**NORTH WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**

MEETING OF THE TRANSPORTATION AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

**MINUTES**

Wednesday July 1st**,** 2020, 6:00pm to 7:00pm

1. **Call to Order, Roll Call**

* Call to order at 6:02 pm. Skiles, Peters, Gurm, Kaufmann, Daboussi, Parker, Arciniega, Lewis present. Quorum met.

1. **Announcements**
2. **General Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items**
3. **Approval of 5/27/20 meeting minutes.**

* Peters moves to approve the 5/27/20 meeting minutes, Skiles seconds.
* Motion carries unanimously.

1. **Safety Issues**
   1. **Public Safety Update**

* Daboussi: Committee should consider making a statement on the enforcement of mask-wearing ordinance.
* Peters: Agrees, coronavirus and issue of mask compliance will only get worse over the summer. Will agendize for next month’s meeting.
* Kaufmann: Hospital ICU beds will potentially be at capacity within a week. Gov. Newsom closing six counties, planning on closing more. Stay at home order lifted.
* Parker: suggests future agenda item “Discussion and possible resolution with respect to wearing of masks in Westwood amidst the COVID-19 pandemic”
* Daboussi: More than masks, even a broader issue including bars and restaurants reopening. Suggests general future agenda item regarding reopening and coronavirus.
* Public comment
  + Roxane Stern: Mayor announced today that masks are mandatory, just have to support that declaration.
* Arciniega: How long will free fare program during state of emergency continue?
* Parker: Heard rumors that buses will reinstall plexiglass and then return to collecting fares. Metro never officially suspended fares, just asked passengers to board from back.
* Daboussi: Culver City Bus also not collecting fares.
* Kaufmann: Some buses have fare collectors at the back, agencies are making all buses back-door boarding because of COVID-related safety, not because they are cancelling fares.
* Parker: Should aggregate and publicize this information from transit agencies.
  1. **Discussion and possible resolution with respect to LAPD’s failure to explain or justify the unauthorized use of UCLA’s Jackie Robinson Stadium as a field jail for Black Lives Matter protestors**
* Peters: Angered by abusive conditions of LAPD field jail at Jackie Robinson Stadium and failure of Senior Lead Officer Ojeda at June Board Meeting to provide clear answers as to what happened and why. If insufficient answers provided as of tonight’s board meeting, suggests a demand for transparency and or condemnation.
* Kaufmann: Treatment of prisoners, specifically Black women, was egregious, transparency isn’t enough.
* Gurm: Ojeda said that the officers were acting on orders, and if so, the person who gave the orders should be held accountable, suggests punitive measures.
* Skiles: Invited Ojeda to attend tonight’s board meeting, was unable to attend but said his partner would attend on his behalf.
* Lewis: Was disappointed by Ojeda’s lack of awareness about the situation and insufficient answers to community questions.
* Peters moves that the Committee recommend that the NWWNC adopt the following resolution
  + WHEREAS the LAPD has to date failed to give satisfactory justification or explanation for the inhumane treatment of detained protestors at Jackie Robinson Stadium.
  + BE IT RESOLVED that the NWWNC condemns these actions by the LAPD and the agency’s failure to be accountable to the public.
  + BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NWWNC demands that the LAPD Board of Commissioners and the Los Angeles City Council Public Safety Committee launch investigations to hold all those LAPD officers involved in the use of Jackie Robinson Stadium as an unauthorized field jail accountable.
  + BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NWWNC strongly urges the creation of an independent, third party investigative body to investigate allegations of police misconduct.
  + BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NWWNC demands that these bodies investigate this event, both as an isolated incident and as part of any broader City investigation into LAPD’s response to Black Lives Matter protests.
* Gurm seconds
* Motion carries unanimously.

1. **Transportation Issues**
   1. **Update regarding requested “slow streets” program for Westwood**

* Peters: Received confirmation that LADOT received our application but no further information.
* Gurm: Were any commercial/restaurant streets included in the recommendation?
* Peters: Yes, all of Broxton was included in the application.
  1. **Discussion and possible resolution with respect to Metro's Draft Long Range Transportation Plan**
* Lewis: Metro recently released 2020 Long Range Transportation Plan.
* Lewis moves that the Transportation and Safety Committee adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS the Metro Board of Directors authorized the release of the updated draft 2020 Long Range Transportation Plan, a $400-billion, 30-year transportation blueprint for our region. There will now be a 45-day public review period to gather additional comments from the public on the plan through July 13, 2020.  
  
WHEREAS the plan lays out a future vision and roadmap for bringing about a more mobile, sustainable and vibrant future for Los Angeles County. Through extensive public outreach over the past 18 months that included 77 community meetings, 28 public workshop meetings and 20,000 survey responses from the public, Metro has distilled the region’s desires into four goals: Better Transit, Less Congestion, Complete Streets and Access to Opportunity  
  
WHEREAS the Long Range Transportation Plan serves as a blueprint for how Metro will spend anticipated revenues in the coming decades. This is Metro’s multi-year effort to collect diverse voices and stories throughout the region to help shape the update of that Plan.  
  
BE IT RESOLVED that the Transportation and Safety Committee endorses this effort to equitably expand Metro lines under this Plan.

* Peters seconds.
* Motion carries unanimously with 1 abstention.
  1. **Discussion and possible resolution with respect to renaming of Le Conte Ave., named for Confederate soldier and segregationist Joseph Le Conte.**
* Peters moves that the Transportation and Safety Committee recommend that the NWWNC adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS Le Conte Avenue is named after Joseph Le Conte, a UC Berkeley professor, natural sciences researcher, and co-founder of the Sierra Club.

WHEREAS Joseph Le Conte was also a Georgia plantation owner and slaveholder who worked for the Confederate Army's Nitre and Munitions Bureau during the Civil War and who was also associated with the Confederate Secret Service.

WHEREAS Le Conte opposed Reconstruction and Black enfranchisement after the Civil War, believed in the biological and thus political superiority of white people, endorsed Klan intimidation of Black voters, and believed that "Race-prejudice, or race-repulsion, to use a stronger term [. . .] is probably an instinct necessary to preserve the blood purity of the higher race."

WHEREAS Le Conte’s name has been stripped by the Sierra Club, an organization he co-founded, from Le Conte Memorial Lodge, now called the Yosemite Conservation Heritage Center.

WHEREAS Le Conte’s name has also been removed from Le Conte Elementary School in Berkeley, now called Sylvia Mendez Elementary School.

WHEREAS the *Daily Cal* Editorial Board has recently endorsed the renaming of Le Conte Hall at UC Berkeley, citing Le Conte’s “noxious views” on race.

WHEREAS the Westwood community disdains racism and believes that prominent racists, including slaveowners and servants of the Confederacy, should not be honored with public infrastructure.

WHEREAS the public veneration of slaveowners and Confederates is incompatible with a culture which values Black people and Black lives.

WHEREAS there are many people with ties to UCLA, Westwood, and Los Angeles more deserving of public honor, including but not limited to Ralph Bunche, Jackie Robinson, and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar.

BE IT RESOLVED that the North Westwood Neighborhood Council recommends that Le Conte Avenue be renamed.

* Arciniega seconds.
* Motion carries unanimously.

1. **Adjourn at 7:00 pm.**