**North Westwood Neighborhood Council**

**General Board Meeting**

**February 5th, 2020 from 7:00 to 10:00pm**

**MINUTES**

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

* Call to order at 7:10 pm. Navab, Russel, Peters, Tarighat, Ranadive, Skiles, Clinco, Reynolds, Arfin, Ahmed, Arciniega, Trifunovic, May, Rodriguez present. Quorum met.

**2. Announcements (10 minutes)**

* Peters: Transportation and Safety Committee met last night. Expressed support for the continued legality of dockless electric scooters in Los Angeles, expanded bike lanes, and on-street parking. Committee also recommended that the board request the abolition of parking minimums in the North Westwood Village Specific Plan.
* Russel: Budget Committee met tonight and reviewed payment requests. Back on track to financial normalcy.
* Trifunovic: Outreach and Communications Committee met today and passed its budget.
* Skiles
  + BONC approved the request to incorporate as shared areas with the WWNC Westwood Park/Westwood Rec and Westwood Gardens Park near Persian Square. BONC declined to grant the request to include Bad News Bears baseball field because it was non-contiguous with the NWWNC’s borders. Now possible to hold events and meetings at these shared sites.
  + Rec and Parks approved Tommy’s Field at Westwood Park, NWWNC’s recommendation having significant weight. Finalized proposal was closer to the original version, will build the field in the open field. Community concerns were listened to: no high fencing, just netting behind goals, and open access.
  + Planning proposal to build a co-working office space at the corner of Gayley and LeConte will come to the council soon. In April, the NWWNC will also hear from both sides on the proposed Belmont development.

**3. Comments by Public Officials or their representatives**

* Jasmine Shimolian (Councilmember Koretz)
  + Tommy’s Field has been approved to be installed at Westwood Rec Center, 6-8 month installation timeline. Upgraded restrooms near the dog park, replacing large concrete pad with natural grass. Increase in encampments over the past couple of months. New park ranger will establish regular clean ups at Westwood Park. Mobile showers will soon be available at Westwood Rec center as a pilot program. Planning department will begin community outreach on the Westwood Village Specific Plan revisions, will visit council next month to discuss amendment process. Three taxi stands in front of the Hammer Museum on Lindbrook will be moved to LeConte. Proposes a beautification project of Westwood Blvd south of WIlshire through the city’s adopt-a-median program.
* Jamie Kennerk (Asm. Kamlager)
  + Proposed bills would restrict probation periods to no longer than 2 years, banning chemical testing on dogs, extend Baldwin Conservancy to include Ballona Wetlands.
* Janet (Rep. Lieu)
  + Supportive housing in progress at VA. Lieu introduced 38 bills last year, 10 amendments and 15 appropriations requests passed.
* UCLA Government + Community Relations Office
  + UCLA will have two voting centers, one open for 11 days at Ackerman Union in the Bruin Reception Room. Second will be open for 4 days at the Hammer Museum, Annenberg Terrace.

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

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

* Seth, volunteer with LA Forward: Concerned with housing and homelessness crisis in Westwood Village. LA Forward is trying to work on a new initiative entailing visiting NCs and canvassing them. Goal is to build a database of possible sites for supportive and affordable housing.
* Steve Sann: Thanks those who volunteered at the 2020 Homeless Count. Cannot announce preliminary numbers because the data is transmitted to and processed by LAHSA. Around 120 total volunteers, some communities have as few as 25 to 50.

**6. Presentation by Daniel Tamm, LA Sanitation & Environment. (15 minutes)**

* Visit lacitysan.org for access to sanitation information and resources. Mayor has a goal of reaching 100% recycled water for 2035. Visit plan.mayorla.org to see details of the sustainability plan for Los Angeles. Recommends touring Hyperion Plant.
* Upcoming rainy season. LA Sanitation has cleaned many storm drains and debris basins, crews are ready to service drains when necessary. Information on weather preparation on the website.
* About 4 billion plastic straws used once in the US every year. City Council created ordinance called “straws on demand” so that straws are only provided upon request at restaurants. Program started in October, data will be collected to calculate how much plastic has been saved. Encourages informed recycling and calling customer care center for bulky item pickup. Consider donating bulky items like couches instead of dumping.
* City will provide and plant free trees in hopes of reaching goal of 90,000 planted by next year.

**7. Presentation from Zuriel Espinosa, LA City Planning Dept, on Outreach Process for Westwood Village Specific Plan Amendment (CF 18-1101) and discussion. (15min)**

* City planning will present to the council in March.

**8. Update from Office of Senator Ben Allen (Colby Harriman, 5 min)**

**9. Discussion and possible approval of 2019-2020 Administrative Packet and overall budget. (30 minutes)**

Andrew Lewis arrived.

* Russel moves to approve a total 2019-2020 budget of $4,000.00 for operational expenditures, $10,261.15 for outreach expenditures, $150.00 for elections expenditures, $14,411.15 for general and operational expenditures, $35,588.85 for neighborhood purpose grant expenditures, and $2,000.00 community improvement expenditures, for a combined total of $52,000.00.
  + Tarighat seconds.
  + Motion carries carries unanimously 16-0-0

**10. Announcement, overview and discussion of the Neighborhood Purpose Grant (NPG) process. (10 minutes)**

* Russel
  + Budget Committee has started the NPG application process. Already had two possible recipients express interest. By next month meeting, Budget Committee will ideally review all submitted applications, confirm completeness. At next board meeting, applicants will present and the board can decide whether to approve NPGs.
  + Current requests from UCLA institute connecting local officials with climate scientists that holds public forums on climate change, and from Friends of the Westwood Library asking for funding to do computer literacy training. Both seeking up to $5,000.

**11. Discussion of total funds remaining for NPGs, and possible recommendation of amounts prospective NPG applicants should apply for. (10 minutes)**

* Skiles: Suggests recommending that projects apply for less than the maximum amount so that the NPGs will bring tangible benefits and more can be issued.

**12. Discussion and possible approval of $400 for Facebook and Instagram advertising on NPGs. (10 minutes)**

* Russel moves to approve a $400 expenditure for Facebook and Instagram advertisements encouraging organizations to apply for neighborhood purpose grants, Rodriguez seconds.
  + Motion carries unanimously 16-0-0

**13. Discussion and possible approval of Neighborhood Purpose Grant of $6,009.84 for Far Out Fest to Far Out Presents. (20 minutes)**

* Far Out Fest
  + In the process of securing initial sources of funding, last year’s budget was $12,000, funded by NWWNC, WVIA, corporate sponsors, and Kickstarter campaign. This year, Far Out Presents is a nonprofit, expects a higher event budget. All money from the NPG would go directly to event expenses.
  + 10 hour event, 2,000 visitors last year, free and open to the public. Goal is to showcase local artists. Stage located in front of Chipotle on Broxton, same street closure as Farmer’s Market. Even planned for May 7th, 2 pm to 12 am.
* Skiles recommends that Far Out Presents submit a new request for an NPG up to $5,000 so as to avoid administrative hurdles with the city.
* Skiles moves to approve an NPG submitted by Far Out Presents in the amount of $4,995.11, Arciniega seconds.
  + Motion carries unanimously 15-0-0

**14. Update on May 2019 Elections Parking Expenditure (5 minutes)**

* Skiles: the city did pay for the $150 parking expenditure for the election in a one-time exception, but the city will not pay for parking spaces in the future. Parking cannot be an itemized expense going forward.

**15. Discussion and possible approval of payments to Westwood Copies for printing related to meeting minutes, agendas, and other council duties. (5 minutes)**

* Russel moves to approve expenses to Westwood Copies for November meeting printing in the amount of $60.61, the December meeting printing in the amount of $19.71, and the February meeting printing in the amount of $8.20, Skiles seconds.
  + Motion carries unanimously, Arciniega abstains (14-0-0).

**16. Discussion and possible approval of co-sponsored event with Farmer’s Market to hold a Taste of Westwood. (10 minutes)**

* Russel
  + CAP Committee submitted 50 page packet for the event. A few of the businesses had not yet given their certificate of insurance. Other items have similarly small exceptions. Discussions with Shauna illuminated that a budget item needs all documentation to be complete. Believes that the packet would be denied as-is. 4 to 5 pending items.
  + Taste of Westwood event proposed to invite local restaurants to give samples. Five vendors including Fellow, Broxton, Violet Cafe, $420 each. Three different musicians and strawberry samples. Proposed to take place in June, right before finals week. Total budget of $4,491.15, paying 1800 samples. Held at the time of the Farmer’s Market, Farmer’s Market would advertise.
* Clinco
  + Event doesn’t seem fully thought out, wouldn’t bring in new people who wouldn’t normally attend the Farmer’s Market. Not all restaurants were contacted with the opportunity to be involved.
* Tarighat
  + Former events chair had a similar idea, the event never materialized. Controversy about contractual issues about buying food, how restaurants are chosen. If the event isn’t bringing new people in, doesn’t fit the council’s goal. Should include south-of-Wilshire Persian restaurants.
* Skiles
  + Could approve the event with full documentation in March. Asks Russel to convey the board’s position to the committee, including the suggestion of spending on marketing and objective criteria for restaurant participation. Important to reach out to restaurants south of Wilshire.
* Clinco
  + The Village slows down considerably over the summer when foot traffic needs to be encouraged, restaurants need the business.
* Public Comment
  + Steve Sann
    - Taste of Westwood has the potential to be a fantastic event, but needs to be well planned. Three months is an optimistic time frame. Many restaurants would have like to have been invited but weren’t, including restaurants south of Wilshire. Restaurants should participate because its a marketing event, shouldn’t be paid for their participation. Dead week is a bad time, could postpone until fall, and don’t make it on a Farmer’s Market day.
  + Skiles moves to table, Peters seconds.
    - Motion carries unanimously.

**17. Discussion and possible approval of Village View Room rentals of $150 each for February and March meetings. (3 minutes)**

* Skiles moves to approve the Village View Room rentals of $150 each for the February and March meetings, Crummy seconds.
  + Motion carries unanimously 15-0-0

Tarighat, Crummy, Navab left.

**18. Discussion and possible request that the NC Funding Program grant the North Westwood Neighborhood Council the ability to either pre-pay or allow a deposit for the meeting space cost for each month during the prior month. (5 minutes)**

* Russel moves to request that the NC Funding Program grant the NWWNC the ability to either pre-pay or allow a deposit for the meeting space cost for each month during the prior month, Skiles seconds.
  + Motion carries unanimously.

**19. Discussion and possible action to amend the bylaws by adding “Homelessness and Community Health Committee” to the list of standing committees enumerated in Article VII, Section 1. Possible vote to end the Community Health and Homelessness ad hoc committee as soon as the bylaw change creating the standing committee is approved by the City. (10 minutes)**

* Skiles moves that the NWWNC amend its bylaws s by adding “Homelessness and Community Health Committee” to the list of standing committees enumerated in Article VII, Section 1 and end the Community Health and Homelessness ad hoc committee as soon as the bylaw change creating the standing committee is approved by the City, Lewis seconds
  + Motion carries unanimously

**20. Review and approval of minutes from 01.08.20 board meeting. (5 minutes)**

* Skiles moves to approve the minutes from the 01.08.20 board meeting, Peters seconds
  + Motion carries unanimously

**21. Nomination and confirmation of standing committee members. (5 minutes)**

* Skiles nominates Ahmed as co-chair of the Community Health and Homelessness committee, Arciniega seconds
  + Motion carries unanimously

**22. Discussion and possible approval of September, October, and November Monthly Expenditure Reports (MERs). (10 minutes)**

**23. Review of recent Westside Regional Alliance of Councils Meetings (5 Minutes)**

**24. Update/Recommendation from Homelessness Ad Hoc Committee regarding the Pod Share Homelessness Housing Proposal at 10794 LeConte. Discussion and possible council resolution. (15 minutes)**

**25. Update/Resolution from Homelessness Ad-Hoc Committee regarding Hostile Architecture in North Westwood and discussion and possible council resolution (Andrew, 15 minutes)**

* Skiles tables without objection

**26. Adjournment at 10:25 pm**