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MINUTES

Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC) Special In-Person Breakfast, Board Meeting and Discussion with Mayor Karen Bass Monday, July 21, 2025 7:15 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Belmont Village Senior Living – Westwood 10475 Wilshire Boulevard
Town Hall and Board Meeting

Note: Due to space limitations, attendance is limited to Board members who previously RSVP'd.

***Special thanks to Belmont Village Senior Living -- Westwood**
for graciously hosting our WRAC Special In-Person Breakfast, Board Meeting and Discussion with
Mayor Karen Bass.*

Note: Reports from Government Reps, Public Comment, Committee Reports and New Business deferred to the 8/25/25 WRAC Board meeting.

7:00 a.m. – Complimentary Hot Breakfast Buffet opens (*Buffet to remain open into the meeting.*)

7:25 a.m. – Call to Order and Certification of Quorum - President Robin Greenberg requested all Members to take seats and called the meeting to order, following which she gave an appreciation to Belmont Village for hosting this meeting. The roll was called by Cathy Palmer, the WRAC Minutes Taker/Administrative Assistant. Quorum was met.

13 Board Members Present:

BABCNC Robin Greenberg (WRAC Chair)

PPCC Chris Spitz (WRAC Vice-Chair)

BCC Carolyn LoBuglio

DRNC Ravi Sankaran

MVCC Andrew Marton

NCWP Paula Gerez

NWNC Connor Webb

PalmsNC Reza Akef

SORONC Michael Lynn

WCC Steve Sann

WLASNC Jay Handal

WNC Terri Tippet

WWNC Lisa Chapman

Nonvoting Alternates Present:

Nickie Miner (BABCNC), Barbara Broide (WNC), Sue Kohl (PPCC), John Heidt (WCC), Carolyn Jordan (BCC) and Jason Plummer (SORONC)

1. Board Member Updates

While awaiting the arrival of Mayor Bass, Vice Chair Spitz (PPCC) gave an update on the SB79 which she noted has passed in the Senate, is going to the Assembly, then back to the Senate (looking to early fall.) Member Broide advised that we should meet with local legislators over the recess.

Mayor's Talk

The business meeting was paused and the Mayor's talk began at 7:37 a.m., when Mayor Bass arrived; Chair Greenberg welcomed the Mayor, who was accompanied by staff: Marian Ensley and Michelle Vergara. Mayor Bass answered several questions from the Board which had been submitted to her in advance. At 8:12 am, Chair Greenberg brought the discussion / Q&A to a conclusion and invited those present to gather for a group photo.

The WRAC Board thanked our esteemed Special Meeting Guest **Mayor Karen Bass** for honoring us with her participation, answering our questions and sharing important information about her work, policies, and goals. We look forward to a continuing productive working relationship.

2. Approval of Minutes Motion (Robin Greenberg) –

The June 16, 2025 and July 7, 2025 meeting minutes were approved by 10-0-1, with the abstention from Member Marton, as moved by Member Handal.

3. Old Business – Robin related the following:

- a) **25.05. Allocation of Revenues from Bus Lane Violation Enforcement Pilot Program –** February 2025 (passage deadline July 2025). **7** councils adopted: BAB CNC, BCC, NCWP, VNC, WLASNC, WNC, and WWNC. **NOTE: passage deadline extended 2x since February (5 mos.).**
- b) **25.06. Oppose SB 79 (Wiener) / Support CF 25-0002-S19 –** April 2025 (passed June 2025). **10** councils adopted: BAB CNC, BCC, NCWP, PPCC,* SORONC,* WLASNC,* WNC,* WCC, and WWNC (*modified versions). Position letter sent: <https://westsidecouncils.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/WRAC-letter-Assembly-Rules-re-SB-79.pdf> (Note: WLASNC passed the motion after WRAC's position letter submitted.)
- c) **25.07. Amend LAMC 56.15 – No Riding E-Bicycles on Sidewalks –** May 2025 (passage deadline August 2025). **7** councils adopted: BAB CNC, NCWP,* PPCC,* VNC, WLASNC, WNC, WWNC* (*modified versions). - DRNC will take it up.
- d) **25.08. Postpone Caltrans Repaving Project on the 405 –** May 2025 (passage deadline August 2025). **6** councils adopted: BAB CNC, BCC, NCWP, PPCC, WLASNC, and WWNC. **NOTE: Caltrans began the project in late June, with repaving and lane closures only during nighttime hours; WRAC motion is effectively now moot.**
- The Board agreed to allow the motion to expire when the passage deadline is reached.
- e) **25.09. Oppose RFP for IKE Sidewalk Kiosk Project –** May 2025 (passage deadline August 2025). **7** councils adopted: BCC, PPCC,* VNC, WLASNC, WNC, and WWNC (*modified versions). **NOTE: City Council passed this CF on 6/20/24; WRAC motion is effectively moot.**

- Member Broide noted that this motion was paused in Council and returned to the Public Works Committee, as it was acknowledged that permitting these projects undermines the STAP program.
- Member Gerez (NCWP) noted that her NC will put this on their agenda.

- f) **25.10. Request Mayor to Consent to City Controller’s Audit of Inside Safe** –June 2025 (passage deadline Sept. 2025). **5** councils adopted: BABCNC, DRNC, NWNC,* WLASNC, and WNC (*modified version).
 - Member Akef related that items f, g and h will be placed on Palms NCs’ agenda.
- g) **25.11. Request Mayor and CAO to Disclose Sources of funding for the Inside Safe Program** – June 2025 (passage deadline Sept. 2025). **5** councils adopted: BABCNC, DRNC, NWNC, WLASNC, and WNC.
 - Vice Chair Spitz noted that SORONC, PPCC and WWNC have approved this motion.
 - Member Handal noted that as the Mayor reported that an independent audit report had been done, we should ask her to forward that report to us. He’d like to know the date of said report. **Motion** to request the independent audit report that the Mayor mentioned had already been done, **passed**, as moved by Member Handal and seconded by Member LoBuglio.
- h) **25.12. Support CF 20-1376-S5 (Park)** – June 2025 (passage deadline Sept. 2025.) **3** councils adopted: BABCNC, WLASNC, and WNC.
 - PPCC and SORONC passed the motion. WWNC will have it on their August agenda.
- i) **25.13. Oppose Legislation Mandating Housing Density Without Funding Mechanisms** – June 2025 (passage deadline Sept. 2025). **5** councils adopted: BABCNC, WLASNC, WCC, WNC, and PPCC* (*modified version). SORONC just passed the motion.
 - WWNC and BCC have this item scheduled for August.
- j) **25.14. Support Heavy Rail Underground Subway Mode of Transportation; Oppose two proposed Monorail Options for the Metro Sepulveda Transit Corridor Project (STCP)** –July 2025 (passage deadline Oct. 2025 / DEIR comment deadline 8/30/25). **3** councils adopted: NWNC,* WCC, and WNC (*modified version).
 - SORONC passed the motion; WWNC, PPCC and WLASNC will take it up. Member Akef stated that he believed Palms NC endorsed “Alternative 5” as did WCC, in favor of a station at Sepulveda and Expo.
 - Carolyn Jordan noted that BCC opposes “Alternative 3” which poses difficulties for them.

Member Handal asked Marian and Michelle with the Mayor’s office to follow up with our request for the independent audit mentioned by the Mayor and they will follow up for another meeting. He noted that the HOC meets on the 29th at 7:00pm. Marian will put that date on scheduling for the Mayor. Marian will also put in the request for the independent audit.

Member Broide asked who was doing the PLU question, to which Vice-Chair Spitz noted that we didn’t plan on it due to time constraints. Vice-Chair Spitz related the PLU questions to Marian and Michelle, to include how we can restore local governance and address the draconian Zone Zero regulations being

proposed and considered by the Bureau of Forestry. Vice Chair Spitz noted that Dr. Travis Longcore speaks to the data on proper landscaping that protects from fires. She stated that Zone Zero eliminates most planting for all fire zones and that we would love the Mayor to weigh in and maybe confer with the governor about this. Member LoBuglio noted that they don't have the team to enforce this logically. Member Broide noted that the local difference is that Zone Zero was based on the experience of the Paradise Fire, which was within a forest.

Member Gerez related that she would love the Mayor to fight for the smaller communities, and that smaller cities were all against Zone Zero, which goes against their specific plans.

Vice Chair Spitz noted that we (WRAC) have a pending motion to oppose housing density legislation that doesn't include funding mechanisms. She noted that the City Attorney, Hydee Feldstein Soto, submitted a letter in opposition to SB 79 for that reason and opined that such bills should have funding mechanism to help cities provide the additional infrastructure that has to be done.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 a.m.