



Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council General Meeting
March 12, 2014
MINUTES
Approved by the Board, 5/14/14

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

A duly noticed Meeting of the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council (“GWNC”) Board of Directors was held on Wednesday, March 12, 2014, at the Ebell of Los Angeles, 743 S. Lucerne Blvd., Los Angeles. President Owen Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 p. m.

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

Secretary Jeffry Carpenter called the roll. Twelve of the 21 Board Members were present at the beginning of the Meeting, which is not a quorum: Jeffry Carpenter, Michael Genewick, John Gresham, Fred Mariscal, Frances McFall, Clinton Oie, Jason Peers, Owen Smith, Jane Usher, Daniel Whitley, Greg Wittmann and James Wolf. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ms. McFall. Patricia Carroll, Ann Eggleston, Jack Humphreville, Patricia Lombard, Barbara Savage (Alternate for William Funderburk) and John Winther (Alternate for Joane Pickett) arrived later. Board Members absent and not represented by an Alternate: Betty Fox, Jeff McManus and Briana Valdez. 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 at this time the Board could only have discussions without making any Motions or taking any binding votes. All 21 Board Seats were filled. No Board Seats were vacant (some Alternate Seats were vacant). Also attending: 15 Stakeholders and guests.

Alternate Board Member John Winther (for Joane Pickett) arrived at this time, making a quorum of 13 Board Members (or their Alternate(s)) present. Now the Board could take binding votes on Agendized Items.

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

A. Approval of the Minutes of the February 12, 2014 General Meeting

The following corrections to the February 12, 2014 General Meeting Minutes were requested: page one, Item #3: “Bill Funderburk” should read “Barbara Savage”; page three, Item #8. A.: “MOTION (by Mr. Gresham . . . approves each of the individual expenditures” should read “MOTION (by Ms. Usher . . . approves each of the individual expenditures”.

MOTION (by Mr. Gham, seconded by Ms. Usher): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its February 12, 2014 General Meeting as corrected.

MOTION PASSED by a hand vote with no objection.

B. Approval of the Minutes of the February 12, 2014 Emergency Meeting

MOTION (by Mr. Gresham, seconded by Mr. Whitley): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its February 12, 2014 Emergency Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED by a hand vote with 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 in the Agenda show which Board Members and Alternates have completed the trainings.]*

Mr. Smith encouraged Board Members who need to complete the Trainings.

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)

Mr. Seinfeld could not attend and there was no report at this time.

C. CD5 Update (John Darnell)

Mr. Darnell could not attend and there was no report at this time.

6. Community Concerns/Public Comments

A. Presentation of GWNC Citizen Recognition Award (Fred Mariscal)

i. Steve Martinez

Mr. Martinez was unable to attend. The presentation will be made at a future Meeting.

B. Figueroa/Riverside Bridge Project Support (Trisha Gossett/EnrichLA)

Ms. Gossett was not present and there was no report.

Board Member Ann Eggleston arrived at this time, making 14 Board Members (or their Alternate(s)) present (the GWNC quorum is 13).

C. Other Public Comments

A Noe Valdez, a parent at Van Ness Elementary School, indicated he will be requesting funding for the school when GWNC opens its grant applications for the next fiscal year.

Board Member Patricia Carroll arrived at this time, making 15 Board Members (or their Alternate(s)) present (the GWNC quorum is 13).

7. Election Committee Report (Barbara Savage)

A. Candidate Forum – Tuesday, March 18, 6:30 p.m., Wilshire United Methodist Church
Mr. Smith noted the above.

B. Change in election venue: John Burroughs Middle School

MOTION (by Mr. Whitley, seconded by Ms. McFall): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council Change its March 30, 2014 Election venue to John Burroughs Middle School.

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote with no objection.

C. Flyer/Door Hanger/Table Tent Draft

Stakeholder Elizabeth Fuller announced that the election publicity materials are ready for distribution.

Board Member Patricia Carroll arrived at this time, making 16 Board Members (or their Alternate(s)) present (the GWNC quorum is 13).

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

A. Monthly Budget Reports/Expenditures Approvals

Copies were distributed of the “Monthly Spending Report – Fiscal Year 2013-2014, as of 3/1/14” and “Monthly Expenditure Report for February 2014.”

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Usher, seconded by Mr. Gresham): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves its “Monthly Expenditure Report for February 2014.”

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 13 eligible voters present with all 13 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Carpenter, Eggleston, Genewick, Gresham, Humphreville, Mariscal, McFall, Oie, Peers, Smith, Usher, Whitley and Wittmann).

Alternate Board Member Barbara Savage (for William Funderburk) arrived at this time, making 17 Board Members (or their Alternate(s)) present (the GWNC quorum is 13).

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Whitley, seconded by Mr. Genewick): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves each of the individual expenditures it made in February 2014. These include:

- **Handouts for the February board meeting - \$79.16**
- **Handouts for the February LUC meeting - \$143.42**

- **March ad in the Larchmont Chronicle - \$340.00**
- **Wilton Islands maintenance for February - \$75.00**

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, Oie, Peers, Savage, Smith, Usher, Whitley and Wittmann).

B. YTD Budget

The Budget for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 was reviewed.

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

Ms. Carroll reported that the above contracts on being worked on.

D. Ad Hoc Funding Subcommittee Report, Recommendations and Final Funding Votes on Previously Submitted Grant Applications:

- i. Enrichment Center Summer Camp (Diann Farmer)
- ii. Los Angeles Drama Club (Blair Larsen)
- iii. Enrich LA School Garden Education Program
- iv. L.A. Team Mentoring (Sabrina Vegnone)
- v. Wilshire Park School Beautification (Gene Benda)
- vi. Harrison Trust/L.A. High Beautification (Joyce Kleifield)
- vii. St. Gregory Nazienzen School/Computers (Linda Guzman)
- viii. Friends of Wilshire Branch Library/ Beautification (Debbie Willis)
- ix. Wilshire Crest PTA/Music Program (Jocelyn Duarte)
- x. Hollywood/Wilshire YMCA (Kitty Gordillo)
- xi. Friends of 3rd St. School/Courtyard beautification (Mike August)

Copies of the Subcommittee’s “2014 Grant Recommendations” were distributed. Ms. Usher reviewed the Subcommittee process and reported that the Subcommittee favors “Plan A” in which “we gave a modest amount to each of our applicants” and a slightly larger amount to a few others. The Subcommittee also made allocation process recommendations. Ms. Usher said “our goal is to get more information to our applicants at the beginning of the process.”

Board Member Patty Lombard arrived at this time, making 18 Board Members (or their Alternate(s)) present (the GWNC quorum is 13).

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Oie, seconded by Mr. Whitley): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves the “Plan A” funding allocation recommendations of its Ad Hoc Funding Subcommittee as follows:

Enrichment Center, for a summer camp for eight area students at Wilshire Crest Elementary School, \$500;

LA Drama Club, for a Shakespeare Festival summer production, \$500;

EnrichLA, for Garden Ranger education to Wilton Place and Wilshire Park Elementary Schools, \$1,000;

LA Team Mentoring, for one-week summer camp and pier visit for ten John Burroughs students, \$1,800;

LA High School, for landscape and hardscape for “Rebuild Rome” project, \$1,500;

St. Gregory School, for four desktop computers and software for high school program, \$500;

Friends of Third Street, for courtyard improvements, \$1,000;

Friends of Wilshire Library, landscaping and container garden, \$600;

Wilshire Park Elementary, for school and public byways beautification, \$500;

Wilshire Crest PTA, for volunteer music program fundraising kickoff event and art education fund, \$500;

Hollywood Wilshire YMCA, for weekly physical education during school at Charles Kim and Wilshire Crest Schools, \$1,800;

Total \$10,200.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Gresham was concerned that Wilshire Crest Elementary School had denied the GWNC’s request to hold its Election there, but “doesn’t want to penalize the children.”

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of 14 of the eligible voters present with 12 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Carpenter, Eggleston, Genewick, Humphreville, Mariscal, Oie, Peers, Smith, Savage, Usher, Whitley and Wittmann); one opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (McFall); one abstained (Gresham).

Jay Handal, DONE (L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment) Independent Election Administrator (IEA) (Jay@EmpowerLA.org; 213-978-1551) reminded that Neighborhood Councils are not allowed to fund scholarships.

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Lombard, seconded by Mr. Humphreville): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves “Plan A” recommendations #2 - #5 by its Ad Hoc Funding Subcommittee as follows:

Recommendation #2: That the Board authorize the Ad Hoc Committee to work with each successful applicant to obtain its agreement to the following grant conditions: [a] the grant is subject to the availability of funds to the GWNC; [b] the grant requires DONE’s

approval and the applicant's timely completion of all substantiating paperwork required by DONE; [c] the grant must be used to benefit stakeholders who live, work, or own property within the GWNC; and [d] the applicant shall submit a follow-up report to the GWNC Board no later than September 1, 2014 describing precisely how the grant was spent; the number of GWNC beneficiaries, and, if applicable, the names of any scholarship recipients.

Recommendation #3: That the Board authorize the Ad Hoc Committee to prepare a supplemental grant application worksheet to be completed by all future GWNC grant applicants. The supplemental worksheet shall require the applicant to: [a] describe precisely the GWNC stakeholders who will *directly* benefit from the grant – including such details as the number of GWNC students who will be funded or who will participate in the proposed program; and [b] describe with specificity the pledged contributions of other local partners to the applicant's project. These inquiries are central to the GWNC's funding guidelines but were often incompletely discussed in the 2014 grant applications.

Recommendation #4: That the Board continue this year's practice of acting on all grant applications at the same time in any given funding year, as this helps to ensure greater opportunity and a comprehensive understanding of the local needs before the Board awards funds.

Recommendation #5: That the GWNC include notice of its grant program in several of its Larchmont Chronicle ads throughout each year, and that the notice highlight the Board's desire to directly benefit as many GWNC stakeholders as possible and its preference for applicants that have also actively partnered with other contributors.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a unanimous hand vote.

9. DWP Oversight (Jack Humphreville)

Mr. Humphreville reported that a rates discussion is being deferred; there could be increases totaling "25% over the next four years."

10. City Budget Issues (Humphreville)

Mr. Humphreville reported that there is a "projected deficit of \$250 million . . . \$700 million over the next four years." He described the Mayor's plans.

11. Old Business

Ms. McFall was concerned that funding was allocated to too many applicants.

12. New Business

A. City Council Motion on Seismic Retrofitting (Gilman?)

GWNC Alternate Board Member Karen Gilman expressed concern that renters should not bear the cost of seismic retrofitting. There was discussion of the pros and cons.

13. Transportation Committee (Gerda McDonough)

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

Stakeholder Diane Dicksteen reported for Ms. McDonough that trash, noise and more are still a problem.

B. LADCP's My LA report on Mobility Element Update

Mr. Carpenter described area transportation problems and that "there's no progress at all on the alley off Carling Way off 6th." He also reported much frustration with progress on repairing failed concrete streets in Hancock Park (HPhOA President Cindy Chvatal sent a letter about it to CD 4 Councilman Tom LaBonge today, with 100 responses from neighbors). The Mobility Element comments deadline is May 19th.

Mr. Smith indicated that there was no report for below Item #'s 13. C. – I.

C. "Save Our Streets LA" information and update

D. Metro's Complete Streets workshop

E. Safe Routes to School Initiative

F. People's Streets Initiative

G. Update on Repair Status of Hancock Park Failed Streets

H. Extended Work Hours on Metro's Purple Line Project and Motion

I. Update on Carling Way Alley repair

14. Outreach Committee (Fred Mariscal)

Copies were distributed and there was discussion of "Candidates for GWNC Board Elections," "Voting Information for GWNC Board Elections" and "Acceptable Voter Documentation for GWNC Board Elections" handouts.

15. Board Member Reports and Comments

A. Metro Station Art Tour (Carpenter)

Mr. Carpenter reported that Metro gives tours of its subway station area, and can arrange for private tours for groups of 15 people or more.

16. Public Comments

There were no public comments at this time.

Alternate Board Member Barbara Savage had to leave at this time, making 17 Board Members (or their Alternate(s)) present (the GWNC quorum is 13).

Board Member Jane Usher recused herself and left the room at this time and was replaced by her Alternate Karen Gilman.

17. Land Use Committee (James Wolf)

[Each Item's Issue/first paragraph is directly from the Agenda.]

A. 7-Eleven at Wilton/Olympic

Issue: In 2012, GWNC voted to support entitlement requests for the conversion of a gas station at Wilton & Olympic to a 7-Eleven store, with the single condition that the area of the existing pole sign not be increased. GWNC's vote was taken, however, in the context of the applicants' explicit promise that it would be a "dry" store with no alcohol sold

either now or in the future (alcohol sales were not among the privileges being sought by the applicants). When hearing notices for the project were issued by the Zoning Administrator's office a few weeks ago, however, floor plans showed space for alcohol and the ZA's staff report mentioned the possibility of future alcohol sales. GWNC immediately advised the ZA's office that its previous vote of support would be null and void if alcohol was going to be part of the discussion for the project. Later, at the February Land Use meeting, the 7-Eleven representative said the ZA's office had distributed outdated plans and information. He presented new plans, which were also submitted to the ZA, which showed landscaping and other changes requested by the ZA and eliminated any references to alcohol. He also reiterated the applicants' explicit promise not to seek permission for alcohol sales, either now or in the future.

MOTION (by Mr. Wolf, seconded by Mr. Humphreville): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council supports the application for the 7-Eleven at Wilton/Olympic, on the condition that there will be no alcohol sales at the site, either now or in the future.

CALL for the QUESTION (by Mr. Gresham).

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a voice vote.

B. Conversion of Existing Recreational Space to Second Dwelling Unit at 118 N. Gramercy Pl.

Issue: Applicant purchased the property from her parents a few years ago. It currently contains a single family house, detached garage and a backyard building permitted as a rec room, but long used as a second dwelling unit. She now seeks permission to demolish the non-compliant building and construct a new, smaller dwelling unit in its place, according to guidelines set forth in the city's Accessory Dwelling Unit ordinance. Neighbors expressed concerns about the size and style of the new building, but the applicant said the new unit will be smaller and more in keeping with the Craftsman style of the main residence on the property. She also offered to work with the neighbors in further development of the building plans.

MOTION (by Mr. Wolf, seconded by Mr. Ms. Lombard): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council opposes the plans as currently submitted for the conversion of Existing Recreational Space to a Second Dwelling Unit at 118 N. Gramercy Pl., but that the applicant be encouraged to work with the neighbors, to revise the building plans to fully meet the 9 major criteria of the new Accessory Dwelling Unit law, and to return to the Land Use Committee with the revised plans for another vote.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Carroll was concerned with about how the the City's Baseline Mansionization Ordinance may also affect the project.

AMENDMENT to the MOTION (by Ms. Carroll, seconded by Ms. Lombard): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council will add the wording "with consideration of the new Accessory Dwelling Unit law and the Baseline Mansionization Ordinance."

AMENDMENT to the MOTION PASSED by a hand vote with no objection.

AMENDED MOTION (by Mr. Wolf, seconded by Ms. Lombard): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council opposes the plans as currently submitted for the conversion of Existing Recreational Space to a Second Dwelling Unit at 118 N. Gramercy Pl., but that the applicant be encouraged to work with the neighbors, to revise the building plans to fully meet the 9 major criteria of the new Accessory Dwelling Unit law, and to return to the Land Use Committee with the revised plans for another vote with consideration of the new Accessory Dwelling Unit law and the Baseline Mansionization Ordinance.

AMENDED MOTION PASSED by a hand vote with no objection.

Mr. Wolf noted that the following items were presented for information only. No action was requested or required at this time. He described efforts to reduce document copying costs, including by projecting document images on a meeting room wall.

C. Clarification of CUP date/version for the new Midtown Bar & Kitchen at 5722 W. Melrose Ave.

Issue: This business, owned by the same people who own the nearby Osteria Mamma, opened recently at the site of the former Pueblo Viejo restaurant. Because there was an existing liquor permit at the site, there was no entitlement application or community review process before Midtown opened, and neighbors want to make sure the new business is fully in compliance with the existing permits. The Land Use Committee reviewed the existing permit (in place since 1992), which shows 13 specific conditions for operation, most of which the new business seems to be heeding. There is, however, a requirement that there be no bar or lounge area for the sale, service or consumption of alcoholic beverages directly to patrons...that sales of alcohol be incidental to food sales at all times...and that there be no exterior signage advertising the availability of alcoholic beverages. Since the permit is already in place, however, and the business is already open, Land Use Committee members generally agreed that if the business seems to be out of compliance in any way, neighbors should start with notifications to the appropriate city enforcement agencies.

D. Liquor Permit for Unnamed New Restaurant at 710 N. El Centro

Issue: Applicants for a CUB to sell a full line of alcoholic beverages at a new restaurant at this location brought the issue only to the Hollywood Studio District Neighborhood Council, even though the property is adjacent to areas represented by other NCs, including GWNC (it sits at the northern end of Larchmont Blvd., which is the key commercial district within the GWNC area). Requests that the applicants also make presentations to the GWNC were refused, and city approvals were granted without input from GWNC or other affected areas. At its last Board meeting, GWNC called an Emergency Meeting and voted to send letters to the applicants and appropriate city agencies, notifying them that the other key NCs should be included in the approval process before decisions are made. The letters have been sent (see handout), but neither the applicants or the city have scheduled further discussions.

Ms. Gilman reported about the 710 N. El Centro project that the City Zoning Administrator “has NOT made a decision yet on the alcohol permit.” Mr. Wittmann noted that some applicants do not want to present to Neighborhood Councils that are not included in their project area. Mr. Gresham noted that, from its inception, GWNC has made it known to the City that a project’s “sphere of influence” doesn’t always stop at NC borders, but the City doesn’t agree, and doesn’t want any “shared territory” between NCs. Mr. Wolf added that the GWNC has notified neighboring Neighborhood Councils of projects in the GWNC area that could affect them.

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
- Resolution to support Proposition D medical marijuana enforcement efforts
- Proposed addition to a single-family residence with reduced side setbacks at 200 S. Gramercy

18. Announcements and Adjournment

Mr. Smith noted the next General Board Meeting date: Wednesday, April 9, 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Smith declared the Meeting **ADJOURNED** at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
David Levin
Minutes Writer