

# Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council



## Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council General Meeting

November 8, 2006

Approved by the Board,  
as written, on 1/10/07

### MINUTES

A duly noticed meeting of the Board of Directors of the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council (“GWNC”) was held on Wednesday, November 8, 2006, at the Wilshire United Methodist Church, 711 South Plymouth Boulevard. Charles Dougherty, President of the Council, called the meeting to order at 7:13 p.m.

The Secretary called the roll, and Board of Directors members in attendance were: Yigal Arens, Chickie Byrne, Moon Chung, Cindy Chvatal, Charles Dougherty, Larry Eisenberg, Roy Forbes, Elizabeth Fuller, Jane Gilman, Margaret Hudson, Lisa Hutchins, Susan O’Connell, Mary Rajswing, Thomas Roe, Michael Rosenberg, Jolene Snett, Jane Usher, Robert Wishart, James Wolf, and John A. Woodward III. The following absent Directors were represented by their Alternates (noted in parentheses): Arlin Low (Frances McFall), Shemaya Mandelbaum (Richard Battaglia), Ruth Silveira (Anna-Kria King), Baruch Twersky (John Gresham), and Gary Zeiss (Russell Sherman). Directors Carolyn Bennett, Arnold Castaneda, Tom Gibbons, Rudolph Gintel, and Van Dyke Parks were absent and were not represented by an Alternate.

The Secretary stated that 25 of the 30 Directors were represented in person or by an Alternate at the beginning of the meeting and that a quorum was present.

President Dougherty announced that the number of GWNC Directors was reduced to 30, from 31, due to the death, on October 8<sup>th</sup>, of Director Norman Murdoch (who had no Alternate). Mr. Dougherty noted that former Director Murdoch, age 80 when he died, had been Los Angeles County’s Regional Planning Director from 1974 until his retirement in 1992. Mr. Murdoch was an active volunteer in the neighborhood. Mr. Dougherty asked that there be a moment of silence while everyone remembered Norm and his good works for both Windsor Square and Greater Wilshire.

Following the period of silence, President Dougherty asked the Secretary to present the Minutes of the previous meeting, and the Secretary stated that the Minutes of the Council’s General Meeting of September 13, 2006, had been distributed to Directors by e-mail and had been posted on the Council’s *greaterwilshire.org* web site. Additional copies were distributed at the meeting. Next, upon a Motion made from the floor and

adopted without objection, reading of the Minutes was waived. The Minutes were approved with various typographical corrections noted by Director Margaret Hudson and Stakeholder John Welborne; with changes to the name of Mr. Michael Wolf (adding his first name), as suggested by Director James Wolf to avoid potential confusion; and with an addition requested by Director Michael Rosenberg who wanted it indicated in the Minutes that he had called the Secretary prior to the last meeting to inform her that he would be absent.

#### Treasurer's Report and Initial Organization

Treasurer Susan O'Connell distributed a Financial Report showing the expenditures for the GWNC Emergency Preparedness booths rented and materials used at the recent Larchmont Family Fair. She was pleased to report that expenses appear to be well under budget (\$12,166.70 expended versus \$14,022 originally budgeted.)

#### Public Comments

The President said he momentarily would ask for Public Comments from Stakeholders, but he first wanted to introduce some guests. The first was Sharyn Romano, Director of the Hollywood Beautification Team. Ms. Romano described some of the activities of her organization, including its leadership role in Mayor Villaraigosa's "Plant a Million Trees" program that she said she understood would be discussed later in the meeting. President Dougherty then introduced Susan Kim, the new Area Director for the Mayor's Office of Neighborhoods and Community Services for the Central Area, which includes GWNC. Ms. Kim offered to be a resource for the Board and Stakeholders. President Dougherty also welcomed two DONE representatives attending the meeting, our Project Coordinator, Melvin Cañas, and his supervisor, Gabriela Quintana, who is DONE's Acting Senior Project Coordinator for the East and Central Areas. Mr. Forbes then noted that Jerry Kvasnicka, who again will be serving as GWNC's Independent Election Administrator, also was attending the meeting.

President Dougherty then read an e-mail he said was just provided to him concerning a memorial celebration for the late Norman Murdoch:

"Geoffrey Murdoch and Cathy Murdoch Jaramillo are hosting a reception to celebrate the life of their father, Norman Murdoch, and invite you to join them on Saturday, December 2, 2006 at 1:00 PM at the Wilshire Country Club. RSVP by e-mail to [cathyjaramillo@comcast.net](mailto:cathyjaramillo@comcast.net) or by telephone to 206-923-0090. Donations may be made in Norman's memory to the Larchmont Median Project. Checks should be made payable to the 'California Community Foundation' and be sent to the Windsor Square Association, 157 North Larchmont Blvd, Los Angeles 90004."

There were no additional Public Comments.

Board Member Comments / New Business

President Dougherty asked if there were any Board Member Comments. Alternate John Gresham spoke briefly about the status of the ongoing discussions with the Los Angeles Police Department concerning the boundaries of the new 20<sup>th</sup> Division. He said leaders of the adjacent Wilshire Center-Koreatown Neighborhood Council (“WCKNC”) also believed the boundary should be their council’s western boundary and the GWNC’s eastern boundary. However, the WCKNC is distracted with internal organizational matters at the present time. Mr. Gresham said he would be preparing a draft resolution that he thought would be useful to have adopted and presented to the Police Department.

Director Margaret Hudson mentioned that DONE now has available a link on the home page of its web site to an Online Ethics and Open Government Training course that all local agency officials are required by State law (Assembly Bill 1234) to complete before December 31, 2006. There was discussion of whether such training was required for Directors who just had received previous conflict of interest training from DONE and City Attorney staff. The consensus of DONE staff present appeared to be that the new training is required. A question was asked concerning the consequences of an elected Director or Alternate not completing the training, but there seemed to be no answer readily available.

Director Hudson also mentioned that the Department of City Planning has just announced that it will be initiating a series of four workshops concerning possible improved standards and restrictions for development on single-family lots to deal with the “teardown” and “mansionsization” trends being experienced throughout the City. The workshops for this “Neighborhood Character Study” will be on November 9, 14, 15, and 16. More detailed information is posted on the *greaterwilshire.org* web site. Ms. Hudson urged anyone interested in this subject to attend one of these meetings.

Alternate Frances McFall asked Mr. Gresham to return, for a moment, to the subject of the 20<sup>th</sup> Police Division and the comment made at the previous meeting that “the change we are advocating would still leave 10-12 properties on Wilton Place in the adjacent LAPD division.” Mr. Gresham indicated that these would not be properties in the We-Wil Neighborhood.

Special Projects Committee Report

President Dougherty said he would next ask Director Margy Hudson to give her Special Projects Committee report but that, first, he wanted everyone in the room to join him in a hearty round of applause for Ms. Hudson and her committee for their highly successful program at the October 29<sup>th</sup> Larchmont Family Fair.

Following the applause, Director Hudson thanked all the volunteers for their participation. She presented examples of the materials used at the Fair and displayed a

selection of photos on an easel. She also thanked Director Rob Wishart for his photo documentation of the event and said his photos would be passed around. There were twelve GWNC booths in total, and 22 Board members participated as volunteers at the Fair. Ms. Hudson provided extensive details of events of the day, and she concluded by saying the next steps would be for her and her committee to plan CERT (Community Emergency Response Training) classes for the community. She also commented on the importance to a community of having "ham" radio operators in the neighborhood in times of emergencies.

Several Directors next spoke about the City's "Plant A Million Trees" program and how it could best be implemented in Greater Wilshire neighborhoods. There was a consensus that the GWNC and the individual neighborhoods should participate as more details of the project are known. Director Jane Usher, who sits on the Mayor's committee for this project, directed people to the web site, [www.milliontreesla.org](http://www.milliontreesla.org).

President Dougherty recognized Director Michael Rosenberg, who sought clarification of a matter he meant to bring up during the Board Member Comments / New Business portion of the Agenda. Mr. Rosenberg asked whether owners of properties scheduled for discussion on a GWNC Board of Directors Meeting Agenda are notified in advance of the meeting? President Dougherty deferred to Director James Wolf, chair of the *Ad Hoc* Zoning and Land Use Committee. Mr. Wolf said that most of the parties are aware of upcoming GWNC meetings where their properties will be discussed because it often is those parties who seek the GWNC's review and support. For some properties, neighborhood concerns bring them to the attention of his Committee. Often, as is the case with several items on this evening's Agenda, the Committee merely is reporting to the Board on actions -- with respect to proposed projects -- that have taken place before the responsible City agencies. Mr. Wolf said he certainly agreed that, in addition to giving public notice through the posted Agendas, it would be appropriate to try to find, and invite, a representative of a property owner if proposals relating to that property are going to be discussed at length at an upcoming Board meeting.

#### Traffic Committee Report

President Dougherty asked Director Larry Eisenberg, as chair of the *Ad Hoc* Traffic Committee, to report. Mr. Eisenberg said he had done some follow-up investigation on taxi coupon books for seniors, a matter raised by a Stakeholder at the last meeting. He also reported that rush hour traffic flow is a main concern of the City's Department of Transportation ("City DOT"), the Mayor, and many other elected representatives. Even though there often are peak hour parking restrictions on major thoroughfares, these restrictions sometimes are ignored by construction companies that usually start work at 7:00 a.m. Equal enforcement of traffic restrictions is one way to help improve traffic flow.

Chairman Eisenberg mentioned that, in addition and over the long run, some

suggest that a westward extension of the Wilshire Metro Red (Purple) Line subway will be the way to address these traffic flow concerns. Mr. Eisenberg recommended that the possible construction of this subway extension through the middle of the GWNC area is an issue that deserves focused study by affected Stakeholders. In addition to transportation impacts (either benefits or burdens), there are easily foreseeable short-term construction impacts and long-term land use impacts on our community. He recommended that a Subway Subcommittee of the Traffic Committee could be created, and President Dougherty said that was an excellent idea and that he would follow up with Mr. Eisenberg.

Mr. Eisenberg said it was important for all of the Directors to understand the inter-relatedness of traffic issues and that a reduction of traffic in one neighborhood could result in an increase in traffic in an adjoining neighborhood. These could be neighborhoods within GWNC or in adjoining neighborhood council areas. He said an appropriate question for Board study and debate would be how such potential conflicts can be addressed.

(At this point, 8:03 p.m., Director Michael Rosenberg left the meeting.)

Director Susan O'Connell asked if there is a single traffic person at City DOT who is assigned to, or focuses upon, our neighborhood? Mr. Eisenberg said there is not; City DOT has different staff people involved on different issues that affect the GWNC. Director Chickie Byrne suggested that getting a single point-of-contact person at City DOT is something GWNC and its Traffic Committee might want to pursue.

Based on the discussion, Mr. Eisenberg at this point offered the following Resolution for consideration by the Board and made a Motion for its adoption:

“Resolved, that the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council requests that peak hour traffic restrictions on major thoroughfares be enforced against public and private construction projects.”

Mr. Forbes seconded the Motion, with the request that, if adopted, it be communicated in a GWNC letter to City DOT, all City Council Offices, and the Mayor.

President Dougherty asked if there were any requests for further discussion and, seeing none, called the question. The Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Eisenberg said there were no further traffic matters to bring before the Board, and President Dougherty moved to the next Agenda item.

Ad Hoc Bylaws and Election Committees Joint Report

The President said that, although the GWNC Bylaws had been adopted by the Board at the beginning of the year and had been approved by DONE on February 9, 2006, and the Election Procedures had been adopted by the Board at its meeting on July 12, 2006, there still is fine-tuning required by DONE, as revealed at the Board's meeting on September 13, 2006. President Dougherty commended *Ad Hoc* Bylaws Committee Chair Jane Usher and Election Committee chair Roy Forbes for their continued attention to these matters, and the President asked Jane Usher to begin the joint report.

*Ad Hoc* Bylaws Committee Chair Usher reported that there had been many frustrations getting to this point, in particular because some of the final changes being requested by DONE had not been received until about four o'clock this afternoon, but that hard work by all involved seems to be bringing closure. She indicated that DONE Project Coordinator Melvin Cañas was accompanied to tonight's meeting by DONE Acting Senior Project Coordinator for the East and Central Areas Gabriela Quintana specifically so she could approve the Bylaws changes on behalf of DONE, should the Board vote to make the changes recommended by Ms. Usher's Committee. Ms. Usher then introduced John Welborne to read the amendments to the Motion originally presented by the Committee and distributed to the Board prior to the meeting. Mr. Welborne read the following amended Motion:

WHEREAS, the Bylaws of the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council ("GWNC") were approved by the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment ("DONE") on February 9, 2006; and

WHEREAS, through an oversight, those approved Bylaws contained eleven choices of words or provisions that are inconsistent with City policy for neighborhood council elections, specifically in GWNC Bylaws Articles V.A, VI.B, VI.E, VI.G.3, VI.H, VII, VII.A, VII.E, VII.F, VII.G, and VIII.A; and

WHEREAS, the amendment of these eleven sections of the Bylaws will ease the revision of related sections of the draft GWNC Election Procedures now being submitted to DONE;

NOW THEREFORE, I MOVE that the Board of the GWNC:

1. Amend the Bylaws as follows:

A. In Article V.A, replace the last sentence with the following sentence:

“In odd numbered years, the Annual Meeting shall take place immediately following the close of voting for Directors at the Election held pursuant to Article VII of these Bylaws.”

B. In Article VI.B, delete “at the Annual Meeting” in the first sentence.

C. In Article VI.E, change “Annual Meeting” to “Election” in each of the second and third sentences.

D. In Article VI.G.3, delete “at the Annual Meeting” in the second sentence.

E. In Article VI.H, change “Annual Meeting” to “Election” in each of the last and second-to-last sentences.

F. In Article VII, add the following as the final sentence of the introductory paragraph:

“Elections shall be held every odd numbered year in the month of March, at a specific time, date, and location fixed by the Board of Directors.”

G. In Article VII.A, change “Annual Meeting” to “Election” in the first sentence.

H. In Article VII.E, replace the last two sentences with the following two sentences:

"In the event that no candidate self-nominated for one or more positions on the Board for which an election will be conducted, these positions shall remain vacant until filled by the Board after the election pursuant to the provisions of Article VI.H of these Bylaws. The Election Rules shall prohibit write-in balloting."

I. In Article VII.F, change “Annual Meeting” to “Election” in the title and in the first two sentences.

J. In Article VII.G, replace the last two sentences with the following sentence:

"Tie votes shall be resolved by the flip of a coin."

K. In Article VIII.A, replace the third sentence with the following:

“Officers shall be elected during even numbered years at a Board meeting immediately following the Annual Meeting and, during odd numbered years, at the first Board meeting convened after certification of the results of the Election of Directors.”

2. Direct the President and/or the Ad Hoc Committee on Bylaws or the Election Committee (at the President's discretion) to transmit the Bylaws amendments to DONE and to complete all paperwork required by DONE in connection with the GWNC's application for approval of these amendments.

3. Direct the President and/or the Ad Hoc Committee on Bylaws or the Election Committee (at the President's discretion) to negotiate, on behalf of the GWNC, any and all further changes to the amended Bylaws requested by DONE.

Ms. Usher moved that the Motion as read be adopted, and Mr. Forbes seconded the Motion. The President called for discussion.

Director Susan O'Connell thanked the *Ad Hoc* Bylaws Committee, the Election Committee, and everyone who had worked so hard to refine the Bylaws as requested by DONE. Director Forbes commented on the main substantive changes, the elimination of write-in candidacies when there is no candidate for a Board position and the resolution of ties by the flip of a coin. He recognized Mr. Jerry Kvasnicka, the Independent Election Administrator, who elaborated on the arguments why the revised GWNC language is fairer. *Ad Hoc* Bylaws Committee Chair Usher asked Mr. Cañas to confirm, for the record, that DONE would approve the GWNC Bylaws if the changes set forth in the Motion are adopted by the Board. Mr. Cañas said "yes," and indicated that Ms. Quintana would certify DONE's approval in writing on the GWNC Application right here at the meeting.

President Dougherty asked if there were any further discussion, and there being none, the President called the question on the Motion made by Ms. Usher and seconded by Mr. Forbes to amend the Bylaws. The President said he would conduct a roll call vote on the Motion. The Motion carried unanimously, with all 24 Directors present voting in favor. The President declared the Bylaws amended (and Ms. Quintana subsequently provided DONE's written approval of the changes). President Dougherty then asked Mr. Forbes to present his portion of the report.

Election Committee Chair Forbes reported that there are certain conforming changes that need to be made to our Election Procedures, now that the Bylaws have been amended. Mr. Forbes reviewed the Election Procedures in general and referred the Board to the Motion that previously had been distributed. Mr. Forbes reviewed the Motion:

WHEREAS, a draft of the Election Procedures for the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council ("GWNC") was approved by the Board and then was submitted to the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment ("DONE") for approval on July 13, 2006;

WHEREAS, DONE has responded with required and recommended amendments to the Election Procedures submitted; and

WHEREAS, revision and approval of the Election Procedures such that they conform to DONE's required and recommended amendments will allow the GWNC to meet DONE's election timeline and proceed with the election of Board members on March 14, 2007;

NOW THEREFORE, I MOVE that the Board of the GWNC:

1. Amend its Proposed Election Procedures as follows:

1A. Expand the required forms of Additional Identification as outlined in Article V, section B "Special Interest Candidate & Voter Identification" to include the most current rental agreement in stakeholder's name, most current rent receipt in stakeholder's name, most current paystub or W2 in stakeholder's name, most current utility bill in stakeholder's name; these changes must also be reflected in Attachment B, section 2.

2B. Delete the term "*Annual Meeting*" from Article VII, section A and Article XIX, section A and replace with the term "*Election*."

C. Delete the term "*business*" from Article VII, Section F(iv) in reference to "...the deadline for submission of acceptable documentation shall be three (3) days after the election."

D. Change language in Article IX, section E and Article XI, section N such that no write-in candidates will be allowed, as required by the newly amended Bylaws.

E. Add the fax number for the Independent Election Administrator (IEA) listed in Article VIII, section B, "IEA Contact Information."

F. Change language in Article XII, section C, "Ballot Design" such that no specific colors are assigned for each ballot and will be determined by what paper colors are available at the time of printing.

G. Change provision in Article XIII, section A, "Canvass of Votes, Issuance of Results and Ratification of the Election" to allow IEA to tabulate votes and issue unofficial results by 8:00 pm on the day following the election at a location TBD.

H. Change the provision in Article XIII, section I, "Canvass of Votes, Issuance of Results and Ratification of the Election," such that any ties will be resolved by a coin toss.

2. Direct the President and/or the Ad Hoc Committee on Election Procedures (at the President's discretion) to transmit the amendments to the Election Procedures to DONE and to complete all paperwork required by DONE in connection with GWNC's application for approval of these amendments.

3. Direct the President and/or the Ad Hoc Committee on Election Procedures (at the

President's discretion) to negotiate, on behalf of the GWNC, any and all further changes to the amended Election Procedures requested by DONE.

(At this point, 8:45 p.m., Director Michael Rosenberg's Alternate, Stanley Treitel, arrived and took Mr. Rosenberg's chair.)

Mr. Forbes moved that the Motion as presented be adopted, and Mr. Woodward seconded the Motion. The President called for discussion.

Stakeholder John Welborne said the Committee had done an amazing job dealing with complex issues and recommended that the Motion be adopted. Director Yigal Arens asked what would be done if there were a three-way tie? After some discussion, Mr. Forbes said that would be one of the types of issues, should it ever arise, to be resolved by the Independent Election Administrator. There was discussion of a few other matters, such as the definitions of a "day" and a "business day" and that both exclude weekend and holiday days, and the President then called the question on the Motion made by Mr. Forbes and seconded by Mr. Woodward to approve the revised Election Procedures. The President said he would conduct a roll call vote on the Motion, and the tally resulted in adoption of the Motion and approval of the Election Procedures. The tally was 24 Directors and Alternates in favor and one Alternate, Mr. Treitel, abstaining because he had arrived near the end of the discussion.

Mr. Forbes inquired of Mr. Cañas as to what would be DONE's process for confirming its approval of GWNC's now-amended Election Procedures so the pre-Election work set forth in the Election Schedule can get underway. Mr. Cañas replied that a letter would be forthcoming from the DONE office, and he congratulated the GWNC on its progress toward its next Election.

#### Ad Hoc Zoning and Land Use Committee Report and Possible Board Actions

(At this point, 8:55 p.m., Director Jane Usher excused herself because she is a member of the City Planning Commission, and she left the meeting, as did Director Larry Eisenberg.)

Jim Wolf, Chair of the *Ad Hoc Zoning and Land Use Committee*, commented that there would be no projects presented to the Board this evening. There will just be updates on development and similar activity around the community, as well as discussion of broader land use and development issues and how they might be studied.

(At this point, 8:58 p.m., Director Michael Rosenberg returned to the meeting but left his Alternate, Stanley Treitel, in the chair.)

Wilshire – LaBrea Proposed Development: The Board previously heard a presentation on this project by Ed Miller, of Cal Coast Development, in July. In the four

months since, there have been several meetings among the developer, neighbors, and Council District Four staff. Council District Four Chief of Staff and Planning Director Renée Weitzer has indicated that the Council Office would like to see a committee of interested neighbors work with the developer. Mr. Wolf noted that the project description for the project is still very vague and that the developer keeps saying he is interested in the community's suggestions.

Director Liz Fuller, who lives near the property in question, said she personally has been to four presentations by the developer. The first three were similar. The character of the project was very different in the fourth presentation. Director Jolene Snett stated that she frequently passes by the mini-mall shopping area ("Metro Plaza") on the LaBrea side of the proposed project. Are all or some of the buildings there (such as an old tire store) historic architecture? She believes a good developer could incorporate charming and historic existing structures into a new project. Director Michael Rosenberg said he believes a portion of the Metro Plaza is old and another portion was constructed more recently. Stakeholder John Welborne reminded people of Director Eisenberg's observations about the Wilshire subway and its potential impacts, and Mr. Welborne said these blocks surrounding Wilshire and LaBrea are destined for dense, "transit-oriented" mixed-use development.

(At this point, 9:09 p.m., Director John A. Woodward III left the meeting.)

Yavneh School: Mr. Wolf reported that there had been a recent Central Area Planning Commission hearing where, apparently based on advice just received from the City Attorney's Office, the Commission decided that the school will be allowed to host gatherings of all natures, as well as to construct a requested fence in the lawn area on Third Street. Mr. Wolf said there is no further administrative appeal available to neighbors who object to these changes in the school's existing Conditional Use Permit.

(At this point, 9:11 p.m., Alternates Richard Battaglia and Stanley Treitel left the meeting, and Director Michael Rosenberg returned to his chair.)

726 South Mullen Avenue: This is a single-family house in a zone that allows for townhouses, which could include rooming or boarding houses with up to five sleeping rooms. Neighbors have observed a significant construction effort to convert the house into a boarding house without the appropriate approvals. The Department of Building and Safety ("LADBS") says it is watching the project carefully. Director Roy Forbes stated that the neighboring Brookside Homeowners Association has filed an appeal with LADBS.

751 South Windsor Boulevard: Mr. Wolf noted that this is a case before the Park Mile Design Review Board ("PMDRB"). A new owner wants to demolish two adjacent single-family homes and replace them with a maximum-density apartment building allegedly to be designed by the owner's son, a recent graduate of architecture school. The

PMDRB raised a number of issues with the developer at the last PMDRB meeting. The developer is to return to that board on November 16<sup>th</sup>.

Stakeholder Cecil Emmanuel's (?) asked whether the building would be apartments or condominiums? Mr. Wolf replied that the developers have been vague about this, although there are neighbors who quote the developers as being clear in stating that it is their intention to apply for conversion of the building to condominiums after completion of construction. Stakeholder Stephan Sapunor suggested the developer is attempting to circumvent construction conditions that might be required as part of a tentative tract approval for condominiums. He suggested the developers ought to look at the examples in the neighborhood, specifically at Eighth and Plymouth, for styles of buildings that would be better-received by the community.

Director Chickie Byrne asked Mr. Wolf whether a purpose of GWNC is not to advocate on behalf of neighbors when they have concerns? Director Jolene Snett observed that these are narrow streets and wondered if all the traffic impacts have been examined?

Wilshire Boulevard (Miracle Mile) and Melrose Avenue Long Range Development

Mr. Wolf reminded the Board that the President had charged him and others who volunteered with the task of serving as a "Policy Defining Committee" to evaluate and recommend to the Board what involvement the GWNC ought to have in connection with consideration of, and comment upon, land use matters. Mr. Wolf stated that there had been some evolution in the committee's thinking over the past months concerning the committee's previous conclusion that it would be best to break the task into two parts: one to review immediate issues and one to deal with long-range issues.

There seems to be consensus that the GWNC's participation in long-range planning will be invaluable both to our Stakeholders and to City officials. For example, the potential development of the now-commercial areas along Wilshire Boulevard west of the Park Mile (from Highland to the west) provides challenges and opportunities for the surrounding communities. Director Susan O'Connell added that the same is true for the areas along Melrose Avenue, especially from LaBrea to Highland and from June Street to Western Avenue. Another area with commercial development potential is Olympic Boulevard, from Western Avenue to about Crenshaw Boulevard. Mr. Wolf added that it might be appropriate for us to collaborate in our long-range planning reviews with representatives from our neighboring councils, for example, Mid-City West Neighborhood Council on the west. Alternate John Gresham echoed the need to be cognizant of what development activities, or potential development activities, are going on beyond the GWNC boundaries.

A number of Board members volunteered to join in this discussion with Director

Wolf, and the President suggested it would be helpful if there could be a more detailed report presented at, or before, the next Board meeting. The President also asked Stakeholder John Welborne if there had been any further development of the idea of having a briefing on planning basics for GWNC Board Members? Mr. Welborne replied that, as a “Public Member” of the board of directors of the Los Angeles Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (“AIA/LA”) he has been participating in the development of a proposal to create and offer a 25 (or 50)-minute course, “Planning 101 – The Basics of Planning, Land Use, and Urban Design in Los Angeles,” for neighborhood council leaders, design review board members, City Council staffs and constituents, and others. He said the AIA/LA board of directors is scheduled to discuss this proposal at its meeting next Tuesday. In response to a request from President Dougherty, Mr. Welborne said he would be happy to present a “beta test” version of the course to the GWNC Board in January, even if the AIA/LA product has not been developed fully.

(At this point, 9:40 p.m., Alternate Russell Sherman left the meeting.)

Director Michael Rosenberg said he would like to return to the matter he had brought up earlier in the evening -- whether owners of properties scheduled for discussion on a GWNC Board of Directors Meeting Agenda are notified in advance of the meeting. He asked if the owner of 726 South Mullen Avenue had been invited to the meeting? For example, could the owner have been sent a certified letter? Director Chickie Byrne said she agreed that it is good to give people notice in advance, especially because they sometimes listen and then volunteer to address the complaints they hear. Mr. Rosenberg then noted that, yesterday, the City Council had considered taking jurisdiction over the Yavneh School administrative review, as requested by Councilmember Tom LaBonge, but that the Council had voted 9 to 6 to not take jurisdiction.

Director Roy Forbes said he agreed with Mr. Rosenberg that it is appropriate to notify people if their property will be discussed at a meeting. Mr. Forbes explained how difficult it has been for even the LADBS to contact the owner of 726 Mullen, but that he – personally – was going to try to encounter her during one of his neighborhood walks inasmuch as she happens to live near the Forbes home. Mr. Forbes suggested that it could be the responsibility of anyone requesting an item to be included on the Agenda to give notice. There was additional discussion of this proposal, and Mr. Forbes considered making a Motion to that effect. However, it was agreed that it would be preferable for the Policy Defining Committee to discuss the matter more fully and report back to the Board.

(At this point, 9:54 p.m., Directors Michael Rosenberg and Lisa Hutchins and Alternate Anna-Kria King left the meeting.)

Announcements

President Dougherty noted that, with the departure of the last few Board members, there no longer was a quorum. He said that, at the next meeting, he would try to schedule the long-range policy discussions earlier in the meeting. He reminded Board members that the next regular bi-monthly meeting of the GWNC will be on Wednesday, January 10, 2007, and that he expected we again would be back at The Ebell.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Gilman  
Secretary