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Westwood Neighborhood Council

## **DRAFT MINUTES**

### **WRAC Meeting of the Board of Directors February 26, 2024 – 6:30pm**

ALL SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE AT:

<http://tinyurl.com/ymh3kyxm> 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. **11 present:**

Robin Greenberg, Chair (BABCNC); Chris Spitz, Co-Chair (PPCC);  
Ravi Sankaran (DRNC); Jason Plummer (SORONC);  
Steve Sann (WCC); Lisa Chapman (WWNC);  
Terri Tippit (WNC); Drew Ruesch (MVCC);  
Carolyn Jordan (BCC); Nico Ruderman (VNC);  
Tanya Leal (PalmsNC).

**Nonvoting Alternates Present:** Nickie Miner (BABCNC) and Barbara Broide (WNC)

**Also Present:**

Cairo Rodriguez, Senior Field Deputy of CD 5, Councilmember Katy Yaroslasky;  
Michael Amster, Field Deputy of CD 11, Councilmember Traci Park;  
Janet Turner, Representative of US Congressman Ted Lieu, 36<sup>th</sup> District;  
Amanda (Mandy) Laflen, Supervisor Lindsey Horvath's West-Metro LA Deputy; and  
Sherwin Shamoel, Assemblymember Rick Chavez Zbur's Representative  
Michelle Persoff, Representative of Assemblymember Isaac Bryan, 55<sup>th</sup> District;  
Denzel Henderson and Chris Galindo, Planning Department Liaisons.

#### **b. Chair Updates –**

(1) Next board meeting 3/18/24.

**Motion** to postpone April meeting from 4/22/24 (Passover) to **4/29/24** **passed** unanimously as **moved** by Co-Chair Spitz (PPCC) and Member Jordan (BCC).

(2) New representatives, board member councils: **WLASNC: Alexandra Polin**, primary (replacing Walton Chiu); **Alex Caryotakis**, alternate (replacing Alexandra Polin).

**WNC: Terri Tippit**, primary (replacing Jane Wishon; B. Broide remains alternate).

(3) Status of WRAC meeting guest speakers:

LA Board of Public Works Commissioner **Vahid Khorsand** – confirmed for **3/18/24**;

U.S. Representative **Ted Lieu** – confirmed for **5/20/24**;

Planning Director **Vince Bertoni** – invited / following up.

Vice-Chair Spitz asked members to let her know if they have ideas for public works issues.

(4) WRAC request for information re delayed implementation of SB 43:

<https://westsidecouncils.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/WRAC-Supervisors-SB-43.pdf>.

Response: <https://westsidecouncils.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Supervisors-Response-SB-43.pdf>  
Chair Greenberg related that we received a response to our letter from Amanda Laflen from Assemblymember Lindsey Horvath's office. Member Chapman provided additional details.

## 2. Government Reports/Speakers

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

b. **Council Reports** –

- (1) **Cairo Rodriguez, Sr. Field Deputy – Council District 5/Yaroslavsky:** Comments included that CD5 is connecting people with beds, a difficult task as there are not enough beds. Councilwoman Yaroslavsky has introduced a motion to create a robust citywide **Master Leasing Strategy**, which is to rent all or part of an apartment building on a long-term lease, then subleasing units to unhoused individuals or families while providing key services. This takes advantage of pre-existing, privately-owned buildings and apartments to quickly move people off streets and into stable, permanent housing.

LA County and LAHSA launched a Master Leasing Strategy last November. In three months, they have leased and filled 105 units, with another 530-plus units in the pipeline, at a significantly lower cost than a per-unit, one-off leasing strategy. City Council adopted a plan developed in response to her motion to leverage the County's already-up-and-running Master Leasing Strategy to increase available units, which could add a significant number of available housing units across the City, including in CD5, and reduce the number of encampments on our streets. The motion directs the department to perform a feasibility study to implement the Master Leasing Strategy.

- **Regarding 41.18**, Cairo related that presently, the Councilwoman is *not* thinking about expanding LAMC Section 41.18 to include vehicle dwelling but is awaiting the CAO's report on 41.18. Her primary goal is to create housing for people who are homeless.

- Cairo concluded that **"Ciclavía"** on Melrose was a huge success yesterday. The next Ciclavía is on 4/21 on Venice Boulevard, National to Venice Beach.

- Questions were asked & answered. [Cairo.rodriquez@lacity.org](mailto:Cairo.rodriquez@lacity.org) 323-866-1828.

- (2) **Michael Amster, Field Deputy – Council District 11/Park:** Michael shared a major legislative victory for Councilwoman Park regarding **copper wire theft**, with the adoption of two motions for the creation of a task force and a rewards program (for those providing leads to the culprits). He related CD11's efforts regarding **recent storms**, including that the Council District interfaces with the Department of Public Works and LADWP to address each mud slide and power outage as well as after-the-fact failures on private property, by engaging with the Dept. of Building and Safety.

**Useful Links:** From the **Emergency Management Department (EMD)** with County information and a survey to take so the County can determine eligibility for disaster relief: <https://emergency.lacity.gov/recovery> and on the LA County Assessor Office's

**Misfortune & Calamity Tax Relief Program:**

<https://assessor.lacounty.gov/tax-relief/disaster-relief>

- Michael noted that CD11 has been busy addressing the most **disruptive RVs** throughout the district; their office has taken the lead on many operations at Westchester, Manchester/Osage, Del Rey/Inglewood and the 90 & Penmar Park.
- Michael related that on March 17<sup>th</sup>, there will be a **Tax Prep and Resource Fair** at the West LA Municipal Bldg., at 1645 Corinth Avenue, next to the WLA Farmer's Market. He noted that in Brentwood, the council office organized a big tree trimming of eucalyptus trees and a lot of that wood has been turned into mulch, which will be given out at the March 17<sup>th</sup> Resource Fair. Questions were asked and answered.

**c. Additional Government Reports –**

**Janet Turner, Representative of Congressman Ted Lieu**, noted that the Congressman will attend the WRAC May meeting, and requested questions in advance. The Congressman joined Senator Padilla and Mayor Bass at a press conference on the "**Housing for All Act.**" He is the Chairman of a task force on AI; has worked on a bill for AI in healthcare, and is getting feedback from the entertainment industry as to when AI can and cannot work.

**Amanda (Mandy) Laflen, Office of County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath**, related that she received a report back from the County Mental Health Department on SB43 implementation, and will send attachments. She commented on the **Assessor's Misfortune & Calamity Relief Program**, and the need to apply for relief. She also commented on the need to promote the **Natural History Mobile Museums** and will send the information to you if you have a school which would like to participate.

**Sherwin Shamoeil, Office of Assemblymember Rick Chavez Zbur**, noted that Asm. Zbur has released his legislative package, having authored two bills on gun safety, three bills on expanding the State's social safety net, and a bill on retail theft.

**Michelle Persoff, Office of Assemblymember Isaac Bryan**, related that they are having a Town Hall on 3/25 at New Earth in Mar Vista to discuss legislative items, including ACA16 Green Amendment, which, if passed in legislature, goes to the 11/24 ballot, and a Woman of the Year event on March 16<sup>th</sup>. They're starting a monthly coffee series to meet up with a member in a coffee shop in your neighborhood beginning on March 9<sup>th</sup> in Mar Vista.

**Denzel Henderson, Dept. of City Planning Liaison**, related that if you are not receiving announcements, he'll add you to their email list. Reach them at [planning.liaison@lacity.org](mailto:planning.liaison@lacity.org) Denzel introduced **Chris Galindo, the Westside's new Planning Liaison** who is taking over for him. [chris.galindo@lacity.org](mailto:chris.galindo@lacity.org)

**3. Board Member Updates –**

**a) Chris Spitz (WRAC Vice-Chair) –**

- (1) Status of Planning Dept. "CEQA Construction Noise Threshold" proposal; further WRAC request: <https://westsidecouncils.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/WRAC-Email-Construction-Noise.pdf>

Vice-Chair Spitz related that we requested additional time. She believes six councils have written expressing concerns, and has not heard further.

- (2) Recent motion in Council to study feasibility of granting privileges to CCs under LA Administrative Code Sec. 22.819 (CF 15-0389-S2/Park): *(for extra time speaking)*

<https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=15-0389-S2>

WRAC 2024 letter: <https://westsidecouncils.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/WRAC-Letter-re-CCs-CF15-0389-S2.pdf>

WRAC 2015 letter: [https://clkrep.lacity.org/online/docs/2015/15-0389\\_pc\\_6-17-15.pdf](https://clkrep.lacity.org/online/docs/2015/15-0389_pc_6-17-15.pdf)

Memo “About the CCs”: <https://westsidecouncils.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/About-the-CCs-R.pdf>

Vice-Chair Spitz explained the status of this Council File and WRAC’s prior position.

#### 4. **Committee Reports**

a) **WRAC Land Use & Planning Committee (LUPC)** – Met on 2/12/24; next mtg TBD;

b) **WRAC Transportation & Mobility Committee (MTC)** – Met on 2/21/24; next mtg 3/20/24.

Selena noted that the committee has a motion on the agenda tonight; they continue to follow the progress of Metro projects and digital billboards. They meet 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays at 7:00 pm on Zoom.

c) **WRAC Homelessness Committee (HOC)** – Next mtgs: 4/9/24 (regular); 5/6/24 (special)

Vice-Chair Spitz related that the committee is not meeting this month. The next meeting is on 04-09.

The committee is putting together a special in-person meeting at the Belmont, similar to last year’s roundtables. Guests will include Executive Director of LAHSA, Dr. Adams, CD11 Councilwoman Traci Park, CD5 Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky, CD10 Councilwoman Heather Hutt, and County Supervisor or Representative for Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, to share information and to get a handle on LAHSA’s operation and how we can address the crisis.

#### 5. **Public Comment –**

**Member Broide** (WNC) related that Citizens for a Better Los Angeles is challenging the STAP program that allows advertising structures to hold digital signage, and the TCN (Transportation Communication Network) program that the City approved, and is raising funds to pay for lawsuits.

**Member Miner** (BABCNC) sent thanks to Asm. Rick Zbur for his stance on anti-Semitism.

6. The **January 2024 meeting minutes** were **approved** by all but 1 abstention from Member Tippit (WNC), who was not present for that meeting; as **moved** by Chair Greenberg and seconded by Vice-Chair Spitz.

#### 7. **New Business**

a. **Motion (Chris Spitz/PPCC)** – Support CF 24-0055 (enforcement of gas leaf blower ban):

“\_\_\_\_\_NC/CC, a member of the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC), strongly supports the motion in Council File 24-0055 (Raman), requesting a report-back on measures to better enforce the City's longstanding restriction on gas-powered leaf blowers within 500 ft. of residences, as well as development of an educational program and outreach to residents, landscapers and gardeners with information about the current regulations, the environmental impact and available rebate and trade-in programs.”

The motion **passed** by 9 yeses, 0 noes and 2 abstentions from Members Leal (PalmsNC) and Chapman (WWNC), as **moved** by Co-Chair Spitz (PPCC) and seconded by Member Jordan (BCC).

**b. Motion (Drew Ruesch/recommended by WRAC LUPC) – Request compensation for transfer of PROW easements:**

“The \_\_\_\_ NC/CC, a member of the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC), requests that the city receives monetary compensation and/or receives community benefits for the transfer of easements in the public right of way, equivalent to the fair market value of the property transferred, and that this value received is invested in the Community Plan area affected.

“\_\_\_\_ NC/CC further requests that Councilmembers representing WRAC member councils (CMs Park, Yaroslavsky, Raman and Hutt) bring a motion in Council or otherwise direct the Dept. of City Planning (DCP) to institute a DCP policy to effectuate this purpose.”

The motion **passed** by 10 yeses, 0 noes and 1 abstention from Member Jordan (BCC), as **moved** by Member Ruesch (MVCC) and seconded by Co-Chair Spitz (PPCC)

Vice-Chair Spitz and Member Chapman expressed thanks to Member Ruesch and to the LUPC who did a good job revising and explaining this complicated motion. Member Chapman noted that this will come up for all of the Westside communities. Member Sankaran encouraged nudging our respective Councilmembers to bring this to City Council. Praises were heaped on Vice-Chair Spitz for all she does, putting out letters and following up on motions.

**c. Motion (Drew Ruesch/recommended by WRAC LUPC) – Request cap on waivers for Affordable Housing Streamlining projects:**

“In regard to CF 23-0623, the \_\_\_\_ NC/CC, a member of the Westside Neighborhood Alliance of Councils (WRAC), requests that the city cap development waivers at five (5) for Executive Directive 1 (ED1) and Affordable Housing Streamlining Ordinance projects, and further requests that Councilmembers representing WRAC member councils (CMs Park, Yaroslavsky, Raman and Hutt) bring a motion in Council or otherwise direct the Dept. of City Planning (DCP) to institute a DCP policy to effectuate this purpose.”

The **motion** was **moved** by Member Ruesch (MVCC) & **seconded** by Member Sann WCC). **Amendment** to add with **no more than one (1) of which may be related to the environment** **passed** by 10 yeses, 0 noes and 1 abstention from Member Plummer (SORONC) as **moved** by Member Ruesch (MVCC) and **seconded** by Vice-Chair Spitz (PPCC).

**Motion As Amended:**

“in regard to CF 23-0623, the \_\_\_\_ NC/CC, a member of the Westside Neighborhood Alliance of Councils (WRAC), requests that the city cap development waivers at five (5), **with no more than one (1) of which may be related to the environment**, for Executive Directive 1 (ED1) and Affordable Housing Streamlining Ordinance projects, and further requests that Councilmembers representing WRAC member councils (CMs Park, Yaroslavsky, Raman and Hutt) bring a motion in Council or otherwise direct the Dept. of

City Planning (DCP) to institute a DCP policy to effectuate this purpose.

**Passed** by 10 yeases, 0 noes and 1 abstention from Member Plummer (SORONC).

- d. **Motion (recommended by WRAC MTC)** – Oppose Metro Congestion Pricing on the Westside without robust North/South transit options already in place:

“The \_\_\_\_\_ NC/CC, a member of the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC), strongly opposes the implementation of Metro’s Congestion Pricing pilot (aka the Metro Traffic Reductions Study (TRS) project) without first having robust transit options in place in the North/South direction through the Sepulveda Pass from the 101 to the 10 freeway.

“Robust transit options are defined as either 1) enhanced bus service through the Sepulveda Pass as previously suggested by the Southern California Association of Governments ([https://scag.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/mobilitygozone\\_report\\_final.pdf?1604269434](https://scag.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/mobilitygozone_report_final.pdf?1604269434)) and 2) the Sepulveda Transit Corridor project, which will provide either monorail or heavy rail subway service from the San Fernando Valley to LAX, with a stop on the UCLA Campus.”

The motion was moved by Member Sann (WCC) and seconded by Member Tippit (WNC). Vice-Chair Spitz (PPCC) related that this was a reworking of a motion from a previous meeting.

**Amendment:** to add “**with a station at the UCLA campus and direct seamless connection with the Purple Line at Wilshire Boulevard**” was moved by Member Sann, seconded by Member Tippit (WNC), **passed** by all but 3 abstentions from Members Ruesch, Jordan and Leal.

**Motion as Amended:**

“The \_\_\_\_\_ NC/CC, a member of the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC), strongly opposes the implementation of Metro’s Congestion Pricing pilot (aka the Metro Traffic Reductions Study (TRS) project) without first having robust transit options in place in the North/South direction through the Sepulveda Pass from the 101 to the 10 freeway.

“Robust transit options are defined as either 1) enhanced bus service through the Sepulveda Pass as previously suggested by the Southern California Association of Governments ([https://scag.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/mobilitygozone\\_report\\_final.pdf?1604269434](https://scag.ca.gov/sites/main/files/file-attachments/mobilitygozone_report_final.pdf?1604269434)) and 2) the Sepulveda Transit Corridor project, which will provide either monorail or heavy rail subway service from the San Fernando Valley to LAX, **with a station at the UCLA campus and direct seamless connection with the Purple Line at Wilshire Boulevard.**”

Member Broide opined as to Metro’s choices, having seen presentations showing that this is a revenue generating program and designed to reduce traffic to incentivize people not to drive during peak hours, and that the basis for this motion was that many people do not have a choice when they travel; this would be a difficulty for those who have no choice, and there



is no reliable public transit option currently available. She additionally noted Metro's history of not providing opportunities for public input.

Members engaged in further extended discussion, with comments and questions from Members Reusch, Tippit, Sann and Broide, asking for clarification or explaining their positions on the motion or on the congestion pricing proposal. In addition, Member Jordan (BCC) explained the position of BCC, which opposes the Metro proposal, but that a watered down, enhanced bus service will not be sufficient if it involves creating dedicated bus lanes and possible freeway widening, and the BCC transportation committee asked that she *not* support the WRAC-recommended motion for those reasons.

**Public Comment** on the motion.

**Steve Paddock**, At Large Director with Mar Vista Community Council, would oppose the congestion pricing proposal. Member Miner (BABCNC) agreed with Mr. Paddock.

Roll call vote on the **motion as amended passed** by 7 yeases from Chair Greenberg, Members Sankaran, Plummer, Sann, Chapman, Tippit and Ruderman, 3 noes from Members Ruesch, Jordan and Leal, and 1 abstention from Vice-Chair Spitz.

## **8. Old Business**

- a) 23.06: Parking Space Replacement Policy Request – July 21, 2023 (passed January 2024); 8 councils adopted: BABCNC, BCC, MVCC, NCWP, SORONC,\* VNC, WLASNC, WNC, WWNC (\*passed after position letter sent). WRAC position letter:  
<https://westsidecouncils.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/WRAC-Letter-Parking-Space-ReplacementR.pdf>
- b) 23.07: Request to Revise the LAMC/Zoning – August 21, 2023 (passage deadline February 2024); 5 councils adopted: BCC, MVCC, NCWP, WNC, WWNC (Possible action to extend deadline one month; note: motion has been pending for six months, with no further councils taking up).  
- This expires at the end of the month. Members declined to extend the deadline further.
- c) 23.11: Oppose Rezoning of R-1 and Sensitive Multi-Family Neighborhoods – October 30, 2023 (passed January 2024); 8 councils adopted: BABCNC,\* BCC, MVCC,\* NCWP, PPCC, WCC, WNC,\* WWNC\* (\*modified versions); WRAC position letter:  
<https://westsidecouncils.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/WRAC-Letter-Oppose-Rezoning-R1.pdf>
- d) 24.01: Support for CF 23-0914 / Park (regulation of oversized vehicle/RV parking) – Jan. 22, 2024 (passed February 2024); 8 councils adopted: BCC, DRNC,\* MVCC, NCWP,\* PPCC, VNC,\* WNC, WWNC (\*modified versions). (Note: two more councils may take up the motion on February 28; WRAC position letter pending).
- e) 24.02: Request Amendment of LAMC 41.18 – Jan. 22, 2024 (passage deadline April 2024); 5 councils adopted: BCC, MVCC, PPCC,\* WNC, WWNC (\*modified version).

**9. Adjournment:** Prior to adjourning, Good of the Order was briefly held.

- Member Ruesch, referencing agenda item #7.b, commented that it would be nice if member councils took up the motions that come through WRAC. Vice-Chair Spitz noted that member councils have discretion as to whether to take up motions, although she regularly encourages them to do so.

- Member Sann encouraged everyone to share within your own communities to get out to vote, noting that when informed active people sit out elections, everyone suffers. Member Sann also related that Michael Newhouse, a major voice from the Westside, and a founding president from WRAC, who was recently appointed by Mayor Bass to the City Planning Commission.

- Member Jordan related that areas affected by the recent storms included in Brentwood, where North Bundy had serious damage; various exits and streets off of the 405/Sepulveda Pass in Bel Air-Beverly Crest were also closed.

- Chair Greenberg noted that this storm has had an impact on us, and to all of those who have been impacted and are suffering, as a result, we are sorry and hope things get better.

– Next meeting will be held on **March 18, 2024**, at 6:30 pm.