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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 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/5n8wnm3z>

1. Welcome/Introductions

a. Call to order and certification of quorum

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

Present:

Robin Greenberg (WRAC Chair) (BABCNC), Chris Spitz (WRAC Vice-Chair) (PPCC), Tyler Laferriere-Holloway (WRAC Secretary & Treasurer), (MVCC), Carolyn Jordan (BCC), Andrew Lewis (NWNC), Matthew Wait (PalmsNC), Jane Wishon (WNC), Steve Sann (WCC), Lisa Chapman (WWNC), Steve Sann (WCC), Alt. Ravi Sankaran (DRNC) arrived at 6:38 pm, Walton Chiu, (new member representing WLASNC) was present briefly and left by 7:06 pm to attend a candidate panel for his NC. Michael Lynn (SORONC) was present and left by 7:39 pm.

Nonvoting Alternates Present:

Nickie Miner (BABCNC), Barbara Broide (WNC). New Alternate Alexandra Polin (WLASNC) was present and left by 7:10 pm to attend a candidate panel for her NC.

Also Present:

Asm. Rick Chavez Zbur (AD 51) & Staff – Hannah Wenger & Sherman Shamoil;
Skylar Payab, Office of Asm. Jacqui Irwin (AD 42);
Jake Ettinger, District Rep & Sam Liu District Director, Office of Senator Ben Allen;
Jessalyn Waldron, Office of Supervisor Holly Mitchell (2nd District);
Ariel Jones, Planning Assistant – Community Liaison at LA City Planning;
Veronica de la Cruz, WLA Div. Neighborhood Prosecutor, City Attorney's Office;
Yusef Robb, TK Communications, on behalf of Sepulveda Transit Corridor Partners,
with Derya Thompson;
Eimon Smith, representing Metro Program Management.

b. Chair Updates –

Chair Greenberg thanked all the speakers who spoke at the Board Member Roundtables. She thanked Vice-Chair Spitz for working with Member Sann on the questions and thanked Member Sann for his work on the questions and for reserving the Belmont, which she described as a very enjoyable space.

WRAC Board Member Roundtables –

Previous: Councilwomen Traci Park (Feb. 27) and Katy Yaroslavsky (March 13)
Upcoming: Supervisor Lindsey Horvath (May 22 – *postponed from April 10*); City Attorney Hyde Feldstein Soto (June 5); Mayor Karen Bass (invited/TBD).

Upcoming Board meeting guest speakers/presentations –

Asm. Isaac Bryan & Randall Winston, Deputy Mayor of Infrastructure (April 17);
Asm. Tina McKinnor (May 15); Congressman Brad Sherman (*postponed*).

2. Government Reports

- a. Assemblymember Rick Chavez Zbur (AD 51)** Chair Greenberg introduced Assemblymember Zbur (representing Westwood, West LA-Sawtelle, Westside and a part of Bel Air-Beverly Crest), and related some of his background to us. The Assemblymember acknowledged knowing some of us. He noted that his District Manager is Robert Oliver (previously CD5 Field Rep), and introduced staff present: Field Representatives Hannah Wenger & Sherwin Shamoeil. **Hannah Wenger** related that their office is moving along, she was happy to be here, meeting new people, and noted that their constituents' services are up and running. Hannah.Wenger@asm.ca.gov **Sherwin Shamoeil** introduced himself, noting that if anyone has questions or needs help with constituents' services, he is happy to help. Sherwin.Shamoeil@asm.ca.gov

Assemblymember Zbur provided details about numerous bills he has introduced, focusing on the environment, housing & homelessness and social justice. He answered Board member questions, including but not limited to that of Member Sann (WCC) who noted the importance of Metro's Sepulveda Transit Corridor Project, and of the UCLA station having a seamless connection to the Wilshire Purple Line, requesting support for these positions. The Assemblymember related that he would love to work with him on this. Alternate Member Polin (WLASNC) noted the development of high-priced buildings and the lack of affordable housing, to which Asm. Zbur related that we need to be sure we are building affordable housing, and not giving benefits to developers for small amounts of affordable housing. He noted that he is into protecting neighborhoods and advancing affordable housing in the right places. He believes in local control, didn't support SB9 which would take local control away but supported SB10. He noted that Councilwoman Yaroslavsky, Supervisor Horvath and he are grappling with the same issues, to create housing and bring housing costs down.

The Assemblymember expressed appreciation for being invited to speak and eagerness to continue to engage with us. He has office hours on Fridays, meets with folks, and asked us to reach out to Sherwin, Hannah or Robert. We thanked Assemblymember Zbur and look forward to working with him in the months and years ahead.

b. Mayor's Office – TBD

- c. Council Reports** – Neither Jarrett Thompson, Transportation & Sr. Field Deputy for Council District 5/Yaroslavsky nor Michael Amster, Field Deputy for Council District 11/Park were present this evening.

- d. 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)

Representatives from Senator Ben Allen's office, Jake Ettinger, District Rep., and Sam Liu, District Director were present to answer questions.

- **Jake Ettinger, District Representative** Jake.Ettinger@sen.ca.gov

- **Samuel Liu, Deputy Chief of Staff, District Director** Samuel.Liu@sen.ca.gov

Mr. Ettinger gave an update on SB-571, <https://legiscan.com/CA/bill/SB571/2023> as to new development in high risk areas, particularly in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones (VHFHSZs). The bill requires that new development have an evacuation plan to make sure people are going to be able to leave if there is an emergency. His office added an amendment that doing a home renovation or adding an ADU would *not* be subject to this requirement. It would be for a sizeable development, based on a number of cars, e.g., 40 cars, estimated at about 20 homes or commercial property. Vice-Chair Chris Spitz (PPCC) asked if the amendments are up, to which Mr. Ettinger noted that the number of cars is in the works and provided further details. Vice-Chair Spitz related that PPCC, Brentwood and other local councils in the VHFHSZ will be happy to work with him on those bills.

Skylar Payab, Field Rep, Office of Asm. Irwin, noted a new bill, AB 944 from the Emergency Services Committee, to require that Fire and Police stations have alternative power in case of power outages, and a generator.

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billStatusClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240AB944
Contact skylar.payab@asm.ca.gov for questions or concerns.

Jessalyn Waldron, Deputy Rep for Supervisor Holly Mitchell's Coastal District, noted that Del Rey NC & Westchester Playa NC are the two councils she works with who are on WRAC. She gave an update, noting that the Supervisor has a racial justice learning exchange with monthly meetings; the Board of Supervisors meet bi-weekly and meet tomorrow. Recently the Supervisor passed a motion in LA County looking at strengthening LA County Board Governance to strengthen equity and transparency in LA County. The Supervisors have also recently been lifting some heavy motions and are at work on tightening gun restrictions in the County. Jessalyn provided links to Racial Justice Learning Exchange events: <https://mitchell.lacounty.gov/racialjustice/> and to LA County ARPA LA County Economic Opportunity Grants (smallbizla.org): <https://go.smallbizla.org/recovery>. She can be reached at Jwaldron@bos.lacounty.gov

Veronica de la Cruz, Neighborhood Prosecutor from the LA City Attorney's Office gave a brief update on the City Attorney's reorganization of their criminal branch. City Attorney Feldstein-Soto has put a plan in place which will be in effect shortly. We will still have Neighborhood Prosecutors (NPs) assigned to Police Stations in the communities and the NPs will continue to be our liaison; however, they will be structured differently and will be assigned to beef up prosecution at the branches. They will still be our contact. If we need the NPs to come to meetings, let them know but they'll be at the branch more, providing support for direct prosecution at the courthouses rather than being at so many meetings but will still be our point of contact from their office. veronica.delacruz-robles@lacity.org

Ariel Jones, LA City Planning, noted that, per our geography, the only Community Plan going on now is the Westside Community Plan. Currently, they are preparing their revised General Plan Land Use Maps, their Story Map, their Planned Policy documents and new zones to showcase at a general information an open house in the fall of this year. She noted that she had sent over their Q1 updates and will provide a link for that. Send your questions regarding City Planning to her by email at Ariel.jones@lacity.org.

3. Board Member Updates –

Vice-Chair Spitz (PPCC) thanked WRAC Tyler Secretary Laferriere-Holloway (MVCC) for his help with the website, and for having fronted the bill for another website fix; the previous one was paid for by Chair Robin Greenberg (BABCNC). She noted that we will be looking for another host for the website, and expressed her appreciation for Tyler stepping up and Robin for the prior problem. She invited members to contribute to all of this.

4. Committee Reports – Limited to 5 minutes total

- a. **WRAC Transportation & Mobility Committee** – Chair Inouye was not present.
- b. **WRAC Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness Committee** – Vice-Chair Spitz (PPCC) shared that Judie Hulett was not able to attend nor can she continue on as Chair due to her schedule. Vice Chair Spitz noted that she and Ms. Hulett feel that the new chair for this committee should be a WRAC board member. She invited members to let her or Robin know if they are interested in serving as chair of this committee, which will be inactive until a new chair is found.
- c. **WRAC Land Use & Planning Committee** – Vice-Chair Spitz noted that LUPC Chair, Maryam Zar (PPCC), is presently on an airplane, returning from Sacramento, having just received the Woman of the Year Award from Senator Allen’s office. Chair Greenberg read aloud that this award from Senator Ben Allen indicates that this was for our Senate District and for highlighting Nowruz to State Senators.
- d. **WRAC Homelessness Committee** – Chair Handal was not present.

5. Public Comment – Eimon Smith introduced herself as a representative of the Metro Team, representing Metro Program Management, here to listen and invited by Transit Corridor Project Team.

6. Approval of Minutes

- a. **Motion (Robin Greenberg)** – to approve the February 2023 meeting minutes was moved by Chair Greenberg, seconded by Member Lynn (SORONC) and passed by **10 yeases** from Chair Greenberg, Vice-Chair Spitz, Secretary Laferriere-Holloway, and Members Wait, Sann, Sankaran, Jordan, Chapman, Lewis and Wishon.

7. New Business

- a. **Sepulveda Transit Corridor Project (STCP) Update** – Yusef Robb, who has a company called TK Communications, noted that he is here on behalf of Sepulveda Transit Corridor Partners, proposing what Metro calls “Alternatives 4 & 5” of the STCP. Comments included but were not limited to that 4 & 5 run from the Van Nuys Metrolink Station (the Amtrack

station), down to Sepulveda and (*inaudible*). They are automated heavy rail proposals; 4 & 5 are identical routes, the difference being that 4 runs above ground in the Valley portion and 5 completely underground. The choice is the purview of Metro. Their role is to fully develop both alternatives to the best of their ability as the process goes on. Various details were provided. He noted that stations will be in the heart of the communities, for people to connect with the broader transit network and communities so that the more people who ride it the fewer cars on the 405.

He spoke briefly on the operations and maintenance partner, a group called “RATP Dev”, <https://www.ratpdevusa.com/home> that pioneers in the automated transit, with operations around the world, including the Paris Metro. He also touched briefly on Alternative 6 as a point of differentiation.

Mr. Robb also provided a couple of updates from Metro, including that they have released a story map with outlines of all the alternatives where the stations are located. Metro has held three town halls and has solicited comment. While the comment period is closed, you can still send your comments to Metro. They did a public opinion poll and he thinks underground and heavy rail were popular. As part of the CEQA process, Metro released a scoping report, showing support for underground and heavy rail. The expected completion date is 2033 to 2035. He thanked us for having them and noted that they are available to present again to this group and the constituent councils.

Questions were asked and answered, with some comments from team members Richard Katz and Derya Thompson.

Reach out to Mr. Robb at yusef@tkCommunicationsLLC.com. Mr. Robb provided additional information in the Chat as follows:

STCP Website: <https://www.sepulvedatransit.com/>

Station Story Map:

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/fbe1a5e154b6447b86507e4bb87159cf>

Metro Public Opinion Poll:

http://boardarchives.metro.net/BoardBox/2022/221207_Sepulveda_Transit_Corridor_Project_Survey.pdf

Metro Scoping Comments Report:

<https://thesource.metro.net/2022/06/02/virtual-meeting-on-thursday-june-16-to-provide-update-on-sepulveda-transit-corridor-project/>

Associated News Story:

<https://www.dailynews.com/2022/06/20/public-says-93-favor-rail-tunnels-not-an-overhead-monorail-for-mega-sepulveda-pass-project/>

b. Motion (WRAC LUPC) –

“The ____ NC/CC insists, on behalf of the stakeholders it represents, that prior to the completion of Community Plan updates, the City inform communities of the methodology by which it

determines the allocation of RHNA numbers and the calculations that derive density housing goals in order to meet the aims of the Housing Element.

“These include, for each Community Plan and Community or Neighborhood Council area:

A) Current zoning capacity (including existing density bonuses & commercial zones that allow residential uses) and reasonably expected population change.

B) The methodology which will be used to allocate RHNA growth numbers.

C) RHNA allocation of units in each community.

“We also urge the Planning Department to thoughtfully consider the input (submitted by previous written comment or imparted in real time) of Neighborhood and Community Councils as well as stakeholders that come together for the purpose of contributing to the Community Plan update process with informed and productive input, insight and/or suggestions. This essential input must be implemented by Planning staff, and the contributions reflected by being substantively included in the outcome/drafting of revised Community Plans. We urge that a report back mechanism be implemented by Planning staff, in order to inform communities of where and how their input has been received and incorporated into the final drafting process.

“We would like to understand the role of the Westside Community Plan Advisory Group (WCPAG) and be assured that the WCPAG’s voice will not outweigh that of local stakeholders.” Moved by Member Sann (WNC) and seconded by Member Wishon (WCC).

Member Broide (WNC) explained the motion, noting that we are trying to understand how much housing, in numbers, our communities need in order to do our part, and that a large swath of single family dwellings will be up-zoned. We need to know what the numbers are so we can make recommendations of where density can be placed. The motion is to urge the Planning Department to give us the numbers, the methodology to use, and what our current zoning capacity is. The motion **passed** by 10 yeases from Chair Greenberg, Vice Chair Spitz, Secretary Laferriere-Holloway, Members Jordan, Sankaran, Lewis, Wait, Sann, Wishon and Chapman. (Member Lynn had left.)

Old Business

a. 22.32. Venice Blvd. Improvement Project Concerns/Withhold Support – October 24, 2022 (passage deadline February 2023); 8 councils adopted: BABCNC, BCC, NCWP, VNC, WLASNC,* WCC, WNC,* WWNC (**modified version*). **Passed by majority of member councils.** *Position letter sent:*

<https://westsidecouncils.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/WRAC-Letter-re-Venice-Blvd.-Improvements.pdf>

b. 23.01. Request re RSO Housing Replacements – February 20, 2023 (passage deadline May 2023); 2 councils adopted: WLASNC,* WNC (**modified version*). It was noted that this will be taken up by BABCNC this week.

c. 23.02. Request for Audit of STAP Program – February 20, 2023 (passage deadline May 2023); 3 councils adopted: BCC, PPCC, WNC. It was noted that BABCNC & WCC are taking this up and that there is time for this.

- 8. Adjourn** – The meeting adjourned at 7:56 pm with good wishes for a Happy Spring & Nowruz and for the upcoming basketball game. The next meeting is on April 17, 2023 at 6:30 pm.