



Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council
Environmental & Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, December 11, 2018
Approved April 9, 2019

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, December 11, 2019, at Marlborough School, Board Room, 250 S. Rossmore Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90004. Chairwoman Julie Stromberg called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Four of the five Committee Members were present at the Roll Call: William Funderburk, Dan Kegel, Mary Proteau and Julie Stromberg. Cathy Roberts 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 five filled Committee Seats, or three, so the Committee could take such votes. Five Committee Seats were filled [to apply see www.GreaterWilshire.org]. Also attending were Stakeholders and Guests including Barbara Hensleigh, John Welborne; Marilee Kuhlmann; Steve Malhoff; and Evelyn Wendel.

C. Welcome.

Attendees were welcomed.

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 October 9, 2018 Meeting Minutes

MOTION (by Ms. Stromberg, seconded by Mr. Kegel): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council Environmental & Sustainability Committee approves the Minutes of its October 9, 2018 Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED; zero opposed; zero abstained.

4. PRESENTATIONS

A. William Funderburk, Jr., Environmental Attorney with Castellon & Funderburk, LLP, Presentation on “Measure W.” Mr. Funderburk will present on Measure W, Los Angeles County’s parcel tax for stormwater measures.

Mr. Funderburk said the key to paying less is to increase infiltration; that first inch of rainwater should go into the ground, not into the storm drain, to avoid paying the small tax. For larger lots, check the County's figure for how many square feet of impermeable area the lot is -- aerial photographs don't always show this. He explained the history of how the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts had their origins in the 1960's, '70's, and '80's. California led the nation in both, passing vehicle emissions standards in 1966 (<http://theconversation.com/why-california-gets-to-write-its-own-auto-emissions-standards-5-questions-answered-94379>) and water standards in 1969 (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Porter-Cologne_Water_Quality_Control_Act), signed by President Ronald Reagan. The federal Clean Air Act was passed with President Nixon's support in 1970 ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clean_Air_Act_\(United_States\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clean_Air_Act_(United_States))) followed by the Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972. That cleaned up factories and others that put big pipes of pollution into the water; still, there were many sources. The Clean Water Act (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clean_Water_Act) was passed (<https://www.nytimes.com/1987/02/04/us/clean-water-bill-passed-by-house-over-reagan-veto.html>); slowly cities started needing permits to release stormwater into navigable waters. That federal requirement is what drove Measure W; improving our water supply is a side benefit. Measure W has many oversight committees to decide how the funds get spent; he encouraged joining one.

MOTION (by Mr. Funderburk, seconded by Ms. Stromberg): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council Environmental & Sustainability Committee will recommend to the GWNC Board to coordinate an effort to get citizens appointed to a Measure W oversight committee, including Julie Stromberg, Committee Chair.

MOTION PASSED; zero opposed; zero abstained.

Use of the stormwater tax calculator web site was demonstrated (<https://www.larchmontbuzz.com/featured-stories-larchmont-village/rain-rain-come-today-save-it-for-a-drier-day>). It was recommended to have a rain garden of native plants, shaped to hold rainwater. The old turf removal rebate didn't require infiltration; the new rules do.

- B. Barbara Hensleigh, Sierra Club, Presentation Regarding Establishing Human Health and Safety Buffer Zone Between Oil Drilling Sites and Sensitive Land Use. Sierra Club and Stand LA are calling on the City of Los Angeles, and the Los Angeles City Council specifically to establish a human health and safety buffer that prohibits oil drilling within 2,500 feet of sensitive land uses including homes, schools, early childhood centers, senior centers, hospitals and medical clinics, parks, etc.

Ms. Hensleigh said the Sierra Club is a member of Stand LA, which wants to change zoning law because of oil drilling health concerns. The City recognizes there are health detriments from having oilfields near housing; in 1940, the City classified oilfields as non-conforming uses and closed hundreds of wells. There still is a patchwork of wells that emit a number of harmful chemicals. Residents near the Allenco site have reported headaches, nosebleeds, etc.; they are backed up with studies of increased risk of neural tube defects. L.A. County did a health study on oil drilling in close proximity to neighborhoods; danger

could not be ruled out even with a 1,500-foot zone; see http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/docs/PH_OilGasFacilitiesPHSafetyRisks.pdf. A City study will come out in January 2019; see <https://dpw.lacity.org/office-petroleum-and-natural-gas-administration-and-safety>.

Ms. Hensleigh did not know why a lot of lawsuits have not been won regarding health concerns; however, a lawsuit shut down the Allenco well a mile north of USC. The concern now is that the parameters put on the injunction are such that Allenco can meet them and is proposing to restart drilling. A 2,500-foot buffer is considered the minimum needed to reduce most of the harm. Though there are no wells in the GWNC area, Stakeholders still could be affected by pollution from oil drilling in nearby areas. Opposition to a buffer zone includes that it could be considered to be a taking. If rezoning is required, it could limit oil companies' business, which could be an argument for compensating the companies. One way to avoid the taking is to have a gradual shutdown, which has been done before. Another opposition is that a buffer zone could reduce jobs. The Grove is a counter-example; old drilling sites can help the economy. Pollution can start at the wellhead, so the buffer zone is around the wellhead. There was discussion about whether sideways drilling is being done.

5. OLD BUSINESS (Discussion and Possible Action)

- A. Report on Rain Barrel/Rain Harvesting Education Program with Rain Barrels, Intl. (Julie Stromberg) GWNC hosted an educational program on rain barrels, including their use and maintenance, with Rain Barrels, Intl., on Saturday, October 27, 2018.

Ms. Stromberg reported on the above.

- B. Update on Community Impact Statements (CIS) Filed by the GWNC Upon Recommendation by the GWNC Sustainability Committee Since October 2018 Meeting. At the October 9, 2018, the GWNC Sustainability Committee recommended to the GWNC Board to file CISs on EV readiness requirements for new construction and Measure W.

Ms. Stromberg updated on the above.

- C. Discussion, Planning, and Possible Motion on GWNC Sustainability Committee Newsletter. (Julie Stromberg) Discussion regarding GWNC Sustainability Committee newsletter.

The above was discussed. No Motion was made or vote taken.

6. NEW BUSINESS (Discussion and Possible Action)

- A. Discussion, Planning, and Possible Motion on GWNC 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.

The above was discussed. No Motion was made or vote taken.

- B. Discussion, Planning, and Possible Motion on Filing a Community Impact Statement (CIS) on Establishing Human Health and Safety Buffer Zones Between Oil Drilling Sites and Sensitive Land Use. (Julie Stromberg). Recommend to GWNC Board to file CIS calling on the City of Los Angeles, and the Los Angeles City Council specifically, to establish a human health and safety buffer that prohibits oil drilling within 2,500 feet of sensitive land uses including homes, schools, early childhood centers, senior centers, hospitals and medical clinics, parks, etc.

MOTION (by Mr. Funderburk, seconded by Ms. Stromberg): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council Environmental & Sustainability Committee will recommend to the GWNC Board to file a Community Impact Statement calling on the City of Los Angeles, and the Los Angeles City Council specifically, to establish a human health and safety buffer that prohibits oil drilling within 2,500 feet of sensitive land uses including homes, schools, early childhood centers, senior centers, hospitals and medical clinics, parks, etc.

MOTION PASSED; zero opposed; zero abstained.

- C. Discussion, Planning, and Possible Motion on Dudek’s “First Step: Developing an Urban Forest Management for the City of Los Angeles.” (Julie Stromberg and Mary Proteau). Dudek, an independent third-party consultant, was hired by the City of Los Angeles to analyze and make recommendations for its urban forest management system. GWNC sustainability recommends that the GWNC Board submit a letter to the City of Los Angeles, including various City agencies as well as Council Districts 4 and 5, urging the City to adopt and implement Dudek’s recommendations, prioritize maintaining, sustaining, and growing our urban forest, and increase funding for the City of Los Angeles’ urban forestry division per Dudek’s recommendations.

There was discussion of the above and agreement to review the report and highlight Dudek’s most important recommendations, then prepare a letter of support for the GWNC Board to consider authorizing.

- D. Discussion, Planning, and Possible Motion on GWNC Sustainability Committee Tour of LEED Sustainable Home. (Julie Stromberg). Tour will feature a 1920s classic home in a local HPOZ that is sustainable. Tour will also include a tour of the home’s gardens. Tour to date to be in February or March 2019.

It was announced that Mr. Malhoff’s house on Lucerne, an updated 1920’s classic in the Windsor Square HPOZ, is going to be on the tour. It was a seven-year project and is LEED gold certified. The home’s scalloped windows are identically reproduced and custom rebuilt. They used Living Homes as the main LEED contractor and John Mazur of Essential Construction, who handmade the gingerbread.

MOTION (by Ms. Stromberg, seconded by Mr. Kegel): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council Environmental & Sustainability Committee will organize a tour of a sustainable home in Windsor Square, the date to be determined.

MOTION PASSED; zero opposed; zero abstained.

- E. 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.

The above was discussed. No Motion was made or vote taken.

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

There were no reports at this time.

8. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Next GWNC Sustainability Committee meeting will be held on February 12, 2019, at Marlborough School, Board Room, 250 S. Rossmore Ave., Los Angeles, CA.

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.
- 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.
- G. Community Tree Planting Program.

Ms. Stromberg noted the above.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting will be February 12, 2019, here. The Meeting was ADJOURNED at 9:23 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>.