



Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council
Environmental & Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, February 12, 2019
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, February 12, 2019, at Marlborough School, Collins Room – D200, 250 S. Rossmore Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90004. Chairwoman Julie Stromberg called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Four of the five Committee Members were present at the Roll Call: Dan Kegel, Mary Proteau, 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 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: eight Stakeholders and Guests including Marilee Kuhlmann, Pamela Bursler, Ken Fritz, Steve Matloff, Jeff Carpenter, Conrad Starr and Patti Lombard.

C. Welcome

Ms. Stromberg welcomed everyone. She announced that the Committee may have a Special Meeting to Agendize consideration of supporting a Garden Tour.

2. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Starr described Resiliency Committee work and goals. Mr. Kegel volunteered to help.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS (Discussion and Action)

A. Review and adoption of December 11, 2018 Meeting Minutes.

Ms. Stromberg TABLED this Item.

4. PRESENTATIONS

A. “Understanding Drought Tolerant Gardens,” Marilee Kuhlmann, President of Urban Water Group, Inc. Ms. Kuhlmann will discuss fundamental principles of how a garden can be aesthetically pleasing, lush, green, full of flowers of all colors and still use minimal imported water, improve habitat and function to cool our urban region while being resilient to the effects of a changing climate

Ms. Stromberg introduced Ms. Kuhlmann, a Landscape Designer. Ms. Kuhlmann explained that a biodiversity team is using “the Singapore Index . . . to get a baseline

approach . . . as customized for L.A.” She distributed copies of “The Drought-Tolerant Garden.” The Hyperion Water Treatment Facility can be toured June 11th, 5:00-7:00 p.m.; contact Ms. Stromberg to attend. “The Dudek Report was just completed” [see below Item #VI. B.]; many City officials were notified. She showed slides. “Waterscaping” includes planning for water needs. “Firescaping” includes planning for mitigation needs, such as planting succulents between a home and a flammable area. Most water in our immediate area is from evaporation of local plants and soils. The Low-Impact Development (LID) Plan is checked by the City Bureau of Sanitation; it must be kept up for three years. She described LID requirements. Keeping moisture on your property “is the watershed approach.” First, make sure the soils are restored. The spongier the soil, the more water it will hold. “Plant densely . . . the goal is not to have any open soil.” One inch of water on a 1,000 square-foot roof equals 600 gallons. Mulch looks like identifiable plants and more; compost is unidentifiable. Replacing plants – drought-tolerant or not – with rocks and such is bad because that adds heat and does not allow much water retention. She said “there’s no way that you can sustain turf in this environment . . . we can no longer depend on the snow.” You can search the Internet for WUCOLS [<http://www.cselandscapearchitect.com/2013/04/05/what-is-a-wucols>; <https://puddle-stompers.com/waterwonk>] to see a searchable database of water requirements for many plants. She described the process of rainwater distribution on properties. “Take over the water management on your property” to conserve water and save money. Turf removal reimbursement can be \$2 per square foot.

5. OLD BUSINESS (Discussion and Possible Action)

A. Discussion, Planning, and Possible Motion on Drafting Revised Community Impact Statement (CIS) on Establishing Human Health and Safety Buffer Zones Between Oil Drilling Sites and Sensitive Land Use. (Ethan Senser, Stand LA, and Julie Stromberg). Update on January presentation to the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council Board regarding the Committee’s recommendation to file a CIS on establishing human health and safety buffer zones between oil drilling sites and sensitive land use. Consider recommending to the Board to file a revised CIS statement on the matter.

Ethan Senser, of Stand LA, was not present. Ms. Stromberg reported that this was discussed at the last Meeting and recently considered by the Board, and that oil extraction “is all around us.” There was discussion that oil extraction in the GWNC area “could come back.” Mr. Starr noted that some Stakeholders may receive oil extraction royalties. Mr. Kegel noted there were “two blowouts recently” in Playa del Rey.

B. Update on Community Impact Statements 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 TABLED this Item.

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

Ms. Stromberg TABLED this Item.

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.

Mr. Matloff suggested promoting this meeting to local schools' environmental committees. Ms. Proteau suggested, for young people, having a more active event than a lecture. Mr. Starr suggested partnering with Metro. There was discussion of possible Committee activities.

B. Discussion, Planning, and Possible Motion on Dudek's "First Step: Developing an Urban Forest Management for the City of Los Angeles." (Julie Stromberg) 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.

Ms. Stromberg TABLED this Item and encouraged lobbying elected officials.

C. Discussion, Planning, and Possible Motion on Supporting Councilman David Ryu's Tree Motions Set Forth in Council File Nos. 15-0467-S8, 18-0988, and 15-0499-S1. (Julie Stromberg) In October 2018, Councilman Ryu presented three motions addressing issues concerning the City of Los Angeles' urban forest and Urban Forestry Division. The motions were assigned council file numbers in December 2018.

MOTION (by Ms. Stromberg, seconded by Ms. Roberts): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council Environmental & Sustainability Committee recommends that the GWNC Board support Councilman David Ryu's tree Motions set forth in Council File Nos. 15-0467-S8, 18-0988, and 15-0499-S1.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a voice vote; 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.

Ms. Stromberg TABLED this Item.

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

Ms. Stromberg TABLED this Item.

8. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next GWNC Sustainability Committee meeting will be held on April 8, 2019, at

Ms. Stromberg corrected the Agenda date to Tuesday, April 9th (not “April 8”) at Marlborough School, Board Room, 250 S. Rossmore Ave., Los Angeles, CA.

9. REQUESTS/MOTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS.

- A. The Sustainable City plan and Tracking the City of Los Angeles’ Progress Toward
- 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.

There were no further requests or Motions.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Stromberg declared the Meeting **ADJOURNED** at 9:03 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>.