



Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council General Meeting
May 11, 2011
MINUTES
Approved by the Board 6/8/11

1. Call to Order

A duly noticed meeting of the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council (“GWNC”) Board of Directors was held on Wednesday, May 11, 2011, at the Ebell of Los Angeles, 743 S. Lucerne Blvd., Los Angeles. Secretary Elizabeth Fuller called the meeting to order at 7:15 p. m.

2. Roll Call

Ms. Fuller called the roll. Board Members in attendance at the roll call were: Vince Cox (Alternate for Charles D’Atri), Elizabeth Fuller, Jane Gilman, John Gresham, Jack Humphreville, John Kaliski (Alternate for Owen Smith), Frances McFall, Kathleen Mulligan (Alternate for Patricia Carroll) and Jane Usher. Yigal Arens arrived later.

Nine of the 20 Board Members 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. One Board seat (Area 9 -Oakwood-Maplewood-St. Andrews) is vacant. Also attending: 22 Stakeholders and guests. Board Members absent and not represented by an Alternate: Charles Dougherty, Alex Jones-Moreno, Barbara Kumetz, David Lunzer, Clinton Oie, Matthew Oldham, Fred Pickel, Mary Rajswing, Benjamin Rosenberg and James Wolf.

3. Approval of the Minutes

Due to the lack of a voting quorum, approval of the Minutes of the April 13, 2011 was tabled until the June meeting.

4. President’s Report (Elizabeth Fuller)

A. Board Vacancies.

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #6. A.] Remaining vacancies – please recruit:

Area 2 (Citrus Square) – Alternate

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

Area 12 (We-Wil) – Alternate

Education – Alternate

Renter -- Alternate

Ms. Fuller indicated that there were no nominations at this time.

B. Bylaws Conformation to DONE’s new uniform Table of Contents (John Welborne)

Mr. Welborne indicated that the Bylaws work continues.

Board Member Yigal Arens arrived at this time.

C. **Ethics Training**

Current: Cox, Dougherty, Genewick, Gresham, Jones-Moreno, Moser, Mulligan, Oie, McFall, Smith, Usher, Wolf. All others must take the training at <http://Ethics.LACity.org/Education/Ethics2007/?audience=done>

No additional Ethics Training completions were noted at this time. Ms. Fuller encouraged Board Members to complete the Ethics Training and distributed a flier for the May 14th DONE “EmpowerLA Regional Ethics Training” at the Young Oak Kim Academy.

D. **Secretary and Treasurer transitions – Call for volunteers/candidates to take over in July.**

Ms. Fuller reminded everyone that she will resign by July 1st as Secretary; Matthew Oldham has also resigned as Treasurer.

5. **Guest Speaker** – Geoffrey Smith, FilmLA

Mr. Smith was introduced by Ms. Gilman. FilmLA (213-977-8600; GSmith@FilmLA.com) is a for-profit company contracted with the City to process film permits that the LAPD issues. He said that filming helps keep people working and paying local sales taxes that support the City. The City Municipal Code allows filming 24 hours a day, seven days a week. FilmLA considers neighborhood concerns; call immediately (Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.; voicemail if it’s an urgent issue) if there are problems. If there are problems with private security, call the LAPD Contract Services Section [213.486.0410].

6. **Local Government Updates**

A. **CD4 Update (Sheila Irani)**

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #2.] L.A. City District Four Councilmember Tom LaBonge complimented the GWNC on its well-organized Candidates Forum and introduced his new field deputy, Sheila Irani (213-473-2340; 323-957-6415; Sheila.Irani@LACity.org), who replaces Nikki Ezhari. Ms. Irani encouraged calling her with any concerns. Mr. LaBonge promised that Fire Station 29 “will not be reduced.” Also, the 2nd and Lorraine blowout and some major Wilshire Blvd. potholes were fixed. He’s working to implement a Wilshire Blvd. bus-only lane. Also, regarding his recent vote to support an over-height wall at the mayor’s residence on Irving Blvd., Mr La Bonge said “There have been [security] incidents” at the property.

B. **CD5 Update (John Darnell)**

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

C. **CD10 Update (Sylvia Lacy)**

Sylvia Lacy, District Director for L.A. City District 10 Councilman Herb Wesson (323-733-8233; Sylvia.Lacy@LACity.org), encouraged contacting her with any questions. She will look into a business that is being conducted in an R-3 zone.

D. **42nd Assembly District Update (Nicole Carcel)**

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

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. Community Concerns

Los Angeles Fire Department Foundation – Karen Wagener

Ms. Fuller relayed that Ms. Wagener had to cancel. Stakeholder Joan Taylor encouraged not supporting proposed bullet trains at this time as not cost-efficient and impractical. She also supports the City contracting with local taxi companies which she said would save 80% over City transportation services.

8. Treasurer’s Report & Budget Items

A. Monthly budget report/approval (Elizabeth Fuller)

Ms. Fuller distributed and reviewed the “Monthly Spending Report – April 1, 2011 – May 10, 2011” and “[GWNC] Budget for Fiscal Year 2010-2011.” No approval vote was taken because there was not a voting quorum of Board Members. There was \$55,000 left in the Budget; approximately \$27,000 was unencumbered. The GWNC will soon vote on its 2011-2012 Budget after the City decides what funding to give Neighborhood Councils. Ms. Fuller recommended not budgeting for office space and instead outsourcing administrative work.

B. YTD Spending Report

[See above Item 8. A.]

C. Fiscal year end deadlines & considerations:

i. Debit card freeze – June 15

[See above Item 8. A.]

ii. NC balances reported – June 27

[See above Item 8. A.]

iii. Fiscal year 2011-2012 budget due – July 15

[See above Item 8. A.]

9. DWP Oversight (Jack Humphreville)

Mr. Humphreville reported that the DWP will soon be increasing rates. The DWP projects a \$264 million power transfer to the City next Fiscal Year [beginning July 1st]; there’s concern as to whether the DWP will make the transfer.

10. City Budget Issues (Jack Humphreville)

Mr. Humphreville reported that Prop. 26 “fees that aren’t used for services are deemed taxes . . . and subject to a popular vote.” The City’s “deficit is projected to be \$458 million.”

11. Outreach Committee (Elizabeth Fuller)

Ms. Fuller reviewed upcoming meeting speakers/events (organizers in parentheses) and encouraged contacting the Committee with outreach ideas.

June 8 – LA Bicycle Plan (Jane Gilman)

July 13 – Los Angeles Economic Development Corp. (Jack Humphreville)

August – Country Club Heights Concerns (Frances McFall)

September – Assembly Member Mike Feuer

October – Senior Citizen Issues (Federico Mariscal)

12. Other Committee/Project Reports

Wilshire/La Brea Station Area Advisory Group (Pickel, Fuller, Smith)

Ms. Fuller distributed copies of a “Station Area Map: Wilshire/La Brea” and described future construction of the Station; the entrance will be set back about 150 feet from Wilshire Blvd., facing away from the street, and it’s likely that a commercial development will be built around the station area. There was discussion regarding Station design and dimensions, and whether and when more knock-out panels could or should be included.

Board Member Jane Usher had to leave at this time; Alternate Margaret Sowma replaced her.

13. Board Member Comments/New Business

There were no additional comments or new business.

14. Land Use Committee (LUC) (James Wolf)

[Each section’s first paragraph is directly from the Agenda.]

A. Eastern Presbyterian Church Renovations – 4270 W. 6th St. (Kiyoshi Graves)

Issue: Church has applied for several variances and HPOZ approvals for plans to renovate and expand existing facilities and build a new parking structure on several lots at its current location. Application was recently revised to bring plans into compliance with Park Mile Specific Plan design restrictions, but applicant was unable to attend the April Land Use Meeting to discuss the current version of the application, so the committee deferred its vote to the general board meeting. (Public hearing is set for May 23, the day before the next GWNC LUC meeting.)

LUC Recommended Action: Deferred to applicant’s presentation and board vote at today’s meeting.

At this Meeting, Ms. Fuller distributed copies of a November 4, 2010 letter from the Windsor Square Association to Councilmember LaBonge regarding the “Park Mile Specific Plan (and 4270 West Sixth Street)” and reviewed the project. The applicant worked to make the project more in line with Windsor Square HPOZ Board requests. Applicant representative King Woods described the project as a 19,837 square foot building; they’re requesting six entitlements to accommodate more parking, including another dwelling unit; a 750 square foot roof deck and a maximum height of 45 feet in lieu of the required 33 feet. The applicant is meeting with CD4 on May 18th and a Hearing is tentatively scheduled for May 23rd. He and CD4 would like the project to have a handicapped-access plan. Stakeholder John Welborne, Vice President of Planning & Land Use for the Windsor Square Association, reported that it’s an RE-15 lot and said he believes the zoning should be enforced. Mr. Kaliski said he believes that there are many errors in the applicant’s documents, making it difficult to evaluate. There was discussion regarding how and to whom to express the GWNC consensus, since lack of quorum

prevented a vote at this meeting. Mr. Woods agreed to suggest to the applicant to postpone the tentative May 23rd Hearing. Ms. Fuller encouraged individuals to express their views to CD4.

The following item is presented for information only. No action is requested or required at this time:

- B. Conversion of 9-unit apartment building to 26-room board and care facility: 901 S. Wilton
Issue: A CUP application has been filed to convert an existing 9-unit apartment building to a 26-bed (with 4 employees and 6 parking spaces) board and care facility for the mentally disabled. Land Use Committee members have expressed concerns about lack of (indoor and/or outdoor) recreation space in plans, and number of parking spaces (total of 6, for employees and visitors). No hearing date has been set yet. Wilshire Park neighbors will be invited to the next LUC meeting to present their concerns.
Ms. Gilman reported that the applicant has not met with the Country Club Heights Neighborhood Association.

Ms. Fuller invited everyone to the Tuesday, May 24th 6:30 p.m. GWNC Land Use Committee Meeting at the Wilshire United Methodist Church Assembly Room. There was discussion that people who do not live in the area are supporting the project to convert a gas/service station to a 7-11 convenience store at 3841 W. Olympic and Wilton. Ms. McFall was encouraged to create a petition and get signatures from residential neighbors opposed to the project.

Potential Agenda Items for May 24 LUC Meeting (in addition to those above):

- Update on cell phone poles proposed for 1st/Wilton & 9th/Mansfield.
- Update/vote on application to convert gas/service station to 7-11 convenience store at 3841 W. Olympic
- Update on Yeshivath Torath Emeth Academy issues
- Discussion on possible drafting of GWNC checklist and policy regarding CUP applications involving liquor sales.
- Yavneh Hebrew Academy CUP revisions (5353 W. 3rd St.)

15. Public Comments

There were no public comments at this time.

17. Announcements and Adjournment

Ms. Fuller announced that community projects are available to help with at www.BigSunday.org. She announced the next General Board Meeting: Wednesday, June 8th at 7:00 p.m.

Ms. Fuller declared and the Board agreed to **ADJOURN** the Meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
David Levin

Minutes Writer