



Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council General Meeting
February 8, 2012
MINUTES
Approved by the Board 3/14/12

1. Call to Order

A duly noticed meeting of the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council (“GWNC”) Board of Directors was held on Wednesday, February 8, 2012, at the Ebell of Los Angeles, 743 S. Lucerne Blvd., Los Angeles. President Owen Smith called the meeting to order at 7:03 p. m.

2. Roll Call

Secretary Elizabeth Fuller called the roll. Board Members in attendance at the roll call were: Yigal Arens, Patricia Carroll, Elizabeth Fuller, Jane Gilman, John Gresham, David Lunzer, Frances McFall, Jason Peers, Fred Pickel, Mary Rajswing, Owen Smith, Jane Usher and James Wolf.

Charles D’Atri, Mike Genewick (Alternate for Alex Jones-Moreno) and Jack Humphreville arrived later. Board Members absent and not represented by an Alternate: Larissa Alarcon, Charles Dougherty, Barbara Kumetz and Benjamin Rosenberg. One Board seat (Area 12 We-Wil) is vacant. Also attending: 16 Stakeholders and guests.

Thirteen of the 20 Board Members 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

MOTION (by Mr. Arens, seconded by Ms. Gilman): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its January 11, 2012 General Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote.

4. President’s Report (Owen Smith)

A. Mayor’s Budget Survey: [Mr. Smith read the below.]

The Mayor requests that all Board Members and Stakeholders take the Budget Survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/2012LABudgetSurvey>. The survey contains 11 questions on funding, spending and budget cut priorities, which will be used to determine the City budget for fiscal 2012-13.

B. Board Vacancies

Mr. Smith noted remaining vacancies (call for volunteers; please recruit):

Area 2 (Citrus Square) – Alternate

Area 9 (Oakwood-Maplewood-St. Andrews) – Alternate

Area 12 (We-Wil) – Director and Alternate

Renter – Alternate

Board Member Jack Humphreville arrived at this time.

C. Bylaws Conformation to DONE's new uniform Table of Contents (John Welborne).
Mr. Welborne was not present and there was no report.

D. Ethics Training

Board Members and Alternates who have not yet completed the training: Alarcon, D'Atri, Kumetz, Pickel, Rosenberg, Dwyer, Fox, Kaliski, Katz, Lombard and Rubin.

Mr. Smith read the above list and reminded to complete the training online

[<http://ethics.lacity.org/education/ethics2007/?audience=done>] or at an in-person session. Ms.

Fuller noted that Ms. Carroll and Ms. McFall have completed the Ethics Training.

5. Community Concerns

American Cancer Society Relay for Life (Maylene Luzod)

Maylene Luzod, Community Development Manager, Relay For Life

(Maylene.Luzod@cancer.org), distributed "Relay For Life of Larchmont" fliers, described the organization, showed a film about the "grass-roots effort" to fight cancer and invited people to participate.

6. 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 there was a meeting about the Western Ave. prostitution problem; there will be traffic changes from 11:00 p.m. – 6:00 a.m.

B. CD5 Update (John Darnell)

David Giron, Field Deputy, speaking for John Darnell, Field Deputy for L.A. City District Five Councilman Paul Koretz (310-289-0353; John.Darnell@LACity.org), encouraged feedback about City Council Redistricting.

Board Member Charles D'Atri arrived at this time.

C. CD10 Update (Sylvia Lacy)

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

D. 42nd Assembly District Update (Nicole Carcel)

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

E. 47th Assembly District Update (Charles Stewart)

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

F. 26th Senate District Update (Andrew Lachman)

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

7. Treasurer's Report and Budget Items

A. Monthly budget report/approval – Jan./Feb. (Patti Carroll)

Ms. Carroll distributed and reviewed the "Monthly Spending Report – January 10, 2012 – February 7, 2012." She reported that "Demand Warrants have been submitted and checks are starting to be paid."

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Gresham, seconded by Mr. Peers): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves its “Monthly Spending Report – January 10, 2012 – February 7, 2012.”

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a voice vote.

B. YTD Spending Report (please note amounts available under COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENTS/OTHER and OUTREACH/SPONSORSHIPS; must spend before April!) Ms. Carroll distributed and reviewed the “[GWNC] Budget for Fiscal Year 2011-2012 . . . YTD 02/07/12.” Funds need to be allocated by April. Ms. Fuller added that funding is available for community projects and outreach, including from the Wilton Islands project. Ms. McFall encouraged purchasing pens with the GWNC name on them for outreach. Ms. Fuller explained the KYCC payments.

C. Suggested resolution: [see below].

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Gilman, seconded by Mr. D’Atri): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves the purchase by Treasurer Patti Carroll of a box of paper and the use/chargeback of her business copier for photocopies of GWNC financial documents (file copies of items sent to DONE for approval and payment).

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a voice vote.

D. Note regarding Board Member reimbursements: all Board Member purchases require an original receipt and sample/documentation of the item purchased to be eligible for reimbursement. Only Board Members and Alternates may be reimbursed for purchases. Ms. Carroll explained the above.

8. DWP Oversight (Jack Humphreville)

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #9.] Update and motion requests: [see below].

Mr. Humphreville reported that a water rate increase was approved today and that GWNC Board Member Fred Pickel was appointed as the Ratepayer Advocate. Mr. Humphreville described Memorandum of Understanding history and the two below Motions; the MOU expires in April and the intent is to extend it for two years.

MOTION (by Mr. Humphreville, seconded by Ms. Gilman): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council urges the Department of Water and Power and the Neighborhood Council DWP MOU Oversight Committee to extend the current Memorandum of Understanding as soon as practicable and urges Neighborhood Councils to affirm similar support.

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote.

MOTION (by Mr. Humphreville, seconded by Mr. Gresham): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council requests the Office of Public Accountability / Ratepayers Advocate to negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding with the Neighborhood Councils.

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote.

9. City Budget Issues (Humphreville/Mariscal/Sowma)

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #7.] Mr. Humphreville explained City budget issues regarding pensions and infrastructure.

10. Old Business

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #11. B.] City Council Redistricting.

1. Updates from January 25 and February 1 meetings.

A “Proposed Redistricting Motion” was distributed [see below]. Mr. Smith described the GWNC presentation [<http://www.greaterwilshire.org/site/files/redistricting.pdf>] at a recent City Council Redistricting Commission Hearing.

2. Discussion of draft map and recommendations/resolutions.

Mr. Smith reported that “we made a plea to the [Commission] to put us in one District”; Greater Wilshire was put in District Five though “the sentiment seems to be to put us in Four.” Ms. Usher reported that the Commission’s work and a second draft map will be submitted to the City Council late this month. The City Attorney’s Office is “advising the Commission” regarding redistricting standards: 1) each of the City’s 15 Council Districts must have approximately the same number (“plus or minus 252,000”) of voters and 2) the Commission must recognize “communities of interest.” “We got tremendous feedback” from the Commissioners; the presentation “was very effective.” She described the importance “to be sterile and matter of fact . . . as simple as possible” with “no name-calling” and not preferential to any particular Council District in communicating with the Commission.

MOTION (by Ms. Rajswing, seconded by Mr. D’Atri): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council adopts and will submit the following Resolution:

WHEREAS the Redistricting Commission of the City of Los Angeles has been tasked with the complex assignment of proposing boundaries for fifteen City Council Districts, each with an approximate population of 252,000 and each uniting communities of interest; and

WHEREAS the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council (“GWNC”) resolved at its January 2012 meeting to ask the Redistricting Commission to unite Greater Wilshire within a single City Council District, instead of the GWNC’s current three Council Districts, because the GWNC is a distinct and compact community of interest of acclaimed historic significance, including four contiguous City of Los Angeles Historic Preservation Overlay Zones; and

WHEREAS the Redistricting Commission presented to the public a draft map on January 25, 2012 that responded favorably to the request of the GWNC by uniting us within a single City Council District, but that draft map moved GWNC from its longstanding connection with other preservation-minded residential communities within City Council District 4 and added GWNC to the chronologically newer neighborhoods that comprise City Council District 5; and

WHEREAS the Redistricting Commission is soliciting and receiving considerable public feedback regarding its draft map, from all corners and constituencies in the City, and will produce a revised map later this month, after which the Commission’s work will be presented to the City Council, which will determine the final map;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council:

1. Reaffirms its fundamental and overriding goal, as a compact and preservation-minded community of interest, of remaining united within a single City Council District.
2. Urges the Redistricting Commission and/or the City Council to place a united GWNC back in City Council District 4 to unite the City's historic residential communities.
3. Notes that, if balancing populations and interests among multiple citywide City Council Districts cannot be achieved without splitting the GWNC between two City Council Districts, the GWNC will accept being split but only at its current Highland Avenue boundary (which is a line beginning at the intersection of LaBrea Avenue and Romaine Street that goes east on Romaine, then south on Highland Avenue, then west on Third Street beyond the GWNC boundaries).

DISCUSSION: Ms. Usher explained that in the Motion "we're saying it's still important that we remain united" and prefer to keep in CD4; if Greater Wilshire needs to be split it should be along the Motion's boundaries. She added that Greater Wilshire is not submitting a draft map because it could confuse the Commission and offend another group(s). Stakeholder Olive Carney would like Greater Wilshire to stay in Council District Four. Jim O'Sullivan of the Miracle Mile Residents Association asked that Miracle Mile be included with Greater Wilshire.

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote.

Mr. Smith encouraged e-mailing the Commission and attending the last [February 11th] Redistricting Meeting; he will present the above Motion at the Meeting.

11. Traffic and Transportation Committee

A. Door-to-Door Transportation Program

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #8.] Gerda McDonough, Committee Chair, reported that the L.A. Dept. of Aging "said there's no way they can transfer the Door-to-Door Transportation Program funding to taxi vouchers" (as requested by stakeholder Joan Taylor) because taxis are not equipped to handle the disabled patrons the Door to Door program is designed for. She described a separate taxi vouchers program and participant use rules. The www.LA2B.org website "to envision a new way of moving around the city" will have a meeting February 25th from 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. at LACMA. Ms. McDonough described the speed limit reassessment procedure.

Alternate Board Member Mike Genewick arrived at this time.

B. Other business

There was discussion regarding the speed limit setting procedure.

12. Outreach Committee (Mary Rajswing)

Outreach goals for 2012. [This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #10.] Ms. Rajswing reported that four Board Members attended Councilman LaBonge's Community Breakfast. Issues discussed included Board Member recruitment and Neighborhood Watch funding. There was discussion regarding neighborhood signs installation and placement. Ms. McFall would like the Committee to fund more community events and outreach materials, including pens emblazoned with the GWNC logo that could be handed out to stakeholders. Ms. Rajswing

noted that Ms. Fuller's GWNC website work is nearly complete and community photos are needed.

[There was no Item #13.]

14. Other Committee/Project Reports

There were no other Committee or Project reports at this time.

15. Board Member Comments/New Business

There were no other Board Member comments or new business.

16. Public Comments

Stakeholder Joan Taylor distributed copies of a "High-speed reality" editorial and encouraged opposing the L.A.-San Francisco high-speed rail project as too expensive and based upon inaccurate ridership expectations.

17. Land Use Committee (LUC) (James Wolf)

Mr. Wolf noted that the following item was presented for information only. He described the below as a 7-Eleven store "without alcohol sales" and noted the Committee "encouraged the applicant to talk to the community." The next Land Use meeting will include a discussion of a project proposed for Gramercy and Melrose, and he encouraged attending the Committee Meeting.

[The following is directly from the Agenda.] Conversion of service station to 7-Eleven at NE corner of Olympic & Wilton: Applicants, who first brought this project to the Land Use Committee in May, 2011 during its planning stage, returned with updated plans now that applications have been filed with the city. The only entitlement requested is permission for 24-hour operation on the commercial corner portion of the site (current hours allowed are 7 a.m. to 11 p.m.). Applicants have dropped their request for beer and wine sales, saying it will be a "dry" 7-Eleven. Stakeholders who attended expressed doubt about the viability of that option, and concern that a liquor license might be requested in the future...as well as concerns about potential traffic, litter, loitering and crime (which the applicants say they will address with extensive lighting, security and architectural measures). Because no hearing date has been scheduled, the LUC asked that the applicants meet with the Wilshire Park, Country Club Park, and Country Club Heights neighborhood associations, and the Olympic Park Neighborhood Council, before returning to the GWNC for a resolution on the project.

Potential Agenda Items for February 28 LUC Meeting:

- Development at Gramercy and Melrose
- Review of recent Early Planning Notices in the GWNC area

18. Announcements and Adjournment

Mr. Smith announced the next General Board Meeting: Wednesday, March 14, 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Smith declared and the Board agreed to **ADJOURN** the Meeting at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
David Levin
Minutes Writer