

Westside Village Homeowners Association

2021 Annual Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 11, 2021

Meeting (held on ZOOM) was called to order by President Valerie Fontaine at 7:00 pm.

President's Welcome

President Fontaine welcomed the participants and reviewed the logistics of WVHA's second virtual annual meeting. She said an attempt will be made to address all questions and comments in real time, but additional remarks/questions may be sent to board@westsidevillage.org after the meeting.

Business Items

- Tonight's meeting agenda, the annual treasurer's report, and minutes of last year's annual meeting are attached to the WVHA website for review.

-Board membership and elections: Board membership is open to any dues-paying member of the WVHA. Board members attend monthly meetings, currently via Zoom. Some also attend community meetings to plan and execute various projects and monitor issues affecting Westside Village (WV) such as building and development, traffic and parking, crime and safety, homelessness, and disaster preparedness.

Members serve a 2-year term. Those elected last year will continue to serve, and they are:

Ken Alpern, Tali Diamond, Valerie Fontaine, Parvin Kassaie, Scott McCausland, Greg Severson, Stacy Shure, and Christine Stemar. Current Board members up for re-election for another two-year term are Don Elliott and Scott Shaw.

*Real-time voting on the slate was conducted at this time, but the announcement of the results was delayed due to a technical glitch.

Fontaine introduced Board Liaisons Tom Costello and Tyler Laferriere (liaison to the MVCC) and invited self-nominations on the ballot by those interested in working with the Board. Volunteers can also contact the Board at board@westsidevillage.org at any time.

At this time WVHA received a self-nomination by Beth Tigay.

-Dues: Annual WVHA dues are only \$20/year per household. The last WVHA newsletter contained a return envelope for mailing the dues, which can also be paid online.

Remarks by CD5 Councilmember Koretz:

Councilmember Koretz introduced his CD5 staff and mentioned that Field Deputy Elizabeth Garcia will be leaving her office soon. He then remarked on:

-The COVID crisis and the City's vaccination programs, and his own efforts to increase vaccinations for teachers and education staff of LAUSD. He has also pushed a resolution in full support of Congressional allocation of funds to rebuild cities.

-Homelessness: in Los Angeles, the situation has been exacerbated by COVID crisis, cost overruns, and slow bureaucratic response. In CD5, there's also the high cost of land and low availability of large vacant spaces that can be used for housing.

The Safe Parking project at St John's Church will not go forward in response to community concerns. However, he is committed to working to find solutions to the homelessness crisis.

-Safety/LAPD: Koretz thanked LAPD's Pacific Division Captain Steve Embrich and SLO Juan Ceja for their services to his district and voiced strong support for LAPD.

-Upzoning issues and development: The revised concept plans for westside communities are still a few months away. Meanwhile, CD5's Senior Planning Deputy, Daniel Skolnick, has been working with WVHA Board members about the Palms-Sepulveda project. Koretz encouraged WVHA to oppose SB9 and SB10 legislations which attempt to take away local control from cities and counties, and strip residents of their ability to engage in meaningful planning and community building processes. He has introduced resolutions in opposition to SB9 and 10 and asked for support from the community.

-Transportation: The pedestrian crossing at the intersection of National and Kelton Ave is approved, and this safety project is slated to begin in 2022.

Councilmember Koretz thanked the community for their work and support, and responded to questions and comments from the participants.

LAPD Crime and Safety Report

LAPD Pacific Division SLO, Juan Ceja, reported statistics on burglaries, grand theft auto, thefts and petty thefts, robberies, and assaults with deadly weapons. On behalf of the Division, he asked the community to install audible alarms on their cars, and if

possible, to angle their residential monitoring cameras lower to capture license plate numbers which would be very helpful to the police.

Officer Ceja asked residents to secure their garage and all entry doors and mentioned that certain types of cars are now targeted for their catalytic converters. He also indicated that LAPD is ready for any outcome of the George Floyd trial. He asked for voluntary participation in Division's blood drive and responded to questions and comments. His email address is available on the WVHA website.

Board Reports

-Preparedness: Valerie Fontaine reported that the Neighborhood Team Program, postponed due to COVID, will relaunch online by Zoom. Training sessions will be on first Monday night of every month at 7:00PM. She reviewed the schedule and topics of each session.

-Development: Stacy Shure reported that community plan update is delayed but continuing, and WV community has been actively engaged in raising concerns about the plans. A draft environmental report will not be ready for another six months and the entire process will take at least another 18 months.

Palms-Sepulveda development project is being replanned, and CD5 office has promised to have WVHA at the replanning table.

-Homelessness: Shure reported that while the Safe Parking project at St. John's Church will not go forward, there are other options including the former Albertson site, and all will be explored to help ease the situation in WV. She invited the participants to reach out to her with any questions or comments.

*At this time, the Board election results were shared: 94% of the votes were in favor of Don Elliot and Scott Shaw continuing and Beth Tigay joining the Board as a new member.

WVHA Organization Evolution

Valerie Fontaine recapped outreach efforts to the community to solicit input about the next phase of the development of WVHA and the polling that was done over several weeks. The polling involved not just the homeowners but also apartment dwellers, condo owners, business owners, and co-op owners in WV.

Scott Shaw shared that 98% of survey takers lived in the community and 2% worked here. He then announced the survey results, posted on the WVHA website, with the final takeaway that the WV community welcomes the change of the WVHA into a fully inclusive, representative civic organization, to preserve the quality of life here and have greater ownership of the community.

Fontaine added that due to technical difficulties experienced earlier in the meeting, another poll will be taken later after the Q&A and discussions. Decisions regarding changes to WVHA are not fait accompli, and therefore the vote. In response to many questions and comments submitted, she read a statement about the need and reasons for moving into the next phase of WVHA development, including the fact that WV interests are not currently fully represented by MVCC. The survey was conducted in consultation with the City and CD5 officials who are very supportive of the idea of WV creating a more inclusive neighborhood responsive to the needs of all its residents. She then answered chat questions about protecting R1 zoning, including business owners in the new council, representation of renters vis-à-vis homeowners on the new board, and relationship with MVCC.

Stacy Shure addressed how organizations similar to what is proposed interact with the City, what powers they have, and how WVHA can align with them. Becoming a non-certified community council, like Pacific Palisades, Brentwood, or Westwood, will allow the new Board to receive early notices regarding developments, interact more closely with CD5 office, ask for more for the community, and have an added level of engagement with power. While a part of the MVCC, Westside Village is separated from other MVCC zones due to its location but also the fact that WV has a different LA Unified school district representative, a separate state senate representative, and a separate state assembly representative. None of WV elected officials represent the other MVCC zones. Becoming a non-certified community council will allow WV to interact directly with elected officials without the restrictions imposed by MVCC, while by remaining a part of MVCC, we can also provide input officially to the City Council.

The CD5 office is completely behind this idea because while WV is a part of CD5, being represented by MVCC means that CD11 office, and not CD5, makes decisions that impact WV. Evolving into a non-certified community council will give us an extra voice to represent ourselves and to preserve and improve our neighborhood.

Valerie Fontaine clarified the discrepancy between maps that include and those that do not include the 405 freeway within WV boundaries, and Stacy Shure argued for the inclusion of the 405 freeway within Westside Village.

Fontaine stated the benefits of becoming a larger organization with double the membership. She reiterated that the purpose of the survey and earlier voting was to establish community interest in broadening WVHA membership and inclusivity, and not hammering out the specifics of the future bylaws of the organization.

*At this point Fontaine announced that in addition to the first motion on the table- to move ahead with the transition- a second motion had been put forward by Lisa Cahill to form a committee to further study and discuss this transition and bring the results back to the Board and WVHA members. Both motions were seconded. An online poll

(yes/no) was created to vote in real time on the second motion first. The results showed consensus to further study the issue and to table the motion for transition for now.

Fontaine added that the earlier polling on the issue of transition also showed that there is a clear interest in inclusivity. She suggested another virtual meeting with dues-paying WVHA members interested in the further-study motion, and asked the community to submit questions/concerns via email to the Board to be addressed at that meeting.

Fontaine closed the meeting with a report from WV's "Bird Lady" and thanked the attendees.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40PM.