

MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
WESTWOOD HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION
NOVEMBER 2, 2021

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Westwood Homeowners Association was held on Tuesday, November 2, 2021, online. Board members present were Antonio Braga, Paola Carrillo, John Heidt, Eloise Metcalfe, Stephen Resnick, Scott Tamkin, and Mary Thorndal. Members excused were Linda Blank, Jack Hileman, and Yoav Sarraf. Also present were LAPD SLO James Allen, CD5 Field Deputy Jasmine Shamolian, WLAH President Michael Stevenson and three stakeholders.

1. CALL TO ORDER

President Stephen Resnick called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

2. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM

A quorum was present.

3. NEIGHBORHOOD CRIME REPORT

SLO James Allen reported that numbers are down year-to-date in all categories with the exception of grand theft auto. Trespassing is on the rise because people are looking to squat in empty properties. Security is needed for an empty home because if squatters get the utilities turned on illegally, the owner must go to court to evict them. A cannabis store was closed down because it was operating without a license and a ghost gun was recovered.

4. CD5 REPORT

A. Future projects at Westwood Park

CD5 Field Deputy Jasmine Shamolian reported that Councilmember Koretz filed a resolution to ban camping in Westwood Park. LAPD can enforce it now. CD5 is interested in hearing what the community wants at the park and will relay it to RAP. There is \$2.1 million for all area parks, and some could go to Westwood.

B. Sidewalk cleaning

CD5 Field Deputy Jasmine Shamolian reported that she put in a request for sidewalk cleaning on Westwood Blvd. and a caseworker is handling it. The city should be removing trash. Spot cleaning can be done by the Bureau of Sanitation but specific locations are needed.

5. WEST LA HOMELESS.ORG

Antonio Braga introduced President Michael Stevenson, who thanked WHA for being one of the first supporters to give seed money to the organization. WLAH raised almost \$200,000 between May 2020 and June 2021, and launched its program in August 2021. WLAH has contracted with People's Concern and they are pleased with efforts so far. In the first two months People's Concern contacted 202 homeless people, 150 men and 52 women. In September, 457 contacts were made and 196 people accepted some form of services. Twenty-two people were matched to housing and five were referred to a higher care level. An outreach program to support caseworkers will be starting soon, to hand out hygiene kits and trash bags and get to know people so they can recognize someone new. It is easier to get the homeless to accept services if they are new on the

street. All money donated to WLAH goes to People's Concern. Michael Stevenson will send the budget to Stephen Resnick.

Antonio Braga moved, "WHA will donate a second round of funding in the amount of \$10,000 to WLAH." John Heidt seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Eloise Metcalfe suggested one change in the wording of item 14. Eloise Metcalfe moved to approve the minutes of the October 5, 2021 meeting, seconded by Antonio Braga, and approved unanimously.

7. TREASURER'S REPORT

Stephen Resnick reported that WHA is up \$22,406 in Schwab. WHA has about \$300,000 in cash and about \$200,000 in money market accounts, for a total of \$504,355.39. An expense of \$1,800 for website maintenance is upcoming. John Heidt suggested that \$100,000 should be kept in cash and the rest be invested. An operating budget needs to be worked out.

8. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There was no public comment.

9. WEST LA HOMELESS GROUP (WLAH.ORG)

See agenda item 5.

10. WESTWOOD PARK

A. Park Advisory Board (PAB)

Stephen Resnick reported that he got a two-hour notice for the PAB meeting from Eric. CD5 Field Deputy Jasmine Shamolian said that she got a week's notice about the meeting and can speak to Eric about it. At the meeting there was a lot of discussion about the use of Tommy's Field, including possibly dividing the field so double the number of permits can be given out. Eric gave permits to clubs and adults. There was a lack of notification about construction. A fence was put up two weeks ago.

11. EMERSON DONATION AND BANNER

Paola Carrillo spoke with Emerson's principal. The donation would go to PACE which is starting an after-school sports program. They started with volleyball and want to add basketball and have volleyball in the spring also. The minimum donation for a banner is \$3,500.

Paola moved, "WHA will support Emerson and its after-school sports programs in the amount of \$3,500." Scott Tamkin seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Eloise Metcalfe said she is waiting to hear from Fairburn's banner person and will coordinate with Paola so that both banners will have the same wording and logo.

12. BOARD OFFICERS

Eloise Metcalfe said that Stephen Resnick is doing too much of the work that other board members should participate in. She would like to form a committee to look at what needs to be done and how to share the load. The bylaws should also be looked at and updated. Other board members agreed that more people helping out at the

executive level and a more formal structure would be beneficial. John Heidt and Mary Thorndal volunteered to be on the committee. Eloise will contact Linda Blank about being on the committee also.

13. COMMUNITIES FOR CHOICE - DONATION

www.communitiesforchoice.org

Stephen Resnick reported that the organization's name has been changed to "Our Neighborhood Voices." It is working on a petition for a ballot initiative to bring back local control after the passage of SB 9. He can find out what the budget is and what the money will be spent on. This item will be on the agenda again for the next meeting.

14. WEBSITE

This item was not discussed.

15. MEMBERSHIP

This item was not discussed.

16. NEW BUSINESS

Eloise Metcalfe reported that Hector at Urban Forestry got WHA's check and is putting in a request for plant material. Planting at the traffic circle should start in two weeks.

Antonio Braga saw former WHA board member John Goldsmith, who suggested to him that WHA explore contracting with a patrol service. Stephen Resnick said that this was looked at previously and it was too expensive. Antonio volunteered to get an estimate and will ask John to help. Eloise Metcalfe would like to see some data on whether patrols are helpful.

17. ADJOURNMENT

President Stephen Resnick adjourned the meeting at 8:59 p.m.