



Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council Environmental & Sustainability Committee  
June 14, 2016

Approved by the committee on March 14, 2017

1. **WELCOMING REMARKS:**

A. Call to order

A duly noticed meeting of the Environmental & Sustainability Committee of the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council (“GWNC”) was held on Monday, June 14, 2016, at Wilshire United Methodist Church, Youth Chapel, 4350 Wilshire Blvd. Chairwoman Julie Stromberg called the meeting to order at 7:17 p.m.

B. Roll Call

All four of the four Committee Members were present at the Roll Call: William Funderburk, Cathy Roberts, Barbara Savage and Julie Stromberg. The GWNC Environmental & Sustainability Committee quorum (the minimum number of Committee Members needing to be present to take binding votes on Agendized Items) is three, so the Committee could take such votes. Four Committee Seats were filled (by election or appointment). [To apply see [www.GWNC.org](http://www.GWNC.org) and <http://greaterwilshire.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/GreaterWilshireBylawsApproved2014.pdf>.] Also attending: 11 Stakeholders and Guests.

C. Welcome and Approval/Seating of New Committee Members

There were no new Members at this time.

2. **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no comments at this time.

3. **ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS (Discussion and Action)**

A. Review and adoption of December 1, 2015 Meeting Minutes

**MOTION** (by Ms. Stromberg, seconded by Ms. Roberts): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council Environmental & Sustainability Committee approves the Minutes of its December 1, 2015 Meeting as written.

**MOTION PASSED** by a voice vote; zero opposed; zero abstained.

B. Review and adoption of March 1, 2016 Meeting Minutes

**MOTION** (by Ms. Stromberg, seconded by Mr. Funderburk): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council Environmental & Sustainability Committee approves the Minutes of its March 1, 2016 Meeting as written.

**MOTION PASSED** by a voice vote; zero opposed; zero abstained.

**4. PRESENTATIONS** (Discussion and Possible Action)

A. Resilient Landscape Design for Residential Parkways. (Mike Meador, CEO of California Greenworks, Inc.) Mr. Meador will discuss sustainable landscape design for residential parkways emphasizing the use of drought-tolerant plants and stormwater capture systems. Mr. Meador will also discuss the importance of enhancing Los Angeles' urban forest and the planting of parkway trees to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enhance home energy savings.

*[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #6. C.]* Mike Meador, CEO of California Greenworks, Inc. (<http://CaliforniaGreenworks.org>), and John Kaliski, their Chair, showed slides and presented about "sustainable parkways." Mr. Kaliski explained that "parkways are . . . the land between the back of the curb and the sidewalk that is planted or landscaped," not to be confused with the right of way. He distributed copies of the City's residential Parkway Landscaping Guidelines (see [http://bss.lacity.org/Engineering/pdfs/Residential\\_Parkway\\_Landscaping\\_Guidelines\\_2015.pdf](http://bss.lacity.org/Engineering/pdfs/Residential_Parkway_Landscaping_Guidelines_2015.pdf)). He explained that if your home is in a Historic Preservation Overlay Zone, parkway plans must be submitted to the City Office of Historic Resources (see <http://preservation.lacity.org/hpoz/la/hancock-park>). He described allowable parkway uses. Caroline Moser noted that "they're meant to be pedestrian-friendly materials" in parkways.

Mr. Kaliski said that many communities have "an opportunity to replace water-wasting turf"; drought-tolerant plants can be used, though he and Ms. Roberts agreed that the City does not allow "spiny" materials. Parkways can be used "to capture water," though that is more difficult on level sites. He noted that "trees can make a huge difference" and described "guerilla grafters . . . edible parkways . . . [and] urban farms and orchards." He described the importance and usefulness of "bioswales" and "storm water capture" such as "permeable surfaces" and "rain gardens." He said that "most urban foresters are going to tell you to have three or four species on your site." He reminded to call 811 before digging to make sure you plant away from utility and gas lines. Free trees may be available and "you can get a Permit to trim your own trees." He noted that Oak and Black Walnut "are the only two trees native to this region," though some say there are more. More information is available at <http://www.cnps.org>.

There was discussion of parkway planting opportunities and challenges. Mr. Funderburk reported that the DWP issues greenhouse gas credits for planting trees and that the City is mapping every City-planted tree. He said the DWP looks forward to partnering with the GWNC and California Greenworks.

**5. OLD BUSINESS** (Discussion and Possible Action)

A. Discussion, Planning, and Possible Motion on GWNC Environmental & Sustainability Committee Summer 2016 Drought-Tolerant Landscaping Garden Tour. (Julie Stromberg/Barbara Savage/Cathy Roberts). Tour of residential drought-tolerant landscapes of homes in the Greater Wilshire area. The tour will be free and take place on Sunday, June 26, 2016, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., and will also include educational seminars. Tour begins at Harold A. Henry Park, 890 S. Lucerne Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90005.

It was announced and Ms. Stromberg described that there will be a Garden Tour Sunday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 – 2:00, starting at Harold Henry Park, of 20 gardens. Ms. Roberts noted that the Theodore Payne Foundation [<http://TheodorePayne.org>], which she described, will participate. No Motion was made or vote taken.

**6. NEW BUSINESS (Discussion and Possible Action)**

A. Discussion, Planning, and Motion on GWNC Sustainability Committee Parkway Project. (Julie Stromberg). Discussion regarding the GWNC Sustainability Committee Parkway Project (the “Parkway Project”). In partnership with California Greenworks, Inc., the GWNC Sustainability Committee is devising an outreach program to educate stakeholders on the proper care of trees in parkways with emphasis on the importance of sustainable landscaping. The program will include a “pilot” residential parkway remodeled based on a professional design consistent with the principles of sustainable landscape design. Stakeholders will be encouraged to nominate a parkway for the project design phase. Parkway must be residential and within the Greater Wilshire as well as Council District 4 boundaries.

Ms. Stromberg explained that many residents who are redoing their parkways were not watering their trees. No Motion was made or vote taken.

B. Discussion, Planning, and Possible Motion on GWNC Environmental & Sustainability Committee Spring 2016 Rain Barrel Distribution Program. (Julie Stromberg)

Ms. Stromberg explained this and encouraged contacting her at [Sustainability@GreaterWilshire.org](mailto:Sustainability@GreaterWilshire.org) if you are interested. No Motion was made or vote taken.

C. Request for Nominations of “Green” Businesses in the Greater Wilshire Area (Julie Stromberg).

Ms. Stromberg encouraged contacting her with input.

D. Discussion, Planning, and Motion GWNC Sustainability Committee Event. (Julie Stromberg). Brainstorm ideas for a Committee program on a topic of interest to stakeholders. Consider Committee outreach measures.

Ms. Stromberg encouraged contacting her with input. No Motion was made or vote taken.

E. Community Clean-Up Day at Harold A. Henry Park. (Julie Stromberg). GWNC Sustainability Committee to organize a community clean-up day at Harold A. Henry Park. Part of the Committee’s community beautification efforts.

Ms. Stromberg suggested having a community cleanup at Harold Henry Park, 890 S. Lucerne, maybe in the Fall; contact her if you are interested.

**7. COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS** (Including Discussion and Possible Action)  
A. Avalon Green Alleys (Los Angeles Department of Sanitation Project) (Julie Stromberg)

Ms. Stromberg requested and it was agreed to TABLE this Item.

**8. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

A. Next meeting, Tuesday, September 13, 2016, 7:00 p.m., Wilshire Methodist Church, 4350 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90005.

Ms. Stromberg noted the above.

**9. REQUESTS/MOTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

A. The Sustainable City pLAn and Tracking the City of Los Angeles' Progress Toward Reaching pLAn Goals

Ms. Stromberg requested and it was agreed to TABLE this Item.

B. Community Clean-Up Days

Ms. Stromberg requested and it was agreed to TABLE this Item.

C. LADWP Stormwater Capture Master Plan, Enhanced Watershed Master Plan, and Proposed Alternative to LADWP's Rebate Approach (for example, a Tiered Rebate Approach)

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Stromberg declared the Meeting **ADJOURNED** at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David Levin, Minutes Writer

*The first paragraph of some Items, Motions/Resolutions and other wording may have been directly copied from the Agenda. Possibly edited by GWNC. The GWNC Sustainability Committee Minutes page is*

<http://www.greaterwilshire.org/site/site/site/site/site/site/?q=node/583>.