



Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council General Meeting  
April 13, 2011  
MINUTES  
Approved by the Board 6/8/11

**1. Call to Order**

A duly noticed meeting of the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council (“GWNC”) Board of Directors was held on Wednesday, April 13, 2011 at the Ebell of Los Angeles, 743 S. Lucerne Blvd., Los Angeles. President Owen Smith called the meeting to order at 7:17 p. m.

**2. Roll Call**

Secretary Elizabeth Fuller called the roll. Board Members in attendance at the roll call were: Patricia Carroll, Elizabeth Fuller, John Gresham, Jack Humphreville, Alex Jones-Moreno, David Lunzer, Frances McFall, Clinton Oie, Mary Rajswing, Owen Smith, Margaret Sowma (Alternate for Jane Usher) and James Wolf.

Twelve of the 20 Board Members 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. One Board seat (Area 9 (Oakwood-Maplewood-St. Andrews)) is vacant. Also attending: 16 Stakeholders and guests. Board Members absent and not represented by an Alternate: Yigal Arens, Charles D’Atri, Charles Dougherty, Barbara Kumetz, Jane Gilman, Matthew Oldham and Fred Pickel. Benjamin Rosenberg arrived later.

**3. Approval of the Minutes**

[This Agenda Item was addressed after the 13<sup>th</sup> Board Member arrived to make a quorum.]

**MOTION** (by Mr. Gresham, seconded by Ms. Sowma): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its March 9, 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 #5.]

Remaining vacancies – please recruit:

Area 2 (Citrus Square) – Alternate

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

Area 12 (We-Wil) – Alternate

Education – Alternate

Renter -- Alternate

Mr. Smith indicated that there were no nominations at this time.

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 [This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #6. B..]  
Current: Cox, Dougherty, Genewick, Gresham, Jones-Moreno, Moser, Mulligan, Oie, McFall, Smith, Usher, Wolf. All others must take the training at <http://Ethics.LACity.org/Education/Ethics2007/?audience=done>  
No additional Ethics Training completions were noted at this time. Mr. Smith reminded Board Members who haven't to complete the Ethics Training.

D. Secretary & Treasurer Transition – Call for volunteers/candidates to take over in July.  
Mr. Smith requested volunteers for Secretary and Treasurer; if there are none Mr. Smith will appoint people to the positions.

5. **Guest Speaker** – Jim Yannotta, LADWP Recycled Water Program  
[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #2.] Mr. Yannotta distributed a “Recycled Water Program for Los Angeles” slide presentation and showed slides. L.A. gets 85 % of its water from other sources; 1½% is recycled. Since World War II the largest local aquifer has been contaminated; 54 of 115 L.A. wells “had to be shut down.” Water supply challenges “have nothing to do with the drought . . . recycled water is highly treated wastewater . . . meets health and safety laws . . . [they’ve] been using recycled water in L.A. for about 30 years . . . [they] anticipate water staying in the ground at least two years before it hits a well . . . [the] cost will be \$715 million to \$1 billion” depending upon future conditions. Recycled water costs less and requires less energy to transport than imported water. Rates “will not increase” due to the Program.

6. **Local Government Updates**

A. CD4 Update (Nikki Ezhari)

It was announced that Ms. Ezhari no longer works for CD4. There was no report.

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 most of the new parking meters have been installed and are of much better quality. Also, the proposed Community Care Facilities Ordinance is progressing toward a City Council vote. Mr. Darnell described ways the proposed Administrative Citation Enforcement (ACE) Program may be used.

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)

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Mr. Stewart's below report.] Ms. Carcel reported that there'll be a Job Fair in May.

E. 26th Senate District Update (Andrew Lachman)

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

Charles Stewart, Representative for State 47th District Assemblymember Holly Mitchell (310-342-1070; Charles.Stewart@asm.ca.gov), distributed a constituent services brochure. Their GWNC area is from Wilshire Blvd. south. Many meetings were held and extensive public testimony received regarding State Budget plans; the next series of cuts “will be catastrophic” for social services. Thursday, May 19th 7 p.m. - 8 p.m. there’ll be a telephonic Town Hall [<http://asmdc.org/members/a47/district-events?layout=category>] regarding the status of the State budget, local issues and more. For-profit businesses will donate health services at the July 19<sup>th</sup> “Christmas in July.”

**7. Community Concerns**

Annie Chow of Van Ness Elementary School encouraged attending their Open House tomorrow and encouraged people to consider it as an alternative to the lottery-restricted Larchmont Charter School.

**8. Treasurer’s Report & Budget Items**

A. Monthly budget report/approval (Matthew Oldham/Elizabeth Fuller)

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #6. D.] Ms. Fuller reminded that Demand Warrants must be submitted by April 15<sup>th</sup>. She distributed and reviewed the “Monthly Spending Report – March 1, 2011 – April 12, 2011” and “[GWNC] Budget for Fiscal Year 2010-2011.” The [www.GWNC.org](http://www.GWNC.org) website re-design is “very close” to finished and should be online “within the next couple of months.” Ms. Fuller explained that tonight she received the Green Island project invoices which are now added to and amend the Budget. [The following Motion was voted upon after Item #3.]

**MOTION** (by Ms. Rajswing, seconded by Mr. Gresham): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves the “Monthly Spending Report – March 1, 2011 – April 12, 2011.”

**MOTION PASSED** by a voice vote.

**Recess.** There was a brief recess at this time.

[At this time the Special Meeting was held; see the separate Minutes.]

B. YTD Spending Report

***Ms. Fuller presented an updated Year-to-Date spending report, showing how much we’ve spent and have remaining in our various budget categories.***

C. Fiscal year-end deadlines & considerations:

Ms. Fuller announced the following DONE fiscal deadlines and considerations.

i. Demand Warrant deadline – April 15

ii. Debit card freeze – June 15

iii. NC balances reported – June 27 (She also noted that it's likely our rollover funds will be swept this year, and that our annual budget will be reduced to \$40,000.)

iv. Fiscal year 2011-2012 budget due – July 15

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

Mr. Humphreville reported that the Ratepayer Advocate and Office of Public Accountability are being established. The DWP announced that the DWP is cutting \$443 million from the next three years' Budgets through reduced workforce and other expenses.

**10. City Budget Issues** (Jack Humphreville)

Mr. Humphreville described planned and possible major Budget adjustments and cuts to deal with the City's Budget crisis.

**11. Outreach Committee**

A. Upcoming meeting speakers/events:

Ms. Fuller reviewed upcoming scheduled speakers and the committee members who are coordinating them.

May 11 – Film LA (Jane Gilman)

June 8 – New city Bike Plan (Jane Gilman)

July 13 – Los Angeles Economic Development Corp. (Jack Humphreville)

August – GWNC Board Member Francis McFall will speak about issues in her neighborhood, Country Club Heights.

September – Assembly Member Mike Feuer

**12. Other Committee/Project Reports**

A. Wilshire/La Brea Station Area Advisory Group (Pickel, Fuller, Smith)

Ms. Fuller reported that the Group provided feedback to Metro regarding planned stations along the Wilshire Boulevard subway extension.

Board Member Benjamin Rosenberg arrived at this time, making a quorum of 13 Board Members. Now the Board could take binding votes on Agendized Items.

**13. Board Member Comments/New Business**

Ms. Rajswing announced that she wrote a letter to Sgt. Anthony Espinoza, LAPD Vice Squad, thanking him for speaking at the March 9<sup>th</sup> General Meeting.

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

*[Each section's first paragraph is directly from the Agenda.]* Action Items:

A. Proposed GWNC Policy on Wireless Telecommunications Facilities Issue: As requests for installations of cell phone antennas, poles and other equipment have increased in the last year, the Land Use Committee has been working to create a policy that can help guide Board actions and applicants' proposals for such installations in our area. (See policy draft handout.) LUC recommended MOTION: [see below].

Mr. Wolf distributed a “[GWNC] Interim Wireless Telecommunications Equipment Location Policy – Version 2/21/11” and acknowledged Stakeholder John Kaliski as “the primary author” of the policy.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Gresham, seconded by Mr. Humphreville): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council adopts the “Interim Wireless Telecommunications Equipment Location Policy” as revised at the February 22, 2011 GWNC Land Use Committee Meeting.

**MOTION PASSED** by a voice vote.

**B. Legalize Use of Garage as Office and Hiring of 2 Employees – 4714 W. 8th St.**

Issue: The residence has long been used to house a group of missionary priests, who also use space over the garage for offices. After the city cited an illegal carport on the property (which has now been removed), it also asked the owners to obtain a variance for the “residential” (office) use of the garage space...as well as a variance to allow one extra employee (codes allow one employee in this type of space; the priests currently have two lay employees). Nearest neighbors initially had concerns about parties that were held in the yard of the property a couple of years ago, when the supervising priest was out of the country, but those events have ceased and the owners agreed at a recent community meeting to allow no more amplified outdoor music nor congregation of more than 10 people in the yard at any one time. Proposed MOTION: [see below].

Mr. Wolf described the project, emphasizing that this variance would be for the specific use of the Missionaries of Guadalupe, not the property.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Wolf, seconded by Mr. Gresham): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council supports the variance application by the Missionaries of Guadalupe at 4714 W. 8th St. to legalize the garage use as an office, and to allow the hiring of one additional employee in the space.

**MOTION PASSED** without any objections.

**C. Ogamdo Café CUP – 842 S. La Brea**

Issue: Restaurant applied for a CUP requesting sales of a full line of alcoholic beverages, extended nighttime hours, legalization of an outdoor dining patio behind the restaurant that was built without permits, and off-site leased parking in lieu of the required number of on-site spaces. (The same requests were made in a similar application in 2006, and all—except the offsite parking – were denied at that time, based on neighbor’s complaints.) The GWNC voted in 2009, based on complaints from neighbors who live behind the property, to oppose the application. After the ZA hearing in February, however, during a 30-day comment period, the applicants revised the application, dropping the requests for the full line of alcoholic beverages and extended hours, but still requesting use of the patio space, and newly requesting an upstairs expansion of the interior restaurant. The restaurant’s representative and neighbors returned to the LUC in February. When the neighbors continued to object to the patio use – which the restaurant has continued illegally since 2006, and where they now also grill food – the applicant’s representative

offered to recommend reduction of the patio space. The neighbors insisted, however, that the patio use end altogether, and the representative offered to recommend that his clients discontinue it. The day after the LUC meeting, however, the representative sent a note to the ZA saying the LUC had agreed to continued use of the patio, with a reduction in size. Proposed MOTION: [see below.] (Note: Committee members Kaliski and Lombard opposed the Land Use Committee's motion, on the grounds that it wasn't necessary with our previous opposition on record.)

Mr. Wolf explained the project and Motion.

**MOTION** (by Ms. McFall, seconded by Ms. Fuller): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council continues to oppose the application unless or until the applicants submit a new or revised application, which accurately reflects - in writing - the current requests acceptable to the neighbors (e.g. beer and wine only, no extended hours, full plans for the upstairs dining space and conditions that eliminate the patio use and all outdoor cooking).

**MOTION PASSED** by a voice vote.

- D. Getty House Wall – 605 S. Irving Issue: The Getty House, official residence of Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, has filed for an application for a variance to allow construction of an over-height wall in front of the house. The Windsor Square Association has voted to oppose the variance application. Proposed MOTION: That the GWNC Board support the applicants in their efforts to build a wall that is allowed within current codes, without a variance.

Mr. Wolf explained the project.

**MOTION** (by M Mr. Gresham, seconded by Ms. McFall): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council supports the Windsor Square Association and the Board of the Windsor Square Historical Preservation Overlay Zone in their opposition to the application for a variance to allow construction of a six-foot wall. The GWNC Board supports the applicants in their efforts to build a wall that is allowed within current codes, without a variance.

**MOTION PASSED** by a voice vote.

The following items are presented for information only. No action is requested or required at this time:

- E. Conversion of 76 Station at Wilton/Olympic to 7-11 with CUP for wine and beer sales – 3481 W. Olympic

Issue: Current service station would be converted to 7-11 convenience store, with gas pumps. CUP for wine and beer sales being requested. Developer presented plans for the store conversion and petitions in favor of the project from customers and neighboring businesses. LUC advised the developers to consult with local residents as well as LAPD and CD10 offices for further input and feedback, before returning to the GWNC for a vote.

#### F. Los Angeles Tennis Club Parking

Issue: The Los Angeles Tennis Club was built in the 1930s with little off-street parking. The club recently converted one tennis court to off-street loading and parking space, and was told by the Dept. of Building and Safety that this would be allowed under a 1938 variance. It was later discovered that additional variances would be needed, and the Club is now working with the City Council office, Building and Safety and nearby neighbors to legalize the new parking area. After hearing comments from both a Tennis Club Board Member and one neighbor who has some objections to the parking area, the Land Use Committee asked the Club to continue working with the neighbors to mitigate their concerns.

#### G. 901 S. Wilton Board and Care Facility

Issue: A CUP application has been filed to convert an existing 9-unit apartment building to a 26-bed (with 6 parking spaces) board and care facility for the mentally disabled. No hearing date has been set yet, and the Land Use Committee asked the applicants to meet with the Wilshire Park Neighborhood Association and return to the LUC before a public hearing occurs.

Potential Agenda Items for April 26 LUC Meeting (in addition to those above):

- Update on cell phone poles proposed for 1st/Wilton & 9th/Mansfield.
- Update on Eastern Presbyterian Church Renovations (4720 W. 6th St.)

Mr. Wolf announced the next Committee Meeting on April 26<sup>th</sup>.

#### **15. Public Comments**

Ms. Fuller requested Board Members let her know their GWNC business cards needs. Ms. McFall requested the GWNC to oppose the proposed 7-11 Store at 3481 W. Olympic at Wilton. Mr. Gresham described extensive questioning of 7-11 Store representatives at the Land Use Committee Meeting and encouraged Ms. McFall to testify at the Committee. Stakeholder Joan Taylor encouraged opposing the proposed the San Francisco to Los Angeles and Victorville to Las Vegas high speed rail lines as too expensive and unnecessary.

#### **16. Announcements and Adjournment**

A. Next meeting: Wednesday, May 11, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Smith declared and the Board agreed to **ADJOURN** the Meeting at 9:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
David Levin  
Minutes Writer