



Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council Special Meeting
June 12, 2013
Approved by the Board, July 10, 2012

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 7:45 p. m. [This Special Board Meeting was held during the General Board Meeting; see the separate Minutes.]

2. Roll Call (Jeffrey Carpenter)

Assistant Secretary Greg Wittmann called the roll. All 21 Board Seats are filled. No Board Seats were vacant (some Alternate Seats were vacant). Sixteen of the 21 Board Members or their Alternates were present at the beginning of the Meeting: Jeffrey Carpenter, Patricia Carroll, Charles D’Atri (Alternate for Fred Mariscal), Ann Eggleston, Betty Fox, Karen Gilman (Alternate for Jane Usher), William Funderburk, Michael Genewick, John Gresham, Jack Humphreville, Patricia Lombard, Gerda McDonough (Alternate for Clinton Oie), Frances McFall, Owen Smith, Greg Wittmann and James Wolf. Board Members absent and not represented by an Alternate: Jeff McManus, Jason Peers, Joane Pickett, Briana Valdez and Daniel Whitley. 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. Also attending: around 15 Stakeholders and guests.

3. New Business

A. Discussion and vote on proposed new Mural Ordinance

Mr. Wolf described the issue. Copies were distributed of a letter from the City Planning and Land Use Management Committee to various City officials regarding the proposed Mural Ordinance, and of a Resolution regarding the proposed Mural Ordinance.

MOTION (by Mr. Wolf, seconded by Mr. Gresham): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council

WHEREAS the City of Los Angeles Planning and Land Use Management (PLUM) Committee approved a Proposed Mural Ordinance (CF-11 0923) “Mural Ordinance” for the entire city and the City Council is expected to consider such proposed ordinance very soon;

And

WHEREAS the ordinance would facilitate the placement of new murals, and at the same time will facilitate protecting and preservation of existing murals;

And

WHEREAS the current version of the proposed ordinance would facilitate approval of murals on single-family homes;

And

WHEREAS digitally printed images are considered “Original Art Installations” under the current version of the proposed ordinance;

And

WHEREAS the proposed ordinance does not provide a means for individual communities and Neighborhood Councils to tailor the ordinance to reflect the needs and characteristics of their areas;

LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council requests that the proposed ordinance language be modified to eliminate from the proposed ordinance those elements that might allow digital graphics and murals on single family homes and that digital graphics and murals on single family homes be prohibited;

And

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that the proposed Mural Ordinance should be referred back to the PLUM committee, allowing Neighborhood Councils to participate in crafting rules that respect single family homes and the different needs of communities throughout the city.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Wolf explained that, as drafted, the new ordinance would not allow Neighborhood Councils to work with the City to craft Ordinances to apply to their individual areas, and proposed amending paragraph 5 in the motion to read:

WHEREAS the proposed ordinance is not properly tailored to reflect the needs and characteristics of our city’s residential areas

Mr. Wittmann pointed out that desirable murals also could be created. Ms. Usher noted that once an ordinance is in place, there will be no way to judge a mural’s appropriateness by its content. There was some further discussion of whether or not the Board’s resolution should refer to only single-family residences or also include multi-family buildings and areas.

FURTHER AMENDED MOTION (by Mr. Gresham, accepted by Mr. Wolf): That “single-family homes” be replaced with “single and multi-family homes” in the proposed motion.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Genewick noted that the original language (with the amended paragraph 5) simply refers the matter back to the PLUM Committee for further discussion, so the additional amendment wouldn’t be necessary.

AMENDED MOTION WITHDRAWN (by Mr. Gresham, accepted by Mr. Wolf).

DISCUSSION: Stakeholder John Kaliski explained that the Ordinance was proposed due to confusion about what a mural is, especially, the difference between art and advertising such as billboards.

Ms. Usher, making it clear that she was speaking not as a Board Member but as a resource from the City Attorney’s office, further explained the controversial issues in the current ordinance draft:

- The definition of “original artwork” now includes digitally-created art
- Residential restrictions have been removed
- Requirements are removed for muralists with existing murals to register and pay a fee; registration will now be required only for new murals, making it more difficult to track what was created when
- While local hearings would be required to comment on plans for new murals, the Director of Planning would not have to consider comments made at those hearings
- Neighbors can ask to opt out of the ordinance

She also noted that the City Attorney will be delivering a second version of the ordinance (which would prohibit murals on residential buildings with five or fewer units), and there will be a hearing to discuss the two versions of the proposed ordinance.

ORIGINAL MOTION (WITH AMENDED PARAGRAPH 5) PASSED unanimously by a hand vote.

4. Announcements and Adjournment

Mr. Smith declared the Meeting **ADJOURNED** at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
David Levin
Minutes Writer