



Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council General Meeting
July 11, 2012
MINUTES
Approved by the Board, 8/8/12

1. Call to Order (Owen Smith)

A duly noticed meeting of the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council (“GWNC”) Board of Directors was held on Wednesday, July 11, 2012, at the Ebell of Los Angeles, 743 S. Lucerne Blvd., Los Angeles. President Owen Smith called the meeting to order at 7:02 p. m.

2. Roll Call (Elizabeth Fuller)

Ms. Fuller called the roll. Board Members in attendance at the roll call were: Elizabeth Fuller, John Gresham, Bill Funderburk (Alternate for Steven Katz), Frances McFall, Clinton Oie (Alternate for David Lunzer), Jason Peers, Owen Smith and Greg Wittman. Larissa Alarcon, Patricia Carroll, Charles D’Atri, Jack Humphreville and Patricia Lombard (Alternate for Barbara Kumetz) arrived later. Board Members absent and not represented by an Alternate: Yigal Arens, Charles Dougherty, Jane Gilman, Alex Jones-Moreno, Mary Rajswing, Benjamin Rosenberg, Jane Usher and James Wolf. Also attending: 15 Stakeholders and guests.

Eight of the 21 Board Members or their Alternates 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.

3. Approval of the Minutes (Elizabeth Fuller)

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Board Member Patricia Lombard arrived during Item #6. A.]

MOTION (by Mr. Gresham, seconded by Mr. D’Atri): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its June 13, 2012 General Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote.

4. President’s Report (Owen Smith)

A. Board Vacancies

- i. Candidate for Area 9 (Oakwood-Maplewood-St. Andrews) Alternate vacancy:
Mercedes Simonian.

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #5. C.] Ms. Simonian could not be present so no action was taken

- ii. Remaining vacancies:

Mr. Smith noted the vacancies:
Area 1 – Brookside – Alternate
Area 2 (Citrus Square) – Alternate
Area 12 (We-Wil) – Alternate
Renter – Alternate

Board Member Jack Humphreville arrived at this time, making nine Board Members present, four short of the GWNC quorum of 13.

B. Ethics Training

Mr. Smith noted the following. Board Members and Alternates who have not yet completed the training: D’Atri, Funderburk, Kumetz, Rosenberg, Dwyer, Fox, Katz, Lombard, Rubin, Wittman. You MUST complete the course at <http://ethics.lacity.org/education/ethics2007/?audience=done>.

5. Local Government Updates

A. CD4 Update (Ben Seinfeld)

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #9.] 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 there will be a July 18th Meeting regarding Wilshire Blvd. improvements. Mr. Gresham noted and Mr. Seinfeld will speak with Renee Weitzer regarding illegal business signage along Crenshaw Blvd.

B. CD5 Update (John Darnell)

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

C. 42nd Assembly District Update (Nicole Carcel)

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #7. C.] Nicole Carcel, Field Representative for State 42nd District Assemblyman Mike Feuer (310-285-5490; Nicole.Carcel@asm.ca.gov), noted AB 1446, which would extend Measure R. The Governor signed the Assemblyman’s “Homeowners Rights act” to help prevent foreclosures.

6. Treasurer’s Report and Budget Items (Patti Carroll)

A. Monthly budget report/approval – June/July.

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #13.] Ms. Carroll distributed and reviewed the “Monthly Spending Report – June 1 – July 10, 2012,” allocations and Demand Warrants and reported that the DONE [L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment] website GWNC financial information has not been updated since November 2011.

Board Member Patricia Lombard (Alternate for Barbara Kumetz) arrived at this time, making a quorum of 13 Board Members present. Now the Board could take binding votes on Agendized Items.

[The following Motion was made after Item #3.]

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. D’Atri, seconded by Mr. Gresham): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves its “Monthly Spending Report – June 13 – July 10, 2012.”

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a voice vote.

B. Discussion and Approval of 2012-2013 Annual Budget.

Ms. Carroll distributed and reviewed the “GWNC Draft Budget 2012-2013.” The Annual Budget will be \$37,000. Ms. Fuller added that funding could be saved if another Meeting space is found, such as at the Wilshire United Methodist Church where the Land Use Committee Meetings are held at a cost of \$25 per Meeting. Ms. Fuller announced that she will not be running in the Election and recommended that an administrative assistant be hired to do some of the work that the Secretary has handled in the past (which has been accounted for in the draft budget).

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. D’Atri, seconded by Mr. Gresham): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves its Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Annual Budget.”

DISCUSSION: Ms. Carroll and others clarified that Budget allocations can be changed anytime by a Board vote.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a voice vote.

7. Community Concerns / Public Comments

A. Efforts to open shared school/community park space at Wilshire Crest Elementary School. (Sheila Irani)

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #14.] Ms. Irani explained logistics and reported that many groups would like the property to be used as a park. Which part of the park, what time of the year and repairs needed are being considered. She requested a letter of support and funding. The project is estimated to cost \$6,500; the AYSO committed to \$5,000. Ms. Fuller noted and Ms. Irani agreed to complete a Neighborhood Purpose Grant [NPG] form and bring it to the August 8th GWNC Board Meeting.

B. Motion of support for Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council’s efforts to restore the Griffith Park Youth Ball Field (Mark Mauceri) Mr. Mauceri had to go out of town at the last minute and requested that this item be re-agendized for August.

C. Stakeholder Joan Taylor

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #2.] Ms. Taylor opposes the California High-Speed Rail Project’s “exorbitant” cost and believes it is not needed.

8. DWP Oversight (Jack Humphreville)

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #4. B.] Mr. Humphreville reported that an August 22nd Hearing will be held regarding a proposed rate increase that would go into effect in July 2013.

Board Member Larissa Alarcon arrived at this time, making 10 Board Members present, three short of the GWNC quorum of 13.

9. City Budget Issues (Humphreville)

Mr. Humphreville reported that the City declared a “fiscal emergency.”

Board Member Charles D’Atri arrived at this time, making 11 Board Members present, two short of the GWNC quorum of 13.

10. Old Business

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #17.] Discussion and possible Motion to approve up to \$150 purchase of U.S. flag for GWNC meetings.

MOTION (by Mr. D’Atri, seconded by Ms. McFall): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves allocating up to \$150 to purchase a U.S. flag for GWNC meetings.

DISCUSSION: The Ebell and schools already may have an available flag.

AMENDED MOTION (by Ms. Fuller, accepted by Mr. Humphreville, seconded by Ms. McFall): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves allocating up to \$150 to purchase a U.S. flag for GWNC meetings if the meeting place does not already have a flag.

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote.

11. New Business

There was no new business at this time.

12. Election Committee (John Gresham)

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #5. A.] Mr. Gresham requested to have all Board Members’ contact information. Candidate Filing Forms will be available online and on paper in August. Candidate outreach is needed for the October 28th Election.

Board Member Patricia Carroll arrived at this time, making 12 Board Members present, one short of the GWNC quorum of 13.

13. Traffic and Transportation Committee (Gerda McDonough)

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #7. A.] It was reported that there was no Meeting in July

14. Outreach Committee (Mary Rajswing)

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #15.] Ms. Rajswing was out of town and the committee did not meet in July. Ms. Fuller reported that a Citizen Recognition Award nomination was received and is being considered.

15. Board Member Comments

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #12.] Mr. Humphreville announced a July 20th Community Care Facilities Ordinance Meeting.

16. Public Comments

[The following comment was made after Item #4. B.] Stakeholder Robbie O'Donnell reported that the Wilshire Park Historic Register Application was accepted and is "on the schedule for the final round."

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

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #6. B.] [*The below Item's first paragraph is directly from the Agenda.*]

Conversion of 9 apartments to board and care facility (901 S. Wilton)

Issue: GWNC previously voted to oppose this application, based on opposition from neighbors and questions regarding density, parking, amenities, and daily operations of the facility. Since their hearing with the Zoning Administrator, however, the applicants have made changes in their plans and the ZA has held the case file open to give the applicants time to present the revisions to neighbors and the GWNC. The architects did meet with the Wilshire Park Association in June, but the facility's owners were not present at that meeting, so neighbors' questions regarding daily operations went unanswered. The applicants were also scheduled to present their revisions at the June 26 GWNC Land Use Committee meeting, but were unable to make it to the meeting because of an emergency. The applicants do plan to attend this full Board meeting, for presentation of their revisions and further discussion. **LUC**

Recommended Motion: That the GWNC (which so far has not been able to discuss the revised plans with the architects or owners) continue to support the Wilshire Park Association and other neighbors and oppose the conversion of 9 apartment units to a board and care facility at 901 S. Wilton.

Ms. Fuller described the project. Mr. Gresham, Mr. Humphreville and Mr. Funderburk objected to the Board re-considering the project without it having been heard first by the Land Use Committee. Marco Rojas, Architect, Wilton Haven Corp., who represents the owner, distributed copies of a letter and schematic drawings and relayed that the owner is reducing the number of living units from 26 to fifteen. Parking spaces will be increased from two to six. Residents will not be allowed to drive.

MOTION (by Mr. Humphreville, seconded by Ms. McFall): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council supports the original recommendation of its Land Use Committee to oppose the application to convert nine apartment units to a Board and Care Facility at 901 S. Wilton.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Gresham clarified that it would be an "unlicensed facility."

AMENDED MOTION (by Ms. Lombard, accepted by Mr. Humphreville, seconded by Ms. McFall): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council continues to support the recommendation of its Land Use Committee to oppose the application to convert nine apartment units to a Board and Care Facility at 901 S. Wilton.

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote.

Potential Agenda Items for July 24 LUC Meeting: Review of recent Early Planning Notices in the GWNC area.

18. Announcements and Adjournment

Next meeting: Wednesday, August 8, 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Smith declared and the Board agreed to **ADJOURN** the Meeting at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
David Levin
Minutes Writer