



Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council General Meeting  
February 12, 2014  
MINUTES

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

A duly noticed Meeting of the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council (“GWNC”) Board of Directors was held on Wednesday, February 12, 2014, at the Ebell of Los Angeles, 743 S. Lucerne Blvd., Los Angeles. Vice-President James Wolf called the meeting to order at 7:08 p. m.

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

Secretary Jeffry Carpenter called the roll. Sixteen of the 21 Board Members or their Alternates were present at the beginning of the Meeting: Jeffry Carpenter, Patricia Carroll, Ann Eggleston, Betty Fox, Michael Genewick, John Gresham, Jack Humphreville, Fred Mariscal, Frances McFall, Jeff McManus, Jason Peers, Barbara Savage (Alternate for William Funderburk), Jane Usher, Daniel Whitley, Greg Wittmann and James Wolf. William Funderburk (replacing Ms. Savage [Alt. Bd. Member]), Patricia Lombard and Briana Valdez arrived later. Board Members absent and not represented by an Alternate: Clinton Oie, Joane Pickett and Owen Smith. The GWNC quorum (the minimum number of Board Members needing to be present to take binding votes on Agendized Items) is 13 (see <http://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/Greater-Wilshire-NC-Bylaws.pdf>) so the Board could take such votes. All 21 Board Seats were filled. No Board Seats were vacant (some Alternate Seats were vacant). Also attending: 38 Stakeholders and guests.

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

**MOTION** (by Ms. Savage, seconded by Mr. Carpenter): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its January 8, 2014 General Meeting as written.

**MOTION PASSED** by a hand vote no objection.

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

A. Ethics & Funding Training

*[The following is from the Agenda.]* All Board Members and Alternates must complete Ethics Training in order to vote on funding motions before the Board. The course is available online at <http://ethics.lacity.org/education/ethics2007/?audience=done>  
In addition to Ethics training, all Board Members and Alternates are also **REQUIRED** to take a new Funding Training course (about the new system of NC checking accounts that will be launched soon). The course is at <http://www.slideshare.net/EmpowerLA/nc-checking-account-training-62413>.

The last page of the presentation contains a link -- <http://www.empowerla.org/Boardregistration> – to a completion form you can submit to register your attendance. Board members and Alternates MUST complete both trainings to be eligible to vote on funding-related matters. [Tables are in the Agenda that show which Board Members and which Alternates have completed which trainings.] Mr. Wolf noted the above.

## **5. Local Government Updates**

### **A. Mayor's Office (Yeghig Keshishian)**

Mr. Keshishian was not present and there was no report.

### **B. CD4 Update (Ben Seinfeld)**

Ben Seinfeld, Field Deputy for L.A. City District Four Councilman Tom LaBonge (213-485-3337; cell 213-804-2388; Ben.Seinfeld@LACity.org; <http://CD4.LACity.org>), reported that the BRT [Bus Rapid Transit]-only lanes project on Wilshire Blvd. will go from Western westbound to Sycamore then back eastbound to Western. A shortened CERT [Community Emergency Response Team] class “focused on people 50 years old and older” will be offered at Park LaBrea Community Center and viewable online. The Miracle Mile Run will be March 30<sup>th</sup> starting east of LaBrea at 7:00 a.m.; Wilshire will be closed 6:00 – 8:00 a.m.

### **C. CD5 Update (John Darnell)**

John Darnell, Field Deputy for L.A. City District Five Councilman Paul Koretz (310-289-0353; John.Darnell@LACity.org; [www.lacity.org/council/cd5](http://www.lacity.org/council/cd5)), reported that the Melrose BID [Business Improvement District] started January 1<sup>st</sup> between Highland and Fairfax; some sidewalk cleaning already has been done and streets resurfaced, and trees trimmed and tree stumps removed. Free trees are available.

## **6. Community Concerns / Public Comments**

### **A. Presentation of GWNC Citizen Recognition Awards (Fred Mariscal)**

#### **i. Steve Martinez**

Mr. Mariscal said that Mr. Martinez was unable to attend. The award will be re-awarded next month.

#### **ii. Raul Rodriguez**

Mr. Mariscal and Ms. Usher described Mr. Rodriguez' extensive community service and presented him with a GWNC Citizen Recognition Award. [Applause.] Photos were taken.

### **B. Other Public Comments**

[*This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #7.*] Stakeholder Jeff Healy “on behalf of the Windsor Village residents” said that the MTA staging yard on Crenshaw “has had a major negative impact” on the neighborhood. He asked for help with improving communication; getting a noise wall installed; trash pickup; minimizing noise; reducing or eliminating spillover traffic; closing the parking lot driveway on Lorraine; and not allowing any advertising on the walls.

**7. Election Committee Report (Barbara Savage)**

**A. Candidate Filing Period Closes Feb. 13**

Ms. Savage reminded of the GWNC Election Sunday, March 30, 2014 at Wilshire Crest Elementary School. Outreach fliers were distributed in the area to residents and community organizations.

**B. Candidate Forum – Tuesday, March 18, 6:30 p.m., Wilshire United Methodist Church**

Ms. Savage reported that the Candidates Forum will be March 18<sup>th</sup> at Wilshire United Methodist Church [4350 Wilshire Blvd.]. Stakeholder Elizabeth Fuller reported that the GWNC “will have at least one Candidate for every Seat.”

**C. Other Outreach Efforts**

There were none at this time.

**8. Treasurer’s Report and Budget Items (Patti Carroll & Elizabeth Fuller)**

**A. Monthly Budget Reports/Expenditures Approvals**

[*This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #6. B.*] Ms. Fuller reviewed the latest expenditures.

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Ms. Usher, seconded by Mr. Whitley): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves its Monthly Expenditure Report for January 2014.

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a roll call vote of the 14 eligible voters present with all 14 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Carpenter, Eggleston, Genewick, Gresham, Humphreville, Mariscal, McFall, McManus, Peers, Savage, Usher, Valdez, Whitley and Wittmann).

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Mr. Gresham, seconded by Mr. Whitley): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves each of the individual expenditures listed on the Monthly Expenditure Report for January 2014.

[*Note: the individual expenditures approved from the report include:*

- 1/27, Copy USA, candidate recruiting flyers for election, \$911.42
- 1/30, Copy USA, handouts for LUC meeting, \$143.42
- 1/31, Village Mail Call, annual P.O. box renewal, \$400.00
- Larchmont Chronicle, February ad, \$340.00
- KYCC, Wilton Islands Maintenance for Dec. & Jan., \$150.00]

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a roll call vote of the 14 eligible voters present with all 14 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Carpenter, Eggleston, Genewick, Gresham, Humphreville, Mariscal, McFall, McManus, Peers, Savage, Usher, Valdez, Whitley and Wittmann).

*Board Member Patty Lombard arrived at this time.*

B. YTD Budget.

Ms. Fuller distributed copies of the YTD budget for review.

C. Progress report on outstanding contracts (Ebell, WUMC, E. Fuller, etc.)

Ms. Carroll reported that progress is being made on outstanding contracts; DONE should soon complete a contract for Ms. Fuller's administrative and communications consulting services.

D. Grant Requests

[Agenda note: no funding votes will be taken tonight; all requests will be reviewed and voted on at the March board meeting.] Mr. Wolf added that the GWNC is trying to ensure that it meets City guidelines.

i. Heard previously (no action tonight)

a. Enrichment Center Summer Camp

This previous request was noted.

b. Los Angeles Drama Club

This previous request was noted.

c. Enrich LA School Garden Education Program

This previous request was noted.

ii. New requests (speakers present tonight)

a. L.A. Team Mentoring (Sabrina Vegnone)

Copies of the Neighborhood Purposes Grant (NPG) application were distributed. Ms. Vegnone described the program for "a week-long summer college camp experience," a "field trip to the Santa Monica Pier" and "supplies."

b. Larchmont Medians (TBD)

Larchmont Medians did not present; in their place was Wilshire Park Elementary School. WPES Asst. Principal Gene Benda described the School's improving test scores. They are requesting \$20,700 for a campus beautification project, including areas seen from Wilshire Blvd. that will improve the view for the surrounding community

c. Harrison Trust/L.A. High Beautification (Joyce Kleifield)

Copies of the Neighborhood Purposes Grant (NPG) application were distributed for "beautification of the exterior." Ms. Kleifield described the program and displayed a rendering and diagram. They are requesting \$5,000; the total cost is \$23,000.

d. St. Gregory Nazienzen School/Computers (Linda Guzman)

Copies of the Neighborhood Purposes Grant (NPG) application were distributed for “purchasing four desktop computers.” Ms. Guzman, the Principal, described their programs. They are requesting \$5,000 for a High School preparation program including the Mac computers.

e. Friends of Wilshire Branch Library/ Beautification (Debbie Willis)

Henrietta Cosentino described Library programs at St. Andrews and Council. They are requesting \$600 for landscaping for a “child-safe garden” to “teach a multitude of lessons.” The St. Andrews Square Neighborhood Association is helping.

f. Wilshire Crest PTA/Music Program (Jocelyn Duarte Cea)

Ms. Duarte, PTA President, described that funds have been cut. They are requesting \$2,500 to help bring back their music program, including a year-end fundraising-kickoff concert and seed money for the music fund. The total cost is \$9,500.

g. Hollywood/Wilshire YMCA (TBD)

Copies of the Neighborhood Purposes Grant (NPG) application were distributed for “physical education programming” for Wilshire Crest Elementary School and Charles H. Kim Elementary School (which also enrolls GWNC-area students). Kitty Gordillo, Development Director, said they are requesting \$2,500. This program has been in place for several years and is the only formal PE program at the two schools.

h. Friends of 3rd St. School/Courtyard beautification (Mike August)

Copies of the Neighborhood Purposes Grant (NPG) application were distributed to redo “the courtyard area” for safety, security and aesthetics. Mr. August described security concerns; LAUSD is not providing such funding. Anyone can access the campus without going through the administrative office. Landscaping would direct people to the office. There was discussion of mixing natural and artificial landscaping plants to help keep rodents out and be safe for children. They are requesting \$4,000.

*Board Member Bill Funderburk arrived at this time, replacing his Alternate Barbara Savage.*

Ms. Usher, , Ms. Fox, Ms. McFall, Ms. Lombard, Mr. Funderburk and Ms. Carroll volunteered to review the applications and report at the next Board Meeting. Contact JEUsher@aol.com to volunteer. Ms. Fuller noted that \$10,000 in funding is available for community grants.

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

Mr. Humphreville reported that the new DWP General Manager is Marcie Edwards; Ron Nichols resigned. Mr. Humphreville described challenges with the Joint Training and Safety Institutes and the billing system. Rate increases are coming.

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

Mr. Humphreville reported that “the budget deficit is expected to be \$250 million,” though it could really be “about a \$300 million deficit.” He described other possible budget elements.

### **11. Old Business**

Ms. McFall believed that the GWNC should consider less Neighborhood Purposes Grant applications due to the limited funding available.

### **12. New Business**

There was no new business at this time.

### **13. Transportation Committee** (Elizabeth Fuller)

#### A. Metro Area Advisory Group Meeting Review

##### i. Crenshaw staging yard concerns (noise, hours, wall construction)

Ms. Fuller reported for Gerda McDonough that the Metro Advisory Group discussed its Crenshaw Staging Yard, which “because it’s not an official City construction site” is not subject to the same rules as a “work site.”

##### ii. Wilshire/LaBrea Advanced Utility Relocation 55% complete

Ms. Fuller noted the above.

##### iii. Spring: pre-construction survey of local businesses and buildings, to prepare for impact studies.

Ms. Fuller noted the above.

##### iv. Metro station design and art program – see metro.net/art, artist workshop 3/24 at LACMA, also seeking selection panel judges.

See www.metro.net/art for station artwork submissions and judging information.

### **14. Outreach Committee** (Fred Mariscal)

#### A. CD4 Candidate Forum (Humphreville/Lombard)

Mr. Mariscal reported that he and Ms. Lombard attended the Farmers Market and distributed information on GWNC elections and candidate registration.

### **15. Board Member Reports and Comments**

#### A. Request to send card to Margaret Sowma (McFall)

Ms. McFall described the need. Ms. Fuller explained that Ms. Sowma was injured.

#### B. Area 2 Replacement Tree Sites Submitted to Bureau of Sanitation (Carpenter)

Mr. Carpenter “turned in a roster” of 65 sites to the Bureau. See www.EnvironmentLA.net for forms. Mr. Wittmann reported that downtown Spring Street’s parklets are “a resounding success”; see www.PeopleSt.LACity.org for information. He would like the GWNC to consider requesting a project; the cost would be between \$40,000-\$80,000, “almost all funded privately.”

### **16. Public Comments**

Mr. Gresham reported that in October 2012 the GWNC Land Use Committee approved a project for a “dry” 7-Eleven Store at Wilton Place and Olympic Blvd. Copies were distributed of a petition and a Notice for the February 18<sup>th</sup> zoning Hearing. The application “still shows alcohol on the site plan . . . It was reiterated by the architect in a recent e-mail.”

Mr. Gresham requested that the GWNC write a letter “reasserting our position” and to delay for 30 days the Hearing due to the alcohol service permission given by the City.

*Board Member Brianna Valdez left at this time.*

Mr. Wolf said the GWNC will send the letter. Douglas Choi, owner of a competing store, “strongly opposes” 7-Eleven alcohol sales. There was discussion that the GWNC agreed to recommend to the City to approve the project if there were no alcohol sales and to not support the project if the 7-Eleven would sell alcohol. Board Members were encouraged to speak at the Hearing.

### **17. Land Use Committee** (James Wolf)

#### A. Downsizing of construction plans at Yeshiva Torath Emeth (7002 W. Clinton)

*[This paragraph is directly from the Agenda.]* Issue: Several years ago, school planned construction of a new 3-story classroom building to accommodate its preschool and kindergarten classes. Space was cleared but the building was not built. Now plans have been revised. The proposed facility has been redesigned as a single-story recreation space. It will not affect school enrollment, will not be used during evenings or weekends and will not require any extra parking. Community members had opposed the old proposal, citing violations of existing CUPs and issues with parking, traffic and pickup/drop-off procedures at the school’s complex. GWNC did attempt to contact the previous community organizers for their opinions on the new plans, but did not receive any responses. Land Use Committee discussion centered largely on the aesthetics of the design, which some members felt was out of context, stylistically, with the architecture of the surrounding community. **LUC recommended action:** [see the below Motion].

Mr. Wolf and project representative George Muhlsten described the project. Mr. Wolf described previous Committee concerns. Mr. Muhlsten stated “we’re proposing to reduce the size of the project” (from what was requested several years ago) significantly; “no variance is being requested.” They “made some design changes” previously requested by the Committee. He displayed a diagram and will re-address the Committee.

**MOTION** (by Ms. Lombard, seconded by Mr. Whitley): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council supports the plans for the recreation building, but also encourages the applicants to consider some architectural modifications and to return to the GWNC Land Use Committee to discuss those revisions.

**MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a hand vote.

Potential agenda items for future LUC meetings:

- Condo development at 853-859 S. Lucerne
- Building line repeal at Kangnam Restaurant (4103 W. Olympic Blvd.)
- 30-unit development at 4180 W. Wilshire (at Crenshaw)
- Presentation for proposed Cheerful Helpers school
- CUB for liquor sales at restaurant at 6919 Melrose
- Sidewalk plaza/widening in lieu of street widening at 710 El Centro

- Change of use to non-profit museum at former Masonic Temple building (4357 W. Wilshire)
  - Proposed Cheerful Helpers School
  - Expansion of restaurant space at Girasole (Larchmont Blvd.)
  - Construction of 12 wireless telecomm antennas on rooftop at 713 N. Hudson
  - Application to convert recreation space to a living unit with garage, office and attic at 118 S. Gramercy
  - Resolution to support Proposition D medical marijuana enforcement efforts
- Mr. Wolf noted the above.

Stakeholder Karen Gilman described that the owner of the development at 710 N. El Centro, a property where the GWNC, the Central Hollywood NC and the Hollywood District Neighborhood Council (HDNC) meet at Larchmont Blvd. only addressed the HDNC and wants to serve hard alcohol. She distributed a draft letter opposing hard alcohol sales on the property and indicated it was modeled on the HDNC letter. Mr. Humphreville described a number of concerns. There was discussion that there has been “no hard alcohol” allowed sold on Larchmont Blvd. Ms. Usher believed “this would become a precedent for Larchmont Blvd.” and that it was “unconscionable that they didn’t come to the GWNC.” She urged requesting mandatory, not voluntary, conditions and recommended sending a letter to the Zoning Administrator that “we are unequivocally opposed” to the project. She suggested to convene an “emergency meeting” tonight after adjourning this Meeting to vote to send the letter.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Whitley, seconded by Ms. Lombard): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council will convene an emergency meeting after this meeting is adjourned.

**MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a hand vote.

### **18. Announcements and Adjournment**

Mr. Wolf noted the next General Board Meeting date: Wednesday, March 12, 7:00 p.m.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Whitley, seconded by Mr. Humphreville): to **ADJOURN** the Meeting.

**MOTION PASSED** without any objection.

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 9:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
David Levin  
Minutes Writer