Westside Regional Alliance of Councils

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Bel Air-Beverly Crest Neighborhood Council
Brentwood Community Council
Del Rey Neighborhood Council
Mar Vista Community Council
Neighborhood Council of Westchester-Playa
North Westwood Neighborhood Council
Pacific Palisades Community Council
Palms Neighborhood Council
South Robertson Neighborhoods Council
Venice Neighborhood Council
West LA-Sawtelle Neighborhood Council
Westside Neighborhood Council
Westwood Community Council
Westwood Neighborhood Council

MINUTES

WRAC Meeting of the Board of Directors

October 19, 2026 – 6:30pm

Join Zoom Meeting:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84095705158?pwd=JGw2s8bM4JsNzlaaLacZJuAMaxt0Md.1#success

Or Dial (669) 900 9128 **Meeting ID** 872 7511 1207

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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 Robin Greenberg (BABCNC) called the meeting to order at approximately 6:31 p.m. Incoming Secretary/Treasurer Nico Ruderman (VNC) called the roll and certified a quorum. Eleven member councils responded during the opening roll call; additional representatives joined later in the meeting.

Board Members Present

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

BCC Brentwood CC: Carolyn LoBuglio

MVCC Mar Vista CC: Andrew Marton

NCWP NC of Westchester-Playa: Paula Gerez

NWNC North Westwood NC: Connor Webb

PNC Palms NC: Kay Hartman

PPCC Pacific Palisades CC: Chris Spitz, Vice-Chair

SORONC South Robertson NC: Michael Lynn

VNC Venice NC: Nico Ruderman, Secretary/Treasurer

WCC Westwood CC: Steve Sann

WLASNC West LA-Sawtelle NC: Jay Handal

WNC Westside NC: Terri Tippit

WWNC Westwood NC: Connie Boukidis

Nonvoting Alternates Present:

Barbara Broide (WNC)

Also Present:

Outgoing WRAC Secretary/Treasurer Tyler Laferriere and the government representatives listed in Item 2 below.

Note: No representative of DRNC was identified in the opening roll call or subsequent vote. Final attendance and alternate designations should be verified against the Zoom participant report.

b. Chair Updates

(1) Next meeting. The next regular WRAC meeting is scheduled for November 16, 2026.

(2) December meeting. Members discussed canceling the regular December 21 meeting in light of the holiday season, with the understanding that a special meeting could be called for urgent business. Jay Handal moved to cancel; Paula Gerez seconded. No objections or abstentions were voiced, and Secretary Ruderman announced unanimous agreement to cancel the December meeting, subject to reconsideration in November if needed.

(3) January and February meetings. Members discussed avoiding meetings on Martin Luther King Jr. Day and Presidents Day, particularly out of consideration for government representatives. Steve Sann moved to reschedule the meetings to January 25 and February 22, 2027; Chris Spitz seconded. No objections or abstentions were voiced; the change was approved by unanimous consent.

(4) Potential in-person meetings at Belmont. Members expressed support for organizing one or more 2027 in-person meetings, potentially featuring LA28 leadership and newly elected City and State officials. Sann reported that Belmont was willing to host and that he had renewed contact with LA28 representatives. Connie Boukidis suggested scheduling some meetings after the June neighborhood council elections. The Board expressed unanimous support without objection for pursuing in-person meetings. Chris Spitz requested help preparing guest questions and handling logistics. Jay Handal, Connie Boukidis (available after the start of the year), Nico Ruderman and Kay Hartman volunteered to assist; Spitz and Sann would continue coordinating. The precise committee membership and schedule were not formally finalized.

2. Government Reports/Speakers

a. Mayor's Office – Krystal Rodriguez, Westside Representative

Krystal Rodriguez introduced herself as the new Mayor's Office of Community Engagement representative covering Council Districts 5 and 11, succeeding Jennifer Hull. She invited WRAC members to contact her about constituent concerns. She highlighted ProcureLA resources for small businesses, including contracting and financing assistance, and an upcoming free eight-week Small Business Procurement Academy for eligible Los Angeles businesses. She also described the CIRCLE community-led crisis response program, an Inside Safe operation that she said brought 35 unhoused Angelenos indoors (and involved six vehicles and fourteen RVs), the Mayor's work on immigrant support resources, and a City ordinance restricting use of City property as staging areas for federal immigration enforcement.

Chris Spitz invited Rodriguez to engage with Pacific Palisades community leaders. Steve Sann raised Metro's possible removal of "Westwood" from the Westwood/UCLA D Line station name and requested the Mayor's attention. Rodriguez said she had flagged the issue with colleagues and understood that it would not return to an agenda until January, subject to change. In response to questions conveyed by Kay Hartman and asked by Ruderman, Rodriguez confirmed she covers Palms, Venice, and the entirety of CD5 and CD11. She provided her contact information in the Zoom chat.

b. Council Reports

(1) Council District 5 — Cairo Rodriguez. No report was given; the representative was not identified as present.

(2) Council District 11 — Michael Amster, Field Director. Amster reported on Councilmember Traci Park's proposed expansion of Los Angeles Municipal Code §41.18 special-enforcement zones to Vista del Mar Park, the Dockweiler Beach sand dunes, Asilomar View Park, Temescal Canyon Park and two pedestrian tunnels under Pacific Coast Highway. He described a repaired Sunset Boulevard water-main break; a brush fire and vegetation concerns near VA land, Brentwood and Barrington Veterans Park, for which the office had contacted the VA; and continuing work at Stoner Park, including an accessible playground, dog run, sidewalks and curb ramps. He also reported tree trimming on Washington Boulevard, plans for approximately 700 trees in Loyola Village, and additional West LA–Sawtelle trimming. He promoted CD11's October 22 virtual homelessness town hall. Spitz reiterated the Homelessness Committee's invitation for Councilmember Park to attend its October 27 meeting; Amster said he would follow up with colleagues.

c. Additional Government Reports

Congressman Ted Lieu — Janet Turner. Turner reported that Rep. Lieu was an original co-sponsor of Rep. Laura Friedman's proposed federal film and television production tax credit, which she described as having bipartisan support. In response to Ruderman, she confirmed that the proposed federal credit would apply nationwide, while California had separately enacted a state credit. Turner also reported on the Housing Unhoused Disabled Veterans Act, introduced by Rep. Brad Sherman and co-sponsored by Lieu, saying the Mayor had reported housing more than 1,000 veterans since January following the law's implementation. Spitz noted WRAC's earlier support for the measure. Turner announced a November 8 "Conversations with Veterans" Zoom event.

Assemblymember Tina McKinnor — LaQuisha Bryant. Bryant announced an October 24 town hall in Inglewood and stated that six of the Assemblymember's fifteen bills were signed. She highlighted AB 2411 concerning public-safety coordination for the 2028 Games and AB 2519 addressing retirement-benefit eligibility for certain charter-school educators who became administrators. She also described budget investments in youth sports, special education, K–12 school funding, teacher residency, public hospitals, Medi-Cal safety-net clinics and child-care slots. No board questions were recorded.

State Senator Ben Allen — Nick Faries. Faries announced an October 28, 5:30–7:30 p.m. webinar addressing El Niño, vegetation management and wildfire mitigation with public land agencies. He reported that twelve of fourteen bills sent to the Governor were signed, highlighting SB 1301 on homeowners' insurance nonrenewal notices and SB 894 on low-interest, state-backed home-hardening loans. He said the office was working toward a smooth transition to the next senator. In response to Spitz, he confirmed the webinar time. His email address was shared in the chat.

LADWP — Aldenae Williams. Williams said she was covering WRAC meetings for Leah Mackenzie during Mackenzie's maternity leave, likely through March. She had no substantive LADWP updates.

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 mtg 10/21/26

The next MTC meeting was announced for October 21, 2026. No substantive report was presented.

b. WRAC Homelessness Committee (HOC) – next mtg 10/27/26

Vice-Chair Chris Spitz confirmed the HOC's October 27 meeting and its invitation to Councilmember Park. Spitz reported that RAND replied to WRAC's inquiry about continuing its homelessness count: the project had lost outside funding, and RAND was willing to discuss possible funding ideas. She suggested a future WRAC presentation by RAND.

HOC letter to RAND: https://westsidecouncils.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/10/WRAC-HOC-Letter-RAND.pdf

Additional land-use update: Barbara Broide reported that the City Planning Department was seeking a state pro-housing designation, with a November 16 public-comment deadline, and raised concerns about potential implications for local land-use rules. She also mentioned upcoming Wake Up California online discussions concerning a Saratoga litigation matter and development-related legislation. These were informational comments, not WRAC positions.

5. **Public Comment:** No public comment was offered on matters not on the agenda.

6. **Approval of Minutes**

a. September 28, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Chair Greenberg moved approval of the September 28 minutes; Connie Boukidis seconded. Ruderman stated that he would abstain because he had not attended that meeting; Andrew Marton also abstained. No negative votes were voiced. Ruderman announced that the minutes passed. The transcript does not establish a complete numerical vote tally, and "unanimous" was announced after the abstentions were acknowledged.

Approved without recorded opposition; 2 stated abstentions. Exact affirmative tally to be verified.

7. **New Business**

a. Motion for Approval of Letter to City Council re Proposed Land Use Appeals Fees Increase (Chris Spitz & Connie Boukidis)

Spitz and Boukidis requested Board approval to send a letter opposing the proposed increase in non-applicant land-use appeal fees under Council File 09-0964-S4 directly to City officials, without another round of Member Council approvals, because the letter reiterates WRAC's prior position. Carolyn LoBuglio confirmed that Brentwood Community Council had recently passed a similar motion.

Proposed letter: https://westsidecouncils.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/10/WRAC-Appeals-Fees-Draft.pdf

Barbara Broide raised concerns about the proposed fees, surcharges, the possibility of costs at multiple appeal levels, and the financial assumptions underlying the City's cost-recovery estimates. She questioned the adequacy of public notice. Jay Handal argued that higher fees could discourage civic participation and reduce the number of appeals. Spitz cited a Little Tokyo Community Council letter expressing concern that cost recovery should not come at the expense of civic participation. Boukidis said excessive costs could chill legitimate appeals by residents.

Steve Sann argued that the area affected by a development can extend well beyond a narrow notification radius; Broide noted that the appeals process also concerns non-housing uses such as billboards and data centers. Spitz and LoBuglio discussed impacts on coastal and high-fire-risk neighborhoods.

Connor Webb opposed the motion, arguing that relatively inexpensive appeals by those living outside a project's immediate area can delay projects, increase costs and hamper needed housing. The Board proceeded to a roll-call vote. Ruderman announced twelve votes in favor and one opposed (Webb/NWNC), with no abstentions recorded.

Motion carried by 12-1-0. WRAC authorized transmission of the letter without further Member Council approval.

8. Old Business

a. Board-approved letter to candidates re homelessness, sent 9/29/26

Chair Greenberg reported that the previously approved homelessness letter to mayoral and city-attorney candidates was sent September 29, 2026. Spitz explained that no candidate had directly replied to WRAC's homelessness letter, although candidate John McKinney had addressed related questions in a Westside Current interview; she encouraged members to review that coverage. No motion was made.

Letter: https://westsidecouncils.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/WRAC-Letter-Candidates-2026-2.pdf

b. Board-approved letter re Citywide Sign Ordinance (support Version B+), sent 9/30/26

Chair Greenberg reported that the Citywide Sign Ordinance letter supporting Version B+ was sent September 30, 2026.

Letter: https://westsidecouncils.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/WRAC-Letter-Sign-Ordinance-2026.pdf

9. Adjourn

Members were reminded to encourage voter participation in the upcoming election. The meeting concluded at approximately 7:36 p.m. based on the recording timeline (the transcript does not contain a formal adjournment declaration).

Next meeting to be held on November 16, 2026.