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Westside Neighborhood Council  
Westwood Community Council  
Westwood Neighborhood Council

## WRAC Land Use & Planning Committee Meeting

### Minutes

May 8, 2023 from 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82240552285>

- 1. The Chair Called the meeting to order** at 6:33PM. Drew Ruesch, presiding.
- 2. The Presiding Officer certified that we have quorum** and confirmed names on Zoom (Present: Drew Ruesch, Steve Sann, Larry Watts, kay Hartman, Julie Ross, Steve Twinning, Andrew Lewis, Pooja Bahjat, Jay Ross)
- 3. Welcome announcements were made**
- 4. the Minutes for March 13 Meeting were approved**
- 5. Our guest speaker, Peggy Huang, made a presentation representing Our Neighborhood Voices Initiative (ONVI).** She shared her screen and said she is a past City Council member and Mayor of Yorba Linda and chaired the RHNA subcommittee as well as the Comm Ed and Human Dev Committee. Stepped off in 2022 and knows a lot about housing and transit issues in Southern CA. Sacramento has been beating down on cities and taking away from our local planning abilities. Many land use mandated are an attempt to take away our ability to plan (e.g. SB9).

ONVI came together as a group across the group to stand against the onslaught of attempts to take a way local control. Their objective is coming up with an initiative which is a constitutional amendment to allow local laws to prevail over State law when a conflict exists in land use and zoning laws. They realize there are cities that haven't complied with RHNA requirements, but believes local control is important, even though many rural cities do not mind giving up control – many urban cities need to retain local control. 34 individual cities have already signed on to their resolutions. PSCAG has endorsed the initiative. Over 50,000 individual residents have also signed on. Robust outreach is still underway. More than 200 city and county leaders have committed to helping the initiative.

ONVI believes that Sacramento cannot legislate land use and zoning for CA in a one-size fits all manner, and that eliminating single family zoning is not the way to solve our housing crisis. Please see their website at <https://ourneighborhoodvoices.com> and see the slide show shared, linked on the WRAC website.

### 6. Old business

6.1 The Presiding officer suggested tabling this motion since the author was not present. The item to request that the City revise the LAMC/Zoning to be implemented in Community Plan updates, Westside Transit Neighborhood Plans and TOC/Density Bonus ordinances was continued to the next month.

Motion: The Planning Dept. shall report to the City Planning Commission on the relationship between population, employment, housing growth, and plan capacities. If growth has occurred faster than projected, a

revised environmental impact analysis will be prepared, and appropriate changes recommended to the Community Plan. These plan and zoning changes shall be submitted to the Planning Commission, Mayor, and City Council, as specified in the Los Angeles Municipal Code.

## **7. New Business**

### **7.1. Proposed Motion re SB 4 – tabled**

\_\_\_\_\_ NC/CC, a member of the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC), supports the following long-standing position of WRAC with respect to addressing the affordable housing crisis in California: “WRAC recognizes the need for positive solutions to the state’s affordable housing crisis, specifically as it relates to workforce and low-to-moderate income housing. Solutions should involve legislation that 1) focuses on increasing the production and supply of truly affordable housing; 2) does not compromise public safety or the environment; and 3) respects principles of democracy, local land use control and self-determination of local governments to expand housing opportunities unique to their jurisdictions.”

\_\_\_\_\_ NC/CC opposes Senate Bill 4 (Wiener) because (1) it does not advance the goal of achieving more affordable housing consistent with these principles; (2) it compromises public safety and the environment by not including clear, unconditional exemptions for development projects located in the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ) and/or the Coastal Zone; and (3) it preempts local land use control and self-determination of local governments to expand housing opportunities unique to their jurisdictions.

\_\_\_\_\_ NC/CC further urges either or both of Councilwomen Traci Park and Katy Yaroslavsky, representing their respective WRAC member Councils in Districts 11 and 5, to bring a resolution in City Council to add to the City’s Legislative Program for 2023-24 OPPOSITION to Senate Bill 4 on the above grounds.

### **7.2. Proposed Motion re Lights - passed.**

The \_\_\_\_ NC/CC requests the City implement the Five Principles of Responsible Outdoor Lighting that minimize light pollution by following these guidelines (adopted by the Illuminating Engineering Society and the International Dark-Sky Association):

- All light should have a clear purpose.
- Light should be directed only where needed.
- Light should be no brighter than necessary.
- Light should be used only when it is useful.
- Use warmer color lights where possible.

The City shall enact/codify these principles through its departments and agencies for City facilities and properties such as buildings, parking lots, and parks, the streetlight system, the airport and port, and for private development. Community Plans and Specific Plans shall also enact similar dark sky practices, and include limitations on bright lights, light trespass, and illumination of building facades.

(See more detail below)

**8. Public Comment/Open forum:** The Presiding Officer called for public or board member comment about issues, concerns, matters on the horizon or upcoming agenda items. Jay Ross said there needs to be more HHH funding and suggested there should be another round. There is also the new ULA tax (expected to raise more than might transpire). He wishes to know if people want to get behind the request for another bins measure (HHH type) and take such a motion up at WRAC LUPC. There was no consensus as to how best to tackle homelessness but Kay Hartman said she believes a holistic approach is best. Steve Twining believes more taxation is not the answer, and its not solving the problem (plus tax revenues usually falls below expectation). Kay Hartman believes HHH has worked but trying to use the private market to solve homelessness is a fool's errand – there must be a government solution and doesn't want to encourage taxation as a solution. Larry Watts says this problem was created over many years and we need to be patient with solutions.

**9. Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 8:04PM