



Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council

Transportation Committee

Monday, February 2, 2015

DRAFT MINUTES

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

A duly noticed Meeting of the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council Transportation Committee was held on Monday, February 2, 2015, in the Parsonage Room of the Wilshire United Methodist Church, 4350 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90005. The meeting was called to order at approximately 7:05 p.m.

Present were members Cindy Chvatal-Keane, Jeffry Carpenter, Michelle Owen, Julie Stromberg, and William Funderburk. Also present were stakeholders Olive Kearney and Joseph O’Heron. Committee member Jack Humphreville was absent.

Michelle Owen called the meeting to order after determining that a quorum was present.

**2. General Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items**

**A. Discussion of Traffic Problems by Ms. Olive Kearney, Stakeholder**

Olive Kearney, Windsor Village resident on Lucerne Blvd. for 30 years, discussed traffic problems in her community. She explained that Lucerne Blvd. is a dangerous Street due to the hill and crest on the street south of 8<sup>th</sup> Street and because the road narrows south of 8<sup>th</sup> Street. In addition, cyclists cannot get across Lucerne Blvd. and Wilshire Blvd. without cars triggering the lights. Cyclists have to walk across. She explained that Michelle Mowery, LADOT’s Bicycle Coordinator, inspected the area and saw how dangerous it is. Ms. Mowery requested that the situation be addressed, but nothing ever happened. Ms. Kearney asked Ms. Mowery to make sensors on the ground stronger so that they can be more sensitive for cyclists, which LADOT can do. Right now, there is a vehicle sensor as opposed to a bicycle sensor at the intersection.

Next, Ms. Kearney discussed traffic issue on Lucerne & Olympic. She explained that Ben Seinfeld with Councilman LaBonge’s office is helping her moved signs, etc., in that area.

At the December 2014 GWNC Transportation Committee meeting, Transportation Committee member Ms. Stromberg also raised the issue of the traffic collisions at the intersection of Lucerne Blvd. & Olympic Blvd.

According to Ms. Kearney, the problem lies with cars heading east on Olympic and turning east. Cars rush from Crenshaw and swerve out and almost hit other cars in the left pocket turning onto Lucerne Blvd. In September contacted, Ms. Kearney contacted LADOT and blamed the problem on the new striping, but LADOT says it is spec. LADOT referred Ms. Kearney to LAPD because the problem is caused by speeding. In October, Ms. Kearney contacted LAPD. Since then, there have been four accidents at that location, but none have been recorded because no injury. This week, Ms. Kearney had a policeman with Police Safety come on his bike and he stood there with her at the intersection. He said there was nothing illegal with the driving, including nothing illegal with tires going over the line. Ms. Kearney relayed that the police officer would like to speak to the GWNC Transportation Committee as to why he can't do anything. He agreed that all traffic is going over the line, especially at the curve. He says the problem is speeding, but the police cannot legally stop anyone with radar guns on Olympic Blvd. all the way from Downtown to the beach because the LADOT engineering survey for Olympic Blvd. is at least 2 years out of date. If the survey is updated, the police can stop the speeding. If the survey was up to date, the police would legally be allowed to sit there with radar guns and catch the speeders. The police officer agreed that if you stand there and watch the traffic come up from Crenshaw, see that all cars are speeding. Neighborhood members have come up with some solutions, including a left turn arrow and make light on Lucerne red.

Ms. Chvatal-Keane recommended to Ms. Kearney that she speak with Jeannie Shen and Bhuvan Bajaj with LADOT. Turn arrows etc. are approved by LADOT and Ms. Shen is in charge. If you request a survey, they have to request it as well. Ms. Chvatal-Keane discussed that Hancock Park is having the same situation at Rossmore and Clinton, which has been going on for years. Hancock Park was able to get a left turn arrows approved at Rossmore and Melrose, but they were told there is no funding. They also need signage at 6<sup>th</sup> and June because of a blind curb. They were able to get signage to stop turning approved, but they cannot get signs printed.

Ms. Kearney explained that LADOT will not do that until they do a new survey. The police officer also said that there were many injuries at Western Olympic. Ms. Kearney also explained that the police officer said the LAPD cannot put a speed monitor sign on Olympic near Lucerne because would it be on a trolley on Olympic Blvd. Ms. Kearney recounted that someone from CD4 or LADOT surveyed the speeding on Lucerne Blvd. and they said that they could only give a sign or a post saying "Road Narrows." However, they could not get a sign or word on road saying "Slow Down" because it would have to come from a different agency.

Ms. Kearney would like for the GWNC Transportation Committee to write a letter to LADOT requesting that they initiate the process to update the engineering survey on Olympic Blvd. She would also like for the GWNC Transportation Committee to invite the officer from the West LA LAPD Safety Division to speak. In addition, she would like the Committee to follow up on the cyclist issue.

Ms. Stromberg agrees that there is a safety hazard at Olympic Blvd. and Lucerne Blvd. and that there have been 4 accidents in the last 3 months. LADOT survey is one step, but Ms. Stromberg believes that the community needs to think of other long-term solutions, such as signage, in order to effectively remedy the problem.

Ms. Kearney explained that she has work order and email saying it is a speeding problem.

Since the matter was not agendaized, the Committee could not make a motion on the LADOT Engineering Survey, but all unanimously agreed to recommend that Ms. Stromberg make a motion to the GWNC Board for the GWNC Board to draft a letter to LADOT, specifically Jeannie Shen, requesting that LADOT update the engineering survey for Olympic Blvd. (from Downtown LA to the Pacific Ocean).

Ms. Owen requested to add 6<sup>th</sup> street to motion for updating. Ms. Stromberg recommended to keep the issues separate. Ms. Chvatal-Keane said that 6<sup>th</sup> street survey is not outdated. The suggestion was not further pursued. Mr. Carpenter recommended that there ought to be statistics collected on accidents, collisions and property damage of all sorts.

**B. Discussion of Repairs Needed at Alley on Carling Way by Mr. Joseph O'Heron, Stakeholder**

Joseph O'Heron, owner of property near 6<sup>th</sup> street, discussed his interest in resurfacing the alley in between 6<sup>th</sup> street and Carling Way. He has been making requests for 1.5-2 years with the hope that the City will do something. Property occupied by an Antique store and Republique on east side of LA Brea. He contacted Chi Ming Gong with Bureau of Streets Services, and provided him with a map indicating where the alley is located. He also spoke with someone at LADOT to discuss the alley including direction of water flow. The alley situation has remained unchanged.

Ms. Chvatal-Keane discussed how the Council Office has funds available to fix these problems from AB-1290 funds. Each Council Office is given certain amount of funds. The funds are for community redevelopment and community services. According to Ms. Chvatal-Keane, this is the exact kind of thing that could be fixed with that money, including left turn signals, traffic lights, etc. Ms. Chvatal-Keane recommended that he ask, under CA FOI, where the Council Office is spending the AB-1290 funds. The way to get AB-1290 funds is to request that the Councilmember make a motion. For instructions, Google AB-190. Councilman can make a motion for redevelopment if you have a figure

Ms. O'Heron explained that the damage is caused by the passage of time (50-60 years). There was a letter issued by GWNC to Tom LaBonge 12-17-13, but nothing further happened. He put a service request in and has an assigned number.

Mr. Funderburk recommended that Mr. O'Heron speak with Brad Jewitt, who is the block captain for 600 S. Sycamore.

Mr. Carpenter said that we should consider asking Mr. Humphreville to make a motion on the AB-1290 funds to the Budget Advocates group.

Mr. O'Heron explained that there was some discussion among business owners of doing the repair work on their own if the City did not, but there a number of issues with that approach. For example, with respect to the direction of the water flow, this requires an engineering survey. Cost for resurfacing the alley if a redo is required will require a concrete channel to be established,

which is a survey layout that an engineer has to do in order to see to it that water flows from north to south. Then there is the issue of encroachment: Some property owners used the alley and extended concrete pad into what is possibly right away. If a private individual does the work and it results in the flooding of that person's pad, then you are exposed to liability for having the channeled the water.

Mr. Funderburk explained that the City could indemnify the property owners for any work. He recommended that Mr. O'Heron build more consensus to get some Prop. O funding or storm water infiltration. The City is forcing people to pay \$75K to put more infiltration on homeowner's properties with small houses as part of low-impact development. There is enormous Prop. O funding, groundwater/draught-type funding, but that will require some elbow grease. In the meantime, the Committee can support a request.

Mr. Carpenter agreed with Mr. Funderburk's suggestion for Mr. O'Heron to build up his organization so that Mr. O'Heron has a group instead of being alone working on this issue. For example, LaBrea-Hancock organized and started a petition for one of their initiatives and that petition became a very forceful document in their case for what they wanted to do. He suggested getting surrounding property owners to sign on and say that all have some level of concern and commitment to getting a resolution. Frame the petition in a way that everyone agrees that there is a problem and that it needs to be solved. Frame the petition so that it is contingent upon finding appropriate, equitable, and feasible funding solutions.

### **3. Administrative Items (Discussion and Action)**

There was not a sufficient quorum to vote on the adoption of the August 28, 2014 Minutes.

### **4. Old Business**

#### **A. Report on January 2015 Bureau of Street Services GWNC Neighborhood Council Initiative**

Ms. Stromberg reported that the Committee received almost 40 nominations for the January Neighborhood Council Initiative. Bureau of Street Services (BSS) requested that the Committee submit our Top 15 nominations. BSS performed 6 repairs. Ms. Stromberg currently working with them to perform additional repairs. The next round will be in June 2015.

Ms. Owen inquired as to how went from 15 requests down to 6 repairs.

Ms. Stromberg explained that the process is for the Committee to submit 15 requested areas to be repaired, BSS's representative Aida Valencia then inspects every nomination and determines whether they can perform the repair. For example, if there is a drainage issue, the asphalt will not set, and, therefore, they cannot do the repair. Ms. Valencia also said that she did not receive the list that Ms. Stromberg submitted to her and, instead, inspected the nominations based on the photos that Ms. Stromberg submitted to her. Ms. Stromberg resent Ms. Valencia the list, which is in an excel spreadsheet. Ms. Stromberg is working on getting additional repairs done from the list. The repairs would be done before June.

**B. Update and Discussion on Revised Mobility Plan/Mobility Plan 2035**

Ms. Stromberg reported that the LA City Planning Department is working on updating the revised Mobility Plan 2035. Ms. Stromberg is working with the City Planning Department to get a speaker on the Mobility Plan. They have a planner who will come and speak to the GWNC and we are working on scheduling. They asked for dates from now until April. Speaker would be Claire Bowin. Ms. Stromberg recommended that the Mobility Plan speaker to the February or March GWNC meeting because the Mobility Plan is set to go to the Planning Commission in April 2015 for final approval.

**C. Update, Discussion, and Possible Further Action on Hancock Park Failed Streets**

Ms. Chvatal-Keane reported that the Hancock Park Homeowner's Association and Streets Committee sent out a letter to residents with an update of their work for the past 7 years and their findings. The letter was circulated via email and hard copy. Ms. Chvatal-Keane reported that she met Councilman LaBonge in September on the corner of McCadden and 4<sup>th</sup> and in his hands was a list of intersections in Hancock Park that were promised to get fixed over last 4 years. He said that would get them fixed, that they has funds, curb to curb no problem, but nothing happened. In January, they wrote to Councilman LaBonge and outlined all of the promises that he made and said that they would go to press. Councilman LaBonge wrote a letter back stating that his office had now approached Budget Committee and Chief Administrative Officer Miguel Santana to convert funds that would have been used for asphalt in the neighborhood to concrete repairs. According to Ms. Chvatal-Keane, Hancock Park is not asking for more, but they are asking for their fair share, which they have not received. Hancock Park has also been working with Kevin James, President of Public Works, and going forward will figure something out.

Ms. Chvatal-Keane reported that they received approval to put signage on 6<sup>th</sup> and June to restrict turns so drivers coming north can't make the left turn, which is where all the accidents are occurring. They are waiting for the signage.

Ms. Chvatal-Keane reported that there was a traffic meeting with LADOT in end of February regarding Clinton & Rossmore because they want to put left turn pockets in and Waze is destroying the neighborhood by encouraging people to use the streets as cut-throughs.

Ms. Stromberg discussed how Windsor Village, Lucerne Blvd. in particular, has been affected by Waze. Lucerne always used as cut-through, but now it is really bad.

**D. Report on Metro Purple Line Extension Construction Community Meeting held on January 15, 2015**

Mr. Carpenter reported on the Metro meeting at the SAG conference room. He explained that not a whole lot of news was shared. After Thanksgiving, Metro will start drilling for piles at La Cienega location. STS contractor will be at the March Metro meeting, which will be the first opportunity to meet the new contractor. Biggest part of the meeting was when the attendees broke up into three groups and he heard many noise complaints from Avalon Apartment

residents. One woman was crying over her experience with the noise. He encouraged her to contact homeowner's association behind her who shares in her experiences.

Mr. Carpenter announced that there will be a Section 1 Advisory meeting, date to be determined.

Mr. Carpenter reported big news for La Brea and Wilshire intersection: April 1<sup>st</sup>, METRO will close DOT parking lot and start bulldozing everything at that location. Metro will take the parking lot, Metro office, flower shop, furniture store, and part of alley and will demolish that location.

**E. Report and discussion on Neighborhood Associations Transportation and Streets Committee Motion and Progress**

Ms. Stromberg reported that at the last Committee meeting, the Committee discussed recommending to the GWNC that all GWNC areas go to their neighborhood and residential associations and recommend that they start their own Streets and Transportation Committee, which would then report to GWNC Transportation Committee. Each committee is encouraged to read the LA Draft Mobility Plan and assess how the changes will affect their neighborhoods in addition to other transportation issues. Ms. Stromberg made the motion to GWNC Board and it passed. Mr. Humphreville reached out to Windsor Square and Ms. Stromberg reached out to Windsor Village. Ms. Stromberg is forming a streets committee with 3 people so far. No word from any other GWNC area, but will continue to press forward on the matter. Mr. Funderburk explained that LaBrea Hancock Park have a group of people who will be analyzing Mobility element. Mr. Carpenter reported that he posted a notice via Nextdoor because his neighborhood does not have a neighborhood association. He has not received any response.

**5. New Business**

**A. Review, discussion, and possible action 465 S. Orange Drive Sidewalk Conditions**

Mr. Funderburk reported that 465 S. Orange Drive is in code enforcement. Mr. Funderburk thanked Ms. Stromberg for coordinating and Mr. Humphreville in absentia for his support. The sidewalks are being entirely repaved and a new wall is being erected at that location.

**B. Review, discussion and possible action on LaBrea Bakery CUB Conditions, 460-468 S. La Brea**

Mr. Funderburk discussed that this issue involves a Land Use matter and is being dealt with by the GWNC Land Use Committee meeting. He explained that this area is behind LaBrea Bakery and is a residential R1 lot, but it is being used as a parking lot. Therefore, the commercial activity is not permitted. The landowners have been cited on numerous occasions.

**C. Discussion on Trust for Public Land Green Alleys Pilot Program as option in the Greater Wilshire Area**

Ms. Owen reported that she forwarded information on the Trust for Public Land Green Alleys program to Mr. O'Heron.

Mr. Carpenter explained that he believes the alleys in the program were not being used/trafficked and the program probably used Probably Prop. 87 state grant money, which is designated for poor and impoverished communities. Mr. Carpenter relayed his concerns with respect to the applicability of the program in the Carling Way context.

Ms. Owen discussed that another possible solution for the Carling Way alley would be grass that can be driven on. She will look into it further and send the information to Mr. O’Heron. She will forward resources to Mr. O’Heron, but he will have to follow up.

**6. Committee Member Reports (including discussion and possible action items, if listed)**

None.

**7. Committee Member Comments/Announcements**

Ms. Owen reported that she received an email from Michel Cortez with Metro letting her know that they looked into a plate-lock system, which is a method of covering the road during construction activity. They believe the product can be applied. They have been approved to use the product in the City of Beverly Hills, but they are waiting for approval from the City of Los Angeles. The next step is to obtain approval for the use of the product in Los Angeles and find a way to expedite the approval to implement this technology or method for covering the street. She requested that the Committee send a letter to the appropriate person or office.

Mr. Carpenter inquired regarding who the letter would go to because although the Committee knows who the appropriate people at Metro, they do not know the appropriate people are on the issue at DOT and BSS.

Ms. Owen said that she will email Mr. Cortez and ask him who they are dealing with to get approval. She will then request a letter from the GWNC to put pressure on whoever at the city to get this approved more expeditiously. Mr. Carpenter recommended making a motion to that effect, but Ms. Stromberg explained that the Committee needs more information before making a motion, need to know who to send letter to, and item was not agendized so the Committee cannot take any action at this time.

**8. Requests/Motions for Future Agenda Items**

None.

**9. Adjournment**

No announcements. Meeting is adjourned at 8:34 p.m. Next meeting will be on April 6, 2015.