



Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council
Transportation Committee Meeting

March 22, 2021

MINUTES Approved by the Committee on May 24, 2021

I. **WELCOMING REMARKS**

A. **Call to Order**

A duly noticed meeting of the Transportation Committee of the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council (“GWNC”) was held on Monday, March 22, 2021, via Zoom (online and by telephone). Chairperson Conrad Starr called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

B. **Roll Call**

Mr. Carpenter called the roll. Four of the eight Committee Members (the ninth Committee member, Jennifer DeVore having recently resigned from the Committee) were present at Roll Call: Jeffry Carpenter (secretary), Cindy Chvatal, Conrad Starr (chair) and Jon Vein. *[The GWNC Transportation Committee quorum (the minimum number of Committee Members needing to be present to take binding votes on Agendized Items) was 51% of 8 Committee Seats, or five, so the Committee was unable to take such votes.]* Philip Farha subsequently joined the meeting at 7:06. Tucker Carney joined the meeting later. Jonah Bliss and Chris Palencia were absent. Caroline Moser moderated the Zoom session.

C. **Welcome**

Mr. Starr welcomed the assembled group.

II. **COMMENTS BY GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES**

There were none present

III. **GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Cathy Roberts and Jane Usher complained that they were not able to see everyone’s face.

Mike Sanchez, a Hancock Park resident, requested to become a member of the Transportation Committee. He explained he has concerns about traffic around John Burroughs Jr. High School and felt it important that the Committee have members with first-hand knowledge of local issues.

Dina Phillips, a resident of Hancock Park at 4th and Rossmore, also asked to join the Committee. Ms. Chvatal and Ms. DeVore spoke in favor of adding Mike and Dina to the Committee.

Ms. Chvatal noted that Board and Committee rules could be revised by the Board at any time.

Mr. Starr advised that a review of Board Rules as pertain to committee membership was later in the agenda and discussion should be held for that item.

IV. **ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS** (Discussion and Possible Action)

A. **Review and Adoption of the January 25, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Carpenter moved to approve the January 25, 2021 minutes as edited and presented.

Mr. Farha seconded. The minutes were approved by a vote of 5 yes (Carpenter, Chvatal, Farha, Starr, Vein), 0 noes, 0 abstentions).

V. **OLD BUSINESS**

A. **Council File 21-0002-S30 - Fare Free Transit/State and Local Agencies/Equitable Post-Pandemic Recover/Freedom to Move Act (H.R.7389/S.4278)**

Motion: To recommend that the GWNC file a CIS in support of CF 21-0002-S30.

Raphie Cantor, a Larchmont stakeholder, expressed strong support for the CIS motion. Jon Vein wanted to know where fare free transit has worked successfully.

Mr. Starr moved and Mr. Farha seconded the motion. The vote was 2 yes (Farha, Starr), 1 opposed (Chvatal), and 2 abstentions (Carpenter, Vein). Mr. Starr explained that this motion had passed at the last Committee meeting, but the slim margin of approval suggested that it be considered again at this meeting.

VI. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **Traffic Safety at Beverly/Highland Intersection**

The intended presenter, Karen Fishof et.al, was not present. Ms. Chvatal and Ms. DeVore described the concern of an excessive number of severe accidents that had sent cars into adjacent residents. Ms. DeVore suggested that one course of remedy might be the installation of turn pockets in the landscaped median of Highland. Discussion ensued over the concern of potentially displacing one or more of the median's iconic palm trees, possibly sending a letter to LADOT and other Highland intersections seen as particularly dangerous.

Motion: That the GWNC request that LADOT conduct a study of the Highland intersections at Beverly, 6th and 3rd Streets, analyze the available accident data and develop recommendations for reducing accidents and improving the safety of these intersections.

Ms. Chvatal moves, Mr. Carpenter seconded the motion. The vote was 5 yes (Carpenter,

Chvatal, Farha, Conrad, Vein), 0 no and 0 abstentions.

[Mr. Vein left the meeting at 7:48 pm, leaving 4 members and the Committee without a quorum. After unsuccessfully attempted to get another Committee member to join the meeting, Mr. Starr called the meeting to order in the absence of a quorum to take action.]

B. Pedestrian Safety on Beverly Blvd. between Rossmore Ave. and June St.

There was brief discussion of the lack of a paved sidewalk on the north side of Beverly Blvd. and the hazards of walking on an uneven dirt path next to high speed traffic.

VII. COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS

A. Chairperson's Report.

Mr. Starr reported that the majority of a quorum issue remains unresolved. He alluded to a need to clarify and clean up Board rules. Jane Usher, a stakeholder and former GWNC board member, expressed the opinion that the Brown Act does apply to standing committees.

[Ms. Chvatal left the meeting at 7:55 pm, leaving Mr. Starr, Mr. Farha and Mr. Carpenter in attendance.]

Mr. Starr reviewed the Committee rules, the process for confirming Committee members and the present full Committee membership at 9.

[Mr. Carney joined the meeting on the telephone at 8:00 pm.]

There was an extended conversation with Ms. Usher, Mr. Starr and Mr. Farha over the authority to enact and adopt Committee rules, referencing the GWNC Board actions of August 20, 2020.

B. E-Bike Informational Town Hall.

Mr. Starr reminded the meeting that this will be held on Thursday, March 25, starting at 6 pm.

C. Melrose Avenue Pedestrian Improvements Project (Farha).

Mr. Farha reported on the last meeting between the Council Office and residents adjacent to Melrose, notably around Stanley, over their concerns. He recapped that the \$2.9 million in funding had originally been secured by the Melrose BID in 2015 for a "gentle reworking" of the street environment. Among the current issues have been mis-use of proposed seating areas and the impacts of the loss of parking along Melrose.

Mr. Farha noted that other concerns, such as added noise due to the inclusion of bicycle lanes in the plan and allegations that the street would be shut down on weekends have been less coherent, making it difficult to judge overall community

sentiment.

VIII. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. **Stress Connections Surveys (Starr).**

Mr. Starr noted that there was to be a presentation on this survey at 5 pm preceding the April GWNC board meeting.

Mr. Sanchez stated that he felt the survey was “extremely biased, backed by the bike lobby” and the new Councilmember. Ms. Usher asked how and where the 5 pm presentation meeting before the April 14th GWNC Board meeting had been noticed and publicized.

B. **Purple (D) Line Extension/Section 1 First/Last Mile Survey (Starr).** Mr. Starr reported that Metro will launch an online survey starting in March 2021 to gather public opinion as to how to best facilitate access to and from transit stops and stations and provided a link.

Mr. Starr responded that the survey was to remain open until April 2nd and that the presentation reprises the slides shown at the February 22nd Transportation Committee meeting and the February 23rd Land Use Committee meeting.

C. **Crenshaw Line Northern Extension (Starr).** Mr. Starr noted that scoping meetings for the next phase of this project are set for the last week of April and the first week of May.

D. **State Assembly Bill 550 (Chiu) (Carpenter).** Mr. Carpenter explained that this bill would provide major cities in the State, including the City of Los Angeles, the ability to exempt pilot studies and speed limits in qualified areas from the constraints of the Basic Speed Law. Mr. Carpenter was asked to draft a letter or motion for consideration at a future meeting.

IX. REQUESTS/MOTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

A. The next regular meeting of the GWNC Transportation Committee meeting is be held at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, May 24, 2021 via Zoom.

B. A Special/Joint Meeting of the Board and the Transportation Committee for LADOT’s presentation on the previously mentioned Stress Connections survey is scheduled for 5:00 pm on April 14, 2021.

- C. The Transportation Committee's Special Biennial Membership Meeting is to be scheduled following the Board meeting on April 14th.

X. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 8:41 p.m.

The GWNC Transportation Committee Minutes page is <http://greaterwilshire.org/transportation-committee-agendas-minutes>.