



Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council
General Board Meeting Minutes, Wednesday, October 2, 2019
Approved November 13, 2019

I. WELCOMING REMARKS

A. Call to Order (Caroline Moser)

A duly noticed Meeting of the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council (“GWNC”) Board of Directors was held on Wednesday, October 2, 2019, at the Ebelle of Los Angeles, 743 S. Lucerne Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90005. President Moser called the meeting to order at 7:01 p. m.

B. Flag Salute

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

C. Roll Call of Board Members and/or Alternates (Conrad Starr)

The Secretary called the roll. Twelve of the 21 Board Members or their Alternates were present at the Roll Call, which is not a quorum: Scott Appel, Patricia Carroll (Treasurer), Jennifer DeVore, Philip Farha, Max Kirkham (Vice-President), Bobbie Kumetz, Caroline Moser (President), Mary Proteau (Alternate for Jeffrey Carpenter), Tammy Rosato, Owen Smith, Conrad Starr and Maria Sulprizio (Alternate for Hayden Ashworth). Karen Gilman arrived later. Eight Board Members were absent and not represented by an Alternate: Tucker Carney, Charles D’Atri, Brian Donahoe, Michael Genewick, John Gresham, Erica Gutierrez, Julie Stromberg (Secretary) and John Winther. The GWNC quorum (the minimum number of Board Members needing to be present to take binding votes on Agendized Items) is 3/5 of the 21 filled Seats, or 13 Members (see the Bylaws at <https://lacity.quickbase.com/db/bj3apxsp3?a=q&qid=32&qskip=0&qrppg=1000&dlt=su46~>), so at this time the Board could only take public comments, could not have any official discussions, and could not make any Motions or take any votes. All 21 of the 21 Board Seats were filled (by election or appointment). No Board Seat was vacant. Six Alternate Seats were vacant [see Item #VI. C.; to apply see www.GreaterWilshire.org]. Also attended: nine Stakeholders and guests.

Board Member Karen Gilman arrived at this time (7:05), making 13 Board Members (or their Alternate(s)) present (the GWNC quorum at this Meeting was thirteen). Now the Board could take binding votes on Agendized Items.

II. COMMUNITY/GOVERNMENT REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS (Representatives from government offices and community-based organizations).

Kimberly Morosi, a Community Resource Specialist in the City Attorney’s Neighborhood Prosecutor Program [General 213-978-8100, Criminal 213-978-7840; <https://www.LACityAttorney.org/neighborhood-prosecutors>], introduced herself. They

oversee quality of life and public safety issues, working with the LAPD and City Council Offices.

A. CD4 Update (Rob Fisher)

Rob Fisher, Deputy for L.A. City District Four Councilman David Ryu (323-957-6415; Rob.Fisher@LACity.org; <http://CD4.LACity.org>), reported that the sidewalk rebate program is back (Sidewalks.LACity.org); it covers up to \$10,000 per property per residence and commercial. Sidewalks ultimately are the landowner's responsibility. The LAPD Wilshire Division Open House will be on October 20th. The Homesharing Ordinance activates November 1st; listings must be registered with the City or the Owner can be fined and shut down. CARE teams have been assigned to homeless encampments to provide sanitation, outreach, and safety; the Police are assigned five days per week, eight hours per day.

B. CD5 Update (Kevin Nahai)

Kevin Nahai, Field Deputy for L.A. City District Five Councilman Paul Koretz (323-866-1828; Kevin.Nahai@LACity.org; www.lacity.org/council/cd5), reported that permanent supportive housing with 50 beds for homeless people was established in Westwood; they are securing two more locations in the next several months. Mr. Farha requested and Mr. Nahai has pushed for a Melrose alley cleanup. Mr. Farha reported that the Office of Community Beautification removes overgrown vegetation, weeds, etc.; another team is "clean and green" for weed/graffiti abatement.

C. LAPD Senior Lead Officers

Hebel Rodriguez, an LAPD Wilshire Division Senior Lead Officer (office 213-473-0476; mobile/text phone 213-793-0715; 35738@LAPD.LACity.org; www.LAPDWilshire.com), could not attend and there was no report at this time.

D. Department Of Neighborhood Empowerment (John Darnell)

John Darnell, Neighborhood Council Advocate, L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) (213-978-1551; John.Darnell@LACity.org; www.EmpowerLA.org), could not attend and there was no report at this time.

E. Other Government Representatives

There were no other reports at this time.

III. CITY BUDGET and NC BUDGET ADVOCATES (discussion and possible action) (Jack Humphreville)

A. DWP Report

B. Budget Advocate Report

C. LANCC (LA Neighborhood Council Commission) Report

Mr. Humphreville was not present; no report or Motion was made or vote taken.

IV. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS.

Josh Androsky (josh@nithyaforthecity.com), representing Nithya Raman, City Council District Four Candidate, noted her community service, including as a Silver Lake NC Member. She is an urban planner with MIT and Harvard degrees who worked for the City Administrator's Office; co-authored a landmark report on homelessness; and started a

neighborhood homelessness advocacy organization (SELAH) [<https://www.selahnhc.org>] to bring services to those not served, such as showers and case workers.

V. **ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS** (Discussion and Possible Action)

A. Review and Adoption of the September 11, 2019 Meeting minutes

Copies had been distributed of the draft Minutes.

MOTION (by Mr. Starr, seconded by Mr. Kirkham): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its September 11, 2019 General Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED by a hand vote with 12 in favor; zero opposed; one abstained (the GWNC counts abstentions as neither “yes” votes or “no” votes (Appel)).

B. Revisions to Previously Adopted Minutes

There were no revisions.

Ms. Moser reported that this venue will be unavailable on Wednesday, April 8, 2020; the Board tentatively agreed to meet April 15, 2020.

C. Existing Committee Administration; New Committee Establishment; Liaison Appointments (Discussion and Possible Action)

i. Formation of Ad Hoc Neighborhood Purpose Grants (NPG) Committee.

Mr. Starr explained that rollover funds are now available and that Ms. Stromberg asked to Chair the Committee. He noted that NPG inquiries had been held because the GWNC was waiting for the rollover funds to be released. Mr. Smith was concerned that the funds may be needed for the next GWNC election. Ms. Carroll, Ms. DeVore and Mr. Kirkham also were interested in being on the Committee.

MOTION (by Mr. Starr, seconded by Mr. Kirkham): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council forms an ad hoc Neighborhood Purposes Grants Committee.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a hand vote; zero opposed; zero abstained.

ii. Appointment of Hayden Conner Ashworth to Public Works Liaison.

Mr. Starr explained that Mr. Ashworth “had expressed an interest” in the position. The Board unanimously agreed with the appointment.

iii. Discussion of revision to committee order at GWNC Board Meetings

Ms. Moser explained the above.

MOTION (by Mr. Starr, seconded by Ms. Rosato): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council authorizes the Executive Committee to Agendize items out of their conventional order.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a hand vote; zero opposed; zero abstained.

D. Sign-up for Committees (Board members and stakeholders) Non-Board Member Ethics

Training: <http://localethics.fppc.ca.gov/login.aspx>

Ms. Moser encouraged submitting names to Committee Chairs.

- E. Board Area Reports: Area 3 - Country Club Heights (Brian Donahoe)
Ms. Kumetz, of Fremont Place, described the community's security and traffic control work. "We've had a problem with homeless encampments recently. . . and graffiti on the gates . . . We have a strong Homeowners Association . . . Film location companies come quite a bit . . . Revenue "improves common areas and the streets." "West of Fremont Place" their "Film Liaison" monitors filming. She encouraged contacting her with questions. The neighborhood is not an HPOZ, though there has been talk of doing that; they "have an architectural review committee."

VI. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A. Remarks

Ms. Moser indicated that there were no remarks.

- B. Board Member Vacancy. Positions eligible for nominations of qualified candidates - to be submitted to the board for approval: (none).

Ms. Moser noted the above.

- C. Alternate Board Member Vacancies. Positions eligible for nominations of qualified candidates - to be submitted to the board for approval: Area 3 - Country Club Heights, Area 9 - Oakwood/Maplewood/St. Andrews, Area 12 - Western-Wilton, Area 15 - Windsor Village, Religion.

Ms. Moser noted the above and an Alternate Education Seat vacancy.

- D. Board Member and Alternate Training Requirements. All board members and alternates must complete ethics and funding training in order to vote on funding motions before the board. The training courses and instructions can be found at <http://empowerla.org/boardmembers/>. The following Board Members and Alternates are shown, by DONE, as not having completed the trainings noted below and are not eligible to vote on financial matters: Matt Cheesebro - Ethics & Funding, Brian Curran - Ethics & Funding, Joy McManus - Ethics & Funding, Maria Sulprizio - Funding, Bob Reeves - Ethics & Funding.

Ms. Moser noted the above. Ms. Sulprizio gave documentation to GWNC Administrator Shirlee Fuqua, who confirmed it.

- E. Code of Conduct Policy - Board Members and Alternates are required to read and sign the Neighborhood Council Code of Conduct Policy (<http://empowerla.org/code-of-conduct/> for online version) within 30 days of their election or appointment. The following Board Members or Alternates have not completed their Code of Conduct Policy Statement:

Vincent Cox, Brian Curran, and Joy McManus.

Ms. Moser noted the above.

VII. TREASURER'S REPORT

Ms. Carroll noted that it was too early in the month to approve the MER.

VIII. OUTREACH COMMITTEE (Discussion and possible action) (Max Kirkham)

- A. Citizen Recognition Award. The GWNC awards community members for their service, dedication and/or commitment to enhancing and/or improving the Greater Wilshire

neighborhood. Let us know whom we can honor at <http://greaterwilshire.org/citizen-recognition-program/>. The Committee accepts nominations year-round.

Ms. Moser requested website improvement suggestions. Mr. Kirkham noted Mr. Ashworth's extensive website research regarding social media policy. The Larchmont Family Fair will be October 27th, 12:30- 5:00 p.m. The Wilshire Police Community Fair will be October 20th, 12:00- 4:00 p.m.; the GWNC can have a booth.

- B. Upcoming Outreach Committee Meeting. The next GWNC Outreach Committee Meeting will be on Saturday, October 5, 2019, 9:30 a.m. at Bricks and Scones Café, 403 N. Larchmont Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90004.
Mr. Kirkham noted the above. No Motion was made or vote taken.

IX. TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (Discussion and possible action) (Conrad Starr)

- A. Upcoming Transportation Committee Meeting. The next GWNC Transportation Committee Meeting will be on Monday, October 21, 2019, 7 p.m., at Marlborough School, Collins Room - D-200, 250 South Rossmore Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90004. Please enter via 3rd Street Driveway. Security will direct to parking (cars & bikes); rideshares please use Rossmore Avenue driveway.
Mr. Starr noted the above.

X. SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE (Discussion and possible action) (Dan Kegel)

- A. Update and Report on October 1, 2019 GWNC Sustainability Committee Meeting.
See below.
- B. Discussion, Planning, and Possible Motion for timeline for GWNC-LASAN Biodiversity Project. Report on GWNC-LASAN Biodiversity Project and next steps for the year-long program, including iNaturalist training sessions and GWNC community bioblitzes. Ms. Roberts reported that the Committee will host a free iNaturalist "train the trainers" training session on Saturday, November 16th, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. at a location to be determined, to be conducted by Natural History Museum representative. Register at Sustainability@greaterwilshire.org. Training is limited to 20 people. The Committee will host its first Bioblitz on Saturday, December 7th, at a location and time to be determined.

MOTION (by Ms. Proteau, seconded by Ms. Rosato): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves hosting the iNaturalist training session for the GWNC-LASAN Biodiversity Project to be conducted by a representative from the Natural History Museum on Saturday, November 16, 9 am to 12 pm, at a location to be determined followed by a Bioblitz on Saturday, December 7, at a time and location to be determined.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Kirkham requested and Ms. Moser agreed that this Item will be Agendized for a ratification vote.

MOTION PASSED by a hand vote; zero opposed; one abstained (the GWNC counts abstentions as neither "yes" votes or "no" votes (Starr)).

Ms. Stromberg is working with educators on the LASAN [L.A. Sanitation Dept.] Biodiversity Project Expert Council to devise a curriculum for schools in an effort to further engage our local schools. The Larchmont Buzz is the second outreach community

partner for the project; the first was the Hancock Park Garden Club; more are sought; please email Sustainability@greaterwilshire.org regarding contacts with local schools, parent associations, Girl/Boy Scouts, nature groups, etc.

The Committee is engaging individual communities through a neighborhood challenge recognizing the neighborhood most organized and effective in cataloging its biodiversity; email Sustainability@greaterwilshire.org. Interested communities should strive to have one representative attend the November 16th iNaturalist training.

- C. Upcoming Sustainability Committee Meeting. Next GWNC Environmental & Sustainability Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2019, at Marlborough School, Large Conference Room - Munger Hall, 250 South Rossmore Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90004. Please enter via 3rd Street Driveway. Security will direct to parking.

Ms. Roberts noted the above.

XI. LAND USE COMMITTEE (Discussion and Possible Action) (Philip Farha)

Mr. Farha described land use outreach and procedural improvements to be made. He described the Cat and Fiddle Restaurant [742 N. Highland Ave.] issue. 545 S. Gramercy has been “an R-1 zone . . . has been used in a commercial way.” The owner appealed; it appears they will win. Ms. Moser indicated that the Committee will re-Agendize that.

[The following sub-section first paragraphs are copied from the Agenda.]

- A. 829 N. Orange Dr: (Shane Patel) Tree removal at a new construction site Motion: That the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council [see the below Motion].

MOTION (by Mr. Farha, seconded by Mr. Smith): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council will send a letter opposing the removal of a street tree at 829 N. Orange Drive.

DISCUSSION: Owner Mr. Patel explained that one of the two trees on the property is in front of the center of a proposed garage. Mr. Farha believed that the tree would not prevent driveway access. Mr. Patel agreed to plant younger trees.

MOTION PASSED by a hand vote with 10 in favor; zero opposed; three abstained (the GWNC counts abstentions as neither “yes” votes or “no” votes (Carroll, Rosato and Smith)).

- B. 639 S. La Brea Ave: (Zachary Andrews, Dana Sayles) Presentation of Hotel Project ZA 2019-1744-CU-MCUP-SPR-TOC, ENV-2019 1736-EAF Motion: That the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council supports the 639 S. La Brea Ave project with the request to provide additional employee parking.

Mr. Farha explained that, though this project is not in the GWNC’s area, “it affects us.”

MOTION (by Mr. Farha, seconded by Ms. Rosato): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council supports the 639 S. La Brea Ave. project with the request to provide additional employee parking.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Farha explained that the parking would be subterranean and that “it’s literally on top of the subway station.” The Committee supported it. Ms. Moser added that it is a TOC [Transit-Oriented Community] project.

AMENDMENT to the MOTION (by Mr. Starr, not seconded): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council supports the 639 S. La Brea Ave. project with the request to provide additional employee parking at the ratio of 50% of the maximum number of employees on site at any time.

AMENDMENT to the MOTION FAILED for lack of a second.

ORIGINAL MOTION PASSED by a hand vote with eight in favor; one opposed (Smith); four abstained (the GWNC counts abstentions as neither “yes” votes or “no” votes).

- C. 743-749 S. Gramercy Dr: (John Arnold, Michelle Chen) Demolition Pre-inspection Application No. 19019-10000-03861 and 19019-10000-03864 and 19019-10000-03867
Motion: That the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council [see the below Motion].

Copies were distributed of a “Notice of Proposed Demolition.” Mr. Farha reported that the applicant presented and the Committee opposed the project for now.

MOTION (by Mr. Farha, seconded by Ms. DeVore): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council opposes the 8th & Gramercy project located at 743-749 S. Gramercy Dr. as presented so they can get more neighborhood outreach, address the material and stylistic aspects of the architecture, and the parking.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a hand vote; zero opposed; zero abstained.

D. POSSIBLE FUTURE LUC AGENDA ITEMS

- i. 950 S. Wilton Place: (Ben Borukhim) Demolition Pre-inspection Application number 19019-10000-02545.
- ii. 607 N. Manhattan Pl: (Matthew Hayden) Demolition of SFD with the construction, use and maintenance of a new 6-story, 67 ft 10-unit apartment building (1 ELI DU and 9 MKT rate DU) with at grade parking for 17 vehicle and 12 bicycle spaces. Landscaping to be retained or removed/replaced. DIR-2019-553-TOC, ENV-2019-554-EAF
- iii. 611 N. Manhattan Pl: (Matthew Hayden) applicant will provide more information when it becomes available
- iv. 5212 W. Melrose Ave: (Dana Sayles, Olivia Joncich)
- v. 371-377 N. St. Andrews Pl: (Shapour Shajirat, Babak Bardi Chaharmahali) A new 15 unit 4-story apartment building over street level parking and one level of subterranean parking. DIR-20194911-TOC, ENV-2019-4912-EAF
- vi. 105 S. St. Andrews Pl: (Marc Tavakoli) Demolition Pre-inspection Application No. 19019-10000-03612
- vii. 742 N. Highland Ave: (Ashley Gardner) Renewal of an existing CUB. ZA-2004-6850-CUB-PA3, ENV-2019-5487-CE
- viii. 131 N Larchmont Blvd: (Gary Benjamin) New CUP application

The above were noted.

E. Next GWNC Land Use Committee Meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on October 22, 2019 at Marlborough School, 250 S. Rossmore Ave, the Collins Room, D200, Los Angeles, CA 90004.

The above was noted.

XII. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business at this time.

XIII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/LIAISON REPORTS

(Discussion and Possible Action)

A. Homelessness Liaison Report (Tammy Rosato)

i. Report on the August 27, 2019 Homeless Connect Day

Ms. Rosato reported that “we served over 150 people.” New Bridge Housing for 30 women was established at the old Gardner Library.

ii. LA City Controller Audit of LA Homeless Services Authority. Motion: The GWNC [see the below Motion].

MOTION (by Ms. Rosato, seconded by Mr. Kirkham): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council will write a letter to LA Controller Ron Galperin, Councilmember David Ryu, Councilmember Paul Koretz, and Mayor Eric Garcetti supportive of recommendations in Galperin’s LA Homeless Services Authority 2019 Audit and Report, namely to 1) Create “HomeSTAT,” a statistically-driven performance management system that would fundamentally reshape LAHSA’s outreach program by using real-time data on homelessness to evaluate performance and make informed decisions about resource allocation; 2) Work with City and County partners to define a unified set of clear and consistent goals, specific metrics and accurate reporting on outreach activities throughout the greater L.A. area; 3) Focus on a proactive outreach strategy to reach a greater number of homeless people for the first time; and 4) Enhance LAHSA transparency and accountability by geo-based mapping of outreach activities.

CALL for the QUESTION (by Ms. Moser): **PASSED** unanimously; zero opposed; zero abstained.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a hand vote; zero opposed; zero abstained.

iii. The Ending Homelessness Act of 2019 / Homeless Housing / Funding. Motion: The GWNC [see the below Motion].

MOTION (by Ms. Rosato, seconded by Mr. Kirkham): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council will file a Community Impact Statement in support of CF #19-0002-S151, "HR 1856 (Waters) /The Ending Homelessness Act of 2019 / Homeless Housing / Funding.”

DISCUSSION: Ms. Moser was concerned that this was “somewhat beyond our purview.”

MOTION PASSED by a hand vote with nine in favor; one opposed (Farha); three abstained (the GWNC counts abstentions as neither “yes” votes or “no” votes).

iv. Homeless Resources Pocket Guide. Funding Motion: The GWNC [see the below Motion].

Ms. Rosato encouraged viewing the City Attorney’s website regarding homelessness issues and lawsuits.

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Rosato, seconded by Mr. Farha): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council will allocate up to \$200 from its Outreach budget for costs associated with the printing of a Homelessness Resources Pocket Guide to be made available to GWNC Directors and Alternates for distribution to GWNC Stakeholders.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 13 eligible voters present with all 13 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Appel, Carroll, DeVore, Farha, Gilman, Kirkham, Kumetz, Moser, Proteau, Rosato, Smith, Starr and Sulprizio); zero opposed; zero abstained.

B. Resilience Liaison Report (Conrad Starr)

Mr. Starr described the partnering of the Sycamore Square, La Brea Hancock, and Miracle Mile neighborhoods for the August 22nd Earthquake Preparedness Workshop attended by around 45 people. A follow-up first aid training September 24th with the same partners also was well-attended. The Great Shakeout will be October 17th.

C. Other Liaison Reports (<https://empowerla.org/liaison/>)

There were no other such reports.

XIV. REQUESTS/MOTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

No other requests were made.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

A. Upcoming GWNC Board Meeting. The next GWNC Board Meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 13, 2019 at The Ebell of Los Angeles, 743 S. Lucerne Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA 90005.

Ms. Moser declared and the Board agreed to **ADJOURN** the Meeting at 8:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David Levin, Minutes Writer

The first paragraph of some Items, Motions/Resolutions and other wording may have been copied from the Agenda. Edited by GWNC. The GWNC Minutes page is

<http://greaterwilshire.org/board-agendas-minutes>.