



Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council General Meeting
January 14, 2015
MINUTES
Approved by the Board, 2-11-15

1. WELCOMING REMARKS:

A. Call to order & Flag salute

A duly noticed Meeting of the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council (“GWNC”) Board of Directors was held on Wednesday, January 14, 2015, at the Ebell of Los Angeles, 743 S. Lucerne Blvd., Los Angeles. President Owen Smith called the meeting to order at 7:03 p. m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Frances McFall.

B. Board Roll call

Secretary Jeffrey Carpenter called the roll. Thirteen of the 21 Board Members or their Alternates were present at the Roll Call: Jeffrey Carpenter, Patricia Carroll, Michael Genewick, Joseph Hoffman, Fred Mariscal, Frances McFall, Caroline Moser (Alternate for Jack Humphreville), Robby O’Donnell (Alternate for John Gresham), Clinton Oie, Owen Smith, Julie Stromberg, John Winther and James Wolf. William Funderburk, Karen Gilman (Alternate for Jane Usher), Jack Humphreville (replacing Ms. Moser [Alt. Bd. Member]), Patricia Lombard and Eric Oliver (Alternate for Ann Eggleston) arrived later. Four Board Members were absent and not represented by an Alternate: Jason Peers, Dorian Shapiro, Daniel Whitley and Greg Wittmann. The GWNC quorum (the minimum number of Board Members needing to be present to take binding votes on Agendized Items) is 13 (see <http://www.greaterwilshire.org/site/files/GreaterWilshireApprovedReorderedBylawAmendments051712Updated102612.pdf>), so the Board could take such votes. All 21 Board Seats were filled (by election or appointment). No Board Seats were vacant (some Alternate Seats were vacant; see below). Also attending: 22 Stakeholders and guests.

2. COMMUNITY/GOVERNMENT REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

(Representatives from government offices and community-based organizations)

A. New Olympic Division Neighborhood Prosecutor (Steve Houchin)

Steve Houchin, L.A. City Deputy Attorney, Olympic Division, Neighborhood Prosecutor Program (213) 978-7904; Steve.Houchin@LACity.org; <http://atty.LACity.org/CRIMINAL/NeighborhoodProsecutorProgram/index.htm>), introduced himself and described his role and background. He focuses “on quality of life issues” such as “chronic crime problems.” He encouraged contacting him as he “works very closely with Senior Lead Officers.”

Alternate Board Member Eric Oliver (for Ann Eggleston) arrived at this time, making 14 Board Members (or their Alternate(s)) present (the GWNC quorum is 13).

Board Members Jack Humphreville and Bill Funderburk arrived at this time, making 15 Board Members (or their Alternate(s)) present (the GWNC quorum is 13). [Note: Mr. Humphreville took over for his alternate, Caroline Labiner Moser, who held the seat at roll call, so his presence did not change the overall number of members present.]

B. CD4 Update (Ben Seinfeld)

Mr. Seinfeld, Field Deputy for L.A. City District Four Councilman Tom LaBonge (213-485-3337; cell 213-804-2388; Ben.Seinfeld@LACity.org; <http://CD4.LACity.org>), could not attend and there was no report at this time.

C. CD5 Update (John Darnell)

[*This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #4C.*] Mr. Darnell, Field Deputy for L.A. City District Five Councilman Paul Koretz (310-289-0353; John.Darnell@LACity.org; www.lacity.org/council/cd5), reported that he is working on the Interim Control Ordinance [“(ICO) to prohibit all demolitions of single-family residences in proposed HPOZ and RFA districts, until appropriate amendments to the Baseline Mansionization Ordinance have been adopted and put into force, and allow additional neighborhoods to subsequently petition for protection under the ICO.” – GWNC November 12, 2014 Item #6. H. i. Motion passed.] Work also is being done to clear the homeless camp at the Bank of America Rosewood/La Brea office.

D. LAPD Senior Lead Officer

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 and there was no report at this time.

3. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Ann Porter of Move to Amend (<http://MoveToAmend.org>) described their work and that some Neighborhood Councils support their work. Their film “A Question of Personhood” on YouTube explains more. Tara Bannister, City Council District Four Candidate (VoteTara.com), described her background, interests and priorities.

4. PRESENTATIONS

A. GWNC Citizen Recognition Award: Henrietta Cosentino (Fred Mariscal)

Ms. Cosentino is being honored for her many years of work with the St. Andrews Square Neighborhood Association and other groups and causes in the GWNC area.

Mr. Mariscal described Ms. Cosentino’s extensive community service and presented the Award to her [applause].

B. 2014 Neighborhood Purpose Grant Recipient Reports/Updates

i. Enrichment Center (Diann Farmer)

After Item #IV. B. viii., Ms. Farmer thanked the GWNC for previous support and described how the GWNC's funding was used in the Enrichment Center's summer program.

ii. Wilshire Crest Elementary School (Jocelyn Duarte)

GWNC Administrative Consultant Elizabeth Fuller described how Wilshire Crest's music program was cut, and then restored, by LAUSD...but the school still needs additional funds to repair instruments and buy consumable items like strings. She distributed fliers for the Wilshire Crest PTA "Jazzed About Music!" fundraising event, which will be partially paid for by last year's GWNC grant

iii. Friends of Wilshire Library (Madeline Idelfonso, Debbie Willis)

Ms. Idelfonso, Branch Manager, and Ms. Willis described how GWNC grant funds were used for the "Wilshire Branch Library Landscaping & Container Garden Project," which beautified the library grounds and increased community involvement.

iv. L.A. Drama Club (Julia Blaire)

Ms. Blaire thanked the GWNC for previous support and described how the GWNC grant helped fund student Shakespeare productions last summer.

v. Enrich LA

No representative was present and there was no report.

vi. Harrison Trust/L.A. High (Joyce Kleifield)

Ms. Kleifield, Executive Director, thanked the GWNC for last year's grant, and described how it was used to beautify the grounds of L.A. High School.

vii. YMCA (Kitty Gordillo)

Ms. Gordillo was not present and there was no report.

viii. Wilshire Park Elementary

No representative was present and there was no report.

C. Melrose BID Pedestrian Improvement Project (Presentation and Request for Possible Board Action) (Jeff Jacobberger)

Mr. Jacobberger, of Civic Enterprise Associates, described the Project and asked for a letter of support.

MOTION (by Mr. Humphreville, seconded by Mr. Winther): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council will write a letter of support for the Melrose BID Pedestrian Improvement Project.

MOTION PASSED with no objection.

5. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:

A. Review and adoption of December 10, 2014 Minutes

MOTION (by Mr. Carpenter, seconded by Mr. Hoffman): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its December 10, 2014 General Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED with no objection.

6. **BOARD & COMMITTEE MEMBER REPORTS** (including discussion and possible action items, if listed):

A. **President**

- i. **Board Vacancies** – openings for Alternate Board Members for the following seats: Area 2 – Citrus Square; Area 3 – Country Club Heights; Area 9 – Oakwood/Maplewood/St. Andrews; Area 12 – Western-Wilton; Education; Other Non-Profit; and Religion.

Mr. Smith noted the above.

- ii. **Ethics & Funding Training reminder.** All Board Members and Alternates must complete ethics training in order to vote on funding motions before the Board. The course is available online at <http://www.fppc.ca.gov/index.php?id=477>. In addition to Ethics training, all Board Members and Alternates are also **REQUIRED** to take a new funding training course (about the new system of NC checking accounts that will be launched soon). The course is at <http://empowerla.org/leadership-academy/#Funding> Be sure to submit your completion forms (included in the training) to register your attendance. Board Members and Alternates **MUST** complete both trainings to be eligible to vote on funding-related matters. The following Board Members and Alternates have **NOT** completed the trainings noted below and are **NOT** eligible to vote on financial matters: [A table in the Agenda showed which Board Members and Alternates need to complete trainings.]

Mr. Smith noted the above.

- iii. **Code of Conduct Forms** -- All Board Members and Alternates are required to read the new Neighborhood Council Code of Conduct Policy (see handout or the online version at <http://empowerla.org/code-of-conduct/>). Return paper forms to GWNC Administrator Elizabeth Fuller, or let Ms. Fuller know if you have submitted the online form. (Those who do not submit forms may soon be banned from voting or counting toward a Board quorum, even if present.) Forms not yet received from: Peers, Shapiro, Asch, Bartenetti, D'Atri, Fox, McManus, Mintz, Mulligan and O'Donnell.

Mr. Smith noted the above.

B. **Treasurer** (Discussion and Board Action, as indicated) (Carroll/Fuller)

- i. **Approval of Monthly Expenditure Report** (Discussion and Board action)

Copies were distributed of the “Monthly Expenditure Report for: December 2014” and the GWNC “Budget for Fiscal Year 2014-2015 APPROVED August 13, 2014.” GWNC Administrative Consultant Elizabeth Fuller reviewed expenses.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Hoffman, seconded by Ms. McFall): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves its Monthly Expenditure Report for December 2014.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 12 eligible voters present with all 12 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (, , Oliver, Funderburk, Genewick, Gresham, Hoffman, Humphreville, Mariscal, McFall, Oie, Smith, Stromberg, , and Wolf); zero opposed; zero abstained.

Board Member Patricia Lombard arrived at this time, making 16 Board Members (or their Alternate(s)) present (the GWNC quorum is 13).

ii. **Approval of upcoming individual expenses, if any** (Discussion and Board action).

Ms. Fuller reviewed the individual expenses during the month of December.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Humphreville, seconded by Ms. McFall): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves the individual expenditures it made in December 2014.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 13 eligible voters present with all 13 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (, Oliver, Funderburk, Genewick, Gresham, Hoffman, Humphreville, Lombard, Mariscal, McFall, Oie, Smith, Stromberg, and Wolf); zero opposed; zero abstained.

FUNDING MOTION (by Mr. Humphreville, seconded by Ms. McFall): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves allocating up to \$50 for postage to the end of the Fiscal Year.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 13 eligible voters present with all 13 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Oliver, Funderburk, Genewick, Gresham, Hoffman, Humphreville, Lombard, Mariscal, McFall, Oie, Smith, Stromberg, and Wolf); zero opposed; zero abstained.

iii. **Update on status of current year contracts for Wilshire United Methodist Church, Ebell of Los Angeles and Elizabeth Fuller (as previously approved by the Board)**

Ms. Carroll reported that contracts processing is awaited from the Church, the Ebell and DONE [the L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment].

iv. Presentations of 2014-2015 NPG applications (first group; more in Feb. after January 15 application deadline)

Ms. Fuller noted that \$8,050 in funding is available and described a possible funding consideration process.

a. Champion Fund

Copies were distributed of a Neighborhood Purposes Grant (NPG) Application for the Champion Fund. No representative was present and there was no presentation.

b. Community Policing Unit

Copies were distributed of an NPG Application for the Los Angeles Police Foundation. No representative was present and there was no presentation.

c. Enrichment Center (Diann Farmer)

Ms. Farmer said they will be submitting their application tomorrow, and requested that her presentation be re-agendized for next month.

d. Friends of 3rd Street School

Copies were distributed of an NPG Application for the Friends of Third Street School. Mike August said funding would be for “an intercom secretary system”; they have 775 students with “three main entranceways . . . unsecured throughout the day.” The system “would allow the front office to act as a gatekeeper.”

e. Wilshire Crest PTA (Lydia Olivier)

Copies were distributed of an NPG Application for the Wilshire Crest PTA. Ms. Olivier indicated funding would be for the school’s garden education program, which provides twice monthly classes on gardening and nutrition for all students at the school. Copies were distributed of information fliers about the “Wilshire Crest ES Farm Schoolyard Habitat Outdoor Classrooms.”

f. L.A. Drama Club (Blaire Larsen)

Copies were distributed of an NPG Application for the Los Angeles Drama Club. Julie Wesson described the program; around 50-75 children participate. Funds would be used for costumes, props and other items to support the summer Shakespeare Youth Festival.

g. Other last-minute entries?

Copies were distributed of an NPG Application for the First-In Fire Foundation; no representative was present and there was no presentation. Amy Vukovich, Ebell Theater Chair, requested funding for drought-tolerant landscaping along the public sidewalk on the east side of the Ebell property. Zoe Corwin presented an application for funds to support the library, and a new catalog system, at Larchmont Charter School.

Alternate Board Member Karen Gilman (for Jane Usher) arrived at this time, making 17 Board Members (or their Alternate(s)) present (the GWNC quorum is 13).

- v. **Appointment of Ad Hoc NPG Review/Award Committee** (to meet to consider all applications after second group of applicant presentations is completed at February Board Meeting; announce awards at March Board Meeting)

Board Members Patricia Carroll, Karen Gilman (Alternate for Jane Usher), Joseph Hoffman, Patricia Lombard, Frances McFall, Eric Oliver (Alternate for Ann Eggleston) and Julie Stromberg volunteered to be on the Ad Hoc Committee.

C. DWP MOU Liaison (Humphreville)

i. Updates on current DWP issues

Mr. Humphreville reported that 5% each electric and water bill mid-year rate increases are expected. He was concerned with an expected \$8-\$10 billion Stormwater Plan cost.

D. City Budget and NC Budget Advocates (Humphreville) (Discussion and Board Action, as indicated below)

i. Updates on City budget process

Mr. Humphreville reported that the City Budget draft is due in mid-April. The City “is not hiring anybody,” affecting services. There are many excellent new City Department heads.

E. LANCC Report (Humphreville)

i. Updates from latest LANCC meeting

Mr. Mariscal described LANCC (the Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition)’s request to the Mayor to work with the Veterans Administration to assist homeless veterans and read aloud a Motion that LANCC passed. LANCC elections are soon.

F. Outreach Committee (Mariscal)

i. CD4 candidate forum planning (Lombard) (Discussion and possible Board action) – Status report from January 10 GWNC/MCWCC planning meeting.

Ms. Lombard reported that the Forum will be held on February 8th at John Burroughs Middle School [the election is March 3rd]. The Principal is helping. Mr. Smith requested that Candidates be asked for their position regarding the Park Mile Specific Plan. Questions will be submitted in advance to Candidates to prepare written statements.

ii. Neighborhood “Top 10” priorities lists. Update: still need lists from Brookside, Hancock Park, Larchmont Village, Melrose, and Western-Wilton. Spreadsheet now available on Google Docs at

https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0BxH_mJhUJSCvWGVDYjNjZ0pMalU&usp=sharing. (Hoffman)

Mr. Mariscal described the “Top 10.”

iii. **Sycamore Square Neighborhood Walk** (Fuller) – Sunday, February 22 at 2 p.m. (starting at NE corner of Sycamore & Olympic).

Mr. Mariscal noted the above. Ms. Fuller said she will have more details closer to the event.

G. Transportation Committee (Michelle Owen/Julie Stromberg) (Discussion and Board Action, as noted)

i. **Bureau of Street Services Neighborhood Council Initiative Update** (Stromberg).

Update on repairs done on Jan. 9 at: a. Cahuenga Blvd. at Clinton St; b. 101 S Lucerne Blvd.; c. 2nd St across from alley west of Larchmont Blvd.; d. Larchmont Blvd. at 2nd St; e. 4th St at Hudson Avd; and f. 10th St from Lucerne Blvd. to dead end west of Lucerne Blvd.

Ms. Stromberg noted the above.

ii. **Looking for Mobility Plan Speaker**

Ms. Stromberg noted the above.

iii. **Next TC meeting: Monday, February 2**

Ms. Stromberg noted the above. Ms. McFall requested and Ms. Stromberg agreed that the Committee will address concerns about skateboarders and bicyclists.

H. Land Use Committee (James Wolf)

i. **No meeting in December; next meeting January 27**

Mr. Wolf noted the above.

ii. **Larchmont Bungalow appeal hearing at City Council PLUM Committee**

(Announcement only; GWNC position already on file with City.) January 13, 2:30 p.m., Board of Public Works Edward R. Roybal Hearing Room 350

Mr. Wolf noted the above. The Hearing was continued to January 27th. The Bungalow appealed the denial of their zone change request. Ms. Lombard was concerned that the denial may be overturned; she encouraged attending and testifying at the Hearing, reminding that “the public comment period is still open.” The Larchmont Chronicle [<http://larchmontchronicle.com>] has more information.

iii. **Update on La Brea-Hancock RFA status** (Update only; GWNC support already on file) (Bill Funderburk/Barbara Savage)

Mr. Funderburk and Ms. Gilman reported that the City Attorney is drafting language.

iv. **Possible agenda items for upcoming LUC meetings** (no action at this time):

Mr. Wolf noted that the following items were presented for information only. No action was requested or required at this time.

- a. Construction of a 4-story, 11-unit apartment complex, with Density Bonus and two on-menu incentives at **5036 Rosewood Ave.**
- b. Construction of a 30-unit apartment building at **4180 W. Wilshire Blvd.**
- c. Change of Use to convert the old Scottish Rite Temple to a private, non-profit museum at **4357 W. Wilshire Blvd.**
- d. Construction of an unmanned wireless telecommunications facility atop an apartment building at **407 S. Gramercy**
- e. Renewal of a full-line liquor CUB (with later closing time) at the Ebell of Los Angeles, **743 S. Lucerne**
- f. Density bonus project at **801-813 N. Hudson**
- g. CUB application to allow sales of beer and wine at the Verneti (formerly Girasole) restaurant at **225 N. Larchmont Blvd.**
- h. Construction of a new 6,000 square foot retail space at **101 N. La Brea**
- i. CUB application to allow sales of a full line of alcoholic beverages at an existing restaurant space on the 7th floor at **4680 W. Wilshire** (former Farmer's Insurance building)
- j. Construction of new 5-story, 44-unit condominium building at **850 S. Crenshaw Blvd.**

Mr. Wolf indicated that there were no other potential Agenda Items.

7. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Homeless camp at B of A Rosewood/La Brea office (Carpenter)

Mr. Carpenter reported that work is being done to clear the encampment.

B. Citrus Square's Citrus Ave. petition submitted to Shawn Bayiss in CD 5, appreciation to the Council Office for its support of concerns (Carpenter)

Mr. Carpenter reported that Citrus Square wants to join the Interim Control Ordinance.

C. Next meeting, Wednesday, February 11, 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Smith noted the above and announced a January 27th Brookside meeting regarding CIM plans to build an apartment complex at 5036 Rosewood Ave.

8. REQUESTS/MOTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no requests at this time.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Smith **ADJOURNED** the Meeting with no objection at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David Levin, Minutes Writer

The first paragraph of some Items is directly from the Agenda. Edited by GWNC.