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MINUTES

WRAC Meeting of the Board of Directors

May 18, 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 6:34pm. WRAC Secretary/Treasurer Tyler Laferriere called the roll with 8 councils present, and quorum certified.

*Reza Akef (PNC) arrived late at 6:38pm

Board Members Present

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

BCC Brentwood CC: Carolyn LoBuglio

DRNC Del Rey NC: Ravi Sankaran

NWNC North Westwood NC: Connor Webb

PPCC Pacific Palisades CC: Chris Spitz, Vice-Chair

PNC Palms NC: Reza Akef

SORONC South Robertson NC: Michael Lynn

WCC Westwood CC: Steve Sann

WNC Westside NC: Barbara Broide (alternate)

WLASNC West LA-Sawtelle NC: Vic Pacheco (alternate)

Nonvoting Alternates Present:

Nickie Miner (BABCNC)

Also Present:

- Jennifer Hull, Westside Representative – Mayor’s Office
- Cairo Rodriguez, Sr. Field Deputy – Council District 5/Yaroslavsky
- Janet Turner – Office of Congressman Ted Lieu
- Paige Hajiloo – Office of LA County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath (covering for Zac Gaidzik)
- Leah McKenzie, Sr. Public Relations Specialist – LADWP
- Santos Sanchez, City Planning Associate – Department of City Planning
- WRAC Secretary/Treasurer Tyler Laferriere
- Robert Schlesinger (public)

Note: Council District 11 had no representative present. Representatives of Congressmembers Brad Sherman and Sydney Kamlager-Dove; Senators Ben Allen and Lola Smallwood-Cuevas; Assemblymembers Isaac Bryan, Jacqui Irwin, Rick Chavez Zbur, and Tina McKinnor; Supervisor Holly Mitchell; Council Districts 4 and 10; LAPD; and Metro were not present or did not report.

b. Chair Updates –

Chair Greenberg noted that approval of the minutes (Item 6) would be taken up immediately following the roll call to ensure quorum before members who needed to leave early could do so.

Chair Greenberg shared that she had recently attended the openings of three LAFD fire stations – Station 99 (Mulholland Drive), Station 71 (Sunset Boulevard), and Station 37 (Veteran Avenue) – and had represented BABCNC and WRAC alongside Councilwoman Yaroslavsky at each. She described the events as enjoyable community occasions and expressed gratitude for the firefighters’ service.

2. Government Reports/Speakers

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

Jennifer Hull reported the following:

Mayor’s Sacramento Advocacy Trip: Mayor Bass traveled to Sacramento last week to advocate for the city. Key items included: restoring homeless housing assistance and prevention program funding to \$1 billion for California cities; an amendment to the Affordable Housing Bond Act of 2026 to acquire interim housing; mortgage relief for Palisades fire-impacted homeowners; legislation to crack down on insurers; and state funding to close the gap between insurance proceeds and rebuilding costs. The mayor also met with Governor Newsom and other state officials and testified at a legislative hearing on preparations for the 2028 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Burglary Reduction: The mayor announced that burglaries are down 30% citywide as LAPD increases targeted enforcement, with more than 100 burglary-related arrests in the past 30 days.

FIFA World Cup Watch Parties – Kick It in the Park: The City of Los Angeles will host more than 100 FIFA World Cup watch parties across LA in partnership with local council offices. Events will be free, open to the public, and held at various Recreation and Parks facilities, featuring large LED screens, interactive soccer clinics, and other activities. The full schedule is

available at kickit.lacity.gov. Volunteer opportunities are available; interested parties may contact Hull for information.

In response to questions, Member Broide (WNC alternate) asked whether the Mayor's office is coordinating with CDC on protective public health measures in light of an Ebola outbreak that could affect international visitors arriving for the FIFA games. Hull stated she did not have an answer but would follow up with her team.

b. Council Reports –

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

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

Revised City Budget: The Budget and Finance Committee, chaired by Councilwoman Yaroslavsky, advanced a revised city budget after weeks of public testimony and department-by-department review. The revised budget reflects difficult decisions in the face of fiscal uncertainty, rising operational costs, and uncertainty about future city revenues. Key priorities preserved in the budget include public safety hiring, homelessness services, sidewalk and street repairs, graffiti and blight enforcement, and continued expansion of the unarmed crisis response program into additional LAPD divisions. The committee's recommendation increases the city's reserve funds to approximately 9%, an important step toward long-term financial stability. The budget now moves to the full City Council for consideration.

Emergency Protocol Improvements: City Council advanced a motion to strengthen emergency protocols, communications, and parking enforcement during red flag warning days. Recent wildfires and wind emergencies have exposed gaps in coordination and public communications, particularly in high-risk areas. The motion directs the Fire Department, LADOT, and the Emergency Management Department to improve emergency coordination, strengthen public messaging, and develop updated enforcement and response procedures.

Westside Bus Connection Program: The Westside City Council of Governments (COG) is seeking community feedback on the proposed Westside Bus Connection Program, a quick-build initiative to improve bus reliability along key westside transit corridors. Community members are encouraged to participate in upcoming virtual and in-person meetings.

Metro FY2027 Budget Hearing: The Metro Board will hold a public hearing on its proposed FY 2027 budget on Thursday, May 21. Residents are encouraged to provide input on Metro service, investments, and regional transportation priorities.

Homelessness Coordination: CD 5 staff worked alongside LAPD, Sanitation, and LAHSA outreach teams to address Westside encampments, with outreach and services provided before any cleanup activity. One individual was successfully connected to interim housing at the Pico-Midvale site and is receiving ongoing case management and supportive services.

South Robertson NC Meeting: The Councilwoman joined the South Robertson Neighborhood Council meeting to discuss the budget, homelessness, public safety, traffic safety, and neighborhood infrastructure priorities.

In response to questions and comments:

Vice-Chair Spitz (PPCC) asked when the Budget and Finance Committee will resume its normal agenda items (other than budget review), noting that an important motion by Councilwoman Park regarding waiver of permit fees for Palisades fire victims – and the two proposed ordinance

versions from the City Attorney – cannot proceed until after the budget hearings conclude. Rodriguez agreed to investigate the timeline for when the committee returns to its regular agenda and would follow up.

Member Broide (WNC alternate) raised three items: (1) The Westside Bus Connection Project is on an accelerated schedule and communities – particularly businesses – are not aware of how quickly it is moving or of its potential land use impacts, which could include permanent dedicated bus lanes. She urged CD 5 to help publicize the project and consider requesting a slower pace. (2) There are four state housing bills in Sacramento that she asked the Councilwoman to consider opposing by motion, as they would further reduce local land use authority; she would send a memo to the office. (3) LADOT neglected to share a community-generated alternative design for the Ohio Avenue Transit and Mobility Safety Project with Councilwoman Park, and it is unclear whether Councilwoman Yaroslavsky is aware of it; the option addresses several community concerns and deserves a fair hearing. Rodriguez confirmed he noted all three items.

Member Sann (WCC) acknowledged the opening of three new D-Line Metro stations at Wilshire/Fairfax, Wilshire/La Brea, and Wilshire/La Ciénega as a significant regional milestone, expressing appreciation for CD 5's involvement. He also raised the persistent homelessness crisis, contrasting the broad funding being sought at the state level with the incremental on-the-ground results. He described a Santa Monica Boulevard and Greenfield Avenue encampment, including an unhoused Army veteran from Operation Desert Storm with a less-than-honorable discharge (who faces barriers to services) and a man in a wheelchair with bilateral below-knee amputations who declined offers of distant housing because his doctors are at UCLA. Sann noted that San Francisco and San Jose have made more significant progress and called for urgency and cross-governmental coordination. Rodriguez replied that CD 5 was at the Santa Monica/Greenfield location the prior week, reduced the encampment to three tents, connected individuals to services, and conducted three arrests on outstanding warrants; back-to-back service dates are scheduled for that location Wednesday and Thursday. He acknowledged the system's limitations, noting that individuals cannot be compelled to accept shelter, and called for greater county, state, and federal partnership.

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

No CD 11 representative was present.

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: Turner reminded attendees that May 23 is the final day to submit public comments on the National Park Service study of the LA coastline (from Will Rogers State Beach to San Pedro, excluding the Palos Verdes Peninsula, but including Ballona). The study examines whether to establish a potential association with the NPS and whether additional resources could be brought to the coastline. Comments may be submitted via the National Park Service website.

H.R. 838516 – American Leadership in AI Act: The Congressman introduced a bill bundling 20 bipartisan bills into one package to begin establishing a regulatory framework for artificial intelligence. The Congressman supports encouraging AI development while preventing potential harm.

H.R. 2853 – Combating Organized Retail Crime: Passed the House and is on its way to the Senate. The bill increases law enforcement resources for organized retail crime that crosses state lines.

Resolution 1251: Passed; calls on elected officials and civil society leaders to counter anti-Semitism and educate the public on the contributions of the Jewish American community.

Member Sann (WCC), following up on the anti-Semitism resolution, noted that UCLA's new Chancellor, Julio Frenk, had addressed campus anti-Semitism as his first topic. He announced that Chancellor Frenk and his wife, Dr. Felicia Maria Nall (a descendant of Holocaust survivors), will speak with Rabbi Emeritus David Wolpe at Sinai Temple in Westwood on Saturday, June 6, following Shabbat services (approximately 11:00–11:30 a.m.), on the issue of anti-Semitism on university campuses. The event is open to the public and free; an RSVP is required. Sann offered to share registration information with interested attendees.

Paige Hajiloo – Office of LA County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath (covering for Zac Gaidzik)

Homelessness Services – HSH and ECRC: The county's new Housing and Homeless Services (HSH) department, launched in January, is still being built and its services integrated. The county's Encampment Coordination and Response Compliance (ECRC) teams provide outreach to unhoused individuals, connection to housing, and support for those at risk of becoming unhoused. Hajiloo noted she has worked directly with these teams and described them as effective.

Field-Based Mental Health Expansion: A March board motion, introduced by Supervisors Horvath and Hahn, seeks to expand field-based care for people experiencing both homelessness and mental illness. The motion aims to expand street-based mental health services, streamline referral pathways, and strengthen accountability. A 90-day report-back is pending; Hajiloo committed to sharing the results with the board when received.

Department of Youth Development: A recent board motion by Supervisors Horvath and Hahn will transfer rehabilitative services from the Probation Department to the county's Department of Youth Development, creating formal inter-agency agreements to improve access to services for youth in county care and on probation.

D-Line Metro Extension: Hajiloo celebrated the recent opening of the three new D-Line stations at Wilshire/Fairfax, Wilshire/La Brea, and Wilshire/La Ciénega, noting Section 2 is expected to open by the end of 2026 and Section 3 in early 2027.

In response to questions and comments:

Member Webb (NWNC) noted that the 20-minute evening headways on the D-Line extension make the system practically unusable after 9:00 p.m., including for large groups celebrating the opening night who ultimately took ride-share rather than wait in the station. He asked whether Supervisor Horvath, as a Metro board member, could advocate for improved frequency, particularly before the Westwood station opens. Hajiloo agreed to flag the concern with the Supervisor's director of infrastructure and community services and share any response by email.

Member Sann (WCC) echoed Webb's D-Line comments and added a concern about the condition of older Metro stations, particularly MacArthur Park Station, which he described as suffering from cleanliness, safety, and drug-related problems. He contrasted this with the immaculate condition of the three new stations and urged Metro to raise the maintenance standard system-wide, especially in advance of international visitors for the FIFA World Cup and the 2028 Olympics. Hajiloo agreed to flag this concern as well.

Leah McKenzie, Sr. Public Relations Specialist – LADWP

Venice and Overland Water Regulator Station Rehabilitation (Palms): Construction began today (May 18), having been set up over the weekend. Work is limited to the McDonald's parking lot; no traffic impact, residential disruption, or water service interruptions expected. Completion is expected in October.

Abbot Kinney Boulevard Rehabilitation (Venice): An upcoming project at Abbot Kinney Boulevard in Venice is expected to begin at the end of May or early June, with completion anticipated in August. Fact sheets for both projects were shared in the Zoom chat.

Santos Sanchez, City Planning Associate – Department of City Planning

SB 79 – City Planning Commission Hearing (May 14): The City Planning Commission held a hearing on May 14 on the Low-Rise Ordinance and the Phased Implementation Ordinance, which together establish the transition zones and implementation timeline for SB 79 citywide. The Commission is still accepting public comments on both ordinances. The Phased Implementation Ordinance governs how and over what period the city will roll out SB 79 compliance.

NC Lunch Labs – Planning Open Office Hours: The Department of City Planning, in coordination with the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE), will pilot a weekly “Lunch Lab” – open office hours for neighborhood council members with questions about planning projects, council files, and land use matters. Details are still being finalized; an announcement is expected within a few weeks.

Note: Following the Planning Department report, Member Broide (WNC alternate) provided a detailed supplemental update on the May 14 City Planning Commission hearing on SB 79 (see Item 4b below).

3. Board Member Updates – Limited to 5 minutes total

No board member updates were offered.

4. Committee Reports – Limited to 5 minutes total

a. WRAC Transportation & Mobility Committee (MTC) – next meeting 5/20/26

No MTC Chair or representative was present to give a formal report. Vice-Chair Spitz reported in her capacity as a committee liaison. She noted that longtime MTC Chair Selena Inouye had asked Spitz for help addressing recurring quorum failures. Several member councils had either failed to appoint MTC representatives or had representatives who were no longer attending. Spitz reported progress: PPCC has a new, eager representative (also serving on a traffic task force related to Palisades reconstruction); Member Webb (NWNC) confirmed he will attend; and Carolyn LoBuglio (BCC) has found someone to attend. Spitz encouraged all member councils to verify their MTC representatives are actively participating and thanked Webb and LoBuglio for their responsiveness.

Member Broide (WNC alternate) provided two transportation updates in conjunction with this agenda item:

Westside Bus Connection Project: Broide cautioned that the Westside Cities COG has secured funding for the Westside Bus Connection Project before a project design has been defined – a concerning sequence. Round 1 community outreach was poor, with very few westside stakeholders attending. Upcoming outreach meetings are as follows:

In-Person Workshop 1: Wednesday, June 3, 6:00–8:00 p.m., La Cienega Community Center (La Cienega Boulevard and Gregory Way, Beverly Hills)

In-Person Workshop 2: Saturday, June 6, 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m., West LA Civic Center

Virtual Meeting: Tuesday, June 10, 1:00–2:30 p.m. via Zoom

Streets under consideration for the Westside Neighborhood Council area include Santa Monica Boulevard (Beverly Hills to the 405) and Sepulveda Boulevard (UCLA to Westchester, excluding the Culver City segment). Proposals range from full-time dedicated bus lanes to part-time lanes or signalization improvements. Broide urged robust community participation. She also noted that a community-generated alternative for the Ohio Avenue bike lane project has been crafted by a coalition of neighborhood and community councils; the plan restores some left turns from eastbound Ohio Avenue to northbound signalized streets but has not yet been formally presented to the Councilmembers.

Westwood Boulevard Mobility and Safety Project: Broide described the companion project, which divides Westwood Boulevard into three segments. Current proposals include a dedicated bus lane and dedicated protected bike lane through Westwood Village (Wilshire to LeConte), which would reduce through traffic to one lane in each direction; a dedicated bike lane between Santa Monica and Wilshire; and a potential dedicated bike facility between Santa Monica and Pico. Community members still have an opportunity to influence the final design. Broide noted that UCLA has been effective at mobilizing student participation and urged broader community engagement.

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

Vice-Chair Spitz reported on behalf of the HOC in the absence of Chair Handal. She reiterated that the committee meets only when member councils submit agenda items. The most recent meeting featured City Controller Kenneth Mejia as a speaker; however, a pending appeal by the City prevented substantive discussion of the Alliance lawsuit and associated audit. She noted that Member Sann’s remarks during the CD 5 report (see Item 2b) reflect the views held by most HOC committee members. The committee will reconvene when items are submitted; member councils with homelessness motions they believe have regional relevance should bring them to the committee or directly to the WRAC Board.

Vice-Chair Spitz also noted that WRAC has not had an active Land Use Committee for some time due to the lack of a committee chair, and expressed interest in reviving it. She invited suggestions from board members on how to proceed.

Following Spitz’s HOC report and a conversation about land use, Member Broide provided a supplemental update on the May 14 City Planning Commission hearing on SB 79:

SB 79 – City Planning Commission Outcome (May 14): The Commission approved an ordinance to be sent to the City Council implementing SB 79, with three technical corrections. Key outcomes:

Rear Setback: The Commission increased the rear setback from the Planning Department’s proposed 4 feet to 8 feet (advocates had sought 15 feet).

Open Space Incentive: At the request of community advocates (Maria and Jeff Calvin and Cindy Shevital of United Neighbors), the Commission agreed to incorporate a 15-foot rear setback as an optional incentive for developers meeting the city’s open space requirement at ground level, rather than with balconies or rooftop space.

Front Balconies: Balconies may extend up to five feet on the front facade of an SB 79 development, to increase open space and break up building facades.

Adaptability to State Law Changes: The Commission clarified that if SB 79 is repealed, legally challenged, or amended in Sacramento, the city's local implementation will reflect those changes.

Raman Density Amendment Denied: A proposal by Councilwoman Raman to increase density to four or five stories on R1 lots was not taken up by the Commission but will return before the full City Council.

Broide explained that SB 79 will be implemented first in high- and moderate-resource areas within a half-mile of transit, effective July 1, 2026. In those areas, a single-family lot can be redeveloped with up to three stories (or four stories if 20% or more of units are three-bedroom, per a Councilwoman Yaroslavsky motion). The current approval allows four-story apartment buildings with an eight-foot rear setback and a four-foot side setback in R1-zoned areas, which Broide described as deeply concerning for neighborhood character, fire safety, and emergency access.

Broide also highlighted four additional state housing bills flagged by United Neighbors that she asked member councils and council representatives to consider opposing:

SB 1116: Would prohibit local governments from requiring objective development standards for housing projects that subdivide single-family lots into up to 10 parcels, with minimum lot sizes as small as 960 square feet.

AB 1751: Would allow three-story townhouses on “underutilized” land (i.e., a single-family lot from which a house has been demolished), with no rear or side setbacks.

AB 1740: Would allow ministerial approvals of remodels and additions near coastal areas, removing Coastal Commission review, including for affordable housing developments.

AB 2005 (Oppose Unless Amended): Would eliminate the owner-occupancy requirement in SB 9 (the lot split law), allowing LLCs and investors – not just owner-occupants – to use the lot split provisions. An amendment that would allow a family trust whose trustee lives on the property is considered acceptable.

Member Sann (WCC) asked whether the minimal setbacks in SB 79 and these bills conflict with Zone Zero fire safety requirements, noting that one part of state policy is pushing homes closer together while another is demanding more fire-safe clearance around structures. Broide responded that these policies are indeed working at cross-purposes and that the 4-foot side setback proposed for SB 79 projects fails to account for the historical norm of a driveway plus 3-foot setback. She also noted that at the City Planning Commission, staff misrepresented the historical precedent for side setbacks. Members LoBuglio (BCC) and Spitz (PPCC) added that many recent studies point to home-to-home transmission as the primary driver of wildfire spread in Southern California – a concern that argues for more, not less, spacing between structures. Vice-Chair Spitz clarified that Zone Zero regulations apply to landscaping rather than building setbacks, and that they were developed in response to the Paradise Fire in a forested environment, making them less applicable to Southern California conditions.

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

6. Approval of Minutes

a. Note: Per Chair Greenberg, Item 6 was taken up immediately following the roll call under Item 1a, before Item 1b, to take advantage of quorum. The April 20, 2026 meeting minutes were approved by 9-0-0, as moved by Chair Greenberg and seconded by Member Lynn (SORONC). No discussion.

7. New Business – None.

8. Old Business

a. **25.19. Support Restoration of Full Funding for NC Elections in the Fiscal Year 2026-27 Budget** – April 2026 (*passage deadline July 2026*). 4 councils adopted: MVCC,* NWNC,* PalmsNC,* WLASNC (*modified versions).

Chair Greenberg reported that 4 councils have adopted this motion or a modified version. Vice-Chair Spitz noted that Ravi Sankaran (DRNC), who was unable to remain for the full meeting, had advised that DRNC will also pass a version of this motion, bringing the expected total to five councils. Spitz also noted that with the city budget moving through the Council, this motion may become moot. Vic Pacheco (WLASNC alternate) raised a procedural question about whether community impact statements (CIS) filed to the base council file number (CF 26-0600) need to be refiled to address supplemental motions (e.g., CF 26-0600-S1, -S2, -S3). Vice-Chair Spitz clarified that WRAC submits a position letter (not a CIS, as it is an alliance rather than a neighborhood council). Member Broide noted that NCs should review each supplemental motion's subject matter and refile their CIS if it is directly relevant. Member Webb (NWNC) confirmed NWNC passed a similar motion prior to the WRAC action.

b. **25.20. Support Budget Advocates 2026 White Paper** – April 2026 (*passage deadline July 2026*). 1 council adopted: WLASNC.

Chair Greenberg noted that only 1 council has adopted this motion to date. No further discussion.

9. Adjourn – The meeting adjourned at 7:40pm.

Next meeting to be held on **June 15, 2026**.