



Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council General Meeting

November 9, 2011

MINUTES

Approved by the Board 12.14.11

1. Call to Order

A duly noticed meeting of the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council (“GWNC”) Board of Directors was held on Wednesday, November 9, 2011, at the Ebell Theatre of Los Angeles, 4400 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles. President Owen Smith called the meeting to order at 7:09 p. m.

2. Roll Call

Secretary Elizabeth Fuller called the roll. Board Members in attendance at the roll call were: Elizabeth Fuller, Mike Genewick (Alternate for Alex Jones-Moreno), Jane Gilman, Frances McFall, Caroline Moser (Alternate for Jack Humphreville), Kathleen Mulligan (Alternate for Patricia Carroll), Robby O’Donnell (Alternate for John Gresham), Jason Peers, Fred Pickel, Margaret Sowma (Alternate for Jane Usher) and Owen Smith.

Yigal Arens arrived later. Board Members absent and not represented by an Alternate: Charles D’Atri, Charles Dougherty, Barbara Kumetz, David Lunzer, Mary Rajswing, Benjamin Rosenberg and James Wolf. Two Board seats (Area 9, Oakwood-Maplewood-St. Andrews and Area 12 We-Wil) were vacant. Also attending: 22 Stakeholders and guests.

Eleven 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 #4. A. was completed.]

MOTION (by Mr. Genewick, seconded by Ms. Gilman): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its October 12, 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 #2.] Mr. Smith noted the vacancies.

Stakeholder Larissa Alarcon introduced herself and is a Candidate for the Renter seat.

Board Member John Gresham arrived at this time, replacing his Alternate Robby O’Donnell, keeping the number of Board Members present at 11, two short of the GWNC quorum of 13.

Ms. Alarcon described her community interests.

Board Member Yigal Arens arrived at this time, making 12 Board Members present, one short of the GWNC quorum of 13.

Stakeholder and former Board Member Cindy Chvatal-Keane introduced herself as a Candidate for the Other Non-Profit – Alternate seat.

[This Agenda Item continued being addressed after Item #5.] Mr. Smith ruled that the Board never formally accepted Clinton Oie's resignation, therefore he is still a Board Member. *This made a quorum of 13 Board Members present. Now the Board could take binding votes on Agendized Items.*

MOTION (by Ms. Gilman, seconded by Ms. McFall): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council nominates Cindy Chvatal-Keane as the Other Non-Profit – Alternate Representative Board Member and Larissa Alarcon as the Renter Representative Board Member.

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote.

Ms. Chvatal-Keane and Ms. Alarcon read the Oath of Office aloud and Mr. Smith invited them to be seated with the Board, making 15 Board Members present at this time. Mr. Smith indicated that there were no more nominations at this time.

MOTION (by Mr. Gresham, seconded by Mr. Pickel): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves Clinton Oie's resignation from the position of Renter Representative Board Member and his appointment as the Alternate Education Representative Board Member.

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote.

Remaining vacancies (call for volunteers; if no volunteers tonight, please recruit):

Area 2 (Citrus Square) – Alternate

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

Area 12 (We-Wil) – Director and Alternate

Renter – 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 – Board Members and Alternates who have not yet completed the training:

Alarcon, Carroll, D'Atri, Kumetz, Peers, Pickel, Rosenberg, Dwyer, Fox, Kaliski, Katz, Lombard, Rubin. Board Members **MUST** complete the course at

<http://ethics.lacity.org/education/ethics2007/?audience=done> or at an in-person session.

No other Ethics Training completions were noted at this time. Mr. Smith reviewed the above.

D. Confirmation of Treasurer Volunteer: Patti Carroll.

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #3]

MOTION (by Ms. Mulligan, seconded by Ms. Fuller): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves Board Member Patricia Carroll as the Treasurer.

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote.

5. Guest Speakers

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #4. C.] LAPD Wilshire Division Captain Eric Davis and LAPD Olympic Division Captain Robert Arcos.

Captain Davis described Division boundaries, which are established in regard to resources and needs. Ms. Mulligan was concerned that prostitutes are “working right next to” local Elementary Schools. Captain Davis will e-mail information to the Board regarding which Senior Lead Officers are responsible for which reporting districts. He and Captain Arcos gave information and described prostitution crime-fighting efforts. Both Captains promised to have a police presence at the Schools. Captain Davis described challenges and priorities of 9-1-1 call responses. He announced that the www.LAPDOnline.org website is starting to broadcast videos of community policing updates; soon Wilshire Division updates will start.

6. Local Government Updates

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #3]

A. CD4 Update (Ben Seinfeld)

Ben Seinfeld, Field Deputy for L.A. City District Four Councilman Tom LaBonge (213-485-3337; cell 213-804-2388; Ben.Seinfeld@LACity.org), introduced himself and reported that he is working on the prostitution issue and the Paramount project. He later added that the County and the City Dept. of Sanitation will present regarding Rossmore and Clinton flooding prevention work.

B. 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 he is working to get more trees trimmed and improve street lighting.

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)

Nicole Carcel, Field Representative for State 42nd District Assemblyman Mike Feuer (310-285-5490; Nicole.Carcel@asm.ca.gov), said 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 – Sept/Oct. (Elizabeth Fuller).

Ms. Fuller distributed and reviewed the “Monthly Spending Report – October 1, 2011 – November 8, 2011” showing last month’s purchases and Demand Warrants to be processed by incoming Treasurer Patricia Carroll.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Pickel, seconded by Ms. Mulligan): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves its “Monthly Spending Report – October 1, 2011 – November 8, 2011.”

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a voice vote.

B. YTD Spending Report (please note amounts available under COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENTS/OTHER and OUTREACH/SPONSORSHIPS.

Ms. Fuller distributed and reviewed the “[GWNC] Budget for Fiscal Year 2011-2012, Revised 11-09-11,” highlighting the below needed budget adjustments.

C. Approval of budget adjustment to rent GWNC storage locker.

(Note: expenditure of one year’s rent at \$69/mo. was approved last month, but vote to adjust budget is also necessary before funds can be allocated.)

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Genewick, seconded by Ms. Mulligan): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves budget adjustments in “Sponsorships & Events” (from \$1,000 down to \$700) and “Community Improvements: Other” (from \$8,830 down to \$6,030).

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a voice vote.

8. Community Concerns/Funding Requests

Wilshire Park Elementary School Project Support Request (Gene Benda, Enrique Franco). Ms. Fuller described the Project. A “Wilshire Park Elementary School Beautification Project” Proposal and “City of Los Angeles, Department of Neighborhood Empowerment Neighborhood Purposes Grant (NPG) Announcement and Explanation” were distributed.

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. McFall, seconded by Ms. Chvatal-Keane): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves funding toward the Wilshire Park Elementary School Beautification Project in the amount of \$4,640.33 pending a Neighborhood Purpose Grant (NPG) submittal.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Fuller noted that various media were used to request community project ideas and emphasized the importance of using the NPG process to approve project allocations.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a voice vote.

9. DWP Oversight (Jack Humphreville)

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

10. City Budget Issues & Mayor’s Budget Day Report (Humphreville/Mariscal/Sowma).

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

11. Old Business

A. Creation of GWNC committee on Traffic & Transportation.

Issue: at last month’s Board meeting, the question of whether to establish a standing committee on Traffic & Transportation or an ad hoc committee on Bike Plan Issues was sent to the Land Use Committee for further discussion and recommendations. The issue was

discussed at the October 25 Land Use Committee Meeting, and Committee members made the following recommendation: LUC Recommended Motion: [see below].

Mr. Smith read the following Motion.

MOTION (by Mr. Gresham, seconded by Ms. McFall): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council accepts its Land Use Committee (LUC) recommendation and hereby creates a Board-level standing Committee on Traffic and Transportation, which would include LUC members on its roster and which would send a liaison to LUC meetings for discussion of issues of mutual interest. This Committee would be subject to Brown Act rules for open meetings and notices, and would allow Stakeholder members.

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote.

12. Outreach Committee (Mary Rajswing)

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

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

January: LAFD CERT Program

February – Local clubs: Ebell of Los Angeles, Rotary, Windsor Square/Hancock Park Historical Society

March: Assessor/tax issues

April: LAPD Neighborhood Watch/Block Captain Program

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

June: Local religious organizations

Others?: Solar panel leasing and group purchase programs, League of Women Voters, etc.

Ms. Gilman reviewed the above list.

B. Larchmont Family Fair Update

Ms. Fuller reported for Ms. Rajswing and acknowledged Ms. Alarcon, Matthew Oldham, Mr. Peers and others for Fair assistance.

13. Other Committee / Project Reports

There were no other reports at this time.

14. Board Member Comments

There were no other Board Member comments.

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

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

A. Citywide Sign Ordinance/Koreatown Sign District.

Issue: The GWNC is on record opposing the proposed overall Citywide Sign Ordinance (CSO), but specific questions have also arisen regarding the creation of a special

Koreatown Sign District, which the ordinance would allow. According to a motion on record from City Council District 10 Member Herb Wesson, boundaries of the proposed Koreatown Sign District would be 6th Street on the north, Saint Andrews Place on the west, and Olympic Blvd. on the south. . . which cuts into the eastern portion of the GWNC area, and includes several residential blocks. LUC Recommended Motion: [see below].

Ms. Fuller explained GWNC CSO work, especially regarding the Koreatown Sign District. The LUC discussed that the Sign District cuts through part of the GWNC. She read the recommended Motion.

MOTION (by Mr. Pickel, seconded by Ms. McFall): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council will send a letter to City Council District 10 suggesting that: 1) the western boundary of the proposed Sign District be redesignated as Western Ave; 2) that the Sign District include only commercial streets; 3) that 6th St. and 8th St. not be included in the Sign District; and 4) that Councilmember Wesson introduce a new Motion regarding this district that complies with the new City Ordinance.

DISCUSSION: There was discussion that the intent of the LUC discussion and Motion is to completely exclude Sixth and Eighth Sts. from the Sign District, including Sixth and Eighth Sts. outside the GWNC boundaries. Mr. Smith indicated that neighbor petitions from Ms. McFall will be included with the letter to City Council District 10.

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote.

B. Residential Planned Development (RPD) Districts Ordinance.

Issue: As part of its overall code simplification process, the Planning Department has proposed creating a new system for designating Residential Planned Development districts within other kinds of commercial or residential zones. Many people think the idea is worthwhile, especially in areas of Transit-Oriented Development, and that it would encourage creative use of space and allow a wider range of mixed use projects. As written, however, the new ordinance may contain some ill-advised loopholes and probably should be constrained...to both build support for the proposal as well as to ensure that the uniqueness of Los Angeles' existing residential neighborhoods - particularly single-family neighborhoods - are maintained. LUC Recommended Motion: [see below].

Ms. Fuller reviewed the issue and read the recommended Motion.

MOTION (by Mr. Pickel, seconded by Ms. Mulligan): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council opposes passage of the Residential Planned Development District Ordinance as written and recommends that the Ordinance be revised and redistributed for public input and comment to: 1) maintain existing underlying land use and density requirements; 2) require a more clearly defined menu of public benefits; and 3) exclude residential land uses less than R4 from the Planned Development Ordinance to clearly prohibit commercial intrusion in these residential zones.

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote.

Ms. Fuller noted that the following items are presented for information only. No action is requested or required at this time:

C. Paramount Pictures 25-year Expansion Plan

Issue: Paramount Pictures is proposing major improvements to its facilities over the next 25 years. The plan includes new construction and remodeling of historic areas to accommodate growth in production, offices, staff and parking. The studio will be requesting the creation of a Paramount Pictures Specific Plan to govern zoning for the area (which now includes M1, C1 and C2 zones). An EIR-scoping meeting was held recently as the first step in the entitlement process, and the GWNC will continue to follow the plans as they develop. [Note: since the Land Use Committee meeting, some questions have arisen regarding special districts or permissions that may be requested for signage as part of Paramount's overall plan. Paramount representative Andrea Ceragioli has promised to return to the LUC to discuss these specific issues when the studio has determined exactly what kinds of signage requests it will be making.]

D. Eastern Presbyterian Church Expansion Plans – 4720 W. 6th St.

Issue: An application for expansion of the Church's facilities at the above address was previously opposed by the GWNC, the Windsor Square Association and the Park Mile Specific Plan Design Review Board. The application has now been withdrawn. (The church may choose to submit a new application, based on new plans, at some point in the future, but has not done so yet.)

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

- Proposed ordinance on Farmers' Markets
- 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 proposed modifications to cell phone antenna at 137 N. Larchmont Blvd.

16. Public Comments

Stakeholder Joan Taylor encouraged contacting the Governor's Office to oppose the San Francisco to Los Angeles high-speed rail train as too expensive. Cary Brazeman distributed an "LA Neighbors United . . . Tree Trimming & Sidewalk Repair: Key Principles for Constructive Action" handout and was concerned that the City is shifting the responsibility for city sidewalk damage due to tree roots to homeowners. He believed that funds are available to make such repairs over 20-25 years, possibly through a City bond proposal.

17. Announcements and Adjournment

Next meeting: Wednesday, December 14, 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Smith declared and the Board agreed to **ADJOURN** the Meeting at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
David Levin
Minutes Writer