



Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council General Meeting
October 12, 2011
MINUTES
Approved by the Board, 11/9/11

1. Call to Order

A duly noticed meeting of the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council (“GWNC”) Board of Directors was held on Wednesday, October 12, 2011, at the Ebell Theatre of Los Angeles, 4400 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles. Secretary Elizabeth Fuller called the meeting to order at 7:10 p. m.

2. Roll Call

Ms. Fuller called the roll. Board Members in attendance at the roll call were: Betty Fox (Alternate for Charles Dougherty), Elizabeth Fuller, Mike Genewick (Alternate for Alex Jones-Moreno), Jane Gilman, John Gresham, Jack Humphreville, John Kaliski (Alternate for Owen Smith), Frances McFall, Clinton Oie, Fred Pickel, Mary Rajswing and Jane Usher. Board Members absent and not represented by an Alternate: Yigal Arens, Patricia Carroll, David Lunzer, Benjamin Rosenberg and James Wolf. Two Board seats (Area 9, Oakwood-Maplewood-St. Andrews and Area 12 We-Wil) were vacant. Also attending: 16 Stakeholders and guests. Charles D’Atri and Patricia Lombard (Alternate for Barbara Kumetz) arrived later.

Twelve of the 19 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

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #7. C.] The following correction to the September 14, 2011 General Meeting Minutes was requested:

Page two, Item #5. A: in Councilman Tom LaBonge’s comments, the following was added: “He said that, because of neighbors’ objections, he has asked that new traffic signals not be implemented on 4th Street at Highland and at Rossmore and that no stop signs be removed, as previously discussed as part of the new Citywide Bicycle Plan.”

MOTION (by Mr. Gresham, seconded by Mr. Pickel): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its September 14, 2011 General Meeting as corrected.

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote.

4. President’s Report

A. Nominations/Seating of Additional Board Members and Alternates.

Ms. Fuller noted the vacancies. Jason Peers lives in Area Nine, introduced himself and described his community participation and interests, especially outreach.

Board Member Charles D’Atri arrived at this time, making a quorum of 13 Board Members. Now the Board could take binding votes on Agendized Items.

MOTION (by Mr. Humphreville, seconded by Ms. Gilman): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council nominates Jason Peers as the Area 9 (Nine) Representative Board Member.

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote.

Mr. Peers was seated with the Board.

Mr. Oie announced that he needs to resign from the Renter seat in November because he is moving out of the area. He is willing to continue as an Education Representative Alternate.

Remaining vacancies – please recruit:

Area 2 (Citrus Square) – Alternate

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

Area 12 (We-Wil) – Alternate

Education – Alternate

Other Non-Profit – Alternate

Renter – Director and Alternate

B. Bylaws Conformation to DONE’s new uniform Table of Contents (John Welborne)

Mr. Welborne was not present and there was no report.

C. Ethics Training

Ms. Fuller listed Board Members and Alternates needing to complete the Training and the importance of it: Carroll, D’Atri, Kumetz, Oldham, Pickel, Rosenberg, Dwyer, Fox, Kaliski, Katz, Lombard, Rubin. The Training is available at

<http://ethics.lacity.org/education/ethics2007/?audience=done>

D. Secretary and Treasurer Positions – Treasurer is especially important. We cannot pay our bills (meeting locations, advertising, donations, etc.) until this position is filled!

Ms. Fuller described the “extremely urgent” need to fill the Treasurer position; bills are unpaid, including for meeting space; “financial paperwork is stacking up.”

E. Nominations/confirmation of (2) GWNC City Budget Representatives

Mr. Humphreville **NOMINATED** Stakeholder Fred Mariscal. Mr. Gresham **NOMINATED**

Mr. Humphreville and Alternate Board Member Margaret Sowma. Mr. Mariscal, Mr.

Humphreville and Ms. Sowma all accepted the nominations. The nominations **PASSED** by a voice vote.

5. Guest Speakers

A. LAPD Olympic Division Captain Tina Nieto.

Ms. Rajswing introduced Tina Nieto, LAPD Olympic Division Captain (213-382-9045; 26900@LAPD.LACity.org; http://www.LAPDonline.org/olympic_community_police_station).

There has been a 13.4% crime reduction since last year. Capt. Nieto described her coverage area, population, crime prevention efforts, cultural differences to consider and recent activity, including vice along Western Ave. where undercover officers are working. Senior Lead Officer Joseph Pelayo (31762@LACity.org; 213-793-0709) is the SLO covering roughly

Melrose to Wilshire and Plymouth to Western in the GWNC area. Senior Lead Officer Frank Ciezadlo (south of Wilshire and east of Crenshaw; 37372@LACity.org; 213-793-0773) described progress in reducing crime on the west side of the Olympic Division.

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

Ms. Usher urged and Capt. Nieto said that she will ensure that a Senior Lead Officer will attend GWNC General Board Meetings. Capt. Nieto encouraged reporting suspicious activity and Officer Ciezadlo encouraged calling the LAPD rather than a private security service.

B. Albert Chin, St. Barnabas Senior Services and Los Angeles Aging Advocacy Coalition. Mr. Chin distributed a “Dismantling of the Aging Services Network” chart from the Congress of California Seniors, an Older Americans Act “Declaration of objectives” and described the Act and budget and services challenges. The State projects to cut \$2.5 billion in services, include in-home. Stakeholder Joan Taylor encouraged the GWNC to support senior transportation services. She estimated that the City pays \$300 to take a senior to the grocery store and encouraged the City to contract with commercial taxi services for 20% of that cost. Mr. Chin responded that taxis would not be able to assist disabled people.

C. Carmen Hawkins, Los Angeles Deputy City Attorney for the GWNC (and other NCs). Ms. Hawkins (Carmen.Hawkins@LACity.org; 213-978-8132; http://atty.LACity.org/Community_Services/Neighborhood_Councils/index.htm) introduced herself and described the role of the City Attorney’s Neighborhood Council Advice Division. She requested that every Neighborhood Council appoint a Legal Liaison. Ms. Hawkins handles all NC leases and NPGs (Neighborhood Purpose Grants).

6. Local Government Updates

A. CD4 Update (Ben Seinfeld)

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

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)

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 and Budget Items

A. Monthly budget report/approval - July-Sept. (Elizabeth Fuller)

Ms. Fuller distributed and reviewed the “Monthly Spending Report – July 1, 2011 – October 11, 2011.” A number of Demand Warrants need to be submitted upon a Treasurer volunteering.

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Usher, seconded by *Mr. ?*): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves the “Monthly Spending Report – July 1, 2011 – October 11, 2011.”

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a voice vote.

B. YTD Spending Report (please note amounts available under COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENTS/OTHER (\$6,030) and OUTREACH/SPONSORSHIPS (\$650)
Ms. Fuller distributed and reviewed the “[GWNC] Budget for Fiscal Year 2011-2012” as of October 11, 2011, pointing out the two figures above as reference for the next agenda item.

C. Approval of budget adjustment and expenditure to rent GWNC storage locker. Options:
Closest: Saf Keep - Melrose/Western: \$88/mo, 5’ x 6’ or \$134/mo, 5’x10’
Cheapest: Public Storage – Crenshaw/Pico: \$69/mo, 5’x5’ or \$87/mo, 5’x10’
Others in the area: Public Storage – Willoughby/Cole: \$135/mo, 5’x10’;
Public Storage – Santa Monica/Highland: \$95/mo, 4’x5’ or \$117/mo, 5’x5’
Ms. Fuller reviewed the issue and relayed that Ms. Hawkins said that DONE [the L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment] would make an exception for space outside the GWNC’s boundaries if there are no storage facilities inside our boundaries” Ms. Fuller described GWNC budget adjustments that could fund a storage space. There was discussion regarding the size needed, costs involved and that storage could be leased quickly and paid for with a credit card without DONE approval.

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Usher, seconded by Ms. McFall): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council will lease storage space at the Public Storage facility at Crenshaw and Pico in the 5’ x 5’ size at a lease rate of \$69 per month.

AMENDMENT to the FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Genewick): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council will lease storage space at the Public Storage facility at Crenshaw and Pico in the 5’ x 10’ size at a lease rate of \$87 per month.

AMENDMENT NOT ACCEPTED by Ms. Usher.

DISCUSSION: There was more discussion about the cost and size of the space.

[THE ORIGINAL] FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a voice vote.

8. Community Concerns/Funding Requests

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #3.] Wilshire Park Elementary School Project Support Request (Gene Benda, Enrique Franco).

Mr. Franco requested funding “for benches, tables and planter boxes for the playground” adding to the benches they already have. He invited the GWNC to have “meetings at [the School] at no cost.” The total improvements cost is expected to be \$4,300. Ms. Fuller noted that limited funding is available for community projects (see budget report, above). Ms. Usher encouraged and Mr. Franco agreed to bring detailed financial information to the November 9th GWNC General Meeting. Mr. Kaliski encouraged the GWNC to explore meeting at the School.

9. DWP Oversight (Jack Humphreville)

Mr. Humphreville reported that 22% and 25% rate increases for water and power are “on hold.” Ordinances have not yet been drafted to continue the process of setting up a Ratepayer Advocate. Due to the delay the DWP will probably have to delay and/or cut back programs.

10. City Budget Issues (Jack Humphreville)

Mr. Humphreville reported that the City’s next fiscal year deficit is expected to be \$200 - \$250 million and a lot of City services and maintenance are being deferred.

11. Old Business

Koreatown Sign District (Caroline Moser)

Issue: GWNC passed a motion opposing the proposed new Citywide Sign Ordinance at its last meeting. Since then, it has come to our attention that the ordinance includes a provision creating a new Koreatown Sign District, with boundaries defined as “bounded generally by 6th St. to the north, St. Andrews Pl. to the west, Olympic Blvd. to the south, and Shatto Pl. to the east.” GWNC’s eastern boundary at that point is Wilton Pl., and its southern boundary is 6th St. between Wilton and Manhattan Pl. This leaves several blocks of GWNC residential area along 6th St. directly adjacent to the sign district.

Ms. Fuller reported for Ms. Moser that the proposed Sign District boundaries “cut through” the GWNC area. Ms. Usher recused herself from the discussion because she is professionally working on the project, but did recommend that someone from CD10 be invited to speak on this issue. Mr. Kaliski encouraged and it was agreed to **REFER this to the GWNC Land Use Committee** for a recommendation.

12. New Business

Creation of either GWNC standing committee on Traffic & Transportation...or ad hoc committee on Los Angeles Bike Plan issues. (Note: standing committees are permanent, may include stakeholder members, and are bound by Brown Act requirements; ad hoc committees are of limited focus and duration, can include only board member/alternate members and are not bound by Brown Act requirements)

Ms. Fuller described the possible need to create a Standing or ad hoc Committee. There was extensive discussion regarding whether to and which form of committee to create. Mr. Kaliski and Mr. Gresham believed that transportation issues should be separated from land use issues.

MOTION (by Mr. Pickel, seconded by Ms. Lombard): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council Board instructs its Land Use Committee to report back to the Board on how to address the proposed Citywide Bicycle Plan and other transportation issues and to explore possibly creating an ad hoc Bike Plan Subcommittee.

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote.

13. Outreach Committee (Rajswing)

A. Upcoming meeting speakers/events (organizers in parentheses):

November – LAPD Wilshire and Olympic Division Captains (Rajswing), HopeNet

December – Trust for Public Land (Carroll), Food/Toy Drive

January – LAFD CERT Program

February – Ebell of Los Angeles, Rotary, Windsor Square/Hancock Park

Historical Society

March: LAPD Neighborhood Watch/Block Captain Program

April: Library Friends Organizations (Fremont, Wilshire, Memorial)

Others?

B. Larchmont Family Fair Update - October 23 (Rajswing)

Ms. Rajswing announced that the October 23rd Larchmont Family Fair needs volunteers from around 3:00 – 4:00 to help break down the booth. Ms. McFall commented that she would like to see the GWNC contribute to care for older trees as well as give away new trees.

14. Other Committee/Project Reports

There were no other reports.

15. Board Member Comments

Ms. McFall reported that she picked up a donation of toys from stakeholder Joan Taylor and delivered them to Wilton Place Elementary School.

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

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

A. Density Variance for Affordable Senior Citizen Apartments – 900 S. Crenshaw/4114 W. 9th St. Issue: 32-unit, 100% affordable project was approved by the City in 2007. Project was delayed and now needs to renew entitlements and go through density bonus process (which didn't exist in 2007). Project parameters have not changed since previous approval in 2007. The Wilshire Park Neighborhood Association worked with developers on project details in 2007, but have not weighed in yet on the current application. Suggested Motion: [see below]. Ms. Usher pointed out a possible contradiction between the above second and third sentences "Project was delayed and now needs to renew entitlements and go through density bonus process (which didn't exist in 2007)" and "Project parameters have not changed since previous approval in 2007."

Board Member Jane Usher had to leave at this time. Her Alternate Board Member Margaret Sowma replaced her.

MOTION (by Mr. D'Atri, seconded by Mr. Kaliski): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council supports the Density Variance application for the senior citizen apartments project at 4114 W. 9th St. / 900 S. Crenshaw pending support of the Wilshire Park Association.

DISCUSSION: The GWNC will not send an application support letter without Wilshire Park Association support.

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote.

B. CUP Application for Won Jo Kokerang Agurang Restaurant – 533 S. Western Ave. Issue: The restaurant is seeking a CUP for the sale of wine and beer. Representatives first appeared before the GWNC Land Use committee a few months ago, and agreed to voluntary conditions regarding hours of operation, a requirement that food sales be mandatory during all hours of liquor sales, that there be no outdoor or amplified music and that a parking plan be provided. Recently, the application was amended to allow an earlier opening hour for the restaurant (all other details remain from the original application). Suggested Motion: [see below]. Ms. Usher had pointed out before the Item #16. A. vote that the "owner continues to have this right in perpetuity" and that "voluntary conditions" are unenforceable."

Ms. Fuller described the project and previous LUC considerations. There was discussion regarding the application's merits.

MOTION (by Ms. Lombard, seconded by Mr. D' Atri): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council supports the CUP application of Won Jo Kokerang Agurang Restaurant at 533 S. Western.

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote; Mr. Humphreville abstained.

The following item was presented for information only.

C. Proposed AT&T Cell Phone Antenna Modifications – 137 N. Larchmont Blvd.

Issue: Applicant proposes installing new, larger antennas on an existing pole in the alley at this location. Land Use Committee discussion noted that the pole has been there for many years without incident or complaint...but also that it is in an HPOZ and the new, larger antennas would be more visible behind homes on Lucerne Blvd., when viewed from that street. Further discussion was tabled until the Windsor Square Association, Windsor Square HPOZ Board and Larchmont Boulevard Association are invited to weigh in.

Ms. Fuller will connect with the above-mentioned groups regarding the project.

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

- Discussion of proposed Residential Planned Development Districts Ordinance
- Nara Bank parking lot (200 block of S. Manhattan Pl.)
- Update on conversion of apartments to board and care facility at 901 S. Wilton
- Update on Eastern Presbyterian Church expansion plans at 4720 W. 6th St.

There was discussion regarding Paramount Studios' ten-year plan. They are seeking community input and Ms. Fuller noted that Paramount wants to connect with neighborhoods and may be willing to support community projects.

17. Public Comments

Mr. Gresham was concerned about a lack of bicycle traffic enforcement. Capt. Nieto responded that the issue was addressed at a recent meeting. Mr. Genewick noted that the Eastern Presbyterian Church withdrew their expansion plans application. Ms. Fuller added that the Church may resubmit the application.

18. Announcements and Adjournment

Next meeting: Wednesday, November 9, 7:00 p.m.

MOTION (by Ms. McFall): to **ADJOURN** the Meeting.

MOTION PASSED without any objections.

Ms. Fuller **ADJOURNED** the Meeting at 9:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
David Levin
Minutes Writer