



MINUTES

WRAC Meeting of the Board of Directors March 18, 2024 – 6:30pm

Webinar link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8727511207>
Or Dial (669) 900 9128 **Webinar ID** 872 7511 1207

ALL SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE AT:

<https://tinyurl.com/2t3rendz> and <https://westsidecouncils.com/meetings/>

1. Welcome/Introductions

- a. Call to Order and Certification of Quorum:** Chair Greenberg (BABCNC) called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm. Roll was called and quorum was met. Members Sankaran and Ruderman arrived soon thereafter for a total of 10 present prior to approval of the minutes.
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|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Robin Greenberg, Chair (BABCNC); | Chris Spitz, Co-Chair (PPCC); |
| Michael Lynn (SORONC); | Steve Sann (WCC); |
| Terri Tippit (WNC); | Drew Ruesch (MVCC); |
| Larry Watts (BCC); | Tanya Leal (PalmsNC); |
| Ravi Sankaran (DRNC); | Nico Ruderman (VNC). |

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

Also Present:

Vahid Khorsand, Chair of the Commission of Public Works;
Cairo Rodriguez, Senior Field Deputy of CD 5, Councilmember Katy Yaroslasky;
Michael Amster, Field Deputy of CD 11, Councilmember Traci Park;
Sherwin Shamoiel, Representative of Assemblymember Rick Chavez Zbur’s Representative;
Michelle Persoff, Representative of Assemblymember Isaac Bryan;
Chris Galindo, LA Department of City Planning Liaison;
Rad Nowroozi, Representative of Senator Ben Allen;
Elizabeth Birks, Representative of Senator Lola Smallwood-Cuevas;
Aldanae Williams, LA Department of Water and Power (LADWP) Liaison

b. Chair Updates –

- (1) Status of WRAC meeting guest speakers (U.S. Representative Ted Lieu – May 20, 2024; Planning Director Vince Bertoni: invited/TBD)
- (2) Next board meeting: April 29, 2024 (postponed from 4/22/24/Passover)

2. Government Reports/Speakers

a. Guest speaker: Vahid Khorsand, Commissioner, LA City Board of Public Works

Vahid.khorsand@lacity.org

Chair Greenberg welcomed Commissioner Vahid Khorsand. The Commissioner noted that he is working with the Mayor’s office, and related recent efforts to repair over 1,000 incidents of

recent mudslide damage to the public right of way in Council Districts 4 and 5. Questions were asked and answered. The Commissioner, assigned to the Bureau of Street Lights, noted that copper-wire theft has been at a historic rate. He provided insight on this, including that it is costly to fight. Their long-term goal is to look into solar lights and short-term is fortification, working with LAPD and task forces, where other issues include the length of time it takes, labor shortages and not having enough vehicles to get there. He noted that Council has approved a 100% increase in funding to tackle copper-wire theft and that use of solar lights, which is not as costly as first thought, will take a while to roll out citywide.

As to the status of the “IKE” program, to install digital advertising kiosks in the public right of way, the Commissioner related that he will look into this and explained that the Mayor, who is working with the BPW, wants communities to be informed about projects and measures planned for their neighborhoods, and has said that no decisions will be made without public input.

As to STAP, the Commissioner was asked by Member Broide (WNC) how to address the inequities, such as that between CD5, a cooler district & the Valley. She noted that Staff gives oral progress reports on STAP but without a written report the public cannot provide comment, and requested that they provide public reports. She noted that the minutes do not specify what was approved. The Commissioner responded as to STAP that he’d follow up with StreetsLA, acknowledging that they are a couple of years behind. Member Broide noted that the Council office has lists but not posted on the website, especially on scenic roadways and keeping the digital signs off roadways. He thanked us all for what we are doing to better our City.

Member Sann (WCC) raised the issue of the poor state of our sidewalks and other public infrastructure citywide. He spoke on his community’s street furniture and noted that the Olympics are coming. He specifically referenced poor sidewalks in front of a family theater and asked what we can do to improve the condition of our City.

It was noted that Commissioner Khorsand distributes an informative bulletin about citywide events and initiatives and the work of the BPW and the Mayor. To receive the bulletin or to contact him with any public works questions, email yahid.khorsand@lacity.org. We thanked Commissioner Khorsand for engaging with us and providing insight into the BPW’s work.

Aldanae Williams, LADWP Westside Community Liaison, aldanae.williams@ladwp.com. Aldanae was present to answer any questions. Member Broide (WNC) asked for a report on the power outage following or during the fire at Lenny’s at 2377 Westwood Boulevard, to which Aldanae said she’ll research and get back to her. Member Sankaran (DRNC) asked for a status for a search for a new General Manager, to which she noted that there was none.

Chris Galindo, the Westside’s Planning Department Liaison, planning.liaison@lacity.org or chris.galindo@lacity.org – Chris noted that Denzel Henderson will still be around, but that he is taking over for the Westside. He announced two webinars on the Housing Incentive Program on 04-02 at 5pm and on 04-09 at 12pm. Member Broide (WNC) noted that the committee meeting tomorrow does not have ED1 on the agenda. Vice-Chair Spitz asked if he has extra information about the one-month extension on the Noise Thresholds, having learned that the Director had not yet made a decision or determination on the proposal but that they’ll come out with a fact sheet. Chris will ask and get in touch with her via email.

[Nico Ruderman related that he was present at this point.]

b. Mayor's Office – Marian Ensley, West Area Representative, was not present.

c. Council Reports –

(1) **Cairo Rodriguez, Sr. Field Deputy – Council District 5/Yaroslavsky**

cairo.rodriquez@lacity.org provided updates including but not limited to:

- The one-story structure fire at 2377 S. Westwood Blvd., former location of Lenny's Deli, took LAFD 2 hours and 19 minutes to extinguish.
- At Friday's City Council meeting, Councilwoman Yaroslavsky's motion, calling for better coordination among City Departments in executing first/last mile planning, design, and construction was heard. This was in preparation for implementation of Measure HLA. The Councilwoman motion ensures that we are not simply sending money to Metro, but rather carefully planning and constructing local investments that best meet the needs of our communities.
- Last week, Councilwoman Yaroslavsky attended a roundtable with the US Attorney, the California Civil Rights Department, LA Civil Rights Department, the LAPD and 50+ faith leaders to discuss our ongoing work to combat hate crimes & civil rights violations in Los Angeles. If you or anyone you know has experienced a hate crime or hate incident, please report it by calling 311, 211, or 877-ASK-LAPD.
- LADOT will be accepting applications for speed humps in residential streets beginning Thursday, March 21 at 9 am.

(2) **Michael Amster, Field Deputy – Council District 11/Park**

michael.amster@lacity.org

Michael related that the Councilmember was visiting Paris as part of the Olympics delegation – the Olympics committee – and then went to Tokyo. He related their recent events, included a resource and tax prep fair last weekend, where they also passed out mulch, and had tables on jobs and benefits and had a lot of appointments for the tax prep services that saved the community around \$9,000. He acknowledged that potholes have exploded out of control and to deal with them, asked that we first make a 311 request and then share the service request number with them, so they can help expedite servicing of the potholes, especially if deep and wide.

d. Additional Government Reports –

Elizabeth Birks, District Representative for Senator Lola Smallwood-Cuevas, SD 28,

Elizabeth.Birks@sen.ca.gov – Elizabeth introduced herself and noted some areas their office covers are Culver City, Westchester, Playa Vista & Mar Vista. She invites us to call to have coffee with her. She related some events and that they'll continue to do more. She covers entertainment, wellness and education and is creating a wellness calendar. Vice-Chair Spitz welcomed her and extended an invitation to the Senator to attend one of our Zoom meetings.

Rad Nowroozi, Representative of Senator Ben Allen, Rad.Nowroozi@sen.ca.gov – Rad noted that he is taking the place of Jake Ettinger, who sadly is no longer with their office. Rad related information on some Senate Bills, and noted that Senator Ben Allen also sits on the Budget Committee, among others. He mentioned SB1143, Producer Responsibility Program, placing responsibility of household hazardous waste on the producers; SB1297, that ensures consumers have a clear understanding as relates to coastal neighborhoods, for the use of speed cameras implemented on PCH, Malibu to Santa Monica, to lower speed limits; SB1406, to provide greater housing stability for residents in assisted living facilities, provide safeguards so there are rent protections and that rent controls are subject to the people living in these assisted living facilities, and to make them a better place to live during the period of their fixed income. He discussed Senate Bills that are part of a larger effort regarding retail theft and fentanyl, mentioning SB1144 (Skinner) to eliminate purchase of stolen goods on websites; SB905 (Weiner) harder to prosecute stealing from car if unlocked. Email him with questions.

Michelle Persoff, Representative of Assemblymember Isaac Bryan, michelle.persoff@asm.ca.gov – Michelle's updates included that they had their first Coffee with Assemblymember Bryan last month, with MVCC, thanking Drew. The next is for the Mid-City West region by the Grove. The next event for the whole district is the Town Hall next Monday night at New Earth in Mar Vista, a fireside chat where the Assemblymember will answer questions and discuss his legislative package. One bill introduced last week, AB2716 on idle wells or stripper wells that produce 15 barrels or less a day, pushes for greater responsibility to clean them up, they sell and new buyer becomes bankrupt. This puts a cap on wells within 3,200 feet from health and safety zones, 15 barrels or less a day, either cap or fine. Another bill is for a strong foster care system advocate, Bill AB3217 which requires counties that have a low number of family placements to pair up with counties that have high number of family placements to learn from them. Chair Greenberg wished Michelle a Happy Birthday. Member Sankaran (DRNC) asked for the chances the bill regarding oil wells getting through, to which she noted that this is tackled from a technical perspective and they're hopeful. She added note that the Referendum on SB1137 is on the November ballot for all voters.

Sherwin Shamoeil, Representative of Asm. Rick Chavez Zbur

sherwin.shamoeil@asm.ca.gov –

Sherwin related that the Assemblymember is chairing a select committee on retail theft, and introduced the California Retail Theft Reduction Act which places great emphasis on stopping organized crime rings, targeting penalties of up to three years for stolen property with intention to sell and goods inconsistent with personal use, and includes the concept of aggregation, which specifies that the values of thefts from different victims can be aggregated to Grand Theft 3rd degree. As to online platforms, this requires online sellers to maintain records to prevent stolen goods to be sold online, expands the use of diversion and rehab programs to increase supervision from shoplifting and petty theft and the opportunity for early discharge if programs are completed, to address root causes through programs, and arrest organized criminals based off of video footage. He noted that at the beginning of the month, they toured the new UCLA

Research Park, still under construction at the former Westside Pavilion. He noted that they'll be bringing high paid jobs to districts and the city, and are excited about the research coming out of the city and the lives that will be saved. Member Sann (WNC) commended Sherwin and the Assemblymember on the important work on retail theft, and pointed out the need to address open-air selling, and asked if some language can be added to this excellent bill. Sherwin promised to relate that to the Assemblymember.

3. Board Member Updates – Limited to 5 minutes total

- **Chris Spitz (WRAC Vice-Chair)** – Additional response re SB 43 implementation:

<https://westsidecouncils.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/SB43-FAQ-Sheet-3.5.2024-Final.pdf>

Vice-Chair Spitz noted that we received an additional report from Supervisor Horvath's office, with more information for why it is taking so long to implement that important bill.

- **Chair Greenberg (BABCNC)** shared 1) Laurel Canyon has a fund raising project for "Let's Buy Laurel Spring," ending April 20th and 2) the Metropolitan Water District is giving \$100 rebates for planting native trees.

4. Committee Reports –

- a. WRAC Transportation & Mobility Committee (MTC) – Next mtg. 3/20/24.
- b. WRAC Land Use & Planning Committee (HOC) – No March mtg; next mtg. 4/8/24.
- c. WRAC Homelessness Committee (HOC) – No March mtg; next mtg. 4/9/24.

5. Public Comment – There were no public comments on items not on the agenda.

6. (Item #3) The February 2024 minutes were approved, as moved by Chair Greenberg.

7. (Item #4) New Business – None

8. (Item #5) Old Business

- a) 24.01. Support for CF 23-0914 / Park (regulation of oversized vehicle/RV parking) – Jan. 22, 2024 (passed February 2024); 9 councils adopted: BABCNC, BCC, DRNC,* MVCC, NCWP,* PPCC, VNC,* WNC, WWNC (*modified versions). Position letter: <https://westsidecouncils.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/WRAC-Letter-RV-Parking.pdf>
- b) 24.02. Request Amendment of LAMC 41.18 – Jan. 22, 2024 (passed March 2024); 8 councils adopted: BABCNC, BCC, MVCC, NCWP, PPCC,* WNC, WLASNC, WWNC (*modified version). - Position letter pending
- c) 24.03. Support CF 24-0055 (enforcement of gas leaf blower ban) – Feb. 26, 2024 (passage deadline May 2024). 4 councils adopted: BABCNC, DRNC, PPCC, WNC.
- Vice Chair Spitz noted that she understands that Venice is taking this up.
- d) 24.04. Request compensation for transfer of PROW easements – Feb. 26, 2024 (passage deadline May 2024). 3 councils adopted: DRNC, WNC, WWNC
- e) 24.05. Request cap on waivers for ED1 and Affordable Housing Streamlining projects – Feb. 26, 2024 (passage deadline May 2024). 2 councils adopted: WWNC, WNC* (modified version)
- f) 24.06. Oppose Metro congestion pricing on the Westside without robust North/South transit options in place – Feb. 26, 2024 (passage deadline May 2024). 4 councils adopted: BABCNC,* NCWP,* WNC, WWNC (*modified versions)

Following some comments from the board, Chair Greenberg noted in light of the upcoming holidays that everyone enjoy their lives and take care of their loved ones. The meeting adjourned at 7:56 PM. Next meeting to be held on **April 29, 2024** at 6:30 pm.