



Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council General Meeting  
June 10, 2015  
MINUTES  
Approved July 8, 2015

**I. WELCOMING REMARKS**

A. Call to order & Flag salute (James Wolf)

A duly noticed Meeting of the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council (“GWNC”) Board of Directors was held on Wednesday, June 10, 2015, at the Anderson-Munger YMCA Multi-Purpose Room, 4301 W. 3rd St., Los Angeles, CA 90020. Vice-President James Wolf called the meeting to order at 7:15 p. m.

B. Board Roll call (Jeffry Carpenter)

Secretary Jeffry Carpenter called the roll. Fourteen of the 18 Board Members or their Alternates were present at the Roll Call: Jeffry Carpenter, Patricia Carroll, Michael Genewick, Karen Gilman (Alternate for Jane Usher), John Gresham, Joseph Hoffman, Jack Humphreville, Patricia Lombard, Fred Mariscal, Hanne Mintz (Alternate for Owen Smith), Eric Oliver (Alternate for Ann Eggleston), Barbara Savage (Alternate for William Funderburk), John Winther and James Wolf. Four Board Members were absent and not represented by an Alternate: Frances McFall, Jeff McManus, Julie Stromberg and Greg Wittmann. 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 18 currently filled Board Seats, or 11 Members present (see <http://www.greaterwilshire.org/site/files/GreaterWilshireApprovedReorderedBylawAmendments051712Updated102612.pdf>), so the Board could take such votes. Eighteen of the 21 Board Seats were filled (by election or appointment). Three Board Seats were vacant (Area 9 – Oakwood/Maplewood/St. Andrews, Education, and Other Non-Profit) (and some Alternate Seats were vacant; see below; to apply see [www.GWNC.org](http://www.GWNC.org) and <http://www.greaterwilshire.org/site/files/GreaterWilshireApprovedReorderedBylawAmendments051712Updated102612.pdf>]. Also attending: 19 Stakeholders and guests.

**II. 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](mailto:Ben.Seinfeld@LACity.org); <http://CD4.LACity.org>), could not attend and there was no report at this time.

B. CD5 Update (John Darnell)

[*This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #IV.*] 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), reported that more than 800 homeless people live in CD5. Also, the Councilman is considering replacing Highland Ave. median foliage with drought-tolerant plants. All watering is limited to no more than twice a week for no more than eight minutes each time. The City Budget “starting July 1<sup>st</sup>” includes funding to hire four more land use Planners.

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), reported that there have been a number of underground parking garage vehicle break-ins in the 800 blocks of Plymouth, Lorraine and Lucerne. He believed that it is a “crew of suspects.” The Police are checking surveillance cameras. There was a knock-knock distraction burglary in the 900 block of Plymouth. He reminded that if someone claims, for example, to be a door-to-door fundraiser, you can tell them to “leave information.” They should have an L.A. County solicitor card. The annual nationwide National Night Out will be the usual first Tuesday night in August [the 4<sup>th</sup>], possibly at L.A. High School, “for communities to come together and partner up with law enforcement”; they would like to partner with the GWNC and others. Curtis Clark, Community Representative, Los Angeles High School (323-900-4504; Curtis.Clark@lausd.net; http://www.lahigh.org), encouraged contacting him with National Night Out ideas. He also offered the High School’s community room for events.

D. 50th Assembly District (Tim Harter for Assembly Member Richard Bloom)

Mr. Harter could not attend and there was no report at this time.

E. Other local government representatives

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), reported that the West L.A. Veteran’s Administration Housing Center and front gate opened last week.

**III. OTHER PRESENTATIONS:**

A. Su Hwang and Merton Harris – Anderson-Munger YMCA

Mr. Harris noted that “the Y is open to all ages . . . the whole summer” for “as low as \$20 a month.”

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

Mr. Wolf led the Board in thanking outgoing GWNC Administrator Elizabeth Fuller for her years of service to the GWNC and the community. Scott Epstein, Mid City West Community

Council Chair, encouraged participating in the new Mid-Town L.A. Homeless Coalition to address homelessness; it meets monthly.

[*This Agenda Item was continued after Item #II. C.*] Kristina Chambers of the Nederlander Group reported that the City Recreation and Parks Dept. is “trying to self-operate the venue” and issued RFP’s due by the end of June; Nederlander already submitted one. She said “there’s been very little outreach to the neighbors” and noted that incoming City Councilman David Ryu emphasized “listening to the communities.”

#### **V. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS:**

##### **A. Review and adoption of April 8, 2015 Minutes**

It was noted that the April 8<sup>th</sup> Minutes already were approved [May 13<sup>th</sup>].

**MOTION** (by Mr. Hoffman, seconded by Mr. Mariscal): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its May 13, 2015 General Meeting as written.

**MOTION PASSED** by a hand vote without any objection.

##### **B. Status of Administrator hiring and interim transition (Carpenter/Fuller)**

Outgoing GWNC Administrator Elizabeth Fuller noted that ads were posted in various media and said “we have three applicants so far”; she is willing to help with the transition. She described the continued long process with DONE [L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (213-978-1551; [www.EmpowerLA.org](http://www.EmpowerLA.org))] regarding the position. Mr. Hoffman will handle electronic communications until a new Administrator is hired; Mr. Carpenter will handle more administration. Ms. Fuller reminded that Greg Wittmann is the Assistant Secretary. There was discussion of how to continue the successful model the GWNC uses to be one of the most productive and well-run Neighborhood Councils in the City.

#### **VI. PRESIDENT’S REPORT** (including discussion and possible Board action, as noted):

##### **A. Board Vacancies**

Mr. Wolf noted the vacancies: Area 9 – Oakwood/Maplewood/St. Andrews; Education; and Other Non-Profit.

##### **B. Alternate Board Members still needed for:**

Mr. Wolf noted the vacancies: 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.

##### **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 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.

[A list in the Agenda shows which Board Members and Alternates need to complete trainings.] Mr. Wolf 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/>). Currently, Business Alternate Peggy Bartenetti is the only GWNC Board Member or Alternate who has not turned in the required form.

Mr. Wolf noted the above.

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

A. Approval of Monthly Expenditure Report for May 2015 (Discussion and Board action) (Patti Carroll, Elizabeth Fuller)

Ms. Fuller reviewed the May Monthly Expenditure Report (MER), noting the following:

Expenses included:

- Larchmont Chronicle (May ad) - \$340.00
- Copy USA (Board meeting handouts) - \$78.15
- Public Storage (storage locker) - \$129.00
- Lloyd Staffing (Minutes writer) - \$141.57
- Lloyd Staffing (Minutes writer) - \$167.31
- Copy USA (LUC meeting handouts) - \$55.12

Also spent so far in June (all previously approved; will be included in June Monthly Expenditure Report at next month's meeting):

- Staples (multimedia projector) - \$383.15
- WebQuarry (one year website hosting) - \$95.40
- Public Storage (storage locker) - \$104.00

Soon to be billed/paid (also previously approved):

- Larchmont Buzz "business card"-size ad (one year) \$1,800.00

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Ms. Lombard, seconded by Mr. Hoffman): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves its Monthly Expenditure Report for May 2015.

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a roll call vote of the 13 eligible voters present with all 13 in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Carpenter, Carroll, Genewick, Gilman, Gresham, Hoffman, Humphreville, Lombard, Mariscal, Oliver, Savage, Winther and Wolf); zero opposed; zero abstained. Ms. Mintz was ineligible to vote due to not having completed Ethics and/or Funding Training.

- B. Approval of upcoming individual expenses already pre-approved as line items in this year's budget – must be spent by end of fiscal year (Discussion and Board action). (Patti Carroll, Elizabeth Fuller)  
- Office supplies (allocated \$500.00 in this year's budget)

Four individual expenses made so far during the month of June were reviewed. Ms. Fuller explained the need and recommended allocating funding, if available, for a fast printer/copier and for the Adobe Acrobat Pro software program.

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Mr. Hoffman, seconded by Mr. Carpenter): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves allocating up to \$1,500 for office supplies and equipment.

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a roll call vote of the 13 eligible voters present with all 13 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Carpenter, Carroll, Genewick, Gilman, Gresham, Hoffman, Humphreville, Lombard, Mariscal, Oliver, Savage, Winther and Wolf); zero opposed; zero abstained. Ms. Mintz was ineligible to vote due to not having completed Ethics and/or Funding Training.

- C. 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 reported that today DONE emailed that the Church can be paid. There has been no progress with DONE about the contracts for the Ebell and for Ms. Fuller.

- D. Approval of Budget Package for Fiscal Year 2015-2016 (Discussion and Board action)  
1. Self-Assessment

Ms. Fuller explained the above and that DONE agreed to push back the due date to September; the Board agreed to TABLE this Item.

2. Outreach Survey

Ms. Fuller explained and reviewed the above.

3. Strategic Plan

Ms. Fuller explained and reviewed the above.

4. Budget

Ms. Fuller reviewed the above and reminded that the Budget can be revised during the year. There was discussion of possible revisions.

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Mr. Gresham, seconded by Ms. Lombard): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council accepts its proposed Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Budget as presented.

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a roll call vote of the 13 eligible voters present with all 13 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Carpenter, Carroll, Genewick, Gilman, Gresham, Hoffman, Humphreville, Lombard, Mariscal, Oliver, Savage, Winther and Wolf); zero opposed; zero abstained. Ms. Mintz was ineligible to vote due to not having completed Ethics and/or Funding Training.

Ms. Fuller indicated that she will submit the Budget by July 1<sup>st</sup> to DONE.

**VIII. DWP MOU LIAISON** (Discussion and possible Board action) (Humphreville)

Discussion and possible action on:

- Rate increases
- Joint safety and training institutes (and resulting PR)
- Billing system (and resulting PR)
- Governance

Mr. Humphreville reported on the above and that a five-year, five percent rate increase is being considered.

**IX. CITY BUDGET and NC BUDGET ADVOCATES** (Humphreville) (Discussion and possible Board action)

Discussion and possible action on:

- City budget adopted
- Sidewalk “Fix & Release” repair proposals
- Litigation Risk / Ardon, DWP Transfer Fee

Mr. Humphreville reported on the above.

**X. LANCC REPORT** (Mariscal/Humphreville)

A. Mosaic property development issues [LaBrea and Hollywood Blvd.], Save Our Residential Hollywood campaign

Mr. Humphreville and Mr. Mariscal reported on the above.

B. Other

Mr. Humphreville and Mr. Mariscal reported on LANCC [the Los Angeles Neighborhood Councils Coalition; LANCC@EmpowerLA.org; www.LANCC.org]. There are four proposed Motions being considered. The next LANCC Meeting will be in August; he encouraged attending the June 27<sup>th</sup> Budget Day.

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

A. Second Sycamore Square Neighborhood Tour – Well attended. Good tool for other neighborhoods as well; would love to do them in more GWNC neighborhoods.

Mr. Mariscal reported on the Tour.

- B. Discussion of Great Streets Challenge Grants – Pros and cons of grant program; GWNC could partner with some of our neighborhood associations near the Western Ave. corridor on a project?

Mr. Mariscal explained the above. There was discussion of whether and how to participate.

**MOTION** (by Ms. Lombard, seconded by Mr. Hoffman): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council charges its Outreach Committee to create a concept for participating in a Great Streets initiative for Western Ave.

**MOTION PASSED** by a hand vote with no objection.

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

Mr. Mariscal encouraged submitting ideas.

## XII. TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (M. Owen/Stromberg/Carpenter) (Discussion and Board Action, as noted)

- A. New Committee Members needed – can be Board Members, Alternates or Stakeholders.

Mr. Carpenter reported that Committee Members are needed.

- B. Revised Mobility Element – seeking help to digest and gain greater understanding of plan and related actions (e.g. recent Council vote on relaxing developer requirements for street dedications). Ideas – consultants or other helpers?

There was discussion of what can or should be done about the above.

- C. Updates from May 21 Purple Line Extension community Meeting:  
- Tree removal (reduction in total number of trees; starting this summer near Wilshire/La Brea; removed trees being offered for sale)  
- Coming soon: 4 months of pile driving and 12 weekend closures of Wilshire/La Brea intersection

Mr. Carpenter reported the above.

- D. Use of plate lock technology in subway construction – Could help reduce frequency of and noise from drilling; request GWNC support.

REQUESTED MOTION: That the GWNC [see the below Motion].

Mr. Carpenter explained the above.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Carpenter, seconded by Ms. Lombard): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council will submit a letter to Curtis Tran at the Bureau of Engineering, Department of Public Works, advocating for the approval of the use of plate lock technology in the City of Los Angeles.

*Board Member Jack Humphreville left at this time, making 13 Board Members (or their Alternate(s)) present (the GWNC quorum is 11).*

**DISCUSSION:** There was discussion of what plate lock construction is and advantages over typical construction opening coverings that need to be welded together and cut open at night for access to work sites, creating much noise.

**MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a hand vote.

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

- A. Discussion and Board action on an application for a CUB to allow “instructional” tastings of alcoholic beverages at the Ralphs grocery store at 260 S. La Brea. **Issue:** The store already has a permit to sell a full line of alcoholic beverages for off-site consumption. New permit would add permission to conduct tastings between the hours of 10 a.m. and 9 p.m. Vendors would conduct the tastings; only one type of beverage available at each tasting; tasting area would be roped off. **LUC Recommended Motion:** [see the below Motion]. (Note: LUC vote was 8 in favor of the Motion, 2 abstained.)

Mr. Wolf explained the above; the store is at the northeast corner of LaBrea and Third.

**MOTION** (by Mr. Carpenter, seconded by Ms. Lombard): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council supports the application for a CUB to allow tastings of alcoholic beverages at the Ralphs grocery store at 260 S La Brea.

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Wolf believed that there would not be enough control of the tastings. Mr. Carpenter said “the store has a history of not being very friendly to this Neighborhood Council.”

**AMENDMENT to the MOTION** (by Mr. Carpenter, seconded by Ms. Gilman): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council amends the above Motion to add the wording “with the caveat that the store provide a bulletin board.”

**DISCUSSION:** Mr. Carpenter described that there have been many efforts to work with store managers.

**AMENDMENT to the MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a hand vote.

**DISCUSSION:** Senior Lead Officer Rodriguez noted that the Police are “focused” on working with Ralph’s and other organizations; he encouraged contacting the LAPD for assistance in getting responses from businesses.

**AMENDED MOTION PASSED** by a hand vote with one abstention (Gresham).

*Alternate Board Member Barbara Savage left at this time, making 12 Board Members (or their Alternate(s)) present (the GWNC quorum is 11).*



[The following item is presented for information only; no Board action is required or requested at this time.]

Mr. Wolf noted the below Items.

- B. Discussion and Board action on an application to install an unmanned wireless telecommunications facility atop an historic apartment building at 407 S. Gramercy  
Issue: Applicants presented plans for the installation, which will include three sectors of four antennas each, with equipment cabinets and screens. Plans currently call for screens that will look like the brick façade of the building, with patterns that mimic arches in the original construction. Committee Members requested drawings that would show greater details in the cabinet designs. Applicant is also working with the Office of Historic Resources on the designs, and will return to the Committee with new drawings as plans evolve.
- C. 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 a new 6,000 square foot retail space at 101 N. La Brea
  - vii. Construction of new 5-story, 44-unit condominium building at 836-850 S. Crenshaw Blvd.
  - viii. Construction of 169 apartments at 904-932 N. La Brea Ave.
  - ix. Construction of a 9-unit apartment building in the Wilshire Park HPOZ, at 963 S. Wilton Pl.
  - x. Demolition of 9 single family residences and construction of a new 5-story, 988-unit apartment building over garage levels at 501-543 N. Wilton
  - xi. Application for a CUB to allow the sales of beer and wine at a new 24-hour 7-Eleven store at 5373 W. Olympic Blvd.
  - xii. Application for a Tract Map to build 8 new condominium units at 800 S. Lorraine Blvd.
  - xiii. Application for a permit to sell a full line of alcoholic beverages at a new restaurant at the Essex Wilshire-La Brea development at 5200 Wilshire

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

#### XIV. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Carroll would like the Board to send a thankyou letter to the YMCA for providing this meeting space. President Owen Smith [from the audience] announced that next month's Board Meeting [July 8<sup>th</sup>] would be one hour, then CIM will present about their project at the Farmers' Insurance building [4680 Wilshire Blvd.], including "progress drawings." He

described an “automatic parking system” to be installed and that the project would be “three floors of business and condos on the upper levels” and 89 units.

A. Update on Citrus Square neighborhood association organizing effort (Jeffrey Carpenter)

There was no update.

B. LADOT Questionnaire (Carpenter)

Mr. Carpenter noted the above.

C. Pico NC Forum on Police Body Cameras (June 14)

Mr. Carpenter noted the above.

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

It was noted that the July 8<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting discussion of the CIM project will be “discussion only” with no action.

**XVI. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Wolf declared and the Board agreed to **ADJOURN** the Meeting at 9:21 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. The GWNC Minutes page is <http://www.greaterwilshire.org/site/site/?q=node/581>.