



Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council General Meeting  
January 11, 2012  
MINUTES  
Approved by the Board 02/08/12

**1. Call to Order**

A duly noticed meeting of the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council (“GWNC”) Board of Directors was held on Wednesday, January 11, 2012, at the Ebell of Los Angeles, 743 S. Lucerne Blvd., Los Angeles. President Owen Smith called the meeting to order at 7:04 p. m.

**2. Roll Call**

Ms. Fuller called the roll. Board Members in attendance at the roll call were: Larissa Alarcon, Vince Cox (Alternate for Charles D’Atri), Charles Dougherty, Elizabeth Fuller, Jane Gilman, Robby O’Donnell (Alternate for John Gresham), Alex Jones-Moreno, Frances McFall, Mary Rajswing, Owen Smith and Margaret Sowma (Alternate for Jane Usher).

Yigal Arens, Patricia Carroll, John Gresham, Jack Humphreville, Fred Pickel and Jane Usher arrived later. Board Members absent and not represented by an Alternate: Barbara Kumetz, David Lunzer, Jason Peers, Benjamin Rosenberg and James Wolf. One Board seat (Area 12 We-Wil) is vacant. Also attending: 35 Stakeholders and guests.

Eleven of the 20 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 #5.]

**MOTION** (by Mr. Gresham, seconded by Ms. Usher): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its December 14, 2011 General Meeting as written.

**MOTION PASSED** by a voice vote.

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

A. NC Election Update: Because of budget cuts at the City Clerk’s Office, the LA City Council voted on Jan. 3 to return the NC elections to DONE. DONE plans to issue its 2012 election plans in the next few weeks.

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #2.] Mr. Smith read the above.

B. Board Vacancies

Mr. Smith noted the 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

C. Bylaws Conformation to DONE's new uniform Table of Contents (John Welborne).  
[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #5.] Mr. Welborne reported that he is working on the Bylaws and that it will reflect recent Neighborhood Council Election actions.

D. Ethics Training – Board Members and Alternates who have not yet completed the training: Alarcon, Carroll, D'Atri, Kumetz, Pickel, Rosenberg, Dwyer, Fox, Kaliski, Katz, Lombard, Rubin.  
[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #4. B.] Mr. Smith noted the above and encouraged completing the Training available at <http://ethics.lacity.org/education/ethics2007/?audience=done> or at an in-person session.

*Board Members Yigal Arens, Patricia Carroll, John Gresham (replacing his Alternate Robby O'Donnell), Fred Pickel and Jane Usher (replacing her Alternate Margaret Sowma) arrived at this time, making a quorum of 14 Board Members present. Now the Board could take binding votes on Agendized Items.*

## **5. Guest Speakers**

LAFD Representatives – CERT Training

L.A. City Fire Dept. Battalion 18 Chief Richard Rideout (office 213-485-6288; cell 213-434-2464; [Richard.Rideout@LACity.org](mailto:Richard.Rideout@LACity.org); [www.LAFD.org](http://www.LAFD.org)) distributed copies of a "Home Safety Tips Checklist," "Safety First: Cold Weather Tips!" and CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) (818-756-9674) program information sheet. The Chief encouraged having a working smoke alarm battery, an escape plan and not to leave cooking or heaters unattended. He also cautioned about not having too many electrical devices on one power strip.

*Board Member Jack Humphreville arrived at this time, making 15 Board Members present.*

The CERT Program is available to trained volunteers. Chief Rideout introduced Lyn Cohen (323-937-6574) and Addison Burdine of the First In Fire Foundation, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization whose mission is "to connect local residents to their Fire Station." FIFF has supported CERT, Adopt-a-Fire Station, pet rescue and other programs and have helped Fire Stations 61 and 29.

## **6. Community Concerns**

LA High Alumni Beautification Project (Ken Marsh).

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #4. C.] Ken Marsh, L.A. High School alumnus, distributed a "Landscape Project (Phase One)" handout. The project "will be in three phases." LAHS Science Teacher Diane Rabinowitz said they are "coordinating work with State and local initiatives" regarding water conservation. Jay Cortez presented a slide

presentation about the project. Mr. Marsh indicated that the budget is still being developed; they are already paying an architect and fundraising from alumni. “The LAUSD has been cooperating in the development of these plans.” Ms. Usher described what information the GWNC needs to consider funding the project.

## **7. Local Government Updates**

### **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), reported that there will be a meeting January 26<sup>th</sup> at Charles Kim Elementary School, 225 S. Oxford, regarding the prostitution issue. Also, street light copper wire is being stolen; immediately report non-functioning street lights to 9-1-1. City redistricting questions can be directed to CD4’s Stacy Marbel.

### **B. CD5 Update (John Darnell)**

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

### **C. CD10 Update (Sylvia Lacy)**

Sylvia Lacy, District Director for L.A. City District 10 Councilman Herb Wesson (323-733-8233; Sylvia.Lacy@LACity.org), noted that copper wire thieves sometimes wear official-looking badges and vests.

### **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.

## **8. Treasurer’s Report and Budget Items**

### **A. Monthly budget report/approval – Dec./Jan. (Elizabeth Fuller).**

Ms. Fuller distributed and reviewed the “Monthly Spending Report – December 13, 2011 – January 10, 2012,” noting that \$700 in funding remains for “Outreach”/ “Sponsorship & Events” and \$1,570 for “Community Improvements” through the June 30<sup>th</sup> end of this fiscal year.

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Mr. Dougherty, seconded by Mr. Gresham): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves its “Monthly Spending Report – December 13, 2011 – January 10, 2012.”

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** unanimously 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” as of January 10, 2012. Various “invoices/grants/demand warrants” will “be submitted (as soon as [the] Treasurer is trained).”

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

Mr. Humphreville reported that “the City has not yet selected a Ratepayer Advocate,” causing delays and rate increases which are needed to pay for Federal and State-mandated improvements. There will be a January 25<sup>th</sup> rate increase meeting.

**10. City Budget Issues** (Humphreville/Mariscal/Sowma)

Mr. Humphreville reported that the City so far this fiscal year has a \$72 million deficit which is projected to total \$200-\$250 million. The Mayor’s Budget Survey [<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2012LABudgetSurvey>] will soon be available and must be submitted by February 15<sup>th</sup>.

**11. New Business: GWNC Boundary Issues**

1. Koreatown landscape improvements within GWNC boundaries (CD 4 & 10 deputies).

Copies were distributed of photos of Koreatown medallions and lanterns installed on Olympic Blvd, west of Western Ave., in the Greater Wilshire area. Mr. Smith urged Stakeholders to contact the City regarding this issue. Ms. Usher announced the [www.ReDrawLA.org](http://www.ReDrawLA.org) website that shows proposed new community boundaries that the L.A. City Council Redistricting Committee is considering. There was extensive and passionate discussion regarding that certain GWNC areas have been re-branded as part of Koreatown. Tom Smith, President, Country Club Park Neighborhood Association, distributed copies of an October 24, 2011 letter to Councilman Wesson regarding the installation of the lights and medallions, and reported that “our neighbors were very upset when these medallions started going in . . . It was decided that this was a mistake” in August. “Lots and lots” of e-mails of protest have been sent to CD10, which indicated in November that the medallions will be removed.

Ms. Lacy stated that the “Council Office solution is . . . the medallions will be removed . . . Historic lanterns . . . will be chosen by Country Club Park . . . We’re working to identify funding to get this accomplished” on “the west side of Western . . . The CRA boundary goes to Manhattan [Place] so it is within the CRA boundary . . . Western is the dividing line” between Koreatown and Greater Wilshire. “All the maps we had, the east side of Western to Vermont [is Koreatown] . . . All the [medallions] were installed by Street Services . . . [We are] meeting with them tomorrow . . . [regarding] the need to figure out where we’ll get the money to restore that intersection” of **Olympic and Western**. Ms. Lacy encouraged communicating with CD10. Ms. McFall noted that Mr. Smith contacted CD10 regarding the light fixtures, bus benches, etc. that are inconsistent with the historic character of the Greater Wilshire area.

Ms. Lacy explained that the project was funded by the Wilshire Center – Koreatown Neighborhood Council; possibly “the Korean Federation was most instrumental in moving it forward.” Mr. McCarthy described that Country Club Park is approximately 1/3 Korean heritage, 1/3 African-American and 1/3 Caucasian and that “we were completely blindsided by this installation.” The Country Club Park HPOZ [Historic Preservation

Overlay Zone] “lines were clearly delineated.” Concerns were expressed regarding claims by Koreatown Stakeholders that areas west of Western Ave., within the Greater Wilshire area, are part of Koreatown. There was discussion regarding how to voice concerns about it.

2. Ad Hoc City Council Redistricting Committee report.  
[This item was discussed concurrently with item #3, below.]
3. Proposed GWNC motion on City Council redistricting.  
[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #11. A. 1]

**MOTION** (by Mr. Gresham, seconded by Mr. Pickel): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council adopts and will submit the following Resolution:

WHEREAS the boundaries of the Greater Wilshire area have been clearly set, as defined in the current GWNC area map and understood by area homeowner and neighborhood groups, for more than 60 years, and...

WHEREAS the Greater Wilshire area is currently split among three City Council districts (4, 5 and 10), which makes it hard to unify neighborhood interests and protections under the umbrella of any one Council district...

BE IT RESOLVED that the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council requests that the Redistricting Commission, as part of its current redistricting efforts, re-unite the complete Greater Wilshire area, as defined by our area map and as traditionally understood by our area homeowner and neighborhood groups, fully within the 4th City Council district.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Dougherty recognized and thanked Councilman Wesson, Ms. Lacy and CD10 for HPOZ support. Ms. Usher urged everyone to take responsibility for preserving the Greater Wilshire area. There were comments that many Koreatown officials believe that Koreatown extends west all the way to La Brea Ave.

**AMENDMENT to the MOTION** (suggested by Mr. Welborne, made by Mr. Gresham and seconded by Ms. Fuller): that the phrase “within the 4th City Council district” be amended to “within one City Council district.”

**AMENDMENT PASSED** by a unanimous voice vote.

**AMENDED MAIN MOTION PASSED** by a unanimous voice vote.

Ms. Usher noted that a draft redistricting map will be published next week. The next round of public meetings will be after the draft map is released. Ms. Usher encouraged contacting her to volunteer to help organize a Greater Wilshire response. Ms. Lacy will provide a map of Koreatown boundaries as described in the City Council Motion.

**12. Traffic and Transportation Committee**

Board Member Fred Pickel reported that the committee will meet on January 25.

**13. Outreach Committee** (Mary Rajswing)

Ms. Rajswing announced that, after hearing complaints that Board agendas are too full, there will no longer be invited guest speakers each month; the schedule will be reduced to six times per year.

**14. Other Committee/Project Reports**

There were no other reports at this time.

**15. Board Member Comments**

Ms. McFall would like to have more speaker presentations about community concerns. Ms. Sowma was concerned regarding the 610 Van Ness property having “barrels of garbage . . . put on the sidewalk,” not all of them picked up by the City “for months” and that CD4 has not replied. Mr. Smith said he would address this problem at tomorrow’s CD 4 breakfast with Tom La Bonge.

**16. Public Comments**

Stakeholder Joan Taylor distributed copies of a flier regarding and urged opposition to the proposed California High-Speed Rail Project, noting the greatly increased cost estimate.

**17. Land Use Committee** (LUC) (James Wolf)

There was no Land Use Committee meeting in December. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 24, at 6:00 p.m.

Potential Agenda Items for January LUC Meeting:

- Conversion of service station to 7-11 at corner of Olympic & Arlington
- Review of recent Early Planning Notices in the GWNC area

**18. Announcements and Adjournment**

Mr. Smith reiterated that the GWNC and its Board Members are not against any particular group, just the re-naming or re-defining of any part of the Greater Wilshire area.

Next meeting: Wednesday, February 8, 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Smith **ADJOURNED** the Meeting without any objections at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
David Levin  
Minutes Writer