

# Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council



## Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council General Meeting

September 14, 2005

Approved by the Board,  
as written, on 11/2/05

### FINAL MINUTES

A duly noticed meeting of the Board of Directors of the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council was held on Wednesday, September 14, 2005, at The Ebell of Los Angeles, 4400 Wilshire Boulevard. Greg Nelson, General Manager of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment called the meeting to order at approximately 7:20 p.m.

Board of Directors members in attendance were: Yigal Arens, Chickie Byrne, Arnold Castaneda, Moon Chung, Cindy Chvatal, Charles Dougherty, Roy Forbes, Elizabeth Fuller, Tom Gibbons, Jane Gilman, Rudolph Gintel, Margaret Hudson, Lisa Hutchins, Arlin Low, Shemaya Mandelbaum, Norman Murdoch, Susan O'Connell, Van Dyke Parks, Mary Rajswing, Thomas Roe, Ruth Silveira, Jolene Snett, Baruch Twersky, Jane Usher, Robert Wishart, James Wolf, John A. Woodward III, and Gary Zeiss. The following absent Directors were represented by their Alternates (noted in parentheses): Carolyn D. Bennett (Jon Vein), Larry Eisenberg (Gary Gilbert), and Michael Rosenberg (Stanley Treitel).

Mr. Nelson noted that all 31 Directors were represented in person or by an Alternate and that a quorum was present. Councilman Tom LaBonge congratulated the Council at its first official meeting. He introduced firefighters from Fire Station 29 who had made their station available for the recent election, which drew the highest number of voters in any neighborhood council election in the City's history. Councilman LaBonge administered an oath of office to the Board members.

#### Election of Officers

Mr. Nelson began the election of officers and, after the election of the President, turned the remainder of the meeting over to him. Each officer was unanimously elected as follows: Charles Dougherty, President; Cindy Chvatal, Vice President; Jane Gilman, Secretary; and Susan O'Connell, Treasurer.

### Public Comments

Several of the members of the audience had comments. John Welborne called Board members' attention to a number of points from the Bylaws and the Election Procedures that he believed needed addressing relatively soon. The Board is to appoint Stakeholders to fill the five vacant Alternate positions. The Independent Election Administrator or DONE is to turn all Election materials over to the Council, which shall maintain them for six months and then destroy them. New Board members must, within seven days of the first Board meeting, submit name and contact information (on a form prescribed by DONE).

Michael Cornwell thanked John Gresham for his many years of dedicated service as interim co-chairman, and all present gave sustained applause in honor of Mr. Gresham. Tina Mata suggested that the Council should make affordable housing an agenda item. Peggy Giffin, an election volunteer, suggested that the Election Procedures and Bylaws be reviewed as soon as possible, including to specify the 18-year-old minimum voting age, to develop more of a "one person, one vote" approach, and to not slight "homeowners," the largest category of Stakeholders in the Council area. Jack Humphreville suggested the Council could respond to the DWP's request for a revenue study, but noted that there was insufficient time available to respond intelligently. Frances McFall asked the Board to consider including the Pledge of Allegiance as a part of future meetings. William O'Neill asked if there are additional functions for the Alternates. John Gresham mentioned that there are many City and other agencies looking for contact and liaison representatives from neighborhood councils. An example is Controller Laura Chick's office which is seeking a representative or representatives in connection with audit activities.

### Board Member Comments

Tom Gibbons noted that the meetings should provide amplification for those speaking. Stanley Treitel suggested that the Board and its officers should prioritize what will be the activities and committees of the Board. Arlin Low mentioned a communication from a Silverlake area neighborhood council seeking other councils' support for a proposal that neighborhood councils be allowed to open official City Council files.

### New Business

#### a. Next Meeting Date

President Charlie Dougherty reminded Board members that the Bylaws now provide that Board meetings are to be held every other month on the second Wednesday of the month. Therefore, the next regular meeting will be on Wednesday, November 9, at

7 p.m. The Board also agreed to schedule a “Board Orientation” meeting with DONE staff on Wednesday, November 2, to take no more than two hours. Both meeting places are to be determined, and Deanna Stevenson, of DONE, offered to work with the officers to find a location or locations.

b. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

President Charlie Dougherty asked Jane Usher to gather together information and suggestions about the Board Rules and Bylaws to present at the next meeting, and he asked other interested Directors and Stakeholders to contact Jane if they wish to participate. Gary Zeiss volunteered to get a website up and running, and Liz Fuller and several other Board members offered to contribute to that effort. Roy Forbes was asked to learn from John Gresham what are the multitude of liaison opportunities available and to report on those at the next meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m. in memory of the victims of 9/11 and of the recent Katrina hurricane and flooding.

Respectfully submitted

Jane Gilman  
Secretary