



Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council General Meeting
November 10, 2010
Approved by the Board, 12-8-10

1. Call to Order

A duly noticed meeting of the Board of Directors of the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council (“GWNC”) was held on Wednesday, November 10, 2010, at the Ebell of Los Angeles, 743 South Lucerne Blvd., Los Angeles. President Owen Smith called the meeting to order at 7:10 p. m.

2. Roll Call

Secretary Elizabeth Fuller called the roll. Board Members in attendance at the roll call were: Yigal Arens, Patricia Carroll, Betty Fox (Alternate for Charles Dougherty), Elizabeth Fuller, Mike Genewick (Alternate for Alex Jones-Moreno), John Gresham, Jack Humphreville, Frances McFall, Clinton Oie, Matthew Oldham, Mary Rajswing, Benjamin Rosenberg, Owen Smith, Jane Usher and James Wolf (Alternate for Kiki Gindler).

Fifteen of the 21 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. Board Members absent and not represented by an Alternate: Jane Gilman, Barbara Kumetz, David Lunzer and Fred Pickel. Board Member Charles D’Atri was also absent, but a new alternate – Vincent Cox – was sworn in later (see below) and sat in for Mr. D’Atri after he was accepted by the board. One board seat (Area 9) is still vacant. Also attending: nine Stakeholders and guests.

3. Approval of the Minutes

MOTION (by Mr. Gresham, seconded by Mr. Arens): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its October 13, 2010 Special Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED without any objections.

4. President’s Report (Owen Smith)

A. Nominations/Seating of Additional Board Members & Alternates.

Area 7 (Larchmont Village) – Nominations for Alternate

Area 13 (Wilshire Park) – Robby O’Donnell

Mr. Gresham said that Ms. O’Donnell was unavailable to attend this Meeting, so her nomination will be tabled until our next meeting. Mr. Gresham nominated Vince Cox as the Area 7 (Larchmont Village) – Alternate Board Member. Mr. Cox introduced himself as one of the founders and a 10-year President of the Larchmont Village Neighborhood

Association and described his interest in serving the community. He read the Oath of Office aloud. Mr. Cox was accepted and Mr. Smith invited him to be seated with the Board.

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

Mr. Smith indicated that there were no more nominations at this time.

C. Bylaws Conformation to DONE’s new uniform Table of Contents (John Welborne)

Stakeholder John Welborne reported that the L.A. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment approved the latest GWNC Bylaws changes and said that he will review our bylaws to make sure they conform to the new Table of Contents standards recently set by DONE. Mr. Welborne said we may also add language clarifying what it means to “work” in the GWNC area (for purposes of clarifying stakeholder and candidate qualifications).

5. Local Government Updates

A. CD4 Update (Nikki Ezhari)

Nikki Ezhari, Deputy District Director for L.A. City District Four Councilman Tom LaBonge (213-485-3337; 323-957-6415; Nikki.Ezhari@LACity.org), reminded everyone to lock their doors because there have been many break-ins. Also, the Councilman would like to increase participation in the CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) (www.cert-la.com, lafdcert@LACity.org) program. Ms. Ezhari later added that the City subcontracted to maintain traffic medians and is waiting for EIRs [Environmental Impact Reports] to plan Wilshire Blvd. improvements. The CD4 “Office applied for Federal stimulus funds to improve the middle lanes . . . We can’t work on the middle lanes until the curb and other lanes” are planned; they’ll be stimulus-funded. The EIR is tentatively scheduled for publication in March, 2011.

B. 42nd Assembly District Update (Haeyoung Kim)

Ms. Kim did not attend and there was no report at this time.

C. 26th Senate District Update (Andrew Lachman)

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

[The following update was made after Item #10. D.] John Darnell, Field Deputy for L.A. City District Five Councilman Paul Koretz (310-289-0353; John.Darnell@LACity.org), reported that the City Council approved various traffic and parking Motions. Contact him for information. Shopping carts around the Ralph’s Market at 3rd and LaBrea are being removed.

6. Treasurer's Report & Budget Items

Monthly Budget report/approval.

Mr. Oldham distributed and reviewed the "Monthly Spending Report – October 1 – November 9, 2010." DONE has not yet charged for the Minutes Writer.

MOTION (by Mr. Gresham, seconded by Ms. Usher): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves the expenditures in the "Monthly Spending Report – October 1 – November 9, 2010."

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote.

7. Ad Hoc Election Review Committee (Charlie Dougherty)

Ms. Fuller reported that the City Clerk is defending their handling of the GWNC election.

Mr. Welborne drafted a letter, on behalf of the Ad Hoc Election Review Committee, to the City Clerk that says that the GWNC "stands by our position" outlined in previous communications and that the GWNC will carry on. Mr. Smith has signed the letter and it will be sent.

8. DWP Oversight (Jack Humphreville)

Mr. Humphreville reported that there were Meetings Tuesday and Wednesday. The Ratepayer Advocate will be called the Office of Public Accountability which "includes an Inspector General . . . There's a question" of how it'll be funded and its independence. The City Council wants the DWP to submit its Budget by March 31st, before the City Council has to submit its Budget. A Motion pending before the City Council would enable the removal of the DWP General Manager by a Board of DWP Commissioners' two-thirds vote. Mr. Humphreville described the upcoming action timeline.

9. Mayor's Budget Day (Jack Humphreville & Margaret Sowma)

Mr. Humphreville reported that he and Ms. Sowma attended the Mayor's Budget Day where City officials described the City Budget situation. Next fiscal year's projected deficit is \$319 million; he believes that is a very low estimate. Street and sidewalk maintenance is vastly underfunded. Noell Hyun and Scott Bytof were elected as NC Budget Advocates to the Mayor. New Budget measures will be on the next City election ballot. Ms. Usher added that City Councilman Wesson made a Motion but the City Council declined to tax existing billboards. Mr. Gresham asked about funding for Wilshire Boulevard re-paving, and Ms. Ezhari explained that it depends on approval of the Bus Rapid Transit plan, for which an EIR will probably be available in March.

10. Outreach Committee (Matthew Oldham)

A. Larchmont Fair wrap-up (Mary Rajswing)

Ms. Rajswing passed around three photos from the Fair, which went well; 71 free trees were distributed. She thanked volunteers including members of the Koreatown Youth & Community Center (<http://www.kycccla.org>), which is one of our planting partners. Ms. Rajswing also noted that the Green Islands on Wilton "are practically done . . . The big trees are in . . . The landscaping . . . is due to go in in the next week or so . . . The KYCC will invite us."

B. Great Los Angeles Walk sponsorship/assistance (Liz Fuller)

Ms. Fuller reported that blogger Michael Schneider of <http://www.FranklinAvenue.net> is leading another Great Los Angeles Walk (<http://www.GreatLAWalk.com>) on Saturday, November 20th. The free event starts at Pershing Square downtown and goes via “Wilshire to the ocean.” Last year 200-300 people participated. Ms. Fuller proposed that we sponsor a GWNC rest stop, which would include a table with our banner on it, where we would distribute cookies and water (which can be purchased with the GWNC Purchase Card). The rest stop could be by the Los Altos Apartments. “The L.A. conservancy is one of the Sponsors.” Stakeholder Sarah Tabor suggested having the GWNC name and logo on water bottles.

MOTION (by Mr. Cox, seconded by Mr. Arens): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council authorizes the expenditure of up to \$200 for sponsorship of and supplies for a rest stop during the Great Los Angeles Walk event on November 20, 2010.

MOTION PASSED without any objections.

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

Ms. Fuller reported that Mr. Mariscal is working on an events calendar.

D. Upcoming meeting speakers/events: December 10 – LAPD Vice representative; toy/food drive (Patti Carroll).

Jane Gilman announced that LAPD Vice Officer Dan Robbins will speak at the next GWNC General Meeting. We will also collect food for holiday distribution by Hope Net and toys for the Fire Station 29 Toys for Tots drive. Mr. Gresham was concerned regarding crime “being squeezed into our neighborhood by cracking down on crime in the business district.” Ms. McFall was concerned that the Food/Toy Drive could duplicate other groups’ similar events and that the event is not within the GWNC’s mission. She also suggested inviting a future speaker to talk about the Wilshire Plan...but Mr. Welborne said that plan is one that is being reviewed by the City at the moment.

January – Local school Principals (Mary Rajswing)

Ms. Rajswing reported that she will invite principals from several local schools to come and introduce themselves at our January meeting.

February – CD4 candidate forum (Liz Fuller)

E. Election candidate policy reminder (Liz Fuller)

Ms. Fuller reminded everyone that the GWNC voted last Spring to not allow declared candidates for elections to speak at our meetings unless all other candidates for that office have also been invited. She said we will invite all candidates for next spring’s CD4 election to our February meeting to introduce themselves and take questions. There are at least three candidates who have filed so far.

11. Ad Hoc Million Trees Committee (Mary Rajswing)

[See above Item 10. A.]

12. Ad Hoc Pedestrian Safety Committee (Sarah Tabor)

Ms. Tabor reported that she's been plotting data about vehicle collisions with bikes and pedestrians in our area, and said she will have a handout for our next meeting. The area has had four fatal crashes in the last two years . . . Most violations involved failure to yield the right of way." In all, there have been 142 incidents in the last two years, 3% of them fatal.

Ms. Usher left at this time.

13. Land Use Committee (James Wolf)

A. Proposed City Ordinances on Community Care Facilities, Code Streamlining Core Findings and Citywide Design Review Guidelines.

Issue: The City has recently proposed three new ordinances which at first glance seem to be needed to address three separate and very important issues. All three of them, however, have very short review processes, which don't allow adequate time for stakeholder, and particularly Neighborhood Council, review and input. The Land Use Committee will be reviewing the three documents and developing recommendations for future action, but in the meantime, recommends that the GWNC weigh in on the processes being used by the City to develop the policies.

LUC recommended MOTION: That the GWNC send a letter to the City Planning Commission requesting that the Commission create a series of additional workshops for all Neighborhood Councils to provide input regarding the Code Simplification Core Findings Ordinance, the Community Care Facilities ordinance and the Citywide Design Review Guidelines.

At this Meeting, Mr. Wolf described three issues mentioned above. Stakeholder Karen Gilman indicated that Stakeholders from around the City are working together and supporting the proposed City Ordinances on Community Care Facilities which will "make it tougher for group homes to open," but expressed concern that there won't be time for the GWNC Land Use committee to form a recommendation before the city acts on the measure. Ms. Fuller noted that the issue has been tabled again by the City, so there should be time for the GWNC to form a recommendation and act on it.

Mr. Wolf invited everyone interested in these issues to attend the Land Use Committee Meetings, which start 6:30 p.m. and usually last about 3 ½ hours... "or until they throw us out." Karen Gilman encouraged writing to Tom Rothmann [City Planner, Code Studies Section, Office of Zoning Administration, City Planning Department (213-978-1370; Tom.Rothmann@LACity.org] or the City Council regarding concerns. Mr. Smith would like to keep such debate "at the Land Use Committee" Meetings. Mr. Gresham was concerned that that would "limit debate" and "public forum." There was extensive discussion regarding the Land Use Committee and General Board relationship and functioning, especially regarding City deadlines.

B. Hancock Park HPOZ Board Nomination

Issue: The Hancock Park HPOZ Board has a vacancy, which the GWNC is empowered by the City to recommend a candidate to fill.

LUC recommended MOTION: That the GWNC nominate Sandra Kohn for the open seat on the Hancock Park HPOZ Board.

Alternate Director Cindy Chvatal recommended Sandra Kohn and cited Ms. Kohn's community service. Ms. Kohn, a lifelong local resident, introduced herself and described her desire to serve on the Hancock Park HPOZ Board.

LUC Proposed Consent Motion, covering items 13 A & B: That the two motions outlined in numbers 13 A and B, above, be adopted.

CONSENT MOTION (by Mr. Humphreville [Item 13. A.] and Mr. Gresham [Item 13. B.], seconded by Mr. Cox): That the two motions outlined in numbers 13A and B, above, be adopted.

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote.

Mr. Genewick clarified that there are five Hancock Park HPOZ Board positions, with four appointed by the Mayor and one at large.

Mr. Wolf said Items 13. C. through 13. F. are informational only and are "currently being reviewed by the Land Use Committee." Mr. Humphreville was concerned that there are a lot of "beer, wine and booze" applications. Mr. Welborne explained that "the City has decided they're going to review all existing CUPs [Conditional Use Permits] . . . That's why you're seeing so many of them."

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

Issue: The applicants have updated their application with correct information about a requested height variance. There was a joint meeting of the Windsor Square HPOZ Board and Park Mile Specific Plan Design Review Board to review the application on November 4. The applicant will return to the GWNC Land Use Committee as plans evolve.

LUC recommended action: None at this time.

D. Bricks & Scones CUP Application – 403 N. Larchmont

Issue: The café had applied for a permit to sell beer and wine, and to have live acoustic entertainment in the evenings to accompany its dessert service. Applicant withdrew the application a few days before the scheduled November 2 hearing.

LUC recommended action: None, unless the applicant should reapply at a future date.

E. Policy Statement on GWNC Involvement in Issues Also Being Covered by HPOZ and/or Park Mile Specific Plan Design Review Board

Issue: Frequently, in Land Use Committee discussions of specific issues and cases, the question arises of whether or not the GWNC – as an advisory-only body – should review cases and projects that are also being reviewed by other local Boards with more decision-making authority. Stakeholder John Welborne, who frequently acts as GWNC’s pro-bono legal counsel, offered to provide a draft of a policy on this subject, which will be reviewed at our next meeting.

LUC recommended action: None at this time.

F. Draft Hollywood Community Plan Review

Issue: Committee Member Dick Herman reviewed the new Draft Hollywood Community Plan and found nothing that seems to be of particular concern to the GWNC area. Committee Chair Jim Wolf recommends that GWNC representatives from the few GWNC areas that fall within the Hollywood Plan area review the document with their local neighborhood associations to look for areas of potential concern.

LUC recommended action: None.

Upcoming Issues for Possible Consideration at November 23 LUC Meeting (in addition to those above):

- Update on cell phone poles proposed for 1st/Wilton & 9th/Mansfield.
- CUP application to sell wine/beer at Piper’s Restaurant (222 N. Western)
- Presentation and discussion of next draft of a possible new GWNC policy on wireless telecommunications installations
- Full-line liquor CUP at karaoke restaurant/bar at 4001 W. 6th St.
- Allow unpermitted residence use at existing church – 4714 W. 8th St.
- Full-line liquor CUP at 5417 W. Melrose (Paramount Pictures?)

14. Board Member Comments/New Business

Jane Gilman announced a November 18th CRA-LA [Community Redevelopment Agency] “Meeting to discuss traffic, circulation and parking on the Western corridor” and Wilshire Branch Library book and bake sale November 13th, 11:00 – 3:00, which will benefit the St. Andrews Square Neighborhood Association.

15. Public Comments

Kevin James, KRLA 870 AM 9:00 p.m. to midnight broadcaster introduced himself and his broadcast discussions of City issues. He said he will “visit 45 Neighborhood Council Meetings in . . . one year” all over the City. To e-mail him at HeyKevinJames@aol.com, put “[Your NC name] Neighborhood Council” in the subject line. He described some of his legal background and community activities.

16. Announcements and Adjournment

Mr. Humphreville encouraged viewing www.CRALA.net and observed that the CRA is going to be “increasingly scrutinized.” Mr. Smith announced that the next GWNC Meeting will be Wednesday, December 8, 2010 at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Smith declared and the Board agreed to **ADJOURN** the Meeting at 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
David Levin
Minutes Writer