

Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council



Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council General Meeting

January 10, 2007

Approved by the Board,
as written, on 3/14/07

MINUTES

A duly noticed meeting of the Board of Directors of the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council (“GWNC”) was held on Wednesday, January 10, 2007, at The Ebell of Los Angeles, 4400 Wilshire Boulevard. Charles Dougherty, President of the Council, called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

The Secretary called the roll, and Board of Directors members in attendance were: Yigal Arens, Carolyn Bennett, Chickie Byrne, Cindy Chvatal, Charles Dougherty, Roy Forbes, Elizabeth Fuller, Tom Gibbons, Jane Gilman, Margaret Hudson, Susan O’Connell, Mary Rajsing, Thomas Roe, Michael Rosenberg, Jolene Snett, Robert Wishart, and James Wolf. The following absent Directors were represented by their Alternates (noted in parentheses): Arlin Low (Frances McFall), Baruch Twersky (John Gresham), and Gary Zeiss (Russell Sherman). Directors Arnold Castaneda, Moon Chung, Larry Eisenberg, Rudolph Gintel, Lisa Hutchins, Shemaya Mandelbaum, Van Dyke Parks, Ruth Silveira, Jane Usher, and John A. Woodward III were absent and were not represented by an Alternate.

The Secretary stated that 20 of the 30 Directors were represented in person or by an Alternate at the beginning of the meeting and that a quorum was present.

President Dougherty asked the Secretary to present the Minutes of the previous meeting, and the Secretary stated that the Minutes of the Council’s General Meeting of November 8, 2006, had been distributed to Directors by e-mail and had been posted on the Council’s *greaterwilshire.org* web site. Additional copies were distributed at the meeting. Next, upon a Motion made from the floor and adopted without objection, reading of the Minutes was waived. The Minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer’s Report and Initial Organization

Treasurer Susan O’Connell explained that GWNC expenses since the previous meeting again had been limited, such as for advertisements in the *Larchmont Chronicle*, mailbox rental, and printing for the upcoming Election. She advised that the Council still has a need for a small office space, and she asked anyone with a suggestion to please send

her an e-mail.

Public Comments

Patti Carroll, a Stakeholder from the Ridgewood-Wilton-Saint Andrews Square neighborhood, introduced herself. She indicated that Director Ruth Silveira, from that area, had resigned from the Board and that Ms. Silveira's Alternate, Anna-Kria King, was not going to be able to attend upcoming meetings. President Dougherty thanked Ms. Carroll for her report and suggested that she consider running in the upcoming Election if she is interested in becoming more active in Council activities.

Stakeholder John Welborne reported that several neighborhoods, Hancock Park and Windsor Square, in particular, are in the process of reviewing guidelines for filming in their areas. Stakeholder Tina Mata asked how other neighborhoods that have filming questions or issues might get involved. Director Tom Gibbons wondered if there might be a benefit to the neighborhoods, as well as the companies that do filming, for there to be some standardized guidelines throughout the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council area. Director Chickie Byrne responded that Hancock Park and Windsor Square have been working on this matter for a long time, and she suggested that – when they feel their work is done – they circulate the results. President Dougherty asked those interested in this issue to send him an e-mail.

There were no additional Public Comments.

Board Member Comments / New Business

President Dougherty asked if there were any Board Member Comments concerning issues not on the Agenda. There were none.

Ad Hoc Bylaws and Election Committees Joint Report

The President introduced Election Committee Chair Roy Forbes. Mr. Forbes explained that, although the GWNC Election Procedures had been adopted by the Board at its meeting on July 12, 2006, had received additional fine-tuning required by DONE, had been amended and re-adopted by the Board at its meeting of November 8, 2006, and subsequently had been approved and certified by DONE, DONE would like the Board to again approve those Election Procedures that were approved and certified by DONE.

Mr. Forbes made a Motion to so approve the Election Procedures, and the Motion was seconded by Director Jolene Snett. The President called for discussion.

Director Michael Rosenberg asked how can GWNC be proceeding in planning the Election, as the Council now is doing, if this approval has not been given. Alternate John Gresham said he believes this is just a formality, "certifying DONE's certification of

GWNC's previous approval."

(At this point, 7:35 p.m., Director Rudolph Gintel arrived and took his chair.)

Mr. Rosenberg said he had no issue with the approval process. He just thought it would be appropriate to clarify with DONE that the order in which this is being accomplished would not present any procedural problems. Mr. Forbes said he would reconfirm with DONE, by e-mail, that there are no problems.

Following this discussion, the question was called, and the Motion to again approve the Election Procedures carried unanimously.

Mr. Forbes then presented the various printed Election materials, which were circulated among the Directors. Mr. Forbes indicated that the City arranged for a "Walking Man" distribution of flyers on January 4th and 5th. Another such distribution is planned for the end of February. *Larchmont Chronicle* ads related to Candidate recruitment, Voter registration, and other Election-related matters are appearing in the January, February, and March issues of the paper. It was noted that, after attempting to get a volunteer to do the considerable amount of typesetting and graphic design involved, the Election Committee ended up spending about \$750 for those services.

Election Committee member Gary Gilbert noted that Candidates may not be volunteers at the Election, and he urged everyone present to recruit volunteers to work at the Election (for five-hour shifts). A Director asked if the Committee had considered whether an Election-related ad might be placed in the *Jewish Journal*, and there was a response that most newspapers, like the *Los Angeles Times*, *Jewish Journal*, *Korean Times*, *La Opinion*, etc., are region-wide papers whereas the *Larchmont Chronicle's* distribution area is primarily within the GWNC boundaries. There was considerable additional discussion about translation into multiple languages, "cost-per-thousand" for advertising, and alternate forms of outreach, especially by the individuals and special interest groups that are Candidates or want to support specific Candidates.

Stakeholder Tina Mata suggested that further outreach could be obtained through the use of students, who could be paid to go visit with Stakeholders in the more "marginalized" groups or areas within the GWNC boundaries. There was considerable discussion of allocating GWNC funds for that, or other, outreach efforts, with some Directors suggesting that more could be done and other Directors complimenting the members of the Committee on how much they already are doing to get word out. Mr. Forbes indicated that – with the assent of the Board, which he said he sensed – he would be in touch with Ms. Mata and talk with his fellow Committee members to determine if there are additional, practical steps that should be taken in connection with this Election.

Report and Possible Board Action on LAPD Boundaries that Affect the GWNC

President Dougherty reminded the Board that there had been discussion at several previous meetings about the possible impacts on our community of the addition of a 20th Division to the Los Angeles Police Department. President Dougherty asked Alternate John Gresham to report on the status of the ongoing discussions with the LAPD concerning the boundaries of the new 20th Division. Mr. Gresham reminded the Board that the GWNC Board had “gone on record” by a unanimous vote at its September 13, 2006, meeting wherein the Board advocated that the LAPD’s proposed division boundary be moved easterly so it will coincide with the GWNC eastern boundary.

Mr. Gresham also reminded the Board that a more detailed, draft Resolution on this subject had been circulated at the last (November 8, 2006) Board meeting, and that a feature of the Resolution is to urge the leaders of the adjacent Wilshire Center-Koreatown Neighborhood Council (“WCKNC”) – who also believe the boundary should be their council’s western boundary and the GWNC’s eastern boundary – to join GWNC in advocating that position to anyone who will listen. (Mr. Gresham did point out, however, that the WCKNC remains distracted with internal organizational matters at the present time.) At this point, Mr. Gresham asked Stakeholder John Welborne, who had a copy of the draft Motion from the previous meeting, to read the Motion. (A full copy of the Draft Motion, including its Appendix, is attached to the record set of these Minutes.)

WHEREAS, the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council, duly certified as of December 3, 2003 (“GWNC”), is an entity organized and existing under and by virtue of City of Los Angeles Administrative Code (the “Code”) Section Sec. 22.811; and

WHEREAS, the boundaries of GWNC and its adjacent Neighborhood Councils were approved by the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (the “BONC”), a body appointed and approved by the Mayor and the City Council of the City of Los Angeles under Sec. 22.805 of the Code; and

WHEREAS, the eastern boundary of GWNC and the western boundary of the also-certified Wilshire Center / Koreatown Neighborhood Council (“WCKNC”) are identical from Melrose Avenue to Olympic Boulevard; and

WHEREAS, a stated mission of GWNC is to encourage all GWNC community stakeholders to participate in all activities of GWNC, and GWNC has undertaken to establish a mechanism for community outreach to all corners of GWNC neighborhoods for the purpose of emergency preparedness; and

WHEREAS, GWNC’s community outreach, specifically with respect to emergency preparedness, relies heavily on fully utilizing GWNC’s existing LAPD relationships in order to reach out to and organize the stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, LAPD has begun the process of establishing a new 20th Division formed out of portions of three existing LAPD Divisions, namely the Wilshire, Rampart, and Hollywood Divisions, and has proposed tentative boundaries; and

WHEREAS, the currently proposed tentative western boundary of the new 20th Division divides GWNC neighborhoods along the center-lines of interior, residential streets, splitting block clubs and neighborhood associations such that neighbors on either side of a street or in adjoining blocks would be in different LAPD Divisions; and

WHEREAS, the currently proposed boundaries place approximately 53.65% of GWNC residential stakeholders in the new 20th Division and the remaining 46.34% in the new Wilshire Division; and

WHEREAS, the resulting population in the new 20th Division is estimated to be 188,934, *versus* an estimated resulting population in the new Wilshire Division of 134,494, a difference of 54,440; and

WHEREAS, the estimated population in the new 20th Division, if the boundary requested in this Resolution is implemented by LAPD, would be approximately 162,306, and the estimated population in the new Wilshire Division would be approximately 161,122, a more equitable population difference of only 1,185 residents; and

WHEREAS, the tentatively-proposed, contorted Western boundary for the new 20th Division would result in the partition of GWNC neighborhoods and would interfere with the basic organization of the existing neighborhood watches and block clubs of GWNC, such that neighbors across the street from one another would have to interface with entirely different LAPD staffs and locations, thereby impeding the progress of GWNC's emergency preparedness and outreach programs and the cohesiveness of the entire GWNC community relationship with LAPD; and

WHEREAS, GWNC and its stakeholders and affected neighborhoods are united in the opinion that the western boundary for the new 20th Division must accommodate existing community-based organizations and provide for equitable allocations of estimated population and workload numbers; and

WHEREAS, GWNC understands that leaders of WCKNC share the opinion that the western boundary of the new 20th Division, between Melrose Avenue and Olympic Boulevard, should be set along the existing boundary between the two neighborhood councils;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that GWNC hereby:

1. Certifies that the foregoing recitals are true and correct, and that this Board so finds and determines; and
2. Requests that the LAPD, its staff, the City of Los Angeles Police

Commission, the City Council of the City of Los Angeles, the Honorable Mayor of the City of Los Angeles, and all staff and any other governing entities involved approve establishing the western boundary of the proposed 20th Division, between Olympic Boulevard and Melrose Avenue, to conform to the existing common boundary between GWNC and WCKNC as specifically described in Appendix A of this Resolution; and

3. Suggests to WCKNC that it make a similar, formal request to all governing entities and that GWNC and WCKNC work together for the establishment of this boundary that is mutually beneficial to GWNC and WCKNC and the stakeholders thereof; and

4. Suggests to LAPD that the appropriate members of its staff conduct a review to confirm the population number differences as understood by GWNC and as set forth above and in the GWNC data attached as Appendix B; and

5. Authorizes and directs the officers of GWNC, jointly or severally, to do any and all things and to execute and deliver any and all documents which said officers may deem necessary or advisable in order to carry out, give effect to, and comply with the terms and intent of this Resolution. Such actions taken by such officers are hereby ratified, confirmed and approved.

Mr. Forbes moved that the Motion as read be adopted, and Ms. Snett seconded the Motion. The President called for discussion.

Mr. Rosenberg asked if GWNC representatives have been in contact with the Police on this matter, and Mr. Gresham replied that there has been such contact and, further, that the LAPD staff members with whom he has been speaking are supportive of our position. Mr. Gibbons asked Mr. Gresham to review the boundary that we are advocating be the dividing-line between the reconfigured Wilshire Division and the new 20th Division, and Mr. Gresham did so.

Following this discussion, the question was called, and the Motion was adopted on a vote of 20 to 1, with Mr. Gibbons voting "no."

(At this point, 8:37 p.m., Director Mary Rajswing left the meeting.)

Special Projects Committee Report

President Dougherty asked Director Margy Hudson to give her Special Projects Committee report. Ms. Hudson said that, as a result of the Emergency Preparedness Fair, about forty people have signed up for CERT (Community Emergency Response Training) classes. She said that, in addition, a Neighborhood Emergency Preparedness Radio Project is underway because ham radio operators often are the best, or only, source of communication in a major emergency. Finally, she is working on gathering Emergency

preparedness material to be posted on the GWNC web site.

President Dougherty thanked Ms. Hudson for her report. He next informed the Board that Director Mary Rajswing had agreed to work on coordinating Greater Wilshire's efforts in connection with the Mayor's "Plant a Million Trees" program and that Director Carolyn Bennett has agreed to work with Mary on the project.

Ad Hoc Zoning and Land Use Committee Report

Jim Wolf, Chair of the *Ad Hoc* Zoning and Land Use Committee, said that Director Jane Usher, who also is President of the City Planning Commission, has offered to give a briefing to the Board about City Planning, and that he would schedule that with her for some future meeting. Mr. Wolf introduced Stakeholders John H. Welborne, Hon. AIA/LA, and John Kaliski, AIA, who have been working with their fellow directors of the Los Angeles Chapter of the American Institute of Architects on a "Planning 101" briefing to be made available to neighborhood councils, design review boards, and similar groups.

Mr. Welborne and Mr. Kaliski distributed a one-page outline of topic areas for the presentation, fully-titled "Planning 101 -- The Basics of Planning, Land Use, and Urban Design in Los Angeles." Mr. Kaliski reviewed the topics in the outline and answered several questions. There seemed to be general enthusiasm for having the presentation, when fully-developed, be made available at a special GWNC Board meeting or, perhaps, in the hour preceding such a meeting.

Mr. Wolf commented that, for Stakeholders to be effective in influencing planning and development decisions, it is essential to "get in early." It also is essential to be knowledgeable about the rules, he said. Mr. Wolf suggested that these briefings from Director Usher and the AIA can be very helpful to Greater Wilshire leaders.

751 South Windsor Boulevard: Mr. Wolf reported on this case that has been before the Park Mile Design Review Board ("PMDRB"). As reported to GWNC previously, the PMDRB raised a number of issues with the developer in an attempt to find a design solution compatible with the surrounding properties. When the applicants returned to the PMDRB, the applicants had changed nothing. The PBDRB denied the project as proposed, and a formal disposition will be written by the Director of Planning. The applicants have the right to appeal that disposition.

Announcements

Ms. Hudson announced that the Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Congress (LANCC) would gather on March 17th. Among the announced sessions are ones on historic preservation. She also reminded the Board about ethics and open government training available to Board members.

Mr. Rosenberg questioned whether the street trees in Hancock Park are getting sufficient water, and Ms. Byrne responded that that is an excellent point and that it would be wise for neighborhood associations to send reminders to property owners that they are responsible for watering the parkway trees.

Mr. Gresham said there would be a Neighborhood Council Alliance meeting on January 20th and that, maybe, the Mayor and Chief Bratton would be attending.

President Dougherty reviewed the upcoming meetings related to the Election and noted that there WOULD be a regular meeting of the Board of Directors following the close of the polls on March 14, 2007. The next, scheduled meeting, for the newly-elected Directors, would be on May 9, 2007.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Gilman
Secretary