WEST LA/SAWTELLE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL (WLASNC)

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE (EC)

MEETING MINUTES

Chair: ALEX CARYOTAKIS
JAMES ALTUNER
CESAR ARANGURI
DEBORAH TENG
ZACH MAZUR

Tuesday
02.13.2024
7 PM

Stoner Park Small Gym

MINUTES

1. **Meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM**
2. **ROLL CALL**
    a. A. Caryotakis, C. Aranguri, D. Teng, Z. Mazur are present in person. A quorum was established. J. Altuner joins via Zoom at 7:15 PM.
3. **Ratify November committee meeting minutes - https://docs.google.com/document/d/1hFvljl9yk9Mg1_T6kF4zZipTPESWm73D/edit**
    a. Minutes were ratified 4-0-0 with James Altuner absent.
4. **PUBLIC COMMENT**
    a. Comment from Kent Kaisaki regarding the intersection of Federal and Wilshire and needed improvements to crosswalks and traffic-light timing in anticipation of the purple line extension to the Veterans Administration campus there.
5. **REGULAR AGENDA**
    a. **Motion: Rename committee to Sustainability,**

Infrastructure and Transportation Committee (SIT) and refocus mission as such.

i. Committee members and members of the public discussed. C. Aranguri raised that a mission statement of the renamed committee would be helpful prior to voting, and asked for clarification of how the refocused committee will share responsibilities with PLUM. Members suggest that mobility and transportation issues dovetail with environmental issues, by providing sustainable transit options and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

ii. C. Aranguri makes a motion to postpone Motion 5a. Seconded by A. Caryotakis. Motion passes 2-2-0.

1. Committee members will work on a mission statement, consider the inclusion of "Infrastructure" in the committee name, and bring a motion back to the March Environmental committee meeting for committee naming and mission expansion.

b. Nominations to Environmental committee

i. Motion: Nominate Brendan Corcoran to the committee.
   1. Seconded by Z. Mazur
   2. Motion passes 5-0-0

ii. Motion: Nominate Marius Facktor to the committee
   1. Seconded by Z. Mazur
   2. Motion passes 5-0-0

iii. Motion: Nominate Joseph Santiago to the committee.
   1. Seconded by Z. Mazur
   2. Motion passes 5-0-0

iv. These three nominations will come before the WLASNC Board for approval at the February 28, 2024 meeting.

c. Neighborhood composting

i. Chair provided an update on committee members' meeting with Senator Allen's and Traci Park's teams regarding neighborhood composting options.
   1. Z. Mazur also provided an update that he got in touch with Collins and Katz YMCA regarding a potential compost drop-off site

there. W. Chiu suggested he could provide a contact for the library to gauge interest in a compost drop-off site.
2. Committee and members of public also discussed some success stories of tenants working with building owners to get green bins supplied for buildings.
3. Member of the public Elsa suggested that the West LA Community Garden has considering hosting a compost hub in coordination with LA Compost but there is a cost barrier. Committee might consider a NPG to assist.
4. Committee will work on outreach to tenants with materials on how to get a compost bin for your building and other composting resources. Committee will also work on a template ask to community organizations that might host a composting drop-off site.

d. Westside Mobility Project

i. Motion: Submit a Letter of Support to CD11 for a two-way protected bike lane on Ohio Avenue.
   1. Committee reviewed proposed letter and agreed on edits. Letter is attached to these minutes as Appendix A. Letter will go before WLASNC Board at the February 28 meeting.
   2. Motion seconded by D. Teng.
   3. Motion passes unanimously 5-0-0.

e. Other Business

i. Discuss: EC visit to Kuruvungna Springs
   1. Committee will pursue a date in April.

ii. Discuss: Input for Bundy Triangle Ad Hoc Committee
   1. W. Chiu suggested committee weigh in on how the Bundy Triangle may serve as a transit hub for bus and rail transit nearby.

iii. Walk-ins:
   1. C. Aranguri offered that the Sawtelle Japan town anniversary is this month - one of events is a tree planting - Cesar will send the information
   2. J. Santiago mentioned that there is funding for tree

plantings along bus stops - this is a potential area for the committee to explore

3. J. Santiago also offered that Big Blue Bus is conducting a comprehensive operational analysis of their services and on Wednesday, March 6th between 6-8pm a feedback session is scheduled where the public can provide feedback on the plan which would be implemented next year and could dramatically change service in the WLA area. https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/62ad3b005e914852b0f90d5b28ecf7e2

6. **Meeting adjourned at 8:19PM**

SAWTELLE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
1645 S. CORINTH AVE
https://www.westlasawtelle.org

*** ALL ITEMS All items on the agenda are subject to discussion, possible action and filing of a Community Impact Statement to the Office of the City Clerk.**

**** PUBLIC INPUT DURING HYBRID MEETINGS The public is requested to fill out a "Speaker Card" to address the Board during in-person meetings. Every person wishing to address the Board via zoom online must dial +1-669-900-6833, enter the meeting ID 87840673159 and press # to join the meeting. When prompted by the presiding officer, to provide public input at the Neighborhood Council meeting the public will be requested to dial *9 or use the Raise Hand option, to address the Board on any agenda item before the Board takes an action on an item.**

Comments from the public on agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered. Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the agenda that are within the Board's jurisdiction will be heard during the General Public Comment period. Please note that under the Brown Act, the Board is prevented from acting on a matter that you bring to its attention during the General Public Comment period; however, the issue raised by a member of the public may become the subject of a future Board meeting. Public comment is limited to 2 minutes per speaker, unless adjusted by the presiding officer of the Board. Any messaging or virtual background is in the control of the individual Board member in their personal capacity, and does not reflect any formal position of the N.C. or the City.

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†† PUBLIC COMMENT CANNOT BE REQUIRED Public comment cannot be required to be submitted in advance of the meeting, only real time public comment is required. If there are any broadcasting interruptions that prevent the public from observing or hearing the meeting, the meeting must be recessed or adjourned. If members of the public are unable to provide public comment or be heard due to issues

within the N.C.'s control, the meeting must be recessed or adjourned.

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NOTICE TO PAID REPRESENTATIVES If you are compensated to monitor, attend, or speak at this meeting, City law may require you to register as a lobbyist and report your activity. See LAMC 18.01 et seq. More information is available at www.Ethics.LACity.org/Lobbying. For assistance, contact the Ethics Commission at (213) 978-1960 or Ethics.Commission@LACity.org .

PUBLIC POSTING OF AGENDAS Agenda are posted for public review as follows:
Website https://www.westlasawtelle.org/upcoming-events
GoogleDrive https://tinyurl.com/3xz8etj3

RECONSIDERATION AND GRIEVANCE PROCESS For information on the WLASNC's process for board action reconsideration, stakeholder grievance policy, or any other procedural matters related to this Council, please consult the Bylaws https://tinyurl.com/2r38jxy4.

MEETING RECORDINGS Meetings may be sound or video recorded.

SERVICIOS DE TRADUCCION Si require servicios de traduccion, avisar al Concejo Vecinal 3 dias de trabajo (72) horas) antes del evento. Por favor contacte a Chair Walton Chiu a contact@westlasawtelle.org para avisar al Concejo Vecinal.

APPENDIX A

February XX, 2024

West Los Angeles Sawtelle N.C.
1645 Corinth Ave.
Los Angeles Calif. 90025
(310) 235-2070

Chair - Walton Chiu Walton@WestLASawtelle.org

Website: www.WestLASawtelle.org

Re: Westside Mobility Project - Ohio Avenue 2-way Bike Lane

To the Office of Councilmember Traci Park,

The LA Department of Transportation (LADOT) is planning a network of four bikeways connecting Westside neighborhoods and adjacent cities with the goal of making bicycling comfortable for riders of all ages and abilities (the Westside Mobility Projects).

On January 24th, 2024, representatives from LADOT gave a presentation at the January Board meeting of the West Los Angeles Sawtelle Neighborhood Council (WLASNC) regarding a segment of the Westside Mobility Projects that will run through our neighborhood – the Ohio Avenue bike corridor.

The Ohio Avenue bike corridor is the 7th most used bike route in the city. Many of our neighbors use Ohio Avenue and at the January 24th meeting, some expressed that biking on Ohio Avenue today can be dangerous. Neighbors mentioned speeding and motorists ignoring stop signs. Further, motorists use Ohio to bypass traffic on Santa Monica Boulevard, which can make Ohio Avenue dangerous for pedestrians and bicyclists at rush hour.

We believe that traffic calming measure are not enough given the congestion and speeds on Ohio Avenue. For this reason, the WLASNC strongly supports the option proposed by LADOT at our January 24th meeting, which is a two-way protected bike lane along the north side of Ohio Ave, between Westgate Ave and Westwood Blvd. This option includes bike signals and concrete, protected bike lane infrastructure.

Relatedly, we would like to emphasize that other projects adopted by the City's Mobility Plan are important to our neighborhood and should move forward. We are in favor of the Healthy Streets Los Angeles Ballot measure.

For our neighbors concerned about the loss of parking, which LADOT estimates to be about 26 parking spots for the two-way protected bike lane option, LADOT cites nearby free, overnight parking lots which more than make up for this loss.

Most importantly, the two-way protected bike lane option will reduce fatalities and injuries caused by car crashes. We note that funding has been secured already by LADOT for the mobility project and for the protected two-way bike lane option. A safer biking route will enhance connectivity with our West LA neighbors and support sustainable modes of transportation and we urge Councilmember Park to support this option.

Respectfully submitted,

_____

James Altuner
Secretary, WLANC