

# Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council



## Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council General Meeting

September 10, 2008

Approved by the Board  
As Amended 11/13/08

### MINUTES

#### Call to Order

A duly noticed meeting of the Board of Directors of the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council ("GWNC") was held on Wednesday, September 10, 2008, at the Ebell of Los Angeles, 743 South Lucerne Blvd. President Charles Dougherty called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m.

#### Roll Call

The Secretary, Elizabeth Fuller, called the roll. Board of Directors members in attendance at the roll call were: Yigal Arens, Patti Carroll, Charles Dougherty, Elizabeth Fuller, Jane Gilman, John Gresham, Frances McFall (alt. Alison Hannon), Margaret Hudson, Alex Jones-Moreno, Clinton Oie (alt. Mary Rajswing), Martha Schuur, Russell Sherman, Owen Smith, Rudy Gintel (alt. Jolene Snett), Cindy Chvatal (alt. Jane Usher), Rob Wishart and James Wolf. Board member Charles Bergson and Shar Penfold joined the meeting later. Directors Moon Chung and Sam Cunningham were absent and not represented by an alternate.

The Secretary stated that a quorum was present.

#### Reading of the Minutes

The Secretary presented the Minutes of the previous meeting, which had been distributed to Directors by e-mail and posted on the Council's *greaterwilshire.org* web site. Additional copies were distributed at the meeting. The secretary asked if anyone had any changes or additions to suggest. There were none. The minutes were approved as submitted.

#### Featured Presentation #1

Director Margaret Hudson introduced special guest California State Assembly Member Mike Feuer, who introduced Measure R, a 1/2-cent sales tax increase, to fund a variety of transportation projects, which will appear on the November general election

ballot. According to Mr. Feuer, the increase is a chance “to change Los Angeles for good, forever,” and would amount to about \$25 per year for most residents. He said the tax increase would help to fund a subway extension, extension of the Gold Line and \$8 billion over 30 years for improvements in bus transit.

Stakeholder Suzanne Chase asked why she should trust the government in Sacramento to hold the funds specifically for transportation in Los Angeles and not use them for other things. Mr. Feuer said he shares her distrust of the state government, but that the funds would actually stay in L.A. County and never be delivered to the state, since it would be only for locally controlled transportation projects within L.A. County.

Stakeholder John Welborne said information on the position of the Wilshire Homeowners’ Alliance is available on the table with other handouts, and that he hopes the Neighborhood Council will go on record, as the WHA has done, with its support for this issue.

Mr. Feuer noted that the ballot description of Measure R will include a specific list of projects the tax increase would fund, including totals for each project and projected completion dates, so voters will know exactly what they’re voting for. He also said that a 2/3 majority will be required to approve the Measure, and there will be other special controls in place, because public trust is very important.

Director Margy Hudson noted that our Council has been very active in talks about the Wilshire Blvd. subway and asked if there will be a station at Wilshire and Crenshaw. Mr. Feuer said he doesn’t know and that the ballot Measure covers only general routes; people will have to talk to the MTA about things like specific stations along the routes.

Director Owen Smith asked why we should support raising money for a possible station at Wilshire and Crenshaw when we believe a station there would be a waste of money. Mr. Feuer said studies show a huge potential ridership for a Wilshire Blvd. subway line, and that we need to look at the benefits of the whole line. He said he can’t speak to any specific station, but there will be a lot of ridership and unlike previous times this issue has been raised, “people get it now” and there is a lot of support.

Director John Gresham asked why there hasn’t been renewed effort to make an airport connection to the rail system the number one transportation priority. Mr. Feuer said if we pass Measure R, \$200 million would be used to finish the Green Line and to run a new line down Crenshaw that could connect to it. There will also be \$1 billion to create a connection to the San Fernando Valley through the Hollywood Hills. He also noted that whether or not we have enough money to finish all of these projects, there will be enough to get matching funds from the federal government, which we wouldn’t qualify for otherwise.

Stakeholder Joan Taylor said senior citizens and the disabled have no strong advocacy groups, transit subsidies have been cut recently for 6,000 people and those groups need transportation aid. Mr. Feuer said that when he was on the City Council, he

did provide some funding precisely for seniors, and that Ms. Taylor has a great point – advocates who have authority in this matter should be listening.

Ms. Chase said the bus she takes won't stop at her stop because the road is so bad there, and asked if the City would be able to divert the tax money for road repair or schools.

Mr. Feuer said that he understands he has to gain her trust, but the City cannot take the money – it will go directly to the MTA. He noted, however, that because the roads do need repair, we do have to leave some funding to do that work, and 15% of the funds will be designated for “local return,” meaning every city gets some funding for road repairs. Also, the funding is not just for rail transport, but all facets of operating the local transportation system.

Ms. Hudson thanked Mr. Feuer and encouraged everyone to vote on Nov. 4. Mr. Feuer asked his assistant to pass out his business cards, and left his phone numbers: (310) 285-5490 (office) and (310) 367-9558 (cell).

#### Featured Presentation #2

Director Margy Hudson said that our May meeting with Los Angeles Planning Director Gail Goldberg raised many questions about enforcement issues, so we wanted to address those by inviting several guests from the Department of Building and Safety. She introduced Andrew Adelman, DBS General Manager, along with Luke Zamperini, Frank Bush and Hector Buitrago.

Mr. Adelman commended stakeholders in the audience for giving up their Wednesday evening to make the City of Los Angeles a better place, and Ms. Hudson for her patience in calling him several times to set up this event.

Using a PowerPoint presentation for visual support, Mr. Adelman gave an overview of the Department of Building and Safety, beginning with its Mission Statement and scope of responsibilities. He noted that private schools do fall under the Department's jurisdiction, but not public schools...and it does include Code Enforcement, but not the Systematic Code Enforcement Program (SCEP), which is administered by the City Housing Department.

Mr. Adelman provided a few facts about DBS:

- No one in Los Angeles is more than a 10-minute drive from a DBS office.
- The Department serves 440,000 walk-in customers each year (equal to the population of Wyoming).
- In the last few years, the department has tripled its workload without increasing its staff.

- Service has improved in the last 10 years. The Department is now 40% more productive and more focused on customer service. It's still difficult, however, to keep up with the amount of work there is to be done.
- Other countries lose thousands of lives in major earthquakes; we lose 50...and our goal is none. A lot of work goes on to make sure all buildings are safe in quakes.
- The Department has more licensed engineers than any other building and safety department in the world.

Mr. Adelman introduced Hector Buitrago, from the Code Enforcement Bureau, who presented that Bureau's own mission statement.

Mr. Buitrago reviewed the CEB's functions, which include Commercial and Residential Complaint and Referral, the Citations Unit, Home Occupation, Sign Enforcement, Pro-Active Code Enforcement (PACE), Annual Inspection Monitoring (AIM), the Problem Property Resolution Team (PPRT), Contract Nuisance Abatement (NCA), Abandoned Building Task-force (ABTF), Nuisance Abatement Revocation (NAR), Building Inspection Service and Legal Liaison.

*[Director Russell Sherman left the meeting at 7:58 p.m.]*

Mr. Buitrago said DBS divides the city into three regions, and we live in the Central Region. He presented a chart of cases closed, by year, since 1999, and said the Bureau now closes approximately 43,000 cases per year. Also, up to 5,200 nuisance cases have been closed in the last 10 years, and 2,102 of the worst buildings have been demolished or repaired.

Mr. Adelman said that each year, the city demolishes about 250 buildings, usually gang or crack houses near schools. Another challenge is that 85% of the Department's budget is dedicated to new construction, and only 15% to code enforcement. The reason is that state law requires that money collected from the issuance of permits can only be used to administer permits, and it's up to the state's General Fund to allocate money for code enforcement...which has to compete with funding for police, firefighters and other services.

Currently, he said, we have 120-130 Code Enforcement inspectors, some of who are dedicated to gang houses, "hot sheet" motels, etc., and only about 40 of who whom work on general code enforcement. (And each inspector is responsible for an area the size of Burbank.)

Mr. Adelman reviewed a list of recent DBS improvements, most of which are aimed at getting the most out of the Department's limited resources. He said that he's a student of Total Quality Management, and is always looking for ways to improve. He also invited people to e-mail him, saying he will always read the messages, but then usually forwards them to someone else to answer. He also promised to do his best to return phone calls, usually after 4:00 p.m.

According to Mr. Adelman, there have also been many technological improvements in DBS in the last few years. While computers used to be scarce, he said, the Department now depends extensively on electronic communications, including the <http://www.ladbs.org> website, which contains a lot of information, contact names and other data.

Speaking about improvements in the area of Construction Activity, he said that while there used to be a 2-3 hour wait time for service at DBS offices, they now make a supervisor or manager step in to help move things along if people are waiting too long.

In Inspections, service levels now exceed those of nearby smaller cities in both speed and quality.

Mr. Adelman said he spends 80% of his time on Code Enforcement, and the goal is that as neighborhoods age, they all look as good as Hancock Park. He said they used to have a backlog of 60,000 cases, but now 88% of inspections are done in 72 hours, and 72% of all cases are closed within 60 days.

Finally, Mr. Adelman reviewed some of the Department's Customer Service tools (including its Toll-Free Call Center, One-Stop Permit Centers, LADBS.org website, Mobile Inspection Device Program, Case Management Unit, High Rise and Significant Projects Unit, LADBS Information Bulletins, Zoning Code Manual and Commentary, and Building Permit Clearance Handbook) and said that he and his staff are there to serve the public, and want to do the best possible job.

President Charlie Dougherty read stakeholder questions from speaker cards that had been submitted. The first, from Suzanne Chase, asked if commercial landlords are advised of Park Mile Specific Plan restrictions and how those are enforced.

Mr. Zamperini said DBS inspectors are given the information they need to know in the areas where they work. Mr. Adelman said the real question is how many inspectors does it take to enforce the Plan. He said he would be happy to do the enforcement work himself, but there are "only a certain amount of hours in a week."

A question submitted by Sheldon Larry asked if there will be any further court hearings on 303 S. Highland and if DBS will enforce the codes there. But Mr. Adelman said the City Attorney advised him not to discuss any case – such as this one – where there is any pending or potential litigation.

Director Patti Carroll asked how DBS deals with rebuilding a property damaged by natural disaster, when it's being rebuilt to its original configuration.

Mr. Buitrago said the Department of Planning doesn't review every application, only when a Specific Plan is involved. He also said there's a city ordinance that provides

for emergencies such as disasters or fires, and that if a building is 75% damaged, it can be rebuilt.

Ms. Carroll asked why it's so difficult to navigate the system, even after all of Building and Safety's steps to make things more user friendly.

Mr. Buitrago said the Department's five offices are all staffed with all the Department's services, and that anyone can visit any time. There are also lots of resources online now. Finally, he noted that DBS is also often the "gate keeper" for other city departments, such as Housing, Fire, etc., and DBS often takes the blame if those departments are slow to respond to something.

Mr. Adelman said that a building permit can't be issued unless all city departments involved give their clearance, and sometimes 8-10 departments are involved. Also, in litigious times, they have to make sure all the "I"s are dotted and all the "T"s crossed, especially if any neighbors are protesting a project – for example, if there's a bakery waiting for a Bureau of Sanitation to approve its grease containers.

Stakeholder Rory Cunningham asked who people can call when there's construction going on at 5 p.m. Sunday. Mr. Buitrago said he can call 311 and give them the information. He can't guarantee an immediate response, because there are only a few inspectors on duty during the weekends, but they might be able to come out and investigate on Monday. Mr. Adelman noted that there should be no construction crews – only homeowners – doing residential construction on Sundays. Mr. Zamperini said if the main complaint is noise from construction, that should be directed to the LAPD. Mr. Adelman said that even if people do call the police, however, they should also register a complaint with DBS. Mr. Zamperini said that legal construction hours are 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. on weekdays.

Stakeholder Peter Funsten asked why DBS doesn't enforce its own regulations regarding boarding houses, day care facilities and other such properties in residential neighborhoods.

Mr. Zamperini said that if Mr. Funsten has a specific site in mind, they should talk after the meeting. Mr. Adelman said there are certain uses that are exempt from DBS inspections, including a family-run day care facility with fewer than six children. Mr. Zamperini said they do always try to get back to customers verbally when a complaint is registered, and they issue written instructions to owners if any violations are found. Mr. Adelman said those items are public records and they can send copies to the person who complained, if requested.

Alternate Director Margaret Sowma noted that a house at 610 S. Van Ness is still covered with foliage, and still has illegally-added extra rooms, even after months of neighbors' complaints. Mr. Zamperini said this case had been in litigation recently, so he can't speak to specific details, but he invited Ms. Sowma to speak with him after the meeting. Mr. Adelman said that when an inspector sees a violation, they send out a

notice, and if the property owner doesn't comply, it gets sent to the City Attorney. The ultimate weapon is taking the owner to court. He noted, however, that if it's a life-threatening safety issue, judges are usually receptive to the case, but they tend to be less so if the issue is something like an over-height fence.

Stakeholder M. "Chickie" Byrne said she'd like to see fines for violations set high enough to deter violations, and Mr. Adelman said he agrees...and wishes the State would agree as well. Mr. Buitrago said that currently the City Attorney says they can only charge fines in an amount equal to cover their expenses...and that the penalties designated in City codes are not determined by DBS. Mr. Adelman said they've strengthened the penalties some, but not enough. Now, each day in a violation is a separate "count" of that violation, and also people only get two strikes and they're out if there's a third complaint. At that point, the city can hold a public hearing, demolish the building and charge the costs to the owner. It used to be that the City was the last lien in line, but now the law has changed and the City is ahead of banks...but the City is still working on these issues.

Stakeholder Suzanne Chase asked why there's no parking on 6<sup>th</sup> Street in Windsor Square, but Mr. Zamperini said Building and Safety isn't responsible for street parking issues. Mr. Adelman offered to refer Ms. Chase to someone at the DOT.

Stakeholder Merle Gordon asked how a tenant can report a violation without getting in trouble with a building owner or landlord. Mr. Adelman said the complaint will be investigated, but they do need the owner's permission to enter a property. If there's an obvious violation, they can issue an order, but they usually do need to look at things like walls, shear walls, etc. Mr. Buitrago noted that many older buildings don't comply with current codes, but are still perfectly safe. Mr. Adelman also noted that codes change every three years, as new building features develop. He said old buildings are safe, but don't necessarily have all the features of new buildings.

*[Director Charles Bergson joined the meeting at 8:45 p.m.]*

Alternate Director Cindy Chvatal asked why all codes aren't enforced. Mr. Adelman said the Department needs to prioritize its work, just like all other agencies.

Alternate Director Frances McFall said she's concerned about condos taking over our residential neighborhoods, and too many single-family homes being torn down. Mr. Adelman said it's not the job of DBS to decide what gets built, and the zoning codes are written by the Department of City Planning.

Mr. Adelman thanked the audience members for their time and attention and concluded his presentation.

President Dougherty called a five-minute break in the meeting, which resumed at 9:05 p.m.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Russell Sherman left the meeting at 7:45 p.m., so President Charles Dougherty introduced the 2008-2009 budget prepared by Mr. Sherman (see Appendix A). Director Owen Smith moved that the budget be accepted as written, and Director Margy Hudson seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

President Dougherty noted that Mr. Sherman has asked to be relieved of his Treasurer duties and asked if there were any nominations or volunteers for the position. There were none.

President's Report

President Charles Dougherty introduced Betty Wong Oyama, the GWNC's representative from the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment, who provided several notes and reminders:

- If we can't find a new volunteer Treasurer, we can hire a temporary accountant to assist with Treasurer duties. Just e-mail her for details.
- All Neighborhood Council members and stakeholders are invited to the Mayor's Budget Day and the Congress of Neighborhoods, which will be held jointly on November 11.
- All Board Members and Alternates need to renew their ethics certifications, and new board members need to take the training, if they haven't done so. Board Members and Alternates cannot participate in votes unless they pass this training, and it has to be re-taken every two years. The new version of the training will be available online on DONE's website.
- Thank you for complying with the Brown Act and making copies of all documents referred to at the meeting available to stakeholders.
- After the new Board Members and Alternates are seated later this evening, please send her a new, up-to-date roster of our Directors.

President Dougherty introduced the new Board Members and Alternates up for election, to replace people who have moved or resigned: Charles Bergson, Citrus Square Representative, Rudy Gintel, Other Non-Profit Representative, Clinton Oie, Renter Representative, and Mary Rajswing, Ridgewood-Wilton Alternate. All four were approved unanimously and welcomed to the Board.

At DONE's request, President Dougherty asked for two people to represent the GWNC at the upcoming Mayor's Budget Day and Council of Neighborhoods. Directors Charles Bergson and Shar Penfold volunteered.

Referring to a handout that was distributed (see Appendix B), showing current members of GWNC committees, President Dougherty asked if anyone else would like to volunteer for the committees listed. Directors Rudy Gintel, Jane Gilman and Patti Carroll volunteered for the Ad Hoc Land Use Committee. Director Owen Smith volunteered for the Million Trees and Traffic Committees. Director Charles Bergson also volunteered for the Traffic Committee.

#### Ad Hoc Land Use and Zoning Committee

821 S. Wilton – Committee chair James Wolf reported that representatives for the owner of this apartment building visited our Land Use Committee meeting to ask for the GWNC's support in legalizing two units in the building that were built without permits in 1987. The landlord was cited during a recent SCEP inspection, and would now like to make the units legal, but will need zoning variances for an increase in the number of total units allowed in the building, and a reduction in the number of on-site parking spaces. Mr. Wolf noted that the two units in question were built in a former basement storage area near the building's garage. He said the Land Use Committee asked the owner's representative to bring us a bit more information on the kind of construction needed to bring the units into compliance and invited him to come back at that time.

Wilshire/La Brea EIR – Director Elizabeth Fuller reported that the Draft EIR for the 562-unit development planned for the SE corner of Wilshire and La Brea has been released. She said it contains a lot of useful information about the development, but concludes every section with a finding that the project will have “no impact” or “no cumulative impacts” on the surrounding area. She invited everyone who is interested in the issue to submit a Public Comment before the October 13 deadline.

Lou Ehlers Cadillac – Stakeholder Fred Pickel reported that his neighborhood's landmark application for the Ehlers building was submitted to the Cultural Heritage Commission, but because too much demolition had already been done on the structure, the Commission was forced to change its initial ruling and deem it not worthy of further consideration. He said that Sonic Automotive, which is developing the Ehlers site, has now expressed a willingness to discuss “decorative” changes in the building designs.

SurveyLA – Director Margy Hudson introduced Survey LA, Los Angeles' first comprehensive historic resources survey, which will be 50% funded by a large grant from the Getty Foundation. The Survey LA organization is asking for the help of Neighborhood Councils in reaching out to our neighborhoods to nominate buildings and other sites for the survey. She asked for volunteers to create an Ad Hoc committee to work on this project. Directors Elizabeth Fuller and Patti Carroll volunteered. Stakeholders Fred Pickel, Felecia Fisher-Shamu and Brian Curran also expressed interest in helping out, even though (for Brown Act compliance) they cannot be members of the Ad Hoc committee.

Mr. Pickel noted that the Cultural Heritage Commission, at the Ehlers hearing, scolded the Los Angeles Conservancy for not being more proactive with landmark

applications, and Ms. Fuller said Survey LA could have been a big help in that case – the surrounding neighborhoods didn't realize the building's significance until it was too late to do anything about it. Survey LA, on the other hand, would help create a database that people could refer to when a building is threatened, to find out about its history and potential qualifications as a landmark.

Stakeholder John Welborne noted that preservationists and neighbors have been talking about a comprehensive survey like this for 20 years, and it's our best hope for preserving many of our existing resources. He suggested we put a big coupon in the Larchmont Chronicle, asking people to send it back with their lists of buildings to survey, and that the Larchmont Chronicle publish an article asking people to send in suggestions, too.

Director Jane Gilman asked if the Survey covers homes as well as other buildings and Mr. Welborne said it covers all kinds of structures.

Going back to the discussion of 821 S. Wilton, Mr. Welborne further commented that we shouldn't roll over when people violate the building codes.

Stakeholder Brian Curran, a Brookside resident, said he would like to help with Survey LA activities, and that he's very happy to hear this discussion – so often in the past such things haven't been done until something is being torn down.

Stakeholder Charles D'Atri said the Ehlers case was a "signature moment" for the Neighborhood Council, and the way the developer has treated the surrounding neighborhood is "unconscionable." He noted that BMW is a public company, which receives 58% of its profits from automotive service. He suggested that local residents avoid having their cars serviced at the BMW service center being built on the Ehlers site, and instead patronize one of the 10 other BMW service facilities within a 10 mile radius, at least until BMW and its parent company, Sonic Automotive, show a significant attempt to communicate with the neighbors.

Director Patti Carroll noted that her neighborhood association recently went out and photographed every house on half the blocks in her neighborhood, and it only took two hours. She said they'll have the rest of the neighborhood done in another two hours – and it would be a fast and easy project for any of our other local neighborhood associations to do in their areas as well.

Director John Gresham asked if Ms. Hudson would like copies of his neighborhood's whole architectural survey, or just a list of significant structures.

#### Ad Hoc Outreach Committee

Director Margy Hudson reported that our website and logo design projects are on hold until our funding is restored and we can pay the designer we hired. She presented three (of about a dozen) logos the designer has submitted: one that has a very serious

tone and incorporates the City Seal, one that was inspired by the 1980s sunset-design California license plates, and one – the unanimous choice of the Outreach Committee – which is a more “fun, friendly” graphic representation of both people and houses. Director Elizabeth Fuller said the designer will begin work on our new website design once our funding starts flowing again.

On the topic of future guest speakers, Ms. Hudson said we will not have a guest at our November meeting, but City Council Member Wendy Greuel will speak at our January meeting. Future speakers we’re considering include City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo, a representative from the LAUSD, and someone who can speak about the issue of billboard blight. Director John Gresham suggested we invite Mr. Delgadillo and the billboard speaker to the same meeting.

#### Million Trees LA Project

Alternate Director Mary Rajswing said the committee is now looking for places for “signature projects” – areas that can take more than 100 new trees. Because of the volume of these projects, our planting partners would help with watering, and property owners wouldn’t have to sign permission forms or agree to water the new trees.

Director Patti Carroll asked if they can do a planting at a federal building, and Ms. Rajswing said she would find out. Ms. Hudson noted that even if the building is federal property, the City probably does own the parkway area in front of it.

#### DWP Oversight Committee

DWP Oversight Representative Jack Humphreville said he believes the latest DWP rate increase was not well analyzed, and that it will reap 20-25% more than the amount approved by the City Council. He said he has informed the DWP that it is not in compliance with the MOU.

Mr. Humphreville also reported that the City Council is considering forming a new DWP Committee, which would be more of a ratepayers’ advocacy group than the current Oversight Committee. He said members of the current Oversight Committee have endorsed the idea, and he would like someone on the GWNC to make a motion supporting the new committee, and naming him as our representative to it.

Director John Gresham asked if the current Oversight Committee is supposed to be an advisory body. Mr. Humphreville said it is, but they only want to advise the Neighborhood Councils, not advocate on their behalf. Mr. Gresham asked if communicating Neighborhood Council recommendations is advocacy and Mr. Humphreville said it is.

Director Jane Gilman asked if each Neighborhood Council would have a representative on the new committee, and Mr. Humphreville said they would, and that it might be the same person that represents them on the Oversight Committee.

President Dougherty asked if everyone on the Oversight Committee agrees that the second committee should be formed, and Mr. Humphreville said that one person objected. He said about 25 people have joined the new committee already. Mr. Dougherty asked if everyone on the Oversight Committee can be on the new DWP Committee, and Mr. Humphreville said yes, they can be.

Mr. Dougherty opened the floor for public comment, and Stakeholder John Welborne said we should thank the people who are doing this – that they are “watching the foxes in the hen house.”

Mr. Gresham said we should thank Mr. Humphreville, who has been a mainstay on the Oversight Committee. He made a motion that we formally support the new DWP Committee. Director Margy Hudson seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

President Dougherty thanked Mr. Humphreville for all his hard work, and all of the material he has published on the subject as well.

Mr. Humphreville asked that we “please pound” our City Council Member, Tom La Bonge, on this issue, saying he’s “very much a pro-DWP person.”

Director Owen Smith moved that Mr. Humphreville be named our representative to the new DWP Committee. Alternate Director Cindy Chvatal seconded it. The motion passed unanimously.

*[Alternate Director Cindy Chvatal left the meeting at 10:00 p.m.]*

#### Public Comments

Stakeholder Joel Lava congratulated the Council on its new logo, saying it looks fabulous. He also announced that he is finally holding the workshop on publicly-financed elections that he spoke to us about several months ago. The event will be held next Tuesday as a joint effort with the Mid-City West Neighborhood Council. It is sponsored by the California Clean Money Campaign, which has been tasked with conducting the workshops to gauge interest in publicly financed elections and reporting back to the City.

Stakeholder Michael Amerian, a candidate for City Attorney, introduced himself, saying his father was the first Armenian-American judge, appointed in the 1970s. Today, Michael Amerian is a gang prosecutor in the City Attorney’s Van Nuys office – the only judicial candidate now working in the office. He asked that people vote for someone genuinely interested in the job, and not just in using it as a springboard for other offices. He said he knows how to get the most out of the City Attorney’s job, and offered to stay after the meeting to answer any questions.

Stakeholder Doug Roy spoke about Proposition 8, which will appear on the

November ballot, saying it would eliminate the right of same sex marriage. He said it's imperative to take action at the Neighborhood Council level to stop Prop 8 and that the community needs to join together in taking a stand. He said he did try to contact us to put the matter on our agenda for a vote this month, but for some reason it didn't appear...so he would like to request a special meeting be scheduled to vote on this issue.

President Dougherty said our Executive Board would discuss the matter, but that he can't promise anything.

Board Member Comments/New Business

Director Jane Gilman announced that on October 5, the Windsor Square-Hancock Park Historical Society will conduct a tour of Wilton Place, and that the annual Larchmont Fair will be held on October 26. Finally, she noted that the Los Angeles City Planning Commission will be considering the proposed zoning measures for Larchmont Village tomorrow.

Director Margy Hudson announced the City's 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Emergency Preparedness Fair, which will be held on September 13 at the La Brea Tar Pits. She said the event will also include a tree planting to commemorate the victims of 9-11.

Announcements and Adjournment

President Dougherty announced that our next meeting will be held on November 12.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Fuller  
Secretary

APPENDIX A – GWNC Budget, as distributed September 10, 2008

**GREATER WILSHIRE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**  
 2008-2009 Budget

FUNDS

<b>Source</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Yearly Allocation	50,000
Rollover	104,245.53
<u>Total</u>	<u>154,245.53</u>

EXPENSES

<b>100 - Operations</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Facility	12,000
Phone System	1,000
Office Supplies	2,000
General Operations	3,000
<u>Sub Total</u>	<u>18,000</u>

<b>200 – Outreach</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Ads	12,000
General Operations	20,000
Larchmont Planning	20,000
<u>Sub Total</u>	<u>52,000</u>

<b>300 - Community Improvement</b>	<b>Amount</b>
General Improvements	84,000
<u>Sub Total</u>	<u>84,000</u>

<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	122,000
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APPENDIX B – GWNC Committee List, as distributed September, 10, 2008

**GWNC Ad Hoc Committees – September, 2008**  
(Committee Heads in **Bold**)

Funding Guidelines:

Arens, Dougherty, Fuller, Genewick, Gresham, Hudson, Sherman, Wolf

Land Use

Arens, Carroll, Chvatal, Dougherty, Fuller, Genewick, Gresham, Hannon,  
Lombard, **Wolf**

Larchmont

Carroll, Gilman, Lombard, McIntyre, Usher

Million Trees

Hannon, Jones-Moreno, **Rajswing**, Wishart

Outreach

Arens, Fuller, **Hudson**, Jakubowski, McIntyre

Special Projects

**Hudson**

Traffic

Gilman, **Sherman**

Not currently on committees:

Bergson, Chung, Cunningham, Gintel, Oie, Penfold, Schuur, Smith