

10-24-19 Meeting Agenda – Item 8.2.1 -- Report by Secretary Chris Spitz

WRAC 10/16/19 Update:

Secretary Chris Spitz (PPCC WRAC rep) and Vice-Chair David Card (Alternate PPCC WRAC rep) attended the WRAC leadership meeting on October 16. Speakers included the new head of the City agency that oversees Neighborhood Councils – **Raquel Beltran of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE)**. Ms. Beltran has a very impressive background and gave an interesting presentation to WRAC members in attendance. The Secretary was able to introduce PPCC and other “non-certified” Community Council members of WRAC to Ms. Beltran. The Secretary explained that PPCC was formed in 1973, is one of the oldest such organizations in the City, is non-certified by choice, fulfills the same advisory role as Neighborhood Councils and is highly respected by our elected officials. She also emphasized that WRAC Chair Maryam Zar is PPCC’s Chair Emeritus. Other WRAC members pointed out that PPCC’s bylaws were the template for the Neighborhood Councils’ bylaws. We are pleased to have been able to familiarize Ms. Beltran/DONE with PPCC.

Deborah Hong, community liaison for LADWP, gave an update at the WRAC meeting on the agency’s projects on the Westside. Construction work on Sunset Blvd. to upgrade power in Bel Air has been completed, although work on several side streets is ongoing; construction on Beverly Glen will commence in January. Ms. Hong emphasized that these power upgrades involve installing high-voltage commercial lines, which have become necessary due to the large new homes that are being constructed in the Bel Air/Beverly Glen area. *[Note: Since, in the face of frequent brown-outs, the Palisades community will likely face the necessity of such power upgrades in the near future, including installation of more “temporary” pole top distributing stations, we are arranging for LADWP officials to give a presentation to PPCC in March on the community’s power needs. In the meantime, per Ms. Hong, to subscribe to power outage alerts visit www.ladwp.com/outages.]*

Legislation Status:

There are no changes in the status of most of the local ordinances that we have been following. See prior legislation summaries at www.pacpalicc.org (Resources/Reports & Summaries). Enforcement of the **home-sharing (short term rentals) ordinance** is slated to begin on Nov. 1. Several amendments to the **Cannabis Location regulations** have now been proposed, involving so-called “sensitive sites.” Board members may recall that the Secretary reported on the (then-proposed, now-enacted) cannabis regulations in December 2017, specifically, that due to the restrictions on location within 700 ft. of public parks and schools, retail sales were not allowed in most if not all areas of the Palisades (see her 2017 written summary on the PPCC website, as referenced above). The new amendments to the Cannabis Location ordinance expand and clarify the definition of public parks (for purposes of the “sensitive sites” restriction) to include *all open-space zoned properties used for public recreation as well as public parks outside of the City limits* (which may be applicable to various Palisades locations where we have park areas controlled by County and/or State agencies).

Regarding **state legislation**, the Governor has now signed all of the **Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADUs) bills** as well as housing bills that we have previously summarized, including bills to allow up to 3 dwelling units on single-family properties (including “junior ADUs” on almost all R-1 zoned properties) and **SB 330** (further state-preemption of local land use control). These bills will go into effect in January 2020. It is expected that Sen. Wiener’s controversial bill, **SB 50** (elimination of most local land use control/opposed by PPCC & the City of LA) will be re-introduced in the legislature early in the new year. We will monitor.