



Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council General Meeting
August 10, 2011
Approved by the Board 9/14/11

1. Call to Order

A duly noticed meeting of the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council (“GWNC”) Board of Directors was held on Wednesday, August 10, 2011, 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

The Assistant Secretary called the roll. Board Members in attendance at the roll call were: Patricia Carroll, Charles Dougherty, Jane Gilman, Alex Jones-Moreno, Frances McFall, Robby O’Donnell (Alternate for John Gresham), Fred Pickel, Mary Rajswing, Owen Smith, Margaret Sowma (Alternate for Jane Usher) and James Wolf. Charles D’Atri and Jane Usher arrived later (Ms. Usher replacing Ms. Sowma). One Board seat (Area 9, Oakwood-Maplewood-St. Andrews) is vacant. Also attending: 20 Stakeholders and guests. Board Members absent and not represented by an Alternate: Yigal Arens, Elizabeth Fuller, Jack Humphreville, Barbara Kumetz, David Lunzer, Clinton Oie, Matt Oldham and Benjamin Rosenberg.

Eleven of the 20 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

Mr. Smith explained that no vote was taken to approve the Minutes of the July 13, 2011 General Board Meeting because a voting quorum of Board Members was not present.

4. President’s Report (Owen Smith)

A. Board Vacancies.

Remaining vacancies – please recruit:

Area 2 (Citrus Square) – Alternate

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

Area 12 (We-Wil) – Alternate

Education – Alternate

Other Non-Profit – Alternate

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)
Mr. Smith indicated that Mr. Welborne was unable to attend this Meeting and there was no report.
- C. Ethics Training – Board Members and Alternates who have not yet completed the training: Carroll, D'Atri, Kumetz, Oldham, Pickel, Rajswing, Rosenberg, Dwyer, Fox, Kaliski, Katz, Lombard, Rubin. You MUST complete the course at <http://ethics.lacity.org/education/ethics2007/?audience=done>
Mr. Smith noted the above.
- D. Secretary and Treasurer Transitions – Call for volunteers: need Treasurer ASAP!
Mr. Smith indicated that there were no volunteers at this time.

5. Guest Speaker: Doug Smith – LA Times Mapping Project.
[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #8. C.] Ms. Gilman introduced Doug Smith.

Board Member Jane Usher arrived at this time, replacing her Alternate Margaret Sowma, keeping the number of Board Members present at 11, two short of the GWNC quorum of 13.

Doug Smith described history, reasons for and uses of the Mapping Project, which provides crime, schools and other information. Many Board Members and other Stakeholders expressed strong concerns that Koreatown is mapped as including some of the Greater Wilshire area and that the Koreatown/Greater Wilshire shared boundary should be corrected on the Mapping Project to Western Ave. Ms. Usher was concerned that the Mapping Project splits Greater Wilshire at Larchmont Blvd., which is the center of Greater Wilshire. Doug Smith noted that “redistricting has nothing to do with the Mapping Project.” Owen Smith observed that the Greater Wilshire boundaries have been from LaBrea to Western and from Olympic to Melrose “for years.”

6. Local Government Updates

A. CD4 Update (Sheila Irani)

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

B. CD5 Update (John Darnell)

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #5.] John Darnell, Field Deputy for L.A. City District Five Councilman Paul Koretz (310-289-0353; John.Darnell@LACity.org), reported that there will be an Open House at the LAPD Wilshire Division Station (4861 W. Venice Blvd.; 213-473-0200; http://www.lapdonline.org/wilshire_community_police_station) on Sunday. The water main break repair on Sycamore Ave. will be “finished by the end of the month.”

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)

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. Treasurer's Report & Budget Items

A. Monthly budget report/approval (Owen Smith)

Ms. Carroll distributed the "Monthly Spending Report – July 1, 2011 – August 9, 2011" and "[GWNC] Budget for Fiscal Year 2011-2012" as of August 9, 2011. Mr. Smith explained that no vote was taken to approve the Treasurer's Report because a voting quorum of Board Members was not present.

B. YTD Spending Report (please note amounts available under COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENTS/OTHER (\$8,830) and OUTREACH/SPONSORSHIPS (\$1,000) categories in preparation for votes on requests in next agenda item).
The above were noted.

8. Community Concerns/Requests

A. John Burroughs Beautification Project Support Request (Joanne Madeiro)

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #6.] Ms. Madeiro distributed a "Green Space and Beautification Project" packet and reported that last week they "greened" the chain link fence; "the whole School has been completely transformed physically." She described the Project at the corner of Wilshire and South McCadden Pl. and would like Project funding. No vote was taken on the funding request because of the lack of a quorum. The item was Tabled until the September 14th Meeting.

B. ArtCycle Event Support Request (David Bell)

David Bell, East Hollywood Neighborhood Council President, distributed invitations, asked for funding and described the September 17th 2:00-10:00 ArtCycle event (www.ArtCycleLA.com) on Santa Monica Blvd. between Vermont and Virgil that NCs and other groups are supporting. No vote was taken on the funding request because of the lack of a quorum.

C. Larchmont Family Fair Participation (Jane Gilman)

A Fair booth application and "Larchmont Has Talent" flier were distributed. Ms. Gilman described the October 23rd Fair that needs a GWNC booth Chairperson. No vote was taken on the GWNC's participation because of the lack of a quorum. The item was Tabled until the September 14th Meeting.

9. DWP Oversight (Jack Humphreville)

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #6. B.] Mr. Humphreville was not able to attend and there was no report.

10. City Budget Issues (Jack Humphreville)

Mr. Humphreville was not able to attend and there was no report.

11. New Business

A. Citywide Sign Ordinance

A letter from Alan Bell, L.A. City Deputy Director of Planning (Alan.Bell@LACity.org; 213-978-1272), regarding the "proposed ordinance revising the citywide sign regulations, Council File 08-2020; 08-3386-S1" was distributed. Ms. Usher urged input to the City Council regarding the proposed Ordinance. For example, pilot projects could be grandfathered in under

the old rules and spaces on “interiors” of parcels could become unregulated. An official GWNC position could not be taken because of the lack of a quorum. The item was Tabled until the September 14th Meeting.

B. California Redistricting

A “Do not split the Historic Greater Wilshire Neighborhood in half” letter from “Greater Wilshire Neighbors,” including some GWNC Board Members, was distributed. Ms. Usher described that areas of the State, County and City are being redistricted; a new Congressional border would be Larchmont Blvd., splitting Greater Wilshire’s voting power. See www.WeDrawTheLines.com. She requested to keep this Item on the Agenda until the City Council redistricting is done and to form an ad hoc committee to address this.

Board Member Charles D’Atri arrived at this time, making 12 Board Members present, one short of the GWNC quorum of 13.

Ms. Rajswing acknowledged the presence of Wilshire Center/Koreatown Neighborhood Council (<http://wcknc.org>) Board Member Michael Russell. Mr. Russell later invited everyone to the LAPD Olympic Division CPAB (Community Police Advisory Board) (<http://www.OlympicCPAB.org>) Meeting on Thursday, September 1st at 6:30 p.m. at the Olympic Division Police Station, 1130 S. Vermont Ave. (213-382-9102; http://www.lapdonline.org/olympic_community_police_station).

C. 4th Street Traffic Signals at Highland & Rossmore

Mr. Pickel described that Stakeholders are concerned that a stoplight at Highland and Rossmore would cause more neighborhood “cut-through traffic.” He recommended attending the Hancock Park Neighborhood Association Annual Meeting in October.

12. **Outreach Committee** (Gilman/Arens/Carroll)

Upcoming meeting speakers/events (organizers in parentheses):

September 14 – Assembly Member Mike Feuer and a representative from the Department of Public Works (Gilman/Fuller)

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

November 9 – Trust for Public Land (Patti Carroll)

Other? – LAPD Wilshire & Olympic Division Captains

Ms. Carroll reviewed the speakers. Ms. Usher requested and Ms. Gilman agreed to schedule the LAPD Olympic Division Captain to speak sooner than December.

13. **Other Committee/Project Reports**

There were no other reports.

14. **Board Member Comments**

There were no other Board Member comments or new business.

15. **Land Use Committee** (LUC) (James Wolf)

Mr. Wolf noted that the following items are presented for information only. No action is requested or required at this time:

A. Conversion of Apartments to Board and Care Facility – 901 S. Wilton.

Issue: Owner and representatives presented updated plans for the conversion of an 8-unit apartment building to a 22-bed licensed board and care facility. The project is seeking entitlements for density and parking. Neighbors expressed concerns about both issues, as well as vagueness in some aspects of the project description. Owner indicated she might be willing to reduce the density slightly. LUC members recommended that owners and neighbors continue their discussions and that the owners return when agreements have been reached, with more clearly delineated versions of their building plans.

B. Eastern Presbyterian Church expansion plans – 4720 W. 6th St.

Issue: The project representative reported that the project's architects and representatives are currently working on significant changes in the project's plans, and will report back to the GWNC when those changes are ready to present.

C. Condo construction project – 4661 Wilshire/664 S. Rimpau.

Issue: Representative presented current plans for the by-right project, which has also been extensively reviewed by the Park Mile Specific Plan Design Review Board. LUC members requested that more attention be paid to specific details such as window elements/design, material choices and other, more decorative features.

D. Won Jo Kokerang Agurang Restaurant CUP – 533 S. Western.

Issue: Project representatives presented plans for a new seafood restaurant, which is requesting a beer and wine license. LUC members recommended that representatives return after putting certain voluntary conditions into writing, including: that food be served during all hours of operation, there be no outdoor music, a valet parking plan be firmly in place, there be a 1-year review on the 2 am closing hour (and if there are any complaints that it be rolled back to midnight), and that the loading zone in front of the restaurant during daytime hours be re-purposed as a valet zone in the evening.

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

- Update on LA Tennis Club parking variance application.
- Update on cell phone poles proposed for 1st/Wilton & 9th/Mansfield.
- Genwa Barbeque Restaurant Expansion Plans at 5115 Wilshire Blvd.
- Senior Apartments planned for 4114 W. 9th St.

16. Public Comments [the second Agenda Item #12.]

There were no other public comments.

17. Announcements and Adjournment [the second Agenda Item #13.]

Mr. Smith announced the next General Board Meeting of Wednesday, September 14, 2011, 7:00 p.m. here.

Mr. Smith declared and the Board agreed to **ADJOURN** the Meeting at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
David Levin
Minutes Writer