WEST LOS ANGELES SAWTELLE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL REGULAR MINUTES
Wednesday, February 22, 2017, 7:00 PM

Meeting started at: 7:05 pm  Ended at: 9:40 pm

Attending: Eric Nakamura (Vice Chair), Jay Handal (Treasurer), Naomi Kageyama (Secretary), Arman Ghorbani, Daniilo Torro, Jean Shigematsu, Jian Kerendian, Ron Migdal, Rosie Kato, Xochitl Gonzalez, Zana Glisovic

Absent: Jamie Keeton (Chair), Greg Ericksen (Outreach Director)

Note: Eric Nakamura presided as Chair due to Jamie Keeton’s absence. Jay Handal left early (approx 9:00 pm). Quorum maintained.

I. Call to Order

II. General Public Comment

- Debra Hockenmeyer: She set up a candidates forum on 2/16/17 for the three (3) CD11 candidates including Councilmember Mike Bonin and contenders Robin Rudisill and Mark Ryavec. Councilmember Bonin was not responsive even with 150 attendees slated for the event. He chose to attend a community listening session in Mar Vista instead.
- Mark Ryavec: He is a contender for CD1 Councilmember. Believes current leadership is not responsive to community.

III. Community Partner Reports

- Brian Ross Adams: Representative from State Assemblymember Sebastian Ridley-Thomas’ office (District 54). The Assemblymember is currently in Sacramento advocating for the “stream act” that will keep ‘streaming’ services at lower costs for households. Also he is analyzing “film tax breaks” to promote diverse hiring in the film industry. There is an upcoming event (informational hearing) this week that is posted on Facebook regarding the use of entertainment tax breaks.
- Mandi Carpenter and Rebecca Pynoos: From Jewish Family Services. They oversee 4 senior centers (including Felicia Mahood). Rebecca is new to the Felicia Mahood site. Wanted to say hello.

IV. Approvals (5 minutes)

a. Draft meeting minutes of January 25, 2017 minutes (Secretary Naomi Kageyama): Kageyama noted that there was a typo on the 1/25/17 minutes for agenda Item IX (Motion to file a CIS regarding WLASNC’s stand on LA City’s on-line voting initiative). There were 8 Y and 1 Abstain (rather than 9 Y). Motion to accept minutes with corrections passes. The motion to approve minutes passes. 10 yes. 1 abstain.

b. MERs report for Oct. – Dec. 2016 (Treasurer Handal): Most bills are starting to be paid. Some still in process. There is an email from Grayce Liu, General Mgr of DONE noting the current budget needs to set aside operation expenses only with the remainder to be used to pay for the current investigation. There is an upcoming budget day to collect input from the community. January 2017 MERs is not available at this
time due to delays from DONE. The current MERs includes October – Dec 2016 (3 months) including a Staples receipt that was in question at the last NC meeting. Jasmine Elbarbar from DONE noted that the WLASCN has a new funding liaison. Former Treasurer Zana Glisovic noted there should be some funds due to WLASCN for internet-related services. Jasmine Elbarbar noted again that all queries regarding funding issues can be directed to her. Jay Handal noted that cells are “locked” on the excel sheet so he is forced to hand-write the numbers on the form. There was discussion re the Staples receipt and the ‘rewards’ provided by Staples to the purchaser. Jasmine Elbarbar said that moving forward one option is to not utilize a ‘rewards number’ at all or to figure out how to ensure WLASCN is the recipient of any future purchase ‘rewards’. Motion to accept the MERs reports for Oct. 2016, Nov. 2016 and Dec. 2016. Motion passes. 10 yes. 1 no.

PLUM Chair Xochitl Gonzalez asks to have PLUM Committee Report be moved higher on the agenda because many community members have attended tonight’s meeting for the items listed under the PLUM Committee Report. Secretary Naomi Kageyama asked if the Civic Center Clean Up Committee Report could be done quickly before the PLUM report. Chair Eric Nakamura concurred.

Civic Center Clean Up Committee Report (Item VII on agenda): Zel Limenh of Felicia Mahood Center provided an update on the progress of the clean up efforts. Significant progress has been made to date due to efforts of various individuals including Office Jim Levinson, Greg Erickson, Jay Handal and others. More fencing is schedules for the entire area including by the library. Signatures are being collected to support this effort. Zel also noted that new leadership is being sought for the Felicia Mahood Senior Center and welcomed people to talk with him about this.

PLUM Committee Report (Item VIII on agenda):

- **Item VIIIa:** PLUM Chair Xochitl Gonzalez reported on the CIM project (former Buerge Ford dealership on Santa Monica Blvd. and Granville) at 11752-11776 Santa Monica Blvd. This is an SB1818 project meaning that by law they get increased density by providing affordable housing units. She noted that throughout the city of Los Angeles many residents are unaware of their rights when they are asked to move from their current residence. X. Gonzalez is trying to assist a resident who is now on the verge of homelessness due to another CIM project. X. Gonzalez noted that there is potential problem with the proposed reflective material for the CIM project on Santa Monica Blvd. A highly reflective material may be hazardous to drivers.

- **Item VIIIb:** Santa Monica Overlay Subcommittee is currently in formation to provide a way to provide developers with a guide for development along Santa Monica Blvd. which is very busy and a major thoroughfare for the local area. X. Gonzalez noted that Councilmember Bonin has been in receipt of the Sawtelle Overlay document that reflects tremendous input from the local community. This includes space, design, landscaping, trees, signage, sidewalk style etc. She proposes a motion to request a response from Councilmember Bonin regarding the Sawtelle Overlay plan. J. Elbarbar asks if there is a formal ‘Style Guide’ from WLASCN for the area. It was noted that certain distinct boulevards (like Pico, Sawtelle and Santa Monica) required more specific plans like the Overlay Plan for Sawtelle. The motion passes. 11 yes.

- There was some discussion about the Santa Monica overlay study done by California State Northridge (CSUN). J. Elbarbar added a reminder that WLASCN is in exhaustive efforts (EE) and currently under review by DONE. She has received complaints from community stakeholders that hostility between members is a barrier to participation. J. Elbarbar reminded that civility is required from all members.

- **Item VIIIc:** The Brentwood School Expansion (Council File 17-0020) was passed with “gutted rules” including non-mandatory busing of students. PLUM believes this will cause more traffic congestion. So even though this project was already approved by City Council WLASCN PLUM would like to inform Councilmember Bonin that the community is not supportive of the approved expansion. Please refer to the handout marked ‘agenda Item VIIic’. It is acknowledged that this is a moot point because this project has already been approved. The original CPC ruling was “gutted” by CD 11 and Brentwood School – in opposition to the community. Motion to approve. Unanimous. 11 yes.

- **Item VIll:** The 11460 Gateway Blvd. SB18-18 Project (Case Number CPC-2015-4086-DB-SPR-CDO/ENV-2015-4087-EAF-VTT-73891). Motion for reconsideration of motion to approve project. DONE representative J. Elbarbar noted that she had erred at the last meeting (Jan. 2017) regarding WLASCN bylaws and noted that the motion ‘approved’ in the Jan. 2017 meeting was not valid because a minimum of 5’ affirmative votes are required (in addition to majority). The original motion to ‘approve the project as presented’ does in fact include the recommendations from the WLASCN.
Public comments re Gateway Project:

- Lisha M.: I’ve been an active community member. We wanted 3 things – speed bumps, signage (restricted parking etc.) and 24-hour parking enforcement. This has not been adequately addressed by the developer. We have been talking directly with Councilmember Bonin’s office but these items have not been adequately addressed.

- Ivan S.: I am a parliamentarian. The bylaws state that the prevailing side needs to agree to reconsider. Soo Min Park (from DONE) noted that the ‘prevailing’ side includes those who voted ‘yes’ at the Jan. 2017 board meeting. Ivan S. also noted that a 2/3 vote is required as per Brown Act.

- Zach A.: representative of the Developer for Gateway Project (Threesixty). It is not under the purview of the Developer re street signage. [note: Zach is a paid speaker for Moss & Co.]

There is general discussion among the board re Robert’s Rules of Order, Brown Act and WLASNC bylaws.

- There is a motion to allow the “reconsideration” of the prior month’s motion due to the bylaws violation in order to implement a new vote (put forth from X. Gonzalez). This particular motion provides a means to allow a new vote for the disallowed 1/25/17 vote. Unanimous. Passed.

- There is a motion to approve the Gateway Project with an amendment to have the Developer pay for speed bumps, signage and traffic mitigation as deemed proper by the Dept. of Transportation (DOT). 5 No votes. 4 Yes votes. 2 Abstain votes. Motion doesn’t pass.

- There is a motion to approve the Gateway Project as proposed by the Developer (this is the same motion from the January 2017 board meeting. 7 No votes. 3 Yes votes. 1 Abstain vote. The Gateway Project is not approved as currently proposed.

[There is a short break because the meeting has been going on almost 2 hours. Treasurer Jay Handal leaves the meeting but quorum remains.]

- Item X (Public Comment for items not on the agenda):
  
  - Ryan O.: I am an educator and support Nick Melvoin a contender for the LAUSD School Board District 4 with incumbent Steven Zimmer.

- Item IX (mistakenly called ‘IX’ but actually VIIIId on agenda) WRAC Motion –Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC) has proposed a motion that formally requests that LA City Planning compute the maximum build out under existing zoning for low, medium and high density residential zones as well as commercial zones. WRAC also requests updated figures on population and population density in the WRAC area including a comparison to 2010 figures. Per X. Gonzalez WRAC wants to ensure that there is a true picture of housing and development and population. Unanimous. 10 Yes votes. Motion passes.

- Item IX : Proposal for Council Districts 5 and 11 prepare regular email planning bulletins that compile current land use issues, including citywide policy issues, current hearing dates, and details about Westside developments being considered by the City. This is similar to what Councilmember David Ryu currently provides to his constituency in District 4. 10 Yes votes. Motion passes.

- Item V (to approve Strategic Plan): The big budget is more of a “wish list” if the board was fully operational and no longer in exhaustive efforts. This is more of a ‘big picture’ type of plan. While mandatory it is not set in stone as per Jasmine Elbarbary. 10 Yes votes. Motion passes.
- Item X (Public comments for items not on the agenda): none.

- ANNOUNCEMENTS
  - Jasmine Elbarbary: Moved to the Valley but is still the WLASCN liaison.
  - Semee Park: Director of Neighborhood Council Operations. Will be available to assist WLASCN
  - Question re Board Retreat: Board retreats are usually 3-4 hours at the start of a new term. Strategic planning and budget development. If WLASCN still wants this then a request can be made to DONE. Public is always welcome.
  - NC member Danilo Torro wants information about the old WLA Animal Shelter. How can more information be available to the NC? X. Gonzalez noted that she had reached out to the Developer (Tom Safran & Associates) as well as to Len Nguyen and Gale Ezra (both from Councilmember Bonin’s office). Stakeholders are unhappy that there is a lack of participation in the PLUM Committee.
  - NC member Zana Glisovic is disturbed that board officer elections is not on the agenda even after submitting a request to Chair Jamie Keeton. This is a bylaws issue. DONE should not have the power to deny this from the agenda. X. Gonzalez agreed to this and believes DONE has overstepped in this area. NC Member/PLUM Chair agreed with Zana and noted that in past years the WLASCN did not follow bylaws re officer elections while Jay Handal was Chair – and now that the WLASCN is in EE it is even more "disgraceful" that DONE is not setting the correct example and following the rules themselves.
  - NC member Rosie Kato noted that sidewalk repairs need to be submitted. Encouraged everyone to report specific locations. There are 15 locations that can be approved.
  - NC member Rosie Kato also submitted a request to review board officers and selection of committee members. She hopes it is on the next month’s agenda.
  - Semee Park (LA City) talked about the need to review current bylaws including rules that provide structure for meetings. Many things are contingent upon group dynamics.
  - NC member Zana Glisovic agrees with Semee Park but believes that items should still be agendized.
  - NC Naomi Kageyama noted that bylaws and standing rules have been years in the making (since charter reform days). And it was not feasible to revamp things that have been years in the making within a few months. This was never put forth as a requirement to getting out of EE. Several others agreed. Semee Park replied that is “fine” and continued to note that NC just needs to be a “functioning” body with better function and structure first. Conversation continued to discuss the need to at least have bylaws’ required items (e.g. elections) on the agenda anyway – even if the intention is to postpone this while standing rules are being ironed out.
  - NC member Ron Migdal is the Emergency Preparedness Liaison and noted there is an upcoming meeting on Saturday and those with concerns should contact him.

Motion to adjourn. Unanimous.

[it is noted that the only item not covered during this meeting was Agenda Item VI (Outreach Report) due to the absence of Chair Greg Erickson. However the Civic Center Clean-Up Committee Report was completed (which is part of Outreach) as noted above.]
This form can be used for both attendance and tracking of votes for all motions & amended motions. Use new sheet(s) for each meeting.

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<td>Agenda Item IV-a: Motion to approve regular meeting minutes with corrections for 1/25/17; Motion passes 10 Yes; 1 Abstain</td>
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<td>Agenda Item IV-b: Motion to approve MERs for Oct. 2016-Dec 2017 (3 mos). Motion passes 10 Yes. 1 No.</td>
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<td>Agenda Item VIII-b: Motion to request a response from Councilmember Bonin on the Sawtelle Overlay Plan that was submitted to his office several months ago. Motion passes. 11 Yes.</td>
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<td>Agenda Item VIII-c: The Brentwood School Expansion (CF 17-0020) originally included a community approved CPC ruling that was subsequently edited by CD11 and Brentwood school. This current motion is to request that this mistake is corrected thereby closing the loopholes created by the &quot;gutted rules&quot; in order to be more responsive to the community. Motion passes. 11 Yes.</td>
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<td><strong>Agenda Item VIII-e (part 1 of 3):</strong> 11460 Gateway Blvd. Project. Motion to move forward to implement &quot;reconsideration&quot; of prior month's motion that did not adhere to current bylaws standards. Motion passes. 11 Yes. See Part 2 of 3 and 3 of 3 for the actual reconsideration votes.</td>
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<td><strong>Agenda Item VIII-e (part 3 of 3):</strong> 11460 Gateway Blvd. Project. Motion to approve the Gateway Project as proposed by the Developer (this is the original motion from the January 2017 NC meeting). 3 Yes, 7 No and 1 Abstain. Motion does not pass. The Gateway Project is NOT approved by WLASNC.</td>
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<td><strong>Agenda Item V.</strong> Motion to approve the WLASNC Strategic Plan as submitted by Chair Jamie Keeton. 10 Yes. Motion passes.</td>
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<td><strong>Agenda Item XI.</strong> Motion to adjourn. Unanimous.</td>
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Meeting adjourned 9:40 pm