



Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council General Meeting

December 12, 2012

MINUTES

Approved by the Board, 1-9-13

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

A duly noticed meeting of the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council (“GWNC”) Board of Directors was held on Wednesday, December 12, 2012, at the Ebell of Los Angeles, 743 S. Lucerne Blvd., Los Angeles. President Owen Smith called the meeting to order at 7:01 p. m.

2. **Roll Call** (Jeffrey Carpenter)

Secretary Jeffrey Carpenter called the roll. Board Members in attendance at the roll call were: Jeffrey Carpenter, Patricia Carroll, Cindy Chvatal-Keane (Alternate for James Wolf), Ann Eggleston, Betty Fox, Michael Genewick, Karen Gilman (Alternate for Jane Usher), John Gresham, Fred Mariscal, Gerda McDonough (Alternate for Clinton Oie), Frances McFall, Caroline Moser (Alternate for Jack Humphreville), Jason Peers, Owen Smith and Greg Wittmann. William Funderburk arrived later. Board Members absent and not represented by an Alternate: Patricia Lombard, Jeff McManus, Joane Pickett, Briana Valdez and Daniel Whitley. Also attending: 13 Stakeholders and guests.

Fifteen of the 21 Board Members or their Alternates were present at the roll call. The GWNC 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.

3. **Approval of the Minutes** (Jeffrey Carpenter)

MOTION (by Mr. Genewick, seconded by Ms. Chvatal-Keane): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its November 14, 2012 General Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote.

Board Member William Funderburk arrived at this time

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

A. Board Vacancies

Mr. Smith noted that Alternates are needed for Area 1 (Brookside), Area 2 (Citrus Square), Area 6 (La Brea-Hancock), Area 9 (Oakwood-Maplewood-St. Andrews), Area 12 (We-Wil), Business, Other Non-Profit and Religion. There were no nominations at this time.

B. Ethics Training

All new Board Members and Alternates (along with returning Board Members whose certification is more than two years old) must complete the course at

<http://ethics.lacity.org/education/ethics2007/?audience=done>. Mr. Smith encouraged Board Members to complete the Ethics Training and noted that, at some point, those who have not may lose their voting privileges.

C. Designation of Greg Wittmann as Assistant Secretary.

Mr. Smith would like to appoint Mr. Wittmann as the Assistant Secretary.

MOTION (by Mr. Gresham, seconded by Mr. Carpenter): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council, according to its Bylaws, appoints Board Member Greg Wittmann as Assistant Secretary to help with secretarial duties.

MOTION PASSED without any objections.

D. Motion to Hire Administrative Assistant.

MOTION (by Ms. McFall, seconded by Mr. Carpenter): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council will hire Elizabeth Fuller as an Administrative Assistant to help with Secretary training, support for Secretary and Treasurer, and other duties as needed, up to the \$10,000 limit set aside in the GWNC previously-approved 2012-2013 Budget.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Fuller is an outgoing Board Member, immediate past Secretary and a past Treasurer. Mr. Smith appointed a Committee to determine the Administrative Assistant's responsibilities, consisting of Mr. Carpenter, Mr. Wittmann, and Ms. Carroll, with Mr. Gresham appointed to "oversee" the Committee.

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote.

E. Selection of two Board Members empowered to file Community Impact Statements on behalf of GWNC. Ms. Fuller explained Community Impact Statements [CISs] are the official filings of Neighborhood Council opinions; they are entered into an automated online system. Only approved users have access to this online system. and the Board needs to designate the approved users. Mr. Smith appointed Mr. Carpenter and Ms. Chvatal-Keane as the GWNC CIS filers.

5. **Guest Speaker:** So Cal Gas Company Advanced Meter Project.

The Gas Company's Juan Gonzales and Krista Phipps, Public Affairs Manager (310.578.2650; KPhipps@semprautilities.com) distributed brochures and described the "advanced meter" 5-year project being launched across Southern California. Ms. Phipps and Mr. Gonzales briefly presented a model of an adapted household meter and described how the meters will be powered by a pair of extremely long-life AA-type batteries. The meters will report use data twice daily to transponder units mounted on poles in the neighborhood, which will - in turn - transmit user data to the Gas Company. Mr. Gonzales presented a map of street light poles that had been identified as mounting locations for the neighborhood transponders in CD5, mentioning that a number of new poles would have to be installed where suitable street light poles are not available. Mr. Genewick asked that similar information about poles and locations in CD4 be presented to the GWNC Land Use Committee.

6. **Community Concerns/Public Comments**

A. Introduction of City School West Adams. (Andrea Dunlop)

Ms. Dunlop distributed copies of an information sheet for “City School West Adams.” Locations being considered include Pico and Arlington. It would “be a language immersion school” in Spanish with a goal of all students being “multi-lingual and multi-literal” by fifth grade. Jim Dunlop said they hope to start around 125 students in September 2013 and have received the support of the Mid City West Community Council and the United Neighborhoods Neighborhood Council.

MOTION (by Ms. Carroll, seconded by Ms. Gilman): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council will write a letter of support for the proposed City School West Adams.

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote; Ms. McFall opposed.

B. Update on Fire Station 29 Operations and Staffing.

LAFD staff contacted the GWNC prior to the meeting to say they are not yet ready to make this presentation, but will contact the Secretary at a future time to speak. There was no update at this time.

7. Local Government Updates

A. CD4 Update (Ben Seinfeld)

Ben Seinfeld, Field Deputy for L.A. City District Four Councilman Tom LaBonge (213-485-3337; cell 213-804-2388; Ben.Seinfeld@LACity.org), reported that copper wire theft is still a big problem. They are working with the Police and “private security firms have been very helpful.” He reported that “it takes five minutes to steal it” but many hours and a lot of expense to repair. Thefts mostly happening been 2:00 – 4:00 a.m. Ms. Chvatal-Keane reported that “31 blocks are out in Hancock Park” and some blocks “have been picked twice.” Neighborhoods should be especially vigilant about suspicious activity (sometimes indicated by men and an unmarked van, though not always) late at night and to call LAPD immediately if thieves are suspected to be at work.

Mr. Seinfeld also introduced Tommy Newman as a new representative for the 4th District Council Office.

B. CD5 Update (John Darnell)

Mr. Darnell could not attend and there was no report at this time.

C. 42nd Assembly District Update (Nicole Carcel)

Ms. Carcel could not attend and there was no report at this time.

8. Treasurer’s Report and Budget Items (Patti Carroll)

A. Monthly Budget Report/approval– Oct./Nov.

Ms. Carroll distributed and reviewed the “Monthly Spending Report – Nov 1-Dec 11, 2012.” She is waiting for DONE [the L. A. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment] to respond about items not yet paid.

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Chvatal-Keane, seconded by Mr. Mariscal): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves its “Monthly Spending Report – Nov 1-Dec 11, 2012.”

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a hand vote of all 16 Board Members present.

B. YTD Budget Review.

Ms. Carroll distributed and reviewed the “[GWNC] Budget for Fiscal Year 2012-2013” as of Dec. 12, 2012. \$6,488.21 is available for community projects.

C. [See the below Motion.]

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Carroll, seconded by Mr. Carpenter): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves Patty Carroll, Treasurer, as its primary signatory for financial documents and President Owen Smith as its official “second signatory.”

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a voice vote with no opposition or abstentions (16-0-0).

D. [See the below Motion.]

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Carroll, seconded by Mr. Carpenter): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves Treasurer Patti Carroll as the official holder of its Purchase Card.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a hand vote of all 16 Board Members present, with no opposition or abstentions.

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

Mr. Mariscal reported for Mr. Humphreville, who wanted to know why IBEW workers make 40% more than comparable utility workers.

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

Mr. Mariscal reported for Mr. Humphreville that the City Council ignored former Mayor Riordan’s Budget plan which, Mr. Humphreville believes would have saved a lot of money. Mr. Humphreville also opposes the proposed sales tax increase.

11. **Old Business**

There was no old business at this time.

12. **New Business**

There was no new business at this time.

13. **Election Committee Wrap-up** (John Gresham)

A. [See the below Motion.]

Mr. Gresham reported that Ms. Fuller reviewed the ballots at DONE's office and found “only minor issues.” The renter documentation and the use of utility bills to document renter status may need to be better clarified. In one instance, a voter received two “special interest” ballots. Ms. Fuller verified that Irene McFall received one vote and was elected as the Area 3 Alternate. Overall, the October 28, 2012 GWNC Election run by the GWNC and DONE cost much less than the 2010 GWNC Election run by the City Clerk.

MOTION (by Mr. Gresham, seconded by Frances McFall): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council appoints Elizabeth Fuller as its designated representative to pick up election materials from DONE.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Fuller is an outgoing Board Member and was the immediate past Secretary.

MOTION PASSED by a unanimous voice vote of all 16 Board Members present.

14. Transportation Committee (Gerda McDonough)

Ms. McDonough indicated there was no report at this time.

15. Outreach Committee (Fred Mariscal)

GWNC Sponsorship of Mayoral Candidate Forum. Proposed Motion: [see below]. Copies were distributed of an information sheet for a “Proposed Wilshire Boulevard Mayoral Forum.” Mr. Mariscal reported that, so far, all Candidates except Eric Garcetti have agreed to appear.

MOTION (by Mr. Mariscal, seconded by Ms. Chvatal-Keane): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council will sponsor, promote and help to produce the upcoming Mayoral Candidate Forum to be held at John Burroughs Middle School.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Fuller noted that, so far, there is no cost to the GWNC. Also, the event will be co-sponsored by local media outlets and other NCs that represent areas along Wilshire Blvd., so we will be able to share whatever costs may come up.

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote.

16. Board Member Comments/New Business

There were no other Board Member comments or new business.

17. Public Comments

There were no public comments at this time.

18. Land Use Committee (LUC)

Ms. Fuller noted that the following item is presented for information only. No action is requested or required at this time [*the following paragraph is directly from the Agenda*]: Application for extended hours (until 2 a.m.) on the ABC permit for Jajungguh Cafe (formerly the Bicycle Club) at 4653 W. Beverly.

Issue: This business, which has a long and troubled history in the community, is currently closed, and has no current CUP, but does have an active ABC liquor license. Operators have applied for an extension in the closing hours of that permit, from midnight to 2 a.m. They will be invited to the next Land Use Committee meeting, in January, to discuss the application.

Ms. Fuller said the Applicants will appear at the January 22nd Committee Meeting. Ms. Gilman reported that Chipotle Restaurant will file a liquor license application, that the City

Council discussed the Community Care Facilities Ordinance, and that a court ruled against digital billboards.

There will be no Land Use Committee meeting in December. Potential Agenda Items for January 22 LUC Meeting:

- Final vote on proposed liquor license policy statement for GWNC.
- Application to legalize a previously unpermitted garage conversion at 317 N. Van Ness
- Application for construction of a 2-story garage/rec room at 358 S. Mansfield
- Review of recent Early Planning Notices in the GWNC area.

19. Announcements and Adjournment

Next meeting: Wednesday, January 9, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Smith declared and the Board agreed to **ADJOURN** the Meeting at 8:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
David Levin
Minutes Writer