



Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council General Meeting
August 8, 2012
MINUTES
Approved by the Board, 9/12/12

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

A duly noticed meeting of the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council (“GWNC”) Board of Directors was held on Wednesday, August 8, 2012, at the Ebell of Los Angeles, 743 S. Lucerne Blvd., Los Angeles. President Owen Smith called the meeting to order at 7:02 p. m.

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

Secretary Elizabeth Fuller called the roll. Board Members in attendance at the roll call were: Vince Cox (Alternate for Charles D’Atri), Elizabeth Fuller, Bill Funderburk (Alternate for Steven Katz), Mike Genewick (Alternate for Alex Jones-Moreno), John Gresham, Frances McFall, Jason Peers, Mary Rajswing, Owen Smith, Jane Usher, Greg Wittman. Yigal Arens, Patricia Carroll, Charles Dougherty, Jane Gilman and James Wolf arrived later. Board Members absent and not represented by an Alternate: Larissa Alarcon, Jack Humphreville, Barbara Kumetz, David Lunzer and Benjamin Rosenberg. Also attending: ten Stakeholders and guests.

Eleven 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. **Reading of the Minutes** (Elizabeth Fuller)

[This Agenda Item was addressed after the beginning of Item #4.]

MOTION (by Ms. Usher, seconded by Ms. Gilman): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its July 11, 2012 General Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote.

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

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #2.] Mr. Smith reported that a potential DWP rate increase was discussed at the LANCC [L.A. Neighborhood Councils Coalition] Meeting. Also, the DONE [L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment] General Manager resigned and his assistant is the Interim G.M.; the Mayor said that NC’s will have a say in hiring the new G.M.

Board Member Jane Gilman arrived at this time, making 12 Board Members present, one short of the GWNC quorum of thirteen..

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

[This Agenda Item continued being addressed after Item #3.]

A. Board Vacancies.

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 – 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>.

No other Ethics Training completions were noted at this time. Mr. Smith noted the above.

5. Community Concerns/Public Comments

A. Motion of Support requested for Greater Griffith Park Neighborhood Council’s efforts to restore the Griffith Park Youth Ball Field. (Mark Mauceri)

A “[GWNC] Resolution” regarding Griffith Park was distributed. Mr. Mauceri could not attend.

B. Motions of Support requested by Food and Water Watch. (Alexandra Nagy)

i. Opposition to Bay Delta Conservation Plan/Water Tunnel.

[This Agenda Item was addressed after the first part of Item #5. B. ii.] Ms. Nagy distributed a flier regarding a State water project. No Motion was made.

ii. Support for banning fracking in California.

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #7. B.] Ms. Nagy explained that fracking being done nearby in one of the country’s largest oilfields may be expanded.

[The following Motions were made after Item #15.]

MOTION (by Mr. Dougherty, seconded by Ms. Fuller): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council support a ban on fracking in the state of California.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Genewick opposed the Motion. There was discussion regarding whether this issue is within the GWNC’s jurisdiction.

MOTION FAILED by a hand vote with four in favor; 10 opposed; two abstained.

iii. Support for Paul Koretz's motion on fracking.

MOTION (by Mr. Dougherty, seconded by Mr. Gresham): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council supports Los Angeles City Councilmember Paul Koretz's resolution to include in the City of Los Angeles [2012-2013] Legislative Program support for Governor Jerry Brown, the Los Angeles Board of Supervisors, and the State of California's Division of Oil, Gas & Geothermal Resources (DOGGR) to move swiftly to place a moratorium on hydraulic fracturing and on the disposal of fracking wastewater by injection wells until DOGGR, in conjunction with local and state authorities and an independent third party reviewer, makes a determination that such processes are safe for public health, for the Los Angeles water supply, for the environment and from initiating seismic activity.

DISCUSSION: See Item #5. B. ii discussion.

MOTION PASSED by a hand vote with eight in favor; four opposed; three abstained.

C. City changes to public campaign finance system. (Katelyn Leenhouts, Common Cause California)

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #5. A.] Ms. Leenhouts distributed a brochure and explained the effort to keep "representatives accountable to their local communities."

Board Member Yigal Arens arrived at this time, making 14 Board Members present.

6. 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), reported that that Councilman reminded everyone to prepare for emergencies. Mr. Seinfeld described recent parkway and other cleanups. Wilshire Blvd. repaving will start around the end of August.

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 "Melrose Avenue [businesses] have proposed a Business Improvement District between Highland and Fairfax." The Sycamore Ave. "new water main" will soon be completed.

Board Member Patricia Carroll arrived at this time, making 15 Board Members present.

C. 42nd Assembly District Update (Nicole Carcel)

Ms. Carcel 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 - Jul./Aug.

Ms. Carroll distributed and reviewed the “Monthly Spending Report – July 11 – August 7, 2012.” She explained that funding for Kitty Bungalow cannot be allocated because of a lawsuit against the City, which has frozen funding for any spay/neuter and return operations, and that DONE [the L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment] declined to allow the funding to be used otherwise. She also reported that DONE has refused payment of the demand warrants originally submitted in May, because we missed a July 21 deadline for missing documentation...which we never got word of. We may need a City Council motion to free up the funds again.

Board Member Charles Dougherty arrived at this time, making 16 Board Members present.

Ms. Usher suggested contacting DONE Interim General Manager Grayce Liu regarding this. Mr. Smith requested and Ms. Carroll and Ms. Fuller agreed to meet with Ms. Liu.

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Usher, seconded by Ms. Gilman): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves its “Monthly Spending Report – July 11 – August 7, 2012.”

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a voice vote.

B. YTD Budget Report.

Ms. Carroll distributed and reviewed the “[GWNC] Budget for Fiscal Year [2012-2013].”

C. Funding Request for Wilshire Crest School Greening. (Sheila Irani)

Ms. Irani was unable to attend. No Motion was made.

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

Mr. Humphreville was unable to attend and there was no report.

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

Mr. Humphreville was unable to attend and there was no report.

10. **Old Business**

[This Agenda Item was addressed after the first part of Item #5. B. i.] Ms. Carroll distributed a USPS “Notice of Public Comment Period for the Proposed Relocation of Nat King Cole / Oakwood Station 265 S. Western Ave. . . .” She reported that there will be a public meeting August 23rd and encouraged submitting written comments.

11. **New Business**

There was no new business at this time.

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

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #10.] Mr. Gresham reported that Wilshire Crest Elementary School “is secured from 1:00 – 7:00” p.m. for the October 28th Election. He distributed copies of the “Region 5 – Neighborhood Council Election Candidate Filing Form

– 2012”; Candidates can file from August 29th – September 28th. He is working to ensure that the Form conforms to the GWNC Bylaws. Mr. Gresham displayed a copy of the DONE webpage [www.EmpowerLA.org/gwnc/greater-wilshire-nc-elections] with Election information. The IEA [Independent Election Administrator] is Christine Jerian [Christine@EmpowerLA.org]. [DONE Elections (818-293-8683; Elections@EmpowerLA.org]

MOTION (by Mr. Gresham, seconded by Ms. Gilman): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council will hold a Neighborhood Council Election Candidates’ Information Meeting on Wednesday, September 12, 2012 from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. at the Ebell of Los Angeles, 743 S. Lucerne Blvd., Los Angeles.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Usher noted errors on DONE Election documents provided to the GWNC. Mr. Gresham described that he informed the IEA that the documents do not conform to the GWNC Bylaws.

MOTION PASSED by acclamation.

13. Transportation Committee (Gerda McDonough)

Ms. McDonough could not attend and there was no report.

14. Outreach Committee (Mary Rajswing)

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #12.] Ms. Rajswing reported that the Committee is working on a Stakeholder recognition award.

Alternate Board Member Margaret Sowma replaced Board Member Jane Usher at this time.

15. Board Member Comments

Ms. McFall would like the GWNC to sponsor an emergency preparedness event.

16. Public Comments

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #5. B. i.] Julia Wyson, Executive Director, and Blair Garson of L.A. Drama Club, 130 S. LaBrea, distributed a flier of “the country’s youngest Shakespeare group.” They “put on fully-mounted Shakespeare festivals. They described their youth drama programs for second grade through Middle School students.

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

Mr. Wolf noted that the following item is presented for information only. No action is requested or required at this time [*the first paragraph is directly from the Agenda.*]:

A. CUB Modification to allow sales of wine for off-site consumption at Mozza 2 Go Restaurant (6610 W. Melrose)

Issue: GWNC voted to oppose a similar application a few months ago, but city asked applicants to re-file application for a separate CUB (not a modification of the existing CUB, as requested in the previous version). There was extensive discussion with the applicants’ representative, but no representation from neighborhood groups. LUC

members requested that the item be re-agendized next month, with an invitation extended to neighbors to attend.

Mr. Wolf described the project, reviewed potential Agenda Items and invited everyone to the next Committee Meeting.

Potential Agenda Items for August 28 LUC Meeting:

- Possible code violations at 610 S. Van Ness
- Review of proposed GWNC policy on liquor license applications
- Review of recent Early Planning Notices in the GWNC area.

18. Announcements and Adjournment

A. 2013 Homeless Count (see handout).

Ms. Fuller described the effort and has information.

Ms. Gilman announced Monday night's "Taste of Larchmont."

B. Next meeting: Wednesday, September 12, 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Smith declared the Meeting **ADJOURNED** at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
David Levin
Minutes Writer