**North Westwood Neighborhood Council**

**General Monthly Meeting**

**February 6th, 2019 from 7:00 to 10:00pm**

**Weyburn Commons Village View Room**

**4Th Floor, 11020 Weyburn Dr. Los Angeles CA 90024**

**MINUTES**

**Public Speakers**

Comments from the public on agenda items will be heard only when that item is being considered and are limited to 1 minute. Comments from the public on other matters, not appearing on the agenda but within the Board’s subject matter jurisdiction, will be heard during the General Public Comment period and shall be limited to 2 minutes. Total public comment for each meeting is limited to 5 minutes per speaker. (Time estimates are only approximations as times will vary depending on duration of public comment, board member discussion, and other factors.

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**Public Access of Records**

In compliance with Government Code section 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the board in advance of a meeting may be viewed at 1424 Westwood Blvd, at our website: https://empowerla.org/nwwnc/ or at the scheduled meeting. In addition, if you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, please contact northwestwoodcouncil@gmail.com.

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**AGENDA**

1. **Call-to-order and roll call *(2 minutes)*** **Called to order at 7:08 p.m.**
   1. Trifunovic, Snyder, Ranadive, Lewis, Tapia, Skiles, Tarighat, Clinco, Helmi, Beshay, Kurek, May, Eastman, Peters present, quorum met
   2. Skiles moves without objection to allow general public comment on non-agenda items at the beginning of the meeting, no comments
2. **Review and approval of outstanding minutes from January meeting *(5 minutes)***
   1. Snyder suggests that on page 3 it be clarified that the transportation committee wants to expand bicycle parking, not general parking
      1. Edited without objection
      2. Snyder moves to approve, Tarighat seconds
         1. No discussion, the motion carried unanimously
3. **Announcements *(10 minutes)***
   1. Eastman
      1. Homeless Count joint leadership with the Westwood Community Council and Westwood Neighborhood Council, and LAHSA, went well. A little over a hundred volunteers which was 10-15 more than last year. Everyone came back safely and now we’re waiting for LAHSA to release their official report which usually comes in May
      2. Working on bringing all organizations in Westwood involved in the homelessness effort together in a joint committee meeting this month
   2. Skiles
      1. Two high-profile land use issues that both want to come before the Council soon
         1. Belmont proposed on Wilshire wants to come to us in a few months after negotiations
         2. The Agora will present to us in April or May to report on community outreach
4. **Comments by Public Officials *(15 minutes)***
   1. Janet Turner, senior field representative from Congressman Ted Lieu’s office
      1. Congratulates the committee, distributes contact information and an invitation to the Multi-District Service Academy Day on 2/16, 1-4 PM at the Los Angeles Air Force Base, Gordon Conference Center, 400 N. Douglas Street, El Segundo, CA 90245
      2. Offers help with federal issues and nonprofit grant applications
      3. Legislative report
         1. Lieu reintroduced the Climate Solutions Act (100% of US’s energy must be renewable by 2035 and sets greenhouse gas reduction targets)
         2. Introduced Ending Forced Arbitration for Victims of Data Breaches
         3. Cosponsors legislation involving medical issues, bill to repeal excise tax on health care (Cadillac tax)
      4. Beshay: Asks what issues the Congressman has worked with other neighborhood councils on
         * 1. Lieu worked on homelessness and VA issues with the WWNC
      5. Snyder: Transportation and safety committee will reach out, interested in improving pedestrian and bicycle access to the VA
      6. Helmi
         1. Could the federal building on Wilshire build a new parking structure to alleviate parking problems in Westwood?
            1. It hasn’t been planned, but she will ask
            2. Metro isn’t planning on increasing parking at any of their subway construction sites
            3. The VA is restricted from adding public parking due to the terms of a settlement that requires them to use their land primarily for veterans’ issues
   2. Amiel Fields-Meyer, West Area representative for Mayor Eric Garcetti
      1. Introduces himself and distributes contact information
      2. Mayor’s bridge initiative
         1. Homelessness in LA is a humanitarian crisis which affects all aspects of our lives in the city
         2. Approximately 250 homeless in Westwood, 800 in CD-5 as of last year’s count
         3. The electorate voted to tax itself to build 10,000 units of supportive housing (Measure HHH)
         4. Garcetti declared an emergency, applied for state funding, the city created a bridge home program
         5. Every city councilmember has been tasked with finding somewhere to put a bridge housing facility in their district
            1. Each shelter intended to last 3 years, provide emergency housing for the homelessness
            2. Homeless individuals are allowed to bring in your possessions
            3. A bridge housing facility would service homelessness already living in the region

Psychiatric and medical services, increased sanitation services around the area, 24 hour security, increased police presence

* + - * 1. Program has been successful thus far ex. El Puente site in DTLA

Fewer tents, increased daytime enforcement of 56:11, greater cleanliness

Private beds, toilets, meals, showers, sense of security + dignity, on-site storage and communal areas

Goal: transition into long-term supportive housing

* + 1. Eastman: Who can we contact to arrange a tour of a bridge housing facility?
       - 1. Can contact Fields-Meyer himself
    2. Green
       1. Hasn’t seen a visible change in Skid Row. Is there any way to access statistics to demonstrate decreased homelessness?
          1. Yes, he will send some information and LAHSA is doing that tracking
       2. What are the demographics of the homeless? Will increased policing help if the homeless are mostly black, might be there because of policing?
          1. Bridge home sites are operated by providers chosen by the City Council district, are hyper-local and tailored to individual communities

Each only services a 1-mile radius

* + - * 1. These concerns are taken into account at each location
    1. Skiles
       1. Other communities haven’t been receptive to this project, assurances have had to be offered to placate local concerns ex. Increased police presence. If we were to support bridge housing in Westwood, what sort of increased police presence would be entailed/how much can it be tailored?
          1. Very narrowly tailored
          2. There are specific municipal codes and policing policies, each site will have internal security
    2. Eastman: Offers to share her experience from Homeless Alliance meetings and what other neighborhood councils do
    3. Helmi: Is education and job-training included?
       - 1. Yes, everyone will be assigned a caseworker to manage their recovery (if suffering from substance abuse), vocational training, medical/psychological services so that they can be self-sustaining in the future
    4. Trifunovic: Are you looking for existing structures or ground-up developments?
       - 1. Both are happening, thus far they’ve been city-owned properties
         2. Proposed site in Westwood is pre-existing Chabad house

Skiles moves without objection to postpone this item **4** until Jasmine from Koretz’s office arrives

* 1. Jasmine from Councilmember Koretz’s office
     1. Would like to hear from the board on the proposed bridge housing site at Chabad on Gayley
     2. 15% of parking meter village will now go back into the BID for infrastructure and public space improvements
     3. Koretz’s motion on the Westwood general plan was approved, we will hear back from the planning department in 90 days

1. **Standing Committee Reports *(20 minutes)***
   1. **Budget and Finance Committee**
      1. Lewis
         1. Discussed internal process for neighborhood purpose grants, improvement projects
         2. Eastman: How has the process of hiring a minutes taker progressed?
            1. Tarighat: We can use a business that has a pre-existing contract with the City, board must vote to authorize payment
         3. Tapia: Do all payments have to approved through a general board vote?
            1. Tarighat: Yes, all payments must be authorized by board vote.

Gibson says to schedule all events 30 days in advance provide time for the Clerk

* + - 1. Snyder
         1. We should agendize the approval of a minutes taker for next meeting
  1. **Outreach and Communications Committee**
     1. Trifunovic
        1. Passed motions
           1. Selected a web design company, Taffy Tech (Austin, TX) and agreed on a $4000 deposit and $250, less than was allocated by the board
           2. Primary site pages will be News, Meetings, About, Events, Contact, and Documents
           3. Recommend that outreach and communications committee should be the funnel for social media postings
  2. **Planning and Land Use Committee**
     1. Skiles
        1. Committee did not meet
        2. City has been sharing development information with the WWNC, not our council
           1. Koretz’s office working to make sure that these come before us
  3. **The Transportation and Safety Committee**
     1. Snyder
        1. Representatives from Lyft, Lime, and Jump talked about scooter parking and bike shares in the Village
           1. Will bring a representative from the City to the next meeting
        2. Conducting bicycle parking inventory to identify where new parking is needed
        3. Passed a resolution in support of protected bike lanes on Gayley from Wilshire to Strathmore
        4. Issue of apron parkings in the North Village brought up, will be addressed
  4. **Elections Committee** 
     1. Ranadive
        1. Special meeting held, primary item was discussing a promotional brochure
        2. Also discussed election outreach to advertise candidate registration
           1. Candidate registration period is now open until March 4th
           2. Information available on empowerla.org/elections
  5. **Community Activities and Projects Committee**
     1. Green
        1. Next Friday begins on March 8th at 8pm highlighting Westwood businesses
        2. Block party on May 4th starting 3pm, collaborating with House of Balloons

1. **Discussion of Upcoming Meeting Dates and Budget *(20 minutes)***
   1. Skiles
      1. Long process of contract reconciliation between UCLA and City of LA
      2. Very close to having contract solidified for the Weyburn Village View Room
      3. Meetings will remain here on the 1st Wednesday of each month (except for March, which will be the 1st Monday), without food
2. **Approval of Expenses for November, January, and February council Meetings at Weyburn Commons. (10 minutes)**
   1. Skiles
      1. Expenditures were $995 but we only approved $900 last meeting
   2. Tarighat makes a motion to pay UCLA catering for $9950 from the meeting space budget, Snyder seconds
      1. Unanimous with one abstention (Eastman)
3. **Nomination and Possible Confirmation of Committee Members and an Alternate WRAC representative. (10 minutes)**
   1. Kurek resigned from Community Activities and Projects, creating an opening
   2. Candidates
      1. Will Taylor for the Community Activities and Projects Committee
      2. Nahian Arfin for the Outreach and Communications Committee
   3. Skiles appoints both, moves that the board ratify Arfin and Taylor’s appointments, Eastman seconds
      1. Trifunovic: Nahian, what do you do now?
         * 1. Campaigned for the neighborhood council subdivision, is now involved in USAC Office of the President
      2. No public comment
      3. Motion carried unanimously
   4. Alternate WRAC representative
      1. WRAC meets at Lenny’s Deli on Sundays at 8:30 AM
      2. Eastman nominates Skiles to be an alternate WRAC representative effective February 28th, Green seconds
         1. Public comment: Steve Sann
            1. Only 2-3 of 19 councils send more than 1 representative to each meeting, that isn’t necessarily
            2. WRAC bylaws mean that WRAC has to extend a formal invitation, the council then has to accept
         2. Motion carried unanimously
4. **Presentation/Review of January Westside Regional Alliance of Councils Meeting; Discussion and Possible Taking Position on CA State SBl 50 [ Wiener] (20 Minutes)**
   1. Lewis
      1. Did not receive information for the last meeting so couldn’t attend but was sent notes
         1. WRAC considering creating a nonprofit, had a presentation from DWP
         2. WRAC agenda included SB 50 (Scott Weiner), though a vote wasn’t held
      2. SB 50
         1. Governor Newsom has pledged to build 3.5 million housing units by 2025, meaning 180,000 must be built annually
         2. Would override local control and upzone within small radii of high-quality transit or “job-rich” areas
            1. Would reduce parking requirements, construction costs, rent
            2. Increased density near transit, desegregation incentives
            3. Aggressive renter protections, disincentivizes evictions
         3. Skiles: SB 50 would reduce rents, traffic, fight the housing crisis
         4. Snyder: Wants to read the bill before voting on it, but supports it in theory
            1. Local land use decisions are made by local cities, need to build up housing supply near transit
         5. Tarighat: Also wants to read the bill first, this bill would take zoning power away from local governments which he supports
         6. Clinco: Also supports the idea, but wants to wait until we know what the final, revised bill looks like before endorsing
   2. Skiles: This vote will be agendized for a future meeting
5. **Discussion and Possible Action on selecting and funding allocation for a web designer for the North Westwood Neighborhood Council website, based on the Outreach and Communication Committee recommendations. (15 minutes)**
   1. Trifunovic: Considered three hosting companies, settled on Taffy Tech
   2. Reynolds: This provider made a point of emphasizing accessibility with regards to section 508 compliance
      1. Reynolds said the portfolio was crafted with substantial expertise
   3. Tarighat: Wants more information. How did you find the company?
      * 1. Reached out to his network in the developer community, was referred to Taffy Tech
      1. Have they done work for other cities/councils?
         1. No, but gave examples of sites that met compliance requirements.
            1. Sites must be accessible through multiple modes, including through screen readers
         2. Taffytech.com, rawfoodchef.com, lojistic.com, altoexteriors.com
   4. Eastman: Could multiple people be given access to the Wordpress admin log in so that they could easily upload documents without delay?
      * 1. Yes
   5. Skiles/Eastman: Would it be possible to cancel the monthly fee having already invested in the setup, or would we be locked into the payment scheme?
      * 1. Yes, the council would own the code
   6. Proposed Cost (Reynolds)
      1. Initial deposit of $3000, then up to $1000 for design
         1. So, $4000 total for setup
      2. $250 monthly for monthly support
      3. 12 month contract
   7. Snyder moves to approve Taffy Tech as the website vendor for the North Westwood Neighborhood Council, Reynolds seconds
      1. Motion unanimously carries with one abstention
   8. The committee moved to approve the following preliminary sections:
      1. News, events, about, contact form, meetings, and documents
      2. Reynolds moves to approve these sections on the website, Tarighat sections, then withdraws his second
         1. Snyder
            1. Let’s not vote on every future website page/change
            2. Leave the committee in charge
         2. Skiles moves that the council delegate the task of determining website content and aesthetic to the outreach and communications committee, Reynolds seconds
            1. Motion carried unanimously
6. **Discussion and Possible funding allocation for design of election brochure (15 minutes)**
   1. Ranadive
      1. Asking for general design comments
         1. Skiles: Add Hilgard label to the map
         2. Snyder: Include a link to the bylaws
         3. Tarighat: capital case the URL, do we have permission to use the photo?
         4. Peters: add twitter handle @OfficialNWWNC to the back
         5. Trifunovic: we should switch from using NWWNC to NWNC
         6. Ranadive: should include event dates on the back
         7. Beshay: not all meetings are 2nd Wednesdays, just list dates
   2. Tarighat moves to pay $450 for the budget allocation for printing to Westwood Copy, Skiles seconds
      1. Public commenter endorses Westwood Copy
      2. Motion carried unanimously
7. **Discussion of resolution to adjust the food use classifications and parking requirements outlined in the Westwood Village Specific Plan to make them less restrictive and possible action on CIS relative to Council File: 18-1101 *(25 minutes)***
   1. Skiles reads the proposed resolution
   2. Skiles moves to approve, Snyder seconds
   3. Eastman
      1. Asks for clarification on the incidental food use classification, why those would not be classified as food uses
   4. Clinco
      1. Argues in favor of the resolution, says that the WVSP is outdated and unnecessarily restricts fast casual restaurants
   5. Public Comment
      1. Andrew Thomas, director of the BID
         1. The BID recommended the items in this resolution
         2. Definition of a restaurant in Westwood is arbitrary, unique in LA
      2. Westwood resident
         1. Very much in agreement with the resolution
      3. Steve Sann
         1. Luskin school survey - Westwood has more food and drink than most other regions, more fast food/fast casual than Santa Monica
         2. 17 businesses (14 food) went out of business last year
            1. Pieology, 800 Degrees, etc.
            2. New businesses kill old businesses, massive oversupply and under demand of food
      4. Discussion
         1. Tapia: Those restaurants closed under the WVSP so that wasn’t the cause, students want more affordable dining
         2. Kurek: Why don’t people come into Westwood? Culture/entertainment might fix that
         3. Snyder: Wishes that the whole state would ban disposable dishes/flatware/glassware
         4. Eastman: WWNC moved to redefine a restaurant as meeting 3 of the 5 characteristics
      5. Skiles moves to approve the resolution with CIS authorization as written, Lewis seconds
         1. Motion unanimously carries

**15. General Public Comment *(10 minutes; 2 minutes per speaker)***

**Without objection, Skiles takes general public comment out of order**

* 1. Westwood residents opposed to the Agora, handed out copies of critical Daily Bruin articles
     1. Unidentified member of the public
        1. 16 story building in a small lot, fraught with lies, exaggerations, and deception by the developers
     2. Esther Chung
        1. Church residence just behind 900 Hilgard
        2. Developers purchasing nearby homes, plan to purchase all 3, failed to keep neighbors in the loop, deceptive + hypocritical
     3. Jackie Friedman
        1. North Village Specific Plan has very specific language for moderate-income housing units
        2. Developers would get a density increase if they offer 25% of units for moderate-income
           1. Look to this provision in the specific plan
     4. Mitchel Coole, real estate attorney
        1. Agora will cost $100 million to build, will have $500,000/mo operating costs
        2. Project is doomed to fail as advertised
        3. Opposed to a change in zoning over false advertising
  2. Esther Magnus
     1. Homeowner opposed to the Agora, distributed another handout. Asked to not have the distribution time of the handout to count towards alloted 2 minutes and only spoke after all councilmembers had said handout in hand
     2. On the March meeting of the land use committee, agendize a reconsidering of the recommendation
  3. Mara Braciszewski
     1. Met with the Agora representatives, they were very transparent
     2. 52 affordable units for $500/month, all other beds $1000-12000/mo
     3. Any progress towards development should be supported
     4. Consider student housing needs
  4. Steve Sann
     1. Agora recommendation should be reconsidered at the land use committee, especially because the meeting wasn’t properly advertised on the DONE website
     2. Previous public comments were at the beginning of the meeting, should be kept there
     3. Invitation to a book sale at the library this Saturday
  5. Taylor
     1. Venice land use and planning committee already voted to support SB 50
     2. Talk to Matt Royce from Venice who’s an advocate for it
     3. Emails about the Agora were sent to addresses on the Westwood Forward petition
        1. Asks that his information be removed from the internet

1. **Discussion and possible action on CIS by board in support of the proposed Bridge Housing at Chabad House located at 741 Gayley Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90024 (Council file: 18-0841-S1) *(10 minutes)***
   1. Skiles moves to approve the resolution, Snyder seconds
   2. Discussion
      1. Eastman
         1. Chabad House on Gayley is working towards becoming a bridge housing location, which would be a 3-year facility to help homeless individuals move on to more permanent housing and provide basic services
         2. Los Feliz Neighborhood Council already sent in a CIS, we should also show our support
   3. Public Comment
      1. Roxane Stern: The NWWNC should support the project, it’s a perfect location
      2. Steve Sann: Strongly supports the project, it’s very important that facility serve our own community’s local homeless individuals within a mile radius
   4. Discussion
      * 1. Tarighat: Would students have access to the bridge housing?
        2. Jasmine: Yes, we want students to be able to access it
      1. Tapia: Asks Eastman and Sann how many homeless as of last year’s count: 262
      2. Eastman: Suggests that a way to count students who are homeless but not easily seen be pursued
      3. Helmi: How long does someone stay? Eastman: There’s no set time frame, but the goal is to filter folks through as quickly as possible to allow for more turn over bed spots through the 3 year Bridge Housing term
   5. Motion to submit the CIS carried unanimously
2. **Overview and potential position taking on Sepulveda Transit Corridor (15 minutes)** 
   1. Skiles: Metro considering a Sepulveda Pass transit line with a stop on the north end of UCLA, this would make Westwood a transit hub
      1. Recommends that the Council express its enthusiasm for this line and invite Metro representatives to a future meeting
   2. Snyder: Suggests this be brought to the transportation and safety committee
      1. Skiles refers this to the committee without objection
   3. Public comment
      1. Steve Sann: On all important issues like this, it should go to committees first, don’t rush this for the Olympics, it’ll last into the future
3. General Public Comment *(10 minutes; 2 minutes per speaker)*
   1. *See Above*
4. **Adjournment**