



Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council General Meeting
November 13, 2013
MINUTES

1. **Call to Order** (Owen Smith)

A duly noticed Meeting of the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council (“GWNC”) Board of Directors was held on Wednesday, November 13, 2013, at the Ebell of Los Angeles, 743 S. Lucerne Blvd., Los Angeles. President Owen Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 p. m.

2. **Roll Call** (Jeffrey Carpenter)

Secretary Jeffrey Carpenter called the roll. Fifteen of the 21 Board Members were present at the beginning of the Meeting: Jeffrey Carpenter, Ann Eggleston, Betty Fox, John Gresham, Fred Mariscal, Frances McFall, Jeff McManus, Clinton Oie, Jason Peers, Joane Pickett, Owen Smith, Jane Usher, Daniel Whitley, Greg Wittmann and James Wolf. Barbara Savage (Alternate for William Funderburk), Patricia Carroll, Michael Genewick, Jack Humphreville and Patricia Lombard arrived later. Board Members absent and not represented by an Alternate: Briana Valdez. 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. All 21 Board Seats were filled. No Board Seats were vacant (some Alternate Seats were vacant). Also attending: 20 Stakeholders and guests.

3. **Approval of the Minutes** (Jeffrey Carpenter)

MOTION (by Ms. Usher, seconded by Mr. Oie): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its September 11, 2013 and October 9, 2013 General Meetings as written.

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote with no objection.

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

A. Board Vacancies

Alternates still needed for: Area 2 (Citrus Square); Area 9 (Oakwood-Maplewood-St. Andrews); Area 12 (We-Wil); Other Non-Profit; and Religion. Mr. Smith noted the vacancies.

B. Ethics and Funding Training

[The following two paragraphs and lists are directly from the Agenda.] All Board Members and alternates must complete ethics training in order to vote on funding motions before the Board. The course is available online at <http://ethics.laCity.org/education/ethics2007/?audience=done>. In addition to Ethics training, all Board Members and alternates are also REQUIRED to take a new funding training course (about the new system of NC checking accounts that will be launched this fall). The course is at <http://www.slideshare.net/EmpowerLA/nc-checking-account-training-62413>. The last page of the presentation contains a link <http://www.empowerla.org/Boardregistration> - to a completion form you can submit to

register your attendance. Board members and alternates **MUST** complete both trainings to be eligible to vote on funding-related matters.

The following tables show which Board Members and which Alternates have completed which trainings. Names in **BOLD** have completed both trainings and are eligible to vote on financial matters. Items marked with an asterisk (*) are self-verified and do not show up in DONE's posted results at <http://www.empowerla.org/gwnc> as of 11/8/13 (though some verifications may have been added since that date). Please note: DONE does not yet post results for our alternates (though we have requested that they do so).

Board Members:

Carpenter - Ethics, Funding
Carroll - Ethics, Funding
Eggleston - Ethics, Funding
Fox - Ethics
Funderburk - Ethics, Funding
Genewick - Ethics, Funding
Gresham expired - Funding (Ethics expired 2/13)
Humphreville - Ethics, Funding
Lombard - Ethics
Mariscal - Ethics, Funding
McFall, F. - Ethics, Funding
McManus - Ethics
Oie - Ethics, Funding
Peers - Ethics, Funding
Pickett - (Ethics expired 7/13)
Smith - Ethics, Funding
Usher - Ethics, Funding
Valdez - Ethics, Funding
Whitley - Ethics, Funding
Wittmann - Ethics, Funding
Wolf - (Ethics expired 1/12)

Alternates:

Chvatal (Wolf) -
D'Atri (Mariscal)-
Dougherty (Fox) -
Gilman (Usher) - Ethics, Funding
Horwitz (Eggleston) - Ethics
Karp (McManus) -
Kumetz (Lombard) -
McFall, I. (McFall, F.) - Ethics
McDonough (Oie) - Ethics, Funding
Mintz (Smith) -
Moser (Humphreville) - Funding
Mulligan (Carroll) - Ethics, Funding
O'Donnell (Gresham) - Ethics, Funding
Roseme (Valdez) -
Savage (Funderburk) - Ethics, Funding
Winther (Pickett) -

Copies of “Ethics and Funding Training – UPDATED 11/12/13” were distributed. Mr. Smith noted the above.

5. Local Government Updates

A. Mayor’s Office (Yeghig Keshishian)

Yeghig Keshishian, Central Area Representative for L.A. City Mayor Eric Garcetti, announced the Mayor will do a neighborhood walk in Pacoima on November 23rd.

Board Member Jack Humphreville arrived at this time.

B. CD4 Update (Ben Seinfeld)

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #5. C.]

Kristy Noochlaor, Field Deputy for L.A. City District Four Councilman Tom LaBonge (213-485-3337; Kristy.Noochlaor@LACity.org; <http://CD4.LACity.org>), reported “no movement” on the medical marijuana issue, but it did issue a stop work order for the proposed dispensary on Larchmont Blvd., because the owners used false information on their building permit application. Automatic trash compactors were installed on Larchmont Blvd. “The City has begun construction” on the shade structure at Robert Burns Park.

C. 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 the City is working to repair Highland Ave. medians. Copper wire theft is still a problem. Also, parts of La Brea Ave. will be resurfaced soon...and there is now a monthly crime watch meeting in the Willoughby/Sycamore area.

Barbara Savage (Alternate for William Funderburk) arrived at this time.

6. Community Concerns/Public Comments

A. Neighborhood Legislature Initiative (Crystal Litz)

Ms. Litz could not attend and there was no comment.

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

A. Monthly Budget Reports/Expenditures Approvals.

GWNC administrative and communications consultant Elizabeth Fuller distributed and reviewed for Ms. Carroll the GWNC “Budget for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 APPROVED by the Board on July 10, 2013 . . . remaining as of 11/13”; “Monthly Spending Report – Fiscal Year 2013-2014, as of 11/1/13”; and “Monthly Expenditure Report” for October 2013.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Whitley, seconded by Ms. Eggleston): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves its “Monthly Expenditure Report” for October 2013.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 13 eligible voters present with all 13 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Carpenter, Eggleston, Gresham, Humphreville, Mariscal, McFall, Oie, Peers, Savage, Smith, Usher, Whitley and Wittmann).

Ms. Fuller had distributed and reviewed the “Monthly Expenditure Report” for September 2013.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Whitley, seconded by Ms. Savage): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves its “Monthly Expenditure Report” for September 2013.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 13 eligible voters present with all 13 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Carpenter, Eggleston, Gresham, Humphreville, Mariscal, McFall, Oie, Peers, Savage, Smith, Usher, Whitley and Wittmann).

B. YTD Budget.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Humphreville, seconded by Mr. Mariscal): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves each of the individual expenses shown on the Monthly Expenditure Reports for September and October.”

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 13 eligible voters present with all 13 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Carpenter, Eggleston, Gresham, Humphreville, Mariscal, McFall, Oie, Peers, Savage, Smith, Usher, Whitley and Wittmann).

Ms. Fuller reported that Ms. Carroll is working with DONE [the L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment] to approve contracts with the Ebell and the Wilshire United Methodist Church for our annual meeting space expenses (this is the first year DONE has required a contract process, and individual NCs are not allowed to sign contracts). Ms. Carroll is also working to get DONE to approve the contract for Ms. Fuller’s services.

Board Members Patricia Carroll and Patricia Lombard arrived at this time.

Ms. Fuller explained the contract issue to City representatives Yeghig Keshishian, Ms. Noochlaor and Mr. Darnell so that they could help resolve it.

8. DWP Oversight (Jack Humphreville)

Mr. Humphreville reported that the DWP celebrated the 100th anniversary of the L.A. Aqueduct. He said “water rates are going up 40-50%” because of “low snowfall” and a large amount of “water being diverted to Owens Lake for dust control.” There is “probably . . . [a] 6-8% increase” coming for power.

Board Member Mike Genewick arrived at this time.

9. City Budget Issues (Humphreville)

Mr. Humphreville reported that the City has “record revenues . . . we’re going to have about a \$250 million deficit” mainly due to previous inaccurate economic assumptions.

10. Old Business

A. Update on prospective marijuana dispensary at 215 North Larchmont Blvd. (Pickett)

Ms. Pickett confirmed that the City Attorney’s office did send demand letters to the owners of Canto Diem and its attorney Frank Fox to cease and desist work at the site (because their building permit listed the use as a “beauty salon”) and there has been no visible work there since.

11. New Business

A. March 2014 GWNC Elections

i. Selection of Election Chair and Election Outreach Chair

Ms. Fuller reported that DONE has set our election date: Sunday, March 30, 2014. Ms. Savage volunteered as Election Chair; Mr. Mariscal volunteered as Election Outreach Chair.

ii. Proposed Bylaws Change Regarding Term Limits (see handouts)

Copies of a proposed “Bylaw Amendment Application” to DONE [the L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment] were distributed. Ms. Fuller explained that GWNC’s bylaws limit Board Members and Alternates to four two-year terms, which means eight of our current board members and alternates will be termed out and ineligible to run again in March unless we change our bylaws. She also noted that DONE did set a June 30, 2013 deadline for bylaws changes before the 2014 elections. Board members and officers agreed that the board should still pursue the change.

MOTION (by Ms. Lombard): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council changes the term limits in its Bylaws from four (4) two-year terms to six (6) two-year terms.

DISCUSSION: It was noted that term limits are not mandatory.

MOTION WITHDRAWN by Ms. Lombard.

MOTION (by Ms. Pickett, seconded by Mr. Mariscal): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council removes all term limits from its Bylaws.

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote with 17 in favor; two opposed (Peers, Fox).

iii. Election Stipulation Worksheet

Copies of a partially completed GWNC “Election Procedures Stipulation Worksheet” were distributed. Ms. Fuller explained the Worksheet. The Board agreed to have the March 30, 2014 Election from 12:00 – 4:00 p.m. at Wilshire Crest Elementary School.

12. Transportation Committee (Gerda McDonough)

A. Report on Metro Community Meeting at Peterson Museum, October 29

Ms. McDonough described the Meeting presentation. The Committee will discuss a “rubber wheel trolley,” local street conditions and safety conditions. She also reported that Metro working on relocating utilities at Wilshire and La Brea, in preparation for subway construction, between now and the end of December.”

13. Outreach Committee (Fred Mariscal)

A. Wrap-up of Larchmont Fair Activities

Mr. Mariscal thanked volunteers; about 35 Stakeholders signed up for the GWNC mailing list.

B. No meeting in October; next meeting Saturday, November 30.

Mr. Mariscal noted the above.

14. Board Member Reports and Comments

A. Update on Board member opt-out option for paper copies at Board Meetings, WiFi connection at Ebell (Wittmann).

Mr. Wittmann and other Board Members confirmed that some Board Members are able to connect to the Internet at the Ebell and some are not. There was discussion that Board Members can see documents online instead of having paper copies. Ms. Usher suggested and it was agreed that all Board Members will get only paper Agendas and financial documents at the Board Meetings. Mr. Wolf suggested and it was agreed that, as a transitional phase, the WiFi connection will be tested and paper copies of all documents will be provided at the next General Meeting.

B. BONC Recommendations for NC Reform (Carpenter)

Copies of a “Notice of Board Resolution” of eight “Motions before the Board of Commissioners and GWNC Responses to Recommended Motions” were distributed. Mr. Carpenter reviewed the ad hoc NC Plan Review Committee’s work regarding Motions and recommendations relating to proposed BONC policies. He reported that “we by and large supported the recommendations of” BONC; there was strong opposition to requiring all NC board members to complete training beyond ethics and funding (e.g. sexual harassment). The Committee recommended that Neighborhood Councils should be able to roll over funds into the next Fiscal Year.

MOTION (by Ms. Usher, seconded by Mr. Mariscal): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council accepts the report of its ad hoc NC Plan Review Committee.

MOTION to CALL FOR THE QUESTION (by Mr. Gresham); there were no objections

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a hand vote of all 20 Board Members present.

15. Public Comments

Ms. McFall reported that “the [“Koreatown”] medallions have been removed from Olympic and Western,” as requested by GWNC. Ms. Savage reported the La Brea-Hancock Neighborhood Association will meet November 17th and that longtime La-Hancock president (and former GWNC board member) Fred Pickel is moving out of the area. 3Twenty Wine Lounge Owner Edgar Pouresaugh offered his restaurant for small meetings. Steven Vincent distributed copies of a flier for the “Los Angeles Parking Freedom Initiative” (Facebook.com/LosAngelesParking; 657-464-PARK (7275); LAParkingFreedom@gmail.com) and described that they’re “working toward a ballot initiative . . . that serves the needs of all concerned.”

16. Land Use Committee (James Wolf)

A. **Application for CUB to serve a full line of alcoholic beverages at Trois Mec Restaurant (716 N. Highland).**

Issue: Trois Mec has occupied the old Raffalo’s space on Highland for several months. They are also expanding into the Tasty Thai space next door. The restaurant currently has about 60 seats. The expansion will provide another 20 seats, plus space for a waiting area and kitchen expansion. Owners are requesting permission to serve alcohol until 2 a.m., but the last dinner will be served at 10 p.m. Also requesting earlier service hours, so they can serve breakfast and lunch. There are 17 parking spaces on site; no valet is necessary. The other businesses in the complex (a donut shop and cleaners) have different hours from the restaurant, so most of the on-site parking is always available for restaurant use. There will be no alcohol sold without food purchase, no live music, no cover charges (patrons must

buy pre-paid tickets for their meals), and no happy hours. The owners will also volunteer the condition that any change in ownership would trigger a Plan Approval process.

LUC recommended motion: That the GWNC support the application.

Mr. Wolf described the project that is “potentially expanding into the dry cleaning space.”

MOTION (by Mr. Wolf, seconded by Ms. McFall): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council supports the application for a CUB Permit to serve a full line of alcoholic beverages at Trois Mec Restaurant at 716 N. Highland.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Wolf described that nearby restaurants serve alcohol and that “no one at the Land Use [Committee] Meeting raised any history of problems . . . it’s on-site consumption only . . . in conjunction with the sale of food.” Restaurant representative May Phutikanit said “there’s not a separate bar” And that there are only two meal seatings (of 2-3 hours duration) each night.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a hand vote.

B. City Council options for digital signs

Issue: The City Council is considering three recommendations for a new policy on digital billboards. One option would maintain current parameters and not allow digital billboards outside designated sign districts (although new sign districts could be created). The second option would allow a certain amount of off-site digital advertising, but only on land owned by the City of Los Angeles. The third option would allow new digital billboards outside sign districts on both public and private property. The first option would be the most restrictive; the third option would allow the greatest proliferation of digital billboards.

LUC recommended Motion: That the GWNC support Policy Option #1, which would prohibit new digital billboards outside designated sign districts.

Copies of a City Planning Dept. “Report on Citywide Sign Ordinance and Digital Off-Site Signage Options” were distributed. Mr. Wolf described the project.

MOTION (by Mr. Wolf, seconded by Mr. Carpenter): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council supports Policy Option #1, which would prohibit new digital billboards outside designated sign districts.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a hand vote.

C. Renewal of CUP for beer and wine sales at 3Twenty Wine Lounge (320 S. La Brea).

Issue: Owner Edgar Pouresaugh is seeking to renew the existing CUP (granted four years ago with extensive involvement of the GWNC in discussions of conditions and neighborhood concerns), with two changes: 1.) extending hours to 12 a.m., seven days a week (current closing time is 11 pm, Sunday-Thursday and 12 a.m. on Friday and Saturday)...and 2.) a longer CUB period before renewal is required the next time around. The award-winning business has no complaints on file with LAPD, and Mr. Pouresaugh has worked closely with the La Brea-Hancock Homeowners Association and nearby neighbors in the past. Committee members urged him to contact the neighbors again, before the renewal, to see if they have any new concerns, and he promised to do so.

LUC recommended Motion: That the GWNC support the renewal application. Copies of the CUB Application were distributed. Mr. Wolf described the project.

MOTION (by Mr. Wolf, seconded by Mr. Whitley): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council supports the renewal of the CUP for beer and wine sales at 3Twenty Wine Lounge at 320 S. La Brea.

DISCUSSION: Owner Edgar Pouresaugh described outreach on Sycamore; he “ended up speaking with more than half of the households . . . everybody was in support of us; nobody was opposed.” Ms. Savage noted that all neighbors contacted may not have understood what was being requested, but said the La Brea-Hancock Neighborhood Association had no issues with the renewal.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a hand vote.

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

D. CUP for drive-through Starbucks at 859 N. Highland/Gilmore Gas Station.

Issue: Starbucks is considering restoring the historic Gilmore Gas Station as a drive-through coffee house. No applications have been filed yet, but the architect (who is working closely with the Office of Historic Resources) says the original structure will be retained, there will be no indoor seating, and there will be a walk-up window with 20 patio seats in addition to the drive-through. Committee members were generally supportive and provided suggestions regarding parking, the traffic entrance path, landscaping and other details. Applicants will return with more details when they’ve filed their application.

E. 30-unit building at SE corner of Wilshire and Crenshaw.

Issue: This project is still being reviewed by the Park Mile Design Review Board, and further details will be presented to the GWNC at a later date.

F. Repeal of building line and continued use of two adjacent lots as parking lots at Kangnam Restaurant – 4103 W. Olympic.

Issue: The restaurant owners are seeking to legalize the longtime use of two lots adjacent to the restaurant as parking space. They have been discussing details with neighbors since their first appearance at the Land Use Committee in September, but have not yet met with the local HPOZ Board. Neighbors in attendance report that they have not had a problem with the long-time use of the lots, but would like to make sure that the lots revert to their original use if there is any change of ownership. They are also concerned about removal of the building line setting a precedent for other businesses in the area. The owners will continue their discussions with the neighbors and will return to the LUC after meeting with the HPOZ Board.

Other potential agenda items for future LUC meetings:

- Application for parcel map to divide a lot into two lots at 800 N. Sycamore
- Presentation on plans for mixed-use development at 5100 Wilshire Blvd. (Oasis Church site)
- Condo development at 853-859 S. Lucerne

[There was no Agenda Item #17.]

18. Announcements and Adjournment

Mr. Smith noted the next General Board Meeting date: Wednesday, December 11, 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Smith declared and the Board agreed to **ADJOURN** the Meeting at 8:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
David Levin
Minutes Writer