**North Westwood Neighborhood Council**

**General Board Meeting**

**October 2, 2019 from 7:00 to 10:00pm**

**Weyburn Commons Village View Room**

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

**MINUTES**

**1. Call-to-order and roll call (2 minutes)**

Call to order at 7:09 PM. Trifunovic, Lewis, Bracisewski, Arciniega, Tarighat, Ranadive, Crummy, Skiles, Helmi, Russel, Peters, May, Hajee, Navab present. Quorum met.

**2. Announcements (10 minutes)**

* Russel
  + Analyzing Westwood traffic data from LADOT. Wrote a program that takes PDF data and extracted a CSV file with Westwood data.
* Braciszewski
  + Hosted Park-ing Day, converted underutilized parking spaces into parklets at Westwood and Le Conte with funding from Douglas Emmett.

**3. Comments by Public Officials or their representatives including but not limited to: (15 minutes)**

* **Councilmember Paul Koretz**
* Jasmine
  + New planning deputy hired. Appreciate support on Koretz’s motion at PLUM committee, requests ongoing feedback. Looking at site in Westwood for bridge housing, nothing confirmed. City bound by strict ADA guidelines but attempting to make Tri-Delt location work. HHH site approved today at city-owned parking lot on Santa Monica near Westwood. Recent street and alley resurfacing in Westwood.
* **Supervisor Sheila Kuehl**
* Erin Seinfeld
  + $126.8 million approved in funding for 18 affordable housing projects, 64 units at West LA VA. Probation Oversight Commission launched. Tobacco retailers can no longer offer flavored products, requires business license and strengthens health requirements. Assessing ways to improve voter registration and engagement among homeless. Will be able to vote over 11 days at any voting location in the county for 2020.
* **Assembly Member Sydney Kamlager-Dove**
* Jamie Kennerk
  + State legislature on break. Hosting upcoming insurance town hall, town hall on incarcerated women. Hosting lattes and legislation at Tuscan Son on Santa Monica Blvd with the Assemblymember on 12/3 from 9 to 10.
* **DONE**
* Gibson Nyamura
  + New DONE general manager has begun working, visiting neighborhood councils. Will attend an upcoming NWWNC meeting**.** DONE working on creating platform for demographic data. Coordinating with city and county on census. Asks neighborhood councils to identify two boardmembers or stakeholders to participate in census training. Goal is to count historically undercounted communities. BONC meeting on the Westwide will be upcoming, will provide social media guidelines.
  + D
* **Congressman Ted Lieu**
  + Janet Turner
    - Veteran Appreciation Event at the West LA VA Rose Garden, Sunday 12/10 at 1:30 PM to 3 PM.
    - Lieu hosting roundtable of presidents of neighborhood associations surrounding the VA with VA leadership on 12/21. Temporary bridge housing at VA in progress, new units to open in January.

**4. Legislative Update, Introduction, and Board Questions/Answers with Senator Ben Allen.**

* Skiles moves to postpone without objection, Trifunovic seconds.

**5. Multiple Agenda Item Comment Period. (Up to 3 minutes per speaker)**

**6. General Public Comment (Up to 2 minutes per speaker)**

* Steve Sann
  + At last meeting, chair unilaterally changed public comment process without board vote. Multiple agenda item comment process removes the opportunity for reactive or corrective public comment. Nobody knows in advance what the board will be saying.

**7. Presentation by Margaret Taylor, Discussion and Possible Resolution with respect to: Applicant: Regent Landmark Case Number: ZA-2019-5431 CUB Filed on: September 13, 2019 Site Address: 1045 S. Broxton Avenue Request: As allowed under Section 12.24 W 1 of the LAMC, the Conditional Use Permit to allow the sale and dispensing of beer and wine for on-site consumption in conjunction with the operation of an existing 4,590 square-foot, 216-seat movie theatre. Hours of operation from 10:00 am – 2:00 am, daily. (20 minutes)**

* Skiles
  + Land use committee voted unanimously to support the proposed CUB and to authorize any member of the council to oppose any appeal made against that application.
* Margaret Taylor (Apex LA)
  + Straightforward request; conditional use permit to serve beer and wine for theater goers
  + Undergoing an interior renovation, will have new lobby and stadium seating in November. Will also be providing more warm food options alongside alcoholic beverages, all served at concessions.
* Trifunovic
  + Do any other Westwood theaters currently serve beer and wine?
    - IPIC Theater does.
* Public comment
  + Steve Sann
    - IPIC theater has servers that take orders and serve alcohol, more of a dine-in theater. ID can be checked at time of purchase. Patron of Landmark but the theater in a college environment. What assurances that people legally ordering alcohol are the only ones drinking it, not handing it to others in a dark room?
  + Peter Clinco
    - Owner of Skylight Gardens. Enthusiastically recommends support for Landmark’s application. IPIC filed for bankruptcy, this may be the only theater serving alcohol.
  + Benjamin Mitchell (Kaleidoscope)
    - Has been to theaters where alcohol is served and consumed responsibly. Alcohol can be improperly given to minors in any environment, including dorms and apartments.
* Skiles
  + People can give alcoholic beverages to underage people improperly anywhere, including private apartments. College students won’t binge drink wine and beer in a movie theater.
* Tarighat
  + This was unanimously supported by the land use committee. Asks what the appeal process looks like.
    - Skiles: Letter of protest or conditional support sent to the ABC or Planning Dept. It would be helpful for NWWNC members to oppose any appeal.
* Skiles moves that the NWWNC support the Regent Landmark Theater’s application for a CUB at 1045 S. Broxton Ave, and furthermore that the NWWNC authorize all of its members to write letters to ABC, the Planning Department, City of Los Angeles, Council District 5, and all other relevant bodies expressing its support and expressing opposition to any appeals or opposition that may arise against this proposal.
  + Beshay seconds.
  + Motion carries unanimously
* Skiles moves to take item 11B out of order, Russel seconds, motion carries unanimously.

**8. Presentation and discussion with Gabriel Kahan, Founder of Sense.la. (15 min): "Sense LA is a work of Socially Engaged Art and Systems Thinking which uses deep thinking, design management and manufacturing, art, and technology to help people from all backgrounds and abilities, have a voice in their community, understand their city and their place within it, and create fresh perspectives, together. Learn to use a leading-edge method developed at MIT to help random groups of people build high-precision tools, like robots and turbines, now adapted and enhanced for use in understanding everyday problems and situations of mutual interest in our neighborhoods.**

**9. Discussion and possible Community Impact Statement with respect to proposal to charge a tax on vacant residential properties, Council File: 19-0623.**

* Skiles moves that the NWWNC oppose Councilmember Bonin’s motion (Council File: 19-0623) and authorize the president to file a CIS to that effect, Tarighat seconds.
* Peters
  + Would apply to very few overpriced condominium developments in DTLA, would not worsen the crisis, but would take away the talking point of vacant units as opposed to increasing housing supply.
* Russel
  + Supports the tax priamrily because it would apply to houses, ex. those owning multiple empty homes inefficiently using land.
* Tarighat
  + This would create another reason to slow down and deny an increase in housing production. Many of these vacant units are in transitional use. Doesn’t help anyone, only makes it more difficult for more production.
* Crummy
  + Real estate industry always has frictional vacancy. 95% considered fully occupied. LA at 96.5%. Regulatory environment contributes to delays. Affordable quotas and other fees also drive up the cost of housing.
* Skiles
  + Bonin only started this motion after coming under fire for quashing a mixed use development in his district. Tax on an extremely small number of presently vacant units. Low frictional vacancy reflects dire demand for housing. Wouldn’t remove the scapegoat of vacant units.
* Trifunovic
  + Don’t need a tax to discourage vacancies.
* Skiles moves that the council authorize the president to file a CIS in opposition to the proposed vacancy tax on this council file, Crummy seconds
  + Motion carries 14 - 3 - 1.

**10. Review and approval of minutes from 9.03.19 board meeting. (10 minutes)**

* Skiles moves to approve the minutes, Hajee seconds.
* Motion carries unanimously with 4 abstentions.

**11. Board Consideration and Re-vote on Approval of Previously Approved Neighborhood Purpose Grants (Applications to be Approved may be slightly modified to meet city requirements for disbursements of funds) (Andrew, 20 minutes):**

**A. 'Kaleidoscope' (Amount Requested: $5,000, Kaleidescope would use funds to provide free chamber orchestra concert in North Westwood.)**

* Steve Sann requests an opportunity to provide public comment but is denied, having already spoken on a single agenda item.
* Lewis moves to award a $5000 neighborhood purpose grant to Kaleidoscope, Peters seconds.
* Skiles moves to combine the present Kaleidoscope discussion with the discussion of items 12 and 14, Hajee seconds.
  + Motion carries unanimously
* Taighat moves to move $2000 from the elections committee to the outreach committee.
  + Motion unanimously carries
* Trifunovic moves to approve the website development contract with Navazon and submit it to the City Attorney for approval, Skiles seconds.
  + Motion unanimously carries
* Braciszewski moves to move $500 from the allocation for a note-taker and $2000 from the elections committee, and $500 from office supplies to the community activities and projects committee for a total allocation of $15k for the community activities and projects committee, Skiles seconds.
  + Motion carries 7 - 5 - 3
* Skiles moves to move $500 from office supplies and $500 from the note-taker to the community health and homelessness committee.

Motion carries 11 3 - 1.

* Vote on Lewis’s motion to award a $5000 NPG to Kaleidoscope
  + Skiles calls the question.
  + Motion carries 13 - 0 - 2.

**B. 'UCLA Foundation/CPO Food Closet' (Amount requested: $5,000. Would use funds to purchase fresh produce, canned goods, and toiletries).**

* CPO
  + Food closet started 11 years ago, providing free food to students. Provides pantry, access to social services. Food closet open Monday-Friday, 8 am to 5 pm, restocked every 30 minutes. Money granted would go directly to purchasing supplies.
* Braciszewski
  + Noticed that food closet seems to be providing more snack/sugary food.
    - Healthy food items are bought at $1500/week, freshest items taken first each day. Can only store so much due to space limits. Very high demand.
* Mostly donor based. Raise about $40k a year, receive funds around $10k from state government, primarily going to student jobs. Meeting with Facilities to try and expand, implement refrigerated lockers.
* Helmi
  + Are corporate sponsorships possible?
    - Attempting to, but no success thus far. So far, no one wants to sponsor.
* Tarighat
  + Processing fee required by UCLA Foundation in order to make sure that funds are going to the right places. All external funding subject to a 3.5% fee.
* Tarighat moves to approve a $5000 neighborhood purpose grant for the UCLA Foundation on behalf of the CPO Food Closet, Skiles seconds.
  + Helmi
    - Encourages the council to urge UCLA to take better care of students.
  + Skiles moves to amend the motion to further resolve that the NWWNC urges UCLA to attend to its students’ basic needs, Braciszewski seconds..
    - Amendment unanimously passes
  + Motion unanimously carries

**12. Discussion and possible action to amend the 2019-2020 NWWNC fiscal budget to accommodate the NWWNC Community Activities and Projects Committee’s request for an allocation of $15,000 and modified projected spending in other parts of budget. (15 minutes)**

**13. Review and approval of monthly expense reports (Amir, 5 minutes)**

* Tarighat moves to approve the monthly expenditure report for August 2019, Skiles seconds
  + Motion carries unanimously

**14. Discussion and possible approval of NWWNC Website Design Agreement with Navazon Digital, and approval of $5,000 expense for the creation of the site, and $250 for monthly website hosting and maintenance charges. (15 minutes)**

**15. Review of September Westside Regional Alliance of Councils Meetings (5 Minutes)**

**16. Approval of $150 room rental for September council meeting at Weyburn. (5 minutes).**

* Skiles moves to approve the invoice of $150 for the room rental, Tarighat seconds
  + Motion carries unanimously

**17. Discussion and Possible Vote to Accept Resignation of Councilmember Ashraf Beshay who is moving to Sacramento for work.**

* Skiles moves to accept Beshay’s resignation with regrets, commend him for his service, and wish him the best as he represents UC students, Hajee seconds
  + Motion unanimously carries

**18. Nomination and confirmation of members of standing committees and Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Homelessness and Community Health.**

* Skiles nominates Maria Sandoval to the community activities and projects committee.
* Skiles nominates Ranadive to the outreach and communication committee.
* Skiles nominates Russel to the budget committee.
  + Skiles moves to approve the nominations, Peters seconds.
  + Motion unanimously carries.
* Skiles moves to enter into recess for a special board meeting, Braciszewski seconds.
  + Motion unanimously carries.

**19. Adjournment at 10:22 pm**