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Draft Minutes

WRAC Meeting of the Board of Directors
March 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 6:33 PM and provided welcoming comments. Host & WRAC Secretary/Treasurer Tyler Laferriere called the roll with quorum met.

12 Board Members Present:

BABCNC Robin Greenberg, Chair; **PPCC** Chris Spitz, Vice-Chair (present briefly); **BCC** Carolyn LoBuglio; **MVCC** Andrew Marton; **NWNC** Connor Webb; **PalmsNC** Reza Akef; **SORONC** Michael Lynn; **WNC** Barbara Broide; **WCC** Steve Sann; **WWNC** Lisa Chapman; **VNC** Brian Averill left at 7:01 pm, when Nico Ruderman stepped in. **WLASNC** Jay Handal who left at 7:00 PM when Walton Chiu stepped in.

Also Present: Jonah Glickman, Homelessness Liaison, County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath/SD3; Janet Turner, Deputy District Director - Outreach, Congressmember Ted Lieu; Sherwin Schmoel, Senior Field Representative, Assemblymember Rick Chavez Zbur; LaQuisha Bryant, Senior Field Representative, Assemblymember Tina McKinnor; Chris Galindo, Planning Liaison, LA Department of City Planning

- b. **Chair Updates** – Chair Greenberg related the following:

- (1) Next Board meeting: April 21, 2025
- (2) Update on the status of possible future in-person board meetings was provided by Member Sann (WCC) who noted that he has approached the Belmont Village about holding an in-person meeting there. Following brief discussion, Member Sann will confirm May 19th, 7:30 A.M. for breakfast with 8:00 A.M. for the meeting.

[Attention was turned to #6 and then #7.]

2. Government Reports/Speakers

- a. **Mayor's Office** – Marian Ensley & Kenneth G. Miller, West Area Representatives were not present.
- b. **Council Reports** – Cairo Rodriguez, Sr. Field Deputy – Council District 5/Yaroslavsky & Michael Amster, Field Deputy – Council District 11/Park - were not present.
- c. **Additional Government Reports** –
Jonah Glickman, Housing & Homelessness Liaison for County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath SD 3 Jglickman@bos.lacounty.gov introduced himself and gave a report on Supervisor Horvath's plan to consolidate homeless services in the County department beginning July 2025. He noted that she submitted a motion to create change that is long overdue across the County's homeless services system. The proposal is to consolidate homeless service investments and accountability under the authority of one County department. This will be heard by the County's Operations Cluster on March 19, 2025, followed by the Board of Supervisors on April 1, 2025, with the budget from Measure H & Measure A, to transition LAHSA into the County. He noted that this will take place over the next year and a half if approved by the Board of Supervisors (BOS). Jonah will make sure that the motion is shared with us all for review.

The floor was opened to Q&A. Member Handal (WLASNC) noted that the County and City have done a woefully poor job and that keeping LAHSA intact in any way or form would be unacceptable; that the Executive Director needs to be fired immediately for engaging in a major conflict of interest, signing a contract with an entity that her husband belongs to, and that she is spending over a billion dollars a year for results that are pathetic. Member Handal would have the Federal government come and put an Inspector General in there, as there is abuse and a lack of accountability. He noted that though the Supervisor has been there two years, this is still happening. As Chair of WRAC's Homeless Committee (HOC), which meets next on the 25th, he welcomed Jonah to attend the meeting. Member Handal stressed that this Executive Director has to be fired this week.

Member Broide (WCC) related that there is a crisis of confidence in the City and County, and asked what work has been done in terms of the City with this motion. Jonah noted that the City has a companion motion that passed last week, and are taking this step. He recommends talking to the City. Member Broide mentioned the issue of a site identified for the Westside that was entirely dismissed by LAHSA. Jonah will follow up with her.

[At 7:02 PM, Member Ruderman noted that Member Averill left and he'll cover for him.]

Member Ruderman (VNC) asked what the Supervisor is doing about LAHSA, if she wanted to absorb funding from the State and Federal government or shrink the departments, and what does the County do to be more effective, to which Jonah replied in the affirmative, that they have control of \$300 million that the County invests in LAHSA. He noted that the

County supports most of the administrative funding, and it would be hard for LAHSA to run without the County's funding. Jonah noted that they got a report back showing every single position at LAHSA and how much is funded by the County, without which funding it will be difficult for LAHSA to exist close to its current iteration. There will be no Federal funding coming into LAHSA and he thinks at the State level they want to see most of the dollars coming to the County, to cut out the middleman level. He noted that the dollars are not going out to the streets and the providers. LAHSA would be stripped to its core functions, to the most basic things needed, over the next few years.

Member Akef (PalmsNC) asked what the Supervisor has in mind as to transparency to which Jonah noted that the Supervisor was also the author of Measure G, as to transparent budget sessions as it is next to impossible to find a budget on LAHSA's website. The Supervisor wants to make sure that the public can see where their dollars are going. Jonah noted that they are making progress on the transparency of the County's funding. Member Akef thanked Jonah for coming, noting that he's on the committee that meets on the 25th with Jay. He is a builder who builds homes and would like their office to audit every organization for SPA5.

Member Akef suggested to Jonah that when they go to build, that they look at their Board of Directors, as none of them have any who are qualified to do construction; nobody serves in that organization understands what it means to make one bedroom/one bath unit, and he noted that to be successful, you need to surround yourself with people with real boots on the ground, which they do not do. It has to be based on practice and not just theory or it doesn't work; you'll waste money. Do it the right way. Jonah acknowledged Member Akef's good points as there are not enough builders at the table. Jonah noted that he would be glad to speak at the HOC meeting on the 25th.

Member Sann (WNC) added that the mental health beds, drug treatment beds, substance abuse beds all fall on the County. He noted that it is his observation that this is one of the most critical missing pieces, as a number of the folks on the streets are service resistant. He noted that because of these issues, one of the highest priorities should be to expand the bandwidth, the beds, the availabilities, so that when the Fire Department comes with a Narcan dose, they have a place to send them to get off the addictive drugs. Member Sann noted that the LAFD attending to overdoses three times a day for the same person is a massive waste of resources.

Jonah noted that at the County these are handled by two different departments: Mental health by the DIH and substance abuse, by the Public Health Department, which are not integrated. He hopes that the next time he speaks to us, we will have gotten Prop 1 awards, understanding that these issues are intertwined but handled by two different departments. Member Broide (WCC) highlighted that there are people out there who are not service resistant, who need drug detox and who are open to treatment. Jonah noted that some beds

are coming at Clare Matrix, <https://www.clarematrix.org>; Clare Matrix is waiting to hear from the State about Prop 1, when they'll bring more beds to the County. Jonah noted that it is a struggle to find those detox beds currently, and looks forward to the meeting next week.

Janet Turner, Deputy District Director - Outreach, Congressman Ted Lieu -

janet.turner@mail.house.gov Janet noted that the Representative Lieu sent his best wishes. She shared information on some bills that passed in the House on the way to the Senate including on the Small Business Advocacy Improvement Act, where the Department of Energy and SBA are combined to do research to collaborate to develop activities that are appropriate for small businesses. He introduced H.R. 1464, Amend the Child Nutrition Act, to reestablish the WIC program. She mentioned a bill to reintroduce H.R. 842, the Nancy Gardner Sewell Medicare Multi-Cancer Early Detection Screening Coverage Act, in the House of Representatives. The bill would allow for multi-cancer early detection (MCED) tests to be covered by Medicare in a timely manner upon approval by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). She also noted that the Protect Our Letter Carriers Act was reintroduced, to change the arrow keys to an electronic system for locking mailboxes in apartment and condo buildings. Her office is available anyone regarding any Federal issues.

Sherwin Schmoel, Senior Field Representative, Assemblymember Rick Chavez Zbur,

Sherwin.Shamoeil@asm.ca.gov noted that they released their bill package to include AB39 introduced by the Assemblymember as to electrification needs and climate; AB 309 to prevent the spread of HIV and hepatitis; AB729 would expand the climate credit and requires the CPUC deliver ratepayers credits in summer months as well as spring and fall. AB1468 tackles anti-Semitism in schools, and AB1138 is regarding the expansion of the film tax credit.

LaQuisha Bryant, Senior Field Representative, Assemblymember Tina McKinnor

laquisha.bryant@asm.ca.gov

- LaQuisha gave an update to include several bills: AB311 as to temporary residence for displaced persons and pets, particularly from the Pacific Palisades and Altadena fires; AB851 as regards rescission of real estate contracts, price gouging in the rental markets and making unscrupulous offers to homeowners at below-market offers, allowing a seller to rescind the sale for up to 6 months after the close of escrow; AB470 regarding telephone corporations: carriers of last resort; AB 596 as to occupational safety, to protect employee face covering rights at work; and AB749 to establish a blue ribbon commission to ensure fair access to quality sports programs for all youth in So. Cal.

- LaQuisha announced a virtual town hall Tuesday, and an Earth Day cleanup with Friends of Ballona Creek Saturday April 26th 9:30 - noon to help to clean the wetlands.

<https://www.ballonafriends.org/calendar/2025/04/26/community-habitat-restoration>

- On August 16th they're are having a back-to-school backpack giveaway health fair.

Chris Galindo - Planning Liaison shared (*via chat*) that although not Planning specific, LA City Planning wanted to advise that effective on this date, the city of Los Angeles will update the operating hours of the One Stop Rebuilding Center at 1828 Sawtelle Blvd., Los Angeles, 90025. The center provides streamlined, in-person assistance to help Angelinos rebuild homes and businesses lost in the Palisades Fire.

New hours of operation, effective today (March 17):

- Monday - Saturday: 9 AM - 5 PM
- Closed Sundays.
- Affected residents with City Planning questions can reach out to planning.palisadesrebuild@lacity.org and for any other inquiries, please reach out to the liaisons at planning.liaison@lacity.org

3. **Board Member Updates** – Member Broide mentioned a recent motion in regard to Olympics-related venues or construction projects, now being heard in committee, with a report-back requested. One motion amendment directed the drafting of an ordinance. She feels people should be aware of and track this measure and stated that there were no criteria in that motion. See link to motion: https://clkrep.lacity.org/online/docs/2015/15-0989-S50_misc_4-2-25.pdf
See link to Council File: 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games / LA28 Venue Plan / Non-City Venues <https://cityclerk.lacity.org/lacityclerkconnect/index.cfm?fa=ccfi.viewrecord&cfnumber=15-0989-S50>
She mentioned a State law, SB1425, which requires all cities to evaluate the open space element in their General Plan. She noted that last time a group of land use volunteers was named no one knew about the process, and the meetings were held in private. She also noted that Planning had stated in their Memorandum that the staff was working on this matter, and she suggests that the board pass a motion that Planning involve the Neighborhood Councils since open space is incredibly important to all of us.

Member Broide also mentioned SB607:

<https://legiscan.com/CA/text/SB607/id/3135680> - nicknamed Wiener's Fast and Focused CEQA Act: <https://sd11.senate.ca.gov/news/senator-wiener-introduces-fast-focused-ceqa-act>. Member Broide mentioned SB 79, as amended, Wiener. Planning and zoning: housing development: transit-oriented development, noting that SB79 was amended last week. That would increase residential density for areas a quarter or half a mile from transit stops. She noted that since NCs cannot communicate with state legislators, to please consider having motions that our councilmembers take a position on these bills to include them in our legislative package.

[Attention was turned to #8]

4. **Committee Reports** – Limited to 5 minutes total.
- a. **WRAC Transportation & Mobility Committee (MTC)** – met 2/19/25; next mtg. 3/19/25
 - b. **WRAC Homelessness Committee (HOC)** – no mtg Dec.-Mar.; next mtg. 3/25/25
 - c. **WRAC Land Use & Planning Committee (LUPC)** – no mtg. Dec.-Feb.; next mtg. TBD
5. There was no public comment on items NOT on the agenda.

6. **Motion** to approve the 02/17/25 minutes **passed** unanimously, as **moved** by Member Handal (WLASNC).

7. **New Business**

a. Motion (Venice NC/Brian Averill) – Request to Address Wildfire Coastal Debris Catastrophe:

“Whereas the recent devastating wildfires have left the LA streets and landscape covered with a multitude of toxic chemicals, heavy metals, hazardous materials, ash and fire debris;

“Whereas the recent heavy rainstorms have washed an enormous amount of this toxic material down to our coastline;

“Whereas the EPA and FEMA, against strong public opposition, have chosen to use the beach lots along our coast as sorting sites;

“Whereas our beaches are now covered with hazardous fire debris and black sludge;

“Whereas no significant water/beach testing information has been released to the public;

“____NC/CC, a member of the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils, strongly urges that this environmental catastrophe be taken seriously, with an immediate plan to fund, test, share information, and protect our coastal environment and the millions of people who enjoy it, by City of Los Angeles, City of Santa Monica and Los Angeles County authorities with respective operational control of our beaches in the region, including Dockweiler State Beach, Venice Beach, Santa Monica Beach, Will Rogers State Beach and Topanga Beach.

“____ NC/CC further urges that one or more of our Councilmembers who represent WRAC member councils (Hutt, Park, Raman and/or Yaroslavsky) bring a resolution in Council immediately 1) to address this catastrophe on all beaches over which the City has operational control, and 2) to request that the City of Santa Monica and Los Angeles County, respectively, take further, immediate action to address the catastrophe on all beaches over which they have operational control in the region.”

The motion was introduced and **moved** by Member Averill (VNC), and **seconded** by Vice-Chair Spitz (PPCC). Member Averill related that this is “wildfire” coastal debris not “wildlife” and though wildlife is also affected, and that it is the feeling that the coast has been left behind. Vice-Chair Spitz (PPCC) concurred that her community is also concerned about this. It was noted that CD11 Councilwoman Traci Park passed a motion at City Council on testing. Member Broide noted that this ties in with the hasty testing of two tests and that it is very important that we watch what’s going on with the coast. There is a need to do more testing. Member Chiu related that this is a regional issue.

The motion **passed** with 12 yeses from Chair Greenberg, Vice-Chair Spitz and members LoBuglio, Marton, Webb, Akef, Lynn, Averill, Handal, Broide, Sann & Chapman.

b. Motion (PPCC/Chris Spitz) – Oppose SB 677 (Wiener)

“____NC/CC, a member of the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC), opposes SB 677 (Wiener), which mandates further streamlining and automatic approval of certain permits for increased housing development throughout the state, and places all areas within the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ), including all or parts of Pacific Palisades, Brentwood and Bel Air-Beverly Crest, at risk of public safety, by failing to provide for an unconditional exemption for areas within the VHFHSZ.

“We further request that our Councilmembers representing WRAC member councils (Hutt, Park, Raman and/or Yaroslavsky) bring a resolution in City Council forthwith to add opposition to SB 677 to the Council’s state legislative priorities for 2025-26.”

The motion was moved by Vice-Chair Spitz (PPCC) and seconded by Member Broide (WCC). Vice-Chair Spitz related that this follows SB9, a bill that this alliance has opposed in the past. SB9, like SB 677, removed local control, provided for streamlining and automatic approvals of permits for housing. SB 677, like SB9, also doesn’t include an unconditional exemption for the Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone.

Member Broide added that this undermines the work we have been doing on Community Plans and that we will be following the status of SB607 (the Fast and Focused CEQA Act), related to SB 677. Vice-Chair Spitz noted that taking a position in opposition to SB 677 is consistent with WRAC’s past adopted positions.

Member Akef (PalmsNC) supports the motion, stating that it's disturbing that Senator Wiener doesn’t stop bringing these housing density bills, without realizing the consequences. Member Akef cannot imagine some of those buildings coming back at eight stories. Member Broide noted that there was a large rally in Sacramento, over the weekend, with Senator Wiener pushing these bills.

The motion passed by 11 yeases from Chair Greenberg, Vice-Chair Spitz, and Members LoBuglio, Marton, Akef, Lynn, Averill, Handal, Broide, Sann and Chapman, 1 no by Member Webb, and 0 abstentions.

[Background information for both motions on Google Drive and website Meetings page, linked above.]

8. Old Business

Pending motions

Possible motion to extend deadlines for pending items a-d:

- a. **24.16. Request Revision of Landscape Ordinance to Clarify that Front Yard Paving for Extra Parking is Prohibited** – September 2024 (passage deadline March 2025). 7 councils adopted: BAB CNC,* BCC, NCWP, NWNC, WLASNC, WNC, and 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): matter referred to the Council PLUM Committee 2/19/25 (pending). https://clkrep.lacity.org/online/docs/2024/24-1399_misc_11-05-24.pdf (see Sec. 7 on unnumbered p. 13)
- b. **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 March 2025*). 7 councils adopted: BAB CNC, BCC, NCWP, PPCC, WLASNC, WNC, and WWNC.

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

Motion to extend the deadline for items **a through d to May passed** by **11-0-0**, as **moved** by Chapman and **seconded** by Lynn.

Motions passed at February 2025 meeting with May deadlines:

- e. **25.01. Support Council File 25-0006-S38 re Creation of Climate Resilience District** – February 2025 (passage deadline May 2025). 4 councils adopted: BAB CNC,* BCC, PPCC,* and WLASNC. (*modified versions)

Palms and NWNC voted to support this, so **6 councils adopted this**. Westside has it on Thursday,

- f. **25.02. Support CF 25-0172 re repair of fire hydrants** – February 2025 (passage deadline May 2025). 4 councils adopted: BCC, PPCC, NWNC, and WLASNC.

Palms, Westside, Westwood and BAB CNC have it coming up; Mar Vista may have done this.

- g. **25.03. Allocation of Revenues from Bus Lane Violation Enforcement Pilot Program** –February 2025 (passage deadline May 2025). **No councils adopted.**

BAB CNC has it on their agenda.

9. Adjourn – In closing at approximately at 8:00 PM, Chair Greenberg expressed her great appreciation for Vice-Chair Spitz who had to leave early, having been through a lot recently, and shared a poem with the Board.

The next meeting is to be held on **April 21, 2025, at 6:30 pm.**