



Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council
Environmental & Sustainability Committee Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, February 4, 2020
Approved March 3, 2020

I. WELCOMING REMARKS:

A. Call to Order (Dan Kegel)

A duly noticed meeting of the Environmental & Sustainability Committee of the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council (“GWNC”) was held on Tuesday, February 4, 2020, at Marlborough School, Collins Room – D200, 250 S. Rossmore Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90004. Committee Member Dan Kegel called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Three of the five Committee Members were present at the Roll Call: Dan Kegel, Mary Proteau and Cathy Roberts. William Funderburk and Julie Stromberg were 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: four Stakeholders and Guests including Residents Portia Park, Maria Sulprizio and Corbin Russell.

C. Self-Introduction of Guests

Ms. Park and Ms. Sulprizio introduced themselves and expressed their interests, Ms. Sulprizio in becoming a Committee Member.

II. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Sulprizio wants to make Los Angeles ‘more sustainable.’

III. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS (Discussion and Action)

A. Review and Adoption of the January 7, 2020 Minutes.

The following correction was requested: page one, Item #III. A.: “Mr. Proteau” should be “Ms. Proteau.”

MOTION (by Mr. Kegel, seconded by Ms. Proteau): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council Environmental & Sustainability Committee approves the Minutes of its January 7, 2020 Meeting as corrected.

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

B. Review and Adoption of the February 4, 2020 Minutes.

It was agreed that that this cannot yet be addressed.

IV. OLD BUSINESS (Discussion, Planning and Possible Action).

- A. Discussion, Planning, and Motion to Organize the 2020 GWNC Garden Tour (Cathy Roberts, Julie Stromberg). Discussion and action on scheduling the 2020 GWNC Garden Tour, decision on neighborhood(s) to be featured in the tour, determination of budget for the tour, and planning for other logistical issues, etc.

Ms. Roberts explained Garden Tour history. It was proposed this time to tour the Larchmont area. She suggested various dates; it was agreed to choose Sunday, May 31 – it was noted that Memorial Day is May 25th.

MOTION (by Ms. Roberts, seconded by Mr. Kegel): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council Environmental & Sustainability Committee recommends that the GWNC Board support holding the 4th Annual Waterwise Garden Tour on Sunday, May 31, 2020.

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

MOTION (by Mr. Kegel, seconded by Ms. Proteau): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council Environmental & Sustainability Committee recommends that the GWNC Board approve the expenditure for up to \$600 for its Waterwise Garden Tour on Sunday, May 31, 2020 for advertising and other expenses.

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

- B. Update on LA's Green New Deal (Dan Kegel). Discussion on the mayor's upcoming sustainability package.

Mr. Kegel explained the City's Sustainability Plan status.

- C. Discussion, Planning, and Motion on GWNC Biodiversity Project (Julie Stromberg, Mary Proteau). Motion to schedule GWNC Biodiversity Project Bioblitz and follow up iNaturalist training session. Possible motion to organize a training with the National Wildlife Federation on Community Wildlife Habitats Program. Discussion of updates with the GWNC Biodiversity Project. Motion to approve GWNC Biodiversity Project iNaturalist handout.

Mr. Kegel explained qualifications for certification. It was agreed that more research is needed. There was discussion of how best to outreach to prospective attendees. Ms. Proteau will draft content for Nextdoor and send it to other Committee Members for input.

MOTION (by Mr. Kegel, seconded by Ms. Roberts): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council Environmental & Sustainability Committee recommends that the Board support holding a Biodiversity Bioblitz at Robert Burns Park on Saturday, April 4, 2020.

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

- D. Discussion, Action and Motion on City of Los Angeles Bureau of Engineering Safe Sidewalks LA (Sidewalk Repair Program) Draft Environmental Impact Report (Julie Stromberg). Public comment period for the Draft EIR for the Safe Sidewalks LA program open until February 24, 2020. Motion to request a 45-day extension for the DEIR comment period. More information available at:
<https://sidewalks.lacity.org/environmental-impact-report>

Ms. Proteau explained that “they will replant two-to-one for every tree removed” and possible considerations. Mr. Roberts read aloud a proposed Neighborhood Councils Sustainability Alliance Motion. Mr. Kegel will draft a proposed Motion for the Committee.

MOTION (by Mr. Kegel, seconded by Ms. Roberts): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council Environmental & Sustainability Committee requests that the Board request that the City of Los Angeles extend the public comment period on the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the sidewalk repair program 60 days beyond the current February 24, 2020.

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

V. NEW BUSINESS (Discussion and possible action).

- A. Possible CIS on CF 19-1577, “Los Angeles City Employee Retirement System (LACERS) Investments / Climate Transition Risk Framework” (Dan Kegel). Motion to support Councilmember Blumenfeld’s motion to reduce pension fund exposure to climate-related risk. See attached handout “GWNC SC notes for Council File 19-1577.”

Copies had been distributed of a “Council File 19-1577 Fact Sheet.” Mr. Kegel explained the issue.

MOTION (by Mr. Kegel, seconded by Ms. Roberts): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council Environmental & Sustainability Committee recommends that the Board file a Community Impact Statement in support of Council File 19-1577. City employees need to know their pension funds are safe, and aren’t making climate change worse. Residents shouldn’t have to worry about having to rescue a pension fund because of failing investments in a declining industry.

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

VI. COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS

Ms. Proteau reminded that the Committee may consider supporting another iNaturalist training.

VII. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS. Next Committee meeting date: Tuesday, March 3, 2019, 7:00 p.m., Marlborough School, Board Room, 250 S. Rossmore Ave., Los Angeles, CA.

VIII. REQUESTS/MOTIONS FOR FUTURE ITEMS

Ms. Roberts indicated the Committee needs to discuss more about the iNaturalist program.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Kegel declared the Meeting **ADJOURNED** at 8:18 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>.