



Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council General Meeting
March 14, 2012
MINUTES
Approved by the Board, 04-11-12

1. Call to Order

A duly noticed meeting of the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council (“GWNC”) Board of Directors was held on Wednesday, March 14, 2012, at the Ebell of Los Angeles, 743 S. Lucerne Blvd., Los Angeles. President Owen Smith called the meeting to order at 7:06 p. m.

2. Roll Call

Ms. Fuller called the roll. Board Members in attendance at the roll call were: Larissa Alarcon, Betty Fox (Alternate for Charles Dougherty), Elizabeth Fuller, John Gresham, Jack Humphreville, Alex Jones-Moreno, Clinton Oie (Alternate for David Lunzer), Frances McFall, Jason Peers, Joane Pickett (Alternate for Jane Gilman), Owen Smith and Jane Usher. Board Members Yigal Arens, Vince Cox (Alternate for Charles D’Atri), Patricia Lombard (Alternate for Barbara Kumetz) and Mary Rajswing arrived later. Board Members absent and not represented by an Alternate: Patricia Carroll, Benjamin Rosenberg and James Wolf. Two Board seats (Area 6 -La Brea / Hancock, and Area 12-We-Wil) were vacant. Also attending: 15 Stakeholders and guests.

Twelve of the 19 Board Members or their Alternates were present at the roll call, which is not a quorum.

Board Members Yigal Arens, Vince Cox (Alternate for Charles D’Atri) and Mary Rajswing arrived around this time, making 15 Board Members present.

The GWNC quorum (the minimum number of Board Members needing to be present to take binding votes on Agendized Items) is 13, so the Board could take such votes.

3. Approval of the Minutes

MOTION (by Mr. Gresham, seconded by Ms. Fox): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its February 8, 2012 General Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a voice vote.

4. President’s Report (Owen Smith)

A. Nomination and/or confirmation of Board Alternate for Area 6 - La Brea/Hancock.

Mr. Smith noted that Bill Funderburk is interested in the Area 6 (La Brea / Hancock) opening. Mr. Funderburk introduced himself and described his interest in serving the community.

MOTION (by Ms. Usher, seconded by Mr. Gresham): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council nominates Bill Funderburk as the Area 6 (La Brea / Hancock) Alternate Board Member.

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote.

Mr. Smith invited Mr. Funderburk to be seated with the Board.

B. Other Board Vacancies (call for volunteers; if no volunteers tonight, please recruit):

Area 2 (Citrus Square) – Alternate

Area 9 (Oakwood-Maplewood-St. Andrews) – Alternate

Area 12 (We-Wil) – Director and Alternate

Renter – Alternate

C. Bylaws Conformation to DONE's new uniform Table of Contents (John Welborne)

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

D. Ethics Training – Board Members and Alternates who have not yet completed the training:

D'Atri, Kumetz, Rosenberg, Dwyer, Fox, Kaliski, Katz, Lombard, Rubin. You **MUST** complete the course at <http://ethics.lacity.org/education/ethics2007/?audience=done>. No other Ethics Training completions were noted at this time. Mr. Smith encouraged Board Members to complete the Ethics Training.

5. Community Concerns

LAUSD Adult Education Petition (Eileen May)

Teresa Lowms and Ms. May explained the benefits of Adult Education to the community and requested a motion of support to maintain funding for Adult Education in the state and LAUSD budgets. There was a brief discussion of limited resources and where the funding could come from. No board members chose to make the motion.

6. Local Government Updates

A. 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), reported that directional signs will be installed on neighborhood streets east of Western Ave., to help police enforce traffic and anti-prostitution laws. Also, potholes will be filled on Wilshire between Fairfax and La Brea.

B. CD5 Update (John Darnell)

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

C. CD10 Update (Sylvia Lacy)

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

D. 42nd Assembly District Update (Nicole Carcel)

Nicole Carcel, Field Representative for State 42nd District Assemblyman Mike Feuer (310-285-5490; Nicole.Carcel@asm.ca.gov), reported that the Assemblyman sponsored the AEG

[downtown stadium] bill to help ensure that CEQA requirements “would keep intact.” She described other legislation, including “to mitigate some of the helicopter noise.”

E. 47th Assembly District Update (Charles Stewart)
Mr. Stewart could not attend and there was no report at this time.

F. 26th Senate District Update (Andrew Lachman)
Mr. Lachman could not attend and there was no report at this time.

7. Treasurer’s Report and Budget Items

A. Monthly budget report/approval – Feb./Mar.

Ms. Fuller reported for Ms. Carroll. She distributed and reviewed the “Monthly Spending Report” for February-March. Storage space has been rented as recently approved by the board. Website revisions are almost done. Backlogged Demand Warrants are paid.

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Usher, seconded by Mr. Arens): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves its “Monthly Spending Report” for February-March.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a voice vote.

B. DONE Funding Deadlines – Paperwork due by Wednesday, May 16.

Ms. Fuller reviewed DONE’s fiscal year-end budget and paperwork deadlines.

C. YTD Spending Report.

Ms. Fuller distributed and reviewed the latest “[GWNC] Budget for Fiscal Year 2011-2012,” which shows expenditures and remaining funding as of today.

D. Budget Adjustments to Free Up Unspent Funds for Community Projects:

Ms. Fuller distributed “before” and “after” charts describing actual and possible GWNC allocations, and the changes that could be made to free up more unspent money for community projects. She explained that funds must be allocated at this or the next General Board Meeting to use this Fiscal Year ending June 30th or it will be swept back to the City.

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Fuller, seconded by Ms. Usher): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council will move the following unspent amounts from the categories listed to “Community Projects - Other (yet to be assigned”): \$200 from “Copying or Printing”; \$5,000 from “Administrative Assistant”; \$75 from “Postage/Mailing”; \$700 from “Sponsorship & Events”; and \$3,250 from “Wilton Islands,” with funding for the Wilton Islands project continuing into the next fiscal year as per the GWNC’s original commitment of \$15,000 over the life of the project. This will bring the total available in “Other (yet to be assigned)” to \$10,795.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a voice vote.

E. Funding Requests (to be filled from the \$10,795 now available in “Community Projects – Other (yet to be assigned)”):

- i. Neighborhood Watch Signs (need number and amount for each): Hancock Park; Ridgewood/Wilton; and St. Andrews Square.

Ms. Fuller explained the allocation request. Alysoun Higgins, from the Ridgewood-Wilton Neighborhood Association, and Debbie Willis, of the St. Andrews Square Neighborhood Association, presented their applications for \$720 each, to obtain Neighborhood Watch signs for their areas.

- ii. Chrysalis Wilshire Blvd. Cleanup (Rick Stoff)

Rick Stoff, Director, Chrysalis (310-401-9382; StoffR@ChangeLives.org), presented his application for funds to clean up the business streets in our area, which would also provide an outreach opportunity for the GWNC. He requested \$925.

Alternate Board Member Patricia Lombard arrived at this time. Board Member John Gresham recused himself and left the room during this discussion.

- iii. Wilshire Park Historic Register Application (Lorna Hennington)

The following presentation and Motion were made after Board Member John Gresham recused himself from voting and left the room.

Ms. Hennington described her neighbors' efforts to gain National Register of Historic Places status for the Boulevard Heights section of the neighborhood. They requested \$1,250 for professional assistance and training to complete their application.

Board Member John Gresham returned to the room at this time.

- iv. EcoLogicalART/Project ReStore (Peter Schulberg)

Mr. Schulberg, EcoLogicalART President and President of the Olympic Park Neighborhood Council, introduced Project ReStore and its program to use recycled billboard material to create 8' x 16' murals painted by children and hung as public art in schoolyards and other community spaces. He requested \$4,000 for the program. Ms. Usher explained that the murals "would be considered signs," not art, under city law, and said they "would need sign permits."

- v. Windsor Village Down-Zoning Project (Allison Sapunour)

Alternate Board Member Betty Fox recused herself and left the room during this discussion.

Ms. Sapunour presented the project, which has an October 19th deadline. Ms. Usher said more information is needed.

Alternate Board Member Betty Fox returned to the room at this time.

- vi. LACER After-School Programs (Linda Horner)

Ms. Horner requested \$978 to furnish a school room for her program, which provides after-school tutoring to students at Bancroft Middle School. The school is at Las Palmas Ave. and Willoughby Ave., two blocks outside the GWNC boundary (in the Central

Hollywood Neighborhood Council area), but serves a number of students who live within GWNC borders.

- vii. Removal of Koreatown markers placed west of Western Ave. (still need estimate and applicant).

Mr. Smith and Mr. Seinfeld explained that the removal of the misplaced items is being worked on. Ms. Fuller reminded everyone that an application needs to be made to the GWNC for it to consider allocating funds. Ms. Usher explained that it would be best if the Country Club Park and Country Club Heights Neighborhood Associations jointly request funding. Ms. McFall detailed the items removal request. Ms. Usher added that the installations west of Western Ave. had not been mentioned in project outreach and that the Korean community would probably support the removals.

Ms. Fuller noted that more funding requests may be made in April, including for the L.A. High School Beautification Project, which was first introduced to the board a few months ago

Board Member Jane Usher had to leave at this time.

MOTION (by Ms. Fox, seconded by Mr. Cox): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council will wait to vote on the funding requests until more presentations are made at its April 11, 2012 General Board Meeting.

DISCUSSION: There was discussion regarding the merits of waiting to fund requests.

MOTION FAILED by a hand vote.

DISCUSSION: There was discussion of which, if any, requests to consider at this meeting.

Mr. Gresham and Ms. Fox recused themselves and left the room at this time.

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Lombard, seconded by Mr. Humphreville): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council allocates \$1,250 for professional services to prepare a National Register of Historic Places application for the Boulevard Heights section of Wilshire Park and to Table consideration of other funding requests made at this Meeting until the GWNC's April 11, 2012 General Board Meeting.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a hand vote.

Mr. Gresham and Ms. Fox returned to the room at this time.

8. DWP Oversight (Jack Humphreville)

Mr. Humphreville reported that the Ratepayer Advocate is reviewing the proposed rate increase.

9. City Budget update (Jack Humphreville)

Mr. Humphreville described City Budget challenges and efforts to deal with the crisis, and the results of the Mayor's Budget Survey.

10. Old Business

City Council Redistricting: Discussion of final draft map and recommendations/resolutions. There was discussion that the GWNC got most of what it had requested, with the exception of a few blocks in the La Brea-Hancock area. Mr. Seinfeld was "fairly confident . . . there will be changes" to the previous draft map and described them.

11. Traffic and Transportation Committee (Gerda McDonough)

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

12. Outreach Committee (Mary Rajswing)

Upcoming meeting speakers/events (organizers in parentheses):

October 12 – Senior Citizen Issues (Federico Mariscal/Margaret Sowma)

November 9 – Trust for Public Land (Patti Carroll)

Ms. Rajswing reported that, at Ms. McFall's request, she received two estimates to make GWNC pens. 500 pens would cost 29-32 cents each, for a total of about \$200.

[There was no Item #13.]

14. Other Committee/Project Reports

There were no other reports at this time.

15. Board Member Comments

It was clarified that funding requestors will again be invited to the April 11th General Board Meeting; requestors who have already presented will not be required to again present while those who have not presented will be required to present.

16. Public Comments

Stakeholder Joan Taylor opposes the California High-Speed Rail Project.

17. Land Use Committee (James Wolf)

Ms. Fuller noted that the following items are presented for information only and that all three projects will be discussed at the March 27th Committee Meeting. No action was requested or required at this time

A. Construction of 49 new single family residences at 5112 W. Melrose Ave.: Applicant is requesting a small-lot subdivision to build 49 single-family residences (will look much like townhouses, but there will be a 4" separation between buildings), with a 10' landscaped setback along Melrose. Project is less dense than current zoning allows. Neighbor who owns a recording studio on the adjacent property worries construction noise and traffic will disrupt his business, and suggests a (motion picture) business project would be more appropriate to the area than a residential project. Land Use Committee members expressed concerns about whether area infrastructure could support the development, and whether the design plans were too "suburban" and too "uniform" for the area. The committee urged the

applicants to meet with neighbors and adjacent neighborhood associations, and return to the LUC in March.

- B. Legalization of two non-conforming units at 455 N. Wilton Ave.: Applicant seeks to legalize the conversion of two three bedroom units in this 1960s apartment building to two two-bedroom and two bachelor units. One unit was previously converted without permits; the other unit has not yet been converted. Land Use Committee members expressed concerns about increasing the density of the building, as well as about parking spaces that have apparently been added (and green space subtracted) without permits, as well as any apparent hardship to the owner that would justify the conversion. LUC members asked that the applicants provide more information about the original site plan for the property, parking and fencing alterations and permits, and the specific hardship faced if approval is not granted. The applicants will return to the March LUC meeting.
- C. CUB Modification at Mozza to Go/6610 W. Melrose Ave.: When the restaurant was granted its original CUP, it included a voluntary condition (at the neighbors' request) confirming that no alcohol would be sold for off-site consumption. Applicants are seeking to remove that condition, so they can sell upscale bottles of wine (minimum price \$10/bottle) to their take-out customers. A letter from the Hancock Park Homeowners' Association (Est. 1948) was received, expressing concern about customers drinking in parked cars near the restaurant. Committee members also expressed concern about applicants who negotiate and agree to CUP conditions but then request their repeal shortly afterward. LUC members asked the applicants to meet with the HOA, and to provide more information about other nearby restaurants that do and do not provide liquor sales for off-site consumption. Applicants will return to the March LUC meeting with updated information.

Potential Agenda Items for March 27 LUC Meeting, in addition to those above:

- Landmark application for Firestone station at 8th & La Brea
- Liquor permit application for Gon Ji Am restaurant at 4653 Beverly Blvd.
- Legalization of third dwelling unit at 817-819 N. Sycamore Ave.
- Review of recent Early Planning Notices in the GWNC area

18. Announcements and Adjournment

Next meeting: Wednesday, April 11, 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Smith declared and the Board agreed to **ADJOURN** the Meeting at 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
David Levin
Minutes Writer