



MINUTES

WRAC Meeting of the Board of Directors February 23, 2026 – 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 6:32pm. WRAC Secretary/Treasurer Tyler Laferriere-Holloway called the roll with 11 members present initially, and quorum met. Member Plummer arrived by 6:38pm for a total of 12 members until Member Sankaran left at 7:15pm with **11 remaining**.

Board Members Present

BABCNC Bel Air-Beverly Crest NC: Robin Greenberg, Chair
PPCC Pacific Palisades CC: Chris Spitz, Vice-Chair
BCC Brentwood CC: Carolyn LoBuglio
DRNC Del Rey NC: Ravi Sankaran (*left at 7:15 PM*)
MVCC Mar Vista CC: Charlene Samiley
NWNC North Westwood NC: Patrick Babajanian
SORONC South Robertson NC: Jason Plummer
VNC Venice NC: Nico Ruderman
WCC Westwood CC: Steve Sann
WLASNC West LA-Sawtelle NC: Jay Handal
WNC Westside NC: Terri Tippit
WWNC Westwood NC: Lisa Chapman

Nonvoting Alternates Present:

Nickie Miner (BABCNC), Barbara Broide (WNC), Andrew Marton (MVCC), Carolyn Jordan (BCC), Vic Pacheco (WLASNC)

Also Present:

- CD 5 Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky, accompanied by staff members Cairo Rodriguez and George Hakopiants, CD 5
- Samantha Gallegos, District Rep – 24th Senate District Senator Ben Allen
- Sherwin Shamoeil, Senior Field Rep – Assemblymember Rick Chavez Zbur, AD 51

- Leah McKenzie, Sr. Public Relations Specialist, LADWP
- WRAC Secretary/Treasurer Tyler Laferriere-Holloway
- WRAC MTC Committee Chair, Selena Inouye
- Ian Blue (MVCC) Resident of Mar Vista
- Michael Amster – CD 11 was noted to be present briefly.

b. Chair Updates –

- (1) Next Board meeting: March 16, 2026 (WRAC breakfast meeting with District Attorney Nathan Hochman at Belmont Senior Living in Westwood, approved by the Board on 1/26/26. Breakfast buffet will begin at 7:15am.
- (2) WRAC-sponsored CD 11 Candidates Forum (March 1, 2026, 1-3pm at 1st Lutheran Church of Venice; see also Board Member Updates, item 3.a below). Chair Greenberg thanked committee members who made this forum happen.

2. Government Reports/Speakers

a. Guest speaker: Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky, CD 5 – WRAC Chair Robin Greenberg (BABCNC) introduced and welcomed Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky, with an appreciation of what she does. The Councilwoman provided updates on public safety, housing, homelessness, and basic city services in CD 5. Some comments included mentions of allocations of hundreds of thousands of dollars in funds for officers on the streets for overtime, pushing to update the basic car plans and to get a basic car in WLA Division, as well as of expanded prevention tools, e.g., cameras, SLO officers, drones, and focus on safety interventions, such as restoring streetlights, and improving traffic safety, so officers can focus on solving crime.

The Councilwoman mentioned that homelessness is down since she came into office. They opened their first site in the entire district for transition housing, which she described as the right thing to do and required by Judge Carter. She discussed homelessness prevention, funding for domestic survivors, and bringing thousands of new beds online.

She provided an update on the problem of non-operating streetlights in CD 5 and citywide. She described this as a “Streetlight Emergency” where one out of 10 lights are out at any given time. She noted that repair times are up to a year, in part from copper wire theft. They understand that this is not sustainable and have a reward system for people who turn folks in for copper wire theft. She noted the second challenge with the funding model is that the Bureau of Street Lighting has paid for an assessment, and assessments have not gone up since 1996, which something needs to be addressed. Her office, at the district level with Councilwoman Park, is looking for a repair group, to split funding to support overtime for additional repair work and a dedicated street lighting crew shared between CD 11 and CD 5, to add capacity. They are working on this funding model now. Citywide, there is now a motion to change over 60,000 lights to solar power. They are focused on tracking repair times. Her office will intervene if you see a delay in your service request.

Councilwoman Yaroslavsky noted that she strongly opposed SB 79 and that Planning issued a report on how SB 79 will proceed which will be heard in City Council tomorrow. There are options as to incentives. Her preference is the most modest approach, buying the city time to find a local alternative.

As to traffic safety, she mentioned a horrific accident in Westwood, at Westwood Blvd. and Rochester, where three people died and several people were seriously injured.

The Councilwoman noted that she has asked LADOT to accelerate the work for which her office received funds (two years ago) on the Ohio Avenue and Westwood Mobility projects, both of which are in the community outreach phase. On Westwood, her position is that the mobility project must be grounded in common sense. She asked DOT to conduct a peak-hour environmental review. Her staff, Jarrett and Kristin, are trying to weigh in on these locations.

The Councilwoman provided answers to pre-submitted questions with some comments as follows: The Westwood Park and Bad News Bears parking revenue goes into the Rec and Parks Special Fund, *not* to other general fund uses. There have been RVs parking overnight at Westwood Park, which is not allowed. LAHSA will be there tomorrow; they are working to have the gate locked at night. George Hakopiants is in coordination with the park rangers to ensure enforcement.

In regard to a Sepulveda Transit Corridor UCLA station, the Councilmember noted that she is grateful that the Metro board approved her preferred path – a station centrally located on campus, which she noted is the obvious choice. The officials are talking with UCLA to make sure that the school is comfortable with this choice for the station.

Asked about the Broxton garage, she explained that the city unfortunately cannot offer free parking. The office was able to negotiate with DOT to cut the parking fee in half, from \$6 for the first hour to now \$3. Regarding parking meter revenue, she has inherited a broken trust, in that metered parking in Westwood village was originally sold to the community as a supposed parking benefit district, but zero benefit has been provided. She is trying to find a resolution to allow for a benefit to Westwood village from parking meter revenue.

In regard to digital billboards and the Olympics Ordinance, the Councilwoman acknowledged concerns that temporary signage may become permanent, but noted that the Ordinance that passed is explicit that the signs are temporary only from January 2028 to October 2028 and must be removed after that time. She introduced a motion asking the City Attorney to establish a stronger framework, including fines of up to \$50,000 a day, which is consistent with what NYC has done and has eliminated all illegal off-site signage. She has a person on her team whose focus is on this issue and said that if she is the Councilperson, no one will use the games as a backdoor to permanently expand digital billboards. Furthermore, as to security planning, certain lanes will be restricted for Olympics transit. Her focus is to continue to press for coordination

with federal partners including Secret Service, so residents and businesses know what to understand about transit plans before the Olympics. She will share more about this issue as soon as she has more information.

Vice-Chair Spitz thanked Councilwoman Yaroslavsky on behalf of PPCC and the Palisades community, for the Councilwoman's leadership on the Budget Committee to waive permit fees for the fire victims. The floor was then opened to other board members, beginning with Member Broide (WNC), who asked about SB 79, and also noted that if billboards are *not* truly to become permanent, shouldn't there be a statement inserted into the city's motion that clearly states that city signs erected during the Olympics may *not* be eligible for permanent status. Councilwoman Yaroslavsky noted as to SB 79 that she hopes that the city litigates, if there is a path to do that, as there is so much uncertainty around this issue and no way to implement the local alternatives on time. She noted that the Metro board voted for a suite of potential legislation to slow this down – to implement the bill in a responsible way. There are carveouts we should have, e.g., the city should not be able to simply delay VHFHSZs and HPOZs. There are questions for the City Attorney, and she will ask for the status or if there is a path for carveouts. The Councilwoman also asked Member Broide to send possible draft language to her office to prevent the Olympics temporary signage from becoming permanent.

Member Broide then asked who is monitoring the convention center project, to which the Councilwoman replied that the Council took up this matter on Friday. She noted that the city has hired consultants, including an owner's representative, and related that she is concerned about this project. Councilwoman Yaroslavsky continued that she has asked CAO Matt Szabo to report on the project regularly; she is concerned because no firm price has been fixed on the project and she thinks it may explode in costs, e.g., from rain delays, if asbestos is found, etc. She feels that this is an unmitigated nightmare that does not help Angelenos. She will be getting updates. She is worried about the city's ability to manage this project.

The Councilwoman also stated that she would like to create an economic development corporation, a nonprofit, noting the lack of expertise in managing the city's real estate portfolio. She pointed out the Cotner encampment on city-owned property, noting that we can be much more strategic in how we think about our property as an investment, not simply to sell it off. She noted that the city can engage in private/public partnerships and could use the property in our portfolio to create and grow areas of the economy. She and other Council members are working with the Mayor's office on solutions for the use of city-owned property.

Steve Sann (WCC) thanked the Councilwoman for her work on transit issues and spoke of the need to work with the business community. He asked her a Charter Reform question, noting that there are many concerning proposals coming from the Charter Commission, including proposals to strip the City Attorney's independence, to require rank-choice voting, to allow 16-year-old people to vote, and so forth. He noted that it seems that the Commission wants to throw everything it wishes to see into the Charter. The Councilwoman answered that the best thing we

can do with the Charter is to make it only three pages long, to have a framework that guides elected leadership, and let the Council decide on the rest. If you don't like what we come up with, then vote us out of office.

Ian Blue, Zone 1 Director of Mar Vista CC, thanked the Councilwoman for coming to Westside Village and visiting his neighborhood last year. He noted that constituents are reaching out regarding speed humps, and he asked about the application portal process, which used to be open at least once a year. He understands that the process is now changing, and asked how to guide constituents, e.g., whether to reach out to her office or if there is another way for neighbors to advocate for speed humps. He noted that safety concerns are being raised, especially around local schools. The Councilwoman noted that DOT is revising the speed hump program. Her office will update constituents when more information about the program is obtained from DOT and noted that this is why we need to be smarter about what we spend. As Budget Committee Chair, she is focused on how we free up money to provide basic services. Vanessa is the point person. She understands that cut-through traffic is real in the Westside Village area and asked that constituents stay in touch with her office and communicate issues.

WRAC Chair Greenberg thanked Councilwoman Yaroslavsky for speaking with us about her work and for answering our questions.

b. Mayor's Office – Jennifer Hull, Westside Representative, was not present

c. Council Reports –

Cairo Rodriguez, Sr. Field Deputy – Council District 5/Yaroslavsky – and Michael Amster, Field Deputy – Council District 11/Park – were present but had no reports.

d. Additional Government Reports –

Samantha Gallegos, District Representative for Senator Ben Allen (24th SD).

Sam related that the Senator has introduced a number of bills and co-authored a few. He has been finalizing fact sheets she hopes to distribute soon. She noted that SB 1301 is a nonrenewal transparency bill which must be in print for 30 days before being acted upon (a period required to learn more about the bills before submitting comments to committees). She spoke about SB 1092, the Mobile Home Communities Stability and Preservation Act, regarding mobile home parks. These bills were introduced three days ago. If anyone has questions, Sam can be reached at Samantha.gallegos@sen.ca.gov See website: <https://sd24.senate.ca.gov/district/internship>

[At this point, Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky was noted to be present and attention was turned to Agenda item #2.a.]

Assemblymember Rick Chavez Zbur Sherwin Shamoeil, Senior Field Rep –

Sherwin related, as to Energy/climate and the environment, the Assemblymember has introduced the Public Lands Protection Act, AB 1624, and introduced an affordability and environmental bill, focusing on data centers and energy facilities, so we can isolate the cost

of these facilities instead of passing the cost on to rate payers. Sherwin spoke about numerous other bills that the Assemblymember has introduced or is working on related to consumer protection, LGBTQ rights, the environment, health and human services and education. He will provide details about more bills in the coming months.

Leah McKenzie, Sr. Public Relations Specialist, LADWP noted that LADWP started draining the Santa Ynez reservoir in Pacific Palisades last Thursday, which they will complete in a month. LADWP will remove, dismantle and dispose of the old cover, and then bring in a new cover. The project should be completed in the fall of 2026. Franklin Canyon Road repair is an ongoing project due to the rain and a lot of unforeseen weather. The schedule has shifted so that expected completion, which was to occur in February, has been moved to April 2026.

3. Board Member Updates –

- a. **Chris Spitz/Jay Handal/Nico Ruderman (ad hoc Debate Committee): CD 11 Candidates Forum update:** Vice Chair Spitz thanked Nico and Jay who are working on the program for the event, and noted that Nico prepared a beautiful flyer and has been integral in engaging with the candidates; we have the timing, date and the venue, which the Committee members and Chair Greenberg have visited. Nico hopes all WRAC members will attend the forum at the Venice First Lutheran Church on March 1st from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. Doors open at 1:00pm. Seats will be reserved in front row pews for all WRAC member councils in CD 11 who have responded. The Moderator will be Josh Haskell of ABC 7. All three candidates – Traci Park, Faizah Malik and Jeremy Wineberg – are confirmed to attend.

4. Committee Reports –

- a. **WRAC Transportation & Mobility Committee (MTC) – met 2/18/26; next mtg 3/18/26.** MTC Chair Selena Inouye related that she was present this evening to provide information because there is a motion from the MTC on our agenda, brought forward from Lauren Cole of BCC, who was unable to join us tonight. Most recently, the MTC had presentations on LADOT on the Ohio and Westwood safety and mobility projects, which resulted in many questions and concerns. She tried to get both CD 5 and CD 11 transportation deputies to MTC meetings this month and will try again to allow for a conversation about MTC concerns. The MTC regularly meets monthly and is open to agenda suggestions. Email Selena with any suggestions.
- b. **WRAC Homelessness Committee (HOC) – met 1/27/26; next mtg TBA.** Committee Vice-Chair Chris Spitz reported (noting that HOC Chair Jay Handal was not present at the moment) that the HOC had an interesting conversation this past month with City Controller Kenneth Mejia, noting that unfortunately the HOC could not address what members had wanted to address, e.g., the Alliance case and the audit that was supposed to occur, because of an appeal filed by the City. The Controller was appointed by Judge Carter as an advisor to the auditors, but nothing could be done on the matter because of the pending appeal. The HOC would like to arrange for a special homelessness committee meeting at Belmont again with senior city officials and representatives, e.g., Councilmembers Yaroslavsky and Park, and various agencies involved with the matter of RV parking enforcement. It is hoped that such a meeting can be scheduled soon.

- 5. Public Comment:** There was none from non-member attendees on items NOT on the agenda.

6. Approval of Minutes

- a. The January 26, 2026 meeting minutes were **approved** by 8-0-3, with the abstentions from Members LoBuglio, Plummer and Babajanian, as **moved** by Chair Greenberg and **seconded** by Vice Chair Spitz.

7. New Business

- a. **Motion (WRAC MTC; Carolyn LoBuglio/BCC) – Support First Mile/Last Mile Plan for the D Line WLA VA Station Before Ohio Ave. Safety and Mobility Project Installation.**

“_____ CC/NC, a member of the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils, supports the development of a First Mile /Last Mile Plan for the D Line WLA VA Station before the installation of the Ohio Ave. Safety and Mobility Project.”

Carolyn moved and Chris seconded. It was noted that the bike lanes and the safety and mobility safety project plans to be implemented before the first last mile situation is worked out, no one knows the egress for the first last mile, and it will result in the bike lanes and part of that project to be torn up. It will be built and reconstructed. The motion is to wait until the first last mile plan is finalized before putting in the mobility project.

Brendan, a resident of Sawtelle, spoke against this motion, noting that LA Metro has already published a First Mile/Last Mile Plan (FLM) Plan, a completed plan, informed by a lot of stakeholder interviews, walk audits, surveys and presentations. He noted that Metro does not have the capacity to implement the plan. They support and encourage the local agencies to implement the project. Metro’s FLM Plan does include the Ohio Avenue bike lane and LADOT has put in years of work in the engineering design, which was also informed by a lot of community engagement. The process for this Ohio Avenue bike lane has been by the book; Metro published the plan and LADOT has been implementing it. For these reasons he would recommend voting against this.

Member Patrick Babajanian, (NWNC) covering for Member Connor, would respectfully oppose the project as well.

After Board discussion, beginning with notes from Member Babajanian, the motion on the agenda recommended by the WRAC MTC – Support First Mile/Last Mile Plan for the D Line WLA VA Station Before Ohio Ave. Safety and Mobility Project Installation – **failed to pass** by 3-3-5, with 3 yeases from Chair Greenberg, and Members LoBuglio and Tippit, 3 noes from Members Babajanian, Plummer, and Handal, and 5 abstentions from Vice-Chair Spitz, and Members Samiley, Sann, Ruderman and Chapman.

We thanked MTC Chair Selena Inouye for attending and explaining the motion, and despite the outcome with this motion, we also thank the MTC members for their ongoing work and for bringing to the Board’s attention important transportation issues impacting the Westside.

8. Old Business

- a. **25.17. Support STC Project, including on-campus UCLA Station at UCLA Gateway Plaza; oppose changing location to Gayley Ave. & Strathmore Dr. (passed January 2026).** 9 councils adopted: BCC, MVCC, NWNC,* PPCC, VNC, WCC, WLASNC,* WNC, and WWNC (*modified versions).

Position letter: <https://westsidecouncils.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/WRAC-Letter-STCP-Station-UCLA.pdf>.

b. 25.18. Support CF 25-1484 (Park): Regulation of Sober Living Density – January 2026 (*passage deadline April 2026*). 6 councils adopted: BCC, DRNC, PPCC,* WLASNC,* WNC,* WWNC (**modified versions*).

It was noted that MVCC and WLASNC also passed the Sober Living Density motion. WCC will vote on it at their March meeting, in addition to BABCNC.

- 9. Adjourn** – The meeting adjourned at 7:56pm, after brief board discussion (below).
Next meeting to be held on **March 16, 2026** (*special in-person breakfast meeting at Belmont Senior Living in Westwood; D.A. Nathan Hochman guest speaker*)

Vice-Chair Spitz noted that we will ask for questions in advance for DA Nathan Hochman, which we will submit to him a week before the meeting.

Member Broide mentioned that **Draft Open Space Element comment letters are due by March 31st**.
<https://planning.lacity.gov/plans-policies/environmental-justice#open-space>
See Link for the draft: https://planning.lacity.gov/odocument/3fcc90ae-c557-47e0-a1b9-e33b44044772/OpenSpace_Element_PreliminaryDraft.pdf

Member Broide also mentioned that Los Angeles City Council is reviewing the proposed "Olympics Streamlining Ordinance" (Council File 15-0989-S47) designed to fast-track 2028 Olympic and Paralympic construction by relaxing zoning, planning, and environmental review regulations.

Member Broide noted that the Department of Public Works is proposing changes to the process by which trees on the public right-of-way may be considered for removal, including changes in permit notifications and reporting guidelines. *A presentation was made to the Community Forest Advisory Committee on 2/12 where Angelo Yenko of Streets LA indicated that they do not have the resources to continue with the current notification and consideration process and presented a proposed plan to update the process.*

Member Broide noted that there is a new California Assembly Bill, AB-2433, Housing development: affordable homes bonus program. This is to attempt to change bonus density law, to make it easier for more bonuses to be given to developers.

Member Sann thanked Member Broide for tracking the Olympics Ordinance, noting that we do not want to see temporary digital signs that become permanent signs outside of sign districts. He thanked those who are putting on the CD 11 candidate forum this Sunday and encouraged all the CD 5 representatives, if they are available, to try to be there to support neighbors in CD 11. WRAC Secretary Tyler Laferriere will be there.