let her know so that we can include that in the letter.
- f. **22.35. Support Bus Lane Violation Enforcement (CF 21-1224)** – November 21, 2022 (passage deadline February 2023); 1 council adopted: WLANC

Good of the Order: Prior to adjournment, Chair Greenberg opened the floor to comments for the edification of the board.

Vice Chair Spitz thanked Chair Greenberg for her opening remarks about Martin Luther King.

Chair Greenberg noted that some people had asked her whether we should meet on holidays, and as this evening's meeting was held on a national holiday, asked members how they feel about this. Some comments included *not* meeting on holidays from Members Wait (PalmsNC) and Wishon, who finds meeting on holidays onerous. Following discussion below, Member Wishon requested that for future meetings, if there are holidays coming up, that we please talk about it before scheduling important speakers. Member Sann reported that some elected officials were working today at events and that it is his understanding that some do work on holidays.

Member Sann expressed appreciation for those who have contributed to WRAC who may not be returning following the upcoming NC elections for Region 11, particularly Member Wersinger, if he is not returning. Member Sann also thanked Member Wersinger, WRAC's immediate past Chair, for his leadership, and anyone else who will not continue beyond this year. He expressed thanks for their collegiality and service to the community and to WRAC.

Maryam Zar (PPCC President) wanted to go back to Member Broide's comment under Public Comment, about a Tranzito Vector contract with the City, and asked if Member Broide thought there was anything PPCC can do. Member Broide spoke on the issue of the Tranzito shelters and some discussion was held, with Ms. Zar recommending councils ask for a presentation from Tranzito on the shelters.

CD5 Deputy Chief of Staff Fernando Morales apologized that he couldn't make it earlier but introduced himself on behalf of CD5's new Councilmember, Katy Yaroslavsky. He shared that staffing and the office are getting ready, they are almost at full speed for field deputies, bringing on a homelessness team, a three-person team working on issues of master leasing, bringing units online, coordinating with providers, sanitation, law enforcement working on policy on the homeless. He noted that he looks forward to working with us, having met many of us in his previous role with Sheila Kuehl. He'll bring updates in the future. Member Lewis congratulated Mr. Morales on the team they are putting together and expressed his appreciation for the Councilmember and entire staff. Member Lewis shared a link to a speech that MLK gave at UCLA in 1965:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ny6qP0rb_Ag

Vice-Chair Spitz noted that Jacqui Irwin has been scheduled to come on the 20th with her staff; and noted that staff are not required to come to our meetings. She added that we have met on Presidents' Day for the past two or three years when Member Wersinger was chair, and if we don't meet, she would have to cancel Jacqui Irwin.

Maryam Zar related to CD5 Representative, Fernando Morales, that some remember him from Senator Ben Allen's office, prior to Sheila Kuehl's office. She asked about the effort

by Roozbeh Farahanipour to rename an intersection in Westwood to either “Mahsa Intersection” or “Amini...” or “Mahsa Amini Intersection” and asked if Councilmember Katy Yaroslavsky supports that. Mr. Morales noted that this was brought up by Mr. Farahanipour at the WLA Chamber and to the Councilmember and that it was the intent of Mr. Farahanipour to make sure NWNC & WWNC were able to weigh in before having a larger conversation about it.

Member Chapman (WWNC) clarified that this started with everyone in Westwood, and will be called “Women, Life, Freedom Square.” She noted that the Chamber of Commerce was looking at different intersections; she and Member Sann were involved in this. She noted it is now presented to be at Rochester and Westwood at the entrance of Persian Square, that WWNC voted unanimously last week to support it and other councils will be looking at this as well.

Maryam Zar noted, as a Persian woman who has been following this movement and is invited to speak on the Women, Life Freedom movement, that she was thrilled to hear it. Member Sann thanked Maryam for her comment, and noted that this is a very widespread grassroots movement, with many people and organizations behind this. He related that after several ideas for titles, including “Women, Life, Freedom Square” or “Mahsa Amini Square” the consensus was that “Women, Life, Freedom” is more inclusive for women; it touches on women globally, locally and across the country, and there is a thought to have signage saying “in memory of Mahsa Amini.” He noted that it is an evolving process.

Member Lewis noted that it was brought to his NC in North Westwood, and all three locations given to them were in their jurisdiction, two close to Broxton Avenue, which they are closing to be turned into its own plaza. He noted that it came back via email that they’re renaming it and relocating it south of Wilshire, which they support. Member Lewis also thinks it is a work in progress, in terms of planning, is grassroots, and his council supports it overall and especially it being moved south. He suggested that maybe they will come to present to WRAC in the future.

Chair Greenberg noted that she wanted to take a quick poll, but thinks that with all the work Vice Chair Spitz has done, having already asked Jacqui Irwin to speak, that perhaps we should leave the next WRAC meeting on the 20th, Presidents’ Day, to which Member Wishon agreed in this case but asked, as to future meetings on holidays, that we talk about it before scheduling other speakers.

Chair Greenberg concluded the meeting with further comments on Martin Luther King.

Adjournment: The next meeting will be held on February 20, 2023 at 6:30 pm.