

MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
WESTWOOD HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION
MAY 4, 2021

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Westwood Homeowners Association was held on Tuesday, May 4, 2021 at 7 p.m. online. Board members present were Linda Blank, Antonio Braga, Paola Carrillo, John Heidt, Jack Hileman, Eloise Metcalfe, Stephen Resnick, and Mary Thorndal. Member excused was Scott Tamkin. Also present were CD5 Field deputy Jasmine Shamolian and LAPD SLO Pete Ojeda.

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Stephen Resnick called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

2. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

A quorum was present.

3. CD5 REPORT

A. Discussion of Westwood Park

CD5 Field deputy Jasmine Shamolian reported that about \$2 million in Quimby funds became available in February but most of it has been allocated. She suggested that community members focus on what projects need to be done instead of on the Quimby money, and when projects are identified then figure out how to fund them. A group went through the park and made a list of park needs. Fencing and turf restoration are two suggested projects, and Quimby money could be used for fencing. The bathrooms are terrible and the proposed new one is too small and will be built in the wrong place, the dog park. This is a bad location because it can't be seen from the recreation center and it is not where parents take kids.

The new PAB just had its first meeting and until now there has been no local representation on it. Mike Shull and RAP want to allocate all the money to Aidan's Place and community members feel there is no point in spending money on it if the park is unsafe. Aidan's Place renovation is being designed by Inclusion Matters by Shane's Inspiration, and they were told to do community outreach, which they haven't done.

A Park Commissioners meeting will take place on Thursday and community input is needed. John Heidt moved, "WHA will draft and sign a letter stating that a clean, safe park is needed because no one will use it otherwise." Linda Blank seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Linda will draft the letter.

CD5 has received many complaints about the east side of the park being unusable due to the homeless encampment there. COVID rules are still in effect but camping in the park is illegal and LAPD is now warning and citing people. CD5 is dealing with a lot of homeless issues and is setting up a homeless advisory board, with the public invited to attend its meetings. Angel Izard, one of CD5's field deputies, will be working on homeless issues as well. Councilmember Koretz has allocated \$450,000 to PATH and \$10,000 to West LA Homeless. Antonio Braga commented that more money should have been allocated to WLAH, as that is a large disparity.

B. Traffic Mitigation

A DOT survey concluded that four way stop signs were not warranted at the intersection of Massachusetts & Midvale, despite the fact that it's a crooked intersection so there is not just a traffic issue at that location.

C. 1610 Bentley – see item 14A

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

John Heidt moved to approve the April 6, 2021 minutes, seconded by Linda Blank, and approved unanimously.

5. NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME REPORT

SLO Pete Ojeda reported that crime statistics are on a downward slope. Recently there were a couple of burglaries and two bikes were stolen from an apartment complex. LAPD is working on the park's homeless situation. Housing offers have been made. Jack Hileman described an assault he saw by a homeless man on two women whose phones he took. The assault took place on Westwood Blvd. and Jack helped chase the thief down. Mary Thorndal reported that there have been reports of people with knives on Westwood Blvd. and someone was attacked at Sprouts.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

Stephen Resnick reported that the past month's expenses were \$1,400 and income was about \$1,300. The Union Bank checking account has about \$3,500, the Chase checking account has almost \$14,000 and there is \$84,600 in a Chase money market account. A check for \$100,000 was deposited with Schwab, half to go into a Vanguard S & P 500 ETF account and half to go into a Vanguard total stock market fund.

John Heidt moved, "WHA will put another \$50,000 into each Vanguard account." Jack Hileman seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

7. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There was no public comment.

8. CITY HOUSING ELEMENT

<https://planning.lacity.org/plans-policies/housing-element-update>

This item was not discussed.

9. MAINTENANCE OF TRAFFIC CIRCLES ASHTON/WESTHOLME

Eloise Metcalfe reported that there is no update, as she is still waiting for a reply from the superintendent of StreetsLA. Specifics are needed before plans can be made.

10. WHA EMAIL BLAST

Eloise Metcalfe will discuss email issues with Jack Hileman, Stephen Resnick, and Scott Tamkin. Jack Hileman would like to send the next email blast with information about WLAH.

11. WEST LA HOMELESS (WLAH.ORG)

Antonio Braga reported that the group met yesterday and is going ahead with plans for its opening day. WLAH has collected pledges in the amount of \$150,000. Donations have been received from WHA board members.

12. THE MAJESTIC CREST

Stephen Resnick received notification from UCLA that there will not be any construction on the theater for now.

13. WESTWOOD TOMORROW

John Heidt reported that the speaker at the last meeting, Wayne Ratkovich, was very interesting and said a vision and written consensus was needed.

14. LAND USE ITEMS

A. 1610 Bentley

The owner has not gone back to the DRB.

B. 1427 – 1433 Greenfield

The CEQA appeal was turned down.

C. Belmont

This project was approved by PLUM.

D. Appeal Fee

Stephen Resnick spoke against the proposed fee hike from \$89 to \$16,000.

The fee was raised to \$159.

E. Financial Impacts on Developers

At an appeal hearing at the Area Planning Commission, a developer claimed that it would cause financial hardship if the appeal was granted, which is the first time a developer has used that issue.

15. WEBSITE

Jack Hileman stated that he would like to gravitate from monthly updates on the website to a newsletter and having the website as a resource for information. Jack placed a request for a volunteer to do social media outreach and member recruitment on Nextdoor.

16. MEMBERSHIP

A. Board Recruitment

Stephen Resnick will contact a new WHA member who is interested in the board. Paola Carrillo has a potential board candidate in mind who she will contact. A prospective board member has just had a new baby so it will be a month or more until he is ready to take a seat.

B. Masks

Stephen Resnick thanked Eloise Metcalfe for sourcing and delivering the masks. Eloise reported that she had to mail some of the masks because people weren't home to receive them so some expenses were incurred.

C. Lawn Signs – no report

17. ADJOURNMENT

President Stephen Resnick adjourned the meeting at 9:07 p.m.

