



Minutes

WRAC Meeting of the Board of Directors July 15, 2024 – 6:30 pm

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/>

1. Welcome/Introductions

- a. Call to Order and Certification of Quorum** – WRAC Chair Greenberg (BABCNC) called the meeting to order at 6:34pm. Host and WRAC Secretary/Treasurer Laferriere called the roll with 10 members present initially and quorum met. Member Lynn arrived at 6:38 PM for a total of 11 members present:

Robin Greenberg, Chair (BABCNC); Chris Spitz, Co-Chair (PPCC);

Ravi Sankaran (DRNC); Marcello Robinson (NWNC); Tanya Leal (PalmsNC)

Michael Lynn (SORONC); Brian Averill (VNC); Jay Handal (WLASNC);

Barbara Broide (WNC); Steve Sann (WCC) Lisa Chapman (WWNC)

Nonvoting Alternates Present: Nickie Miner (BABCNC); Connor Webb 2nd Alt. (NWNC)
Reza Akef 1st Alt. (PalmsNC)

Also Present: Secretary/Treasurer Laferriere; Michael Amster, Field Deputy for CD 11 (Park); Elizabeth Birks, District Representative for Sen. Lola Smallwood-Cuevas; Sherwin Shamoel, District Representative for Asm. Rick Zbur; Supervisor Horvath’s Westside Deputy Mandy Laflen; the Planning Dept. Westside Community Liaison Chris Galindo, and LADWP Community Liaison Aldenae Williams.

- b. Chair Updates** –

(1) Next Board meeting: August 19, 2024

(2) Status of next guest speaker: U.S. Representative Sydney Kamlager-Dove (previously scheduled) is unable to attend on August 19 due to the Democratic Convention; TBD

(3) New Board members: PPCC: 1st Alternate Quentin Fleming (PPCC Vice-President); 2nd Alternate, Sue Kohl (PPCC President); Palms NC: 1st Alternate Reza Akef (Palms NC Residential Representative); 2nd Alternate Kay Hartman (Palms NC President). No change in primary reps for PPCC (Chris Spitz) and Palms NC (Tanya Leal).

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 – CD5/Yaroslavsky:** Cairo.Rodriguez@lacity.org
Vice-Chair Spitz related that she had heard from Cairo, who shared that session was in recess and he had nothing to report.

- (2) **Michael Amster, Field Deputy – Council District 11/Park** michael.amster@lacity.org
Michael gave an update, including but not limited to that the Marilyn Monroe Home now has designation of a Historical Cultural Monument. He noted that they are looking at tourist visit busing through the neighborhood to preserve its character and that preserving the home is a big priority for the Councilwoman.

Regarding the WLA-Sawtelle area, in addition to working on Community Plan Updates throughout CD11, the Councilwoman introduced an Interim Control Ordinance (ICO) motion, which, if adopted and approved by the State, would place a restriction on demo permitting and other sorts of permits for RSO buildings that provide five or more dwellings, to preserve the character of Sawtelle.

Michael noted that for the past several months, their office has been working on the issue of an herbicide which came out of Potrero Park, as part of their strategy to address weeds from the massive rains, and are looking into how to control them without herbicides. Councilmember Parks has a motion asking Council to require a report from the Department of Recreation and Parks on current efforts to utilize vegetation management methods that don't rely on herbicides and explore the vegetation management and weed abatement practices of other cities in California, and for the Department of Recreation and Parks and Bureau of Engineering to report on its existing protocols for the application of herbicides, inclusive of its use in environmentally sensitive areas, as well as monitoring and compliance of City contractors. For the motion click on this link: https://clkrep.lacity.org/onlinedocs/2016/16-0651-S2_misc_6-14-24.pdf

Michael also covered efforts of the Beautification Team to clear all extensive vegetation in the Ballona-Jefferson median, which is now clear and maintained, and shortly thereafter, to clear weeds to improve walkability at Palisades Drive.

Member Sann (WCC) expressed appreciation for all of their neighbors in the CD11, noting that he is an active member of the LA Conservancy, and applauded CM Park and her office regarding the Marilyn Monroe Home. His concern is that though approved unanimously by the Council, they've seen some alarming reports that the owners are taking steps to destroy some of the character-defining features, e.g., the pool has been completely covered over with earth, and more concerning, the roof structure of the home, from drone footage, shows that some of the roof tile has been removed; which would be demo by neglect, with the owners allowing it to deteriorate before our eyes. He asked if their offices know this and what steps can be taken, to which Michael responded that they learned of this recently, are aware and are working on it.

Member Broide (WNC) asked, as to the ICO mentioned above, if there is a specific geographic area defined in the motion or is it for all of CD11, to which Michael noted that it is for the Sawtelle area, bordering Centinela, the 10 and the 405/Wilshire.

Asked if it requires an alteration to the Housing Element in Sacramento, Michael related that this type of ordinance does need approval from a particular state agency.

Member Handal (WLASNC) related that he is getting a lot of complaints outside the Felicia Mahood building where the homeless have decimated the area with trash. Calls were made but nothing is happening and he requested that they get out there and clean up that mess. Michael responded that CARE and CARE-Plus Cleanups every Monday will have to steer their efforts to the areas around Felicia Mahood; otherwise, he noted that they cannot get a cleanup in the parking lot where these individuals are residing, as the entity to take care of that is the Sanitation Bureau who can't go there because it is owned by the County. Member Handal clarified that the area he is discussing is *not* in the parking lot but on the street and sidewalk and that they're living in the doorway of Felicia Mahood, throwing trash around outside on the street and sidewalk; living in the doorway every night, throwing trash everywhere. Member Handal noted that this is a City facility, and is the gateway to the Municipal area. He would appreciate any help they can give.

c. Additional Government Reports – At the discretion of the Chair

Elizabeth Birks, with Senator Lola Smallwood-Cuevas Elizabeth.Birks@sen.ca.gov – Elizabeth noted that the Senate budgeted \$1 billion to help address the homelessness epidemic. She asks that we go to the Senator's website and sign up for the newsletter. She noted that they are revamping their communications. They have a coffee in South LA and next month on the Westside. They're making sure people know about the online portal when it comes to requesting meetings with the Senator. Go to the online portal to submit your concerns. When they get more than 10 messages on one issue, they'll respond with an email. Check in with their website and get into the newsletter <https://sd28.senate.ca.gov/> and Instagram [@lolasmallwoodcuevas](https://www.instagram.com/lolasmallwoodcuevas/?hl=en) <https://www.instagram.com/lolasmallwoodcuevas/?hl=en>. Vice-Chair Spitz welcomed Elizabeth, whom she noted has been very responsive. Vice Chair Spitz noted that they haven't scheduled the Senator yet, but the Homeless Committee is trying to organize a meeting with State & Federal elected officials. Questions were asked and answered.

Sherwin Shamoeil/Asm. Rick Chavez-Zbur Sherwin.Shamoeil@asm.ca.gov – Sherwin related that the State faced some challenges with the 2024-2025 budget, which has been crafted to close the \$46 billion gap, and which was signed into law by the Governor. AB 2712, authored by Assemblymembers Friedman and Zbur, which addresses local control of preferential parking for transit-oriented development, has passed as amended. AB 2943, the California Retail Theft Reduction Act, passed in committee and heads to the Senate floor for a vote. Questions were asked and answered, and Sherwin will get back about questions he could not answer. Member Broide thanked him and the Assemblymember for shepherding AB2712.

Amanda (Mandy) Laflen from SD3 Supervisor Horvath ALaflen@bos.lacounty.gov –

Mandy related that last week Supervisors Horvath and Hahn brought forth a plan for comprehensive government reform. The proposal creates an elected County Executive, expands the Board of Supervisors, requires a County Ethics Commission, and more.

<https://lindseyhorvath.lacounty.gov/horvath-and-hahn-announce-governance-plan/>

Mandy provided overall numbers from the Homeless Count last month, noting that we must continue to move forward with urgency. She also related the Supervisor's commitment to fight anti-Semitism and that she will continue to support, keep safe and celebrate the Jewish community. Questions were asked and answered.

Aldenae Williams, LADWP aldenae.williams@ladwp.com – Aldenae announced a construction project coming up in CD11 in the first weekend of August, on the corner of Venice and Overland, described as a small project in the parking lot of the McDonalds which will affect the bike lane on Venice Friday through Saturday. There will be no water or power interruption and McDonalds will remain open.

Chris Galindo, Planning Liaison, chris.galindo@lacity.org – Chris provided updates noting that monthly updates are available on the Planning website under Resources / Publications; find the tab that says “Community Corner” which is part way down the 1st homepage. His next update will be posted tomorrow for July at <https://planning.lacity.gov/resources/publications> and for the full July report see https://planning.lacity.gov/odocument/df8dbda-5e1a-4cbd-9c04-776b35f326f2/July_2024.pdf

Among other things, Chris mentioned an upcoming public hearing on the Landscape and Site Design Ordinance (LADO) on July 31st via Zoom for input. This updates the existing Landscape Ordinance (LAMC). Following the hearing, the case will be considered by the CPC on October 10, 2024. ED1 cases are now available online. They've been receiving a lot of feedback. You'll find info on ED1 and guidelines, online application submissions. Contact them. He mentioned the Westside Community Plan Update Team Outreach on the process and overviews of drafts previously released. Contact PlanningWestside@lacity.org.

<https://planning.lacity.gov/plans-policies/community-plan-update/planning-westside>

3. Board Member Updates – None.

4. Committee Reports –

- a. WRAC Transportation & Mobility Committee (MTC) – Next mtg 7/17/2024 (not the 21st)**
- b. WRAC Land Use & Planning Committee (LUPC) – No mtg in July; next mtg 8/12/24**
- c. WRAC Homelessness Committee (HOC) – Next mtg 7/30/24 (tentative)**

5. Public Comment –

Barbara Broide (WNC) related that Walton sent her a note that the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) will be having a General Manager listening session from Wednesday 6:30-8:00pm. She recommends registering, noting that they have invited presidents and VPs, to meet by Zoom.

6. Approval of Minutes

The June 2024 meeting minutes were **approved** by unanimous consent as moved by Greenberg and seconded by Spitz

7. New Business

a) Motion (Paula Gerez/NCWP & Chris Spitz/PPCC) – Support CF 24-0140-S1 (report on impact of the *Grants Pass* ruling):

“ _____ NC/CC, a member of the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils, strongly supports the motion in CF 24-0140-S1 (Park, Krekorian and other CMs), calling for the City Attorney to analyze the impact of the Supreme Court’s ruling in *City of Grants Pass, Oregon v. Johnson* – that anti-camping laws do not violate the 8th Amendment’s prohibition against cruel and unusual punishment – on the City’s ability to regulate encampments in public spaces in Los Angeles, and further calling for a report by the Chief Legislative Analyst on current laws restricting camping in the 87 other cities in Los Angeles County that will impact the City of Los Angeles.”

See Background Information on Google Drive and website/Meetings page, linked above.

Vice-Chair Spitz (PPCC) brought the motion forward, in the absence of Member Gerez, who was out sick this evening, noting that both of our councils have passed forms of this motion with this language, asking for a very important and much needed report back on how this case will impact our regulations and calls for the CLA to look at the laws in the 87 other cities in Los Angeles County that impact the City of Los Angeles, to determine what will happen.

She noted that as Mandy noted earlier, the County Supervisors have passed a very similar motion, that is a no-brainer, unanimous on their part, and we are hoping councils will take this up. BCC also passed a motion and have written a letter. All of that is linked in the background document.

Ravi Sankaran (DRNC) asked/commented as to the likelihood this will get through, that while it seems simple, do we need a bunch of NCs to help it go through, to which Vice-Chair Spitz noted that there is no harm in taking a position to support these councilmembers. She had no idea if it would pass without our support. Member Handal (WLASNC) doesn’t think it needs to be taken to all the councils. We are asking them to report back based on law that has already been declared and thinks it should just be a letter from the Executive Committee from WRAC. He noted that it is a request for information. Vice-Chair Spitz understands that this flows from other positions we have taken but believes that our motion process should be followed and noted that CM Park would appreciate the support. Member Handal would like to expedite this timewise, to which Vice-Chair Spitz noted that they are in recess now.

A roll call vote was taken with all 11 members voting in support, and the motion **passed** by 11-0-0.

8. Old Business

a. **24.05. Request cap on waivers for ED1 and Affordable Housing Streamlining projects** -- Feb. 26, 2024 (passage deadline Aug. 2024). 6 councils adopted: NCWP, Palms NC,* VNC, WCC, WWNC, WNC* (*modified versions*).

b. 24.06. Oppose Metro congestion pricing on the Westside without robust North/South transit options in place – Feb. 26, 2024 (*passed* June 2024). 8 councils adopted: BABCNC,* BCC,* NCWP,* PPCC,* VNC, WCC, WNC, WWNC (**modified versions*): *Position letter*: <https://westsidecouncils.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/WRAC-Letter-Congestion-Pricing.pdf>.

c. 24.07. Oppose CF 21-0329-S5 (Yaroslavsky); support LAMC Sec. 41.18 – June 2024 (passage deadline Sept. 2024). 5 councils adopted: BCC,* DRNC,* MVCC,* NCWP, PPCC, (**modified versions*). It was noted that several councils, including VNC, BABCNC and WLASNC, will be taking up this motion and SORONC may be taking it up between now and September.

Adjournment –

The last 15 minutes of the meeting were spent on Good of the Order, which included a discussion on how to address the issue of the high cost of running Zoom for these WRAC meetings. Vice-Chair Spitz (PPCC) noted that our Secretary/Treasurer Laferriere is working with Chair Greenberg (BABCNC) to reduce the cost as Chair Greenberg has been carrying the burden for paying for this. Suggestions were made on how to defray these costs. This will be on the August agenda.

Member Broide (WNC) related that SCAG has noticed public hearings on the Regional Public Transportation Plan and suggested looking to the SCAG website under Connect SoCal.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM, to meet again on Monday August 19th at 6:30 PM.