



Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council General Meeting
March 13, 2013
MINUTES
Approved by the Board, 4/10/13

1. Call to Order (Owen Smith)

A duly noticed Meeting of the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council (“GWNC”) Board of Directors was held on Wednesday, March 13, 2013, at the Ebell of Los Angeles, 743 S. Lucerne Blvd., Los Angeles. President Owen Smith called the meeting to order at 7:02 p. m.

2. Roll Call (Greg Wittmann)

Mr. Wittmann called the roll. Board Members in attendance at the roll call were: Ann Eggleston, Betty Fox, William Funderburk, Michael Genewick, John Gresham, Fred Mariscal, Frances McFall, Jeff McManus, Clinton Oie, Jason Peers, Owen Smith, Greg Wittmann and James Wolf. Jack Humphreville, Joane Pickett, Sam Roseme (Alternate for Briana Valdez), Jane Usher and Daniel Whitley arrived later. Board Members absent and not represented by an Alternate: Jeffry Carpenter, Patricia Carroll and Patricia Lombard. No Board Seats were vacant (some Alternate Seats were vacant). Also attending: 14 Stakeholders and guests.

Thirteen of the 21 Board Members were present at the roll call. The GWNC quorum (the minimum number of Board Members needing to be present to take binding votes on Agendized Items) is 13, so the Board could take such votes.

Board Member Jane Usher arrived at this time.

3. Approval of the Minutes (Greg Wittmann)

MOTION (by Ms. McFall, seconded by Ms. Fox): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its February 13, 2013 General Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote with no objections.

4. President’s Report (Owen Smith)

A. Board Vacancies.

Mr. Smith noted the vacancies and said a Brookside Alternate Candidate “will be here next time.” Alternates are needed for: Area 1 (Brookside), Area 2 (Citrus Square), Area 9 (Oakwood-Maplewood-St. Andrews), Area 12 (We-Wil), Other Non-Profit and Religion.

B. Approval and seating of new Alternate for Area 6 (La Brea-Hancock): Barbara Savage.

Mr. Funderburk introduced Barbara Savage as a Candidate to be the Area 6 (La Brea-Hancock) Representative Alternate Board Member. Ms. Savage described her interest in serving the community.

MOTION (by Ms. Eggleston, seconded by Ms. Usher): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council nominates Barbara Savage as the Area 6 (La Brea-Hancock) Representative Alternate Board Member.

MOTION PASSED without any objections.

Mr. Funderburk led Ms. Savage in reading aloud the Oath of Office. Mr. Smith welcomed Ms. Savage to the board. Mr. Smith indicated that there were no more nominations at this time.

C. Ethics Training

All new Board Members and Alternates (along with returning Board Members whose certification is more than two years old) must complete the course at <http://ethics.lacity.org/education/ethics2007/?audience=done>. Mr. Smith encouraged Board Members to complete the Ethics Training.

5. 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 the Melrose BID [Business Improvement District] is “moving along.”

Board Members Daniel Whitley and Joane Pickett arrived at this time.

B. CD5 Update (John Darnell)

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

6. Treasurer’s Report and Budget Items (Patti Carroll)

A. Monthly Budget Report/approval

In Ms. Carroll’s absence, stakeholder and former Treasurer Elizabeth Fuller distributed and reviewed the “Monthly Spending Report – YTD Mar 13, 2013.”

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Gresham, seconded by Mr. Funderburk): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves its “Monthly Spending Report – YTD Mar 13, 2013.”

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a voice vote without any objections.

B. YTD Budget Report.

Ms. Fuller distributed and reviewed the “[GWNC] Budget for Fiscal Year 2012-2013 . . . [as of] 3-13-13.”

C. Proposed Motion: [see the below Motion].

Ms. Fuller described the below proposed transfer of funds between categories.

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. McFall, seconded by Mr. Gresham): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council transfers \$2,000 in funding from its Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Budget category “Administrative Assistant” to the “Event Sponsorships” and “Community Projects” categories.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a voice vote without any objections.

Copies were distributed of a “Board Resolution Template for Quarterly Reconciliations Due April 1, 2013” and of the “Charge Card Expenditure Quarterly Reconciliation Form” for the Fiscal Year 2012-2013 second quarter (October – December 2012) and for FY 2010-2011 second quarter (October – December 2010). Ms. Fuller described and read aloud the below Motion.

Alternate Board Member Sam Roseme (for Briana Valdez) arrived at this time.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. McManus, seconded by Mr. Gresham): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council (GWNC) declares that Owen Smith and Patricia Carroll are the President and Treasurer, respectively, of the GWNC and that on Wednesday, March 13, 2013 a Brown Act-noticed public meeting was held by the GWNC with a quorum of 16 Board Members present; the GWNC acknowledges receipt of the letter issued by the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (Department) on March 1, 2013 informing the GWNC of the outstanding reconciliation reports due for the use of the City Purchasing Card. The GWNC recognizes the importance of submitting quarterly reconciliation reports in a timely manner to the Department in order to ensure accountability and transparency of the use of public funds for Neighborhood Council purposes and acknowledges that the future reconciliations will be submitted in a timely manner pursuant to Department policies and procedures. Using best efforts in contacting any and all current and former Board Members to collect the necessary paperwork to complete the outstanding reconciliation reports, the status of the reports are: October-December 2010, lost documentation due to change of Treasurer; and October-December 2012, approved and submitted with this Resolution. Therefore, be it resolved that the GWNC approves the submission of this Resolution in the place of any outstanding quarterly reconciliation reports due to the Department for the prior fiscal years where documentation is no longer accessible to the Board.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a unanimous hand vote of all 16 Board Members present.

D. Funding Request: [see the below Motion].

Diane Farmer presented a Neighborhood Purpose Grant [NPG] application on behalf of the Enrichment Center Foundation, requesting scholarship funds for four students in the GWNC area, totaling \$2,800. The program is for ages four through 13, pre-kindergarten through eighth grade. It will be open 7:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. and cost \$75 per week per student from June 10th through August 9th. Students will be selected by various groups and can be based upon financial need. Ms. Fuller noted that \$6,700 is currently available for community projects.

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. McFall, seconded by Mr. Oie): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council allocates \$2,800 for the Enrichment Center Foundation summer program at Wilshire Crest Elementary School.

DISCUSSION: At Mr. Smith's encouragement, Ms. McFall volunteered to help select participating students. Ms. Farmer and Ms. Fuller confirmed that DONE [the L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment] encourages NPGs to local non-profits and that all GWNC-area schools' students may be eligible.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a hand vote without any objections.

7. Community Concerns/Public Comments

Stakeholder Sam Amberly was concerned about "escalated gang activity," including uncleaned graffiti by at least three gangs by Melrose and Western in the GWNC area. Ms. Amberly said she hasn't received promised help from CD4 or a response from the LAPD or Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Gresham observed that that is the Ridgewood-Wiltern-St. Andrews area.

Board Member Jack Humphreville arrived at this time.

At 7:39 p.m. a recess was called to hold a Special Board Meeting; see the separate Minutes. This General Board Meeting was reconvened at 7:42 p.m.

8. DWP Oversight (Jack Humphreville)

Mr. Humphreville described possible effects of the March 5th Primary Election on the DWP.

9. City Budget Issues (Humphreville)

Mr. Humphreville distributed copies of "CD 4 Election Results March 5, 2013" and "Proposition A Sales Tax Increase March 5, 2013" handouts and noted Election statistics in CD4 and Citywide. The draft City Budget is due from the Mayor on April 20th.

10. Old Business

Mr. Mariscal reported that the Hollywood Studio Neighborhood Council has also officially opposed the proposed Peru Village. Some letters of support were from non-area residents. There was no apparent change to proposed Peru Village boundaries despite the GWNC advising the applicants that if the Village's northern boundary was moved to one block north of Melrose the GWNC would not object to Peru Village. Stakeholder Karen Gilman described filming by Peru Village supporters at a Meeting. Ms. Usher "read all their" promotional material and said there is "not one word . . . [of] linkage to the geography they selected."

Reporting on continuing efforts to hire Ms. Fuller for various training and consulting tasks, Mr. Gresham said the GWNC "got verbal approval from AppleOne" for Ms. Fuller to fulfill simultaneous roles for the GWNC, and to bill different rates for different kinds of tasks she will perform, which Ms. Fuller said was one of the issues that has been holding up the hiring process. Now that it has been worked out, she should be able to submit an application to Apple One and complete the hiring process.

11. New Business

There was no new business at this time.

12. Transportation Committee (Gerda McDonough)

A. Sixth Street Safety Study

Ms. McDonough reported that the Study is still awaited.

B. Banning and potential removal of speed humps.

MOTION (by Mr. Gresham, seconded by Mr. Whitley): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council rejects the February recommendation made by the Los Angeles Department of Transportation in its February 11, 2013 memorandum, Speed Hump Polices / Impacts on Emergency Vehicle Response Times, to "adopt a ban on the installation of new speed humps and on the replacement of existing speed humps" in order "to eliminate negative impacts on emergency response times."

The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council also rejects the Alternative Recommendation proposed by the LADOT where the City Council has the option of prioritizing neighborhood traffic management over delays to emergency response times. This policy is overly bureaucratic as the LADOT would unilaterally determine the financial feasibility, the impact on the LAFD, and establish guidelines on the installation and replacement of all speed humps, all without community input.

This recommendation by LADOT was made without input from the Neighborhood Councils and other community organizations or without consideration of the impact on local traffic patterns on residential neighborhoods.

There was little to no outreach by the LADOT.

We fully support improved emergency response times, but believe that any policies should be consistent with protecting residents of the impacted neighborhoods from speeding cars and commercial vehicles.

We support the LADOT's efforts to reduce emergency response time for ambulances and fire trucks. However, we believe the City's efforts should be focused primarily on improving poor road conditions and reducing congestion, particularly on our emergency routes.

The location and conceptual plan for new speed hump installation should be reviewed by both the local LAFD and neighborhoods prior to any action.

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote; Mr. Genewick opposed.

13. Outreach Committee (Fred Mariscal)

A. Recommendation on sponsorship of Garden Tour.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Mariscal, seconded by Mr. Whitley): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council transfers \$500 in funding from its Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Budget category "Administrative Assistant" to the "Sponsorships and Events" category.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a voice vote.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Gresham, seconded by Ms. McFall): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves spending \$500 in the Events and Sponsorships category to sponsor the 2013 Windsor Square/Hancock Park Historical Society Garden Tour.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a voice vote.

B. Nominees for next Citizen Recognition Award

Ms. McFall nominated Stakeholder Margaret Sowma for the Award.

C. Emergency Preparedness Outreach

There was no report at this time.

14. Board Member Comments

Ms. McFall was concerned about the digitalization of City library holdings at the expense of paper books. Mr. Genewick announced the Fire Station 29 100th Anniversary Celebration Tuesday, April 16th at 8:00 a.m. Pancake Breakfast. He would like to see the Fire Station's landscaping refurbished.

15. Public Comments

Ms. Fuller announced that Wilshire Crest Elementary School, which has been given two small greening grants by GWNC, is applying for a major Proposition 84 funding for further greening and park development, and would appreciate a letter of support for that effort. Mr. Wittmann volunteered to draft the letter.

Board Member Jane Usher had to leave at this time and was replaced by her Alternate Karen Gilman.

16. Land Use Committee (James Wolf)

[Each Item's first paragraph is directly from the Agenda.] Note: The Land Use Committee lacked a quorum at its February 26th meeting, so no formal recommendations were made. Discussion highlights are shown below.

A. CUB application at Tinga (142 S. La Brea)

Issue: A locally-owned Mexican restaurant requests a CUB to serve on-site beer and wine in conjunction with food sales. The restaurant has been in business for three years, with no apparent issues in the community. The location has housed restaurants since 1949.

Discussion: Committee Members representing the nearest neighborhoods had some concerns that neighbors hadn't heard about the application soon enough (the GWNC did send out notification of receipt of the application to Board Members in January), but no major questions were raised regarding the application or its specific terms. The ZA hearing on the application was February 27, and the GWNC has requested that the case be held open for comment until March 14 so the Board May vote on the issue tonight.

Mr. Wolf described the project. The Committee had not voted upon this. The restaurant “committed that they wouldn’t sell alcohol unless it was with food.” There are no “known complaints based upon their current options.” It is now open until 10:00 p.m. with no plans to be open later.

MOTION (by Ms. Eggleston, seconded by Mr. Genewick): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council supports the CUB application of Tinga Restaurant at 142 S. La Brea, to serve on-site beer and wine in conjunction with food sales.

MOTION PASSED by a hand vote with 11 in favor; four abstained.

B. Southern California Gas Advanced Meter installation

Issue: SoCalGas presented before this Board last December about its Advanced Meter program to collect gas consumption data wirelessly. Representatives were asked to return with more information on visual impacts and siting. Three receivers will be installed within the GWNC (see pictures in handout), all of which will be co-located with City street lights. Receivers will be located at 610 N. Van Ness, 4254 W. 5th, and 136 N. La Brea. Discussion: Committee Members present had no objections to the three proposed installations.

Handout copies were distributed about the Data Collection Units. Mr. Wolf reported that Committee members present at the Land Use meeting were not opposed to the three installations proposed in the GWNC area.

MOTION (by Mr. Genewick, seconded by Ms. McFall): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council supports the Southern California Gas Co. Advanced Meter installations of receivers at 610 N. Van Ness, 4254 W. 5th, and 136 N. La Brea.

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote without any objections.

C. Harold Henry Park Improvements

Issue: City Council District 4 Field Deputy presented plans for improvements to the park including fencing, exercise equipment, concrete picnic tables, concrete benches and solar-powered trash compactors. Neighbors who had been in discussion with the council office presented alternate plans aimed at preserving preserve the park as a peaceful and contemplative resting space. Neighbors noted the lack of demand for exercise equipment and expressed concern that fencing would obstruct sight lines and compromise the effectiveness of LAPD drive-by monitoring. Land Use Committee Member John Kaliski presented a program of improvements including seasonal trees, metal benches and metal trash bins. Discussion: Committee Members present generally supported the neighbors’ proposals for a visibly open and more contemplative space.

It was clarified that the community presented a counter-proposal. Ms. Fuller explained that Committee Member John Kaliski’s firm did its own pro bono design proposal that “was much different than the City Council program.” Mr. Wittmann described Mr. Kaliski’s proposal and neighborhood support of it. Ms. Fox described maintenance needed. CD4 indicated that Quimby funds are available for this project.

MOTION (by Ms. Gilman, seconded by Mr. Humphreville): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council supports the Harold Henry Park Improvements plan proposed by John Kaliski and other Park neighbors.

MOTION PASSED by a hand vote with no objections.

[There was no Item #16. D.]

E. Flywheel Retail Store and Testing Room (147 N. Larchmont)

Issue: Flywheel, which offers indoor cycling classes, is opening mid-March in the space formerly occupied by Blockbuster. After reading Flywheel's flyers and online advertisements – which seem to advertise the coming availability of spinning classes at the Larchmont location - Land Use Committee Members expressed concern that the business may violate Larchmont's zoning, which permits bicycle retail shops, but not fitness center or gyms in ground-floor storefronts. Flywheel's representative stated the business will be a retail store with a testing room, not a gym. Discussion: The representative was not able to attend the February meeting, but is scheduled to present at the March 26th Land Use Committee meeting. The issue prompted a discussion of whether to revisit the street's Q-conditions to reflect new challenges facing the street, such as a decline in local ownership.

Mr. Wolf said the Store will be “where Blockbuster used to be . . . there's a “Q” condition issue . . .” He will Agendize this for the next Committee Meeting. Ms. Pickett supported the use, noting that the site has “been vacant for two years,” though she was concerned whether it conforms to the zoning. Ms. Fuller described that the advertising indicates classes will be held there. She said Board Member Patty Lombard wrote to CD4 expressing the Committee's concerns; Renee Weitzer, CD4 Chief of Land Use Planning, replied that she contacted the company, which said their website and flier are wrong and would be changed. Mr. Wittmann added that Flywheel is “planning on opening this month.”

Potential Agenda Items for March 26 LUC Meeting:

- CUB application at La Brea Bakery (468 S. La Brea)
- Parcel map to divide a lot into two lots at 800 N. Sycamore
- Adjustment ancillary to small lot subdivision at 800 N. Sycamore
- Discussion of California ABC enforcement and licensing
- Information on tract map process
- CUB for full line of alcohol at Chipotle (5201 Beverly)

17. Announcements and Adjournment [This was Item #17, not #14.]

Next meeting: Wednesday, April 10, 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Smith declared and the Board agreed to **ADJOURN** the Meeting at 8:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
David Levin
Minutes Writer