

Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council  
Regular Meeting of the Transportation Committee  
May 24, 2021  
DRAFT MINUTES

**I. WELCOMING REMARKS**

**A. Call to Order**

A duly noticed regular meeting of the Transportation Committee of the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council (“GWNC”) was held on Wednesday, May 24, 2021, via Zoom (online and by telephone). Committee chairperson Conrad Starr called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

**B. Roll Call**

Mr. Carpenter called the roll. Six of the seven Committee Members were present at Roll Call: Jonah Bliss, Jeffry Carpenter, Cindy Chvatal, Philip Farha, Conrad Starr (chair) and Jon Vein. Former committee member Jennifer DeVore moderated the meeting on Zoom. *[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 7 Committee Seats, or four, so the Committee was able to take such votes.]* Tucker Carney was absent.

**II. COMMENTS BY GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES**

There were no representatives present.

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

Windsor Square GWNC Board Member Gary Gilbert inquired about the most appropriate place in the agenda for a Board Member to raise an item.

**IV. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

**A. Review and Adoption of the March 22, 2021, Meeting Minutes.**

**MOTION** (by Ms. Chvatal, seconded by Jon Vein): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its March 22 Meeting.

**MOTION PASSES** with all present voting in favor.

**B. Review and Adoption of the April 21, 2021, Special Meeting Minutes.**

**MOTION:** (by Mr. Carpenter, seconded by Ms. Chvatal): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its April 21 Meeting.

**MOTION PASSES** with all present voting in favor.

C. Committee Membership

i. Resignation of Chris Palencia.

Mr. Palencia's resignation from the Committee was noted, leaving seven members in the committee.

ii. Review of Board Rules regard Committee membership and voting eligibility.

Mr. Starr reported that a timeline of Board Rule adoption had been placed in the Board Documents. The Transportation Committee **Rules currently** stipulate that no more than two stakeholders from a GWNC "Area" are allowed to serve on the Transportation committee. (see committee documents, meeting recording and transcription ) **The GWNC Board Rules , nor any other GWNC Committee have limits on the number of stakeholders from a GWNC "Area" being allowed to serve on a committee.** Committees are to have no more than five but no fewer than two GWNC Board members.

Mr. Starr referred to a red-lined version of edited committee protocols for further information.

iii. Affirmation of Intent to rejoin or remain on the Committee.

Stakeholder Jane Usher noted that all members of all committees are up for replacement upon the election of a new GWNC Board. With the resignation of Chris Palencia, five remaining Committee members indicated their intent to rejoin the Committee (Bliss, Carpenter, Chvatal, Starr, Vein). Mr. Farha stated he did not intend to rejoin. (Mr. Tucker was not present to indicate his intent.)

iv. Review/introduction of eligible stakeholders interested in serving on the Committee.

Stakeholders Dina Phillips and Mike Sanchez and immediate past Board member Max Kirkham requested to join the Committee.

v. Nomination and Selection of Committee Members.

Ms. Chvatal challenged the stipulation of limiting the Committee to only two members from a GWNC Area.

Mr. Bliss suggested that all of the new members offer statements about their interest in joining the committee.

Mr. Kirkham indicated a major interest in pedestrian safety and in getting more community benefits from Transit Oriented Communities development.

Mr. Sanchez stated a major interest in schools, school traffic issues and pedestrian safety, indicating he will bring a knowledge of local history of these issues to the Committee; Ms. Chvatal corroborated that Mr. Sanchez is a long-time resident and had been an attendee at Transportation Committee

meetings in the past.

vi. Recommendation of Committee Roster to the GWNC Board.

*[my notes are incomplete and conflicting on both the details and the substance of the following sections]*

**MOTION** (by Mr. Vein, seconded by Ms. Chvatal): That the GWNC Transportation Committee recommend to the GWNC Board appoint all existing members who have expressed a desire to remain on the Committee as well as Dina Phillips, Mike Sanchez and Max Kirkham to the Committee, subject to the Board agreeing to modify the TC Rules such that these civic minded community members be allowed to serve on the Committee and subject to the Board determining the propriety of the Board President serving on the Committee.

**MOTION TO AMEND** (by Mr. Starr at the suggestion of Mr. Kirkham, seconded by Mr. Carpenter): That the motion be amended strike “civic minded”.

**MOTION TO AMEND FAILS** with 1 vote in favor (Starr), 2 votes against (Chvatal, Vein) and 3 abstentions (Bliss, Carpenter, Farha).

**MOTION PASSED** with 3 in favor (Chvatal, Farha, and Vein), 1 against (Bliss) and 2 abstentions (Carpenter, Starr).

D. Committee Leadership

- i. Transportation Committee Chairperson.  
There were no nominations made.
- ii. Transportation Committee Secretary.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Starr, seconded by Mr. Farha): The GWNC Transportation Committee recommends that the GWNC board approve Jeffrey Carpenter as Committee secretary.

**MOTION PASSES** with 2 votes to approve (Bliss, Farha), 1 opposed (Vein) and 3 abstentions (Carpenter, Chvatal, Starr).

**V. OLD BUSINESS**

A. Pedestrian safety along Beverly Blvd. between Rossmore Avenue and June Street

Ms. Chvatal reported that the Hancock Park HOA et al. had taken up the concern of a missing segment sidewalk along the north side of Beverly through the Wilshire Country Club with the Council Office and the Bureau of Engineering and that prospects for developing improvements were being explored.

**MOTION to POSTPONE INDEFINITELY** (by Mr. Starr, seconded by Mr. Vein).

- B. LADOT Stress-Fee Connections Surveys for 4<sup>th</sup>/Highland, 4<sup>th</sup>/Rossmore, and Beverly/St. Andrews

Discussion shifted at this point to picking up Mr. Vein's report under item VII.B. A reported takeaway from the Special Joint Meeting of the Committee and the GWNC board on May 21<sup>st</sup> was that "opportunities were missed" by the approach used in this initiative, that it instead it seemed to be "a solution looking for its problem."

Mr. Vein reported that LADOT staff had made a detailed presentation, emphasizing that "nothing had been decided", but that leaving the impression that a decision on a path forward had been made. He felt that presentation was conspicuous in its lack of data and evidence that would frame the issues to be addressed.

Mr. Starr felt that the staff team LADOT provided had "not brought their 'A' game" to the occasion. He also noted that stakeholders from the Ridgewood/Wilton and St. Andrews Square neighborhoods attending the meeting said that they were hearing of this initiative for the first time and were unaware of what was being discussed and that was disappointing to hear.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

- A. Traffic Safety at Melrose and Highland

Ms. Sheri Gasche [*spelling?*], a local resident living along Melrose few blocks east of Highland, complained that Melrose "has become a racetrack". She also noted that there was no left-turn signal phase for Highland traffic and requested the addition of a left turn lane.

Mr. Farha, the GWNC Melrose Area representative, responded that the noted problems are long-standing, but that it is difficult to get agreement on what responses will be productive, noting the recent rejection of the "Uplift Melrose" initiative. He noted that the landscape median in Highland on the south side of the Melrose intersection is protected, precluding a left-turn pocket for northbound traffic and said at present he knew of no solution that the Council Office wanted to get into. Ms. Chvatal, responding from the perspective of GWNC Area 5, confirmed that the landscaped median has been a protected City historic monument since 1972 as well as having additional California State protection. Mr. Farha said that, in his opinion, what are most needed are measures that would reduce traffic speeds and Melrose and on Highland.

## **VII. COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS**

- A. Chairperson's Report. No report was made.

- B. [The LADOT Stress-Free Connection Surveys was discussed under V.B.]
- C. Crenshaw Northern Extension Project Scoping Period. Noted as ending on April 28<sup>th</sup>.
- D. Other Reports. There were no other reports.

**VIII. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS.ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- A. The Crenshaw Northern Extension Comment Period. No additional comments were made.
- B. State Assembly Bill 550 (Chiu). Mr. Carpenter reported that the legislation had died in committee; no further information was available at present.

**IX. REQUESTS FOR POSSIBLE FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Ms. Chvatal requested that the committee take up possible changes in the committee rules.

The next meeting of the committee was noted to be at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, July 26, 2021 via Zoom ID 3921 5993 5555.

MOTION (by Ms. Chvatal, seconded by Mr. Farha): Adjourn the meeting at 8:43 p.m.