



Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council General Meeting
June 8, 2011
Approved by the Board, July 13, 2011

1. Call to Order

A duly noticed meeting of the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council (“GWNC”) Board of Directors was held on Wednesday, June 8, 2011, at the Ebell of Los Angeles, 743 S. Lucerne Blvd., Los Angeles. President Owen Smith called the meeting to order at 7:03 p. m.

2. Roll Call

Secretary Elizabeth Fuller called the roll. Board Members in attendance at the roll call were: Patricia Carroll, Charles Dougherty, Elizabeth Fuller, Mike Genewick (Alternate for Alex Jones-Moreno), Jane Gilman, Jack Humphreville, Frances McFall, Robby O’Donnell (Alternate for John Gresham), Fred Pickel, Mary Rajswing, Owen Smith, Margaret Sowma (Alternate for Jane Usher) and James Wolf. Yigal Arens and Patricia Lombard (Alternate for Barbara Kumetz) arrived later.

Thirteen of the 20 Board Members or their Alternates were present at the roll call. 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. One Board seat (Area 9, Oakwood-Maplewood-St. Andrews) is vacant. Also attending: 16 Stakeholders and guests. Board Members absent and not represented by an Alternate: Charles D’Atri, David Lunzer, Clinton Oie, Matt Oldham and Benjamin Rosenberg.

3. Approval of the Minutes

A. General Board Meeting, April 13, 2011

MOTION (by Mr. Dougherty, seconded by Ms. O’Donnell): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its April 13, 2011 General Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote.

B. Special Board Meeting, April 13, 2011

MOTION (by Mr. Dougherty, seconded by Ms. O’Donnell): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its April 13, 2011 Special Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote.

C. Board Meeting, May 11, 2011

MOTION (by Mr. Dougherty, seconded by Ms. O’Donnell): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its May 11, 2011 General Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote.

4. President's Report (Owen Smith)

A. Board Vacancies:

Area 2 (Citrus Square) – Alternate

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

Area 12 (We-Wil) – Alternate

Education – Alternate

Other Non-Profit – Alternate (note: Cindy Chvatal has resigned)

Renter – Alternate

Mr. Smith indicated that there were no nominations at this time.

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

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #5.] Mr. Welborne indicated that the Bylaws work continues.

C. Ethics Training – Current (according to DONE, as of 5/25/11): Arens, Chvatal, Dougherty, Genewick, Gilman, Gresham, Humphreville, Jones-Moreno, Mulligan, Oie, Smith, Wolf. Ms. Fuller distributed an “Ethics Training – as of 06/07/11” list and reminded that other Board Members must take the training at <http://ethics.lacity.org/education/ethics2007/?audience=done> or at an in-person session. Ms. Sowma submitted an Ethics Training Completion Certificate to Ms. Fuller, who encouraged Board Members to complete the Ethics Training.

Board Member Yigal Arens arrived at this time.

D. Secretary & Treasurer Transition – Resignations of Secretary Elizabeth Fuller and Treasurer Matthew Oldham will be effective July 1. Call for candidates to fill positions...or at least short-term/one-time volunteer to plan July 13 Board Meeting.

Ms. Rajswing paid tribute to Ms. Fuller's outstanding work and contributions to the community [applause]. Mr. Smith requested volunteers. Ms. Fuller described the need to get the Secretary's work done. She distributed a “GWNC Office Requirements” list and noted that she and others have been trying for six years to find office space that meets DONE [the L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment] requirements. She recommends not looking for office space at this time and instead having staff to help perform the Secretary's responsibilities. Mr. Dougherty supported this and a consensus of Board Members agreed to Agendize expanding the Minutes Writer's work to include performing some of the Secretary's responsibilities. Ms. Fuller said this would be accomplished as part of our 2011-2012 budget approval next month.

5. Guest Speakers

Michelle Mowery – LA Bike Plan

Jane Choi, City Planner, L.A. Dept. of City Planning, Citywide Policy Unit (213-978-1194; Jane.Choi@LACity.org), distributed a “Bicycle Plan Implementation Team (BPIT) Fact Sheet” and reported that the L.A. City Council on March 1st adopted the Citywide Bicycle Plan which has three goals: increase the number and types of bicycles being used; make every street safe for bicycles; and make L.A. a bicycle-friendly community. The Plan will expand L.A. bicycle paths from 250 miles to 1,600 miles at a rate of 200 miles per year. She described the formation and implementation of the Plan, which “came from the community.”

Board Alternate Patty Lombard arrived at this time.

Ms. Choi is also speaking at schools about bicycle safety and can answer Plan questions. The local Bicycle Plan Advisor [and Chair of the Mid-City West Community Council] is Jeff Jacobberger.

Tim Fremaux – 4th St. Bike Boulevard

Mr. Fremaux showed a map of 4th St. and possible configurations to improve traffic flow. Norton and New Hampshire are considered “bike-friendly streets.” There was discussion of roundabouts and other traffic flow measures.

6. Local Government Updates

A. CD4 Update (Sheila Irani)

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #4 B.] Ms. Irani could not attend and there was no report at this time.

B. CD5 Update (John Darnell)

John Darnell, Field Deputy for L.A. City District Five Councilman Paul Koretz (310-289-0353; John.Darnell@LACity.org), reported that trees will be given away at the August 2nd National Night Out. Also, the blowout on 2nd between Mansfield and Orange Dr. is “mostly repaved.”

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 Job Fair was “wonderful.” The State Senate will vote June 15th on the Budget; the State Assembly, in July. Friday, July 15th – Monday July 18th the 405 Freeway northbound will be closed between the 10 and 101 Freeways; southbound will be closed between the 101 and Getty Center Dr.

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

There were no speakers for this item.

8. Treasurer’s Report & Budget Items

A. Monthly budget report/approval (April & May) (Elizabeth Fuller)

Ms. Fuller distributed and reviewed the “Monthly Spending Report – April 1, 2011 – June 7, 2011” and “[GWNC] Budget for Fiscal Year 2010-2011 . . . as of 06/07/11.” At last month’s Meeting there was no quorum to approve the Report. DONE has not yet approved four Demand Warrants.

MOTION (by Mr. Humphreville, seconded by Mr. Pickel): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves the “Monthly Spending Report – April 1, 2011 – June 7, 2011.”

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote.

Ms. Fuller reported that the \$54,995 remaining in the GWNC budget through the June 30th end of this Fiscal Year will be swept [taken back] by the City, which is expected to allocate \$40,500 for the next Fiscal Year beginning July 1st.

B. YTD Spending Report

See Item #8 A.

C. Fiscal year-end deadlines and considerations:

i. Debit card freeze – June 15

Ms. Fuller reported that all NC debit [Purchase] cards will be frozen from June 15 -30.

ii. NC balances/allocations reported – June 27

See Item #8 A.

iii. Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Budget due – July 15

Ms. Fuller reported that the GWNC will have to approve its Fiscal Year 2011-2012 budget at its July 13th General Meeting to submit to DONE by July 15th.

9. DWP Oversight (Jack Humphreville)

Mr. Humphreville reported that there will be “significant rate increases” and described challenges in starting the Ratepayer Advocate Office.

10. City Budget Issues (Jack Humphreville)

Mr. Humphreville believed that Police and Fire Dept. unions have to make more concessions. He described the increased need for street maintenance and that Prop. 26, in which fees can be considered taxes subject to voter approval, could cause more budget challenges.

11. Outreach Committee (Elizabeth Fuller)

Upcoming meeting speakers/events (organizers in parentheses):

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

August 10 – Country Club Heights Concerns (Frances McFall)

September 14 – Assembly Member Mike Feuer

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

November 9 – Trust for Public Land (Patti Carroll)

Ms. Sowma, Senior Citizens Representative, described work to get a speaker.

12. Other Committee/Project Reports

Formation of GWNC Education/Schools Committee? (Fuller/Rajswing)

Ms. Rajswing described Committee ideas. Ms. Lombard and Ms. Fuller volunteered to be on the Committee.

13. Board Member Comments/New Business

There were no additional Board Member comments or new business.

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

[Each section's first paragraph is directly from the Agenda.] Action Items:

A. Eastern Presbyterian Church Renovations – 4270 W. 6th St.

Issue: The church has applied for several variances and HPOZ approvals for plans to renovate and expand existing facilities and to build a new parking structure on several lots at its current location. The application was recently revised to bring plans into compliance with the Park Mile

Specific Plan, but Land Use Committee members felt there are still many questions left unanswered in the current plans, and the need for the variances has not been demonstrated. City has left the case file open for 60 days for public input and comment. **LUC Recommended Action:** [see below Motion].

At this Meeting Mr. Wolf relayed that the Church indicated “they’re going to make some significant design changes . . . [but] the current designs are not in accordance with the Park Mile Plan.” Mr. Welborne “strongly urges the Board to endorse the recommendation of the” Committee to oppose the project; he also suggested and it was agreed to correct the above to read “The application was recently revised in an attempt to bring plans into compliance with the Park Mile Specific Plan . . .”

MOTION (by Mr. Dougherty, seconded by Mr. Genewick): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council opposes the CUP application of the Eastern Presbyterian Church at 4270 W. 6th St.

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote.

B. Letter to City Council Urging Support for Telecommunications Regulations for Equipment in the Public Right-of-Way.

Issue: Interested groups from around the City are lobbying the City Attorney’s office to complete a report directed by the Public Works Committee as a first step in the drafting of a comprehensive new city ordinance to regulate wireless telecommunications equipment. The GWNC has adopted an interim policy on telecommunications equipment for the GWNC area.

LUC Recommended Action: [see below Motion].

At this Meeting Ms. Lombard distributed a draft letter for the GWNC to send to the City Attorney’s Office “to encourage completion of the C.A.’s cell tower report.”

MOTION (by Ms. Lombard, seconded by Mr. Dougherty): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council will send a letter urging the City Attorney’s office to complete its cell tower report and will send another letter to the City Council urging it to Agendize the wireless telecommunications Ordinance discussions as soon as possible.

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote.

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

C. Conversion of 9-unit apartment bldg. 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. Applicant has appeared before the Land Use Committee to describe her business, clientele and mission, and has agreed to make certain conditions part of the application. Neighbors have expressed concerns regarding parking and the scale of the project, as well as the precedent it sets and the permanence of the permissions being requested. Land Use Committee members have expressed concerns about lack of (indoor and/or outdoor) recreation space in the plans, as well as parking and other issues. The Committee has requested that plan revisions and conditions be put in writing before any GWNC vote is taken.

D. Conversion of service station to 7-11 at Olympic/Wilton.

Issue: A CUP application has been filed requesting several variances and permissions for the conversion of an existing service station to a 7-11 with a convenience store and gas pumps. Requests include commercial corner provisions, 24-hour operation and sales of beer and wine. Applicants have a petition in support of the project from neighboring business owners, but residential neighbors of both Country Club Heights and Wilshire Park have submitted letters and petitions opposing the project. Applicants have expressed willingness to address the neighbors' concerns, through revisions or alternatives to current plans. Land Use Committee members have recommended the applicants and neighbors continue their talks and planning process before any GWNC vote is taken.

E. Yeshivath Torath Emeth Academy CUP Update.

Issue: School's application for a CUP to convert a single-story preschool building to a three-story school building at Sycamore and Clinton has been approved, despite significant objections from neighbors who have cited ongoing issues with the school's traffic, parking, noise and CUP compliance at its other buildings in the neighborhood. (The GWNC previously voted to support the neighbors in their opposition to the application.) Neighbors are now pursuing a nuisance abatement case against the school (which the GWNC also previously voted to support) and asked that the GWNC send letters stating that support to the appropriate city officials.

F. CUP Application for Extension of Hours and Compliance Review Periods at Yavneh Academy (5353 W. 3rd St.).

Issue: School has applied to revise two conditions in its current CUP, requesting permission to stay open later at night for several specific high-holiday celebrations, and an extension from two years to five years in its scheduled compliance reviews. The Hancock Park Homeowners' Association (est. 1948) has voted to support the request for extended hours, but not the extended compliance review period. Representatives for both the school and the neighborhood association voiced their concerns to the Land Use Committee, which urged the two groups to continue their talks to see if a compromise plan can be reached that would be agreeable to all parties before any GWNC vote is taken.

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

- Update on cell phone poles proposed for 1st/Willton & 9th/Mansfield.
- Discussion on possible drafting of GWNC checklist and policy regarding CUP applications involving liquor sales.
- Condo project at 4661 Wilshire Blvd. (at Rimpau).

15. Public Comments

Mr. Wolf noted Ms. Fuller's outstanding work and contributions to the Land Use Committee and the GWNC.

16. Announcements and Adjournment

Next meeting: Wednesday, July 13, 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Smith declared and the Board agreed to **ADJOURN** the Meeting at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
David Levin
Minutes Writer