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Brentwood Community Council
Del Rey Neighborhood Council
Mar Vista Community Council
Neighborhood Council of Westchester-Playa
North Westwood Neighborhood Council
Pacific Palisades Community Council

Palms Neighborhood Council
South Robertson Neighborhoods Council
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
April 29, 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/bdf6pxpv and https://westsidecouncils.com/meetings/

Items on the Agenda may be taken in any order at the discretion of the Chair – Attendees who do not identify themselves upon request of the Chair will be removed (see Item 5 below).

1. Welcome/Introductions

a. Call to Order and Certification of Quorum Chair Greenberg (BABCNC) called the meeting to order at 6:33pm. Roll was called with quorum met with 8 members present initially, and with 12 members present shortly thereafter.

- Robin Greenberg, Chair (BABCNC)
Michael Lynn (SORONC)
Terri Tippit (WNC)
Larry Watts (BCC)
Jay Handal (WLASNC)
Carolyn Jordan (BCC)
Chris Spitz, Co-Chair (PPCC)
Steve Sann (WCC)
Tanya Leal (PalmsNC)
Jeremy Schoenfeld (DRNC)
Lisa Chapman (WWNC)
Marcello Robinson (NWNc)

Nonvoting Alternates Present: Nickie Miner (BABCNC), Barbara Broide (WNC) and Walton Chiu (WLASNC).

Also Present:

- Tyler Laferriere-Holloway (Host and WRAC Secretary/Treasurer)
Noel Pallais and Ursula Moran, Representatives, AT&T External & Legislative Affairs;
Cairo Rodriguez, Senior Field Deputy, CD 5 Councilmember Katy Yaroslavsky;
Michael Amster, Field Deputy, CD 11 Councilmember Traci Park;
Chris Gallindo, LA Department of City Planning Liaison;
Janet Turner, Representative of Congressman Ted Lieu;
Zac Gaidzik, Representative of Supervisor Lindsey Horvath;
Aldenae Williams, LADWP Community Liaison for the Westside.

b. Chair Updates – Chair Greenberg related upcoming guest speakers:

(1) Status of WRAC meeting guest speakers:

- U.S. Rep. Ted Lieu – May 20 (Submit questions for the Congressman by May 3rd);
- State Sen. Lola Smallwood-Cuevas July 15;
- U.S. Representative Sydney Kamlager-Dove (either June 17 or August 19 -- TBD)

- (2) Next board meeting: May 20, 2024
- (3) New board reps: WLASNC – Jay Handal (primary, replacing Alexandra Polin) and - Walton Chiu (alternate, replacing Alex Caryotakis)
- (4) Letter sent 4/5/24 – end mistreatment of animals at City shelters (reiterating 2022 WRAC position):
<https://westsidecouncils.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/WRAC-Letter-Animal-Shelters2.pdf>

2. Government Reports/Speakers

a. **AT&T Presentation: Request to be Relieved as Carrier of Last Resort in California by Noel Pallais & Ursula Moran, AT&T External & Legislative Affairs:**

- Ursula related that she works alongside Noel, helping manage AT&T’s statewide modernization, and Noel works with City of LA, community groups, etc. She sent handouts in advance of the meeting, and was here to have a conversation about AT&T’s network modernization efforts and engage in some type of community meeting with our board members/neighborhood and community council representatives.
- The presentation was on AT&T’s application to the State of California to be relieved of its obligations as a “Carrier of Last Resort” to provide copper landline service to customers statewide. They provided details about the lengthy (multi-year) regulatory process (requiring approval of both the California Public Utilities Commission/PUC and the Federal Communications Commission/FCC) and the reasons why the carrier believes that it must transition from outdated copper to high-speed fiber optic technology.
- Responding to numerous Board member questions, it was noted that hard-wired land lines (home phones) will *not* be shut off during the process, that access to 911 will continue, home phones will be made available with VoIP (“voice over internet protocol”) technology, and that safeguards imposed by the FCC require the carrier to provide “like for like” service.
- They also suggested the possibility of a larger educational meeting on the Westside for interested constituents to learn about the process (date TBD) and reminded us that we are welcome to distribute the AT&T handouts previously sent to the Board to our respective members. We thanked Ursula and Noel for providing this important information.

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

c. **Council Reports** –

Cairo Rodriguez, Sr. Field Deputy – Council District 5/Yaroslavsky

cairo.rodriquez@lacity.org Updates included:

- 1) Because of community concerns over notification of new construction demolitions in their neighborhood, on April 16th, Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky submitted a motion instructing the Building and Safety, with the assistance of the Planning Dept., and in consultation with the City Attorney, to prepare a report with recommendations to expand the existing notification requirements.
- 2) On April 26th, Councilwoman Yaroslavsky introduced a motion to deny any further request from the Pacific Coast Energy Company, LP to initiate a new franchise agreement

for the transport of oil/gas through pipeline infrastructure connected to the West Pico Drill Site, including denying the renewal of any carryover status for these agreements, and act immediately to affirmatively terminate the expired franchise agreement for pipelines servicing this site.

3) National Senior Fraud Awareness Day is observed annually on May 15. On May 13, the Councilwoman will work with the Stop Senior Scams Acting Program led by Ann Stahl, a former Senior Investigator with the Federal Trade Commission, at the Fairfax Senior Center. The LAPD will provide a report on local scams in the neighborhood.

- Questions were asked and answered.

Michael Amster, Field Deputy – Council District 11/Park – michael.amster@lacity.org

Updates included:

1) A motion by Councilwoman Park was adopted to implement “real-time crime centers” throughout all districts, to insure the Police Department has the full staffing that it needs, and to employ technology strategically where possible.

2) Councilwoman Park has been engaging with the community extensively about the recent Venice Canals incidents of barbarism inflicted on two women.

3) He and colleagues have been working on securing vacant properties, to protect them from squatters and fires that may erupt.

4) After historic rainstorms, hillside stability issues have been critical in the Palisades and Brentwood, and he is working with the community and departments on each of these. Will Rogers State Park Road has a hillside that encroaches over the road, which could take over half the road when destabilized after rains. The City recently installed 50 yards of K-rails along the hillside and roadway, in the area which is the only way in and out for several neighbors as well as the historical site.

5) He and his deputies are working on the community plan updates, noting that last year they had 2023 draft community plan updates throughout several communities impacting CD11, not including the Brentwood - Pacific Palisades plan, which update begins in a couple of years. Now with the 2024 draft, they are working to ensure that they gather community input as robustly and quickly as possible, so the Planning Department has feedback to refine these so the new plan works for the community.

- Vice-Chair Spitz noted that there has been a big traffic jam on PCH northbound, before hitting Sunset Boulevard, because of another slide that went down onto PCH. This condition is a continuing nightmare and disaster; drivers going north on PCH are encouraged to be cognizant that it may take a while to drive through this area especially during rush hour.

- Michael responded that the dirt that has overtaken PCH is too fragile to address at this time. He is reaching out to CalTrans. If there is any way for the City to play a part in addressing this, they are here to help, but as of now, cannot help.

d. Additional Government Reports –

Janet Turner, Office of Congressman Ted Lieu janet.turner@mail.house.gov

Janet mentioned Congressman Lieu’s legislative items including the Prevent Homelessness Act, which arranges for grants for low-income families to pay short-term costs for what often sends them into homelessness; the Affordable Housing and Fairness Act, which reauthorizes community block grants to provide funds for affordable housing, and the Plastic Pellets Water Act, to prevent discharges of plastic pellets (the latter two he co-sponsored).

He is calling for May 3rd to be National Space Day, and is looking forward to seeing us Monday May 20th. Reach out to Janet if she can be of any help.

Zachary Gaidzik, Representative of LA County Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath,
zgaidzik@bos.lacounty.gov

Zachary related the efforts of the LA County Supervisor and Chairwoman of the LA County Board of Supervisors, as to sustainability, climate change and environmental stewardship.

- 1) He noted that the Board of Supervisors unanimously adopted a new Climate Action Plan for Los Angeles County to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to decarbonize buildings.
 - 2) The Board passed Chair Horvath's motion to create the County's first "Zero Emission Vehicle Master Plan," to accelerate EV infrastructure countywide and the 2024-25 budget includes \$3.8 million for EV infrastructure across the County.
 - 3) Chair Horvath's motion to amend the County's Renewable Energy Ordinance was adopted to accelerate local energy projects. Los Angeles County has the opportunity to generate clean electricity, locally, creating jobs, improving air quality and increasing community resiliency.
 - 4) This evening, April 29th, the Chair convened 200 water leaders in the County's first Water Summit, following the historic adoption of the LA County Water Plan, the goal of which is to get about 80% of our water from local sources by 2045 in LA County through a number of different means, including but not limited to storm water capture.
 - 5) On April 30TH, the Chair will honor the incredible environmental advocate and icon, Jane Fonda, proclaiming April 30th as Jane Fonda Day in LA County.
 - 6) As to the landslides following the storms, the Supervisor went to view the slide in Topanga, and they are working with CalTrans and urging them to move quickly and expeditiously on getting that slide cleaned up as well as the one on PCH. They are pushing CalTrans to come up with some sort of mitigation plan, as quickly as possible. They are also working with partners at the City and the State.
 - 7) As to homelessness, Chair Horvath is eagerly awaiting the results of the financial audit of LAHSA, being conducted by the LA County Auditor Controller.
 - 8) On Thursday, April 18th, Governor Newsom held a virtual conference to announce nearly \$200 million in new State funds to help move people out of encampments and into housing, of which LA County will be receiving \$51.5 million. The project to be funded by the awards will provide services and support for at least 3,600 people.
 - 9) Supervisor Mitchell introduced a motion co-authored by Supervisor Horvath to increase housing accessibility by providing protections for tenants with permanent disabilities.
 - 10) In the first year since the declaration of the homeless emergency, LA County helped transition 38,000 people into interim housing and 23,000 into permanent housing, and we were able to prevent 11,000 at risk people from becoming homeless.
- Questions were asked and answered.

Chris Gallindo, City Planning Liaison, related that he did not have any updates but was available for questions, which were taken. He responded that he sent emails regarding ED1 and Construction Noise Thresholds but will be further following up with us on these items.

Aldenae Williams from LADWP related that there is a water main project on Speedway, working through between Paloma and Clubhouse, where there will be some construction for cast-iron water infrastructure upgrades. There is coning in the area but no street closure. Foot traffic is open as well. On May 4th from 10-2 there will be a Women's Expo at 11760

Trousdale Street in Sun Valley.

3. Board Member Updates – Chris Spitz, WRAC Vice-Chair & PPCC rep to WRAC – Superior Court ruling in *City of Redondo Beach v. Rob Bonta* re SB 9 (unconstitutional as applied to charter cities); City of LA opposed SB 9 in 2021 (resolution passed in 21-0002-S18); see also 2021 WRAC opposition to SB 9: <https://westsidecouncils.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/WRAC-Letter-re-CF21-0002-S18R.pdf>
Vice-Chair Spitz related that both the City and WRAC opposed this a couple of years ago.

4. Committee Reports –

- a) **WRAC Transportation & Mobility Committee (MTC)** – Mtgs on 3/20/24, 4/17/24
- b) **WRAC Homelessness Committee (HOC)** – Mtg on 4/9/24. The special meeting scheduled for 5/6/24 has been postponed because some of the city officials could not make it at the last minute. It will be rescheduled.
- c) **WRAC Land Use & Planning Committee (LUPC)** – No April mtg

5. Public Comment – None.

6. Approval of Minutes

a. Motion (Robin Greenberg) – Approval of March 2024 meeting minutes were approved unanimously as moved by Chair Greenberg (BABCNC) and Member Handal (WLASNC).

7. New Business –

- a. Representatives to WRAC Board & Committees** – *Discussion/Board opinion regarding possible bylaws amendments that might allow WRAC member councils to:*
 - (i) appoint 2nd alternate representatives, and/or
 - (ii) appoint *additional, changing* reps, on a “temporary / substitute” basis (if allowed by their own bylaws), to attend and vote at WRAC meetings when both the primary and alternate representatives cannot attend.

Note: WRAC’s bylaws currently permit only one primary and one alternate rep per council (see background information); a bylaws amendment would be required if the Board wishes to permit 2nd alternates and/or additional “temporary / substitute” reps.

Member Schoenfeld (DRNC) moved & Member Robinson (NWNC) seconded a motion to proceed with bylaws amendments to allow second alternate representatives to be appointed to the WRAC Board. A lively board discussion was held which included public comment from Jacob Wasserman, who noted that he is Secretary of the North Westwood Neighborhood Council who related what his NC would do in the event that there is neither primary nor alternate present at a meeting: The NWNC President would be able to appoint an alternate representative of the Council from among Board members to serve for the duration of said meeting to replace the alternate with a temporary alternate, according to the rules of their organization. He thinks it should be allowed, and to let the NC President do it on a temporary basis. He takes no position on the second alternate issue but thinks the floating alternate idea is allowed under our bylaws.

Vice-Chair Spitz related that WRAC’s bylaws allow one primary and one alternate. She has concerns about the continuity issue (which was discussed), and that regardless of what an individual council passes, we go by our WRAC bylaws. Member Schoenfeld responded that *no*, a floating alternate is *not* in his motion. Member Sann felt that should there be a second alternate, he would want those people to tune into our meetings regularly. Vice-Chair Spitz Chris noted that the bylaws amendments have yet to be drafted and this is just a first step. Public comment was also given by Robert Schlesinger (BABCNC Board Member and PLU Committee Chairman), who related that he has been attending WRAC meetings since WRAC’s Meetings were held at Lenny’s, and that he could be the second alternate. He feels there is no reason to have a second alternate if people are misinformed.

The motion **passed** by 10 Yeses from Chair Greenberg, Members Jordan, Schoenfeld, Robinson, Leal, Lynn, Sann, Handal, Tippit, and Chapman, 0 nays and 1 abstention from Vice-Chair Spitz.

8. Old Business

- a) 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:
<https://westsidecouncils.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/WRAC-Letter-Amend-41.18.pdf>
- b) 24.03. Support CF 24-0055 (enforcement of gas leaf blower ban) – Feb. 26, 2024 (*passed* March 2024). 9 councils adopted: BABCNC, DRNC, MVCC, NWNC, Palms NC, PPCC, VNC, WLASNC, WNC. Position letter:
<https://westsidecouncils.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/WRAC-Letter-Gas-Leaf-Blowers.pdf>
- c) 24.04. Request compensation for transfer of PROW easements – Feb. 26, 2024 (passage deadline May 2024). 6 councils adopted: BABCNC,* DRNC, Palms NC, PPCC,* WNC, WWNC (**modified versions*) Vice-Chair Spitz noted that there is another month to take this up.
- d) 24.05. Request cap on waivers for ED1 and Affordable Housing Streamlining projects -- Feb. 26, 2024 (passage deadline May 2024). 3 councils adopted: Palms NC,* WWNC, WNC* (*modified versions*)
- e) 24.06. Oppose Metro congestion pricing on the Westside without robust North/South transit options in place – Feb. 26, 2024 (passage deadline May 2024). 5 councils adopted: BABCNC,* BCC,* NCWP,* WNC, WWNC (**modified versions*)

9. The meeting adjourned at 8:08 PM. Next meeting to be held on **May 20, 2024**, at 6:30 pm.