



Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council General Meeting
July 13, 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, July 13, 2011, at the Ebell of Los Angeles, 743 S. Lucerne Blvd., Los Angeles. President Owen Smith called the meeting to order at 7:10 p. m.

2. Roll Call

Secretary Elizabeth Fuller called the roll. Board Members in attendance at the roll call were: Yigal Arens, Charles D’Atri, Elizabeth Fuller, Jack Humphreville, David Lunzer, Frances McFall, Fred Pickel, Joane Pickett (Alternate for Jane Gilman), Owen Smith, Margaret Sowma (Alternate for Jane Usher) and James Wolf. Patricia Carroll and John Gresham arrived later. One Board seat (Area 9, Oakwood-Maplewood-St. Andrews) is vacant. Also attending: 16 Stakeholders and guests. Board Members absent and not represented by an Alternate: Charles Dougherty, Alex Jones-Moreno, Barbara Kumetz, Clinton Oie, Matt Oldham, Mary Rajswing, Benjamin Rosenberg,.

Eleven of the 20 Board Members 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.

Board Member Patricia Carroll arrived at this time.

3. Approval of the Minutes

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

MOTION (by Mr. Pickel, seconded by Mr. Gresham): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its June 8, 2011 General Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote.

4. President’s Report (Owen Smith)

A. Board Vacancies

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #4. A.] Mr. Smith reviewed the 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

B. Bylaws Conformation to DONE’s new uniform Table of Contents (John Welborne)
Mr. Welborne was unable to attend and there was no report.

C. Ethics Training –

An “Ethics Training Update – 7-13-11” was distributed showing which Board Members have and have not completed the Ethics Training. Current: Arens, Cox, Dougherty, Fuller, Genewick, Gilman, Gresham, Humphreville, Jones-Moreno, Lunzer, Mulligan, O’Donnell, Oie, Pickett, Smith, Sowma, Usher, Wolf. *[Note: the additional names were included on the updated list I handed out at the meeting.]* All others must take the training at <http://ethics.lacity.org/education/ethics2007/?audience=done>

D. Secretary & Treasurer Transition – Still need treasurer. Liz working out transfer of some secretarial duties to paid assistant (David Levin).

Mr. Smith noted that a Treasurer is needed. Ms. Fuller said she’s still doing Treasurer work and cannot continue to serve as both Secretary and Treasurer.

5. Guest Speakers – GWNC-area School Principals (15 minutes)

a. Jennifer Brent – Found Animals Foundation

Ms. Brent showed slides and described their mission to “reduce animal euthanasia in L.A.” Sixty-four percent of pets put in shelters are euthanized; an estimated \$50 million per year is spent in L.A. to shelter and euthanize animals. If not adopted, animals are euthanized four days after being sheltered. There’re an estimated one million feral cats in L.A.; 17,000 were spayed last year. She encouraged licensing and spaying or neutering pets; the Foundation charges \$25 to spay a female cat and \$15 to spay a male cat. Pets can be microchipped to help find them. The Foundation holds adoption events around L.A. A fundraising calendar is available. See <http://www.foundanimals.org/> for more information.

b. Karen Wagener – LAFD Foundation

Ms. Wagener said the Foundation (www.LAFD.org) is a non-profit corporation supporting the Fire Dept. that helps pay for training and equipment.

Board Member John Gresham arrived at this time, making a quorum of 13 Board Members. Now the Board could take binding votes on Agendized Items.

They have a tax-deductable vehicle donation program and you can “adopt a Fire Station.”

Board Member Jane Usher arrived at this time, relieving her alternate, Margaret Sowma.

6. Local Government Updates

A. CD4 Update (Sheila Irani)

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #3.] Sheila Irani, Field Deputy for L.A. City District Four Councilman Tom LaBonge (213-485-3337; 323-957-6415;

Sheila.Irani@LACity.org), reported that an earthquake preparedness guide is available.

She's working with the Police, Neighborhood Councils and Neighborhood Watches regarding the Western Ave. prostitution problem. She's also working with Ms. Fuller on developing open space as a park at the northern end of the Wilshire Crest Elementary School campus. She said there's limited funding available to patch and fix Wilshire Blvd. New LAPD Olympic Division Captain Tina Nieto (213-382-9039; 26900@LAPD.LACity.org; http://www.LAPDonline.org/olympic_community_police_station) replaced Captain Matt Blake. Ms. Usher and Mr. Gresham were concerned that the splitting of the Wilshire and Olympic divisions through the Greater Wilshire area has "pushed" crime into our neighborhoods. Mr. Smith asked and Ms. Irani agreed to ask Councilman LaBonge and Captain Nieto to speak to the GWNC.

B. CD5 Update (John Darnell)

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

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)

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #14. A.] Nicole Carcel, Field Representative for State 42nd District Assemblyman Mike Feuer (949-292-9303; Nicole.Carcel@asm.ca.gov), described some legislation and encouraged contacting Rebecca Martinez in their Sacramento office for transportation answers.

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. Community Concerns

Stakeholder Joan Taylor encouraged opposing State funding for the Los Angeles-to-San Francisco high-speed rail project as too expensive and Mr. Humphreville agreed. Mr. Arens observed that China considers their high-speed trains "a success" and Mr. Lunzer noted that European high-speed trains are also "successful."

8. Treasurer's Report & Budget Items

A. Monthly budget report/approval (April and May) (Elizabeth Fuller)

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #8. C.] Ms. Fuller distributed and reviewed the "Monthly Spending Report – June 1, 2011 – July 12, 2011." The "Elizabeth Fuller" website hosting invoice was to reimburse Ms. Fuller for her expenses to keep the website going during the DONE (L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment) debit card freeze.

MOTION (by Mr. D'Atri, seconded by Mr. Pickel): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves the "Monthly Spending Report – June 1, 2011 – July 12, 2011."

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote.

B. YTD Spending Report

Ms. Fuller distributed and reviewed a “Draft of GWNC Funding Guidelines (July, 2011).” All rollover funds were taken back by the City; \$40,500 is available this year. Office space for the GWNC has not been found. She reviewed expected expenses. The website designer was paid by the City and so can continue work. The Wilton Islands allocation would be used for maintenance.

C. Fiscal year 2011-2012 budget approval

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #6. A.] Ms. Fuller distributed and reviewed the “[GWNC] Budget for Fiscal Year 2011-2012” as of 7/12/11. Mr. Gresham recommended allocating the remaining \$130 to the “300 Community Improvements” section Code “OTH” for “Other (yet to be assigned).”

MOTION (by Mr. Gresham, seconded by Mr. D’Atri): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves the “[GWNC] Budget for Fiscal Year 2011-2012” including allocating \$130 to the “300 Community Improvements” section Code “OTH” for “Other (yet to be assigned).”

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote.

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

Mr. Humphreville proposed the following Motion:

MOTION (by Mr. Gresham, seconded by Mr. D’Atri): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council endorses the following resolution motion that was unanimously approved by the Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition on July 2, 2011.

"The Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition strongly urges that the Board of Water and Power Commissioners and the City Council not consider or act upon the proposed water and power rate increases until the Ratepayers Advocate is established and has thoroughly reviewed and analyzed the proposed rate increases and presented such review and analysis to the Ratepayers and the public for their careful consideration.

LANCC cannot support any rate increases until the Ratepayers Advocate has reviewed and analyzed these rate increases and discussed the review and analysis with the Ratepayers and the public."

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote.

[The following report was made after Item #10.] Mr. Humphreville reported that the DWP requested rate increases of 22% and 26% over the next two years. The City will “appoint a Citizen’s Commission.” He observed that “the DWP in the last couple of years has been much more open, transparent and accountable and that new General Manager Ron Nichols is being very proactive and accountable.

10. City Budget Issues (Jack Humphreville)

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #7.] Mr. Humphreville reported that this year's deficit was lowered from \$281 million to \$196 million because bonds were successfully offered and that some expenses may be deferred.

11. Outreach Committee (Elizabeth Fuller)

[The following report was made after Item #9.] Ms. Fuller reviewed the following upcoming meeting speakers/events (organizers in parentheses):

August 10 – Country Club Heights Concerns (Frances McFall)

September 14 – Assembly Member Mike Feuer

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

November 9 – Trust for Public Land (Patti Carroll)

Other? – LA Times Mapping Project

Ms. Sowma announced that she secured October 12th speaker Al Chin. Mr. Humphreville noted that Assembly Member Mike Feuer, scheduled to speak in September, is now a candidate for District Attorney. (GWNC policy prohibits candidates from speaking at meetings unless they are part of a forum to which all declared candidates have been invited.) Ms. Fuller announced that Ms. McFall has decided not to speak in August. The August speaker replacing Ms. McFall will be Doug Smith of the L.A. Times mapping project. The November 9th speaker will be Carolyn Ramsey of the Trust for Public Land. Mr. Gresham encouraged having the LAPD Wilshire Division Captain speak in addition to the Olympic Division Captain.

12. Other Committee/Project Reports

Metro Station Area Advisory Group (Fuller/Pickel/Smith)

Mr. Pickel reported that the Group had its last meeting. A “substantial” area north and south of Wilshire and west of La Brea will be taken by Metro for construction staging because “that’ll be one of the underground entry points for the drilling machine.” (There will also be construction staging at the property Metro owns at Wilshire and Crenshaw.) Mr. Pickel said there will be “active subway construction at the site for three to five years,” beginning in about three years. He described the construction area from Sycamore to Detroit. Ms. Fuller noted that the NW and SW corners of the Wilshire/La Brea intersection will also be developed after the subway construction, which means there will be major construction in the area for probably the next 10 years. This includes the BRE project which begins this fall. There was discussion of the allowed density for the NW and SW blocks if Metro does not request a zoning change. Mr. Pickel indicated that an EIR (Environmental Impact Report) is being finalized by the end of September. There was discussion regarding the need to inform the community about construction times and locations; Mr. Pickel, Mr. Gresham, Ms. Fuller and Mr. Smith volunteered to help.

13. Board Member Comments/New Business

There were no additional Board Member comments or new business.

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

Action Items:

A. Ogamdo Café CUP Application – 842 S. La Brea*

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #9.] Issue: After the GWNC and neighbors opposed an original application that included an upgrade to a full liquor license, extended hours, legalization of a previously unpermitted outdoor dining patio behind the restaurant and leased off-site parking in lieu of the required number of on-site spaces, the restaurant offered application revisions that retained the offsite parking request, but eliminated the liquor license upgrade and extended hours requests, and reduced the requested size of the patio. **LUC Recommended Action:** That the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council Board support the CUP application of the Ogamdo Café at 842 S. La Brea with the following conditions:

1. Open to the public during the hours of Sunday-Thursday 10:00 a.m. -10:00 p.m. and Friday and Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 p.m.
2. No outdoor use permitted at the rear of the lot between the structure and the rear property line except parking and use of the existing accessory structure as an office.
3. Selling of beer and wine only.
4. Provision of a five foot (5') landscape buffer measured from the rear property line incorporating at the property line a six (6) foot solid masonry wall on the commercial side.
5. Limit of 980 square feet of restaurant use at the second floor.
6. Limit of new area of kitchen at the ground floor to 420 square feet.
7. No cooking or serving of food or beverages outdoors at the rear of the site between the structure and the rear property line.
8. No music outdoors.
9. Provision of covenants for any offsite parking.
10. Removal of any use or area at rear of property between structure and rear property line with the exception of the existing accessory structure used as an office and any required landscaping and the rear yard landscape buffer as noted above and full utilization of rear of site for parking, i.e. increase on-site parking at rear of lot to maximum number of spaces per City parking design requirements.
11. Amplified music shall be kept at a low volume such that any music playing shall not be audible beyond the premises. No amplified music, no public announce system, no special events and /or live entertainment shall be permitted on a patio area or in a parking lot. Special events and/or live entertainment shall be limited to only indoors and shall be expressly prohibited from occurring within any outdoor area. Any music, sound or noise emanating from within the subject premises shall not be audible beyond the subject site, and not cause any loud, unnecessary and unusual noise which disturbs the peace or quiet of the surrounding neighborhood or cause discomfort or annoyance to any reasonable person of normal sensitiveness residing in the area in violation of Section 116.01 of the Municipal Code. All exterior doors of the premises shall be kept closed at all times except for the normal passage of patrons or deliveries, or during emergency situations.. *(NOTE: The LUC recommendation vote was 6-2, with members Moser and Wolf voting in opposition.)*

At this Meeting Mr. Wolf described the project and read aloud the following: “On June 30 (two days after the LUC meeting), the Zoning Administrator issued a denial of all the CUP requests, citing the restaurant’s persistent and ongoing non-compliance with current CUP conditions dating back to 2006, a still-open lawsuit - regarding several Building and

Safety violations - that has been in process since 2004, and the opposition of neighbors and the GWNC. The Zoning Administrator's stated opinion was that the record of non-compliance did not bode well for future compliance and should not be rewarded with the granting of new privileges. An appeal period is currently open." Ms. Fuller added that the project owner's representative King Woods said that they are going to appeal.

MOTION (by Mr. Gresham, seconded by Mr. Humphreville...in lieu of the proposed motion above): That the Greater Wilshire support the Zoning Administrator's ruling in this case.

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote; Ms. Usher recused herself while Ms. Sowma voted as Ms. Usher's Alternate.

Alternate Board Member Joane Pickett had to leave at this time.

B. Possible new GWNC policy on liquor license applications

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #12.] Mr. Wolf explained that this and the following Item are informational only. Issue: The consensus of the Land Use Committee is that it would be helpful to draft a board policy for liquor license applicants, asking that certain materials (such as a radius map showing all other nearby liquor permits) always be provided in advance of GWNC discussions. The committee is looking for volunteers to help draft the policy and guidelines.

C. Update on City cell phone policies

Issue: In June, the GWNC voted to urge the City Council to agendize discussions of a city-wide wireless telecommunications policy, and to urge the City Attorney's office to conclude its study of the subject. Earlier that same day, the CA's office announced that its report has been concluded and the City Council did hold some initial discussions on the subject.

Potential Agenda Items for July 26 LUC Meeting (in addition to those above):

- 12-unit condominium project proposed for 4661 Wilshire/661 S. Rimpau
- Update on 910 S. Wilton conversion of apartment building to board & care facility
- Update on revisions to Eastern Presbyterian Church expansion plans (4270 W. 6th St.)
- Update on LA Tennis Club parking variance application
- Update on cell phone poles proposed for 1st/Wilton & 9th/Mansfield

Ms. Fuller indicated that the first four above items are confirmed.

15. Public Comments

Mr. Humphreville said that Assemblyman Feuer may be running for City Attorney.

16. Announcements and Adjournment

Ms. Fuller relayed that Jane Gilman reminds everyone that National Night Out will be August 2nd.

Next meeting: Wednesday, August 11, 2011, 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Smith declared and the Board agreed to **ADJOURN** the Meeting at 8:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
David Levin
Minutes Writer