



WRAC Land Use & Planning Committee Meeting MINUTES August 14, 2023

1. **Call to order** – meeting was called to order at 6:33 PM

2. **Roll call** – the Committee Chair called roll and certified that there was quorum

3. **Welcome & announcements**

- Maryam Zar announced that Drew Reusch is the Vice-Chair for the LUPC.
- Jay Ross, Maryam Zar, Drew Reusch, and Kay Hartman reported on the last call of the year from the Community Advisory Committee meeting Community Plan Update process. Not much, lots of talk. Let's see if promises of outreach translate into meaningful input implemented from the communities. Zar asked them to attend an upcoming WRAC LUPC meeting. Kay Hartman said it was important that they do more outreach. Szi and she will be working on a proposal of things for Palms NC to work on, and will share with respect to engagement guidelines. Drew said he and a group of people along with United Neighbors met with Traci Park's office to discuss community plans and housing element. She has committed to form an Advisory Group to get into detail and help her learn how to advocate at Planning. The Chair remarked that this was huge and would help all.
- Drew Reusch also remarked on SB 423 (extension of SB 35 which will be sunseting in 2026). SB 423 is the replacement bill by Anthony Wiener that he would like to take up in September. We will want to continue to protect exemptions and protections for coastal communities.

4. **Approval of minutes**

- 4.1. the July 10 Meeting minutes were approved <https://westsidecouncils.com/meetings/>

5. **Presentations/guest speakers -**

Bonnie Kim and Hagu Solomon-Cary from LA Department of City Planning spoke on the AI Fresco program in the coastal zone, explaining the review and due diligence process for both private property and the public right of way in these areas. In light of CM Park's motion directing the department to report back within 60 on finding with respect to a CDP for outdoor dining in the coastal zone, staff will be looking into best practices for a draft ordinance. Jacqueline Garcia from LADOT, overseeing on street dining, which is when they convert street parking to dining areas. On hand was also a member of the BOE team which oversees revocable permits for outdoor dining. BOE is part of the transition process which includes the revocable permit review. This is the team working on the elements of the draft ordinance and CM Park's motion asking for recommendations/challenges with respect to a programmatic CDP, within 60 days. Temporary

permits given by the Coastal Commission expires at the end of December, so a CDP will have to be codified in order to continue the Al Fresco dining program in the coastal zone. They were here to share info and glean info from our members.

6. Old business –

WRAC LUPC updated the previously passed TOC Motion for member councils, in a more streamlined way so as to enable discussion and action. The Committee passed the following motion: (NC and CCs were asked to add to this basic motion by laying out their specific preferred guidelines as related to setbacks, landscaping, recreational space, step-backs, massing and zoning.)

The ____ NC/CC requests that the City revises the LAMC/Zoning to be implemented in Community Plan updates, Westside Transit Neighborhood Plans and TOC/Density Bonus ordinances to standardize setbacks, landscaping, open and recreational space, step-backs, massing and zoning, in accordance with the specific preferences communicated to the City by the relevant NC/CC for each area.

7. New Business –

a. The Committee held discussion regarding a proposed interim housing project on Pico Blvd., in CD5. It was decided that CD5 was engaging with the local community, and we will wait to see how that engagement evolves, as there is no need for us to get involved at this time. We did reiterate the idea that local input on any large-scale development has to be meaningful, and sought before decisions are made, and since in this case that outreach was not done, WRAC leadership may wish to write to CD5 and insist that community outreach in a substantive and meaningful way be undertaken now, on this and other projects.

The committee heard an update and held discussion on Metro digital advertising trajectory – with a focused discussion of the westside as a target for advertising lobby. Here again, WRAC LUPC authorized WRAC leadership to write to a letter reiterating the important need for citywide outreach into communities with respect to any digital advertising that stands to impact the public’s safety and ensure that the input of communities is reflected in any ordinance that would allow increased advertising, particularly digital advertising, across Los Angeles neighborhoods.

The following motion passed:

Whereas on Jan. 12, 2022, the City Council entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with Metro to move forward with the Metro TCN program without any notice to or input from the public and prior to the commencement of an EIR process; and

Whereas the City has given over its power as lead agency to Metro and the Metro Board moved forward and approved it on January 26, 2023 on consent including approval of an EIR with overriding considerations with impacts to City resources January 2023; and

Whereas the Metro TCN program is a digital billboard advertising program whose changing images are designed and documented to distract drivers creating dangerous situations which will undermine the City's Vision Zero goals; and

Whereas the Metro TCN program will bring blight to the visual environment of 22 Community Plan areas from Sylmar to South Los Angeles; and

Whereas the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC) opposes 1) offsite signs, including digital billboards, installed outside of the 22 areas already zoned as Regional Commercial for high-intensity commercial use (the 22 Areas), 2) digital signs installed in or near bus shelters outside of the 22 Areas, and 3) proposed "IKE" kiosks with digital signage in the public right of way; and

Whereas WRAC's Statement of Principles (Standing Rule 4 of the WRAC Bylaws) provides that WRAC expects governing bodies to "notify all affected parties.... of all proposed public infrastructure or other public property developments, whether or not discretionary, having a broad impact on WRAC neighborhoods or on the region as a whole....of all proposed new planning and zoning codes and regulations and/or proposed changes to existing codes and regulations. Such notice should be provided sufficiently in advance of the governing body's determination to allow ample time for WRAC Member Organizations to consider, review and comment on the proposal,

Therefore, ___NC/CC opposes adoption of proposed City ordinances that would result in the adoption and implementation of the Metro TCN digital advertising program.

8. Public Comment/Open forum – there was no public comment

9. Adjournment - the meeting was adjourned at 8:00PM