Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council General Meeting  
April 8, 2015  
MINUTES  
Approved by the Board 5/13/15

1. **WELCOMING REMARKS:**
   A. Call to order & Flag salute (Owen Smith)

   A duly noticed Meeting of the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council (“GWNC”) Board of Directors was held on Wednesday, April 8, 2015, at the Ebell of Los Angeles, 743 S. Lucerne Blvd., Los Angeles. President Owen Smith called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Frances McFall.

   B. Board Roll call (Jeffry Carpenter)

   Secretary Jeffry Carpenter called the roll. Nine of the 19 Board Members were present at the Roll Call, which is not a quorum: Jeffry Carpenter, Ann Eggleston, Joseph Hoffman, Jack Humphreville, Fred Mariscal, Frances McFall, Owen Smith, Jane Usher and John Winther. Patricia Carroll, Michael Genewick, William Funderburk and Patricia Lombard arrived later. Six Board Members were absent and not represented by an Alternate: John Gresham, Jeff McManus, Julie Stromberg, Daniel Whitley, Greg Wittmann and James Wolf. The GWNC quorum (the minimum number of Committee Members needing to be present to take binding votes on Agendized Items) is 12 (see http://www.greaterwilshire.org/site/files/GreaterWilshireApprovedReorderedBylawAmendments051712Updated102612.pdf), so at this time the Board could only take public comments and could not have any discussions, make any Motions or take any votes.

   Nineteen of the 21 Board Seats were filled (by election or appointment). Two Board seats were vacant (Area 9 – Oakwood/Maplewood/St. Andrews, and Education) (and some Alternate Seats were vacant; see below). Also attending: 15 Stakeholders and guests.

2. **COMMUNITY/GOVERNMENT REPORTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:**
   (Representatives from government offices and community-based organizations)

   A. CD4 Update (Ben Seinfeld)

   Ben 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.

   B. CD5 Update
John Darnell, Field Deputy for L.A. City District Five Councilman Paul Koretz (310-289-0353; John.Darnell@LACity.org; www.lacity.org/council/cd5), could not attend and there was no report at this time.

C. LAPD Senior Lead Officers

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.

D. Other local government representatives

Greg Bartz, Community Liaison, DWP (L.A. Dept. of Water and Power) (213-367-2800, Greg.Bartz@ladwp.com), distributed copies of the “2015 Briefing Book” and encouraged contacting DWP security [see https://www.ladwp.com/ladwp/faces/ladwp/residential/r-customerservices/r-cs-reportaproblem/r-cs-rp-securityservices?_afrLoop=52888218390892&_afrWindowMode=0&_afrWindowId=19fdatvfc_1%40%3F_afrWindowId%3D19fdatvfc_1%26_afrLoop%3D52888218390892%26_afrWindowMode%3D0%26_adf.ctrl-state%3D19fdatvfc_29] if you see any safety situation. He noted that “almost 80%” of Los Angeles’ water is bought from the Metropolitan Water District.

Board Member Patti Carroll arrived at this time, making 10 Board Members (or their Alternate(s)) present (the GWNC quorum is 12).

33rd Congressional District (Melissa Ramoso)

Melissa Ramoso, Legislative Assistant for U.S. 33rd District of California Congressman Ted Lieu (323-651-1040; Melissa.Ramoso@mail.house.gov; https://lieu.house.gov), could not attend and there was no report at this time.

L.A. County Supervisors (Felicia Park-Rogers, representative for Sheila Kuehl)

Felicia Park-Rogers, Westside Senior Field Deputy for L.A. County District Three Supervisor Sheila Kuehl (213-974-3333; FParkRogers@bos.lacounty.gov; http://www.lacounty.gov/government/supervisors/sheila-kuehl), could not attend and there was no report at this time.

3. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There were no public comments at this time.

4. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

A. Review and adoption of March 11, 2015, Minutes [The following item was handled after additional Board Members arrived, completing the quorum.]
MOTION (by Mr. Humphreville, seconded by Mr. Winther): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its March 11, 2015 General Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote.

5. PRESIDENT’S REPORT (including discussion and possible Board action, as noted):
A. Board Vacancies
   Area 9 – Oakwood/Maplewood/St. Andrews; and Education

   Mr. Smith noted the vacancies. [To apply see www.GWNC.org and http://www.greaterwilshire.org/site/files/GreaterWilshireApprovedReorderedBylawAmendments051712Updated102612.pdf.]

B. Alternate Board Members still needed for:
   Area 3 – Country Club Heights; Area 4 – Fremont Place, Area 8 – Melrose; Area 9 – Oakwood/Maplewood/St. Andrews; Area 12 – Western-Wilton; Education; Other Non-Profit; and Religion

   Mr. Smith noted the vacancy(ies). [To apply see www.GWNC.org and http://www.greaterwilshire.org/site/files/GreaterWilshireApprovedReorderedBylawAmendments051712Updated102612.pdf.]

C. 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). 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 list in the Agenda shows which Board Members and Alternates need to complete trainings.]

   Mr. Smith noted the above.

D. 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: Dan Whitley and Peggy Bartenetti.

   Mr. Smith noted the above.
E. GWNC Representatives Attending DONE’s Civic University: Caroline Labiner Moser and Colette Amin

Mr. Smith noted that Ms. Moser and Ms. Amin attended the L.A. Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) event.

*The following item was handled after additional Board Members arrived, completing the quorum.*

6. **2016 ELECTIONS** (Discussion and possible Board Action, as noted)
   A. Update on DONE’s implementation of online voting

   Board Members expressed concerns regarding the security and accuracy of online and phone voting. It was agreed that the GWNC will not have any online or phone voting.

   B. Discussion and Board Action to approve GWNC’s 2016 Election Stipulation Worksheet (Usher)

   Copies were distributed of the GWNC Neighborhood Council Administrative and 2016 Election Procedures Stipulation Worksheet (i.e. Stip Sheet). Ms. Usher explained that she and Ms. Fuller drafted it. Ms. Usher reviewed it, including that the GWNC will not have any online or phone voting.

   **MOTION** (by Mr. Carpenter, seconded by Mr. Humphreville): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council will adopt its Administrative and 2016 Election Procedures Stipulation Worksheet.

   *Board Member Patty Lombard arrived after this vote, making 13 Board Members (or their Alternate(s)) present (the GWNC quorum is 12).*

   **MOTION PASSED** by a voice vote.

   C. Discussion and possible Board Action regarding staggered terms for GWNC Board Members (e.g. only half of Board up for re-election in any one election)

   It was noted that no such Bylaws changes would be made at this time.

*The following item was handled after additional Board Members arrived, completing the quorum.*

7. **TREASURER’S REPORT** (Patti Carroll)
   A. Approval of Monthly Expenditure Report for March 2015 (Discussion and Board action) (Fuller)
Copies were distributed of the GWNC Monthly Expenditure Report for March 2015. Ms. Fuller reviewed March expenses.


**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a roll call vote of the 12 eligible voters present with all 13 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Carpenter, Eggleston, Funderburk, Genewick, Hoffman, Humphreville, Lombard, Mariscal, McFall, Smith, Usher and Winther); zero opposed; zero abstained.

B. 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) (Carroll)

Ms. Carroll indicated that DONE has not provided more information about the above contracts. Also, DONE is considering whether the Wilton Islands maintenance needs to be contracted.

8. **DWP MOU LIAISON** (Discussion and possible Board action)(Humphreville)
   Updates, discussion and possible Board action on DWP rate increases and water conservation issues.

   Mr. Humphreville reported that the next “rate increase will probably be announced in May.” A report is expected soon regarding the DWP-controlled trusts. The MWD said we “must cut our [water] consumption by 25%.”

9. **CITY BUDGET and NC BUDGET ADVOCATES** (Humphreville) (Discussion and possible Board action)
   Discussion and possible Board action on subjects of the prospect of increased revenues, new programs, labor contracts, continued deficits…and sidewalk repairs.

   Mr. Humphreville reported that the Mayor’s budget will be announced April 20th. Revenues are expected to increase, however, Police salaries have increased.

10. **LANCC REPORT** (Mariscal)
   Updates, discussion and possible Board action on topics discussed at the April LANCC meeting.

   Mr. Mariscal reported that City Council President Herb Wesson spoke to LANCC [the Los Angeles Neighborhood Councils Coalition; LANCC@EmpowerLA.org; www.LANCC.org]. City Council President introduced a motion to allow Neighborhood Council (NC) Members five minutes, instead of the usual three, to speak at City Council Meetings and wants to increase NC budgets by $5,000. He also would like NCs to be able to roll over some amount of funds from Fiscal Year to Fiscal Year, to a maximum of three years. LANCC also passed a Motion to oppose the City Dept. of Recreation and Parks managing the Greek Theatre.
[The following items were handled after additional Board Members arrived, completing the quorum.]

11. **OUTREACH COMMITTEE** (Fred Mariscal) (Discussion and possible Board action, as noted)

   A. Discussion and Board action to approve presentation of citation to former GWNC Board Member Margaret Sowma on the occasion of her 100th birthday. (Citation will be presented by a GWNC representative at her birthday party on Saturday, April 25.) Outreach Committee Recommended Motion: [see the below Motion].

   **MOTION** (by Mr. Mariscal, seconded by Ms. McFall): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council will present a commemorative citation to former Board Member Margaret Sowma on the occasion of her 100th birthday.

   **MOTION PASSED** by a voice vote.

   Mr. Mariscal volunteered to present the citation at Ms. Sowma’s party.

   B. Discussion and Board action regarding participation in a joint CD4 candidate forum with Hollywood Hills West, Greater Toluca Lake and Hollywood United Neighborhood Councils – Event is scheduled for Thursday, April 30, at the Hall of Liberty Theater at Forest Lawn, from 7-9 p.m. Outreach Committee Recommended Motion: [see the below Motion].

   **MOTION** (by Mr. Mariscal, seconded by Mr. Funderburk): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council will co-sponsor the April 30 CD4 candidate forum with the Hollywood Hills West, Greater Toluca Lake, Silverlake, Los Feliz, Central Hollywood, Hollywood Studio District and Hollywood United Neighborhood Councils and the Mid-City West Community Council. GWNC participation will include publicity support via e-mail and social media, but no funding from the GWNC budget.

   **MOTION PASSED** by a voice vote.

   C. Request for Citizen Recognition Award candidates – Please contact Outreach Committee Members with suggestions for future awards.

   Mr. Mariscal noted the above.

12. **TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE** (Michelle Owen/Julie Stromberg) (Discussion and Board Action, as noted)

   A. Update, discussion and possible action on Revised Mobility Plan/Mobility Plan 2035

   Mr. Carpenter reported that the Committee met April 6th.
Board Member Mike Genewick arrived at this time, making 11 Board Members (or their Alternate(s)) present (the GWNC quorum is 12).

Mr. Carpenter described work on various issues. Ms. Stromberg will resign as Committee Secretary in May; a volunteer is needed. Mr. Smith described improvements in street repair technology.

Board Member Bill Funderburk arrived at this time, making a quorum of 12 Board Members (or their Alternate(s)) present. Now the Board could take binding votes on Agendized Items.

B. Discussion and possible action on request for LAPD Traffic Division to Address Speed Issues on Oakwood Avenue

No Motion was made or vote taken.

C. Discussion and possible action on request from Metro for Support of their Application for Financing Assistance to the State for the Procurement of the Train Cars needed by the Purple Line Extension

No Motion was made or vote taken.

D. Discussion and possible action on a response to the Offer of a Neighborhood Meeting with the Los Angeles City Bureau of Engineering Staff on Possible Noise Abatement Strategies for Station Area Construction Areas

No Motion was made or vote taken.

Board Member Jane Usher recused herself and left the room at this time and was replaced by her Alternate Karen Gilman; there still were 13 Board Members (or their Alternates) present (the GWNC quorum is 12).

13. LAND USE COMMITTEE (James Wolf) (Discussion and Board Action, as noted)

Ms. Fuller presented the following Land Use items.

A. Discussion and Board action on an application for a CUB to allow service of a full line of alcoholic beverages for on-site consumption at The Ebell of Los Angeles, 743 S. Lucerne.

Issue: The historic women’s club supports itself with space rentals for weddings and other special occasions where liquor service is an important element. The club had an old CUB that was allowed to expire, and is seeking to reinstate the privileges, including a one-hour later closing time (new hours would be 9 a.m. to midnight). Neighbors from the Windsor Village area expressed concerns regarding parking and late-night noise and traffic, but after several meetings with the Ebell representatives agreed that voluntary
conditions limiting the number of late-night events to six per year, as well as other proposed traffic and parking measures, would address the concerns. LUC

**Recommended Motion**: [see the below Motion].

Copies were distributed of the CUB/DRB/SPP Application. Ms. Fuller explained the issue. Mr. Hoffman noted that extended hours would be to 1:00 a.m. The Ebell agreed that such events would number no more than six per year.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Hoffman, seconded by Ms. Lombard): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council will support the application for a CUB to allow service of a full line of alcoholic beverages at the Ebell of Los Angeles, 743 S. Lucerne Blvd.

**MOTION PASSED** by a voice vote.

B. Discussion and Board action on an application for a variance to allow added density in the construction of a 162-unit apartment complex at 700 S. Manhattan Pl.

**Issue**: Applicants first presented at the November LUC meeting, and agreed at that time to drop the variance request in favor of a Density Bonus application. At the time, neighbors from the Country Club Heights area expressed concerns with density, height, neighborhood compatibility and other issues. Since November, however, the LUC has not received notice of any new applications, and the project representatives have not replied to requests for updates. LUC **Recommended Motion**: [see the below Motion].

Copies were distributed of renderings, site plans and elevations. Ms. Fuller explained the issue.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Genewick, seconded by Mr. Hoffman): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council will oppose the project as presented to date, due to the developers’ lack of communication, transparency and responses to our requests for information.

**MOTION PASSED** by a voice vote with 12 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Carpenter, Carroll, Eggleston, Funderburk, Genewick, Gilman, Hoffman, Humphreville, Lombard, McFall, Smith and Winther); zero opposed (“No” or “Nay”); one abstained (Mariscal).

C. Discussion and Board action on an application for a CUB renewal, parking variance and extended hours for the Xiomara restaurant at 6101 Melrose

**Issue**: Applicant is requesting a CUB renewal for the continued sale of a full line of alcoholic beverages for on-site consumption, with an earlier opening hour (to provide brunch service), a later closing time, a variance to continue to allow the required parking to be provided off site within 750 feet, secured via lease agreement in lieu of a covenant, and limited live entertainment. At the February LUC meeting, Committee Members requested that the applicants return with a survey of other restaurants and liquor permits in the area, to make sure the applicants’ newly requested hours are not outside the norm
for the neighborhood. Applicants returned in March, with a survey that showed the average closing hour is 10-11 p.m., so they revised their application/request to request hours of 10 a.m.-12 a.m. (just one hour later than the current permit allows). **LUC Recommended Motion:** [see the below Motion].

Copies were distributed of “Conditional Use Permit – Alcoholic Beverages, (CUB), Zone Variance – Off Site Parking Application.” Ms. Fuller explained the issue. The changes are earlier opening and later closing times.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Hoffman, seconded by Mr. Humphreville): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council will support the application for a CUB renewal with extended hours (10:00 a.m.-12:00 a.m.) at the Xiomara restaurant at 6101 Melrose Ave.

**MOTION PASSED** by a hand vote.

D. Discussion and Board action on an application for a CUB to upgrade from beer and wine sales to a full line of liquor sales at the DomainLA wine shop at 6801 W. Melrose Ave.

**Issue:** The wine shop currently has a permit for wine and beer sales (Type 42) and tasting events (Type 20), but recently won the ABC lottery for a license to sell a full line of spirits (and to hold tastings of both wine and other products such as tequila). The store has been open for five years with no complaints. **LUC Recommended Motion:** [see the below Motion].

Copies were distributed of a Conditional Use Permit Application. Ms. Fuller explained the issue. Mr. Carpenter and others were concerned whether there was enough parking. Ms. McFall was concerned with increasing alcohol sales in the area.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Mariscal, seconded by Mr. Winther): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council will support the application to allow the sale and tastings of a full line of alcoholic beverages at Domain LA, 6801 W. Melrose Ave.

**MOTION PASSED** by a hand vote.

E. Discussion and Board action on an application for a tract map to allow the conversion of a 2-unit duplex apartment building to 2 condominium units at 348-350 N. Orange Dr. **Issue:** Applicants are seeking to convert a 1927, 2-unit duplex at this address to 2 condominium units. Four parking spaces (condominium standard) are provided on site. LUC discussion centered on the pros and cons of increasing home ownership vs. decreasing the number of available rental units in the neighborhood. **LUC Recommended Motion:** [see the below Motion].

Ms. Fuller explained the issue.
MOTION (by Mr. Humphreville, seconded by Ms. Lombard): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council will support the application to convert the 2-unit duplex to 2 condominium units at 348-50 N. Orange Dr.

MOTION PASSED by a hand vote.

F. Discussion and Board action on a CUB application for beer and wine sales at the Burger Lounge restaurant at 217 N. Larchmont Blvd.

Issue: 64-seat restaurant is requesting a permit to sell beer and wine. Alcohol will be served in a contained area only, and not at sidewalk tables. Committee discussion centered on the number of liquor licenses in the area, and the fact that the license goes with the land and would convey to future tenants (this particular space has had several tenants in recent years). LUC Recommended Motion: [see the below Motion]. [note: the Committee’s vote on this was not unanimous – 9 in favor and 4 opposed]

Copies were distributed of “Conditional Use for Beer and Wine” Application. Ms. Fuller explained the issue. Several committee members explained that they had concerns about the building’s owner, and hesitated to grant a liquor permit that stays with the property.

MOTION (by Mr. Mariscal, seconded by Mr. Hoffman): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council will support the application for the sale of beer and wine at the Burger Lounge restaurant at 217 N. Larchmont Blvd.

MOTION FAILED by a hand vote with five in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”); six opposed (“No” or “Nay”); one abstained.

G. Application for a CUB to allow sales of a full line of alcoholic beverages at an existing restaurant space on the 7th floor at 4680 Wilshire Blvd. (currently the employee cafeteria at the Farmers’ Insurance building).

Issue: This application was withdrawn by the applicants just before the LUC meeting, but Land Use Committee Members debated whether or not it would be appropriate to make a pre-emptive statement about the appropriateness of alcohol licenses in this space within the Park Mile Specific Plan area, and – although primary restaurant uses are not allowed - what kinds of restaurants may be allowed as “accessory uses.” LUC Recommended Motion: None. (A motion to oppose liquor applications at this location within the Park Mile was proposed, but did not pass (the vote was tied 6-6).)

Copies were distributed of a letter withdrawing the CUB Application. Ms. Fuller explained the issue. Ms. Lombard explained why she feels a motion on the matter is still important.

MOTION (by Ms. Lombard, seconded by Mr. Carpenter): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council will oppose the license Application for a CUB to allow sales of a
full line of alcoholic beverages at an existing restaurant space on the 7th floor at 4680 Wilshire Blvd. (currently the employee cafeteria at the Farmers’ Insurance building).

DISCUSSION: Ms. Fuller explained the difference between “primary” and “accessory” use. Mr. Smith explained the history and importance of the Park Mile Specific Plan.

CALL for the QUESTION (by Mr. Hoffman).

MOTION PASSED by a hand vote with 12 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Carpenter, Carroll, Funderburk, Genewick, Gilman, Hoffman, Humphreville, Lombard, Mariscal, McFall, Smith and Winther); one opposed (“No” or “Nay”) (Eggleston); zero abstained.

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

i. Construction of a 162-unit, 7-story apartment complex at 700 S. Manhattan Pl.
ii. Development of a parking lot into 22 townhouse units over subterranean parking at 612 S. Norton and 4055 Wilshire Blvd.
iii. Construction of a 4-story, 22-unit apartment complex with Density Bonus at 5022-5026 Rosewood Ave.
iv. Construction of a 4-unit Small Lot Subdivision project at 5016 Rosewood Ave.
v. Change of Use to convert the old Scottish Rite Temple to a private, non-profit museum at 4357 W. Wilshire Blvd.
vi. Construction of an unmanned wireless telecommunications facility atop an apartment building at 407 S. Gramercy
vii. Density bonus project at 801-813 N. Hudson
viii. Construction of a new 6,000 square foot retail space at 101 N. La Brea
ix. 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 (Farmers’ Insurance building)
x. Construction of new 5-story, 44-unit condominium building at 850 S. Crenshaw Blvd.
xi. Construction of 169 apartments at 904-932 N. La Brea Ave.

The above was noted.

I. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS
A. Save the date: Windsor Square-Hancock Park Historical Society’s annual Garden Tour, Sunday, April 26: Brookside – Strolling Along the Stream, 1-4 p.m. Tickets $30/members, $35/non-members, contact pfrye1191@sbcglobal.net for more information.

Ms. Gilman noted the above.

B. Save the date: Big Sunday weekend, May 1-5. Many volunteer opportunities throughout the City and GWNC area (including Wilshire Crest School). See http://www.BigSunday.org to register.

Ms. Fuller noted the above.

C. Next meeting, Wednesday, May 13, 7:00 p.m.

The above was noted. Ms. Lombard encouraged voting in the City Council District Four election. There was discussion regarding voter information.

J. REQUESTS/MOTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were none at this time.

K. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Smith declared and the Board agreed to ADJOURN the Meeting at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
David Levin, Minutes Writer

The first paragraph of some Items, Motions/Resolutions and other wording may have been directly copied from the Agenda. Edited by GWNC.