



Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council
Charter Reform Ad Hoc Committee

May 7, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes
Approved by the GWNC Board on July 8, 2026

I. WELCOMING REMARKS

A. Call to Order

A duly noticed meeting of the Charter Reform Ad Hoc Committee of the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council ("GWNC") was held virtually over Zoom (Webinar ID No. 852 7699 4679) on May 7, 2026. Committee chairperson, Conrad Starr, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

B. Welcome

Mr. Starr welcomed the assembled group and provided instructions on giving public comment and using the Zoom features to raise one's hand.

C. Roll Call

Mr. Starr called the roll. Three of the four committee members were present (Mr. Starr, John Gresham, and Erika Stuart). [The GWNC Charter Reform Ad Hoc Committee quorum (the minimum number of Committee Members needing to be present to take binding votes on Agendized Items) was 51% of 4 Committee Seats, or three, so the Committee was able to take such votes.] Mark Alpers was absent. There were two members of the public present according to the Zoom interface.

II. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There was no public comment.

III. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

A. Ratification of revised March 12, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Starr explained that he had found an error in the March 12th minutes which had been approved at the previous meeting: the meeting date had been incorrectly listed in Section I.A. He had made the correction and uploaded the corrected minutes, so a ratification by the body was needed.

Mr. Starr moved to ratify the revised meeting minutes for March 12, 2026. Ms. Stuart seconded. The motion passed unanimously (3/0/0).

B. Review and Adoption of the April 9, 2026 Meeting Minutes.

Mr. Starr called for any corrections. There were none.

Mr. Starr moved that the Committee adopt the April 9, 2026 Meeting notes as presented. Ms. Stuart seconded. The motion carried by a vote of 3/0/0.

IV. PRESENTATIONS

A. Tori Kjer (Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust) - Funding for LA Rec & Parks

Tori Kjer addressed the committee. She explained that, in her role at the Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust, she advocates for parks and park funding, and she works with the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP). She encouraged the GWNC to voice its support for the Charter Reform Commission's recommendation to City Council to double RAP's budget. The previous update to the allocation was in 1937, although there was an occasional additional general fund allocation or a contribution from Council Offices' discretionary funds. Additionally, she noted, RAP operates the Greek Theater and other concessions which helps them fill budget gaps.

Still, Kjer explained, LA RAP was the lowest funded such department among Los Angeles' sister cities — at \$90 per capita versus \$300 per capita [it was unclear whether this was the average and which sister cities were considered].

Kjer said deferred maintenance was leading to neglect. In February, the Charter Reform Commission adopted the recommendation unanimously among members present and voting. She said 10 votes were needed in City Council to avoid a mayoral veto. Councilwoman Yaroslavsky had not yet voiced her support, but 8 other members had. Kjer said the organizers of the effort were open to a phased doubling of the budget over a four-year term.

Responding to committee member questions, Kjer said the recommendation to double the allocation was based on a recent needs assessment study that was conducted over 15 months. She said RAP currently had no capital improvement budget, and unless a council office would pay for it, something as simple as a new fence was not in the budget.

Ms. Stuart said it was a quality-of-life issue.

In public comment, GWNC Director, Tony Gittelsohn, asked about the specific budgetary allocation and whether it would be shared with the public library system. Kjer said the proposed reform would function to double the current \$300M budget to \$600M. Libraries were not included in this proposed charter reform.

Responding to Mr. Starr's question, Kjer said Los Feliz and Venice Neighborhood Councils had already submitted or were planning to submit Community Impact Statements (CIS). Kjer agreed to provide Mr. Starr with a letter from RAP explaining their budgetary needs and core functions as well as an implementation plan. She mentioned that much of the money would be used to restore services the city had cut. RAP used to have 600 gardeners, for example; while currently there were only 300.

V. COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS

Mr. Gresham reported that the Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition (LANCC) had asked NCs to file CISes restating that the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (BONC) should be in charge of the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE).

VI. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Mr. Starr explained that he had not presented the GWNC's CISes at the City Council Committee meeting the week prior. He asked for the committee's help in identifying when City Council and Committee meetings where charter reform was to be discussed — and in attending and speaking at those meetings.

VII. COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT(S)

- A. Proposed Motion: Recommendation that the GWNC file one or more Community Impact Statement(s) (CIS) to City Council and Committees (Council File No's. (if

applicable) _____) and/or other City Departments [POSITION TO BE TAKEN/LETTER TO BE REFERENCED] and that the GWNC appoint [NAME(S)] to present any GWNC CIS on Charter Reform matters when the GWNC President is unavailable to present.

1. FIRST MOTION

Mr. Gresham moved to recommend that the GWNC file a CIS to City Council and Committees in support of the CRC recommendation that the Recreation and Parks budget be doubled, with a four-year “onramp”; and that the GWNC appoint Mark Alpers, John Gresham, Conrad Starr, and Erika Stuart to present the CIS whenever the GWNC President is unable to do so. Ms. Stuart seconded.

In discussion, Ms. Stuart and Mr. Starr said they looked forward to more detailed information regarding the RAP budget, as Ms. Kjer had agreed to send.

There was no public comment.

The motion passed 3/0/0.

2. SECOND MOTION

Mr. Gresham moved to recommend that the GWNC file a CIS to City Council and Committees in support of the LANCC recommendation that the BONC have oversight authority over DONE; and that the GWNC appoint Mark Alpers, John Gresham, Conrad Starr, and Erika Stuart to present the CIS whenever the GWNC President is unable to do so. Mr. Starr seconded.

There was no further discussion or public comment.

The motion passed 3/0/0.

VIII. VOLUNTEER ASSIGNMENTS FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS

- A. City Council and Committee Meetings
- B. LANCC Meetings
- C. GWNC Board Meetings

No assignments were agreed to.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- A. GWNC Charter Reform Ad Hoc Committee Regular Meeting Schedule

It was agreed to continue meeting every 4 weeks to allow the committee to forward timely recommendations to the Board just prior to its monthly meeting. The next meeting would then be on June 4th.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:39 p.m. without objection.

Respectfully submitted by Conrad Starr. The GWNC Charter Reform Committee Minutes are located at <https://greaterwilshire.org/ad-hoc-committee-agendas-minutes/>.