



Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council  
General Board Meeting August 9, 2017  
Approved by the Board on September 13, 2017

**I. WELCOMING REMARKS**

A. Call to order (Owen Smith – President)

A duly noticed Meeting of the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council (“GWNC”) Board of Directors was held on Wednesday, August 9, 2017, at the Ebell of Los Angeles, 743 S. Lucerne Blvd., Los Angeles. President Owen Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 p. m.

B. Flag Salute (Frances McFall)

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ms. McFall.

C. Roll Call (Joe Hoffman – Secretary)

Secretary Joseph Hoffman called the roll. Thirteen of the 21 Board Members or their Alternates were present at the Roll Call: Colette Amin (Alternate for Tucker Carney), Scott Appel, Jeffry Carpenter, Patricia Carroll (Treasurer), John Gresham, Joseph Hoffman (Secretary), Max Kirkham, Bobbie Kumetz, Frances McFall, Steven Senigram, Owen Smith (President), Julie Stromberg and John Winther. Phivan Ha (Alternate for Karen Gilman), Caroline Moser and Greg Wittmann arrived later. Five Board Members were absent and not represented by an Alternate: Charles D’Atri, Philip Farha, Michael Genewick, Barbara Savage and James Wolf (Vice-President). New Alternate Area 9 – Oakwood/Maplewood/St. Andrews Seat Board Member Tess Paige was appointed to the Board during below Item #VI. A. The GWNC quorum (the minimum number of Board Members needing to be present to take binding votes on Agendized Items) is 3/5 of the 21 currently filled Board Seats, or 13 Members (see <https://lacity.quickbase.com/db/bj3apxsp3?a=q&qid=32&qskip=0&qrppg=1000&dlta=su46~>), so the Board could take such votes. All 21 of the 21 Board Seats were filled (by election or appointment). Three Alternate Seats were vacant: Education; Religion; and Area 3 Alternate; to apply see [www.GWNC.org](http://www.GWNC.org).] Also attended: approximately 18 Stakeholders and guests.

**II. COMMUNITY/GOVERNMENT REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(Representatives from government offices and community-based organizations)

A. CD4 Update (Catherine Landers)

Catherine Landers, Senior Deputy for L.A. City District Four Councilman David Ryu (213-473-7004; [Catherine.Landers@LACity.org](mailto:Catherine.Landers@LACity.org); <http://CD4.LACity.org>), reported that Athens will cover most of the GWNC area’s trash pickup; if there are any problems, call 800-777-2489.

B. CD5 Update (Robert Oliver)

Robert Oliver, Field Deputy for L.A. City District Five Councilman Paul Koretz (310-289-0353; Robert.Oliver@LACity.org; www.lacity.org/council/cd5), reported that the sidewalk rebate program increased.

*Board Member Caroline Moser arrived at this time (7:05), making 14 Board Members (or their Alternate(s)) present (the GWNC quorum at this Meeting was 13).*

Mr. Oliver continued regarding the Starbucks at Willoughby and Highland that they are working with LADOT to prevent illegal left-turns. Cooling center information is available.

C. LAPD Senior Lead Officers / CPAB (Frank Rosato)

Hebel Rodriguez, LAPD Wilshire Division Senior Lead Officer (office 213.473.0476; mobile/text phone 213.793.0715; 35738@LAPD.LACity.org; www.LAPDWilshire.com), could not attend. Frank Rosato, Co-Chair, LAPD Wilshire Division CPAB (Community Police Advisory Board) (<http://www.lapdwilshire.com/community-police-advisory-board.html>), invited everyone to CPAB meetings on third Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. at the Wilshire Station.

D. Metro (Ned Racine)

Mr. Racine was not present; there was no report.

E. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (John Darnell)

John Darnell, Project Coordinator, L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) (213-978-1551; John.Darnell@LACity.org; www.EmpowerLA.org), reported that planning trainings are available. Homelessness Civic University will be August 30<sup>th</sup>. Saturday, September 9th [7:45 a.m.-4:00 p.m.] is the Congress of Neighborhood Councils at City Hall [[NCCongressLA.com](http://NCCongressLA.com), 213-978-1551].

*Board Members Phivan Ha (Alternate) and Greg Wittmann arrived at this time (7:11 and 7:12), making 16 Board Members (or their Alternate(s)) present (the GWNC quorum at this Meeting was 13).*

F. Other local government representatives

Aurelia Friedman, Field Rep. for Congressman Ted Lieu (323) 651-1040; Aurelia.Friedman@mail.house.gov; <https://lieu.house.gov>), introduced herself and offered help.

**III. CITY BUDGET and NC BUDGET ADVOCATES** (Discussion and possible Board action) (Jack Humphreville, Julie Stromberg)

A. DWP Report

Ms. Stromberg reported that a City advisory committee was formed to achieve 100% renewable energy.

B. Budget Advocate Report

Ms. Stromberg reported that the City budget gap for next Fiscal Year is expected to be more than \$100 million, not including pensions.

C. LANCC Report

There was no report regarding the Los Angeles Neighborhood Councils Coalition [LANCC@EmpowerLA.org; www.LANCC.org].

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

There were no public comments at this time.

**V. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS** (Discussion and Board Action)

A. Review and adoption of July 12, 2017 minutes (Joe Hoffman)

**MOTION** (by Mr. Hoffman, seconded by Ms. Moser): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its July 12, 2017 General Meeting as written.

It was requested and agreed to TABLE this Item.

B. Date change for October 11, 2017 meeting. Due to a conflict with the Jewish holiday, the Greater Wilshire NC Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 18, 2017 at the usual time and location. Please update your calendars.

Mr. Hoffman noted the above.

**VI. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

A. Introduction, Approval, Installation of New Board Alternate – (Discussion and Board Action). Tess Paige – Area 9 – Oakwood/Maplewood/St. Andrews. Neighborhood Council Oath of Office: “I pledge to represent the Greater Wilshire NC 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.”

**MOTION** (by Mr. Kirkham, seconded by Mr. Hoffman): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council nominates Tess Paige as the Area 9 – Oakwood/Maplewood/St. Andrews Representative [Alternate] Board Member.

**MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a hand vote; zero opposed; zero abstained.

Ms. Paige read aloud the Oath of Office. She introduced herself and has been an Outreach Committee Member since January.

B. Alternate Board Member Vacancies. Eligible for nominations of qualified candidates, to be submitted to the Board for approval: Education; Religion; and Area 3 Alternate.

Mr. Smith noted the above.

C. Board Member and Alternate Training Requirements. All board members and alternates must complete ethics and funding training in order to vote on funding motions before the board. The training courses and instructions can be found at <http://empowerla.org/boardmembers/>. The following Board Members and Alternates are shown, by DONE, as NOT having completed the trainings noted below and are NOT eligible to vote on financial matters: Mintz – Ethics & Funding; Morgens – Ethics; Rosales – Ethics & Funding; and Savage – Ethics.  
Mr. Smith noted the above.

D. Code of Conduct Policy – All Board Members and Alternates are required to read and sign the Neighborhood Council Code of Conduct Policy (online version at <http://empowerla.org/code-ofconduct/>) within 30 days of their election or appointment. Members who have not yet completed the Code of Conduct include: [*none were on the Agenda*].  
Mr. Smith noted the above.

## **VII. TREASURER’S REPORT** (Discussion and Board Action, as noted) (Patti Carroll)

A. Approval of Monthly Expenditure Report (MER) for July 2017 (Discussion and Board action)

7/4 Public Storage - \$129

7/12 San Wilshire - Board Handouts - \$40.05

7/25 San Wilshire - LUC Handouts - \$17.66

Copies were distributed of and Ms. Carroll reviewed the Report. Ms. Carroll reported that there have been “lots of funding changes . . . everything’s being done online.”

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Ms. Carroll, seconded by Mr. Kirkham): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves its Monthly Expenditure Report for July 2017.

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a roll call vote of the 16 eligible voters present with all 16 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Amin, Appel,, Carpenter, Carroll, Gresham, Ha, Hoffman, Kirkham, Kumetz, McFall, Moser, Senigram, Smith, Stromberg, Winther and Wittmann); zero opposed; zero abstained.

B. Approval of individual expenses listed in the July 2017 MER (Discussion and Board Action). See above.

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Ms. Carroll, seconded by Mr. Kirkham): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves the individual expenditures it made in July 2017.

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a roll call vote of the 16 eligible voters present with all 16 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Amin, Appel, Carpenter, Carroll, Gresham, Ha, Hoffman, Kirkham, Kumetz, McFall, Moser, Senigram, Smith, Stromberg, Winther and Wittmann); zero opposed; zero abstained.

C. Review July 2017 Board Expenses that will show up on the August 2017 Monthly Expense Report (Discussion only, no Board Action necessary)

Larchmont Chronicle, July \$340  
Lloyds Staffing, SF - 6/11 \$400  
Lloyds Staffing, SF - 6/18 \$400  
Lloyds Staffing, SF - 6/25 \$400  
Lloyds Staffing, SF - 7/2 \$400  
Lloyds Staffing, DL - 6/27- LUC \$154.44  
Lloyds Staffing, DL - 6/14 & 6/13 - Board and Sustainability \$225.23  
Lloyds Staffing, DL - 5/23 - LUC and Sustainability \$173.75  
Ebell Rent, July – Board meeting \$350  
UMC Rent LUC, July meeting \$150

Ms. Carroll encouraged viewing the website.

D. Pre-Approval of Upcoming Board Expenses (Discussion and Board Action)

Larchmont Chronicle Aug - \$340  
Public Storage – Aug \$129  
Ebell Aug \$350  
Lloyds Staffing - TBD  
Sans Wilshire, photocopies - TBD  
UMC Rent LUC , Aug \$150  
Larchmont Family Fair \$350

Ms. Carroll reviewed the above

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Ms. Carroll, seconded by Mr. Hoffman): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council pre-approves the upcoming expenses indicated by its Treasurer.

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a roll call vote of the 16 eligible voters present with all 16 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Amin, Appel,, Carpenter, Carroll, Gresham, Ha, Hoffman, Kirkham, Kumetz, McFall, Moser, Senigram, Smith, Stromberg, Winther and Wittmann); zero opposed; zero abstained.

E. Review and update of General Treasury information and DONE update

Ms. Carroll encouraged reviewing the DONE newsletter.

**VIII. OUTREACH COMMITTEE** (Discussion and Possible Board Action as noted) (Joe Hoffman)

A. Update on the August 5, 2017 meeting.

Mr. Hoffman reported that there will be an award given next month.

B. Citizen Recognition Awards. The Greater Wilshire NC seeks nominees for its Citizen Recognition Program. Details at: <http://greaterwilshire.org/citizen-recognition-program/>  
Mr. Hoffman encouraged nominations.

- C. Allocation of Advertising Funds to boost Facebook coverage. Proposed motion: The Greater Wilshire NC [see the below Motion].  
Mr. Hoffman reported that the Committee discussed this; Mr. Carney is helping improve outreach. Mr. Hoffman noted that the Motion funding already was budgeted. He and other Board Members explained the value of electronic outreach.

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Mr. Hoffman, seconded by Mr. Kirkham): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council will allocate up to \$20 month from existing Outreach Advertising budget for boosting select posts on Facebook to exponentially increase our reach.

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** by a roll call vote of the 16 eligible voters present with 15 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Amin, Appel,, Carpenter, Carroll, Gresham, Ha, Hoffman, Kirkham, Kumetz, Moser, Senigram, Smith, Stromberg, Winther and Wittmann); one opposed (McFall); zero abstained.

- D. Next Outreach Committee meeting: September 2, 2017 at 9am at Bricks and Scones Café, 403 N. Larchmont Blvd.  
Mr. Hoffman noted the above.

#### **IX. TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE** (Julie Stromberg)

- A. Safe Sidewalks LA - EIR Notice of Preparation & Initial Study Release.  
Ms. Stromberg explained that “the City has committed to improving our sidewalks over a 30-year period” starting two years ago. Priority has been given to accessibility requests and in transportation corridors. Public comments can be made by September 15<sup>th</sup> at Sidewalks.LACity.org. She urged reviewing the Environmental Impact Report; many trees will be removed, resulting in “a big deforestation . . . so many . . . details . . . were not considered.” The Bureau of Engineering is overseeing the project. If a repair request is made that involves a tree, the tree may be removed unless the owner specifically “advocates” saving the tree.
- B. Safe Sidewalks LA - Update on Program and Increase in Rebate Cap  
Ms. Stromberg reported that the cap increased from \$2,000 for residential and \$4,000 for commercial to \$10,000 each.
- C. Next GWNC Transportation Committee will be on Monday, August 21, 2017, at 7:00 p.m., at Marlborough School, 250 South Rossmore Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90004.  
Ms. Stromberg noted the above.

#### **X. SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE** (Discussion and Possible Board Action) (Julie Stromberg, Barbara Savage). Update on GWNC "Green Fest" 2017; Next meeting will be Tuesday, September 12, 2017, 7:00 p.m., Marlborough School, 250 S. Rossmore Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90004.

Ms. Stromberg reported that the Green Fest will be a joint program with City Council District Four (CD4) at L.A. Memorial Library Park. She explained permit and other detail challenges. CD4 will pay for the GWNC booth. She noted the next meeting date.

**XI. NEW BUSINESS** (matters not previously identified for future consideration and action).

Ms. McFall was concerned regarding the City borrowing money for lawsuit payouts. Mr. Smith said his block trims their trees and encouraged homeowners to make their own sidewalk repairs.

**XII. LAND USE COMMITTEE** (Jim Wolf)

*[The following sub-section first paragraphs are copied from the Agenda.]*

A. 3377 W. Olympic Blvd. (Discussion and Possible Action) (Kate Hennigan). Eldercare facility with Alzheimer's memory care, professional medical office, restaurant, retail. Eldercare Facility Unified Permit for an eldercare facility with 146 residential units, including 24 Plan Review for an eldercare facility with more than 50 new residential units. REQUEST: Removal of outdated Building on Gramercy Drive. Applicant was asked to bring outreach information to the LUC APCC-2017-569, ENV-2017-570. The Land Use Committee voted 9-0-0 to oppose the project for various reasons: Height limits; no notice to 2 adjacent neighbors; building lines; and retail. Proposed motion: That the Board of the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council [see the below Motion].

Mr. Hoffman explained the project. Tom Smith, of the Country Club Park Neighborhood Association, said they would like to be kept informed. He said "it's too high . . . [and] not appropriate for the neighborhood."

**MOTION** (by Mr. Hoffman, seconded by Ms. Moser): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council opposes the project at 3377 W. Olympic Blvd. as presented by the applicant.

**MOTION PASSED** by a hand vote; zero opposed; one abstained (the GWNC counts abstentions as neither "yes" votes or "no" votes) (Smith).

B. 5226 W. Melrose Avenue (Discussion and Possible Action) (Ariel Gutierrez) Zone Variance to allow a 370-sq. ft. spray booth within an existing auto body repair facility in the C2 zone. Present use Auto Body Shop with a Spray Booth. Proposed use, (No Change) Auto Body Shop with a Spray Booth. ZA-2017-2354-ZV, ENV-2017-2355-EAF. The applicant did not appear and the committee voted unanimously to oppose the application. Proposed motion: That the Board of the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council [see the below Motion].

Mr. Hoffman explained the project.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Hoffman, seconded by Mr. Kirkham): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council opposes the application for a zone variance at 5226 W. Melrose Ave. until presented by the applicant.

**MOTION PASSED** by a hand vote; zero opposed; one abstained (the GWNC counts abstentions as neither “yes” votes or “no” votes) (Smith).

*[The Agenda did not show a sub-letter for the following Item.]*

4749 W. Elmwood Ave. (Discussion and Possible Action) (Matthew Hayden). Demolition of an existing single-family dwelling and construction, use, and maintenance of new 14-unit apartment building, including 1 unit (10%) for very low-income households, approximately 45-feet. Pursuant to: LAMC 12.22 a 25, approval of affordable housing incentives for DB as follows: parking option # 1; off-menu incentive-12-foot front yard; off-menu incentive-1 compact stall in lieu of a standard stall. CPC-2017-2121-DB, ENV-2017-2122- EAF. The Land Use Committee voted 9, 0, 0 to oppose the project as the developer did not appear. Proposed motion: That the Board of the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council [see the below Motion].

**MOTION** (by Mr. Hoffman, seconded by Mr. Gresham): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council opposes the project 4749 W. Elmwood Ave. until presented by the applicant.

**MOTION PASSED** by a hand vote; zero opposed; one abstained (the GWNC counts abstentions as neither “yes” votes or “no” votes) (Smith).

C. 5058 W. Maplewood Ave (Discussion and Possible Action) (Hamid Dehghan). Demolition of an existing single-family dwelling and construction of a new 13-unit residential apartment building with (1) very low income affordable unit. DIR-2017-2437-DB, ENV-2017-2438-EAF. The Land Use Committee voted 9-0-0 to oppose the project as presented. Proposed motion: That the Board of the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council [see the below Motion].

**MOTION** (by Mr. Hoffman, seconded by Ms. Moser): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council opposes the project at 5058 W. Maplewood Ave. as presented.

**MOTION PASSED** by a hand vote; zero opposed; two abstained (the GWNC counts abstentions as neither “yes” votes or “no” votes) (Kirkham and Smith).

D. 324-326 S. St. Andrews Place (Discussion and Possible Action) (Joseph Pascoguin). Change of use of 2 existing storage rooms into 2 studio units, to total 23 dwelling units Also changing 3 existing guest rooms into new studio units. Units will total 26 dwelling units. (Present number of units is 21). ZA-2017-534-ZV. The Land Use Committee voted unanimously to oppose the zone variance to change the required density and the change of use of two storage rooms to studio units as the applicant had already made the changes to the building and was seeking permission after the fact. Proposed motion: That the Board of the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council [see the below Motion].

Mr. Hoffman explained the project.



**MOTION** (by Mr. Hoffman, seconded by Mr. Gresham): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council opposes the zone variance and change of use application for 324-326 S. St. Andrews Place.

**MOTION PASSED** by a hand vote; zero opposed; one abstained (the GWNC counts abstentions as neither “yes” votes or “no” votes) (Smith).

E. Next Land Use Committee meeting: August 22, 2017 at 6:30 pm.

Mr. Hoffman noted the above and a possible new meeting location.

F. Possible agenda items for upcoming meetings:

- i. Updates to General Plan, Community Plans, and NC Participation. City Hall is conducting closed door meetings regarding the updates of the General Plan and Community Plans. When they are open meetings, they are at City Hall during the day which makes it very difficult for public participation. The coalition is asking for open meetings and that they be held on weeknights or weekends so the public can participate in these meetings that are going to impact the future of the City. The Chair appointed a committee to study the issues.
- ii. 3869-3879 Wilshire Blvd/626-664 S. St. Andrews Place: 16 – Story, 196 – Unit Building with 5 levels of parking
- iii. 985-991 3rd Ave.: Applicant is requesting Vesting Tentative Tract for 6 single-family lots in accordance with the Ordinance on a 7.982.3 sq. ft. parcel of land in the C2.1 zone.
- iv. A proposed amendment to LAMC concerning location restrictions and limited immunity from enforcement of specific City prohibitions relating to commercial Cannabis Activity. CPC-2017-2260-CA, ENV-2017-2261-EAF.
- v. 703 N. McCadden Place: Modification of the approved Preliminary Parcel Map to allow a 20% reduction in the rear and side yards. AA-2016-1963-PMLA-M1.
- vi. 407 S Sycamore Ave: La Brea Hancock New Q Condition CPC-2017-2533-ZC. ENV-2017-2534-ND
- vii. 848 N. June St: Application for new Multi-Family Zones – South Hollywood, CPC-2017-2604-ZC
- viii. 429 N. Western Ave.: Conditional Use Permit to allow the sale and dispensing of a full line of alcoholic beverages for a restaurant/karaoke studio with hours of operation from 11:00 am to 2:00pm. ZA-2017-2730-CUB, ENV-2731-CE

Mr. Hoffman referred to the above for information.

### **XIII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS/LIAISON REPORTS**

A. Congress of Neighborhoods (Colette Amin)

Ms. Amin noted some of the many workshops. All are invited; register at NCCongressLA.com.

B. Film Liaison report (Colette Amin)

Ms. Amin requested being contacted by area representatives.

*Alternate Board Member Colette Amin left at this time (8:23), making 15 Board Members (or their Alternate(s)) present (the GWNC quorum at this Meeting was 13).*

C. Homeless Liaison (Joe Hoffman)

Copies were distributed of the “Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count by City/Community.” Mr. Hoffman noted the Count results, describing the increase in homelessness over last year and challenges to address it.

**XIV. REQUESTS/MOTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Next meeting - Wednesday, September 13, 2017

There were no requests or Motions at this time.

Mr. Smith declared and the Board agreed to **ADJOURN** the Meeting at 8:31 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.* Edited by GWNC. The GWNC Minutes page is

<http://www.greaterwilshire.org/site/site/?q=node/581>.