

MINUTES OF THE BRENTWOOD COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING
Electronic Meeting Via Zoom
Wednesday, November 11, 2020

CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair M. Bisnoff called the meeting to order at about 7: 00 p.m.

The Chair called the roll and the following Council members announced their presence and their representative capacities:

REPRESENTATIVES

Alkov, Georgia- BAK HOA
Alfano, Madelyn -BV Chamber
Aronson, Michelle- SVBD
Binder, John- UMCA
Bisnoff, Michelle Chair & Safety
Blum, Len- SBRA
Brown, Pamela- Ministerial
Dohrmann, Barbara-BASC HOA
Edmunds, Eric-BH HOA
Goldstein, Doris- Transportation
Haley, John- Crestwood Hills HOA
Jordan, Carolyn- Vice-Chair & MAL
Klein, Raymond- BHA
Krell, Marilyn- Multi-Family Residential
Rosen, Jaqui - BG HOA
Simmons, Sheila- Civic & Cultural

Stein, Richard- Treasurer
Stephens, Josh-Land Use
Tenzer, Gary- MCA
Watts, Larry Sec. & SC HOA
Yoshimaru, Gennifer-Educ. Ind. Schools

ALTERNATES

Chapgier, Flo MAL
Freedman, Nancy - Envornmental
Hulett, Judie-Safety
Lyons, Janet- Educ. Ind. Schools
Morganthaler, Alisa- Multi-Family Residential
Polier, Michael-Civic & Cultural
Rose, Herb- BT HOA

*Note: Only those Representatives and Alternates who announced their presence at the outset of the meeting are listed.

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call.** The Chair called the meeting to order at about 7:00 p.m. and announced a quorum was present following a roll call.
2. **Guest Speaker Assemblyman Richard Bloom.** The Chair introduced Assemblyman Richard Bloom who first gave a brief update of recent legislative actions, including the moratorium on rodenticide use and a study of board and care home closures. He then responded to a series of questions:
 - a. **AB 1120.** He voted against AB 1120 and anticipates it will be re-introduced. If it doesn't address affordability issues and has the defects he saw in AB 1120, he would again oppose the bill.
 - b. **Affordable Housing.** In response to a question concerning allowing a developer of a multi-family project with fewer than 10 units to pay an in-lieu fee rather than include an affordable unit, he explained that requiring an affordable and market rate units projects with 10 or fewer units would mean no units would be built. He also noted that it makes sense to reestablish a reformed Community Redevelopment program as a way to achieve more affordable housing.

- c. **Exemptions for High Fire Hazard Zones.** He supports exemption of high fire hazard zone from state mandated up-zoning laws.
- d. **Fire Policy Cancellations.** He is not familiar with current status of action by Dept. of Insurance to prevent cancellation of fire insurance policies.
- e. **Surplus Public Land.** He supports conversion of surplus public lands to affordable housing, though he says government agencies want to retain surplus lands for future uses. Nevertheless, he will work with the community to facilitate using surplus public lands for affordable housing. He described how DMV parking lots in Culver City, Santa Monica and Hollywood are being redeveloped with housing.
- f. **Westside Traffic Congestion.** He disagrees that restrictions in recent bill on local discretion with regard to parking, traffic, or related infrastructure would worsen congestion. Rather the goals of the bills were to encourage construction near public transit and thereby encourage increased use of public transit as an alternative private cars. He noted however the anticipated introduction autonomous autos and such things as congestion parking show promise in ameliorating traffic congestion.
- g. **Communities With Unbuilt Capacity.** He agrees that the focus on policies to increase density should focus on those communities where existing zoning limits needed multi-family housing rather than communities which have considerable land available for multi-family housing under existing zoning.
- h. **Section 5150 Holds.** He thinks laws like the recent San Francisco law requiring all homeless persons who have been subject to multiple 5150 holds to accept housing for 1 year are worth discussing. However he generally opposes diverting funding from long term housing to short term sheltering programs.
- i. **Use of State Mental Hospitals for Housing the Unhoused.** He is open to this but warns against a focus upon shelter care, which is not a solution for housing the unhoused.
- j. **Life Skills Education.** He recognizes the utility of a life skills course, but determining curricula is not well suited to a legislative determination. He also noted improvements in civics and government courses are important as well.
- k. **AB 1279.** This bill was a work in progress. It was not the intent of the bill to allow multi-story units that tower over adjoining properties such as along San Vicente Blvd. He stressed however, that every community must provide some affordable housing to insure that they can include residents from a range of income levels.
- l. **High Earners Leaving the State.** He disagrees that the problem is limited to high earners. People with middle incomes are leaving as well. Taxing policy is complicated and some believe the problem arises from basic structural changes in the economy as we move from an industrial based economy to service dominated economy. He has no plans to address tax policy changes.

The Chair thanked Assemblyman Bloom for participating and he expressed his desire to address the BCC on a more regular basis in the future.

- 3. **October Minutes.** The Chair next asked for approval of the minutes. Upon a motion duly made and seconded the October 14, 2020 minutes were approved.

- 4. WRAC Motions.** The Chair recognized Land Use Chair Josh Stephens who explained the background of WRAC motions concerning commercial outdoor signage and changes to the current process in connection with the Citywide community plan updates and the Brentwood-Pacific Palisades Community Plan in particular. Thereupon, following discussion, upon motions duly made and seconded the WRAC resolutions on Attachment A were approved.
- 5. Motions Related To Sidewalk Camping and Bulky Items.** The Chair next recognized MAL Jordan who gave a background presentation concerning recent actions by the City Council to amend the Municipal Code relating to sidewalk camping and bulky item clean-up. She also explained a substitute motion by Councilmembers Bonin and Ryu that would be lieu of the foregoing actions. There followed a lengthy discussion of the subject and thereafter, upon motions duly made and seconded the motions relating to these subjects on Attachment A were approved.
- 6. Updates.** The Chair next gave several calendar updates.
- 7. Environmental Report.** The Chair recognized Nancy Freedman who explained that .LAMC 67.02 prohibits any person from erecting, constructing, or maintaining any sign upon any sidewalk, street, alley or public place. This allows any citizen to take down lawn signs placed on the medians. The Chair also noted the City has assigned a gardener to tend to the area, that improvements have been made to the irrigation system and work on gopher abatement continues.
- 8. Public Comment.** Toby Muriesani, a member of the public addressed what he sees as the critical need for more affordable multi-family housing in Brentwood.
- 9. Adjournment.** The Chair invited a motion to adjourn an upon a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned sine die at approximately 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Watts, Secretary

ATTACHMENT TO BCC NOVEMBER 11, 2020 MINUTES

MOTIONS ADOPTED BY BCC ON NOVEMBER 11, 2020

SUPPORTING VERSION B+ SIGN ORDINANCE

RESOLVED, Brentwood Community Council (“BCC”) Neighborhood Council fully supports Version B+ of the proposed sign ordinance as approved by the City Planning Commission on 10/22/2015, Council File 11-1705. We request the PLUM committee of the Los Angeles City Council adopt a version of the ordinance, which accomplishes the following goals that are important to the stakeholders of our community: 1. Disapproves any amnesty for existing billboards that lack permits or have been altered in violation of their permits 2. Disapproves the “grandfathering” of any sign districts that were not approved in the ordinance when it was reviewed by CPC in 2009. 3. Disapproves any new process, including a Conditional Use Permit process to authorize construction or operation of digital off-site signs outside of sign districts 4. Restricts any new off-site signs, including digital billboards, to sign districts in the 22 areas already zoned as Regional Commercial for high-intensity commercial use 5. Requires existing billboards to be taken down before any new off-site signs can go up in sign districts. The take down ratio of existing signs to new signs should be 5:1 for conventional and 10:1 for digital 6. Ban on new digital billboards or on conversion of existing billboards to digital 7. Request that the City Attorney review all signs without permits and those altered in violation of their permits for enforcement action and compliance. 8. Prohibits any off-site signage in city parks, recreation facilities and open spaces 9. Provides for stiff civil penalties with escalating penalties for erecting or maintaining illegal signs and for multiple or repeat offenses so that penalties are not viewed as a cost of doing business.

SUPPORTING WRAC REQUESTED CHANGES TO COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATE PROCESS GENERALLY

RESOLVED, Brentwood Community Council (“BCC”) Neighborhood Council fully supports WRAC position include for official input to the Los Angeles Department of City Planning in reference to the WRAC Member Community Plan updates, a delay of 6 months due to COVID 19 and restrictions related to public access, meetings and participation and further request the following:

An appropriate assessment of how the COVID 19 and future pandemics will impact current and future mobility, housing, design, environmental and health and safety needs and concerns;

Current and future data projections relevant to the task of updating all WRAC member Community Plans;

Incorporation of an additional step in the Community Plan update timeline that allows for presentation of the staff draft plan and an associated public comment period, or a second and revised concept plan phase.

Allocation of time for staff to review public comments and incorporate changes to reflect input prior to issuing any NOP for the start of the environmental review process. It is improper to issue an NOP and conduct a DEIR for a draft plan that the community has had neither the chance to see or review.

Thorough public outreach is a must and should include all stakeholders. The Planning Department has not allocated proper time or resources, and City Council must do so moving forward so that no stakeholders are left uninformed about the process.

REQUESTING CHANGES TO THE BRENTWOOD-PACIFIC PALISADES COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATE PROCESS

WHEREAS, The BCC, in conjunction with our Community Plan neighbors, the Pacific Palisades Community Council (PPCC), is currently engaged in preparing for the city's review of our Community Plan. We recognize the delays and difficulties imposed by Covid19.

RESOLVED THEREFORE, that deadlines for review by the BCC and PPCC be extended by 6 months. In keeping with the motion from WRAC (which the BCC supports), we also request that the Department of City Planning issue an assessment of how Covid19 will impact current and future mobility, housing, design, environmental and health and safety needs and concerns as well as current and future data projections relevant to the task of updating all WRAC member Community Plans.

SUPPORTING RESUMPTION OF CLEAN-UPS OF STREET ENCAMPMENTS

WHEREAS, Encampment clean ups were suspended due to COVID. Those clean ups have been resumed in limited areas and LA SAN recommends reinstating cleanups City-wide. A motion is now pending that the clean ups be reinstated City-wide.

RESOLVED. The BCC supports Buscaino and Lee's motion to resume CARES+ clean ups City-wide, including in the BCC territory. This letter of support should be made part of Council File 20-0417.

SUPPORTING AMENDMENTS TO MUNICIPAL CODE RELATED TO SIDEWALK CAMPING AND BULKY ITEM CLEAN-UP

WHEREAS, Based on a prior motion signed by Councilmembers Blumenfield, Rodriguez, Buscaino, Krekorian, Price, Lee and Cedillo, the office of the City Attorney has submitted a proposed Ordinance Amendment to each of the Sidewalk and Bulky Item Ordinances, which have been suspended for some time due to court challenges, legal settlements, and COVID-19.

WHEREAS, the City Attorney's draft ordinance does the following:

- 1) prohibits sitting, lying, sleeping, etc. in a manner that violates ADA; or
- 2) within 10 feet of any operational entrance, exit, driveway or loading dock.
- 3) upon posting of signage and resolution of City Council, no sitting, lying, sleeping, etc., or maintaining personal property within radius to be specified by City Council resolution (up to 500 feet) of (i) a designated facility that provided housing shelter, supportive services, safe parking, or storage to homeless persons or (ii) a designated freeway overpass, underpass, ramp, tunnel or pedestrian subway, if in any such case the City Council determines public health, safety welfare is served by the prohibition;
- 4) prohibit sitting, lying or sleeping in street, sidewalk or other publicly owned property if that person has been offered shelter;

Violations would be eligible for prosecution in a diversion program.

As to bulky items, the revisions to the Ordinance would implement the following:

Bulky items, other than those designed as shelter, can be removed and discarded without notice. Shelters that do not constitute tents could be removed and discarded with notice, with enforcement suspended while the City appeals Garcia vs. City of LA.

Personal Property not to be stored where signage posted in area designated by City Council resolution, where storage interferes with ADA passageway, or within areas protected by 41.18 to allow for transit.

RESOLVED THEREFORE, BCC strongly supports the City Attorney's amendments to LAMC 41.18 and 56.11, and encourages the City Council to approve the amendments offered by the City Attorney as written.

MOTION RELATED TO ACTION REQUESTED OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

WHEREAS, there has been camping and obstruction of the sidewalks on Wilshire Boulevard and San Vicente Boulevard adjacent to the West Los Angeles Veterans Administration Campus; and

WHEREAS, the sidewalks at these locations or situated on unincorporated land belong to Los Angeles County;

RESOLVED THEREFORE, the BCC urges the County of Los Angeles adopt an ordinance similar to the City Attorney's proposed amendments to LAMC 41.18 and 56.11.

SUBSTITUTE MOTION BY COUNCILMEMBERS BONIN AND RYU

WHEREAS, Councilmembers Bonin and Ryu have offered a substitute Motion to the one discussed above by Councilmembers Blumenfield, Rodriguez, Buscaino, Krekorian, Price, Lee and Cedillo; and

WHEREAS, the substitute motion requests a series of plans and reports; and

WHEREAS, all the efforts being requested in the substitute motion are well intended, Brentwood's constituents are looking for action.

RESOLVED THEREFORE, the BCC urges Councilmember Bonin to support the efforts of Councilmembers Blumenfield, Rodriguez, Buscaino, Krekorian, Price, Lee and Cedillo, and the office of the City Attorney, and support the amendments to the Sidewalk Ordinance and the Bulky Item Ordinance. The BCC supports Councilmember Bonin's "Substitute Motion" as a separate stand-alone motion rather than as an alternative to efforts of Councilmembers Blumenfield, Rodriguez, Buscaino, Krekorian, Price, Lee and Cedillo and the office of the City Attorney. In particular, the BCC supports Councilmember Bonin's proposal to have a mobile App developed that will provide real-time information to those working directly with the homeless on shelter/housing options. BCC is concerned that if Councilman Bonin's motion is adopted in lieu of the efforts of Councilmembers Blumenfield, Rodriguez, Buscaino, Krekorian, Price, Lee and Cedillo, and the office of the City Attorney, the result will be to slow rather than accelerate the process of facilitating the housing of those currently living on the street.