



Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council General Meeting  
June 13, 2012  
MINUTES  
Approved by the Board 7/11/12

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 13, 2012, at Wilshire Park Elementary School, 4063 Ingraham St., Los Angeles. President Owen Smith called the meeting to order at 7:17 p. m.

2. **Roll Call** (Elizabeth Fuller)

Ms. Fuller called the roll. Board Members in attendance at the roll call were: Elizabeth Fuller, Mike Genewick (Alternate for Alex Jones-Moreno), Jane Gilman, John Gresham, Jack Humphreville, Bill Funderburk (Alternate for Steven Katz), Patricia Lombard (Alternate for Barbara Kumetz), Frances McFall, Mary Rajswing, Owen Smith, Jane Usher and James Wolf. Patricia Carroll, Charles D’Atri and Clinton Oie (Alternate for David Lunzer) arrived later. Board Members absent and not represented by an Alternate: Larissa Alarcon, Yigal Arens, Charles Dougherty, Jason Peers, Benjamin Rosenberg. One Board seat (Area 12 We-Wil) was vacant. Also attending: six Stakeholders and guests.

Twelve of the 20 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** (Elizabeth Fuller)

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #6. A.]

**MOTION** (by Ms. Usher, seconded by Ms. Gilman): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its May 9, 2012 General Meeting as written.

**MOTION PASSED** by a voice vote.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Gresham, seconded by Ms. Gilman): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its May 9, 2012 Special Meeting as written.

**MOTION PASSED** by a voice vote.

4. **President’s Report** (Owen Smith)

A. Board Vacancies

i. Candidate for Area 12 (We-Wil) vacancy: Greg Wittmann

[This Agenda Item was addressed again after Item #3.] Stakeholder Greg Wittman, a City Attorney's Office Intern, was introduced.

**MOTION** (by Ms. Usher, seconded by Mr. D'Atri): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council appoints Greg Wittman as the Area 12 (We-Wil) Board Member.

**MOTION PASSED** without any objections.

Mr. Smith led Mr. Wittman in reading aloud the Oath of Office. Mr. Wittman was seated with the Board. Mercedes Simonian of the Hollywood Historic Hotel introduced herself, is interested in being the Alternate Board Member for Region 9 (Oakwood-Maplewood-St. Andrews) and described her community business work. Ms. Fuller said she would agendize a vote on Ms. Simonian's candidacy for the July meeting. Mr. Smith indicated that there were no more nominations at this time.

ii. Remaining vacancies:

[This Agenda Item was addressed again after Item #2.] Mr. Smith noted the vacancies:

Area 1 – (Brookside) – Alternate

Area 2 (Citrus Square) – Alternate

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

Area 12 (We-Wil) – Alternate

Renter – Alternate

B. Ethics Training

Mr. Smith noted the below.

Board Members and Alternates who have not yet completed the training: D'Atri, Funderburk, Kumetz, Rosenberg, Dwyer, Fox, Katz, Lombard, Rubin. You MUST complete the course at <http://ethics.lacity.org/education/ethics2007/?audience=done>

**5. Community Concerns / Public Comments**

Progress of Wilshire Park National Register Application (Robby O'Donnell)

Stakeholder Robbie O'Donnell reported that the Wilshire Park Historic Register Application was accepted and is "on the schedule for the final round."

**6. Local Government Updates**

A. CD4 Update (Ben Seinfeld)

L.A. City District Four Councilman Tom LaBonge (323-957-6415;

Councilmember.LaBonge@LACity.org; <http://CD4.LACity.org>) reported that Wilshire Blvd. improvements can now be planned. A "Council District 04 (Partial) Wilshire Blvd. Pavement Condition Assessment" was distributed. Ben Seinfeld, Field Deputy for L.A.

City District Four Councilman Tom LaBonge (213-485-3337; cell 213-804-2388;

Ben.Seinfeld@LACity.org), added that curb lanes will be re-paved first with better quality asphalt. The Councilman will report again at the July 11<sup>th</sup> GWNC Meeting.

*Board Members Patricia Carroll and Charles D'Atri arrived at this time, making a quorum of 13 (and total 14) Board Members present. Now the Board could take binding votes on Agendized Items.*

The Councilman distributed fliers for and announced the June 20th "Summer Solstice Sunset Hike to Mt. Hollywood" in Griffith Park and the "Tour LaBonge 2012 Summer Bike Rides." Mr. Seinfeld encouraged signing up for e-policing at [www.LAPDOnline.org](http://www.LAPDOnline.org). Also, if a homeowner (and possibly an HOA) will remove a tree, the City will repave the street and the Urban Forestry Dept. will plant a new tree, possibly a Brisbane Box.

B. CD5 Update (John Darnell)

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

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)

Ms. Carcel could not attend and there was no report at this time.

E. 47th Assembly District Update (Charles Stewart)

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

F. 26th Senate District Update (Andrew Lachman)

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

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

A. Monthly budget report/approval – May/June.

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #4. A. i.] Ms. Carroll distributed and reviewed the "Monthly Spending Report – May 1–June 12, 2012." Many Demand Warrants have been submitted but not yet paid by DONE.

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Mr. Gresham, seconded by Ms. Usher): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves its "Monthly Spending Report – May 1–June 12, 2012."

**MOTION PASSED** by a voice vote.

B. DONE Funding Deadlines – Purchase Card deadline June 15, then card frozen until July 1, working through Demand Warrant/Grant paperwork submitted in May.

Ms. Carroll noted the above.

C. Discussion and Approval of 2012-2013 Annual Budget.

Ms. Carroll and Ms. Fuller are waiting for DONE to provide the Budget worksheet. The discussion and approval of the 2012-13 budget will be postponed until the July meeting.

D. Discussion and possible adoption of quarterly review/vote schedule for grant applications and other funding requests.

Ms. Fuller described and the Board supported the idea.

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

Mr. Humphreville reported that the Ratepayer Advocate is reviewing the rate increase request and described issues being considered.

**9. City Budget Issues** (Humphreville)

Mr. Humphreville reported that unfunded pension liabilities and other expenses are causing the City deficit to be bigger than the \$238 million estimated by the Mayor. Mr. Humphreville distributed and described the “FY2012-2013 Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates’ Summary of Recommendations.” Ms. Usher encouraged inquiring regarding special funds such as those being transferred resulting from the CRA breakup, and that “Public-Private Partnerships” are often regarding billboards and other advertising. She pointed out that City parking garages are all cash businesses; there are no parking gates to record transactions.

A. Motion regarding list of 21 city budget recommendations:

*The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council endorses the 21 recommendations of the Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates regarding the finances of the City of Los Angeles.*

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***PROMOTING A NEW CULTURE OF EXCELLENCE AND  
SUSTAINABILITY FOR OUR ENTIRE CITY FAMILY***

***FY2012-2013 NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL BUDGET ADVOCATES’  
SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS***

*March 27, 2012*

- 1. Declare a Fiscal Emergency for the City of Los Angeles thereby allowing the Mayor to invoke a one-year salary reduction in order to close the deficit.*
- 2. Require the City to develop a Five-Year Strategic Operational and Financial Plan mandating multi-year Balanced Budgets based on Generally Accepted Accounting Principles that provides full funding for our infrastructure and pensions.*
- 3. The City’s prime priority is to Control Employee Costs focusing on current and future employee compensation, benefits packages, pension contributions and Worker’s Compensation.*
- 4. Engage in real Pension Plan Reform starting with raising the retirement age from 55 to 65 or 67 years of age.*

5. *Investigate the replacement of the Gross Receipts Tax with well-defined offsetting income.*
6. *Reach more specific definition of the City's "Core Services." Search for Cost-Effective Departmental Consolidations. Reduce all expenditures for all "non-Core Services."*
7. *Implement Performance-based Budgeting which will quantitate the Workloads necessary for each Department to fulfill its mission ... with parameters which are compatible across all departments and, once subjected to Cost-Benefit Analysis, these data can be used to allocate the City's personnel, equipment, supplies and funds.*
8. *Define, describe and fund a 21<sup>st</sup> Century, comprehensive Information Technology System (data collection, data storage & data processing) which will consistently document and improve the services of all City Departments and enhance City Government-Public interaction. All Systems Analyses must integrate the Programs involved with the expertise, staffing, hardware & software necessary to operate them.*
9. *Implement a Public-Private-Partnership for the Zoo and negotiate either Public-Private Partnerships or more efficient Management Contracts for the Convention Center, the Parking Facilities, the Golf Courses, the Animal Shelters and other City facilities while expanding the definition of "partnerships" to include municipal sponsorships to bringing in corporate money and offering support to local non-profits working in the field on quality of life issues.*
10. *Recover the costs of Judgments, Settlements and Contingent Liabilities from the responsible department.*
11. *Promptly review and implement the unfulfilled recommendations in the Controller's Audits; including a Central Billing/Collections Program. (see item #13)*
12. *Implement the Commission on Revenue Enhancement (CORE) recommendations including (but not limited to) the newly established office of Inspector General.*
13. *Implement a comprehensive, efficient and effective Central Billing/Collections Program which serves all City Departments.*
14. *Partner with International Government Non-profits as incubators of new small businesses.*
15. *Revert all (100%) of currently "split" funds from the sale of City-owned property, the Oil Franchise income, the Street Furniture Funds, etc. to the General Fund.*

16. *Return DOT Parking Enforcement & Traffic Control activities to LAPD, if cost-effective.*
17. *Review the City's hiring policies ... currently under a "Managed Hiring" plan ... to assure that the City secures qualified personnel in all positions.*
18. *Fund new civilian hires with savings derived from a one-year (only) closure of the Police Training Academy in order to redeploy jailers and administrative staff LAPD officers.*
19. *Authorize Private sector Veterinarians to issue and collect Dog License Fees.*
20. *Reestablish and fund the 50-50% Sidewalk Repair Program and consider funding similar programs for Tree Trimming, Pot Holes, etc.*

*Bolster the Neighborhood Council System by bringing in a foundation as a partner, providing additional financial and training support and Reinstate NCs to full \$50,000/year funding.*

**MOTION** (by Ms. Usher, seconded by Ms. Gilman): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves the last 20 (numbers two through 21) of the "FY2012-2013 Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates' Summary of Recommendations."

**MOTION PASSED** by a hand vote.

- B. Motion regarding proposed "Live Within Its Means" charter amendment.  
Mr. Humphreville distributed and described the "Live Within Its Means Charter Amendment Term Sheet" reason and purpose:

*The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council endorses the "Live Within Its Means" charter amendment and strongly urges that the City Council place this charter amendment on the March 2013 ballot.*

***Live Within Its Means  
Charter Amendment  
Term Sheet***

*The City will be required to develop and adhere to a Five Year Financial Plan (the "Plan") for the General Fund, all Special Revenue Funds, and the Budget, excluding the three proprietary departments. The Plan will include detailed information, including, but not limited to, income statements, balance sheets, cash flows, and levels of outstanding debt.*

*The Plan will also incorporate the financial requirements of the Infrastructure Plan, the Pension Funding Plan, and all other phases of the City's operations.*

*Each year, the City will be required to approve a two year Budget.*

*The Plan and the Budget are required to be balanced, where revenues exceed expenses, at all times.*

*The City will develop an Infrastructure Plan that will detail the financial requirements necessary to allow our infrastructure to be in a “good to excellent condition” by June 30, 2024. Infrastructure includes, but is not limited to, streets, sidewalks and curbs, parks, street lights, buildings and facilities, sewers, storm water drainage, motor vehicles, and information technology systems.*

*The Infrastructure Plan will also include the budget for capital expenditures.*

*The City will develop a Pension Funding Plan that will detail how the City will fully fund its two underfunded pension plans (the Los Angeles City Employee Retirement System and the Fire and Police Pension Plans are only 72.6% funded) by June 30, 2024, using reasonable assumptions consistent with other pension plans.*

*After June 30, 2024, the City will maintain its infrastructure in a “good to excellent condition” and its pension plans will be at least 100% funded.*

*The Plan and the Budget will require the City to have actual funding sources to finance any increases in spending or decreases in taxes.*

*The Plan, the Budget, the Infrastructure Plan, and the Pension Funding Plan (collectively, the “Plans”) will be prepared based on Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.*

*The Mayor and a majority of the City Council will be required to approve the Plans.*

*The Controller and the City’s independent accounting firm will each be required to attest that the Plans have been prepared in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.*

*The Controller and the City’s independent accounting firm will each be required to attest that the Plan and the Budget are balanced, where revenues exceed expenditures.*

*Within 60 days of the end of each fiscal quarter (September 30, December 31, and March 31), and within 120 days of the fiscal year end (June 30), the Controller will be required to affirm that the Budget is balanced and is projected to be balanced in the future.*

*The City Attorney will be required to attest that the Plan and the Budget meet all legal and regulatory requirements, including that all transfers involving City departments are legal, including those with the three Proprietary Departments.*

*The General Managers of all departments will be required to approve their sections of the Plans.*

*The General Managers of all departments will be required to notify the Mayor, the City Council, the Controller, and City Attorney if their department's budget is not balanced at any point in time or is inconsistent with the Plans.*

*The Neighborhood Councils will be notified of all approvals and any notifications indicating that the Plans are not balanced.*

*The City will have community presentations at least four times a year detailing the status of the Plans.*

*The Plans will be updated annually.*

*Beginning June 30, 2014, the City will be required to maintain a Reserve Fund equal to at least equal to 5% of General Fund Revenues.*

*The City will be required to maintain its existing bond ratings, and take all measures necessary to maintain such bond ratings.*

*In the case of a natural disaster, the target date envision by the Infrastructure Plan may be extended for one year.*

*The City bears the burden of proof that the Plan, the Budget, the Infrastructure Plan, and Pension Funding Plan are consistent with a balanced budget, where revenues exceed expenditures based on Generally Accepted Accounting Principles.*

**MOTION** (by Ms. Usher, seconded by Mr. D'Atri): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves the "Live Within Its Means Charter Amendment Term Sheet."

**DISCUSSION:** There was extensive discussion regarding the merits of the proposed Charter Amendment and the City budget process.

**MOTION PASSED** by a voice vote.

## **10. Old Business**

### **11. New Business**

Olympic Blvd. Business Improvement District (BID) (John Gresham & Owen Smith) [This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #12.] Mr. Gresham described that Board Members of various Neighborhood Councils attended the BID Meeting. The consultant indicated that it should not be a problem for the BID to have Western Ave. as the western BID boundary.

**MOTION** (by Ms. Usher, seconded by Mr. D'Atri): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves the Olympic Blvd. Business Improvement District with Western Ave. being the western boundary.



**MOTION PASSED** without any objections.

**12. Election Committee** (John Gresham)

A. Approval of Election-Related Bylaws Revisions

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #12. B.] Mr. Gresham distributed the GWNC Bylaws and reported that the eastern border of Country Club Heights is wrong on the page 16 map. In page five, Article IV, the phrase “and also to those who” should be “and also those who.”

B. Approval Election Date (moved to October 28)

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #13.] Mr. Gresham explained that our election date has been changed to Sunday, October 28, which will allow our Orthodox community to participate. The polling place will be Wilshire Crest Elementary School. It was noted that this is also the date of the Larchmont Fair, where GWNC will have a promotional booth, which can help direct voters to the polling place.

C. Approval of Election Stipulations Worksheet

Mr. Gresham distributed the GWNC “Election Procedures Stipulation Worksheet.” The Board agreed on various details (see the Worksheet).

*Board Member Clinton Oie (Alternate for David Lunzer) arrived and Patricia Lombard (Alternate for Barbara Kumetz) had to leave during the above.*

Mr. Gresham suggested and the Board agreed to answers completing the Outreach Plan. Election Candidate filing starts August 29<sup>th</sup>. He will seek a clarification regarding the Stakeholder definition.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Gresham, seconded by Ms. McFall): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves the GWNC “Election Procedures Stipulation Worksheet” as corrected and annotated and the Election date of October 28, 2012.

**MOTION PASSED** by a unanimous voice vote.

**13. Transportation Committee** (Gerda McDonough)

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #9. B.] Mr. Humphreville reported that the Committee met with the LAPD Traffic Division.

**14. Outreach Committee** (Mary Rajswing)

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #11.] Ms. Rajswing reported that the Committee agreed to do more outreach via social media and discussed how student interns could assist with outreach. The Committee will not meet in July. She distributed a GWNC “Nomination form for Citizen Recognition Program 2012” and encouraged nominations; the form is on the [www.greaterwilshire.org](http://www.greaterwilshire.org) website.

**15. Board Member Comments**

Ms. Fuller reported that she and Ms. Carroll discussed with Chrysalis regarding possibly altering the cleanup plan.

#### **16. Public Comments**

There were no public comments at this time.

*Board Member Jane Usher had to leave at this time.*

#### **17. Land Use Committee (LUC) (James Wolf)**

*[The below Item's first paragraph is directly from the Agenda.]* Liquor License Renewal for Gon Ji Am Restaurant (4653 W. Beverly Blvd.). Issue: Applicants have requested a renewal of their CUB (Conditional Use permit for alcoholic beverages, which has been in place since 2004. The restaurant is family-owned, caters to all ages and is well-known in the community for its signature dish. No violations of its license have been reported, no neighborhood opposition has been noted or received, and CD 4 has no objections to the renewal application. (Note: the GWNC Land Use Committee does not usually get involved with standard CUP/CUB renewals, but this one came to our attention because the restaurant is next door to the Bicycle Club (a.k.a. Dubai), which as racked up a number of complaints and violations in recent years. The two businesses are, however, completely separate in ownership, clientele and business models.). **LUC Recommended Motion:** That the GWNC support the CUB renewal for the Gon Ji Am restaurant.

Mr. Wolf described the project.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Wolf, seconded by Mr. Gresham): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves the GWNC Land Use Committee recommendation to support the CUB renewal for the Gon Ji Am restaurant.

**MOTION PASSED** by a voice vote.

Potential Agenda Items for June 28 LUC Meeting:

- Review of recently submitted changes in plans for conversion of apartments to a board and care facility at 901 S. Wilton.
- Review of recent Early Planning Notices in the GWNC area.

Mr. Wolf encouraged everyone to attend the Meeting.

#### **18. Announcements and Adjournment**

Mr. Smith noted the next General Board Meeting: Wednesday, July 11, 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Smith **ADJOURNED** the Meeting without any objections at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
David Levin  
Minutes Writer