



MINUTES
WRAC Meeting of the Board of Directors
February 20, 2023 – 6:30pm

Webinar link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87275111207>
Or Dial (669) 900 9128 **Webinar ID** 872 7511 1207

ALL SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE AT: <https://tinyurl.com/5f7a8pjy>

1. Welcome/Introductions

a. Call to order and certification of quorum

Chair Greenberg (BABCNC) called the meeting to order at 6:34pm, gave welcoming comments, and noted that quorum was met.

12 Present: Robin Greenberg (WRAC Chair) (BABCNC), Chris Spitz (WRAC Vice-Chair) (PPCC), Tyler Laferriere-Holloway (WRAC Secretary & Treasurer), (MVCC), Carolyn Jordan (BCC), Ravi Sankaran (DRNC), Andrew Lewis (NWNC), Matthew Wait (PalmsNC), James Murez (VNC), Jay Handal (WLASNC), Jane Wishon (WNC), Steve Sann (WCC), and Lisa Chapman (WWNC).

Nonvoting Alternates Present:

Nickie Miner (BABCNC), Barbara Broide (WNC), and new Alternate Rep for NC Westchester-Playa, Debra Huston.

Also Present:

Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin and staff members, Nancy Frawley & Skyler Payab; Jake Ettinger, representative for Senator Ben Allen; Veronica de la Cruz, WLA Division Neighborhood Prosecutor, LA City Attorney’s Office; Deborah Hong, Jessica Johnson, and Clint Kautsky from LADWP; Selena Inouye, WRAC MTC Chair; Judie Hulett, WRAC Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Committee Chair; Maryam Zar, WRAC LUPC Chair & PPCC President.

b. Chair updates – Chair Greenberg gave update on the upcoming roundtables and meeting guest speakers as noted below. Chair Greenberg gave comments on President’s Day, acknowledging Jimmy Carter, who is at home in hospice.

(1) WRAC Board Member Roundtables

- February 27: CM Traci Park
- March 13: CM Katy Yaroslavsky
- April 10: Supervisor Lindsey Horvath
- June 5: C.A. Hydee Feldstein-Soto
- Date TBD: Mayor Karen Bass (invited)

- (2) **2/27 Roundtable details/format** – 9-10:30am, Belmont Village Assisted Living, Westwood; remarks by the CM; Q&A with WRAC reps (attendance limited)
- (3) **Upcoming Board meeting guest speakers/presentations** –
 - March 20: Asm. Rick Chavez Zbur; Sepulveda Transit Corridor project update (Yusef Robb, TK Communications)
 - April 17: Asm. Isaac Bryan; Congressman Brad Sherman
 - May 15: Asm. Tina McKinnor
 - Dates TBD: Congresswoman Sydney Kamlager-Dove, Sen. Lola Smallwood-Cuevas, Sen. Ben Allen, Supervisor Holly Mitchell (invited)

2. Government Reports

- a. **Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin (AD 42)** Chair Greenberg introduced Assemblymember Irwin, who introduced staff members in attendance, Deputy District Director Nancy Frawley and Field Representative Skylar Payab skylar.payab@asm.ca.gov & nancy.frawley@asm.ca.gov

Asm. Irwin related that she previously represented the 44th District, and with redistricting, gained Agoura Hills, Topanga, Calabasas, Brentwood, Pacific Palisades and Bel Air, Simi Valley as well as a portion of Westwood/Westwood Hills. She is in Sacramento Monday through Thursday afternoon. Asm. Irwin related her background in local and state government, including her years as Mayor of Thousand Oaks, which informs her support for local control over zoning decisions; provided information about her policies, plans and concerns (including possible legislation to amend SB 9 to exempt areas in the VHFHSZ from additional density); and explained that she and her staff are excited to be learning more about the new communities she now represents on the Westside. An extensive and informative Q&A with board members then ensued. Chair Greenberg thanked Asm. Irwin for speaking with us on Presidents’ Day, looking forward to working with her in the months/years ahead. The Assemblymember in turn expressed her appreciation of the work the members of WRAC are doing for their communities.

- b. **LADWP Community Liaison Deborah Hong** – Mono Basin/LA water rights matter: Deborah Hong, Community Liaison for DWP, introduced Clint Kautsky, Civil Engineer, who discussed the concerning proposal before the State Water Resources Control Board to restrict LADWP’s water rights in the Mono Basin. He stressed the point that there is *no* emergency to justify prohibiting LADWP from exercising its long-held water rights. LADWP now encourages written comment opposing the proposal, which Mr. Kautsky explained will have significant consequences (including rate increases) for Los Angeles ratepayers if the Water Board approves the proposal. Ms. Hong related that the request was to send public comment regarding this **by March 17th (the date was subsequently extended to March 24th)** and submit to monolake@waterboards.ca.gov.

Information on their presentation from the Feb. 15th workshop is posted at www.ladwpeasternsierra.com on the home page, under upcoming event. It is also posted on this subpage on the site under Mono Basin Restoration: <https://ladwpeasternsierra.com/environment>

Link to the slides shown by Mr. Kautsky: <https://storage.googleapis.com/production-constantcontact-v1-0-9/959/123959/kr5Hz2TC/a3db6ba399564f019bd9224ccce3e216?fileName=LADWP%20SWRCB%20WORKSHOP%20%202.15.2023.pdf>

Questions were asked and answered.

Chair Greenberg thanked and welcomed Mr. Kautsky back, to which he noted he would be happy to return for a longer presentation. Ms. Hong noted that the aqueduct tours are coming back post-COVID restrictions.

If there are any follow ups to pursue public comments, please reach out to Deborah.Hong@ladwp.com or Jessica Johnson at jessica.johnson@ladwp.com who can provide further information.

c. **Mayor's Office** – TBD

d. **Council Reports** –

Neither **Fernando Morales**, Deputy Chief of Staff/District Operations for Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky/CD 5, nor **Gabriela Medina**, District Director for Councilwoman Traci Park/CD 11, were present.

Michael Amster, Field Deputy for Councilmember Park for the past four weeks, gave a brief update primarily addressing homelessness. He related that he looks forward to working with all stakeholders on this issue. Questions were asked & answered. Asked for his background, Michael noted that after graduating from law school five years ago, he worked in the Sacramento State Capital as a legislative assistant to ASMs Chow & Bong (prior to working for Traci Park), shepherding legislation, providing constituents services and being a liaison between constituents and State government. Vice-Chair Spitz (PPCC) thanked him for being here and for his efforts in the Palisades, and thanked Councilwoman Park, who will be at Monday's Roundtable.

e. **Additional Government Reports** – At the discretion of the Chair (possible reports from representatives of Congressmembers Ted Lieu, Brad Sherman & Sydney Kamlager-Dove; 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)

Jake Ettinger from the Office of Senator Ben Allen gave an update. He noted that the Senator has introduced 22 bills, a few of which he mentioned and briefly described, as follows: SB 615, SB 571, SB 414, SB 777, SB 473. Feel free to reach out to Mr. Ettinger at jake.ettinger@sen.ca.gov

Mr. Ettinger also acknowledged concerns about NCs and the Brown Act, noting that Senator Portantino introduced legislation to allow NCs to meet virtually, and that Senator Allen will look into this. Jim Murez (VNC) asked about undergrounding of overhead power utilities wires and will follow up with Jake via email. Vice-Chair Spitz (PPCC) thanked him with regard to his help with the Potrero Beach access matter. She asked for updates on the Senator's bills, to which Jake noted he hopes to be sending a quarterly newsletter and a place on the website with legislation the Senator has introduced. Chair Greenberg (BABCNC) asked if Senator Allen was familiar with Senderos Canyon, to which Mr. Ettinger noted that they are familiar with this, and CM Yaroslavsky has reached out to them; they are working a little bit behind the scenes but doesn't think it looks good in terms of future State funding; they are helping contact organizations that could help find other sources of funding to help protect that space. Chair Greenberg thanked him for coming.

Veronica de la Cruz related that as Neighborhood Prosecutor (NP) for WLA, she tries to go to as many community meetings as possible to be better able to help and so that she can know the issues in WLA. She thinks the new City Attorney will do some restructuring but doesn't think the NP program is going away. If she isn't at WRAC meetings as often as she had been before, she'll still be available as a resource and we can always come to her on any of the issues. Chair Greenberg thanked her.

3. Board Member Updates – Limited to 5 minutes total

a. Chris Spitz (Vice-Chair; PPCC rep to WRAC) –

(1) WRAC website expenditures: Vice-Chair Spitz thanked Chair Greenberg, who has fronted a payment that had to be made to our original website designer two or three weeks ago when the website went down inexplicably, which we treated as an emergency. She noted that Secretary Laferriere-Holloway (MVCC) was helping along with Member Wersinger (DRNC) and finally got together with the original website designer who was able to work on it and charged \$300 for their services; he did get the website back up. The Vice-Chair noted that it was critical to get the website back up, and she asked that if anyone was inclined, on an individual pro-rata basis, to reimburse Robin, to please email her. She noted that there may be additional updates to the website needed in the future. The website format is WordPress and a lot of coding involved; she commented that if any member knows someone who knows coding and may be able to volunteer or to help out as service at a reduced rate in the future, please contact Vice-Chair Spitz. Member Murez noted that if this problem comes up again, he may be able to help.

(2) Opening of George Wolfberg Park at Potrero Canyon (46-acre Regional Park in Pacific Palisades, managed by LA Recreation & Parks): Vice-Chair Spitz was proud to announce that the new park has just opened in December in Pacific Palisades, with hiking trails from the Palisades Rec Center to the beach (required trail for actual future coastal access still pending). All are invited to visit. The park's namesake George Wolfberg was a WRAC Board member and respected Chair of PPCC for at least two terms; he shepherded moving the park forward after a decades-long delay. Member Laferriere-Holloway showed some photos of the park provided by Vice-Chair Spitz. Contact her at ppfriends3@hotmail.com for more information.

b. Barbara Broide (WNC alternate rep to WRAC) – Member Broide gave an update on the Metro TCN program, which was approved. It had been on a consent calendar with no opportunity for public comment, however, after voicing concern, the Metro Board opened the item up for comment & approved it in any case. Contact Member Broide with any questions.

4. Committee Reports – Limited to 5 minutes total

a. WRAC Transportation & Mobility (MTC) Committee MTC Chair Selena Inouye stated that there was an error in the MTC motion on the agenda regarding the STAP program: **The last sentence on the motion should be stricken.** This sentence was not part of what was passed last Wednesday 02/15. The next MTC meeting is Wednesday March 15th, the third Wednesday of the month, at 7:00pm by Zoom. Chair Greenberg thanked Ms. Inouye.

c. WRAC Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness Committee (PSEPC) Chair Judie Hulett related that LAPD is possibly going to have a Safety Fair on Saturday, however, with rain imminent, the event is in doubt. CERT is having a family radio skills class on hand radios. On March 4, FS 59 has a basic EP class for communications during a disaster, put on by LAFD's Auxiliary Communication Services.

Ms. Hulett noted that there are impromptu groups forming to clean San Vicente and other streets with trash bags, next on March 4th at Starbucks at 10:00am. She asked if members know one or all three apps for safety: GroupMe, Signal, Slack, which look to be functional for a Neighborhood Watch-type application. The PSEPC wants to compare the three apps and make a presentation and choose one to implement, and is looking for ways to reduce crime in their neighborhoods.

Member Chapman (WWNC) asked about the hand radios, to which Ms. Hulett noted that the PSEPC encourages everyone to get one of these; PSEPC members are testing which ones to recommend. The hand radios are very inexpensive and useful for deployment on a team for damage assessment or keeping track of kids. Member Handal related that his business uses Motorola N-70s, and all of them use Signal, which works very very well. She noted that another HOA likes Slack, and another likes GroupMe. Ms. Hulett would like to do comparisons.

As to Emergency Preparedness (EP), Ms. Hulett noted that she is the CERT Rep for the entire Westside; there are many people with experience involved with CERT, and a firefighter could become involved if needed. She recommends everyone on the Board take a class or refresher in CERT. The next program is coming up in March. The CERT class lasts 7 weeks and is a valuable investment of time. Member Broide asked Ms. Hulett to share the list of the walkie-talkie analysis. Member Murez noted that Keith Harrison is their Venice CERT person and EP guy and discussed with Ms. Hulett frequency for radio versus walkie-talkie.

- d. **WRAC Land Use & Planning Committee (LUPC):** LUPC Chair Maryam Zar was on the call but texted Vice-Chair Spitz that she had trouble with Wi-Fi and dropped off.
- e. **WRAC Homelessness Committee:** Member Handal (WLASNC) related that in the first week of March, he plans to have a meeting and will send out another request for agenda items, after his last effort only yielded one agenda item request. He urged all the leaders in the room to get their homeless chairs in their councils to put together the items they want to discuss. He wants to start having our council members to come to the homelessness committee to speak strictly on homelessness. He noted that CM Yaroslavsky voted “no” on 41.18 and he thinks it is very important that we take this bull by the horns; it is probably our #1 issue throughout all of the neighborhood and community councils. He is happy to meet but needs to have productive meetings.

5. **Public Comment** – There were no non-member attendees.

6. **Approval of Minutes**

- a. Approval of the January 2023 meeting minutes was moved by Chair Greenberg, seconded by Member Wishon (WNC), and approved by 11 yeses from Chair Greenberg, Vice-Chair Spitz, Secretary Laferriere-Holloway, Members Wait, Sankaran, Murez, Handal, Wishon, Chapman, Sann, Lewis, 0 noes and 1 abstention from Member Jordan. [*Vice-Chair Spitz asked if Member Lewis was present & voted, it was noted that he spoke earlier and we lost him due to audio. Member Lewis sent a chat message that he voted yes.*]

7. **New Business**

- a. **Motion (Vice-Chair Chris Spitz)** – Change June 19 Board meeting date (“Juneteenth” holiday) to another date/time (June 26 or other; to be discussed). It was noted that Senator Lola Smallwood-Cuevas only meets with constituents on weekends and Friday. Member Wishon would not be available on Juneteenth; Wishon and Vice-Chair Spitz moved to change the June meeting date to June 26th, noting that Sen. Smallwood-Cuevas might be able to work around her schedule. The motion was seconded by Secretary Laferriere-Holloway (MVCC) and passed by 10 yeses from Chair Greenberg, Vice-Chair Spitz, Secretary Laferriere-Holloway, Members Jordan, Lewis, Wait, Sann, Handal, Wishon, Chapman 0 noes, and 1 abstention from Member Murez (VNC). [*Debra Huston had left the meeting.*]

b. Motion (WRAC LUPC/Andrew Lewis) –

“The ____ NC/CC requests that the Los Angeles Housing Department presume that 100% of RSO units slated for demolition per the Ellis Act are inhabited by low-income households and 100% of the replacement units shall be rented at the corresponding low-income rent.

“If the Housing Department or the developer wish to lower that standard and require that fewer replacement units are affordable, then they must do the outreach and secure estoppels from the tenant households that demonstrate their income exceeds the low-income requirements (instead of putting the burden on low-income households to prove that they are low-income tenants).

“We further request that the Housing Department formulate and implement alternative income verification methods for current tenants who are elderly, disabled or undocumented to be able to qualify for their right of return.”

The motion was moved by Member Wishon (WNC), seconded by Member Jordan (BCC). There was no discussion. Member Wishon explained that the onus has been on the residents, not on the developers, and this motion asks that the onus be put on the developers unless some of the units were from people that were not low income. Member Broide provided additional insights, and noted that this request attempts to change the onus and have the City implement the documentation process and inform the tenants of the process, because tenants don’t often know what they are required to do.

The motion passed by 11 yeses from Chair Greenberg, Vice-Chair Spitz, Secretary Laferriere-Holloway, Members Jordan, Lewis, Wait, Sann, Handal, Wishon, Chapman and Sankaran, 1 no from Member Murez, 0 abstentions.

c. Motion (WRAC MTC/Barbara Broide/Chris Spitz) –

“The ____ CC/NC, a member of the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils, is concerned about the current status and management of the STAP program under the new contractor Tranzito-Vector and requests an ~~independent~~ audit of the program by the ~~City Controller Chief Legislative Analyst's (CLA) office~~ and Chief Administration Officer's (CAO) office of the revenues and expenditures for this new STAP program. ~~Until an audit is completed, our Council will be withholding support for the new STAP program.~~

(Relevant Council File: Council File No. 20-1536-S4)”

[Of note, MTC Chair Selena Inouye stated in her committee report, above, that there was an error in the MTC motion regarding the STAP program, and that the last sentence should be stricken.]

Vice-Chair Spitz introduced & sponsored the motion. Barbara Broide provided a detailed explanation of the need for an audit. Motion was seconded by Member Wishon. Extensive discussion ensued about the basis for the motion and its language. Member Broide asked that we take out the word “independent” to which the mover accepted the alteration; that was seconded by Secretary Laferriere-Holloway (MVCC).

Amendment: Change to remove the word “independent” and to say: City Controller and CAO **Passed** by 12 yeses from Chair Greenberg, Vice-Chair Spitz, Secretary Laferriere-Holloway, Members Jordan, Sankaran, Lewis, Wait, Murez, Sann, Handal, Wishon and Chapman.

Motion as amended: The ____ CC/NC, a member of the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils, is concerned about the current status and management of the STAP program under the new contractor Tranzito-Vector and requests an audit of the program by the City Controller and Chief Administration Officer’s (CAO) office of the revenues and expenditures for this new STAP program

Passed by 12 yeases from Chair Greenberg, Vice-Chair Spitz, Secretary Laferriere-Holloway, Members Jordan, Sankaran, Lewis, Wait, Murez, Sann, Handal, Wishon and Chapman.
[For questions, please see the background information on the website.]

8. Old Business

- a. **22.28. Support for Position re Ordinance 187427 (Speed Limit Reductions)** – July 18, 2022 (passage deadline February 2023); 9 councils adopted: DRNC, MVCC, PPCC, VNC, SORONC,* WLASNC,* WCC, WNC,* WWNC (*modified version). *Passed by more than a majority of member councils. Position letter sent:*

<https://westsidecouncils.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/WRAC-Letter-re-Speed-Limit-Reductions.pdf>

- b. **22.32. Venice Blvd. Improvement Project Concerns/Withhold Support** – October 24, 2022 (passage deadline February 2023); 7 councils adopted: BCC, NCWP, VNC, WLASNC, WCC, WNC,* WWNC (*modified version). *Possible motion to extend deadline.*

Motion to extend the deadline by one month passed without any opposition, as moved and seconded by Handal. The motion is on the BABCNC agenda in February.

- c. **22.34. Oppose IKE (interactive kiosk) Program (CF 22-1154)** – November 21, 2022 (passage deadline February 2023); 9 councils adopted: BABCNC,* BCC, MVCC, PPCC,* NCWP, WLASNC,* WCC, WNC,* WWNC (*modified version). *Passed by more than a majority of member councils. Position letter sent:*

<https://westsidecouncils.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/WRAC-Letter-re-IKE-program.pdf>

- d. **22.35. Support Bus Lane Violation Enforcement (CF 21-1224)** – November 21, 2022 (passage deadline February 2023); 2 councils adopted: SORONC; WLASNC. *Motion passed in City Council 1/18/23; WRAC motion essentially moot.*

Vice-Chair Spitz noted that this motion passed in Council, is now moot and will be removed.

9. Adjourn – Next meeting will be held on March 20, 2023 at 6:30 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 pm, in memory of those who died of mass shootings and gun violence in the last month: per motion by Member Wishon, seconded by Member Handal, who also wished to adjourn in memory of WLASNC's long-time NC member, Jean Shigematsu, who passed away last month; Ms. Shigematsu was also one of the Charter members of WLASNC and Westside NC, per Member Broide.