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Westwood Neighborhood Council

March 19, 2024

To: WRAC member Council board representatives
From: WRAC Chair Robin Greenberg and Vice-Chair Chris Spitz

In case you missed it, here's an update on the March 18, 2024, WRAC board meeting.

Guest Speaker:

We welcomed Board of Public Works (BPW) **Commissioner Vahid Khorsand**, who provided information and answered the board's questions about his background the work of the BPW and the Dept. of Public Work, including efforts to repair over 1,000 incidents of recent mudslide damage to the public right of way in CDs 4 and 5; the installation of solar lighting and other work to address the difficult problem of copper wire theft from street light boxes; and what can be done about the deplorable state of our sidewalks and other public infrastructure citywide. He was also asked about the status of the "IKE" program to install digital advertising kiosks in the public right of way. The Commissioner will look into the program's status; he explained that the Mayor, who is working with the BPW, wants communities to be informed about projects and measures planned for their neighborhoods. It was noted that Commissioner Khorsand distributes an informative bulletin about citywide events and initiatives and the work of the BPW and Mayor. To receive the bulletin or to contact him with any public works questions, email vahid.khorsand@lacity.org.

We thank Commissioner Khorsand for engaging with us and providing insight into the BPW's work.

Government Reports:

We were pleased to have reports and updates from several government representatives: CD 5 and CD 11 Representatives, respectively, **Cairo Rodriguez** and **Michael Amster**; Sen. Allen's Representative, **Rad Nowroozi**; Sen. Smallwood-Cuevas' Representative, **Elizabeth Birks**; Asm. Bryan's and Zbur's Representatives, respectively, **Michelle Persoff** and **Sherman Shamoiel**; and Planning Dept. Westside Community Liaison **Chris Galindo**. **Aldena Williams**, LADWP Westside Community Liaison, was also on hand to answer questions. Thanks as always to our government reps for attending and keeping us updated.

WRAC Meetings & Events:

-- **Upcoming board meeting: April 29, 2024** (date decided on by the board at our February meeting).

-- **Upcoming guest speakers:** U.S. Representative **Ted Lieu** will join us on **May 20, 2024**. *Please let us know about questions you have for the Congressman, so that we can provide them to his representative Janet Turner (at her request), well in advance.* We have also invited Sen. Lola Smallwood-Cuevas to one of our meetings (in either June or July); her representative Elizabeth Birks will inquire as to the Senator's availability.

-- **Upcoming committee meetings:** MTC March 20, 2024; LUPC April 8, 2024; HOC April 9, 2024; MTC (again) April 17, 2024.

New & Pending Motions

-- **New Motions:** No new motions were taken up.

-- **Pending Motions:** As previously announced, the motion to amend LAMC 41.18 has now reached majority passage. WRAC position letter: <https://westsidecouncils.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/WRAC-Letter-Amend-41.18.pdf>.

Four additional motions remain pending, with passage deadlines now in May 2024 (*Enforcement of Gas Leaf Blower Ban; Compensation for PROW Easement Transfers; Cap on Waivers for ED1/Streamlining Ordinance Projects; Metro Congestion Pricing*). See all pending motions at: <https://westsidecouncils.com/pending-motions/>. If you haven't already done so, please consider placing one or more of the currently pending motions on your upcoming board meeting agendas.

Reminder: Pending motions are *recommended only* – they are not WRAC positions until they are passed by at least a majority (8) of member Councils, who are free to decide whether to take up any pending motions.

Lastly, a word about the WRAC board meeting format: Since October 2020 (for almost four years), WRAC's online board meetings have been regularly held in "webinar" format; panelists (participants shown onscreen) are limited to primary and alternate WRAC representatives, to government representatives who wish to make reports/announcements, and/or to guest speakers. Other members of the public (including other WRAC member Council board members who are not appointed reps to the WRAC board) are welcome to attend but are not promoted to panelist status unless they wish to ask a specific question or make public comment. Please explain the format to your respective boards as you deem appropriate. We have found that the webinar format assists with the pace of our meetings; if any WRAC board members wish to potentially change the board meeting format or time (webinar vs. conference; online vs. in-person; evening vs. morning, etc.), please let us know so that we can schedule a discussion at an upcoming meeting.

See you at our next Board meeting on **April 29, 2024**.

Best regards,

Robin and Chris