



Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council General Meeting  
October 10, 2012  
Approved by the Board, 11-14-12

**1. Call to Order**

A duly noticed meeting of the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council (“GWNC”) Board of Directors was held on Wednesday, October 10, 2012, at the Ebell of Los Angeles, 743 S. Lucerne Blvd., Los Angeles. Vice-President James Wolf called the meeting to order at 7:09 p. m.

**2. Roll Call** (Elizabeth Fuller)

Ms. Fuller called the roll. Board Members in attendance at the roll call were: Larissa Alarcon, Yigal Arens, Patricia Carroll, Betty Fox (Alternate for Charles Dougherty), Elizabeth Fuller, Jane Gilman, John Gresham, Frances McFall, Clinton Oie (Alternate for David Lunzer), Jason Peers, Mary Rajswing, Jane Usher and James Wolf. Charles D’Atri, Jack Humphreville, Patricia Lombard (Alternate for Barbara Kumetz) and Greg Wittmann arrived later. Board Members absent and not represented by an Alternate: Alex Jones-Moreno, Steven Katz, Benjamin Rosenberg and Owen Smith. Also attending: 19 Stakeholders and guests.

Thirteen of the 21 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.

**3. Approval of the Minutes** (Elizabeth Fuller)

**MOTION** (by Ms. Usher, seconded by Ms. Fox): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its September 12, 2012 General Meeting as written.

**MOTION PASSED** by a voice vote without any objections.

*Board Member Jack Humphreville arrived at this time.*

**4. President’s Report** (Owen Smith)

A. City Budget Representatives – GWNC must select two people to represent the NC at the Mayor’s Budget Day.

Fliers were available for the Mayor’s Community Budget Day Saturday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. at City Hall [register at [https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MCB\\_Day\\_2012](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/MCB_Day_2012)]. Mr. Wolf noted that Mr. Humphreville and Fred Mariscal have been and volunteered to continue representing the GWNC.

## **5. GWNC Elections**

### **A. Introduction of candidates running for GWNC Board Seats.**

Mr. Gresham reported that there are 34 Candidates. Mr. Wolf invited Candidates to introduce themselves. Candidates Jeff Carpenter, Frances McFall, Irene McFall (no relation to Frances) and James Wolf spoke about their community interests, experience and goals. Dr. Fred Pickel spoke on behalf of Bill Funderburk.

*Patricia Lombard (Alternate for Board Member Barbara Kumetz) arrived at this time.*

Candidate Patricia Lombard then spoke.

*Board Member Charles D'Atri arrived at this time.*

Ms. Fuller noted that Candidate Michael Bircumshaw is in Area 6 – La Brea-Hancock, not “Business” as listed. Then, Candidates Charles D’Atri, Fred Mariscal, Patricia Carroll, Kathleen Mulligan, Sue Horwitz, John Gresham, Jack Humphreville and Betty Fox spoke. John Gresham announced that Robert Ahn had to attend another meeting. Clinton Oie, Karen Gilman and Jane Usher also spoke.

### **B. Candidate Education Workshops and election information.**

Alisa Smith, Independent Election Administrator (IEA) (213.910.3491; Alisa@EmpowerLA.org), announced that all 34 Candidates were verified. She encouraged contacting her with any questions and recruiting three to five non-Candidate volunteers as Poll Workers. She explained that Candidates can help set up and break down, and observe ballot counting. She described the voting process.

### **C. Further information.**

Mr. Gresham distributed “Voting information for GWNC Board Elections” fliers and “Candidates for GWNC Board Elections” information packets and encouraged outreach to recruit voters.

## **6. Local Government Updates**

### **A. CD4 Update (Ben Seinfeld)**

John Darnell, Field Deputy for L.A. City District Five Councilman Paul Koretz (310-289-0353; John.Darnell@LACity.org), reported for Ben Seinfeld, Field Deputy for L.A. City District Four Councilman Tom LaBonge (213-485-3337; cell 213-804-2388; Ben.Seinfeld@LACity.org) that most of Wilshire Blvd. in the GWNC area will be re-paved, as will La Brea Blvd. Beverly, First and Second Streets are being re-paved.

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

See the above report.

### **C. 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), distributed copies of an “Assemblymember Mike Feuer, 42nd District 2012 Legislative Package” list and reported that Assembly Bill

1436, regarding same-day voter registration, passed; it is hoped to implement it by January 2015. AB 1437, regarding life insurance, would give 30 days notice of a possible insurance cut-off due to non-payment of a premium. The Assemblyman's last day in office will be December 4, 2012; he is not running for re-election. Ms. Carcel distributed Certificates of Recognition from the Assemblyman to all Board Members.

**7. Treasurer's Report and Budget Items (Patti Carroll)**

**A. Monthly Budget Report/Approval – Sept./Oct.**

Ms. Fuller, for Ms. Carroll who had been away, distributed and reviewed the "Monthly Spending Report – Sept. 1 – Oct. 10, 2012." There was no Purchase Card use this month. She reviewed "Invoices/Grants/Demand Warrants to be Submitted" and "Submitted Not Yet Paid." DONE (the L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment) "encumbered \$880" for our minutes writer, which had already been paid, in addition to other inaccurate charges; City Council District Four is requesting the City Council to restore the funding. Ms. Fuller also explained that, for two years, DONE was sending invoices meant for the GWNC to another Neighborhood Council, which yesterday provided them to the GWNC. \$49,311.15 in funding is now available (this will include payment of Demand Warrants left over from fiscal 2011-2012, which will now be charged to this year's increased budget instead of last year's).

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Mr. D'Atri, seconded by Mr. Gresham): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves its "Monthly Spending Report" as of Oct. 10, 2012.

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a voice vote of all 16 Board Members present.

**B. YTD Budget Report.**

Ms. Fuller distributed and reviewed the "[GWNC] Budget for Fiscal Year 2012-2013" as of "10-10-12."

**C. 2011-2012 Funding/Demand Warrants Status.**

[See above Item #7. A.]

**D. Budget Adjustments**

**i. \$86.79 to cover 2011 Demand Warrants**

Ms. Fuller explained this.

**ii. \$25.00 for extra Transportation Committee meeting (approved by Board in September)**

Ms. Fuller explained this.

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Ms. Usher, seconded by Mr. D'Atri): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves its adjusted "[GWNC] Budget for Fiscal Year 2012-2013" as of Oct. 10, 2012.

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a voice vote of all 16 Board Members present.

**8. DWP Oversight** (Jack Humphreville)

Mr. Humphreville reported that Ratepayer Advocate Dr. Fred Pickel “has done a very good job.” Power bills will increase 11 ½% over the next two years. DWP General Manager Ron Nichols and his staff “have done an excellent job . . . answering questions.” Mr. Humphreville said that “pet projects . . . labor negotiations” and transparency are still issues.

**9. City Budget Issues** (Humphreville)

Mr. Humphreville reminded everyone about the Saturday, November 17<sup>th</sup> Mayor’s Budget Day. He described City Budget challenges. A \$216 million deficit is projected for next Fiscal Year and \$327 million the Year after that; more service cuts and layoffs are possible. There will be a City Referendum regarding having a balanced City Budget. He described rising costs of pensions and increasing Neighborhood Councils’ strength through the NC Budget Advocates and other means to influence City decisions.

**10. Old Business**

There was no old business.

**11. New Business**

Mr. Humphreville relayed that the Windsor Square Association would like the GWNC’s support regarding *the Norton Triangle beautification project* at 6<sup>th</sup> and Norton. He requested, there were no objections and Mr. Wolf agreed to Agendize this for the next [November 14<sup>th</sup>] Meeting.

*Board Member Greg Wittman arrived at this time.*

Mr. Humphreville encouraged the GWNC to help form a regional alliance with other NCs in our area. Mr. Wolf recommended and Mr. Humphreville agreed to Chair an ad hoc Committee to research this.

*Board Member Frances McFall had to leave at this time.*

**12. Traffic and Transportation Committee** (Gerda McDonough)

Ms. McDonough reported that a Bike Planning Meeting was held at which Assembly Bill 2245, regarding creating bicycle lanes on a number of local streets to comply with State laws, and transportation infrastructure were discussed. Hancock Park residents submitted more than 200 responses to a survey.

*Board Member Jane Usher had to leave at this time.*

Mr. Humphreville said no traffic flow studies have been done regarding creating bicycle lanes on local streets. There was discussion regarding why this is being funded, part of which is from Measure R. Mr. Wolf encouraged participation to help ensure that the City Dept. of Transportation gets feedback and does proper studies. Ms. McDonough added that the City has not decided whether an Environmental Impact Report is needed.

**13. Outreach Committee** (Mary Rajswing)

A. Election outreach.

Ms. Rajswing announced and Ms. Fuller described that the GWNC created a “QR code” so Stakeholders can click on it for easy access to our website and Facebook pages. Ms. Smith clarified that Election Candidates are welcome to be at the Polling Place as long as they are at least 100 feet away. She described outreach and campaign procedures. Ms. Rajswing encouraged electronic “app” suggestions.

B. Larchmont Fair.

Ms. Rajswing updated about Fair preparations.

C. Citizen Recognition Award.

Ms. Rajswing will present at the November 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting the inaugural Award to Stakeholder John Welborne.

**14. Board Member Comments**

There were no other Board Member comments.

**15. Public Comments**

There were no public comments at this time.

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

*[Each Item's first paragraph is directly from the Agenda.]*

A. Proposed conversion of service station to 7-Eleven at 3481 W. Olympic Blvd.

**Issue:** The Land Use Committee has met several times with applicants and neighbors regarding a request to convert an existing 76 service station to a 7-Eleven at this location. Neighbors from all surrounding communities have expressed concerns about loitering, litter, traffic and other issues, but applicants have met with several of the groups and have worked out mutually-agreeable solutions to many of the potential problems. Current plans include crime prevention and mitigation features in the building's design and lighting, and a landscaping plan. Changes in the application, made in response to neighbor concerns include increased landscaping near entrances, hours of 5 a.m. to 1 a.m., prominently displaying fresh fruit and health foods, having no advertisements on storefront windows, improved lighting and contributing to maintenance of the pocket park across Olympic from the store. (This would involve annual payments to the association responsible for maintenance.) No security guard will be provided, but there will be 24-hour surveillance, with data retained for at least 3 months. The applicants are not applying for a liquor permit (this will be a “dry” store.)

**LUC Recommendation:** That the GWNC board support the application as presented, with the caveat that there be no increase in signage area on the existing pole sign.

Mr. Wolf read the Committee's recommendation.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Humphreville, seconded by Mr. D'Atri): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council Board supports the application as presented for the proposed conversion of the service station at 3481 W. Olympic Blvd. to a 7-Eleven, with the caveat that there be no increase in signage area on the existing pole sign.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Gresham noted that “this is a `dry’ 7-Eleven” with no alcohol to be sold and encouraged confirming compliance with the application’s conditions.

**MOTION PASSED** by a voice vote; Ms. Rajswing opposed.

B. Potential code violations at 610-614 S. Van Ness.

**Issue:** Neighbors and the Windsor Square Association have long been concerned about additional buildings and density at this property, which appear to be in violation of existing permits, codes and zoning. Although the property is zoned R-3, city records show it to contain a single-family dwelling and two vacant lots. There are, however, mailboxes on the property for six different addresses (604-620). One of the lots appears to contain an unpermitted garage, and the third is used as a parking lot, containing many more vehicles than one would expect for a single-family residence. Neighbors have contacted CD4 and the Dept. of Building and Safety to investigate the complaints, but request that GWNC add its voice to the chorus to ensure adequate enforcement.

**LUC Recommendation:** That GWNC strongly urge CD4 to investigate apparent building and zoning violations at 610 South Van Ness, and that that appropriate legal actions be taken for any violations or Orders to Comply.

Mr. Wolf described the purpose of the recommendation and issues, and Mr. Gresham described appearances at the property.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Gresham, seconded by Ms. Fox): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council Board strongly urges City Council District Four to investigate apparent building and zoning violations at 610 South Van Ness, and requests that appropriate legal actions be taken for any violations of Orders to Comply.

**MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a voice vote.

Mr. Wolf reviewed potential Agenda Items for the October 23rd LUC Meeting:

- Review of proposed GWNC policy on liquor license applications
- Review of recent Early Planning Notices in the GWNC area
- Updates on possible construction/permit violations at 810-834 S. La Brea and 110 N. Gramercy, code violations at 610 S. Van Ness, illegal hostel at 265 S. Gramercy and appeal of tract map for 5110 Melrose.

## **17. Announcements and Adjournment**

Mr. Wolf announced the next meeting here Wednesday, November 14, 7:00 p.m. Mr. Wolf and Mr. Gresham reminded everyone to vote.

Mr. Wolf declared the Meeting **ADJOURNED** without any objections at 9:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
David Levin  
Minutes Writer