



Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council General Meeting
May 14, 2014
MINUTES
Approved by the Board, 6/11/14

1. **Call to Order** (James Wolf)

A duly noticed Meeting of the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council (“GWNC”) Board of Directors was held on Wednesday, May 14, 2014, at the Ebell of Los Angeles, 743 S. Lucerne Blvd., Los Angeles. Vice-President James Wolf called the meeting to order at 7:10 p. m.

2. **Roll Call** (Jeffry Carpenter)

Secretary Jeffry Carpenter called the roll. Fifteen of the 21 Board Members or their Alternates were present at the beginning of the Meeting: Jeffry Carpenter, Patricia Carroll, Ann Eggleston, Karen Gilman (Alternate for Jane Usher), John Gresham, Joseph Hoffman, Jack Humphreville, Fred Mariscal, Frances McFall, Clinton Oie, Jason Peers, Julie Stromberg, Daniel Whitley, Greg Wittmann and James Wolf. Board Members absent and not represented by an Alternate: William Funderburk, Michael Genewick, Patricia Lombard, Dorian Shapiro, Owen Smith and John Winther. The GWNC quorum (the minimum number of Board Members needing to be present to take binding votes on Agendized Items) is 13 (see <http://empowerla.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/07/Greater-Wilshire-NC-Bylaws.pdf>), so the Board could take such votes. All 21 Board Seats were filled. No Board Seats were vacant (some Alternate Seats were vacant; see below). Also attending: 14 Stakeholders and guests.

3. **Approval of the Minutes** (Jeffry Carpenter)

MOTION (by Mr. Gresham, seconded by Mr. Whitley): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its March 12, 2014 General Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 15 eligible voters present with all 13 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Carpenter, Carroll, Eggleston, Gilman, Gresham, Hoffman, Humphreville, Mariscal, McFall, Oie, Peers, Stromberg, Whitley, Wittmann and Wolf).

MOTION (by Mr. Carpenter, seconded by Ms. McFall): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its April 9, 2014 General Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 13 eligible voters present with all 13 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Carpenter, Eggleston, Gilman, Gresham, Hoffman, Humphreville, Mariscal, McFall, Oie, Peers, Whitley, Wittmann and Wolf).

4. President's Report

A. Board Vacancies

Alternates are needed for:

Area 2 (Citrus Square)

Area 3 (Country Club Heights)

Area 4 (Fremont Place)

Area 9 (Oakwood/Maplewood/St. Andrews Square)

Area 12 (Western-Wilton)

[note: the above were crossed off the list after the agenda was published, but before the meeting – they were not announced as vacant at the meeting]

Education Representative

Religion Representative

Non-Profit Representative

Mr. Wolf noted the vacancies.

B. Introductions/Nominations of Candidates for Board Alternates:

Area 8 (Melrose) – Jeff McManus

Area 11 (Sycamore Square) – Eric Oliver

Jeff McManus would be the Area 8 Alternate Representative “by default” according to GWNC Administrative Consultant Elizabeth Fuller. There was a tie in the election (for the Alternate position) between Mr. McManus and Michael Lippmann. Mr. Lippmann won the coin toss that broke the tie, but later declined the alternate position. Area 11 Alternate candidate Eric Oliver and Business Alternate candidate Peggy Bartenetti introduced themselves and described their community interests.

MOTION (by Ms. Carroll, seconded by Ms. Eggleston): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council accepts Jeff McManus as the Area 8 Alternate Representative, Eric Oliver as the Area 11 Alternate Representative and Peggy Bartenetti as the Business Alternate Representative.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 13 eligible voters present with all 13 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Carpenter, Eggleston, Gilman, Gresham, Hoffman, Humphreville, Mariscal, McFall, Oie, Peers, Whitley, Wittmann and Wolf).

C. Seating of Alternates and GWNC Board Members Not Previously Installed.

Ms. Bartenetti, Kathleen Mulligan (Alternate for Patricia Carroll), Mr. Oliver and Mr. Whitley (who hadn't been sworn in last month) all read aloud the Neighborhood Council Oath of Office:

“I pledge to represent the Greater Wilshire NC with dignity, integrity and pride. I will encourage other points of view, even when they differ from my own. I will respect, value and consider everyone's opinion. I will find the good in my neighborhood and praise it and promote it. To my neighbors, and to neighborhoods throughout the City of Los Angeles, I pledge to do this to the best of my ability.”

Ms. Bartenetti was Seated with the Board at this time (sitting in for the absent John Winther), making 16 Board Members (or their Alternate(s)) present (the GWNC quorum is 13).

- D. Ethics & Funding Training – *[This Section is directly from the Agenda.]* All Board Members and Alternates must complete ethics training in order to vote on funding Motions before the Board. The course is available online at <http://ethics.lacity.org/education/ethics2007/?audience=done>

In addition to Ethics training, all Board Members and Alternates are also REQUIRED to take a new funding training course (about the new system of NC checking accounts that will be launched soon). The course is at <http://www.slideshare.net/EmpowerLA/nc-checking-account-training-62413>. The last page of the presentation contains a link -- <http://www.empowerla.org/Boardregistration> -- to a completion form you can submit to register your attendance.

Board Members and Alternates MUST complete both trainings to be eligible to vote on funding-related matters. The following Board Members and Alternates have NOT completed the trainings noted below and are NOT eligible to vote on financial matters:

Amin – Ethics, Funding

Bernstein –Funding

Carroll – Ethics

Shapiro – Ethics, Funding

Stromberg – Ethics, Funding

Winther – Ethics, Funding

[note: the above names were crossed out before the meeting and not announced at the meeting]

5. Local Government Updates

A. Mayor's Office (Yeghig Keshishian)

Mr. Keshishian was not present and there was no report.

B. 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; <http://CD4.LACity.org>), reported that palm fronds blown down by recent high winds are being picked up by Street Services; if you need pickup email him or report them through the MyLA311 app. Ms. McFall requested that CD4 establish a field office within the Greater Wilshire area.

C. CD5 Update (John Darnell)

John Darnell, Field Deputy for L.A. City District Five Councilman Paul Koretz (310-289-0353; John.Darnell@LACity.org; www.lacity.org/council/cd5), reported on Older Americans' Month and that May 15th was Senior Week. He left copies of the Council Resolution on the handout table.

Mr. Darnell also provided an update on the Melrose BID, noting that street tree improvements are presently scheduled to go in on the south side of Melrose west of Larchmont.

Finally, he noted that the sidewalk and bus patron loading area at the southwest corner of Beverly and Highland had been reconstructed by the residential property owner, improving what had been a very impacted situation.

Greg Bartz, Community Liaison, DWP (L.A. Dept. of Water and Power) (213-367-2800, Greg.Bartz@ladwp.com), distributed DWP Information Packets and recommended Agendizing DWP representative Penny Falcon to speak on the lawn replacement program.

6. Community Concerns/Public Comments

A. Presentation of GWNC Citizen Recognition Award (Fred Mariscal)

i. Dr. Steve Martinez

Mr. Mariscal introduced Dr. Martinez and presented him with the Citizen Recognition Award (applause). Dr. Martinez thanked everyone for the Award, reiterated his commitment to community service and thanked the GWNC for its support of John Burroughs Middle School.

B. Other Public Comments

There were no other public comments at this time.

7. Treasurer's Report & Budget Items (Patti Carroll & Elizabeth Fuller)

A. Monthly Budget Reports/Expenditures Approvals

Copies were distributed and Ms. Fuller reviewed the GWNC "Monthly Spending Report – Fiscal Year 2013-2014, as of 5/1/14"; "Monthly Expenditure Report for April 2014" and "Budget for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 APPROVED by the Board on July 10, 2013 . . . remaining as of 5/14/14."

FUNDING MOTION #1 (by Mr. Gresham, seconded by Mr. Whitley): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves its "Monthly Expenditure Report for April 2014."

DISCUSSION: The "Wilton Islands Maintenance" funding was explained by Ms. Mulligan and Ms. Fuller.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 13 eligible voters present with all 13 in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Carpenter, Eggleston, Gilman, Gresham, Hoffman, Humphreville, Mariscal, McFall, Oie, Peers, Whitley, Wittmann and Wolf).

FUNDING MOTION #2 (by Mr. Humphreville, seconded by Ms. Eggleston): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves each of the individual expenditures it made in April 2014.

(These included:

- Handouts for April LUC meeting - \$53.85**
- May and June Larchmont Chronicle ads - \$680.00**
- Wilton Islands maintenance (April-June) \$225.00**
- Wilton Islands irrigation repairs (April) - \$354.98**
- Wilshire United Methodist Church meeting space (7/13-6/14) - \$650.00)**

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 13 eligible voters present with all 13 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Carpenter, Eggleston, Gilman, Gresham, Hoffman, Humphreville, Mariscal, McFall, Oie, Peers, Whitley, Wittmann and Wolf).

B. YTD Budget

Ms. Fuller explained the Budget.

C. Progress report on outstanding contracts (Ebell, WUMC, E. Fuller, etc.)

Ms. Carroll reported that “the Ebell contract is finally in.” The Wilshire United Methodist Church (WUMC) contract probably “will be done in the next two days.” She added that DONE [the L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment]’s Jeff Brill indicated that he will finish processing Ms. Fuller’s contract [to be the GWNC administrative and communications consultant] and will waive tomorrow’s contact deadline if necessary to complete approval of all pending contracts.

D. Other Year-End Finance Issues/Expenditures

Ms. Fuller explained possible allocations. There was discussion of the need and usefulness of the Congress and Budget Advocates, which Mr. Humphreville supported.

i. Funding Motion to Support Congress of Neighborhoods:

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #7. D. ii.]

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Mariscal, seconded by Mr. Humphreville): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council resolves that it supports the LA Congress of Neighborhoods in the amount of \$250.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 13 eligible voters present with all 13 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Carpenter, Eggleston, Gilman, Gresham, Hoffman, Humphreville, Mariscal, McFall, Oie, Peers, Whitley, Wittmann and Wolf).

ii. Funding Motion to Support the Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Humphreville, seconded by Ms. McFall): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council resolves that it supports the Budget Advocates in the amount of \$250.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 13 eligible voters present with all 13 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Carpenter, Eggleston, Gilman, Gresham, Hoffman, Humphreville, Mariscal, McFall, Oie, Peers, Whitley, Wittmann and Wolf).

iii. Business cards for new Members

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Eggleston, seconded by Mr. Hoffman): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council will allocate up to \$200 in funding for business cards.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 13 eligible voters present with all 13 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Carpenter, Eggleston, Gilman, Gresham, Hoffman, Humphreville, Mariscal, McFall, Oie, Peers, Whitley, Wittmann and Wolf).

iv. Office supplies (paper, printer ink, etc.)

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Gresham, seconded by Mr. Whitley): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council will allocate up to \$500 in funding for office supplies including paper.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 13 eligible voters present with all 13 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Carpenter, Eggleston, Gilman, Gresham, Hoffman, Humphreville, Mariscal, McFall, Oie, Peers, Whitley, Wittmann and Wolf).

v. Other?

There was discussion of what amounts and to whom to allocate remaining funding according to the Ad Hoc Funding Subcommittee recommendations.

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Carroll, seconded by Mr. Gresham): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council will allocate any remaining funding equally (up to the amounts requested in their NPG applications) to L.A. Team Mentoring, L.A. High School and the Hollywood/Wilshire YMCA, as recommended by our Ad Hoc Funding Committee..

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 13 eligible voters present with all 13 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Carpenter, Eggleston, Gilman, Gresham, Hoffman, Humphreville, Mariscal, McFall, Oie, Peers, Whitley, Wittmann and Wolf).

8. DWP Oversight (Jack Humphreville)

Mr. Humphreville reported that rate increases probably will be delayed until July 2014. Also, the IBEW is appealing the court decision that they must divulge the financial information of the two joint Trusts the IBEW operates with the DWP.

Mr. Humphreville reported that problems in the customer information system may be in the process of getting resolved under the direction of the new General Manager. Many of the employees in this area appear to be transfers from other City departments during recent work force reductions and were not tested or trained as DWP would have normally done.

Mr. Humphreville finally noted a concern that the DWP power reliability program was lagging, reportedly due to work rule restrictions.

9. City Budget Issues (Humphreville)

Mr. Humphreville reported that the Mayor's proposed Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Budget "is up about 5%" from last year; there will be a "\$242 million Budget deficit." Stakeholder Jonathan Pitre believed that City statistics about librarians' benefits are incorrect and described new and upcoming library programs.

A. Proposed Motion endorsing NC Budget Advocate White Paper.

"The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council supports the Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates' White Paper recommendations and requests the City Council to instruct the City Administrative Officer and the Chief Legislative Analyst to report back within 30 days on the findings and recommendations of the Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates."

Copies of "Enterprise Solutions: A City of Disconnect, FY2014-2015, Neighborhood Council Budget Advocate White Paper, April 7, 2014" were distributed. There was discussion that, since the GWNC had not verified the statistics in the White Paper, it would be better to say that the GWNC supports "the concepts in" the White Paper.

MOTION (by Mr. Humphreville, seconded by Ms. McFall): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council supports the concepts in the Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates' White Paper recommendations and requests the City Council to instruct the City Administrative Officer and the Chief Legislative Analyst to report back within 30 days on the findings and recommendations of the Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Humphreville described challenges for the City Budget and provisions of services. Mr. Whitley was concerned and Mr. Humphreville acknowledged that "some" White Paper facts are "wrong."

[note: none of the following votes involved funding, so all 16 board members and alternates present were allowed to vote]

MOTION PASSED by a hand vote of the 16 eligible voters present with 13 in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Bartenetti, Carroll, Carpenter, Gilman, Gresham, Hoffman, Humphreville, Mariscal, McFall, Oie, Stromberg, Wittmann and Wolf); two opposed (Peers and Whitley); one abstained (Eggleston).

[There was no Agenda Item #10.]

11. Old Business

Ms. McFall would like the GWNC to consider more (and more important) issues.

A. Peru Village update and HCNC election issues (Mariscal)

Mr. Mariscal described the proposed naming of Peru Village. Mr. Gresham added that it would be along Vine St. from "the north side of Melrose to the south side of Sunset."

There was discussion that the Central Hollywood Neighborhood Council (CHNC) has five Board Members who will need to recuse themselves when the CHNC addresses the Peru Village project because they are associated with it, as indicated on their CHNC election campaign flier. Mr. Mariscal will continue to monitor the issue.

12. New Business

There was no new business at this time.

13. Transportation Committee

Mr. Carpenter reported that Gerda McDonough resigned as the Committee Chair and that Michelle Owen of the LaBrea-Hancock area volunteered to be the Chair; Ms. Stromberg has volunteered to be the Transportation Committee Secretary to assist Ms. Owen as the Committee's Liaison to the GWNC Board.

A. Update on Save Our Streets Initiative

Mr. Carpenter indicated that the City Council sponsors and the Public Works Board are continuing to develop this proposal. What remains presently in flux is how it is going to be funded. At present, the prior proposals for a large bond issue appear to be withdrawn.

B. Mobility Element

Mr. Carpenter noted that the comment deadline was May 13. The GWNC Transportation Committee previously submitted its comments and decided not to submit additional comments.

C. Federal Highway Trust Fund

Mr. Carpenter indicated that this is "a source of concern." Funding from the Federal Highway Trust Fund had until recently been a very significant resource supporting local street and arterials and the erosion of this funding over the recent decades has contributed to the present crisis in maintaining the City's streets.

D. Update on repair status of Hancock Park failed streets

Mr. Carpenter, reporting a recount from Cindy Chvatal-Keane, said that the City's initial survey of the streets involved turned out to be faulty, so the survey will have to be re-done.

E. Extended work hours on Metro's Purple Line project

Mr. Carpenter indicated that there is "no news" about this.

F. Update on Carling Way alley repair

Mr. Carpenter, according from accounts from La Brea property owner Joseph O'Heron, reported that there now appears to be no feasible way forward for the adjoining property owners to deal with the situation.

14. Outreach Committee (Mariscal)

A. Election wrap-up and GWNC recommendations to DONE (Mariscal/Savage)

Mr. Mariscal will report on this at the next [June 11th] Board Meeting.

15. Board Member Reports and Comments

Ms. Carroll relayed that the St. Andrews Square Neighborhood Association (SASNA) is asking the GWNC to write a letter about a May 20th Zoning Administrator hearing about applications for three alcohol-service licenses and extended hours of operation until 2:00 a.m. at 135-139 N. Western. Mr. Wittmann said he has requested that the ZA hold the file open for comments after the hearing, so the Land Use Committee can weigh in after it discusses the matter at its May 27 meeting.

16. Public Comments

There were no public comments at this time.

17. Land Use Committee (James Wolf)

[Each Item's Issue/first paragraph is directly from the Agenda.]

A. CUB and street/sidewalk adjustments at LC/710 N. El Centro

Issue: Developers of this mixed-use project, now under construction, provided information about the CUB they received to allow sales of wine and beer at a 3,300 square foot restaurant in the building. The restaurant would have about 155 interior seats and 50 outdoor patio seats, with 26 parking spaces and valet parking. It would be open until 11 p.m. on weeknights and midnight on weekends. (No tenant has been signed yet, so other details about the specific restaurant have not yet been determined.) The next privilege the developers are seeking is a revocable permit, in lieu of the City-recommended street widening at the site, to maintain the existing curb line on Melrose Ave. and instead improve the sidewalk area with trees and street furniture. There was some discussion of the kinds of landscaping and furniture that could be provided, and while Committee Members were generally favorable to the idea, they also expressed a desire to review more specific plans as they develop. [Note: because the CUB has already been granted, that information was provided for information only. The street/sidewalk issue was the only one acted on by the LUC.]

LUC Recommendation: [see the below Motion].

Copies of project diagrams were distributed. Mr. Wolf described the project and that it is “right outside our boundary but has impacts on our area.”

MOTION (by Mr. Whitley, seconded by Mr. Gresham): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council supports the proposal for a revocable permit for maintenance of the existing curb line on Melrose Ave., with a 21’ 6” sidewalk zone, on the condition that the applicant come back with its landscape architects to the LUC, for further review of more specific landscaping plans.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Wolf explained that “the City asked [the developer] to widen Melrose” for one block. The LUC’s concern was that would cause traffic bottlenecks at either end of the block, where the street narrows again...and also that widening of the street would result in narrowing of the sidewalk/pedestrian area.

AMENDMENT to the MOTION (by Ms. Carroll, accepted by Mr. Whitley and Mr. Gresham): to add the phrase “Rios Clementi Hale Studios” so that the Motion would be “The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council supports the proposal for a revocable permit for maintenance of the existing curb line on Melrose Ave., with a 21’ 6” sidewalk zone, on the condition that the applicant come back with its landscape architects, Rios Clementi Hale Studios, to the LUC, for further review of more specific landscaping plans.”

FURTHER AMENDMENT to the MOTION (by Mr. Wolf, accepted by Mr. Whitley and Mr. Gresham): to delete the word “landscape” so that the Motion would be “The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council supports the proposal for a revocable permit for maintenance of the existing curb line on Melrose Ave., with a 21’ 6” sidewalk zone, on the condition that the applicant come back with its architects, Rios Clementi Hale Studios, to the LUC, for further review of more specific landscaping plans.”

AMENDMENT to the MOTION PASSED by a voice vote.

AMENDED MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the 16 eligible voters present with all 15 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Bartenetti, Carroll, Carpenter, Eggleston, Gresham, Hoffman, Humphreville, Mariscal, McFall, Oie, Peers, Stromberg, Whitley, Wittmann and Wolf) and one opposed (Gilman).

Mr. Wolf noted that the following items were presented for information only. No action was requested or required at this time.

- B. Park Mile Specific Plan restrictions and development plans for Farmers Insurance site
Issue: Several major properties along the area of Wilshire Blvd. governed by the Park Mile Specific Plan (PSMP), including the old Scottish Rite Temple and the current Farmers’ Insurance complex, may be redeveloped in the next few years and both residents and developers are starting to discuss possible uses. At the April Land Use Meeting, there was a discussion of the history of the PSMP, the restrictions it places on local development, and the protections it provides for surrounding neighborhoods...as well as neighbors’ concerns about ideas being floated for the two properties in question (including a museum at the Temple, and a hotel project at the Farmers’ site).
- C. Expansion plans for Girasole Restaurant (225 N. Larchmont Blvd.)
Issue: The restaurant owners have recently purchased the retail space next to the restaurant, and would like to use the new space to expand the current restaurant’s bathroom and kitchen areas (the restaurant seating space and capacity would not change). They are working on plans for the expansion that will accomplish their goals without violating Larchmont Blvd. Q conditions regarding the total amount of restaurant frontage on the block. (Q conditions regarding the number of restaurants would not come into play, since this is merely an expansion of an existing legal restaurant, not a new or additional restaurant.) One idea the owners are considering is a retail space in the portion of the store

fronting the street, but plans have not yet been finalized, and no City applications have been filed. The owners will return to the LUC as their plans take shape.

Potential agenda items for future LUC meetings:

- Condo development at 853-859 S. Lucerne
- Building line repeal at Kangnam Restaurant (4103 W. Olympic Blvd.)
- 30-unit development at 4180 W. Wilshire (at Crenshaw)
- Application to convert recreation space to a living unit with garage, office and attic at 118 S. Gramercy
- Density bonus at 807 N. Hudson
- Larchmont Bungalow variance/CUP application

18. Announcements and Adjournment

Mr. Wolf noted the next General Board Meeting date: Wednesday, June 11, 7:00 p.m.

MOTION (by Mr. Humphreville): to **ADJOURN** the Meeting.

MOTION PASSED without any objection.

The Meeting was **ADJOURNED** at 9:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
David Levin
Minutes Writer