



WEST HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

JOINT HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE/BOARD MEETING MINUTES

February 8, 2021

Telephonic and Web Meeting

Revised February 19, 2021

Attendance: Aida Abkarians, Thomas Booth, Olivia Naturman, Brain Begun, Marie Javdani, Saif Mogri, Olivia Naturman, Daniel Ostreicher, Steve Randall, Bill Rose, Myrl Schreiber, Joan Trent, and Brad Vanderhoof

Public Attendance: Gina J., Steven, Analisa Ugolini, JFuentes, Sarah V, Call-in-user 1

Committee Co-chair Thomas Booth called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. A quorum was established.

Chair Comments: Thomas reported there was a no-notice sweep along the LA River today. Individuals camped along the river lost belongings including work tools. He said he looks forward to a day when society and law enforcement stop criminalizing homelessness. When asked Thomas said he has not heard an overall plan to vaccinate the homeless against Covid19.

The January meeting minutes were approved.

Numbers refer to agenda items.

5. Report from Homeless Liaison Marie Javdani: The liaisons have met and there is no update.

6. Public Comment: None

7. Budget Allocations for Current Fiscal Year: Olivia explained that some planned projects, like the Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count, are cancelled, and the committee needs new spending proposals. Brian said he is familiar with an east coast non-profit that collects unused food from restaurants and asked if the WHNC can promote a similar effort. Aida said there have been problems with lawsuits when this has been attempted. Joan asked if funds could be used to increase vaccine availability. Olivia replied that unfortunately vaccine availability is limited by supply and not funding.. Aida suggested supplying bedding and other household items for tiny home projects. Thomas suggested donations of \$600 each for the West Valley Food Pantry and Fish of the valley food pantry. Analisa Ugolini asked if there is a list of charities for homeless causes. Olivia replied there is a list on the WHNC webpage, Homelessness Committee page. Daniel asked if gift cards for local restaurants could be purchased and handed out. Brian reported he found AB 1219 Chapter 619, passes into law, that states in part – restaurants are not liable for damage or injury from consuming donated food unless there is negligence or willful action involved. Olivia said next month the Committee will vote on budget requests to submit to the Budget Committee and the Board.

8. Community Impact Statement (CIS) to SUPPORT CF 20-1376: Thomas reviewed the status of the CIS and council file. A CIS was approved by the WHNC Board but needs to have a vote on approving the substitute motion proposed by 11th District Council Member Bonin. The City Council has sent the motion back to committee.

Vote to add the substitute motion to the CIS:

Yes – 7, No – 0, Abstain – 0, Absent – 1, Ineligible – 0, Recusal – 0

The amended CIS passes and will be sent to the WHNC Board.

9. Community Impact Statement to SUPPORT CF 21-0031: Marie said Assembly Member Bonin tested implemented this in Venice and it was successful.

Vote on the CIS:

Yes – 7, No – 0, Abstain – 0, Absent – 1, Ineligible – 0, Recusal – 0

The CIS passes and will be sent to the WHNC Board

10. Community Impact Statement to SUPPORT CF 21-0032: Saif asked if cabin communities are established with HHH funds. Olivia said no, they are largely funded by donations and run by organizations like Hope of the Valley.

Vote on the CIS:

Yes – 7, No – 0, Abstain – 0, Absent – 1, Ineligible – 0, Recusal – 0

The CIS passes and will be sent to the WHNC Board

11. Community Impact Statement to SUPPORT CF 21-0063:

Vote on the CIS:

Yes – 5, No – 1, Abstain – 1, Absent – 1, Ineligible – 0, Recusal – 0

The CIS passes and will be sent to the WHNC Board

12. Discussion and possible action on Community Impact Statement to SUPPORT CF 21-0113: Steve said he is concerned about the reference to ‘commandeer’ properties. Aida asked if we could ask for an explanation of what the term means.

Brad moved to add language to the CIS to say; The WHNC has reservations concerning the word ‘commandeer’ and would like further explanation. Thomas seconded.

Yes – 6, No – 1, Abstain – 0, Absent – 1, Ineligible – 0, Recusal – 0

The motion carries.

Thomas moved to recommend a CIS in opposition, to the WHNC Board. Marie seconded.

Yes – 6, No – 0, Abstain – 0, Absent – 2, Ineligible – 0, Recusal – 0

The CIS passes and will be sent to the WHNC Board.

13. West Hills NC Task Force on Shelter, Housing and Safe Parking: Olivia said there are available safe parking spots open in the valley. Thomas said he spoke to a man named Earl, who lives in an RV. Earl told him Shadow Ranch Park is closed to overnight sleeping and homeless encampments are lined up along a nearby side street. Saif said there are individuals camped at Shadow Ranch Park.

14. Supportive Housing, Bridge Housing and Alternative Housing Options, West Valley Neighborhood Alliance on Homelessness: Thomas said The Willows development opened recently but at reduced occupancy due to Covid19 concerns. This is the first bridge housing facility with housing for couples and allows pets. Thomas said there is a waiting list of three times occupancy.

15. Future Agenda Items: Olivia said Covid19 vaccines for individuals experiencing homelessness will be included on the March agenda. Brian asked for an item to discuss possible private / public partnership for wasted food distribution from restaurants. Marie has suggested renaming the committee.

Committee Co-chair Olivia adjourned the meeting at 7:22 PM.

The next meeting of this committee is on Monday, March 16, 2021 at 6:00 PM. Webinar and telephonic.