



Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council
Special Board Meeting Minutes, Thursday, March 4, 2021
Approved March 10, 2021

In conformity with the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20 (March 17, 2020) and due to concerns over COVID-19, this duly noticed meeting was held entirely online and telephonically.

Document copies were shown online and available at
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1UTGCB8Nug72MT-3MBLntZhJOSI2A78ut>.

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 online. President Moser called the meeting to order at 5:00 p. m.

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

The Secretary called the roll. Eleven of the 19 Board Members were present online at the Roll Call, which is not a quorum: Hayden Ashworth, Jeffrey Carpenter, Patricia Carroll (Treasurer), Jennifer DeVore, Karen Gilman, Max Kirkham (Vice-President), Caroline Moser (President), Cathy Roberts, Owen Smith, Conrad Starr (Secretary) and John Winther. Colette Amin (Alternate for Tucker Carney), Charles D'Atri, Michael Genewick and Joy McManus (Alternate for Philip Farha) arrived later. Four Board Members were absent and not represented by an Alternate: Scott Appel, Brian Donahoe, John Gresham and Susan Nickels. The GWNC quorum (the minimum number of Board Members needing to be present to take binding votes on Agendized Items) was 13 (see the Bylaws link at <https://greaterwilshire.org/bylaws-board-rules>), 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. Nineteen of the 21 Board Seats were filled (by election or appointment). Two Board Seats were vacant [Area 4 and Area 12] and eight Alternate Seats were vacant. Also attended: at least 14 Stakeholders and guests.

C. Introduction (Caroline Moser)

1. Teleconferencing Instructions

2. Standing Rules on Speaker Time

- Board members may speak for two minutes; and for another minute after everyone who wishes has spoken
- Public may speak for 2 minutes
- Invited speakers and government may speak for 5 minutes; and an additional 3 minutes with Board approval.
- As per Board Rules, Chair may add time or the Board may add time with a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote.

II. AD HOC COMMITTEES (Discussion and possible action)

A. Elections Committee (Brian Curran)

1. Committee Report

Ms. Moser reported that there have been problems for Stakeholders trying to register to vote in the GWNC election; DONE [the L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment; 213-978-1551; www.EmpowerLA.org], City Council District Five, the City Clerk's Office and others were aware of the issues. Committee Chair Mr. Curran noted "logistical and technical challenges" for the vote-by-mail-only election. There were 44 candidates; approximately 525 Stakeholders had registered to vote. The website and "voter registration portal" had "significant issues," especially in Area 5, from which Ms. DeVore has relayed information. There is "a GWNC team within the City Clerk's Office" to fix ballot problems. The last day to register to vote was Tuesday, March 9th; March 16th was the last day to receive ballots.

Alternate Board Members Joy McManus (at 5:09) and Colette Amin (by 5:13) arrived by this time, 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.

2. Comments from Government Representatives

a) City Clerk

City Clerk Election Administrator Renee McDade reported that some Stakeholders "did not receive the ballots that were requested . . . we began reaching out to those Stakeholders . . . we have been able to rectify most or all of those issues this week . . . [others] should be coming shortly . . . documentation is required to verify Stakeholder status."

Sofia Anguiano, City Clerk Election Division Chief (818-470-9982), stated that "we will continue to address your concerns." She described their plan; "it's moving rather quickly now . . . encourage voters to include their phone number . . . to connect with the voters . . . Regular City Clerk staff" are now working on "all Neighborhood Council elections . . . paper applications are a little slower." To request a ballot, email Clerk.ElectionVBM@LACity.org (preferred) or Clerk.ElectionsNC@LACity.org [note the letter "s"]. Ms. Carroll later reminded that the address is at the bottom of the paper ballot. Mr. Winther and Ms. Carroll were concerned about how voters would know that the City Clerk received their paper application for a ballot; Ms. Anguiano encouraged contacting the City Clerk's Office to confirm the receipt. Ms. DeVore was concerned about the "legality" of the process and the requirement for voters to email a picture ID (such as a driver's license) image to request a ballot. Ms. Anguiano assured that, once a voter is declared eligible to receive a ballot, the image is "destroyed." She reminded of the need to verify voters' information.

Gary Gilbert suggested postponing the deadlines and the election by a few days to a week. Ms. Anguiano responded that she "is in receipt of your request." Later, she noted that the GWNC "is the first one that has requested an extension." Mr. Gilbert also suggested having a ballot drop box in the Wilshire Ebell parking lot. He said he has

“friends who’ve said ‘I’ve given up’” trying to register to vote. Ms. Anguiano noted COVID-19 Coronavirus transmission issues; also, “if in-person voting is offered to the GWNC, it would have to be offered to all NCs.” Ms. Carroll pointed out that some Candidates have not had as much time to campaign because they’ve been working so much to deal with and fix the ballot problems, putting them at an unfair disadvantage compared to other Candidates. Ms. Anguiano said that “closer to the deadline, we want to make sure everybody is called . . . I have instructed the staff” to call every voter. She added that NCs use voter documentation 60% of the time, self-affirmation 40%, and some use both.

Board Member Mike Genewick arrived and Alternate Joy McManus left by 6:00, keeping 13 Board Members (or their Alternate(s)) present online (the GWNC quorum was thirteen).

MOTION to EXTEND the MEETING (by Mr. Starr, seconded by Mr. Kirkham): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council will extend this meeting by 20 minutes.

MOTION to EXTEND the MEETING PASSED unanimously; zero opposed; zero abstained.

Board Members Hayden Ashworth left (at 6:01) and Charles D’Atri arrived (at 6:11), making 13 Board Members (or their Alternate(s)) present online (the GWNC quorum was thirteen).

Mr. Starr noted that the GWNC had not, as of this moment, requested any time extensions. Also present was Lanee Basulto of the City Clerk’s Office.

b) Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE)

Mr. Darnell did not give any comments.

c) City Attorney

No representative was present; there was no report.

d) CD4

No representative was present; there was no report.

e) CD5

No representative was present; there was no report.

f) Other

There were no other reports at this time.

3. Possible Motion(s) re: Neighborhood Council Elections, City Clerk’s Office.

MOTION to EXTEND the MEETING (by Mr. Kirkham, seconded by Mr. D’Atri): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council will extend this meeting by 25 minutes.

MOTION to EXTEND the MEETING PASSED unanimously; zero opposed; zero abstained.

Board Member Karen Gilman left at this time (6:24 p.m.) and was replaced by her alternate, Brian Curran.

MOTION (by Mr. D’Atri , seconded by Ms. DeVore): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council requests that the City Clerk provide a staff person at the drop box on election day to fix any problems that constituents might have with their ballot; and that they extend the deadline for receiving ballots to the 23rd for those ballots which were properly postmarked by the 16th.

MOTION to AMEND (by Mr. Starr, seconded by Mr. Kirkham): to add “and that the City Clerk’s Office provide an accounting of the number of properly-postmarked ballots not received by the deadline” at the end of the Motion.

MOTION to AMEND PASSED unanimously; zero opposed; zero abstained.

MOTION to AMEND (by Mr. Kirkham, seconded by Ms. DeVore): to add “and that we request the City Clerk’s office include clear, big instructions that ballots must be put into their envelope before being dropped into the ballot box” at the end of the Motion.

MOTION to AMEND PASSED unanimously; zero opposed; zero abstained.

MAIN MOTION TWICE-AMENDED PASSED by a roll call vote of 13 eligible voters present with 10 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Carroll, D’Atri, DeVore, Genewick, Curran, Kirkham, Moser, Roberts, Smith and Starr); zero opposed; 3 abstained (the GWNC counts abstentions as neither “yes” votes or “no” votes) (Amin, Carpenter and Winther).

Ms. DeVore suggested that the GWNC go on record that the election had many problems. It was agreed to add a motion to the Regular March General Board Meeting.

III. ADJOURNMENT

A. Upcoming GWNC Board Meeting. The next GWNC Regular Board Meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 10, 2021 via Zoom ID #966 7700 1434.

Ms. Moser noted the above.

Ms. Moser **ADJOURNED** the Meeting with no opposition at 6:47 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 the GWNC. The GWNC Board Meeting Minutes page is <http://greaterwilshire.org/board-agendas-minutes>.