



Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council General Meeting

January 9, 2013

Approved by the Board, February 13, 2013

**1. Call to Order** (Owen Smith)

A duly noticed meeting of the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council (“GWNC”) Board of Directors was held on Wednesday, January 9, 2013, at the Ebell of Los Angeles, 743 S. Lucerne Blvd., Los Angeles. President Owen Smith called the meeting to order at 7:03 p. m.

**2. Roll Call** (Jeffry Carpenter)

Mr. Carpenter called the roll. Board Members in attendance at the roll call were: Jeffry Carpenter, Betty Fox, William Funderburk, Michael Genewick, John Gresham, Sue Horwitz (Alternate for Ann Eggleston), Jack Humphreville, Frances McFall, Joane Pickett, Owen Smith, Daniel Whitley and James Wolf. Patricia Carroll, Charles D’Atri (Alternate for Fred Mariscal), Jeff McManus and Jane Usher arrived later. Board Members absent and not represented by an Alternate: Patricia Lombard, Clinton Oie, Jason Peers, Briana Valdez and Greg Wittmann. No Board Seats were vacant (some Alternate Seats were vacant). Also attending: 19 Stakeholders and guests.

Twelve of the 21 Board Members or their Alternates were present at the roll call, which is not a quorum. The GWNC quorum (the minimum number of Committee Members needing to be present to take binding votes on Agendized Items) is 13, so at this time the Board could only have discussions without making any Motions or taking any binding votes.

**3. Approval of the Minutes** (Jeffry Carpenter)

Approval of the Minutes of the December 12, 2012 General Meeting.

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #4. c., by which time there was a quorum.] The following correction to the December 12, 2012 General Meeting Minutes was requested: the next Meeting “February 13” should read “January 9.”

**MOTION** (by Mr. Humphreville, seconded by Mr. Gresham): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its December 12, 2012 General Meeting as corrected.

**MOTION PASSED** by a voice vote.

**4. President’s Report** (Owen Smith)

A. Board Vacancies

Mr. Smith noted the vacancies. Alternates are needed for: Area 1 (Brookside); Area 2 (Citrus Square); Area 6 (La Brea-Hancock); Area 9 (Oakwood-Maplewood-St. Andrews); Area 12 (We-Wil); Business; Other Non-Profit; Religion.

## B. Ethics Training

All new Board Members and alternates (along with returning Board Members whose certification is more than two years old) must complete the course at <http://ethics.lacity.org/education/ethics2007/?audience=done>. Mr. Smith noted this.

## C. Nominations for volunteers to serve in citywide review of Neighborhood Council laws.

Need to nominate board members, alternates or stakeholders. Nominations are sent to BONC, which will select the final participants. Can submit any number of nominations. [This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #2.] Mr. Gresham described that the City is reviewing the Neighborhood Councils Stakeholder definition and other items.

*Board Member Jeff McManus arrived at this time, making a quorum of 13 Board Members present. Now the Board could take binding votes on Agendized Items.*

Mr. Carpenter volunteered to represent the GWNC.

*Board Member Jane Usher arrived at this time.*

## 5. Local Government Updates

### A. CD4 Update (Ben Seinfeld)

Carolyn Ramsey, Chief of Staff for L.A. City District Four Councilman Tom LaBonge (213-485-3337; Carolyn.Ramsay@LACity.org), displayed a map of and explained the newly-redistricted City District boundaries. Copy wire theft is still a problem, though almost all the Hancock Park lights “have been restored.”

*Board Member Patricia Carroll arrived at this time.*

Board Members expressed concern that Koreatown logos are still west of Western Ave. in Hancock Park. Ms. Usher and Mr. Gresham will assist in writing a letter that CD4 will send on behalf of the GWNC about this. The City Council is considering a \$3 billion bond measure to fix the streets; Councilman LaBonge supports it because he receives many street condition complaints; the measure would be on the May ballot. Ben Seinfeld, Field Deputy for Councilman LaBonge (213-485-3337; cell 213-804-2388; Ben.Seinfeld@LACity.org), reported that the Councilman will present an award to Stakeholder Karen Gilman as the “Social Worker of the Year.” [Applause.]

### B. CD5 Update (John Darnell)

John Darnell, Field Deputy for L.A. City District Five Councilman Paul Koretz (310-289-0353; John.Darnell@LACity.org), described recently completed street repaving. A Melrose Ave. BID (Business Improvement District) is being worked on.

*Alternate Board Member Charles D’Atri (for Fred Mariscal) arrived around this time.*

**6. Treasurer's Report and Budget Items** (Patti Carroll)

A. Monthly Budget Report/approval

Ms. Carroll distributed and reviewed the "Monthly Spending Report – Dec 1 2012-Jan 9, 2013." She is working with DONE [the L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment] to track unprocessed payments. It was mentioned that the Ridgewood-Wilton Neighborhood Association has finally received the grant money for its Neighborhood Watch signs.

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Mr. Gresham, seconded by Mr. D'Atri): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves its "Monthly Spending Report – Dec 1 2012-Jan 9, 2013"  
**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a voice vote of all 16 Board Members present.

B. YTD Budget Review.

Ms. Carroll distributed and reviewed the "[GWNC] Budget for Fiscal Year 2012-2013."  
Ms. Usher encouraged re-allocating funds for more community projects. There was discussion that funds may need to be allocated by April because last year DONE locked in funding well before the [June 30<sup>th</sup>] end of the fiscal year.

C. Proposed motion: Move \$100 from Photocopies to Office Supplies and approve expenditure for supplies by Secretary and Assistant Secretary.

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Ms. Usher, seconded by Mr. D'Atri): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves transferring \$100 in funding from the "Category 100, Code "COP" "Copying or Printing" category to the "OTH" "Office Supplies" category for copy supplies.

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** by a voice vote.

D. [See the below Motion].

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Mr. Gresham, seconded by Mr. Funderburk): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves the expenditure (already allocated and available in the approved budget) of up to \$264 to upgrade the website hosting account.

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** by a voice vote.

**7. Community Concerns / Public Comments**

A. Van Ness Elementary School

Stakeholder Noe Mentos requested \$2,000 in funding for Van Ness Elementary School. Copies of an NPG [Neighborhood Purpose Grant] application were distributed.

B. 3rd Street Elementary School

Stakeholders Mike August and Alysoun Higgins requested funding to add visibility-blocking material along School boundaries to protect the children. The total cost would be \$4,000. They were "requesting \$2,000 with the remainder to be paid by the parents."  
Copies of an NPG [Neighborhood Purpose Grant] application were distributed.

C. Wilshire Crest Elementary School

Stakeholder Lydia Olivier requested \$1,500 to fund maintenance and green space at the School. Copies of an NPG [Neighborhood Purpose Grant] application were distributed.

**D. Los Angeles Drama Club**

Founder Blair Garson of the L.A. Drama Club requested \$1,500 in funding for Shakespeare costumes, props, sets and more for four performances and six scholarships. They've raised \$20,000 of the \$34,000 needed. She described their Youth Festival and community service programs. Copies of an NPG [Neighborhood Purpose Grant] application were distributed. There was discussion and agreement to allocate \$1,500 in funding to each of the four of the organizations in Items 7. A-D.

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Mr. Gresham, seconded by Mr. Funderburk): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves \$1,500 in funding each for Van Ness Elementary School, 3rd Street Elementary School, Wilshire Crest Elementary School and the Los Angeles Drama Club.

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** by a unanimous voice vote of all 16 Board Members present.

**8. DWP Oversight** (Jack Humphreville)

Mr. Humphreville reported that water rates will increase next year; power rates are already set for the next two years.

**9. City Budget Issues** (Humphreville)

Mr. Humphreville reported that the City Council is considering three tax increases: a half-cent sales tax estimated to raise \$200 million; a road tax estimated to raise \$150-\$200 million and a stormwater parcel fee estimated to raise \$300 million. He reviewed the City Budget deficit. LANCC [the L.A. Neighborhood Councils Coalition] and the Neighborhood Councils' Budget Advocates have asked the City for more time to study the proposed taxes. Copies of a "Resolution on Postponement of Proposed \$3 Billion Street Repair Bond Measure" were distributed. The primary election will be March 5<sup>th</sup> and the ballot election will be May 21<sup>st</sup>.

**MOTION** Re: City Council File 13-1300-S1 (by Mr. Humphreville, seconded by Mr. Genewick):

Whereas the City Council believes that the Neighborhood Councils do not inform their stakeholders about Council initiatives; and Whereas the City Council requests better participation in city issues by Neighborhood Councils; and Whereas Councilmember Parks held hearings at his Education and Neighborhoods Committee regarding Neighborhood Council participation in city issues; and Whereas the City Council recently approved a citywide valet parking ordinance without enough time for Neighborhood Councils to weigh in; and

Whereas yet again, the City Council, without any warning or advance notice, introduced a motion on January 4, 2013 to place a three billion dollar bond measure on the May ballot with a vote scheduled to be taken on January 10, 2013, thereby again silencing their Neighborhood Council's voice in an important matter; and Whereas the Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition has already unanimously adopted and transmitted a position

to the City Council on January 5, 2013 asking for 60 days time so that Neighborhood Councils are able to weigh in on issues affecting all of their stakeholders;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates instructs the Chair to immediately transmit the NCBA's opposition to the City Council's predeliction for precluding the Neighborhood Councils and their stakeholders from weighing in on citywide measures.

Furthermore, the NCBA's demands that a City Council decision on City Council File 13-1300-S1 be postponed for 60 days until the City can issue a financial impact report of the new debt, and the 95 certified Neighborhood Councils have an opportunity to hold a Brown Act compliant meeting and report back to the Councilmembers with their stakeholders' views.

**MOTION PASSED** by a voice vote.

**10. Old Business**

Mr. D'Atri described the proposed Peruvian Village project that may extend into Hancock Park on Vine. He discussed with City Council District Four that the GWNC wants to ensure that the project does not extend into the Hancock Park area.

**11. New Business**

There was no new business at this time.

**12. Transportation Committee** (Gerda McDonough)

Ms. McDonough could not attend and there was no report at this time.

**13. Outreach Committee** (Fred Mariscal)

Ms. Fuller reported for Mr. Mariscal that "plans are progressing very well" for the Mayoral Candidate Forum Sunday, February 10, 2013, 11:00 – 1:00 at John Burroughs Middle School. Many organizations are also co-sponsoring the event. So far, there are no costs to the GWNC except the venue. We will know more about costs as plans progress. Also, the GWNC is seeking nominations for its next Citizen Recognition Award. Ms. McFall said she would like to nominate Chickie Byrne, Jane Gilman and Joan Taylor.

**14. Board Member Comments**

Ms. Carroll announced the January 31<sup>st</sup> groundbreaking for the Hollywood-Wilshire YMCA.

**15. Public Comments**

There were no public comments at this time.

**16. Land Use Committee** (LUC) (James Wolf)

There was no Land Use meeting in December; the next Committee Meeting will be January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Possible agenda items include:

- Final vote on proposed liquor license policy statement for GWNC.
- Application to legalize a previously unpermitted garage conversion at 317 N. Van Ness
- Application for full liquor license at restaurant (La Brea Bakery) at 468 S. La Brea
- Application for beer and wine license at restaurant (Tinga) at 142 S. La Brea
- Application for extension of ABC License-permitted hours (until 2 am) for Jajungguh Cafe (Bicycle Club), 4653 W. Beverly

- Application for construction of a 2-story garage/rec room at 358 S. Mansfield
- Presentation on application for sign permits at Wilshire/La Brea development.
- Review of recent Early Planning Notices in the GWNC area.

**17. Announcements and Adjournment**

Ms. McFall encouraged the GWNC to say the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Gilman announced a January 14<sup>th</sup> meeting at the City Attorney's Office about the medical marijuana ballot measure; Ms. Usher will give a briefing. The next General Board Meeting will be Wednesday, February 13 at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Smith declared and the Board agreed to **ADJOURN** the Meeting at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
David Levin  
Minutes Writer