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MINUTES Draft

WRAC Meeting of the Board of Directors February 17, 2025 – 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 6:31 PM and provided welcoming comments, in light of the recent fires. Host & WRAC Secretary/Treasurer Tyler Laferriere called the roll with quorum met.

Board Members Present:

Robin Greenberg, Chair (BABCNC); Chris Spitz, Co-Chair (PPCC); Alt. Andrew Marton (MVCC); Connor Webb (NWNC); Alt. Reza Akef (PalmsNC); Michael Lynn (SORONC); Terri Tippit (WNC); Steve Sann (WCC); Lisa Chapman (WWNC); Carolyn Jordan (BCC) arrived at 7:04 pm. Ravi Sankaran (DRNC) left at 7:04 PM, following which Alt. Jeremy Schonwald stepped in. Brian Averill (VNC) left by 7:51 PM, following which Alt. Nico Ruderman stepped in. Jay Handal (WLASNC) left by 7:36 PM, following which Alt. Walton Chiu stepped in.

Nonvoting Alternates Present: Barbara Broide (WNC), Nickie Miner (BABCNC); Quentin Fleming (PPCC). Carolyn LoBuglio, new (BCC) primary, was present briefly towards the end of the meeting and did not vote.)

Also Present:

CD11 Councilwoman Traci Park and CD11 Field Deputy, Michael Amster; Selena Inouye, WRAC Transportation & Mobility Committee (MTC) Chair, and Carmen Chang, General Manager, Department of Neighborhood Empowerment

- b. **Chair Updates** – Chair Greenberg provided the following updates:
 - (1) Next Board meeting: March 17, 2025
 - (2) New Board representatives. BCC: Carolyn LoBuglio (BCC Chair & WRAC primary rep); Carolyn Jordan (1st alternate); Larry Watts (2nd alternate). NWNC: Connor Webb (primary rep); Elizabeth Brady (alternate)
 - (3) Update: Chair Greenberg noted that we are looking into possible in-person meetings.

2. Government Reports/Speakers

- a. **6:47 PM: Guest speaker: Hon. Traci Park, Councilwoman, CD 11** providing remarks on the Pacific Palisades fire, where we are and the pathway to recovery, with a preface that

this has been the most devastating period in our city's entire history and that FEMA says between the Palisades and Eaton fires, it will be the largest disaster they have responded to. Questions were asked and answered. Chair Greenberg, Vice-Chair Spitz and members of the board expressed their appreciation to her, to which Councilwoman Park responded in kind, noting that she hopes that there will be a lot of progress to report next time. She also acknowledged a comment from a builder on the Board, saying that she would appreciate advice from those who build for a living.

[At 7:37 PM, attention was turned to Item 2.c. (report from Michael Amster) below.]

b. **Mayor's Office** – Neither Marian Ensley nor Kenneth G. Miller, West Area were present.

c. **Council Reports** –

(1) **Cairo Rodriguez, Sr. Field Deputy – Council District 5/Yaroslavsky** was not present.

(2) **Michael Amster, Field Deputy – Council District 11/Park** gave updates and acknowledged colleague Arus Grigorian, CD11's Pacific Palisades Field Deputy.

Some of Michael's comments included, as to Brentwood, in response to the wildfires, there were traffic and communication issues and downed powered lines, as well as a crisis with regard to the absence of drinking water. He worked with others on drive-throughs to provide drinking water at the VA & DWP along Barrington, distributing over 25 cases of water to the community as needed. He noted that Brentwood had fire hazards long before the Pacific Palisades wildfire that closed the VA, and has been calling for brush clearance at locations near the VA property. They organized an effort to do the clearance at that slope.

- He mentioned an event held over the weekend in the Sawtelle area, where resources were given away, families were able to receive assistance to get their taxes done, and LAPD & LAPL were there. They gave out a lot of diapers, and it was a successful event. They'll do the same at Mar Vista Gardens on March 1st.

- As to the Culver Median Loop, he noted that there is an unsheltered presence creating traffic and safety hazards there, and while it is state property, the city still has a maintenance agreement with the state to give the city access to clean the route and that is what they're doing. They started a rotation of cleanups.

- Last week they had a town hall for the Westchester community with respect to LAPD's division. He noted that the recording for that event is available. Their goal is to have a town hall for each of the neighborhoods in CD11 monthly through the rest of the year.

[Attention was next turned to Agenda Item #6, approval of the minutes.]

d. **Additional Government Reports** – At the discretion of the Chair: None

e. **Carmen Chang, the newest General Manager from EmpowerLA** related that she came to say hello on behalf of the department, especially to West Area NCs, CCs, friends and neighbors, to everyone here. She wanted to say that they are here for us, for those who have suffered loss.

3. Board Member Updates –

Vice-Chair Spitz (PPCC) thanked everyone on this call who has supported them in the Palisades, and had done physical work, such as Venice and Palms, including donations and distributions of goods and services, among other ways of supporting us. She related that she could not thank us all enough, and is still overwhelmed by the entire circumstance. She noted that the Palisades is strong, intends to stay strong, and everyone she knows is intent on rebuilding. (*Quentin Fleming, PPCC Alternate had just arrived at this point.*) Vice-Chair Spitz noted that they have significant committees to deal with the rebuilding, and the issues are coming in as a fire hose. She thanked us all very much.

Michael Lynn (SORONC) noted that anyone who has a motion with a letter, we also have CD10 part of SORO, and it would be highly beneficial to include Councilwoman Heather Hutt on any direct emails that we are sending to our Council members. Vice-Chair Spitz noted that every time we write a letter we include CD4 and CD10 but she will bear in mind that cc's get missed.

4. Committee Reports –

- a. **WRAC Transportation & Mobility Committee (MTC)** – next mtg. Wednesday 2/19/25
Selena Inouye, Chairperson of the MTC, noted that their representative from the Palisades, Stephen Lantz, who was our connection to Metro, is leaving the community. She related that he has been so helpful, having a background in transportation, and helps us to know what to be looking for. He'll still be working in the LA area, telecommuting, and may be able to give reports and information but not as a committee member. She noted that we have one motion from the MTC Committee and are still working on the motion sent back regarding disabled parking EV charging which she hopes to have back to the board in the next month.
- b. **WRAC Homelessness Committee (HOC)** – no mtg Dec.-Jan; next mtg. 03/25/25
Member Handal, Chairperson of the HOC, noted that they resume meeting in March, after being held off under the circumstances. He noted that the unhoused are still there, and that while the homeless count is happening tomorrow, he'll no longer lead SPA5 for the first time since doing this. He asked us to check with our fellow board members if they have issues on homeless and unhoused including budgets with the city. Member Handal also co-chairs the Budget Committee for the Budget Advocates, and noted that we're in a very stressful time and expect seeing a great reduction in funding, in response to the fires.
- c. **WRAC Land Use & Planning Committee (LUPC)** – no mtg. Dec.-Jan.; next mtg. TBD
[At this point, attention was turned to CD11 Councilwoman Traci Park at 6:47 PM.]

5. Public Comment – None.

6. Approval of Minutes

- a. The November 2024 meeting minutes were **approved** by all present and voting, as moved by Chair Greenberg (BABCNC) & Member Lynn (SORONC).

7. New Business

a. Motion (WRAC MTC) – CF 24-1151 / Allocation of Revenues from Bus Lane Violation Enforcement Pilot Program

“The _____ NC/CC, a member of the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC), opposes the allocation of revenues from the Bus Lane Violation Enforcement Pilot Program to items that are not specifically related to public transit. We therefore oppose using these funds for “Transportation improvements and temporary staffing related to the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic games.” A \$200 million federal grant is already in the works to help with the proposed use of public buses at the 2028 Games. Council Files: 24-1151 and 21-1224.” Moved by Member Sann (WCC) and seconded by Member Tippit (WNC).

Chair Selena Inouye introduced this item, noting that there are two Council Files that deal with this bus lane violation enforcement pilot program. She noted that if you look at the MOU in the 2nd Council File, it states that if there are revenues, there is supposed to be a discussion between Metro and LADOT on how they use the money and enhancements. She stressed that not all the things they are asking for are transportation enhancements but are taken out of the budget due to lack of funds. She discussed the \$900 million funding in the works for the Olympics, of which \$20 million are awaiting approval of the House. She noted that recently Metro is asking for \$3.2 million from the federal government to continue with the plans that they have. The feeling is that the money should go back to transit, and that if we want people to get back onto transit, we need to reinvest in transit. The city needs to find funding for other programs that they have, which is the premise of the motion.

The motion passed by a vote of 11-2-0, with the 11 yeses from Chair Greenberg (BABCNC) and Vice-Chair Spitz (PPCC), and Members Jordan (BBC), Akef (PalmsNC), Lynn (SORONC), Ruderman (VNC), Sann (WCC), Walton (WLASNC), Tippit (WNC), Chapman (WWNC), and Marton (MVCC), 2 noes from Members Schonberg (DRNC) and Webb (NWNC), and 0 abstentions.

b. Motion (Palms NC – T. Leal, R. Akef, K. Hartman) – Support CF 25-0006-S38:

“The _____ NC/CC, a member of the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC), supports Council File 25-0006-S38 (Park/Nazarian) and efforts to address shortcomings in water infrastructure procedures exposed during the recent catastrophic fires in our city.” Background information for both motions on Google Drive and website Meetings page, linked above

Member Akef (PalmsNC) moved, following which Vice Chair Spitz moved an amendment or to divide the motion into two motions, to call for the establishment or report back on establishment of a climate resilient district, and to take the 2nd part of the motion, calling for the city to address the fire hydrants, word it to support each, noting that the council file wasn't in the works when the motion was passed by PalmsNC. She thinks it makes more sense to have two separate motions. This substitute motion was moved by Vice-Chair Spitz (PPCC) and seconded by Member Akef (PalmsNC). Member Akef spoke on behalf of Palms, noting that this helps them because they only voted on the community resilience package but haven't yet voted on LAFD having more resources.

Divided motions for 7.b only

First proposed (divided) motion:

_____ NC/CC, a member of the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC), supports Council File **25-0006-S38**, which calls for a report back on creation of a Climate Resilience District for the directly impacted and adjacent areas of the Pacific Palisades Fire. The motion **passed** 13-0-0, with 13 yeases from Chair Greenberg (BABCNC), Vice-Chair Spitz (PPCC), Members Jordan (BCC), Schonberg (Del Rey), Marton (MVCC), Webb (NWNC), Akef (PalmsNC), Lynn (SORONC), Ruderman (VNC) (*Member Averill had left 5 minutes ago*) Sann (WCC), Walton (WLASNC), Tippit (WNC), and Chapman (WWNC).

Second proposed (divided) motion:

_____ NC/CC, a member of the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC), supports Council File 25-0172, which calls for a report back on inspection and repair of the City's network of fire hydrants.

The motion **passed** 13-0-0, with 13 yeases from Chair Greenberg (BABCNC), Vice-Chair Spitz (PPCC), Members Jordan (BCC), Schonberg (Del Rey), Marton (MVCC), Webb (NWNC), Akef (PalmsNC), Lynn (SORONC), Ruderman (VNC) (*Brian left 5 minutes ago*) Sann (WCC), Walton (WLASNC), Tippit (WNC), and Chapman (WWNC).

8. Old Business

Adopted positions (since last meeting):

- a. **24.05. Request cap on waivers for ED1 and Affordable Housing Streamlining projects -- Feb. 26, 2024 (passed November 2024).** 8 councils adopted: BABCNC, NCWP, Palms NC,* VNC, WCC, WLASNC, WWNC, WNC* (modified version).
Position Letter: <https://westsidecouncils.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/WRAC-Letter-Homeless-Dashboard.pdf>. Further Letter: <https://westsidecouncils.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/WRAC-Further-Letter-ED-1-Waivers.pdf>
- b. **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 (passed November 2024).** 8 councils adopted: BCC, DRNC, MVCC, NCWP, PPCC,* WLASNC, WNC, WWNC (*modified version).
Position letter: <https://westsidecouncils.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/WRAC-Letter-Encampments-State-Land1.pdf> Caltrans letter in response to CW Park: <https://westsidecouncils.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Caltrans-Response-Park-Letter.pdf>
- c. **24.17. Request Investigation into Use of Federal, State, County and City Funds to Address Homelessness – October 2024 (passed December 2024).** 8 councils adopted: BABCNC, BCC, MVCC, PalmsNC, PPCC,* WLASNC, WNC, WWNC (*modified version). Position letter: <https://westsidecouncils.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/WRAC-Letter-Investigate-HomelessFundingF.pdf>
- d. **24.18. Support CF 24-1128 (report on incomplete/abandoned construction) – October 2024 (passed November 2024).** 8 councils adopted: BABCNC,* BCC, DRNC, NCWP, PalmsNC, ** PPCC, WLASNC, WWNC, WNC* (*modified versions; **passed motion after PPCC position letter sent:
Position letter: <https://westsidecouncils.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/WRAC-Letter-Abandoned-Construction.pdf> LADBS Report: https://clkrep.lacity.org/online/docs/2024/24-1128_misc_12-20-24.pdf

- e. **24.19. Oppose Metro TCN Structures Along the 405** – October 2024 (passed December 2024). 8 councils adopted: BABCNC, BCC, PPCC,* VNC, WCC, WLASNC, WNC, WWNC (*modified version). Position letter: <https://westsidecouncils.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/WRAC-Letter-Opposing-TCN-Billboards.pdf>

Pending motions (request retroactive board approval of extension of Jan. deadlines to Feb.; possible action to extend deadlines one month):

- f. **24.16. Request Revision of Landscape Ordinance to Clarify that Front Yard Paving for Extra Parking is Prohibited** – September 2024 (passage deadline Feb. 2025). 6 councils adopted: BABCNC,* BCC, NCWP, WLASNC, WNC, WWNC (*modified version). WRAC letter (re position of 6 member councils): <https://westsidecouncils.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/WRAC-Letter-Landscape-Ordinance.pdf> Current status: City Council on 1/7/25 directed City Attorney to prepare final ordinance with provisions similar to the WRAC motion (draft approved by the City Planning Commission): https://clkrep.lacity.org/online/docs/2024/24-1399_misc_11-05-24.pdf (see Sec. 7 on unnumbered p. 13)

Member Webb added that NWNC ratified “f” so 7 adopted 8.f. Vice-Chair Spitz noted that City Council directed the City Attorney to prepare a final ordinance which she hasn’t yet seen.

Motion to ratify Vice-Chair Spitz’s action to retroactively extend Items F, G, H & I to February (when creating this month’s agenda, as we missed meeting in January), was **approved** unanimously as **moved** by Spitz and **seconded** by LoBuglio.

Motion to extend these items F, G, H & I to March was **approved** unanimously, without objection or abstentions, as **moved** by Chapman and **seconded** by Ruderman.

- g. **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 Feb. 2025). 7 councils adopted: BABCNC, BCC, NCWP, PPCC, WLASNC, WNC, WWNC
- h. **24.13. Support for Brentwood Community Council Resolution and Requests to LA County Board of Supervisors** – September 2024 (passage deadline Feb. 2025). 6 councils adopted: BABCNC, BCC, NCWP,* PPCC, WLASNC, WWNC (*modified version)
- i. **24.15. Request Suspension of Work on Westside Community Plans until Housing Element Policies and Mapping are Adopted** – September 2024 (passage deadline Feb. 2025). 5 councils adopted: BCC, NCWP, WLASNC, WNC, WWNC

9. Adjourn – Chair Greenberg provided warm concluding comments, acknowledging all the folks on the call who had lost homes during these fires, and the **meeting adjourned at 8:04 pm** with the next meeting to be held on **March 17, 2025**, at 6:30 pm.