



Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council Special Meeting
October 13, 2010
Approved by the Board, 11-10-10

1. Call to Order

A duly noticed meeting of the Board of Directors of the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council (“GWNC”) was held on Wednesday, October 13, 2010, at the Ebelle of Los Angeles, 743 South Lucerne Blvd., Los Angeles. President Owen Smith called the meeting to order at 7:17 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Secretary Elizabeth Fuller called the roll. Board Members in attendance at the roll call were: Yigal Arens, Charles Dougherty, Elizabeth Fuller, Jane Gilman, John Gresham, Jack Humphreville, Frances McFall, Clinton Oie, Matthew Oldham, Fred Pickel, Mary Rajswing, Owen Smith, Margaret Sowma (Alternate for Jane Usher) and James Wolf (Alternate for Kiki Gindler).

Fourteen of the 20 Board Members were present at the beginning of the Meeting. A 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. One Board seat was vacant at this time. Also attending: 17 Stakeholders and guests. Board Members absent and not represented by an Alternate: Patricia Carroll, Alex Jones-Moreno, Bobbie Kumetz, David Lunzer and Benjamin Rosenberg.

3. Approval of the Minutes

Ms. Fuller distributed copies of the August 11, 2010 Special and September 1, 2010 General Meeting Minutes.

MOTION (by Mr. Dougherty, seconded by Mr. Gresham): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of the August 11, 2010 Special Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote.

The following corrections to the September 1, 2010 General Meeting Minutes were requested:

Page two, Item #4. B: “andEducation” should read “Education.”

Page three, Item #8. A.: “an public” should read “a public.”

Page three, Item #9. A.: there should be a period at the end of “to distribute.”

MOTION (by Mr. Gresham, seconded by Mr. Dougherty): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of the September 1, 2010 General Meeting as corrected.

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote.

4. President's Report (Owen Smith)

A. Nominations/Seating of Additional Board Alternates

Area 4 (Fremont Place) – Patty Lombard (Alternate)

Area 7 (Larchmont Village) – Nominations for Director and Alternate

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #3.] For Area 7 (Larchmont Village), Mr. Gresham nominated Charles D'Atri as Director and Vince Cox as Alternate. Federico Mariscal nominated himself as Director.

Stakeholder John Welborne distributed a "Statement of Stakeholder" regarding the GWNC Area 7 election and urged filling the seat as soon as possible. He also distributed a "Resolution" to be considered by BONC (the L.A. Board of Neighborhood Commissioners) regarding NC Bylaws and announced that BONC will probably recommend that all NCs' Bylaws Tables of Contents be in the same common order. Mr. Smith asked and Mr. Welborne agreed to review the GWNC Bylaws regarding this.

Ms. McFall was concerned that, since Mr. Mariscal or Karen Gilman was elected as the Area 7 Director, one of them should be on the Board. There was extensive discussion regarding the nominating process and how to resolve the situation. Mr. Wolf nominated Karen Gilman as Area 7 Director. Ms. Fuller noted that Karen Gilman and Mr. Cox were not here. Karen Gilman arrived at this time. Mr. Gresham withdrew his nomination of Mr. Cox as Area 7 Alternate. Mr. D'Atri and Mr. Mariscal made statements about their qualifications and interests in serving the community. Karen Gilman declined the nomination as Area 7 Director.

Roll Call vote for Area 7 Director: Yigal Arens -- Mr. Mariscal, Charles Dougherty -- Mr. D'Atri, Elizabeth Fuller -- Mr. D'Atri, Jane Gilman -- Mr. Mariscal, John Gresham -- Mr. D'Atri, Jack Humphreville -- Mr. D'Atri, Frances McFall -- Mr. Mariscal, Clinton Oie -- Mr. D'Atri, Matthew Oldham -- Mr. Mariscal, Fred Pickel -- Mr. D'Atri, Mary Rajswing -- Mr. D'Atri, Owen Smith -- Mr. D'Atri, James Wolf -- Mr. Mariscal, and Margaret Sowma -- Mr. D'Atri. Mr. D'Atri was confirmed as Area 7 Director with nine votes; Mr. Mariscal received five votes.

MOTION (by Mr. Gresham, seconded by Jane Gilman): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council confirms Patricia Lombard as Area 4 (Fremont Place) Alternate.

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote.

New Board Members Charles D'Atri and Patti Lombard together recited the NC Oath of Office aloud. Mr. Smith welcomed them to the Board. Ms. Fuller clarified that voting for an Area 7 (Larchmont Village) Alternate will be Agendized for the next General Board Meeting.

Mr. Gresham asked that we also add nomination and confirmation of Robby O'Donnell as the Area 13 (Wilshire Park) alternate to next month's agenda.

B. Remaining vacancies – please recruit:

Area 2 (Citrus Square) – Alternate

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

Area 12 (We-Wil) – Alternate

Area 14 (Windsor Square) – Alternate

Business – Alternate

Education – Alternate

C. Appointment of two City Budget Day (Oct. 16) Representatives.

Mr. Smith appointed and Mr. Humphreville accepted as a Representative; Ms. Sowma also volunteered.

D. Recognition of NC Role in Burns Park Renovations.

Mr. Smith presented a Certificate of Appreciation presented to the GWNC from L.A. City Council Member Tom LaBonge for the GWNC's role in the Burns Park Renovations.

5. **Guest Speaker** – Ray Ciranna, LA City Budget.

Ray Ciranna, Assistant City Administrative Officer (213-473-7523), distributed a "Budget and Revenue Highlights" handout, reminded everyone about Saturday's Mayor's Budget Day and reviewed Budget challenges. He noted that the page seven "Increased General Fund Revenues" is \$64 million, not "\$154" million. "City policy is roughly 5% of revenue" as a Reserve Fund. The page 11 "Budget Outlook" "numbers do not include the DWP," which made a \$257 million Power Transfer. Public safety is 75% of General Fund expenditures, including salaries, pensions, health benefits, workers compensation, etc. Pensions are 25% of public safety labor costs and estimated to increase to 40% for civilian and 50% for sworn employees. Public employees may be requested to contribute 2% of their salaries to their health benefits. The City is negotiating with parking garage owners; "this is a one-time shot in the arm . . . There'll be a rate structure . . . that'll allow gradual increases" at the approximately eight garages. Parking "meters . . . are a substantial asset for the City." Concern was expressed regarding helping this year's deficit at the expense of future revenues.

6. **Local Government Updates**

A. CD4 Update (Nikki Ezhari)

Nikki Ezhari, Deputy District Director for L.A. District Four City Council Member Tom LaBonge (213-485-3337; 323-957-6415; Nikki.Ezhari@LACity.org), updated that 9th Street in Brookside was "dug up . . . [because of a] water main break . . . [They're] waiting for the DWP to replace [the pipe] so [they] can resurface; Highland medians . . . [will be maintained and a] contract cycle should start within two weeks . . . [They're] planting 50 trees . . . working with [the] Country Club . . . [and] getting street lights" back on quickly. There'll be "a Public Hearing about the northern section of Hancock Park . . . affected by the Mozza restaurants."

B. 42nd Assembly District Update (Haeyoung Kim)

Haeyoung Kim, Field Representative for State 42nd District Assemblyman Mike Feuer (310-285-5490; 818-902-0521; Haeyoung.Kim@asm.ca.gov), updated that a State Budget was passed and an analysis is available. Assemblyman Feuer authored several more bills, including one to “ban mobile billboards.” Most bills “originate from constituents”; she encouraged contacting her or the Office.

C. 26th Senate District Update (Andrew Lachman)

Andrew Lachman, aide to State 26th District Senator Curren D. Price, Jr. (213-745-6656; Andrew.Lachman@sen.ca.gov), did not attend and there was no report at this time.

[The following update was made after Item #8.] L.A. City District Four Councilman Tom LaBonge (213-485-3337; 323-957-6415; Tom.LaBonge@LACity.org; www.LACity.org/council/cd4), thanked the GWNC “for their engagement” with the community. He stated that “a lot of rethinking needs to be done” regarding the City Budget and asked “what do you want for your neighborhood?”

7. Treasurer’s Report & Budget Items

A. Monthly Budget report/approval (Matthew Oldham)

Ms. Fuller distributed the “Monthly Spending Report” (see the below Motion). Mr. Oldham reviewed the latest expenses, noting that “no invoices or Demand Warrants were submitted.” He “will submit” a bill for our Larchmont Chronicle ad next month.

MOTION (by Ms. Lombard, seconded by Mr. Pickel): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves the “Monthly Spending Report – September 1-October 12, 2010.”

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote.

B. GWNC 2010-2011 budget adjustment to account for unpaid invoices (Elizabeth Fuller).

Ms. Fuller distributed the “[GWNC] Budget” (see the below Motion) and explained that Budget adjustments are needed. Because of a DONE paperwork delay, a bill we thought was paid out of last year’s budget didn’t get paid until this year, so the allocation in our current budget for meeting space at The Ebell of Los Angeles needs to be increased from \$3,600 to \$4,000 per year. To achieve this, the Administrative Assistant budget will be decreased from \$3,500 to \$3,100.

MOTION (by Jane Gilman, seconded by Mr. Pickel): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves the “[GWNC] Budget for Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Approved by the Board 7-14-10, REVISIONS approved by the Board 8-11-10.”

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote.

8. DWP Oversight (Jack Humphreville)

Mr. Humphreville reported that the establishment of a Ratepayers Advocate is progressing. They’re “starting to get some commitments from the City Council regarding the Rate Sheet” and are “trying to set up an independent commission . . . The double dip . . . should be put into the rate base”; the City Council will decide.

9. Outreach Committee (Matthew Oldham)

Mr. Oldham reported that the Committee will meet Thursday, November 4th.

A. Larchmont Fair booth – volunteers needed (Mary Rajswing)

Ms. Rajswing reminded everyone that the Larchmont Fair will be Sunday October 24th and passed around a volunteer Signup Sheet.

B. Saturday morning GWNC-sponsored events (Federico Mariscal)

Mr. Mariscal reported that our events “will start in the Larchmont Village area” and he’s working with Mr. D’Atri to set something up. Jane Gilman will work on a Hancock Park Historic Structures tour. Mr. Mariscal will also present a calendar for these events and agreed to include Sycamore Square for April. In response to a question about how we will publicize these events, Ms. Fuller said we will use our e-mail list (“around 350 subscribers”), Twitter, Facebook and our Larchmont Chronicle ad.

[There was no Item #10 in the Agenda.]

11. Ad Hoc Million Trees Committee (Mary Rajswing)

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #9. A.] Ms. Rajswing reported that the Committee met, discussed the Larchmont Fair and “assigned each other neighborhoods . . . [regarding] parkways that need trees.” They’re “trying to focus on apartments.”

12. Ad Hoc Pedestrian Safety Committee (Sarah Tabor)

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #9. B Ms. Tabor was unable to attend this Meeting, so there was no report.

13. Land Use Committee (James Wolf)

[The following Land Use Committee “Issue” and some other text and the Motions are directly from the Agenda.]

(Note: unless there are any Board Member objections, the Land Use Committee recommendations will be handled as a single motion, as stated after number 15 B, below Action items:

A. Los Angeles Citywide Design Guidelines & Public Review Process.

Issue: The City has created a first-ever set of citywide uniform design guidelines. When discussed at the GWNC Land Use Committee and Board meetings last month, there was concern expressed about the speed of the public review and approval process the city has set, and the discussion was referred back to the LUC for further discussion. This month, after a presentation on the guidelines themselves, most members present agreed the guidelines will be useful, but once again agreed that there has not been enough time for bodies like Neighborhood Councils to examine them in full before they are discussed and adopted by the necessary city bodies. At the time of the LUC meeting, it was expected that a Planning Commission vote would be taken on the matter at its October 14 meeting. LUC [Land Use Committee] recommended MOTION: [see below Item B Motion].

Karen Gilman reminded everyone about tomorrow’s October 14th Public Hearing. Ms. Fuller clarified that the Public Comment period ended October 7th. Mr. Wolf described

“trying to get information and get feedback [regarding] the City being as transparent as possible . . . We intend to deliver” a letter from the GWNC to the City Planning Dept. to be read aloud “tomorrow . . . This has moved” very quickly.

B. Los Angeles City Ordinance on Community Care Facilities.

Issue: The City has proposed an ordinance to control group homes in residential neighborhoods, generally aiming to comply with state guidelines. Public comment was due by October 6, however, with a scheduled hearing on October 14, leaving little time for stakeholder input. LUC recommended MOTION: [see below Motion].

CONSENT MOTION (by Mr. Wolf, seconded by Mr. Pickel): Item #15. A. The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council will send a representative to the Planning Commission meeting on October 14 to support and applaud the City’s effort in developing citywide design guidelines, with the proviso that more time be provided to allow for a full spectrum of community input. We would request that a minimum 6-month period be established to allow the Planning Department to solicit and receive substantive input to meet the citywide goals and objectives. (Note: it was subsequently learned that the hearing on this matter was held on October 7, not October 14.) Item #15. B. The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council will send a representative to this hearing with the same message(s) as those stated for the Design Guidelines, above: that in general we applaud the effort to deal with this issue, but that we request a minimum 6-month review period to allow for adequate stakeholder and Neighborhood Council review and input. (Note: this item, too, turned out to have been heard on October 7, not October 14.) The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council adopts the two Motions outlined in numbers 15 A and B above with the revision that (since the hearing dates have passed), our comments and recommendations be conveyed in writing (instead of in person) to the appropriate City agencies.

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote.

Mr. Smith volunteered to deliver the letter.

Ms. Rajswing was concerned that non-Land Use Committee Board Members may not have enough say on land use issues. Mr. Smith pointed out that re-discussing issues slows Board business and frustrates Board Members and Stakeholders. Alternate Board Member John Kaliski explained that a Consent Agenda expedites business. Mr. Wolf elaborated that the Land Use Committee usually meets for approximately four hours each Meeting to “thoroughly” discuss issues and get important information. Ms. Lombard noted that the Committee has “been working for over a year on the redundancy issue” of explaining land use issues at both the Committee and Board Meetings; she encouraged “Board Members [to] sit in on the [Committee] Meetings periodically . . . Applicants aren’t interested in” presenting to two Meetings. Ms. Fuller encouraged letting her know if more Agenda information is desired. Mr. Gresham was concerned regarding “procedures of when [the Board] should” hear presentations. Mr. Kaliski believed that, while “projects are very thoroughly vetted” by the Committee, applicants should be told “they still have to come to the Board.” Ms. Fuller noted that at least one applicant

representative is present at this meeting, and many do come to answer any follow-up questions that may arise.

[Note: Items C-G were presented for informational purposes only; no action was required.]

C. Eastern Presbyterian Church Renovations – 4270 W. 6th St.

Issue: The church is proposing an extensive remodeling project, which would require approval for a church use in an RD zone, relief from internal zone setbacks, a variance for a new parking structure, an increase in residential density allowance from 6.3 to 7 units, and possible widening of a section of Bronson Ave. Developer presented initial plans for feedback, and was given advice on items (e. g. signage, street widening) that won't be allowed under current restrictions. Committee members also made recommendations for high-end finishes. Case will also be heard by the Park Mile Specific Plan Design Review Board, the Windsor Square HPOZ Board and the Windsor Square Association. Developer will return to GWNC Land Use committee as plans progress. LUC recommended action: None at this time.

D. Al's Liquors CUP Revisions – 5550 Melrose Ave.

Issue: GWNC board voted last month to support the business's application for a Plan Approval (required by the city following a 1992 graffiti issue), on the condition that there were no objections from the Larchmont Village Association. In the last month, the business has been meeting with the LVNA and discussions are progressing on several points of concern (including a pay phone and security guard). Representatives of both groups report that the talks are going well and they fully expect to reach a compromise acceptable to all parties. LUC recommended action: None needed. Letter to the City will be sent according to last month's vote.

Applicant's representative Peggy Trento reported that "the project was left open for advisement . . . Over 90 people signed a petition" of support and the "new deadline is the 25th."

E. T-Mobile Cell Phone Poles at 9th & Mansfield and 1st & Wilton

Issue: T-Mobile did not visit our meeting this month, but reported that it has entered into talks with the Bureau of Street Lighting to explore the idea of mounting smaller antennas on existing street lights. LUC recommended action: None at this time. Mr. Wolf suggested we contact the BoSL to find out more about the discussions.

F. Café Gratitude – 643 N. Larchmont

Issue: Developers plan to open an organic/vegan restaurant at the location (it's a small chain, with 6 locations in the Bay area in Northern California), and are applying for a CUB to sell beer and wine for on-site consumption in conjunction with food sales. Location has a 35-car garage, which will be exclusively available to the business at night. Application has not yet been filed, but restaurant hopes to open in January. Will return to the LUC with more details closer to a hearing date. LUC recommended action: none yet. Committee recommended to applicants that they contact the Larchmont Village Neighborhood Association for further neighbor/stakeholder input.

G. Larchmont Zoning Community Meeting

Issue: At the August meeting, after a conversation about how to move forward on Larchmont zoning and planning issues, committee member Patty Lombard offered to help coordinate a community meeting on the subject. After contacting many of the potential participants (including the CD4 office, LBA and others), she was told that they would not be able to participate in such discussions until after the Larchmont Bungalow lawsuits are resolved. LUC recommended action: none yet. We may revisit this idea after the resolution of the lawsuits.

Upcoming Issues for October LUC Meeting (in addition to those above):

CUP application to sell wine/beer at Piper's Restaurant (222 N. Western)

CUP application to sell wine/beer at Café Storygarden (338 S. Western)

Discussion of possible LUC policy on whether or not to get involved in cases also being heard by local HPOZ boards

12-unit condo conversion at 100 N. Sycamore

Discussion and possible adoption of LUC policy on wireless telecommunications installations

Review of new draft Hollywood Community Plan

Review of new Land Use input form for re-designed website

[There was no Item #14 in the Agenda.]

15. Board Member Comments/New Business

Ms. McFall requested and Mr. Smith agreed that the GWNC will recite the Pledge of Allegiance starting at the next General Board Meeting.

16. Public Comments

It was announced that Sunday, October 24th Second District City Councilman Paul Krekorian and DONE (the L.A. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment) will host the second Neighborhood Councils Workshop at USC's Galen Center. Also, BONC released a proposed 2011 Meeting Schedule that includes meeting at the GWNC on Tuesday, February 1, 2011.

17. Announcements and Adjournment

[The next Board Meeting will be Wednesday, November 10th at 7:00 p.m.]

MOTION (by Ms. Rajswing): to **ADJOURN** the Meeting.

MOTION PASSED without any objections.

Mr. Smith declared the Meeting **ADJOURNED** at 9:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
David Levin
Minutes Writer