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Pacific Palisades Community Council

Palms Neighborhood Council
South Robertson Neighborhoods Council
Venice Neighborhood Council
West LA-Sawtelle Neighborhood Council
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Westwood Neighborhood Council

MINUTES

WRAC Meeting of the Board of Directors

April 20, 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 6:33pm. WRAC Secretary / Treasurer Tyler Laferriere called the roll with 8 members initially present, and quorum met.

Board Members Present

BABCNC Bel Air-Beverly Crest NC: Robin Greenberg, Chair

BCC Brentwood CC: Carolyn LoBuglio

DRNC Del Rey NC: Quenton Richards (alternate for Ravi Sankaran)

PPCC Pacific Palisades CC: Chris Spitz, Vice-Chair

SORONC South Robertson NC: Michael Lynn

WCC Westwood CC: Steve Sann

WLASNC West LA-Sawtelle NC: Jay Handal

WNC Westside NC: Terri Tippit

WWNC Westwood NC: Connie Boukidis (new representative)

Nonvoting Alternates Present:

Nickie Miner (BABCNC), Vic Pacheco (WLASNC), Barbara Broide (WNC)

Also Present:

- Jennifer Hull, Westside Representative – Mayor’s Office
- Cairo Rodriguez, Sr. Field Deputy – Council District 5/Yaroslavsky
- Michael Amster, Field Deputy – Council District 11/Park
- Janet Turner – Office of Congressman Ted Lieu
- Sophia Liebman – Office of State Senator Ben Allen (24th SD)
- Zac Gaidzik – Office of LA County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath
- Leah McKenzie, Sr. Public Relations Specialist – LADWP
- Santos Sanchez, City Planning Associate – Department of City Planning
- WRAC Secretary/Treasurer Tyler Laferriere
- Sheida Ashley, President – Century Glen NC (stakeholder/public)
- Robert Schlesinger (public)

b. Chair Updates –

(1) Chair Greenberg welcomed new WWNC President and WRAC representative Connie Boukidis, who noted her long history of neighborhood council service including 10 years as WWNC’s Land Use Committee Chair and previous attendance at WRAC meetings. Chair Greenberg also expressed appreciation for outgoing WWNC President Lisa Chapman and her years of dedicated service to WRAC, particularly on homelessness issues.

(2) Chair Greenberg recapped the March 16, 2026 WRAC breakfast meeting at Belmont Senior Living in Westwood with District Attorney Nathan Hochman as guest speaker, thanking Member Steve Sann for arranging the venue. Member Sann noted Belmont’s willingness to host future special meetings and encouraged the Board to identify future guest speakers. Vic Pacheco (WLASNC alternate) asked whether the DA’s presentation had been recorded; it had not.

2. Government Reports/Speakers

a. Mayor’s Office – Jennifer Hull, Westside Representative

Jennifer Hull reported on the Mayor’s proposed FY 2026–27 budget, released that day. Budget highlights included:

Homelessness: Maintaining Inside Safe, increasing funding to address RV encampments, and increasing funding for oversight, transparency, and accountability.

Public Safety: Increasing police hiring to 510 new officers; training in use-of-force de-escalation and mental health intervention; maintaining funding for LAFD; and maintaining deployment of 500 crossing guards.

Infrastructure and Basic City Services: Increasing funding for street and sidewalk repairs, street sweeping, bulky item pickup, and dedicated illegal dumping enforcement;

increasing funding to achieve 700 lane miles of street repairs (resurfacing, slurry, and large asphalt repairs); and increasing funding by 45% for assessment and installation of curb ramps citywide.

Streetlights Initiative: The Mayor's office announced an initiative with LADWP to convert existing streetlights to solar in order to free up resources for repairing other lights. Hull clarified that this is funded separately from the general budget.

Neighborhood Council Fund: No change from the prior fiscal year; election funding is included in the proposed budget.

In response to questions:

Member Broide (WNC alternate) asked whether historic (non-Cobra) streetlights are eligible for solar conversion. Hull replied that assessments are still in early stages and that communities with antique lights should contact the Mayor's office to ensure their preferences are elevated.

Vice-Chair Spitz (PPCC) asked whether the budget addresses streetlights in the Pacific Palisades fire zone, noting severe safety concerns. Hull agreed to look into the specific budget line items and follow up.

Quenton Richards (DRNC alternate) asked whether the Mayor's proposed budget confirms that NC funding, including election funding, will not be cut. Hull confirmed that the NC Fund in the proposed budget shows no change from the prior year and includes election funding, though final decisions rest with the City Council during budget hearings.

Nickie Miner (BABCNC alternate) asked about LAPD/LAFD hiring details. Hull noted the budget calls for 510 new police officers and referenced a prior executive directive streamlining the hiring process to reduce bureaucratic delays.

b. Council Reports –

(1) Cairo Rodriguez, Sr. Field Deputy – Council District 5/Yaroslavsky

Cairo Rodriguez reported on behalf of Councilwoman Yaroslavsky. Key items:

City Budget: As Chair of the Budget Committee, the Councilwoman is leading the City Council's review of the Mayor's proposed budget through thorough public hearings. A virtual community conversation is scheduled for Tuesday, April 21 at 6 pm via Zoom to walk residents through the budget. Formal budget hearings with public comment begin on Friday, April 25.

Gross Receipts Tax Initiative: A certified ballot initiative related to the city's gross receipts tax was before the Council, which voted to request further review by the Chief Administrative Officer. If approved, the measure could reduce city revenue by approximately \$800 million annually, with no identified replacement funding. Councilwoman Yaroslavsky voted in accordance with the Charter process while expressing serious concern about the potential impact on essential city services.

Transportation Network Revenue: The City Council approved the first step of an ordinance establishing revenue allocation from Transportation Communication Network companies: 25% to citywide transportation priorities and 75% to individual council districts based on infrastructure location.

Sepulveda Transit Corridor (STC): Metro has selected the locally preferred alternative. Community meetings are underway in late April and early May, including in Westwood.

Street Lighting: The dedicated repair crews serving CD 5 (shared with CD 11) completed their first round of streetlight repairs.

LACMA Opening: The Councilwoman attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new LACMA building. Member previews have begun; the museum will open to the public alongside the new D-Line station.

Procurement Review: A motion was approved to examine the city's procurement process for goods and services to ensure competitive contracting and efficient use of taxpayer funds.

Ciclaviva: Returning to CD 5 on April 26, transforming Westwood Boulevard into a car-free space from Santa Monica Boulevard to Westwood Village.

Member Sann (WCC) asked both Rodriguez and Amster about the Ohio Avenue bike lane project, noting that 14 or more community groups from CD 11 and CD 5 have written in opposition and that constituents feel stonewalled by LADOT. Sann stated the left-turn restrictions came as a surprise to the community, that an earlier plan without them existed until approximately September, and that LADOT has cited insufficient funding to install signalization that would preserve left turns. Rodriguez asked Sann to forward the community letter to his office.

Carolyn LoBuglio (BCC) noted that LADOT presented to the Brentwood Community Council and found their reasoning regarding traffic delays and the loss of approximately 50 parking spaces to be compelling, though she acknowledged others disagree.

Barbara Broide (WNC alternate) raised concern about the lack of coordination with Metro and the VA regarding access to the upcoming VA Metro station from the south. Amster responded that the VA has been engaged and has expressed no concerns.

(2) Michael Amster, Field Deputy – Council District 11/Park

Michael Amster reported on behalf of Councilwoman Park. Key items:

Pacific Palisades Dog Park: A dedication ceremony is scheduled for Saturday, May 9; the public is invited to park along Topanga Canyon Road.

Wildfire Education Resource Fair: A fair on home hardening, evacuation preparedness, and Zone Zero defensible space will be held at St. Martin of Tours School in Brentwood, with food and activities for children.

Property Tax Protection – SB 1352: The Councilwoman introduced a resolution supporting Senator Allen's SB 1352, which would allow homeowners rebuilding after a major disaster to retain their existing lower property tax assessment, provided the rebuild is no more than 10% larger than the original structure.

Bundy Triangle Night Market: A weekly Friday night farmers market at Bundy Drive/Santa Monica Boulevard is revitalizing what had been a blighted homeless encampment area.

Del Rey Tree Adoption Day: A recent community event featuring tree adoptions, mulch distribution, and a resource fair.

Revitalize Rose Project: Groundbreaking has occurred for improvements along Rose Avenue, including ADA upgrades, new lighting, and a protected bike lane.

Rose Hampton Encampment (Resolution A418): Rose Hampton has been designated a Section 41.18 site, authorizing enforcement against camping. Signage and enforcement are being put in place.

Vice-Chair Spitz asked Amster to follow up with the council file number for the resolution supporting SB 1352; he agreed to email it.

Regarding the Ohio Avenue bike lane, Amster noted the road width is the core constraint: there is no way to preserve both a right-turn and a left-turn lane without significant reconfiguration that would worsen east-west congestion. He acknowledged the community's concerns about LADOT's inadequate public communications and has pressed LADOT to provide better explanations.

c. Additional Government Reports – At the discretion of the Chair

Janet Turner – Office of Congressman Ted Lieu (CA-36)

LA Coastal Area National Park Study: The Congressman's previously enacted bill authorizes a study on whether to establish an association between the LA coastal area and the National Park Service. Turner emphasized this is a study only and does not itself create or expand any park designation. The public comment period has been extended to May 23. Venice Neighborhood Council is hosting another community briefing; exact date/time/location TBD. The study area begins at Will Rogers State Beach.

H.R. 7524 – Older Workers Bureau: A co-sponsored bill to establish a data hub and technical assistance center supporting employment of individuals 55 and older.

H.R. 6024 – VA Mental Health Expansion: A co-sponsored bill providing additional VA funding for mental health services, waiving licensing requirements to hire more counselors, and expanding suicide prevention programs.

Vice-Chair Spitz asked whether the coastal study could impact Will Rogers State Beach; Turner confirmed the study begins there and encouraged PPCC to engage when the VNC briefing is announced.

Sophia Liebman – Office of State Senator Ben Allen (24th SD)

Sophia Liebman reported that 12 of the Senator's 14 introduced bills were in committee that week. Key items:

SB 1352 – Property Tax Assessment Protection: A bipartisan bill (with a Republican co-author) allowing homeowners rebuilding to roughly the same size (up to 10% larger) to retain their existing lower property tax assessment rather than being reassessed at current market value. Up in committee this week.

Price Gouging: A bill to improve enforcement against price gouging and anti-competitive business practices protecting disaster victims. Closes three loopholes and allows the City of LA to enforce the Cartwright Act. Passed its first committee with bipartisan support.

SB 1301 – Insurance Non-Renewal Transparency: Reforms the non-renewal process for residential property insurance, requiring 6 months' notice before non-renewal and disclosure of specific risk factors. Up in committee April 22.

Fire Mitigation Collaborative: Expands the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program to allow regional entities to integrate with more public agencies, insurers, utilities, and nonprofits throughout the Santa Monica Mountains. Also being heard April 22.

Zone Zero Rules Update: The Board of Forestry and Fire Protection released a new draft of Zone Zero rules (first five feet around a home). A public meeting is scheduled in Calabasas on Thursday. The Senator's office continues to advocate for greater local control for Southern California communities.

Assembly Resolution 127: The Assembly passed a resolution establishing December as Multifaith Heritage Month in California.

Zac Gaidzik – Office of LA County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath

K-Line Northern Extension: The Metro Board approved moving forward with the K-Line Northern Extension along the San Vicente-Fairfax alignment – the first continuous north-south rail line through the heart of Los Angeles. The 9.7-mile extension is projected to serve approximately 100,000 daily riders, link 4 major rail lines and 6 busy bus corridors, and improve access to more than 125,000 jobs and 325,000 transit-dependent residents.

Paramount/Skydance-Warner Brothers Acquisition: The County Board of Supervisors approved a Supervisor Horvath motion to analyze the economic impacts on the regional entertainment workforce (more than 300,000 local jobs). The county will conduct a full impact study and report back within 120 days; county counsel is also directed to submit formal comments to the DOJ on potential antitrust concerns.

Regional Wildfire Mitigation Authority: The Board approved a Supervisor Horvath motion to assess the feasibility of a joint powers authority to coordinate fire prevention efforts across the entire Santa Monica Mountains, addressing fragmented city, county, state, federal, MRCA, and SMMC jurisdictions. Department of Regional Planning and LAFD to report back in 90 days.

Chair Greenberg also announced that Supervisor Horvath's office is hosting a Fire Education and Resource Fair on Saturday, April 25.

Leah McKenzie, Sr. Public Relations Specialist – LADWP

Palms Construction: LADWP will begin construction at Venice Boulevard and Overland Avenue in May, with completion expected by October. Work will be in the McDonald's parking lot; no traffic disruption or water service interruptions expected.

LA100 Plan Advisory Group: LADWP invited the WRAC Board to designate a primary contact and alternate to join the LA100 Plan Advisory Group Committee, which guides LADWP's power system roadmap for the next two decades. Interested board members should contact McKenzie directly.

Santos Sanchez, City Planning Associate – Department of City Planning

SB 79 (Abundant and Affordable Homes Near Transit Act): The bill targets areas near existing or proposed high-quality transit stations. The City Council voted against allocating funds for mailers to property owners in affected areas due to budget constraints. The Planning Department is conducting a tiered-implementation study at the Council's direction, to phase in SB 79 at a slower pace. The study has not yet been released.

Monthly Planning Updates: The Planning Department's Community Liaison office publishes monthly updates, a newsletter, and an annual report at the department's website under "Community Corner." Questions may be sent to: planning.liaison@lacity.org.

3. Board Member Updates – Limited to 5 minutes total

Chair Greenberg announced that BABCNC is hosting a town hall on Sunday, May 3 for candidates running for California State Insurance Commissioner.

Member Handal (WLASNC) provided an update on the Mayor's proposed FY 2026–27 budget as it relates to neighborhood councils: NC allocations remain at \$25,000 per council (same as last year); rollover of unspent funds is expected to be permitted at 100% (as last year, pending any change by the City Council President); NC elections remain funded in the proposed budget; and no staffing cuts are proposed for the City Clerk's department. He cautioned that City Council could modify the proposal during budget hearings beginning May 20. He described the overall city fiscal picture as challenging, with a projected \$230–\$260 million deficit, insufficient new hires to offset attrition in LAPD and LAFD, and ongoing under-funding of infrastructure.

Member Tippit (WNC) asked for clarification on the rollover cap. Handal confirmed it is expected to remain at 100%.

Vice-Chair Spitz (PPCC) announced that long-time WRAC administrative assistant Cathy Palmer is stepping back from her role supporting WRAC minutes, thanking her for approximately five years of service. Secretary Tyler Laferriere will take on additional responsibility for meeting minutes going forward. Spitz also thanked Handal for his long support of the arrangement with Palmer.

4. Committee Reports – Limited to 5 minutes total

a. WRAC Transportation & Mobility Committee (MTC) – met 4/15/26

No MTC representative was present to provide a report. Vice-Chair Spitz noted that the MTC has lacked quorum at its last two meetings and encouraged all member councils to confirm that their designated MTC representatives are still actively attending.

b. WRAC Homelessness Committee (HOC) – next mtg TBA

Vice-Chair Spitz noted that she and Member Handal have not yet coordinated on the date or agenda for the next HOC meeting. Handal clarified that the HOC will schedule a meeting when member councils submit agenda items; absent a substantive agenda, there is no need to meet.

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

6. Approval of Minutes

a. The March 16, 2026 meeting minutes were approved by 8-0-1, with 1 abstention (WWNC – Connie Boukidis, not present at the March 16 meeting), as moved by Member Lynn (SORONC) and seconded by Vice-Chair Spitz.

7. New Business

a. Motion (Quenton Richards, DRNC alternate, standing in for DRNC President Ravi Sankaran) – Support Restoration of Full Funding for NC Elections in the Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget.

“___ NC, a member of the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC), strongly urges the City to restore and maintain full funding for Neighborhood Council elections in the Fiscal Year 2026–2027 budget. The City Clerk’s proposed elimination of \$915,000 in funding, which would likely result in the postponement of the 2027 NC elections until 2029, represents a short-term budget solution with long-term democratic consequences. While fiscal responsibility is critical, the cost savings are marginal when weighed against the erosion of civic engagement, community trust, and local representation. Furthermore, many NC Bylaws do not allow board member terms to extend beyond June 2027 and therefore if NC elections do not occur during FY 2026-2027 these members would term off with no democratic process for choosing their successors. Funding for NC elections in FY 2026-2027 is absolutely critical and cannot be eliminated.”

Quenton Richards moved and Jay Handal seconded. Richards noted that based on the Mayor’s budget report, election funding appears maintained in the proposed budget; however, with City Council hearings beginning May 20, adopting this as a WRAC position could serve as a useful precautionary statement. Member Handal acknowledged the budget reality but supported voting as a symbolic measure, also noting that by the time member councils could individually adopt and return positions to WRAC, budget hearings would likely be over. No opposition or abstentions.

Motion carried by 9-0-0.

b. Motion (Jay Handal, Co-Chair NC Budget Advocates; WLASNC Treasurer and rep to WRAC) – Support Budget Advocates White Paper; Oppose Postponement of NC Elections.

Original motion text included two parts: (1) support the recommendations of the NC Budget Advocates on pp. 7–16 of the Budget Advocates 2026 White Paper; and (2) oppose postponement of NC elections until 2029.

Quenton Richards proposed consolidating the two motions by amending Motion 7b to remove the anti-postponement language (already addressed under 7a) and retain only the first part – supporting the Budget Advocates 2026 White Paper. Handal agreed. Vice-Chair Spitz clarified that the amendment would strike only the second portion of the motion. The amendment was moved by Handal and seconded by Spitz.

Amendment to strike anti-postponement language **carried** by 9-0-0.

Motion as amended – Support the Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates 2026 White Paper – **carried** by 9-0-0.

8. Old Business

a. 25.18. Support CF 25-1484 (Park): Regulation of Sober Living Density – January 2026 (*passed April 2026*). 8 councils adopted: BCC, DRNC,* MVCC,* NCWP, PPCC,* WLASNC,* WNC,* WWNC (*modified versions).

Position letter: <https://westsidecouncils.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/WRAC-Letter-Sober-Living-Density.pdf>

Chair Greenberg confirmed that the 8-council threshold has been met and the position letter has already been issued. Vice-Chair Spitz confirmed the letter has been transmitted. No further board action required.

9. Adjourn – The meeting adjourned at 7:44pm.

Before adjournment, Member Handal reminded all member councils that Budget Day is **June 27**. All NCs will receive an email in the next 8–10 days with a link and instructions. Each NC should appoint two budget representatives (a primary and an alternate) to vote at Budget Day for new NC Budget Advocates and Budget Advocate Executive Committee members for Region 11. Councils that have not yet appointed two budget reps should do so at their May meeting.

Next meeting to be held on **May 18, 2026**.