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MINUTES

WRAC Meeting of the Board of Directors
October 21, 2024 – 6:30pm

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*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 6:35pm. Host and WRAC Secretary/Treasurer Laferriere called the roll with 9 members present initially and quorum met.

Voting Members Present:

Robin Greenberg, Chair (BABCNC); Chris Spitz, Co-Chair (PPCC); Larry Watts (BCC); Reza Akef (PalmsNC); Nico Ruderman (VNC); Terri Tippit (WNC); Andrew Marton (MVCC); Jeremy Schonwald (DRNC); Jay Handal (WLASNC); Steve Sann (WCC), and Michael Lynn (SORONC) (*partial attendance*).

- Members Handal & Sann arrived at 6:40pm & 6:44pm respectively with 11 present. Quorum was maintained with 10 present after the departure of Member Lynn. [*Primary Member Ruesch (MVCC) listened in, and Alternate Member Marton was the active Rep this evening.*]

Nonvoting Alternates Present: Barbara Broide (WNC) and Walton Chiu (WLASNC).

b) Chair Updates –

- (1) Next Board meeting: November 18, 2024; guest speaker – Jared Rivera, Deputy Mayor of Community Engagement and liaison to DONE.
- (2) Appointment of WRAC representatives to the “NC Funding Workgroup” - Chair Greenberg noted that Melvin Cañas, Program Manager of the City Clerk’s NC Funding Department is reconvening the NC Funding Workgroup to help review & revise program policies. Kay Hartman/PalmsNC has volunteered; two others may volunteer. There will be six meetings online January 9th 6-8 pm every other Thursday. Member Ruderman (VNC) expressed interest and will get back to Chair Greenberg if he can join this.
<https://clerk.lacity.gov/nc-funding-program>
- (3) **Discussion & Consensus reached regarding upcoming meeting dates:**
 - **To cancel the December 16th meeting** due to December being a holiday month.
 - **To keep the January 20th 2025 MLK Day meeting.**

- To keep the February 17th 2025 President's Day meeting.

2. Government Reports/Speakers

a. **Mayor's Office** – Marian Ensley & Kenneth G. Miller, West Area Reps, were *not* present.

b. Council Reports –

- (1) **Cairo Rodriguez, Sr. Field Deputy – Council District 5/Yaroslavsky:** Cairo noted that in September, the Council approved updates to the Tenants Anti-Harassment Ordinance. Upcoming Events: Sunday 10/27: Community Cleanup in Pico-Robertson in partnership with SORONC; Wednesday 10/30 4pm-8pm: Fall Festival at Robertson Rec. Center; Sunday 11/03 11am-3pm: 2nd Annual Great Pumpkin Bash at Pan Pacific Park
Email any questions to Cairo at cairo.rodriquez@lacity.org or call 383-866-1828.
- (2) Michael Amster, Field Deputy – Council District 11/Park was *not* present.

c. Additional Government Reports –

Samantha Gallegos, with District Representative, Senator Ben Allen:

Samantha.Gallegos@sen.ca.gov - Sam reported on legislative items that have passed, including: the Malibu PCH Speed Camera bill signed by Governor Newsom, and noted that the Senator attended a candlelight vigil on the October 17th commemorating the anniversary of the four Pepperdine students who passed after the fatal car accident on PCH (which prompted the bill). Other bills passed and signed include SB 1450, their Voter Choice Act Amendments bill, to minimize mailers that go through each general election cycle from two to one, and one per household with multiple registered voters, to save the state a lot of money and result in less paper waste for voters; SB 1427, their Joint Petition for Divorce bill; SB 1417, their Big Blue Bus Prohibition Order bill; SB 285, their Resentencing bill; SB 864 now Proposition 4 on the ballot this year, and, SB 1143 on household hazardous waste pertaining to paint. Sam added that they are holding a household hazardous waste webinar Tuesday and that the Senator would be at the WRAC HOC homelessness roundtable on Monday.

Zachary Gaidzik, with LA County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath: Zac related that on 10/08 the board adopted the 2024-2025 final County budget, \$49.2 billion, noting that some of the 3rd District priorities include climate adaptation and resiliency, gender-based violence prevention, homelessness and encampment resolutions, as well as the very important mental health staff and acute beds along with Vision Zero Safe Streets initiatives. At a previous meeting, they had the Emergency Centralized Response Center to allow them to treat homelessness as the emergency that it is, with agencies in the same room, e.g., the City, County & LAHSA, to coordinate homeless services across the County. He noted that this involves access to all the databases to help reconnect people to services. Zac noted that along Pacific Coast Highway, between Coastline and Topanga Canyon Boulevard, in Sunset Mesa community, they have ongoing issues of RVs, and finally after much bureaucracy they have a way to post signage there. Currently, they're working with Sheriffs and CHP on overnight towing operations, noting that in this case, this is *not* a homelessness issue; it is a "van life" issue. This section didn't have the same enforcement mechanisms as other sections of PCH, so by closing the gap, they'll have

enforcement. There are a few people from that area who are unhoused, and his office continues to work with them. They've already had people surrendering their RVs and move into housing. Zac added that also at their 09/24 meeting the Supervisors approved Chair Horvath's motion to accelerate implementation of the County's Bicycle Master Plan and Vision Zero improvements, with a focus on equitable implementation of the Bicycle Master Plan.

The floor was opened to Q&A. Member Akef (PalmsNC) shared a concern regarding the 80x11 sign along Exposition, to which Zac said he would follow up with Chair Greenberg. Vice-Chair Spitz (PPCC) asked and Zac responded that on PCH overnight they will be forcing people to move from one side of the street to the other, in hopes that this will help motivate them to relocate. Chair Greenberg asked Zac to thank Supervisor Horvath for the Emergency Preparedness Event at the Skirball, which she & members of BABCNC participated in. He noted that they'll be doing another one and it will be an annual event.

(Member Lynn had left by 6:56pm).

Chris Galindo, Liaison from LA Department of City Planning, noted that LA City Planning wanted to thank those who attended a 09/19 meeting regarding the Westchester/Playa del Rey Community Plan Update with the focus on the Ladera Center and surrounding commercial areas. If there are any additional questions or feedback, contact them at planning.thewestside@lacity.org.

He gave two updates: (1) On 10/24, the City Planning Commission will consider the new proposed Landscape and Site Design Ordinance, a significant update to the city's existing ordinance, at 8:30 am Van Nuys City Hall; provide input via Zoom. He invited us to try the new online calculator that project applicants will use to choose options for compliance with the ordinance's flexible point system. Leave feedback on the calculator at planning.urbandesign@lacity.org

(2) The Citywide Adaptive Reuse Ordinance aims to turn existing underutilized commercial buildings into homes by repurposing these buildings instead of tearing them down. This ordinance went to the City Planning Commission on October 10th, and was approved with a minor amendment as to the allowable types of units. The next steps include consideration by PLUM and City Council. - Fact sheet: https://planning.lacity.gov/odocument/6725f347-7fdb-42fa-aa6e-44c37f8fa999/Fact_Sheet_-_Adaptive_Reuse_Ordinance.pdf

- For further questions, contact Holly Harper at housingelement@lacity.org.

- Contact Chris or other liaisons at planning.liaison@lacity.org

Aldenae Williams from the LADWP was present to take questions. Member Tippit (WNC) related that she had tried to reach Aldenae regarding work to begin at the site at Pico and Westwood but couldn't reach her. Member Tippit did reach the Mayor's & CD 5 offices regarding the problem, where parking was being taken away which would kill businesses leading up to the holidays. Aldenae responded that she had spoken with the CD 5 office and believes that they are postponing construction; the pre-construction area signs should be

removed today and there should be notice that the project is postponed.

3. Board Member Updates – Chair Greenberg, related that her neighborhood had an annual fall festival at the circle of Roscomare filled with children, and that she attended a Dodgers game where they won.

4. Committee Reports –

- **WRAC Transportation & Mobility Committee (MTC)** – Met 9/18/24 & 10/16/24; Chris related that the MTC members passed the motions on the agenda.
- **WRAC Homelessness Committee (HOC)** – Met 9/24/24; special mtg. 10/28/24; HOC Chair, Member Handal (WLASNC), related that this is their roundtable meeting with elected officials. The Committee passed the motion in item 7.a. on the agenda tonight. There has been a lot of discussion on this issue, and he noted that we still have homeless, despite all the money we are spending. Member Handal gave kudos to Vice-Chair Spitz.
- **WRAC Land Use & Planning Committee (LUPC)** – No Oct. mtg; next mtg TBD

5. Public Comment –

Barbara Broide related that UCLA is having their annual science fair, an incredible community resource, noon to 5:00pm, exploring your universe; she encouraged attendance.

6. Approval of Minutes –

The September 2024 meeting minutes were **approved** by 10-0-0, as moved by Chair Greenberg (BABCNC) and seconded by Member Handal (WLASNC).

7. New Business

- a) **Motion (HOC/J. Handal) – Request investigation into use of federal, state, county and city funds to address homelessness.**

“ _____ NC/CC, a member of the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC), urges (1) the federal government to intervene and conduct a federal investigation into the use by the city of Los Angeles, the county of Los Angeles, the state of California and all city, county and state agencies of federal funds received to address homelessness; (2) the state government to investigate the use of state funds for such purpose; (3) the county government to investigate the use of county funds for such purpose; and (4) the city government to investigate the use of city funds for such purpose, due to the mismanagement and non-accountability of taxpayer dollars being squandered while leaving a humanitarian crisis on our streets.

" _____ NC/CC further calls upon our city Councilmembers to communicate this request to the relevant respective federal, state, county and city authorities, including our U.S. Senators, Congressmembers, the U.S. Attorney General and Dept. of Justice; our Governor, state Senators, Assemblymembers and state Attorney General; our county Supervisors and District Attorney; and our Mayor and City Attorney.”

The motion was moved by Member Handal (WLASNC) and seconded by Vice-Chair Spitz (PPCC). Member Handal provided background on how the committee arrived at this motion, answered questions and led discussion. Some of his comments included that it is evident that with the money we've been spending, there is no accountability, and the numbers don't match; no one can come up with the real nitty-gritty of what's happening, e.g., with Inside Safe, etc., and we're supporting

NGOs to keep the homeless unhoused (homeless). He noted that the HOC came up with this motion for a federal investigation as to the use of all these funds, as the situation is no longer tolerable, and that the sub-motion is asking our councilmembers to communicate this request to those watching all of this happen, and throwing money away. Vice-Chair Spitz related that three councils have already passed the motion. Member Handal continued that the numbers don't exist; there is so much more money being spent on homelessness that we don't think about. This is asking for a complete investigation. He is a proponent of the City putting this back to the County, and noted that Judge Carter only goes that far; however, we need to see the whole scope including which NGOs have contracts that don't have accountability clauses.

Member Ruderman (VNC) supported the motion and noted the homeless industrial complex is real; he opined that we need to know where the money is going and it is just getting worse. Member Handal noted that we are watching people dying on the streets while this money is there, and opined that it appears NGOs have no reason to stop homelessness: We're killing people daily by not doing the right thing and there has been a lot of lip service but no accountability. There was no opposition, no abstentions and the motion **passed** by 10-0-0.

b) Motion (C. Spitz/PPCC; Robin G./BABCNC; T. Tippit/WNC) – Support CF 24-1128 (report on incomplete / abandoned properties).

“ _____ NC/CC, a member of the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils, believes that there is a clear need for oversight and accountability for negligent property owners and developers who allow construction sites to remain incomplete and/or abandoned for extended time periods.

_____ NC/CC therefore supports CF 24-1128 (Hernandez), which calls for a report back by LADBS on consequences and solutions to the problem of abandoned / incomplete construction sites, which pose a risk of fire and other hazards and are a threat to public safety and welfare.”

The motion was moved by Vice-Chair Spitz (PPCC), Chair Greenberg (BABCNC) and Member Tippit (WNC). Vice-Chair Spitz explained that in the council file motion, City Councilmember Eunisses Hernandez wants a report-back from LADBS and noted that many of our councils experience this problem. Member Handal related that the West Hollywood City Council adopted a policy of heavy fines and mitigations against property owners and developers who start projects and let them sit, and the homeless take them over, as well as abandoned houses. He'd get a copy of the ordinance if we want. There was no opposition, no abstentions and the motion **passed** by 10-0-0.

c) Motion (MTC) – Oppose Pending Metro TCN Structures Along the 405.

“The _____ NC/CC, a member of the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC), opposes the pending installation of the Metro Transportation Communication Network (TCN) structures along the 405 Freeway in West Los Angeles, North of the 10 Freeway interchange. These structures will be located in Council Districts 11 and 5 in Metro's Exposition Blvd. right-of-way.* Council Files: 22-0392 and 22-0392-S1 (CFMS) (lacity.org).

Background (*not a part of the motion*):

“*Locations per the Metro TCN Draft EIR, II, Project Description:

- a. Table II-1 Freeway Facing TCN Structure Locations, page II-9, the locations are the I-405 North Lanes at Exposition Boulevard (Assessor’s Parcel #4256010902) and the I-405 South Lanes at Exposition Boulevard (Assessor’s Parcel #4260039906), and
- b. Table II-2 Non-Freeway Facing TCN Structure Locations, page II-10, the locations are Pico Boulevard and Exposition Boulevard, South of rail (Assessor’s Parcel #4260025902) and Pico Boulevard, 445 feet West of Sawtelle Boulevard (Assessor’s Parcel #4260039906).”

See: <https://westsidecouncils.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/II.-Project-Description.pdf>

The motion (agenda item #7.c) was moved by Member Akef (PalmsNC) and seconded by Member Ruderman (VNC). Vice-Chair Spitz (PPCC) gave background on this motion being taken up by WRAC, along with comments by Alternate WRAC Member Broide (WNC), who provided comments including but not limited to that the program was approved by the Metro Board and went through an abbreviated review process in the City; then-Council President Krekorian wanted to get this done by the end of the year, and pushed every possible lever to get it approved. There were originally 95 billboards, now there are 70+ but two are in a particularly dangerous location, and are 95-100 feet tall. She noted that this is all approved and the City bent over backwards to adopt the ordinance to allow it to happen. Sign districts are usually contiguous, and these are all over where Metro has surplus land. She noted that every sign that can be removed by communities who don’t want them should have them removed as soon as possible. Further discussion was held. Vice-Chair Spitz noted that in September we wrote a position letter, which 10 councils supported, to oppose the proposal for digital billboards but it still went forward. The motion passed by 10-0-0.

d) Motion (MTC) – Support Disabled Parking and EV Charging Parking Spaces under AB 2097 and Executive Directive 1 (ED1).

“The _____ NC/CC, a member of the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC), requests that the Department of City Planning (DCP) reconsider their position stated in their memorandum SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTATION OF AB 2097 (2022), dated October 23, 2023, with regard to Disabled Parking and EV charging spaces. This memorandum is in conflict with the language of AB 2097, which allows cities to provide EV charging and parking for the disabled even if no other parking is voluntarily provided. We respectfully request that DCP review the language in AB 2097 within the context of disabled rights and the City of Los Angeles’ active support for EV vehicles, and reconsider the decision not to implement the exemption language in AB 2097, which provides for disabled parking and EV charging in new construction. Furthermore, we request that EV charging and parking for the disabled be included in all Executive Directive 1 (ED1) projects as well.”

The motion was moved by Vice-Chair Spitz (PPCC) and seconded by Member Akef (PalmsNC), both indicating that they were making the motion to allow discussion. Following discussion (during which members expressed confusion over the motion’s wording and whether the current law is accurately stated), a motion to postpone and refer this item back to committee to draft something clearer, more accurate and fairer passed by 10-0-0, as moved by Member Handal (WLASNC) and seconded by Vice-Chair Spitz (PPCC).

8. Old Business

- a. **24.05. Request cap on waivers for ED1 and Affordable Housing Streamlining projects** -- Feb. 26, 2024 (passage deadline Oct. 2024). 7 councils adopted: NCWP, Palms NC,* VNC, WCC, WLASNC, WWNC, WNC* (*modified version*). Possible action to further extend deadline. **Motion** to extend this one more month was moved by Member Akef and seconded by Member Tippit. Following discussion on this item that has been pending since February, the motion to extend this by one more month **passed** by 9 yeases, and 1 no from Jeremy Schonwald (DRNC), and 0 abstentions. Vice-Chair Spitz recommended that a member who supports this motion should go to the few remaining councils who haven't yet considered the motion to encourage them to take it up.
 - b. **24.09. Support the "Housing Unhoused Disabled Veterans Act (HR 8340 / Sherman)** September 2024 (passage deadline Dec. 2024). 7 councils adopted: BCC,* NCWP, NWWNC, PPCC, WLASNC, WNC,* WWNC (**modified version*).
 - c. **24.10. Support for CF-24-0602 (report on impact of artificial turf installations)** – September 2024 (*adopted October 2024*). 10 councils adopted: BABCNC,* DRNC, MVCC,* NCWP, NWWNC, PalmsNC,* VNC, WLASNC, WNC,* WWNC (**modified version*). *Position letter: <https://westsidecouncils.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/WRAC-Letter-artificial-turfR.pdf>*
 - d. **24.11. Support for CW Park Letter re Governor's Executive Order # N-1-24 / Addressing Encampments on State Land in CD 11** – September 2024 (*passage deadline Dec. 2024*). 7 councils adopted: BCC, MVCC, NCWP, PPCC,* WLASNC, WNC, WWNC (**modified version*).
 - e. **24.12. Request CW Yaroslavsky to Send Similar Letter re Governor's Executive Order # N-1-24 / Addressing Encampments on State Land in CD 5** – September 2024 (*passage deadline Dec. 2024*). 6 councils adopted: BCC, NCWP, PPCC, WLASNC, WNC, WWNC.
- BABCNC & Palms are taking this up.
 - f. **24.13. Support for Brentwood Community Council Resolution and Requests to LA County Board of Supervisors** – September 2024 (*passage deadline Dec. 2024*). 4 councils adopted: BCC, NCWP,* PPCC, WLASNC (**modified version*).
 - g. **24.14. Support Request for City Homeless Reporting Dashboard that Mirrors the Culver City Homeless Reporting Dashboard** – September 2024 (*passage deadline Dec. 2024*). 7 councils adopted: BCC,* MVCC, NCWP, PPCC,* WLASNC, WNC, WWNC (**modified version*).
 - h. **24.15. Request Suspension of Work on Westside Community Plans until Housing Element Policies and Mapping are Adopted** – September 2024 (*passage deadline Dec. 2024*). 4 councils adopted: NCWP, WLASNC, WNC, WWNC.
 - i. **24.16. Request Revision of Landscape Ordinance to Clarify that Front Yard Paving for Extra Parking is Prohibited** – September 2024 (*passage deadline Dec. 2024*). 4 councils adopted: NCWP, WLASNC, WNC, WWNC.
9. **Adjourn** – The meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm, to meet again on **November 18, 2024**, at 6:30 pm.