

MINUTES

WRAC Meeting of the Board of Directors

August 17, 2026 – 6:30pm

Join Zoom Meeting:

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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) opened the meeting at approximately 6:38 p.m. Because quorum had not yet been reached, the Chair began with Item 2 (Government Reports), taking the Mayor's Office and Council reports first. Once sufficient members had joined, the Chair returned to Item 1, and WRAC Secretary/Treasurer Tyler Laferriere called the roll at approximately 6:51 p.m. Ten councils were present, and quorum was certified. Marcy Agmon (WWNC 2nd alternate) joined later in the meeting, bringing the total to 11 councils.

Board Members Present

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

BCC Brentwood CC: Carolyn Jordan (alternate)

DRNC Del Rey NC: Quenton Richards (alternate)

NCWP NC of Westchester-Playa: Theresa Torrance

NWNC North Westwood NC: Connor Webb

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: Barbara Broide (alternate)

WWNC Westwood NC: Marcy Agmon (2nd alternate; joined during meeting)

Also Present:

- Michael Amster, Area Director – Council District 11/Park

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

- Carlos Peñilla, Senior Field Representative – Office of State Senator Lola Smallwood-Cuevas (SD-28)
- Zac Gaidzik – Office of LA County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath
- Selena Inouye – Chair, WRAC Transportation & Mobility Committee
- WRAC Secretary/Treasurer Tyler Laferriere
- Nico Ruderman (Venice; attending as a member of the public, not as VNC representative)
- Lionel Morris (community advocate; public)

Note: The Mayor's Office (Jennifer Hull) and Council District 5 (Cairo Rodriguez) were called but did not respond. Representatives of Congressmembers Brad Sherman and Sydney Kamlager-Dove; Senator Ben Allen; Assemblymembers Isaac Bryan, Jacqui Irwin, Rick Chavez Zbur, and Tina McKinnor; Supervisor Holly Mitchell; Council Districts 4 and 10; LAPD; LADWP; the Planning Department; and Metro were not present. No representatives were present for MVCC, PNC, or VNC.

b. Chair Updates –

(1) September **Meeting Date.** Chair Greenberg noted that the next regular meeting date, Monday, September 21, falls on Yom Kippur, and requested board approval to postpone the meeting for one week to Monday, September 28. The motion to reschedule was moved by Member Handal (WLASNC) and seconded by Vice-Chair Spitz (PPCC). With no opposition, the motion was carried by unanimous consent.

(2) WRAC **Officers' Election in September.** Chair Greenberg announced that the WRAC officers' election will take place at the September 28 meeting (Bylaws, Art. VII.1). Officers serve two-year terms and are not term-limited; board members were invited to consider becoming candidates. Vice-Chair Spitz stated she is willing to continue as Vice-Chair (including administrative duties) but would welcome anyone wishing to take on the role; Chair Greenberg indicated the same. Spitz noted that Secretary/Treasurer Laferriere, who also assists with technology and minutes, would welcome a successor given his time demands. She added that, under WRAC's rules, an officer need not be a current member of a neighborhood or community council board. Interested members were asked to notify Chair Greenberg before the September meeting.

2. Government Reports/Speakers

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

Jennifer Hull was called but was not present and did not provide a report.

b. Council Reports –

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

Cairo Rodriguez was called but was not present and did not provide a report.

(2) Michael Amster, Area Director – Council District 11/Park

Michael Amster (now serving as an Area Director for CD 11) reported on behalf of Councilwoman Park:

Homeless Count: The recently released Point-in-Time count showed a citywide increase in homelessness, but CD 11 recorded its third consecutive year of decline, with reductions across

neighborhoods for both encampments and vehicle dwellers. Amster acknowledged the issue is far from resolved, citing a difficult conversation that day with business owners at Santa Monica Boulevard and Sawtelle.

Measure ULA Exemption for Palisades Fire Properties: Upon Council's return from recess, the Councilwoman succeeded in placing a measure on the November ballot that would provide a temporary exemption from the Measure ULA transfer tax for residential properties affected by the Palisades Fire.

Brentwood Pole-Top Transformers: At the most recent Brentwood Community Council meeting, LADWP presented on three pole-top transformer racks to serve Brentwood (Distributing Station 66): San Vicente at Gretna Green; San Vicente at Barrington (behind the Starbucks); and Sunset Boulevard between Allenford and San Remo. Rising demand from electric vehicles and large new homes is driving the need. The timeline has slipped, with completion now expected sometime next year.

Back-to-School Events: The office supported two back-to-school events, in Venice Beach and at Mar Vista Gardens in Del Rey, serving hundreds to thousands of students.

Vista Del Mar Traffic Safety: Major improvements are coming to Vista Del Mar, where more than 65 collisions have occurred since 2020, including median barriers and fencing, speed tables, and automated speed cameras. Automated speed cameras will be deployed citywide beginning later this year, including Vista Del Mar.

Centinela Creek: Following the May operation with Caltrans and homeless service providers to house individuals camping in Centinela Creek along the 405, Caltrans is now securing the area to prevent re-encampment.

In response to questions and comments:

Chair Greenberg noted she had seen Amster at National Night Out at Stoner Park.

Member Sann (WCC) asked Amster to convey his thanks to the Councilwoman and her team for the World Cup watch party events in Venice, describing thousands of people safely enjoying Ocean Front Walk and calling it a preview of what the city can offer in 2028, particularly as hotels, restaurants, and small businesses have struggled with declining tourism. Amster thanked him and noted Venice is experiencing a comeback with business growth across the district.

Vice-Chair Spitz (PPCC) thanked the Councilwoman on behalf of the Palisades community for placing the Measure ULA exemption on the ballot.

Member Broide (WNC alternate) reported that a coalition of homeowner groups in CD 5 and CD 11 had filed an appeal regarding the Ohio Avenue Traffic Safety Project to be heard by the Board of Public Works, but LADOT has intervened to reject the request for an appeal. She asked for help understanding how LADOT can prevent the coalition from appearing before the Board. Amster replied that his City Hall colleagues are in discussions with LADOT and the City Attorney's office to determine the rationale and the Municipal Code basis for denying the appeal, and that follow-up would likely come from another CD 11 staff member. MTC Chair Selena Inouye added that the day of the meeting was the last day of the 60-day review period following the appeal's filing, and the Board of Public Works had not indicated whether it would exercise its right to a 15-day extension, leaving the appellants in limbo. She asked that CD 11 follow up with her or the appellants.

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

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

Venice Back-to-School Event: Turner praised the CD 11 back-to-school event in Venice for its production value, activities for children, and ample shade.

AI Kill Switch Act: A bipartisan bill introduced by the Congressman that would authorize the Department of Homeland Security to order leading AI firms to shut down or slow their AI models, prompted in part by a reported incident in which one AI model attacked another.

H.R. 9250 – Great American Outdoors Act: A bipartisan bill co-sponsored by the Congressman to modernize and maintain the National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Forest Service, restoring campgrounds, trails, and boat ramps; prohibiting new federal land acquisitions; and creating new sustainable funding mechanisms.

Member Broide (WNC alternate) asked why the bill would prohibit new federal land acquisitions if they could become parkland, and whether it would make it harder to dispose of protected land, citing reductions to Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments. Turner said she believed the provision was not intended to interfere with parkland acquisition and that the bill is partly a response to efforts to reduce protected lands. Turner reminded members the office can assist with federal agency matters, including passports and IRS issues.

Carlos Peñilla, Senior Field Representative – Office of Senator Lola Smallwood-Cuevas (SD-28)

Legislative Update: Two of the Senator's bills are headed to the Governor and seven remain alive in the Assembly. Peñilla offered to answer questions about the legislative package.

Coffee with the Senator: Saturday, August 22, 9:00–10:30 a.m., at the Westchester YMCA Annex Building (rear of the property). The event is open to all; attendees were asked to park in the rear. Flyers were sent to Westchester, Del Rey, and Mar Vista NCs and are available by email.

Staff Rotation: Effective approximately September 1, Peñilla will cover the eastern part of the district (downtown and the 710 corridor) while retaining Mar Vista. Yvonne Robertson will cover Westchester, Del Rey, and Culver City, and another representative will cover Palms, Westside, and nearby areas. Peñilla can be reached at carlos.peñilla@sen.ca.gov.

Member Broide (WNC alternate) asked Peñilla to convey to the Senator the concern of many community members about AB 2005, which has passed the Assembly and would allow LLCs to participate in SB 9 lot splits, removing protections promised when SB 9 passed against speculators and REITs buying single-family homes for lot splits. She asked that the Senator oppose the bill. Peñilla said he would check the bill's status.

Zac Gaidzik – Office of LA County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath

Continuum of Care: Supervisors Horvath and Barger introduced a motion reaffirming the county's commitment to a unified Los Angeles County Continuum of Care, which provides rental subsidies and housing support to more than 10,000 people. The county is preparing to assume Continuum of Care responsibilities if needed and is working with the City of LA and other partners to protect federal funding and avoid disruptions to housing services.

Office of Gender Equity: The Supervisor introduced a motion to explore creating an LA County Office of Gender Equity, building on the county's gender impact assessment program and CEDAW implementation. An approved amendment directs a feasibility report on structure, responsibilities, staffing, and funding.

Whiteman Airport Safety: Following recent aviation incidents, the Supervisor advanced immediate safety measures in June based on a Public Works report and, in July, joined Congresswoman Luz Rivas in meeting with FAA officials to press for stronger safety measures and federal oversight.

Palisades Fire Recovery: Long-term recovery efforts continue, including the Rebuild Authority, the Infrastructure Financing Plan, and the Disaster Recovery Tax Financing District.

Restaurant Permitting Assistance: In June, the Board approved the Supervisor's motion to strengthen assistance with county permitting and plan check for restaurants and food businesses, including improved online resources and checklists, expanded technical assistance and outreach, greater language accessibility, and more hands-on help.

World Cup Beach Bus: During the World Cup in July, the office extended the Topanga Beach Bus to the Venice Beach Fan Zone for two days.

There were no questions.

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) – past mtg 6/17/26; next mtg 8/19/26

MTC Chair Selena Inouye reported that the committee has lacked quorum for several consecutive meetings, and she hopes that will be resolved so business can proceed. At its August 19 meeting, the MTC will discuss the Ohio Avenue appeal issue raised by Member Broide. The committee is also tracking Olympics-related plans; the City Council is expected to sign an amended agreement with LA28, which may unlock further announcements from the organizing committee about roles and responsibilities. The MTC meets the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom, and agenda suggestions are welcome.

Vice-Chair Spitz and Member Sann commended Inouye for her long-standing leadership and expertise.

Member Sann reported on two recent LA28 briefings he attended (one at LA28 headquarters for NC representatives and one at UCLA on the Olympic Village "footprint"). He cautioned members to expect very significant impacts: the Games are designated a national security event with planning led from the federal level, beginning with the Secret Service. Approximately 11,500 athletes and 6,000 coaches and officials (about 17,500 people) are expected for the Olympics, and roughly 8,000–10,000 for the Paralympics. Security perimeters are expected to extend approximately 500 feet beyond any Olympic venue, with airport-style screening at minimum. This could affect residents and businesses near UCLA dormitories along Gayley Avenue, businesses in Westwood Village, and businesses on Ocean Front Walk in Venice. He noted these details have not yet been publicly announced.

Member Broide noted that the Olympic Streamlining Ordinance is expected to come before City Council on August 19. She cautioned that it overrides existing regulations and that its impact will depend on how "Olympics-related" facilities and projects are defined, which remains unclear.

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

Chair Greenberg reported that Maureen Levinson (BABCNC), a prior committee member, has signed up again to serve on the HOC. No meeting has been scheduled.

c. WRAC 2026 Election Candidate Forum Committee – status of plans for candidate forum

Nico Ruderman, committee chair, announced that he is no longer on the Venice Neighborhood Council, noting that he disagreed with the outcome but would discuss it privately. He reported that the committee secured a commitment from one candidate in each targeted race, but the other candidates stopped responding: the Mayor's campaign, the Marissa Roy campaign, and John

Erickson's campaign. The committee had discussed inviting the committed candidates to address WRAC individually, but at this point it appears WRAC will not host an official candidate forum this election cycle. Ruderman expressed disappointment and willingness to continue if circumstances change.

Member Broide noted that a mayoral debate between Mayor Bass and Nithya Raman, sponsored by the Sherman Oaks Homeowners Association, will take place Wednesday evening and is expected to be broadcast.

Vice-Chair Spitz thanked Ruderman for his extensive work despite personal challenges, as well as Member Sann, Member Handal, and others who contacted campaigns, and expressed regret that Ruderman would no longer serve on the WRAC board. Ruderman clarified that he intends to attend WRAC meetings whenever possible and will continue to represent Venice, though no longer the VNC.

Member Sann echoed those sentiments, noting that non-NC members such as MTC Chair Inouye contribute significantly to WRAC and he hopes Ruderman will remain involved. He provided background on why the Sherman Oaks Homeowners Association (SOHA) secured two mayoral forums: after redistricting added Sherman Oaks to Council District 4, Councilmember Raman regularly engaged with SOHA, which later hosted a primary forum limited to two candidates, at which both agreed to return for a runoff forum. Sann observed that incumbents and front-runners are often reluctant to share a stage with challengers, which he believes explains the lack of responses from the Mayor's campaign and from the Roy campaign.

Chair Greenberg thanked Ruderman for his energy and positive attitude, particularly in organizing the successful CD 11 forum in Venice.

5. Public Comment

Lionel Morris, a community advocate and stakeholder (speaking for himself), announced that his op-ed has been published in CityWatch LA and shared the link in the chat. He described his advocacy over the past eight to nine months for Charter reform, budget transparency and accountability, and more resources for underserved communities, and expressed interest in attending any WRAC mayoral debate.

6. Approval of Minutes

a. The July 20, 2026, meeting minutes were **approved** by 10-0-0, with no opposition or abstentions, as **moved** by Chair Greenberg and **seconded** by Member Lynn (SORONC). No discussion.

7. New Business – None.

8. Old Business – None (no motions pending).

9. Adjourn – The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:30 p.m.

Before adjournment, Member Sann asked for the name of the public commenter so he could locate the op-ed; Member Lynn noted the link had been posted in the chat.

Vice-Chair Spitz again invited anyone interested in serving as a WRAC officer to come forward, reiterating that officers need not currently serve on an NC or CC board and noting that Secretary/Treasurer Laferriere is a former President of the Mar Vista Community Council.

Chair Greenberg remarked on the extensive news coverage of the opening of the Palisades Village the prior weekend. Vice-Chair Spitz, unable to attend due to mobility issues, said the goal is to bring businesses, including small independent stores, back to the rest of the Palisades commercial area, and shared that her own home rebuild is progressing, with framing and windows installed.

Chair Greenberg thanked members for their cooperation and collegiality.

Next meeting to be held on **September 28, 2026** (rescheduled from September 21 due to Yom Kippur; officers' election).