



Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council General Meeting
April 9, 2014
MINUTES
Approved by the Board, 5/14/14

1. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance (Owen Smith—acting President)

A duly noticed Meeting of the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council (“GWNC”) Board of Directors was held on Wednesday, April 9, 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. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Board Member Frances McFall.

2. Roll Call (Jeffry Carpenter -- acting Secretary)

Secretary Jeffry Carpenter called the roll. Fourteen of the 21 Board Members or their Alternates were present at the beginning of the Meeting: Jeffry Carpenter, Patricia Carroll, John Gresham, Joseph Hoffman, Jack Humphreville, Fred Mariscal, Frances McFall, Clinton Oie, Jason Peers, Barbara Savage (Alternate for William Funderburk), Owen Smith, Julie Stromberg, Greg Wittmann and James Wolf. Ann Eggleston, Patricia Lombard, Dorian Shapiro and Jane Usher arrived later. Board Members absent and not represented by an Alternate: Michael Genewick, Daniel Whitley and John Winther. 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: 17 Stakeholders and guests.

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

A. Monthly Budget Report/Expenditures Approvals

GWNC Administrative Consultant Elizabeth Fuller clarified that the February Monthly Expenditure Report was approved in March, but needed one correction.

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

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 10 eligible voters present with all 10 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Carpenter, Gresham, Humphreville, Mariscal, McFall, Oie, Peers, Savage, Smith and Wittmann).

Copies were distributed of the “Monthly Expenditure Report for March 2014.” Ms. Fuller reviewed the March expenses.

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

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 10 eligible voters present with all 10 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Carpenter, Gresham, Humphreville, Mariscal, McFall, Oie, Peers, Savage, Smith and Wittmann).

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

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. McFall, seconded by Ms. Savage): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves each of the individual expenditures it made in March 2014:

- **12 months of website hosting - \$95.40**
- **12 months of storage locker rental - \$1,164.00**
- **Handouts for March board meeting - \$65.40**
- **Handouts for Transportation Committee - \$93.65**
- **Election materials (fliers, door-hangers & table cards) - \$817.50**
- **April ad in Larchmont Chronicle - \$340.00**
- **March maintenance of Wilton Islands - \$75.00**
- **Administrative Consultant (Elizabeth Fuller) - \$5,000.00**
- **11 NPGs (as approved on 3-12-14) - \$10,200.00**

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 11 eligible voters present with all 11 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Carpenter, Gresham, Humphreville, Mariscal, McFall, Oie, Peers, Savage, Smith, Usher and Wittmann).

B. YTD Budget

Ms. Fuller reviewed the Budget. The Fiscal Year ends June 30th.

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

Ms. Carroll reported that “the Ebell contract is signed.” She awaits action by DONE [the L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment] on the contracts for the Wilshire United Methodist Church meeting space and for Ms. Fuller’s administrative consulting services.

4. Neighborhood Council Board Orientation (Barry Stone and DONE staff)

A. Resolution of tie (coin flip) between Area 8 Alternate candidates Jeff McManus & Michael Lippmann

Dorian Shapiro is the Area 8 Representative. Mr. Smith explained that Msrs. McManus and Lippmann tied for the Area 8 Alternate position in the recent election. Michael Lippmann won the coin toss and became the Area 8 Alternate Representative. Mr. Gresham reminded that if a Board Member and Alternate are not present for three or more consecutive Board Meetings the Board can replace them.

B. Seating of New Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council Board Members and Alternates.

Board Members and Alternates who were elected at the March 30, 2014 GWNC Election gathered to be sworn in.

C. Administer Neighborhood Council Oath of Office:

Stakeholder John Welborne led newly-elected Board Members and Alternates in reading aloud the following Oath:

“I pledge to represent the Greater Wilshire NC with dignity, integrity and pride. I will encourage other points of view, even when they differ from my own. I will respect, value and consider everyone’s opinion. I will find the good in my neighborhood and praise it and promote it. To my neighbors, and to neighborhoods throughout the City of Los Angeles, I pledge to do this to the best of my ability.”

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

D. Election of Board Officers (Smith)

i. President

Mr. Humphreville nominated Owen Smith for President. Mr. Gresham seconded. Owen Smith was re-elected President by a unanimous hand vote.

ii. Vice-President

Ms. Eggleston nominated James Wolf for President. Ms. Usher seconded. James Wolf was re-elected Vice-President by a unanimous hand vote.

iii. Treasurer

Mr. Mariscal nominated Patricia Carroll for Treasurer. Ms. Eggleston seconded. Patricia Carroll was re-elected Treasurer by a unanimous hand vote.

iv. Secretary

Ms. Usher nominated Jeffry Carpenter for Secretary. Ms. Savage seconded. Jeffry Carpenter was re-elected Secretary by a unanimous hand vote.

v. Assistant Secretary

Mr. Carpenter nominated Greg Wittmann for Assistant Secretary. Mr. Gresham seconded. Greg Wittmann was elected Assistant Secretary by a unanimous hand vote.

vi. Board Designation of Purchase Card Holder and Second Signatory

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Carpenter, seconded by Mr. Smith): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves Owen Smith as its Purchase Card (P-Card) Holder and Primary Signatory, and Patricia Carroll as the Second Signatory.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a voice vote.

E. Neighborhood Council Board Orientation

Mr. Smith explained that DONE staff were unable to attend; the Orientation will be held another time.

5. Call for candidates for open Board Alternate seats (nominations and seating at May meeting):

Mr. Smith nominated Hanne Mintz as the Area 1/Brookside Alternate.

Mr. Mariscal nominated Charles D'Atri as the Area 7/Larchmont Village Alternate.

Mr. Humphreville nominated Caroline Labiner Moser as the Area 14/Windsor Square Alternate.

Ms. Stromberg nominated Betty Fox as the Area 15/Windsor Village Alternate.

All nominations were accepted.

Board Member Dorian Shapiro, arrived at this time, making 17 Board Members (or their Alternate(s)) present (the GWNC quorum is 13).

MOTION (by Ms. Usher, seconded by Ms. Stromberg): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council accepts the following Stakeholders as Alternate Board Member Representatives: Hanne Mintz as the Brookside Alternate; Charles D'Atri as the Larchmont Village Alternate; Caroline Labiner Moser as the Windsor Square Alternate; and Betty Fox as the Windsor Village Alternate

MOTION PASSED by a hand vote.

Mr. Welborne led newly-appointed Alternate Board Members in reading aloud the Oath of Office.

Mr. Smith noted that the following Alternate Seats are still available: Area 2 – Citrus Square, Area 3 - Country Club Heights; Area 4 - Fremont Place; Area 9 - Oakwood-Maplewood-St. Andrews; Area 11 - Sycamore Square; Area 12 – Western-Wilton,; Business; Education; Other Non-Profit; and Religion.

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

6. Circulation of Roster and Committee Sign-Up Forms (Land Use, Outreach & Transportation)

Ms. Fuller circulated a Roster to get Board Members' contact information and Committee Sign-Up Forms for Board Members to note their Committee interests.

7. Ethics and 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 noted the above.

8. Approval of the Minutes of the March 12, 2013 General Meeting

Mr. Smith requested and it was agreed to Table approval of the Minutes.

9. Community Concerns/Public Comments

Mr. Welborne reviewed local land use projects.

Ray Verches, SoCal Gas Company representative, distributed information and reviewed, as last year, the “upgrading of . . . meters” that will allow “on a daily basis to read meters.” Stakeholders “will be receiving a letter . . . within the next 30 days” regarding the installation that will “take 10 to 15 minutes . . . It takes about a thousand trucks off the road every day.”

Oscar Winslow, City Council District Four Candidate (www.OscarWinslow.com), introduced himself. He is a former Police Officer and is working with the City Attorney’s Office and as a college professor. Councilman Tom LaBonge will be termed out.

Esther Jo, a Health Promoter for St. Vincent Medical Center, described healthcare assistance available. The next open enrollment will start in October.

GWNC Board Alternate Karen Gilman announced the Windsor Square-Hancock Park Historical Society Garden Party Fundraiser on April 27th.

[This Agenda Item was returned to after Item #15. A.] 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>), introduced CD4 Chief of Staff Carolyn Ramsay and described Metro BRT current and upcoming construction; expect “another three to five months” of construction. Larchmont Blvd. medians maintenance “should be completed in the next couple of weeks.”

[This Agenda Item was returned to after Item #11. A.] Mr. Humphreville reported regarding the DWP that “a judge said the IBEW has to comply” and provide information regarding two Trusts. The L.A. 20/20 Commission recommended establishing a five-person L.A. Public Utilities Commission. Mr. Humphreville reported regarding the City Budget that the Mayor will release his proposed fiscal year 2014-2014 Budget on [April 14th]. A \$242 million deficit is expected. The Mayor is setting up a “Pension Commission.” The City is proposing a half-cent sales tax increase to 9.5% to help fund sidewalk and other repairs. See www.LA2020Reports.org.

10. Old Business

There was no old business at this time.

11. New Business

A. Proposed Peru Village Boundaries (Fred Mariscal, Jane Usher)

Mr. Smith described to Ms. Ramsay community concern about the proposed “Peru Village.” Ms. Ramsay said “it is on hold.” There was discussion about the proposed Village boundaries, which would include the north side of Melrose. She said “they had no property owners signing off on their petitions” and a number of organizations oppose the Village. She added that “City Councilman O’Farrell’s Office can’t find justification” to support Peru Village, which is “entirely within Council District 13.” There was extensive discussion about community identities and boundaries preservation.

12. Outreach & Election Committees (Mariscal/Savage)

A. Recap of election, recommendations for follow-up and future elections

[*This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #9.*] Copies were distributed of a “2014 Neighborhood Council Elections Greater Wilshire Canvass of Votes.” Ms. Savage described Election organizing challenges. The Board expressed appreciation for Ms. Savage’s work [applause] and approval of the John Burroughs Middle School Election venue. Ms. McFall would like to receive more election and funding information and would like more funding made available for community groups.

Board Member Fred Mariscal left around this time; he was replaced by his Alternate Charles D’Atri.

13. Board Member Reports and Comments

Ms. Carroll announced that the YMCA will open April 16th and encouraged joining.

Ms. Lombard requested a gesture of support for the Olympic Park Neighborhood Council, regarding the recent shooting at the Wilshire Division police station during the OPNC meeting.

MOTION (by Mr. D’Atri, seconded by Ms. Lombard): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council will write a letter to the Olympic Park Neighborhood Council, expressing sympathy and support after the recent shooting at its monthly board meeting at the Wilshire Division Police Station.

MOTION PASSED by a hand vote.

Ms. Lombard volunteered to draft the letter.

14. Public Comments

There were no public comments at this time.

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

15. Land Use Committee (James Wolf)

A. CUB for onsite sales of beer and wine at 6919 W. Melrose (Franco on Melrose)
Issue: Italian restaurant (between Sycamore and Orange, on north side of Melrose) is seeking permission to sell beer and wine from 10 a.m. to 12 a.m. Alcohol sales will be with food orders only; no bar, entertainment or dancing. Beer sales will be craft beers, not tap or pitchers. Parking is by valet, in an ample lot down the street (valets do not use local streets). Mr. Wolf described the project.

MOTION (by Mr. Wolf, seconded by Ms. Gilman): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council supports the application for beer and wine sales at 6919 W. Melrose (Franco on Melrose), with the condition that a covenant specifying the parking arrangements be filed with the City.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a hand vote.

Board Member Jane Usher returned to the room at this time; her Alternate Karen Gilman returned to the audience.

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)
- 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)
- 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
- Reduced side setbacks for addition at 200 S. Gramercy
- Proposed plans for redevelopment of Farmer's Insurance site

16. Announcements and Adjournment

Next meeting: Wednesday, May 7, 7:00 p.m. Mr. Smith declared the Meeting
ADJOURNED at 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
David Levin
Minutes Writer