



Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council Environmental & Sustainability Committee
Tuesday, August 14, 2018
Approved December 11, 2018

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 Tuesday, August 14, 2018, at Marlborough School, Board Room, 250 S. Rossmore Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90004. Chairwoman Julie Stromberg called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Three of the four Committee Members were present at the Roll Call: Dan Kegel, Cathy Roberts and Julie Stromberg. William Funderburk was absent. The GWNC Environmental & Sustainability Committee quorum (the minimum number of Committee Members needing to be present to take binding votes on Agendized Items) was 51% of the four filled Committee Seats, or three, so the Committee could take such votes. Four Committee Seats were filled [to apply see www.GreaterWilshire.org]. Also attending: Stakeholder Mary Proteau.

C. Welcome and Approval/Seating of New Committee Members
Ms. Stromberg noted the opportunity.

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 April 10, 2018 Meeting Minutes

MOTION (by Ms. Roberts, seconded by Ms. Stromberg): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council Environmental & Sustainability Committee approves the Minutes of its April 10, 2018 Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED unanimously; zero opposed; zero abstained.

B. Review and adoption of June 12, 2018 Meeting Minutes

MOTION (by Ms. Stromberg, seconded by Mr. Funderburk): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council Environmental & Sustainability Committee approves the Minutes of its June 12, 2018 Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED unanimously; zero opposed; zero abstained.

C. Appointment of GWNC Sustainability Committee Secretary.
There was no appointment at this time.

D. Appointment of new GWNC Sustainability Committee members.
There were no appointments at this time.

4. OLD BUSINESS (Discussion and Possible Action)

A. Discussion, Planning, and Possible Motion on Environmental Impacts of Leaf Blowers. (Dan Kegel) Discussion and possible motion on the environmental impacts of leaf blowers and recommended more sustainable alternatives.

Mr. Kegel reported that the L.A. City Council asked the Recreation and Parks Dept. “to try electric leaf blowers.” The State will have a rebate program in September; the Committee could promote it. He noted that “the new ones don’t have cords . . . if the gardeners like the new tools” they will use them. The batteries can be costly, but the cost may decrease. Ms. Stromberg asked and Mr. Kegel agreed that the Committee could recommend a Community Impact Statement (CIS) to the Board. Mr. Kegel had a June Larchmont Buzz article with links. No Motion was made or vote taken.

B. Discussion, Planning, and Possible Motion on Rain Barrel Education Program with Rain Barrels, Intl. (Julie Stromberg) Rain Barrels, Intl. distributed rain barrels at the GWNC’s Second Drought-Tolerant Garden Tour. GWNC to host an educational program on rain barrels, including their use and maintenance, with Rain Barrels, Intl. on Saturday, October 27, 2018, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m., LA High Memorial Library, 4625 W. Olympic Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019

Ms. Stromberg encouraged outreaching regarding the Program. No Motion was made or vote taken.

C. Discussion, Planning, and Possible Motion on Community a Tree Planting Program. (Julie Stromberg) Update on status of and further strategize GWNC Environmental & Sustainability Committee community tree planting program in partnership with Koreatown Youth and Community Center.

Ms. Stromberg will report about this at the next Meeting. No Motion was made or vote taken.

5. NEW BUSINESS (Discussion and Possible Action)

A. Discussion, Planning, and Possible Motion on GWNC Environmental & Sustainability Committee Outreach and Action Measures. (Julie Stromberg) Discussion on ways to grow the committee, action items to support and/or organize, and events to plan.

Mr. Kegel suggested drafting, for Board consideration, a Motion regarding climate change. Ms. Stromberg suggested having a quarterly newsletter.

MOTION (by Ms. Stromberg, seconded by Ms. Roberts): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council Environmental & Sustainability Committee will circulate a newsletter before September 8, 2018.

DISCUSSION: There was discussion of possible newsletter content. It was noted that “National Drive Electric Week is September 8-16.”

MOTION PASSED unanimously; zero opposed; zero abstained.

- B. Discussion, Planning, and Possible Motion on Supporting the Community Forest Advisory Committee’s (CFAC) Request for Citywide Tree Removal Notification System Accessible to the Public. (Julie Stromberg) Support CFAC’s August 1, 2018 letter to Mayor’s Office and the Urban Forestry Division requesting an opt-in notification system for all tree removals in the City of Los Angeles that would be accessible to the public.

Copies were distributed of an August 1, 2018 letter from Ryan Allen, Chair, Community Forest Advisory Committee, to Timothy Tyson, Division Manager, L.A. City Urban Forestry Division, “Re: Request to Create Opt-In Notification System for All City-Wide Tree Removals.” Ms. Stromberg reported that “the City has no system in place to notify people of tree removals” and explained the tree removal procedure. She said “a lot of people are complaining they’re not receiving any notices” of removals; “they want notification.” It was believed that City Urban Forestry Division staff “do not want people to be involved.”

MOTION (by Ms. Stromberg, seconded by Ms. Roberts): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council Environmental & Sustainability Committee supports the Community Forest Advisory Committee’s request to the Mayor’s Office and the Urban Forestry Division (UFD) for an opt-in notification system for all tree removals in the City of Los Angeles that would be accessible to the public, and to write a letter to the Mayor’s Office and the UFD with a copy to the Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment to that effect.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Stromberg clarified that “this would be for all trees.”

MOTION PASSED unanimously; zero opposed; zero abstained.

- C. Discussion, Planning, and Possible Motion on Supporting the Community Forest Advisory Committee’s (CFAC) Request to the Bureau of Street Services (BSS) to Change BSS’ Policies and Procedures Regarding Bees and Bee Hives in Street Trees. (Julie Stromberg) Support CFAC’s August 1, 2018 letter to BSS regarding changing BSS’ policies and procedures regarding bees and bee hives in street trees to be more humane.

Copies were distributed of an August 1, 2018 letter from Ryan Allen, Chair, Community Forest Advisory Committee, to Nazario Saucedo, Director, L.A. City Bureau of Street Services, “Re: Request to Revise Bureau of Street Services Policies & Procedures Regarding Bee Hives in Street Trees.” Ms. Stromberg explained BSS policy. Some cities contact bee hive removal organizations instead of “neutralizing” the hive and/or cutting down the tree. Ms. Roberts noted the importance of pocket parks and trees in dense areas. Ms. Porto noted that “the tree canopy is threatened.” Mr. Kegel reported that the 2016 City Council File 03-1459-S2, made by Councilmember Mike Bonin and seconded by Councilmember Joe Buscaino, proposed a notification system expansion.

MOTION (by Ms. Stromberg, seconded by Mr. Roberts): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council Environmental & Sustainability Committee supports the Community Forest Advisory Committee's request to the Bureau of Street Services (BSS) regarding changing BSS' policies and procedures regarding bees and bee hives in street trees, and to write a letter to the BSS to that effect.

MOTION PASSED unanimously; zero opposed; zero abstained.

- D. Discussion, Planning, and Possible Motion on GWNC Submitting Community Impact Statements on Future Council Motions. (Julie Stromberg and Dan Kegel) Discussion and possible motion on GWNC Environmental & Sustainability Committee policy for submitting community impact statements.

Mr. Kegel noted that the GWNC has not filed many Community Impact Statements in the last five years. He explained the filing procedure. No Motion was made or vote taken.

6. COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS (Including Discussion and Possible Action)

Mr. Kegel created a CIS index. Ms. Porto described strong interest in her Nextdoor post regarding street tree watering. Mr. Kegel suggested a tree adoption program and reminded that trees provide shade and cool the air. No Motion was made or vote taken.

7. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Next GWNC Sustainability Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 9, 2018, at Marlborough School, Board Room, 250 S. Rossmore Ave., Los Angeles, CA.

Ms. Stromberg noted the above.

8. REQUESTS/MOTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS.

- A. The Sustainable City plan and Tracking the City of Los Angeles' Progress Toward Reaching pLAN Goals.
B. Community Clean-Up Days.
C. Green Business Award.
D. Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's Green Power Program.
E. Devising Action Measures to Help of Los Angeles' Urban Forest.
F. GWNC Sustainability Parkway Design Brochure.

Ms. Stromberg encouraged input about the above.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Stromberg declared the Meeting **ADJOURNED** at 8:00 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. Possibly edited by GWNC. The GWNC Environmental & Sustainability Committee Minutes page is <http://greaterwilshire.org/sustainability-committee-agendas-minutes>.