



Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council
General Board Meeting Minutes, Wednesday, April 9, 2025
Minutes Approved May 14, 2025

Document copies were available in person and at www.greaterwilshire.org/BDdocs.

I. WELCOMING REMARKS

A. Call to Order, Welcoming Remarks (Conrad Starr).

A duly noticed Meeting of the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council (“GWNC”) Board of Directors was held at the Ebell of Los Angeles, 743 S. Lucerne Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90005. President Conrad Starr called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. and explained procedures, reminding Board Members to check with the City Attorney if the Member has a possible or definite conflict of interest.

B. Flag Salute.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

C. Roll Call.

Secretary DeVore called the roll. Twelve of the 19 Board Members were present at the Roll Call, which is not a quorum: MJ Anderson, Jeffry Carpenter, Romi Cortier, Charles D'Atri (Vice-President), Jennifer DeVore (Secretary), Gary Gilbert, John Gresham, Julie Kim, Rochelle Lewis, Sixto Sicilia, Owen Smith and Conrad Starr (President). Patricia Carroll (Treasurer), Cindy Chvatal-Keane and Brian Curran arrived later. Four Board Members were absent and not represented by an Alternate: Scott Appel, Andy Galan, Jesseca Harvey (Assistant Secretary) and Anne Rudnick. The GWNC Board quorum (the minimum number of Board Members needing to be present to take binding votes on Agendized Items) is 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 [Country Club Heights and Religion; see Item #V. A. 1.; to apply see www.GreaterWilshire.org]. Ten Alternate Seats were vacant [see Item #V. A. 2.]. Also attended: approximately 11 Stakeholders and guests.

II. GOVERNMENT REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Fifth Council District (Michelle Flores - michelle.flores@lacity.org).

Michelle Flores, a Field Deputy for L.A. City District Five Councilmember Katy Yaroslavsky [ofc. 213-473-7005; Michelle.Flores@LACity.org; <https://councildistrict5.LACity.gov>], was not present; there was no report.

- B. Thirteenth Council District (Mark Fuentes - mark.fuentes@lacity.org).
Mark Fuentes, Senior Field Deputy for L.A. City District 13 Councilmember Hugo Soto-Martinez [213-993-2991; <https://cd13.LACity.org>], reported.

Board Members Brian Curran (6:39) and Cindy Chvatal (6:40) arrived at this time, making 14 Board Members present (the GWNC quorum is thirteen). Now the Board could take binding votes on Agendized Items.

Mr. Fuentes encouraged contacting him for help.

Board Member Patti Carroll arrived at this time (6:41), making 15 Board Members present (the GWNC quorum is thirteen).

Mr. Starr requested continued monitoring and working with the Police regarding Larchmont Blvd. center median parking, and prostitution on Western Ave. MJ Anderson encouraged getting more bicycle parking. Mr. Fuentes said that Karla Martinez still works with CD13.

- C. LAPD Olympic & Wilshire Divisions (SLOs Cho 33817@lapd.online & Chavez 36304@lapd.online (Olympic), Rodriguez 35738@lapd.online and Shuck 40740@lapd.online (Wilshire)).
No Officer, such as Hebel Rodriguez, an LAPD Wilshire Division Senior Lead Officer [office 213-473-0476; cell/text phone 213-793-0715; 35738@LAPD.Online; <https://www.LAPDOnline.org/lapd-contact/west-bureau/wilshire-community-police-station>], or Danny Chavez, an Olympic Division Senior Lead Officer [office 213-382-9102; cell/text phone 213-793-0714; 36304@LAPD.Online], http://www.LAPDOnline.org/olympic_community_police_station], was present; there was no report.

- D. LA Metro (Ned Racine - racinen@metro.net).
Ned Racine, Metro Principal Construction Relations Officer [cell 213-418-5993, RacineN@metro.net; 24-hour information 213-922-6934; Bus Rapid Transit 24-hour hotline 213-922-2500+1; PurpleLineExt@metro.net; www.facebook.com/PurpleLineExt; www.Twitter.com/PurpleLineExt; www.metro.net/PurpleLineExt], described construction progress. The La Brea and Wilshire bus stop should be finished by June. Only street areas “close to Wilshire” will be repaved.

- E. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment/DONE (Octaviano Rios - octaviano.rios@lacity.org).
Octaviano Rios, a Neighborhood Empowerment Advocate of the L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) [213-978-1551; Octaviano.Rios@LACity.org; www.EmpowerLA.org], reported that the Congress of Neighborhood Councils, which he described, will be September 27th and open to the public. Board Member survey feedback is wanted regarding training improvements. DONE’s website was improved, including for searching and Robert’s Rules of Order. The Dept. of Recreation and Parks wants feedback by June 2nd regarding open spaces. Multiple Board Members expressed concern that there will be no in-person Neighborhood Council election voting, and about unclear voting instructions.

Board Member Julie Kim left at this time (7:06), making 14 Board Members present (the GWNC Board quorum is thirteen). The next Agenda Item addressed was Item #II. D.

- F. Mayor's Office (David C. Nguyen - david.c.nguyen@lacity.org (CD13 areas) and Kenneth Miller - kenneth.g.miller@lacity.org (CD5 areas)).
Kenneth Miller, Central Area Representative for Mayor Karen Bass [213-978-3130; <http://LAMayor.org>], was not present; there was no report.
- G. Second Supervisorial District (Field Deputy Daniel Park - DPark@bos.lacounty.gov).
Daniel Park, a Field Deputy for L.A. County District Two Supervisor Holly Mitchell (213-974-2222; DPark@bos.LACounty.gov; <https://LACounty.gov/government/supervisors/holly-mitchell>), was not present; there was no report.
- H. Third Supervisorial District (Field Deputy Amanda Laflen - alaflen@bos.lacounty.gov).
Amanda Laflen, a Field Deputy for L.A. County District Three Supervisor Lindsey Horvath (213-440-0927; <https://lindseyhorvath.LACounty.gov>), was not present; there was no report.
- I. Other Government Representatives.
Jewett Wilber, a Field Deputy for LAUSD Board of Education District One, reported that they'd have an April 30th Open House.

III. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There were no public comments at this time.

IV. REPORTS BY ALLIANCE REPRESENTATIVES AND NC LIAISONS

- A. Budget Representative (Jack Humphreville).
Mr. Humphreville was not present; there was no report [see <http://BudgetAdvocates.org> or <http://ncbala.com>]. Mr. Starr encouraged viewing www.greaterwilshire.org/BDdocs.
- B. LADWP (Jack Humphreville).
Mr. Humphreville was not present; there was no report. Mr. Starr encouraged viewing www.greaterwilshire.org/BDdocs.
- C. LANCC (Jennifer DeVore).
Ms. DeVore reported that LANCC [the Los Angeles Neighborhood Councils Coalition; LANCC@EmpowerLA.org; www.LANCC.org] discussed and supports Assembly Bill 467 regarding virtual meetings.
- D. Other Liaisons or Representatives.
There were no other reports.

V. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS (Discussion and Possible Action)

- A. Filling Board and Board Alternate Vacant Seats.
 - 1. Board Vacancies: Religion, Country Club Heights (fillable 4/23/25).

Mr. Starr noted the above. There were no candidates at this time.

2. Board Alternate Vacancies: Area 3 - Country Club Heights; Area 4 - Fremont Place; Area 6 - La Brea/Hancock; Area 9 - Oakwood/Maplewood/St. Andrews; Education; Religion.

Mr. Starr noted the above. There were no candidates at this time.

3. Possible Motion(s) to appoint eligible stakeholders to vacant board and board alternate seats.

No Motion was made or vote taken.

B. Board Training (Required by DONE in order to vote)

1. EmpowerLA Training Guidelines: Board members must have completed all five trainings (Ethics, Funding, Code of Conduct, Anti-Bias and Gender Expression and Gender Identity) in order to vote and are otherwise ineligible to vote on funding and non-funding items in committee and general board meetings.
 - a) Currently unable to vote (as of 4/6/2025):
 - Board Members: none
 - Board Alternates: Newby, Cox, Winther, Aboltin
 - b) Courses and instructions can be found at:
<http://empowerla.org/boardmembers/> . Please check EmpowerLA.org/GWNC for your training expirations and email secretary@greaterwilshire.org if there are any inconsistencies.
2. Code of Conduct: Required of all Board Members and Alternates. More info here: <https://empowerla.org/code-of-conduct/> . The following Board Members and Alternates have not completed the Code of Conduct: Aboltin.
3. Ethics and Funding Training: Ethics and Funding training is required every two years for Board members/Alternates. Stakeholder Committee Member Ethics Training can be found at <https://localethics.fppc.ca.gov/login.aspx> (certificate of completion required). The following board members are shown at EmpowerLA.org/GWNC as NOT having completed Ethics and/or Funding within the last 2 years and are ineligible to vote: Aboltin (Funding, Ethics); Cox (Ethics, Funding); Newby (Ethics); Winther (Ethics, Funding).
4. Gender Expression and Gender Identity Training: Gender training is required to vote. You must only complete this training once. The following are ineligible to vote: Aboltin, Newby.
5. Anti-Bias (ABLE) Training: ABLE training is required to vote. You must only complete this training once. The following are ineligible to vote: Aboltin.

Mr. Starr noted the above.

C. Adoption of GWNC General Board Meeting Minutes.

1. March 12, 2025 General Board Meeting.

No corrections or amendments were made.

MOTION (by Ms. DeVore, seconded by Mr. D'Atri): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council adopts the Minutes of its March 12, 2025 General Board Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a hand vote of the 14 eligible voters present with all 14 in favor ("Yes" or "Aye"); zero opposed; zero abstained.

2. March 30, 2025 Special Meeting.

No corrections or amendments were made.

MOTION (by Ms. DeVore, seconded by Mr. D'Atri): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council adopts the Minutes of its March 30, 2025 Special Board Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a hand vote of the 14 eligible voters present with all 14 in favor ("Yes" or "Aye"); zero opposed; zero abstained.

VI. OFFICER REPORTS

A. President's Report.

Mr. Starr described outreach work.

B. Treasurer's Report (Discussion and Possible Action). Please refer to MER in the supporting documents folder (<https://greaterwilshire.org/bddocs/>).

1. Motion to Approve Monthly Expenditure Report (MER) for March 2025 and to Approve Each Individual Expense Listed Therein.

Ms. Carroll noted the above.

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Carroll, seconded by Ms. DeVore): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves the Monthly Expenditure Report (MER) for March 2025 and each individual expense listed therein.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a hand vote of the 14 eligible voters present with all 14 in favor ("Yes" or "Aye"); zero opposed; zero abstained.

2. CC

3/3/25	Public Storage Feb	\$247.00
3/6/25	Larchmont Chronicle	\$ 98.00
3/19/25	DRI Flyers- Election	\$436.86

3. Checks

2/1	AppleOne	Minutes	\$636.42
2/24	AppleOne	Admin	\$643.44
2/24	AppleOne	Admin	\$494.07
2/24	AppleOne	Admin	\$689.40
2/24	AppleOne	Minutes	\$416.96
2/24	Ume Works		\$101.25
2/28	Village Mail Call		\$300.00
3/19	AppleOne	Admin	\$666.42
3/19	AppleOne	Minutes	\$453.54
3/19	AppleOne	Admin	\$818.03
3/19	AppleOne	Admin	\$402.15

4. Past expenses that may show up in april.

NPG	Reissue check	\$200.00
	Apple One	TBD
	Ume Works	

Ms. Carroll reviewed the above

5. Consent Calendar: a single motion approves the following items (VI.B.4.a-d) without board discussion. Any Board Member may ask that any item be removed from the consent calendar and voted on separately.

Possible Motion: The GWNC Approves the Consent Calendar for April 9, 2025 consisting of items VI.B.5.a-d.

Agenda Item #VI. B. 5. a) was addressed after Item #VI. B. 5. d).

- a) Website/Email Hosting Renewal: The GWNC will pay DreamHost \$383.88 for a one-year renewal of DreamHost VPS for website and email hosting, for service from 5/1/2025 through 4/30/2026.

Mr. Starr explained challenges and the need.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Gresham, seconded by Mr. Carpenter): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council will pay DreamHost \$383.88 for a one-year renewal of DreamHost VPS for website and email hosting, for service from 5/1/2025 through 4/30/2026.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a hand vote with 13 in favor; zero opposed; one abstained (Starr).

- b) DropBox Essentials: The GWNC will pay DropBox \$199.00 for a one-year renewal of DropBox Essentials for the account associated with gwnwebmaster[at]gmail[dot]com for service from 6/2/2025 to 6/2/2026.
- c) Acrobat Professional: The GWNC will pay \$239.88 for a one-year subscription renewal of Acrobat Pro for use by the GWNC President.

d) Canva Pro: The GWNC requests that its Canva Pro license be renewed for FY 2025-2026 at a cost of approximately \$130/year, and up to \$150/year.

It was agreed to pull Item #VI. B. 5. a) from the Consent Motion.

CONSENT CALENDAR FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Lewis, seconded by Mr. D'Atri): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves the Consent Calendar Motion for Item numbers VI. B. 5. b) through VI. B. 5. d).

CONSENT CALENDAR FUNDING MOTION PASSED by a hand vote with 13 in favor; zero opposed; one abstained (Starr).

C. Vice President's Report.

Mr. D'Atri ceded his time.

D. Secretary's Report.

Ms. DeVore indicated that there was no report.

VII. AD HOC COMMITTEES (Discussion and possible action)

A. Election Committee Report - Chair: Jesseca Harvey.

There was extensive discussion of election procedures and voting challenges.

VIII. LAND USE COMMITTEE (Discussion and possible action)

A. Committee Report - Chair: Brian Curran.

Mr. Curran reported that the Committee discussed Senate Bill 79 regarding Transit-Oriented Development.

[The following paragraph is copied from the Agenda.]

B. SB 79 (Abundant & Affordable Homes Near Transit Act): A bill that would allow the State to develop criteria and standards to allow residential uses within a specified distance of a transit-oriented development (TOD) on any site zoned for residential, mixed commercial or light industrial use. Background: The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council Land Use Committee strongly recommends that the Board take steps to encourage the City to oppose SB 79 because: it effectively eliminates local control over land use matters; it impedes the ability of the City to meet its housing commitment as set forth in the latest housing element adopted by the City and approved by the State; it ignores and results in the loss of the careful planning that has gone into creating historic zones and specific and community plans; and it threatens the fabric of thriving communities and neighborhoods in our City. Possible Motion: The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council will write a letter to the LA City Council urging them to oppose SB 79 because: (1) it effectively eliminates local control over land use matters; (2) it impedes the ability of the City to meet its housing commitment as set forth in the latest housing element adopted by the City and approved by the State; (3) it ignores and results in the loss of the careful planning that has gone into creating historic zones and specific and community plans; and (4) it threatens the fabric of thriving communities and neighborhoods in our City.

MOTION (by Mr. Curran, seconded by Mr. D’Atri): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council will submit a Community Impact Statement in support of Council File #CF25-0002-S19 opposing Senate Bill 79 until it is amended to exclude single-family neighborhoods, affordable multi-family areas, historic districts, and light-industrial zones because Senate Bill 79: (1) effectively eliminates local control over land use matters; (2) it impedes the ability of the City to meet its housing commitment as set forth in the latest housing element adopted by the City and approved by the State; (3) it ignores and results in the loss of the careful planning that has gone into creating historic zones and specific and community plans; (4) it threatens the fabric of thriving communities and neighborhoods in our City; and (5) it does not include or encourage affordable housing.

DISCUSSION: MJ Anderson supported SB 79. Mr. Gresham said SB 79’s one-size-fits-all approach isn’t applicable to Los Angeles. Ms. Chvatal reported that L.A. City Planning Director Vince Bertoni indicated that anywhere there’s a bus stop, multi-family housing could be built within one-half mile. She noted that the City’s Housing Element was agreed upon before SB 79. Resident Tony Gittelson commented, wanting to support more affordable housing.

MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the 14 eligible voters present with 13 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Carpenter, Carroll, Chvatal, Cortier, Curran, D’Atri, DeVore, Gilbert, Gresham, Kim, Lewis, Sicilia, Smith and Starr); one opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (Anderson); zero abstained.

C. Next Meeting: The next GWNC Land Use Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 22 at 6:30 pm at the Marlborough School (Room C115), 250 S. Rossmore Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90004.

Mr. Curran noted the above.

IX. ENVIRONMENTAL & SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE (Discussion and possible action)

A. Committee Report - Chair: Polly Estabrook.

Ms. Estabrook reported that the Committee met and unanimously supported the below Motion. She explained the background.

B. Council File #21-1395-S1.

1. File Description: “... WE THEREFORE MOVE the Council instruct the Board of Public Works' Office of Petroleum and Natural Gas Administration and Safety, with the assistance of the City Administrative Officer, and in consultation with, but not limited to, the Department of City Planning, the Fire Department, and the Department of Building and Safety, the City Attorney, and any Council office/Mayor's Office, to report on recommendations on instituting best practices relative to oil and gas uses in the land use regulatory process, in addition to solutions to protect the health and safety of residents from developments built over oil wells. The report should include the following information: ... “ Various reports are then cited to be discussed.

Ms. Estabrook reported that, in 2022, the City Council voted to stop allowing oil and gas drilling in the City, to be phased out by 2040; L.A. County did the same in 2024.

2. Possible Motion: The GWNC will file a CIS in support the Council File #21-1395-S1 to have the city develop policies for addressing unsafe development issues that arise with the reuse of land containing used oil fields.

It was agreed to replace the Motion word “used” with “old.”

MOTION (by Ms. DeVore, seconded by MJ Anderson): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council will file a CIS in support of Council File #21-1395-S1 to have the City develop policies for addressing unsafe development issues that arise with the reuse of land containing old oil fields.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Estabrook reported that it’s estimated that L.A. has 5,000 active, idle or abandoned wells. MJ Anderson noted the lack of documentation of wells.

MOTION PASSED by a hand vote of the 14 eligible voters present with 11 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Carpenter, Carroll, Cortier, Curran, DeVore, Gilbert, Gresham, Kim, Lewis, Sicilia and Smith); zero opposed; three abstained (the GWNC counts abstentions as neither “yes” votes or “no” votes) (Chvatal, D’Atri and Starr).

- C. Possible speakers for our next Committee meetings which could be advertised:

1. Arisa Cleaveland, Central Santa Monica Bay, Safe Clean Water Program. This program funds projects that enhance stormwater capture, improve water quality, and provide recreational and green spaces. Funding for these initiatives is raised through a property tax passed as Measure W in 2018. She will discuss opportunities to fund green infrastructure projects in our area, which could greatly benefit our local community.

Ms. Estabrook explained the above.

2. Bronwyn Berry, principal of Passive House BB and longtime board member and leader at The Passive House Network. In 2022, she presented at COP27 in Egypt discussing the mutually supportive role that the international Passive House standard and building energy code development can play.

Ms. Estabrook explained the above.

- D. Possible Motion to appoint board members and/or stakeholders to the Committee.

No Motion was made or vote taken.

- E. Next Meeting: The next GWNC ESC meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 5, 2025 via Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/92827811179>.

Mr. Starr noted the above.

X. OUTREACH COMMITTEE (Discussion and Possible Action)

A. Committee Report - Chair: Jesseca Harvey.

1. Possible Motion to appoint board members and/or stakeholders to the Committee

There was no report and no Motion was made or vote taken.

B. Community Cleanup and Resource Fair in 10th Council District.

1. Possible Motion that the GWNC take part in the Community Cleanup and Resource Fair in the 10th Council District on April 27, 2025, by hosting a booth.

Mr. Starr noted the above and no Motion was made or vote taken.

C. Next Meeting: The next GWNC Outreach Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 15, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/98276791581>.

XI. RESILIENCE COMMITTEE (Discussion and Possible Action)

A. Committee Report - Chair: Gary Gilbert.

1. Update on "So you think you're prepared?" Quiz.
2. Report on new plan to address fire preparedness in the GWNC area
3. Create a supplemental list for earthquake preparedness for GWNC website

Mr. Gilbert noted the above.

B. Next Meeting: The next GWNC Resilience Committee Meeting will be held on Monday, June 2, 2025 at 6:30 PM on Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88960982957>.

XII. QUALITY OF LIFE COMMITTEE (Discussion and possible action).

A. Committee Report - Chair: Charles D'Atri.

Mr. D'Atri indicated that there was no report.

B. Next Meeting: The next Quality of Life Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 28, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84977930618>.

Mr. D'Atri noted the above.

XIII. TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (Discussion and possible action).

A. Committee Report - Chair: Cindy Chvatal.

Ms. Chvatal indicated that there was no report.

B. Next Meeting: Thursday, May 15, 2025 at 6:30pm via Zoom - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/92159935555>.

Ms. Chvatal noted the above.

XIV. NEW BUSINESS (Discussion and Possible Action)

Mr. Starr indicated that there was no new business.

XV. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Gresham reported increased burglaries that were “very aggressive . . . very organized”; he communicated with the Police. Mr. Sicilia said “they’re in and out in five minutes.” He’s working to organize Neighborhood Watches and have block parties. Burglaries are happening “any time of the day,” especially at Friday dinner times. Ms. DeVore reported that many street lights are out, and that Senior Lead Officer Shuck will do a walk-around in May; all are invited. Ms. Chvatal reported that “some of our street lights have been out for a year.”

XVI. REQUESTS/MOTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

A. FY 2024-2025 Administrative Packet and Budget.

Mr. Starr said the Board will discuss a tentative 2025-2026 budget.

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Starr declared the Meeting **ADJOURNED** at 8:38 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 the GWNC. The GWNC Board Meeting Minutes page is <http://greaterwilshire.org/board-agendas-minutes>.