

Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council
Regular Meeting of the Transportation Committee
July 26, 2021
MINUTES

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, July 26, 2021, via Zoom (online and by telephone). Committee chairperson Cindy Chvatal called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Mr. Carpenter called the roll. Four of the five Committee Members were present at Roll Call: Jonah Bliss, Jeffry Carpenter, Cindy Chvatal (chair), and Conrad Starr. Jon Vein joined the meeting later. Former committee member Jennifer DeVore moderated the meeting. *[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 5 Committee Seats, or three, so the Committee was able to take such votes.]* .

II. COMMENTS BY GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES

There were no representatives present.

III. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. Bliss asked about returning to meeting in person; Ms. Chvatal noted that circumstances don’t yet appear to allow to resume in-person gatherings.

Stakeholder Max Kirkham congratulated Ms. Chvatal on becoming chair.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

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

Chvatal reported that discussions with StreetsLA have confirmed that funding for northside pedestrian improvements is available and that an engineering study is underway as reported to the Hancock Park Homeowners Association by the new StreetsLA Director, Keith Mozee. It was suggested that a City representative might be invited to the next meeting to provide a further update.

At this point, Ms. Chvatal interrupted the discussion to note that she was removing item VII., Committee Rules and Protocols, from the agenda in view of the receipt earlier in the afternoon of a redline of suggested edits that Committee members had likely not had a chance to review. She indicated this item was placed on the agenda for the next Committee meeting and for Committee members to review in the meantime.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. Crash at Clinton and Cherokee—Request for Four-Way Stop Signs Ms.

Chvatal recounted a resident's report on the crash involving a scooter that ran a stop sign and the consensus that having stop signs for all approaches to the intersection might have prevented the accident. Brookside Area board member Owen Smith suggested requesting increased traffic enforcement while pursuing the stop signs; stakeholder Max Kirkham suggested incorporating language in the motion to requesting whatever other traffic control measures might be possible if LADOT determines that adding stops signs is not appropriate.

Stakeholder Julie Stromberg echoed Mr. Smith's suggestion to ask for additional traffic enforcement, noting that LAPD enforcement can generate incident data to support the stop sign request. She noted that there is a two-year waiting period after LADOT has turned down a request for intersection improvements before another request can be made and recounted her own experience in advocating for stop signs at 10th and Lucerne that took two tries and four years to get implemented. She believed that the status of investigations at an intersection was available online through LADOT's website.

Mr. Starr commented that, while supporting the motion, he wanted the Committee's request to be cognizant of the funding consequences of the request.

(Mr. Vein was able to join the meeting at this point at 7:55 pm. That brought the number of Committee members present to five.)

MOTION (by Ms. Chvatal, seconded by Mr. Carpenter): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council write a letter requesting a 4-way stop sign at Cherokee and Clinton.

MOTION PASSES with all present voting in favor.

B. GWNC Community Engagement Opportunities

i. Town Hall, Transportation Committee Outreach to Other GWNC Committees:

Brookside stakeholder Julie Stromberg suggested doing a joint event with the Land Use Committee devoted to better understanding and mitigating the impacts of prospective development along Wilshire Blvd. in the GWNC.

ii. Reform of the "Basic Speed Law":

Mr. Carpenter thought the first steps might be to identify expertise on the issue and invite them to help inform initiatives the Committee might undertake.

iii. Automated Traffic Enforcement (ATE) Tools:

Ms. Chvatal commented that some of these technologies had the potential for encouraging more accountable driving behavior if they could be adopted. Mr. Starr noted the need for outreach to gain support for making use of automated traffic enforcement tools and suggested raising the challenge with the Outreach Committee.

Mr. Starr also suggested working with the GWNC data liaison and explore making use of maps and data to frame traffic safety issues.

C. Increased Funding for Traffic West Division for Increased Patrols in Greater Wilshire Area

(This discussion occurred after the consideration of item VII.A., B., Committee Membership)

Mr. Carpenter asked what the budget context would be for a prospective request for additional funding requests. Stakeholder Julie Stromberg mentioned that traffic enforcement operates as a separate division of LAPD. She mentioned a recent KPCC interview with LADOT General Manager Selena Reynolds and the difficulty of impacting fatalities and driving behavior with current traffic enforcement. Stakeholder Max Kirkham voiced his reluctance to advocate increases in LAPD funding if there actually might be available funds within LAPD budget that could be redeployed to this need. He suggested instead asking for a study of how to best improve traffic enforcement.

Mr. Starr noted his participation as part of the Community Police Advisory Board and that the CPAB has a traffic section that could be a resource for informing this discussion. Mr. Carpenter voiced support for involving the CPAB in formulating initiatives for directing LAPD resources. GWNC board member Owen Smith countered that simply going to the Council Office with the Committee's concerns could get results and Ms. Chvatal agreed. Stakeholder Max Kirkham agreed with Mr. Smith but suggested asking LAPD what measures and approaches are most needed and likely to be effective.

At this time, the Committee chair passed over items VI, Administrative Items, and tabled item VII, Committee Rules and Protocols to take up Committee membership, then returned to take up Item VI.

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

A. Review, and possible motion and action to adopt May 24th, 2021, minutes, including transcription.

Mr. Starr commented that the minutes are not supposed to be a transcript and that including the transcript in the adoption of the minutes appeared to suggest that

there was some issue left unresolved in the minutes but was unclear as what that issue was and how it was being resolved with the inclusion of the transcript.

In response, the consideration of the May 24th minutes was postponed by Ms. Chvatal.

VII. COMMITTEE RULES AND PROTOCOLS

A. Consideration of, and possible motion and action to adopt, revised TC Rules and Protocols

This item was postponed to the next meeting in view of the need to review a recently received redlined version with suggested edits.

VIII. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

A. Review of eligible/verified stakeholders interested in serving on the Committee

Ms. Chvatal reported that Mike Sanchez who had previously been recommended by the Committee to the GWNC Board for membership has withdrawn, but that Franklin Moser, a Windsor Square stakeholder has volunteered his interest.

In addition to Max Kirkham who had previously volunteered his interest in serving on the Committee, Area 1 Board member Owen Smith and Brookside stakeholder Julie Stromberg have both volunteered their interest.

Mr. Kirkham endorsed Mr. Franklin and was echoed by Ms. Stromberg. Mr. Bliss asked if Mr. Franklin could introduce himself and speak to his interest in the Committee. Ms. Chvatal apologized that Mr. Franklin was unable to join the meeting.

B. Possible motion and action to recommend Committee membership roster to the GWNC Board

MOTION (by Ms. Chvatal, seconded by Mr. Starr). The GWNC Transportation Committee recommends that the GWNC Board confirm the addition of Board member Owen Smith, and stakeholders Julie Stromberg, Max Kirkham, and Franklin Moser as members of the Committee.

MOTION PASSES with 4 votes in favor and one abstention (Bliss).

IX. COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. First/Last Mile Plan for Purple (D Line) Extension, Section 1.

The opening of the public comment period for on current barriers to local access and suggested access improvements to the Wilshire and La Brea station was noted, along

with the link to register comments.

- B. Mr. Starr commented that he had updated the Transportation Committee page on the GWNC website insofar as he was still functioning as the interim GWNC webmaster. Mr. Starr also said that he was in the process of writing the letter regarding Highland Avenue that the Committee acted on at its March meeting.

- C. Max Kirkham mentioned upcoming meeting dates for the LGBTQ Alliance of August 6th and August 18th and noted that there is currently an open spot for an additional liaison.

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

Mr. Kirkham suggested contacting Ned Racine and/or appropriate Metro staff to better engage on the issues of the First/Last Mile project.

The next meeting of the Committee was noted to be at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, September 27, 2021 via Zoom ID 3921 5993 5555.

The meeting was ended at 8:49 p.m.