



Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council
General Board Meeting Minutes, Wednesday, March 12, 2025
Approved April 9, 2025

Pursuant to the October 6, 2023 enactment of California Senate Bill 411 (Portantino) and LA City Council approval on November 1, 2023, the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council meeting will be conducted virtually.

Document copies were shown online and available 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 online. President Conrad Starr called the meeting to order at 6:30 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. Roll Call.

The Secretary called the roll. Seventeen of the 19 Board Members or their Alternate(s) were present online at the Roll Call: Jeffry Carpenter, Patricia Carroll (Treasurer), Dave Cavalier (Alternate for MJ Anderson), Cindy Chvatal-Keane, Romi Cortier, /Brian Curran, Charles D'Atri (Vice-President), Jennifer DeVore (Secretary), Andy Galan, Gary Gilbert, John Gresham, Jesseca Harvey (Assistant Secretary), Julie Kim, Rochelle Lewis, Sixto Sicilia, Owen Smith and Conrad Starr (President). Scott Appel and Anne Rudnick were absent and not represented by an Alternate. Selene Betancourt had resigned. 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 the Board could take such votes. Nineteen of the 21 Board Seats were filled (by election or appointment). Two Board Seats were vacant [Religion, and Country Club Heights; see Item #V. A. 1.; to apply see www.GreaterWilshire.org]. Six Alternate Seats were vacant [see Item #V. A. 2.; to apply see www.GreaterWilshire.org]. Also attended: approximately 26 Stakeholders and guests.

The next Agenda Item addressed was Item #IV. B.

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 (Karla Martinez - karla.g.martinez@lacity.org).
Karla Martinez, a Field Deputy for L.A. City District 13 Councilmember Hugo Soto-Martinez [213-473-7013; <https://cd13.LACity.org>], reported that \$100,000 was allocated for tree trimming. CD13 supports the Larchmont BID. Street lights are being repaired.

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)).
Tyler Shuck, an LAPD Wilshire Division Senior Lead Officer; cell/text phone 213-793-0650;
<https://www.LAPDOnline.org/lapd-contact/west-bureau/wilshire-community-police-station>], reported that “burglaries are still a concern”; arrests were made. “They’re happening at dinnertime hours . . . waiting for folks to leave . . . There’[re] usually three to four suspects.” He urged to report suspicious activity. “The more cameras . . . the better.”

Harry Cho, an LAPD Olympic Division Senior Lead Officer [office 213-382-9102; cell/text phone 213-793-0649; 33817@LAPD.Online; http://www.LAPDOnline.org/olympic_community_police_station], reported that “the Task Forces are still continuing”; he described anti-prostitution enforcement. “We’re seeing about three suspects in hoodies and masks” either about to or having just committed a burglary. He noted the value of photos, especially of license plates. “A bunch of tourist thieves . . . are targeting our neighborhood.” “A lot of license plates [are] getting stolen,” as are catalytic converters, both of which can be specially locked. Do not confront thieves. Do not accept free jewelry; your jewelry, such as a watch, may be stolen. Mr. Smith noted that some thieves are using drones and jamming phone signals.

The next Agenda Item addressed was Item #II. F.

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], reported on Wilshire Blvd. improvements and that the LaBrea station is being finalized. The train is expected to be completed and operational in the “Fall of ’25,” including “bike lockers.”

The next Agenda Item addressed was Item #II. G.

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 training materials are available.

The next Agenda Item addressed was Item #III.

- F. Mayor's Office (Kenneth Miller - kenneth.g.miller@lacity.org (CD5 areas) and David C. Nguyen - david.c.nguyen@lacity.org (CD13 areas)).
David Nguyen, Central Area Representative for Mayor Karen Bass [213-978-3130; David.C.Nguyen@LACity.org; <http://LAMayor.org>], reported that a fires Disaster Recovery Center and employment help opened on the west side; it helps with FEMA, the SBA, City services, the Army Corps of Engineers, non-profit organizations, Permitting and rebuilding.

The next Agenda Item addressed was Item #II. D.

- 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>), reported that anti-price-gouging legislation passed; call 800-593-8222 to report price-gouging. Rental relief passed; it can help if you're impacted by the fires, including a lost job; see Recovery.LACounty.gov for information and help. They "want to consolidate" the 14 County agencies that're funding anti-homelessness work; process started.
- I. Other Government Representatives.
Joshua Marin-Mora, a representative for State 51st District Assemblymember Rick Chavez Zbur [323-436-5184; <https://a51.asmdc.org>], reported that film tax credit legislation was introduced, and AB 648 is being considered for community colleges to build housing on land they own.

The next Agenda Item addressed was Item #II. E.

III. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Karen Gilman requested agendaizing discussion of SB 79, which she said "takes away City's control of zoning laws" and gives it to the State. Caroline Me, of the KYCC [<https://www.kyccla.org>], said they offer all-day childcare. Amardeep Gill, of the LA Alliance for a New Economy, requested people to support grocery workers by signing the workers' "community solidarity statement." Gigi Martinez, of CicLAvia [www.CicLAvia.org], announced the Sunday, April 6th 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. event, which will be partly along Wilshire Blvd., for non-motorized vehicles (bicycles, etc.) and walking; motorized vehicles are not permitted.

The next Agenda Item addressed was Item #IV. C.

IV. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS REPORTS BY ALLIANCE REPRESENTATIVES AND NC LIAISONS.

A. Budget Representative (Jack Humphreville).

Mr. Humphreville reported for the Budget Advocates [<http://BudgetAdvocates.org> or <http://ncbala.com>] that a major City budget deficit is expected due to various factors. The Mayor's budget will be submitted April 20th.

Board Member MJ Anderson arrived at this time (6:43, replacing Alternate Dave Cavalier), keeping 17 Board Members present (the GWNC quorum is thirteen).

Mr. Humphreville said that City Controller Kenneth Mejia is making reliable budget estimates.

The next Agenda Item addressed was Item #II. A.

B. LADWP (Jack Humphreville).

Mr. Humphreville reported that there is significant litigation regarding water availability during recent fires.

The next Agenda Item addressed was Item #IV. A.

C. LANCC (Jennifer DeVore).

Ms. DeVore reported that at LANCC [the Los Angeles Neighborhood Councils Coalition; LANCC@EmpowerLA.org; www.LANCC.org], Neighborhood Councils asked LANCC to issue a Community Impact Statement (CIS) regarding AB 79 and a "lack of local zoning control." There's a need to monitor City Council File 24-0861. SB 411 needs to be extended for Zoom meetings capability; a CIS will be needed.

Mr. Starr said that "LANCC is open to everyone."

D. Other Liaisons or Representatives.

No other Liaison reports were made.

V. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS (Discussion and Possible Action)

A. Filling Board and Board Alternate Vacant Seats.

1. Filling Vacancies: Religion, Country Club Heights (fillable 4/23/25). Motion: The GWNC accepts the resignation of Selene Betancourt due to her moving away from Country Club Heights.

MOTION (by Mr. D'Atri, seconded by Ms. Harvey): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council accepts the resignation of Selene Betancourt due to her moving away from Country Club Heights.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by consent with all 17 in favor; zero opposed; zero abstained.

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.

There was no Motion.

4. Oath of Office (for newly appointed board members): “I pledge to represent the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council with dignity, integrity, and pride. I will encourage other points of view, even when they differ from my own. I will respect, value and consider everyone’s opinion. I will find the good in my neighborhood and praise it and promote it. To my neighbors, and to neighborhoods throughout the City of Los Angeles, I pledge to do this to the best of my ability.”

Mr. Cavalier read aloud the Oath of Office. [He’d been elected at the last meeting.]

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

1. EmpowerLA Training Guidelines: “Board members must have completed all FIVE trainings (Ethics, Funding, NEW Code of Conduct, Anti-Bias and Gender Expression and Gender Identity Training) in order to be current and vote on the board.” Failure results in ineligibility to vote on funding and non-funding items in committee and general board meetings.

a) Currently unable to vote (as of 3/9/2025):

- Board Members: none
- Board Alternates: Newby, Cox, Winther, Aboltin, Stuart, Cavalier

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.

Ms. DeVore & Mr. Starr noted the above.

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, Cavalier

Ms. DeVore confirmed that all Board Members and Alternates were current.

3. Ethics and Funding Training: Ethics and Funding training is required every two years for Board members/Alternates and failure to take/update training renders members ineligible to vote on funding and non-funding motions. 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); Cavalier (Ethics, Funding); Cox (Ethics); Newby (Ethics); Stuart (Ethics); Winther (Ethics, Funding)

4. Gender Expression and Gender Identity Training: Gender training is required to vote on both funding and non-funding items. You must only complete this training once. The following are ineligible to vote until this training is complete: Aboltin, Cavalier, Newby
5. Anti-Bias (ABLE) Training: ABLE training is required to vote on both funding and non-funding items. You must only complete this training once. The following are ineligible to vote until this training is complete: Aboltin, Cavalier

Above Item #'s 3 – 5 were noted.

C. Adoption of GWNC General Board Meeting Minutes.

1. February 2025

No corrections or amendments were made.

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

MOTION PASSED unanimously by consent with all 17 in favor; zero opposed; zero abstained.

VI. OFFICER REPORTS

A. President's Report.

Mr. Starr encouraged seeing the Bd/docs file for related documents. He reported that the City Clerk is allowing the GWNC Education and also Religion Board Seat candidates to run as Non-Profit candidates, saying the GWNC Bylaws are unclear about it.

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 February 2024 and to Approve Each Individual Expense Listed Therein.

Card Expenses

2/3/25	Public Storage	\$234.00
2/11/25	Larchmont Chronicle	\$ 98.00
2/21/25	The UPS Store March-June	\$193.00

Ms. Carroll reviewed the above.

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Carroll, seconded by Ms. DeVore): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves Monthly Expenditure Report (MER) for February 2025 and to Approve Each Individual Expense Listed Therein.

Ms. Carroll explained that the Public Storage expense is for document and materials (signs, etc.) storage, and that the GWNC doesn't have an office.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by consent of the 17 eligible voters present with all 17 in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Anderson, Carpenter, Carroll, Chvatal, Cortier, Curran, D'Atri, DeVore, Galan, Gilbert, Gresham, Harvey, Kim, Lewis, Sicilia, Smith and Starr); zero opposed; zero abstained.

2. Review of past Board Expenses that may appear on the March 2025 MER.

2/6/25	AppleOne	\$689.40
2/1	AppleOne	\$459.60
2/1	AppleOne	\$636.42
2/24	AppleOne	\$643.44
2/24	AppleOne	\$494.07
2/24	AppleOne	\$689.40
2/24	AppleOne	\$416.96
2/24	Ume Works	\$101.25
2/28	Village Mail Call	\$300.00
NPG	Reissue check	\$200.00

Ms. Carroll reviewed the above.

3. Possible Motion: to [see the below Motion].

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Carroll, seconded by Ms. DeVore): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council will increase payment to Public Storage from \$234 to \$247 Per Month beginning March for an increase March thru June of \$54 to be taken from rollover funds.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by consent of the 17 eligible voters present with all 17 in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Anderson, Carpenter, Carroll, Chvatal, Cortier, Curran, D'Atri, DeVore, Galan, Gilbert, Gresham, Harvey, Kim, Lewis, Sicilia, Smith and Starr); zero opposed; zero abstained.

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.
Ms. Harvey reported that door-hangers “are made”; email Outreach@GreaterWilshire.org to get them. So far, there’ve been 227 voting applications. The GWNC’s representative at the City Clerk’s Office is Lanee.Basulto@LACity.org, 213.978-0444.

VIII. LAND USE COMMITTEE (Discussion and possible action)

- A. Committee Report - Chair: Brian Curran

There was no report.

- B. 200-202 S. Orange Dr: Update and discussion with neighbors and stakeholders with regards to the change of use for the property located at 200-202 S. Orange Dr. Application for Class 2 Conditional Use Permit to operate a Synagogue in an R-2 zone. Case no: ZA-2024-6488-CU2. Area 2: Citrus Square; CD5. Possible Motion: The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council will write a letter of support for the efforts of Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky and the CD 5 staff toward mitigating the issues raised between the congregation of Beis Medrash (of Hancock Park) at 200-202 S. Orange Dr. and its neighbors.

Mr. Curran explained the issue. Neighbors had many concerns.

Board Member Jeff Carpenter recused and was ineligible to vote (self-declared as ineligible to participate in a discussion or vote on a Motion(s) in this Item due to a possible or known conflict of interest) (he lives in an adjacent property), and was muted and left the video at this time. His Alternate Ericka Stuart replaced him, keeping 17 Board Members present and eligible to vote (the GWNC Board quorum is thirteen). Recusing is not the same as abstaining from voting, which is declining to vote “yes” or “no.”

MOTION (by Mr. Curran, seconded by Mr. Gresham): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council will write a letter of support for the efforts of Councilwoman Katy Yaroslavsky and the CD 5 staff toward mitigating the issues raised between the congregation of Beis Medrash (of Hancock Park) at 200-202 S. Orange Dr. and its neighbors.

DISCUSSION: Neighbor John Perfitt read a statement requesting that the GWNC not vote until the owner’s CUP application is complete. Neighbor Jason said parking “is a mess” and people are in the street because of the synagogue. Neighbor Mark Yellen said “this is not a neighbor dispute”; rather it’s a “compliance and enforcement” issue. Mr. Smith cautioned not to let this issue divide the community. Mr. Gresham and Ms. Chvatal reminded that the GWNC “is advisory only.” Ms. Stuart said the synagogue is “obstructing people observing” them.

MOTION PASSED by a roll call vote of the 17 eligible voters present with 13 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Anderson, Carroll, Chvatal, Cortier, Curran, D’Atri, DeVore, Galan, Gilbert, Gresham, Harvey, Kim and Lewis); one opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (Stuart); three

abstained (the GWNC counts abstentions as neither “yes” votes or “no” votes) (Sicilia, Smith and Starr). One recused and was ineligible to vote (Carpenter, whose Alternate, Stuart, voted in Carpenter’s place).

Jeff Carpenter’s recusal ended and he was unmuted and returned to the video at this time, replacing his Alternate Ericka Stuart and keeping 17 Board Members present online and eligible to vote (the GWNC Board quorum is thirteen).

C. Next Meeting: The next GWNC Land Use Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 25, 2025, via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/91527869326>

Mr. Curran noted the above.

IX. RESILIENCE COMMITTEE (Discussion and Possible Action)

A. Committee Report - Chair: Gary Gilbert.

1. Update on “So you think you’re prepared?” Quiz.

Mr. Gilbert updated; will email Board Members to share quiz with others.

2. Share new plan to address fire preparedness in the GWNC area

It was said that Greater Wilshire residents can do more to prepare, including vegetation trimming.

3. Create a supplemental list for earthquake preparedness

Mr. Gilbert noted the above.

B. Possible Motion:

1. Appoint Diana Braker as a committee member

MOTION (by Mr. Gilbert, seconded by Ms. DeVore): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council Appoint Diana Braker as a Committee Member

MOTION PASSED unanimously by consent with all 17 in favor; zero opposed; zero abstained.

C. Next Meeting: The next GWNC Resilience Committee Meeting will be held on Monday, April 1, 2025 at 6:30 PM on Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88960982957>

Mr. Gilbert noted the above.

The next Agenda Item addressed was Item #XIV.

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.
2. Possible Motion to accept the resignation of Selene Betancourt from the Committee.

B. Next Meeting: The next GWNC Outreach Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 18, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/98276791581>

The above Item was skipped.

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

A. Committee Report - Chair: Polly Estabrook.

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

C. Next Meeting: The next GWNC ESC meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 3, 2025 via Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/92827811179>.

The above Item was skipped.

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

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

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>

The above Item was skipped.

XIII. TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (Discussion and possible action)

A. Committee Report - Chair: Cindy Chvatal.

B. Next Meeting: Thursday, March 20, 2025 at 6:30pm via Zoom. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/92159935555>

The above Item was skipped.

XIV. NEW BUSINESS (Discussion and Possible Action)

A. GWNC Election March 30th Candidate Forum (Zoom).

1. Possible Motion: The GWNC approves the following rules for the March 30, 2025 Candidate Forum: each candidate will be allotted 2 minutes and will be heard in order by seat (as in the GWNC Bylaws), then alphabetically by first name; any candidate who states they were unable to join the meeting when their seat is called may be heard at the end of the meeting; once all candidates present have spoken, the meeting will be adjourned.

MOTION (by Ms. Harvey, seconded by Ms. Lewis): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves the following rules for the March 30, 2025 Candidate Forum: each candidate will be allotted 2 minutes and will be heard in order by seat (as in the GWNC Bylaws), then alphabetically by first name; any candidate who states they were unable to join the meeting when their seat is called

may be heard at the end of the meeting; once all candidates present have spoken, the meeting will be adjourned.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by consent with all 17 in favor; zero opposed; zero abstained.

B. Zoom Licenses

1. Possible Motion: The GWNC [see the below Motion].

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Harvey, seconded by Mr. D’Atri): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council will request the extension of its two (2) Zoom licenses for the 2025-26 Fiscal Year at \$200 each, including the primary license associated with info@greaterwilshire.org and the secondary license associated with committees@greaterwilshire.org.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by consent of the 17 eligible voters present with all 17 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Anderson, Carpenter, Carroll, Chvatal, Cortier, Curran, D’Atri, DeVore, Galan, Gilbert, Gresham, Harvey, Kim, Lewis, Sicilia, Smith and Starr); zero opposed; zero abstained.

XV. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Upcoming GWNC Board Meeting: The next GWNC General Board Meeting will be held at 6:30 PM on Wednesday, April 9, 2025 at the Ebell of Los Angeles. See agenda when posted for details.

There were no comments or announcements.

XVI. REQUESTS/MOTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Ms. Chvatal and Ms. DeVore also requested to agendize discussion of SB 79. Mr. D’Atri encouraged contacting him with quality of life concerns for the Committee to address.

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Starr declared and the Board agreed to **ADJOURN** the Meeting at 8:59 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>.