



Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council General Meeting

June 12, 2013

Approved by the Board, July 10, 2013

1. **Call to Order** (Owen Smith)

A duly noticed Meeting of the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council (“GWNC”) Board of Directors was held on Wednesday, June 12, 2013, at the Ebell of Los Angeles, 743 S. Lucerne Blvd., Los Angeles. President Owen Smith called the meeting to order at 7:03 p. m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Board Member Mike Genewick.

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

Secretary Jeffry Carpenter called the roll. Board Members in attendance at the roll call were: Jeffry Carpenter, Ann Eggleston, Betty Fox, Michael Genewick, John Gresham, Gerda McDonough (Alternate for Clinton Oie), Owen Smith, Greg Wittmann and James Wolf. Patricia Carroll, Charles D’Atri (Alternate for Fred Mariscal), William Funderburk, Jack Humphreville, Patricia Lombard, Frances McFall and Jane Usher arrived later. Board Members absent and not represented by an Alternate: Jeff McManus, Jason Peers, Joane Pickett, Briana Valdez and Daniel Whitley. No Board Seats were vacant (some Alternate Seats were vacant). Also attending: 27 Stakeholders and guests. Nine of the 21 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** (Jeffry Carpenter)

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #6.] The following corrections to the May 6, 2013 General Meeting Minutes were requested: page one, Item #1 and 4: “(Owen Smith)” should read “(Jim Wolf)”; page five, Item #7. G.: both phrases “allocates \$300 each” should each be “allocates \$315.15 each”; page seven, Item #16. A.: delete the sentence “They already are allowed to serve alcohol on their patio”; and page eight, Item #8. B: “abstension” should be “abstention.”

Alternate Board Member Karen Gilman (Alternate for Jane Usher) arrived at this time, replacing Ms. Usher.

MOTION (by Mr. D’Atri, seconded by Mr. Gresham): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its May 6, 2013 General Meeting as corrected.

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote.

4. President's Report (Owen Smith)

A. Board Vacancies.

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #2.] Mr. Smith reminded that Alternates are needed for: Area 2 (Citrus Square); Area 9 (Oakwood-Maplewood-St. Andrews); Area 12 (We-Wil); Other; Non-Profit; and Religion.

B. Ethics Training

Mr. Smith reminded that 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>.

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), distributed copies of a flier and announced a June 18th "Council District 4 Emergency Preparedness Meeting." There will be a June 26th Tour LaBonge bicycle ride. There will be construction on Wilshire Blvd. from the end of July through early August, starting close to Western moving west toward Muirfield.

Board Members Patricia Carroll, Jack Humphreville and Frances McFall arrived at this time, making 12 Board Members present.

Mr. Gresham requested and Mr. Seinfeld agreed to try to minimize traffic disruptions due to the construction on Wilshire.

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

B. CD5 Update (John Darnell)

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #3.] John Darnell, Field Deputy for L.A. City District Five Councilman Paul Koretz (310-289-0353; John.Darnell@LACity.org), reported that L.A. Dept. of Aging funding was cut because of the federal sequester (so there's now a shortfall of \$1.2 million); they're "working to put pressure on Washington" to restore the funding. The City Council voted in favor of a Melrose Ave. Business Improvement District (BID) proceeding to its election. Notices will not go out for a 45-day voting period, with an anticipated date of determination of August 1.

Board Member Patricia Lombard arrived around this time.

At 7:45 p.m. a recess was called to hold a Special Board Meeting; see the separate Minutes. This General Board Meeting was reconvened at 8:12 p.m.

6. Community Concerns / Public Comments

A. Street Condition Concerns in Council District 4 (Carolyn Ramsay)

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #5. A.] Carolyn Ramsey, Chief of Staff for L.A. City District Four Councilman Tom LaBonge (213-485-3337; Carolyn.Ramsay@LACity.org), introduced other CD4 staff. Copies of an L.A. Bureau of

Street Services “Pavement Assessment” map of the GWNC area were distributed. Keith Mozee of the L.A. Bureau of Street Services presented slides regarding history, statistics, conditions, funding and repairs of Los Angeles streets.

Board Members Charles D’Atri (Alternate for Fred Mariscal) and William Funderburk arrived at this time, making 15 Board Members present.

Mr. Mozee described street repair and replacement procedures, funding and more, and the nationwide problem of keeping up with growing cities and streets. Los Angeles needs to repave 300-350 lane miles per year to keep up, but did only 245 lane miles last year. The life expectancy of most asphalt streets is 35 years, but only 15-20 years on busy streets such as Wilshire; and concrete streets last about 80 years. Street repair funding and work has been and is expected to continue increasing. Ms. Ramsey said CD4 has “allocated resources fairly throughout the Council district.” She observed that “the City does not have a program for replacing concrete streets” and that repairs are needed “mostly [on] concrete streets” but the city no longer has any “capability to deal with concrete streets.” She will be meeting with the Hancock Park HOA Board about street conditions and there will be a meeting on the subject at the Board of Public Works on June 18. Mr. Humphreville pointed out the \$1.4 billion increase in salaries, benefits and pension contributions over the last seven years has exceeded the growth in revenues by \$575 million. This difference was financed by transfers of City employees to DWP and other special revenue and proprietary departments and the elimination of the necessary funding to repair and maintain our streets and alleys.

[This Agenda Item continued being addressed after the Special Board Meeting.]
Stakeholder Suzanne Chase said Stakeholders have been denied entrance to Getty House events and she wants to ensure that no unauthorized renovations are or will be made there.

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

A. Monthly Budget Report/approval

Ms. Carroll distributed and reviewed the “Monthly Spending Report – YTD June 12, 2013.”

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Lombard, seconded by Mr. D’Atri): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves its “Monthly Spending Report – YTD June 12, 2013.”

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

B. Year-End Budget Estimate

Ms. Carroll distributed and reviewed the “[GWNC] Budget for Fiscal Year 2012-2013 . . . 6/12/13.” \$777.67 was still unspent, minus \$72 spent for printing materials for this Meeting.

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. McFall, seconded by Ms. Lombard): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council allocates all of its remaining funding of Fiscal Year 2012-2013 to purchase office supplies and materials for the CicLAvia event.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED without any objections.

C. P-Card Deadline 6-14-13

Stakeholder Elizabeth Fuller reminded that funds must be spent by the June 14th P-Card (Purchase Card) use deadline.

D. 2013-14 FY Budget Submission Deadline 7-12-13 (approve at 7-10 meeting)

Ms. Carroll encouraged spending all remaining funds.

E. Contract for officer training/administrative support/electronic communications/social media services (Elizabeth Fuller)

Ms. Fuller, former GWNC Board and Land Use Committee Secretary, reported that a lack of official GWNC office space prevents her from being hired (as previously approved by the Board) through one of DONE's approved temp agencies. But she said DONE has suggested she submit a proposed contract for training, support and communications services. She distributed the "Proposal for Contracted Services," and reviewed the services that she could provide the GWNC.

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Lombard, seconded by Mr. Gresham): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council accepts the Proposal for Contracted Services" of Elizabeth Fuller for GWNC officer training/administrative support/electronic communications/social media services and will forward the Proposal to the L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously with a voice vote.

8. DWP Oversight (Jack Humphreville)

Mr. Humphreville reported that "water rates are going to go up significantly." There'll be "next year a power rate increase request." The Bay Delta Conservation Plan from the Sacramento River to the Los Angeles Aqueduct "will be controversial."

9. City Budget Issues (Humphreville)

A. LANCC Actions/Motions (Humphreville)

- i. Motion to have City Council open a Council File to place NC Representatives on the Executive Employee Relations Committee (EERC) and to make the proceedings transparent.

Mr. Humphreville reported that City employee unions haven't agreed to the Mayor's request to increase their health benefits contributions. He explained the below LANCC (the L.A. Neighborhood Councils Coalition) Motion, the EERC and the issue.

MOTION (by Mr. Humphreville, seconded by Ms. McFall): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves the following Resolution:

Whereas the Executive Employee Relations Committee (the "EERC") consists of the Mayor; the President of the City Council; the President, Pro Tempore of the City Council; the Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee; and the Chair of the Personnel (and Animal Welfare) Committee;

Whereas the EERC oversees the City's labor relations; provides bargaining instructions to the City's negotiator regarding salaries, benefits, pensions, and other related matters; and makes recommendations to the City Council;

Whereas the EERC was involved in labor negotiations that resulted in salary increases that increased the Structural Deficit;

Whereas the leaders of the City's civilian unions have indicated that they are not willing to forego their 5.5% raise in January or contribute 10% of the cost of their health care plan which will result in a four year cumulative deficit of almost \$800 million;

Whereas all of the Members of the EERC are elected officials and may have received campaign contributions from unions representing City workers and/or their leadership or representatives, creating a conflict of interest that is not in the best interest of the citizens of Los Angeles;

Therefore, the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council requests that all meetings of the EERC be open to the public and transparent;

Therefore, the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council also requests that seven (7) representatives, one from each of the Planning areas of the charter authorized Neighborhood Councils, be appointed to the EERC so that the Neighborhood Councils are better able to advise the Council pursuant to the Charter;

Therefore, the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council requests that all labor negotiations between the Department of Water and Power and its union be conducted by the Department's management and be open to the public and transparent; without undue interference from the EERC, the City Council, and the Mayor;

Therefore, the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council requests access on a timely basis to any and all information regarding compensation and benefits and how they compare to other comparable entities;

Therefore, the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council requests that the EERC inform Neighborhood Councils on a timely basis as to the status of any labor negotiations and the impact on the City's budget over the following five years;

Therefore, the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council requests that Neighborhood Councils be given 60 days to review and analyze any labor agreement and its work rules and the impact on the City's finances.

Therefore, the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council requests that a Council File be opened on all negotiations with any and all unions, and that Neighborhood Councils are given enough information and time to be able to review data and weigh in through Council statements to be entered into the Council File. June 1st, 2013 Motion approved 38-1-3.

MOTION PASSED by a hand vote; Mr. Carpenter abstained.

10. Old Business

There was no old business at this time.

11. New Business

There was no new business at this time.

12. Transportation Committee (Gerda McDonough)

A. LADCP Response to GWNC Comments on Mobility Element Scoping.

Ms. McDonough reported that the Committee will meet August 7th. She soon will report about the above.

13. Outreach Committee (Fred Mariscal)

A. Citizen Recognition Awards

Ms. Fuller reported that the Committee did not meet; the Awards are “postponed for at least another month.”

B. GWNC participation at CicLAvia on June 23

Ms. Lombard reported that the GWNC will have a booth from 9:00-4:00, at the Fremont Place gate. Ms. Gilman suggested having non-profit organizations bring literature and help staff the booth. Ms. Fuller noted that “we really need a banner with our logo on it.”

C. Changes in Outreach Committee meeting date/time

Ms. Fuller reported that the Committee is looking for a new meeting date because several committee members are no longer available on Thursday mornings.

14. Board Member Reports and Comments

A. Sycamore Square Street Closure (Ann Eggleston)

Ms. Eggleston reported that BRE, the developer of the Wilshire/La Brea project, is “widening and repaving” Sycamore Ave., which is creating parking problems for both residents and nearby businesses.

B. Recap of May 19th We-Wil Neighborhood Walk (Wittmann)

Mr. Wittmann recapped that “we need more street trees,” especially near Wilton Ave., and “more involvement from the Korean and Bangladeshi-Americans.” He encouraged more attention to good architecture, landscaping, appearance and increasing recreational space, including in some open spaces.

15. Public Comments

There were no public comments at this time.

16. Land Use Committee (LUC) (James Wolf)

[Each Item’s first paragraph is directly from the Agenda.]

A. **CUB application for a full line of on- and off-site liquor sales at La Brea Bakery – 460 S. La Brea.**

Issue: In addition to a CUP for liquor sales (sales other than beer and wine will be limited to dessert liqueurs in the restaurant and off-site sales will be limited to bottles of

wine for gift and picnic baskets), the applicants are also requesting a zone variance for leased parking in lieu of a covenant. Recommended MOTION: [see below].

Copies were distributed of the Application. Mr. Wolf described the issue.

MOTION (by Mr. Wolf, seconded by Mr. Genewick): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council supports the CUB and Variance application for a full line of on- and off-site liquor sales at La Brea Bakery – 460 S. La Brea.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Wolf reminded that the Variance “would run with the land.” Rachel Finfer, the owner’s representative, described the application. Mr. Funderburk and Mr. Humphreville were concerned that alcoholic beverages could be sold in undesired ways. Mr. Funderburk asked that the GWNC specifically request that any change in ownership would require a plan approval to support continued sales of alcohol. Ms. Finfer said she would support such an amendment.

AMENDED MOTION (by Mr. Funderburk, accepted by Mr. Wolf and Mr. Genewick): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council supports the CUB and Variance application for a full line of on- and off-site liquor sales at La Brea Bakery – 460 S. La Brea, as long as the CUB and Variance apply only to La Brea Bakery. GWNC support is contingent upon the CUB and Variance containing language that reflects that the privilege to sell a full line of on- and off-site liquor only applies to La Brea Bakery.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Humphreville suggested a further amendment requiring that the business commit to regular maintenance of the Sycamore Avenue frontage behind the restaurant. Ms. Finfer said that the Bakery “held two community meetings” and is “doing what [it] can” to satisfy the community regarding cleanliness and parking. Mr. Funderburk said he was happy without the additional amendment.

AMENDED MOTION PASSED by a hand vote.

B. Nue Café CUB application for beer and wine at 5156 Melrose.

Issue: The business, located in the Hollywood Historic Hotel, is a hair salon that also serves coffee and baked goods. It would like to add beer and wine sales, as well as private events and limited live entertainment (e.g. small music groups, no larger than quartets). The applicants noted that the hotel management is in favor of the application because later hours and an expanded menu would benefit hotel guests who currently have no late-night food and drink options in the building. Recommended MOTION: [see below].

Copies were distributed of the Application. Mr. Wolf described the issue.

MOTION (by Mr. Wolf, seconded by Mr. D’Atri): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council supports the Nue Café CUB application for beer and wine at 5156 Melrose.

MOTION PASSED by a hand vote; Mr. Gresham abstained.

Mr. Wolf noted that the following items are presented for information only. No action is requested or required at this time. The Committee will continue to discuss them.

C. Flywheel variance application at 147 N. Larchmont Blvd.

Issue: The business is applying for a zone variance to operate as a retail/gym hybrid (it was initially approved as a retail space with a fitness equipment testing room). The applicants say it differs from many “gym” uses, because it is exclusively session/class-based (like a yoga or Pilates studio) and does not allow random individual access during all business hours. Land Use Committee Members expressed concern about the business’s continued operation in violation of local zoning without the variance and recommended that the applicants return to a future meeting after taking the following actions: 1. conduct more outreach and discussion with the Windsor Square community, 2. conduct a parking study and investigate possible mitigation measures to address any issues that may be identified, and 3. Request letters from the City Council District office and the Department of Building and Safety explaining why the original retail-only permit was issued, and/or how it came to be issued in error.

Ms. Lombard noted that Flywheel was cited by the City, prompting its Variance Application; she encouraged requesting that the Applicant “cease the illegal activity” before re-addressing the Committee.

D. Small lot subdivision at 806 N. Las Palmas.

Issue: The developers are requesting a parcel map, four early start adjustments (to begin construction after the parcel map is approved but before it is filed), and a height increase from 30 to 36 feet to accommodate roof decks with parapets and rails for a 4-unit Small Lot Subdivision project on an R1.5 lot. Next door neighbors expressed concerns about the building’s size, density, setbacks and modern style. Committee Members asked the applicants to return after re-thinking certain aspects of their designs, and after doing more outreach with neighborhood groups and residents.

E. Variance and CUB application for Larchmont Bungalow – 107 N. Larchmont.

Issue: Applicants are requesting a variance to allow a sit-down restaurant instead of the originally-permitted take-out service, along with a parking reduction (there are 7 tandem spaces on site, with parking required for 25 cars) and permission to serve a full line of alcoholic beverages. Representatives said they have collected nearly 2,000 signatures in favor of the application, mostly from customers, but Committee Members requested a parking study to determine whether the on-site parking is adequate (and to investigate mitigation options if it is not), and noted the business’s long history of misrepresenting its operations, its outstanding lawsuit with the City, and its long operation without valid permits. No hearing date has been set yet, so Committee Members requested the applicants return to a future meeting for further discussion and a vote.

Other Potential Agenda Items for June 25 LUC Meeting:

- Application for parcel map to divide a lot into two lots at 800 N. Sycamore
- Discussion and vote on proposed new Mural Ordinance
- Zoning adjustment at Marlborough School

- Presentation on plans for mixed-use development at 5100 Wilshire Blvd. (Oasis Church site)
- Discussion of L.A. Times “Koreatown” map boundaries (shown at Crenshaw and Wilton on the western edge), now being used by Realtors to label listings
- Density bonus application at 807 N. Hudson

17. Announcements and Adjournment

Ms. McFall encouraged advising the L.A. Times of their incorrect Hancock Park boundary. Mr. Smith related that more than a year ago he wrote to the Times citing a GWNC Motion about that; the Times took no action. He noted the next General Board Meeting date: Wednesday, July 10, 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Smith declared the Meeting **ADJOURNED** at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
David Levin
Minutes Writer