



Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council General Meeting
September 9, 2015
MINUTES

I. 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, September 9, 2015, at the Ebelle of Los Angeles, 743 S. Lucerne Blvd., Los Angeles. President Owen Smith called the meeting to order at 7:00 p. m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Frances McFall.

B. Board Roll call (Jeffrey Carpenter)

Secretary Jeffrey Carpenter called the roll. Fifteen of the 18 Board Members or their Alternates were present at the Roll Call: Jeffrey Carpenter, Patricia Carroll, Ann Eggleston, Betty Fox (Alternate for Julie Stromberg), William Funderburk, Michael Genewick, John Gresham, Joseph Hoffman, Jack Humphreville, Patricia Lombard, Fred Mariscal, Frances McFall, Owen Smith, John Winther and James Wolf. Karen Gilman (Alternate for Jane Usher) arrived later; new Alternate Board Member Philip Farha (for Jeff McManus) was appointed in Item #V. A. One Board Member was absent and not represented by an Alternate: 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). Also attending: nine Stakeholders and guests.

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

A. CD4 Update (Ben Seinfeld)

[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #IX. A.] Nikki Ezhari, Field Deputy for L.A. City District Four Councilman David Ryu (213-473-7004; Nikki.Ezhari@LACity.org; <http://CD4.LACity.org>), reported that the Councilman stopped “about \$600,000” of special projects supported by previous Councilman Tom LaBonge. Burns Park “fences will be painted.”

B. CD5 Update (John Darnell)

[*This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #VI. D.*] 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 a “no left turn” sign will be installed at Willoughby and Highland because of Starbucks traffic. The Melrose Ave. BID met; a \$4 million cultural projects grant is being considered.

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

No other representatives attended and there were no other reports or announcements.

III. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

There were no public comments at this time.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

A. Review and adoption of August 12, 2015 minutes (Jeff Carpenter)

MOTION (by Mr. Carpenter, seconded by Mr. Gresham): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its August 12, 2015 General Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED by a voice vote; Ms. Eggleston abstained.

B. Status of Administrator hiring and interim transition (Jeff Carpenter)

Mr. Carpenter updated about this.

V. PRESIDENT’S REPORT (including discussion and possible Board action, as noted) (Owen Smith):

- A. Installation of Approved Area 8/Melrose Volunteer Alternate — Philip Farha Administering the Neighborhood Council Oath of Office (by Owen Smith) “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.”

Mr. Farha read aloud the Oath of Office.

New Alternate Board Member Philip Farha (for Jeff McManus) was Seated with the Board at this time, making 16 Board Members (or their Alternate(s)) present (the GWNC quorum is 11).

- B. Board Vacancies. Seats vacated by elected board members before the end of their term open for volunteer nominations.
- i. Area 9 – Oakwood/Maplewood/St. Andrews; ii. Education; and iii. Other Non-Profit.

Mr. Smith noted the above.

- C. Alternate Board Members still needed for:
- i. Area 3 – Country Club Heights; ii. Area 4 – Fremont Place; iii. Area 9 – Oakwood/Maplewood/St. Andrews; iv. Area 12 – Western-Wilton; v. Education; vi. Other Non-Profit; and vii. Religion.

Mr. Smith noted the above.

- D. 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 list in the Agenda shows which Board Members and Alternates need to complete trainings]. Note: Ethics certifications for Patricia Lombard, Jack Humphreville, Jane Usher and Kathleen Mulligan are shown expiring in September 2015. Please advise the Board Secretary as soon as you have renewed your certification.

Mr. Smith noted the above.

- E. 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. Smith noted the above.

VI. TREASURER'S REPORT (Discussion and Board Action, as noted)

- A. Approval of Monthly Expenditure Report for August 2015 (Discussion and Board action) (Patti Carroll)

Expenses included:

- 8/4 Public Storage August - \$104.00
- 8/10 The Ebell July Rent 2015 - \$ 300.00
- 8/10 Larchmont Chronicle August - \$340
- 8/13 Copy USA - \$121.78 (board meeting)
- 8/14 The Ebell August Rent - \$300
- 8/18 Lloyds Minutes Writing - \$96.53
- 8/26 UB Checking Transfer 0332 -\$100.00

Those paid in August 2015 from the 2014/2015 Budget

- 8/6 Larchmont Buzz - \$1200.00
- 8/7 The Ebell last fiscal year - \$3600.00

Those paid in September 2015

- 9/2 Public Storage - \$104.00
- 9/3 Lloyds Minutes Writing - \$180.18

Upcoming Board Expenditures

- Booth at the Larchmont Fair - \$300
- Ebell rent September - \$300
- UMC Land Use meeting space July – Sept \$75
- UMC Sustainability Committee Sept - \$25
- UMC Transportation Committee August - \$25
- Approval for promotional items for the Larchmont Fair, etc. - \$340

Ms. Carroll reviewed recent expenses.

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 11).

Expenses were \$7,365.93; the balance is \$35,769.35.

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Carroll, seconded by Mr. Gresham): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves its Monthly Expenditure Report for August 2015.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Funderburk would like funding to be allocated regarding the Larchmont Ledger. Ms. Carroll reminded that Neighborhood Councils will have \$5,000 more funding when the City releases it.

CALL for the QUESTION. There were no objections.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 15 eligible voters present with all 15 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Carpenter, Carroll, Eggleston, Funderburk, Genewick, Gresham, Hoffman, Lombard, Mariscal, McFall, Smith, Stromberg, Usher, Winther and Wolf); zero opposed; zero abstained. Mr. Farha and Mr. Humphreville were ineligible to vote due to not having current Ethics Training and/or Funding Training.

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Carroll, seconded by Mr. Hoffman): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves allocating \$340 for promotional items for the Larchmont Fair, etc.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 15 eligible voters present with all 15 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Carpenter, Carroll, Eggleston, Funderburk, Genewick, Gresham, Hoffman, Lombard, Mariscal, McFall, Smith, Stromberg, Usher, Winther and Wolf); zero opposed; zero abstained. Mr. Farha and Mr. Humphreville were ineligible to vote due to not having current Ethics Training and/or Funding Training.

- B. Approval of individual expenses listed in the Monthly Expenditure Report (MER) – (Discussion and Board action). (Patti Carroll)

Ms. Carroll reviewed individual expenses.

- C. Pre-Approval of Upcoming Expenses (Discussion and Board Action) (Patti Carroll). Requested Motion: [see the below Motion].

Ms. Carroll reviewed upcoming expenses.

FUNDING MOTION (by Ms. Carroll, seconded by Mr. Winther): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves the retention of budget preparation support to assist the Treasurer until a new contract GWNC Administrator can be brought on board and up to speed, for up to the next 4 months at an amount up to \$750, as needed.

FUNDING MOTION PASSED unanimously by a roll call vote of the 15 eligible voters present with all 15 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Carpenter, Carroll, Eggleston, Funderburk, Genewick, Gresham, Hoffman, Lombard, Mariscal, McFall, Smith, Stromberg, Usher, Winther and Wolf); zero opposed; zero abstained. Mr. Farha and Mr. Humphreville were ineligible to vote due to not having current Ethics Training and/or Funding Training.

- D. Update on status of current year contracts, invoicing for Wilshire United Methodist Church, Ebell of Los Angeles (as previously approved by the Board) (Patti Carroll)

Ms. Carroll updated about the above.

VII. DWP MOU LIAISON (Discussion and possible Board action) (Jack Humphreville)

- A. Status of Proposed Rate Increase

Mr. Humphreville described potential effects of the proposed increase.

MOTION (by Mr. Humphreville, seconded by Mr. Hoffman): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves the following Resolution: __[PASTE RESOLUTION TEXT HERE; ELECTRONIC COPY NEEDED.]__

MOTION PASSED by a hand vote; Mr. Funderburk and Mr. Gresham abstained.

VIII. CITY BUDGET and NC BUDGET ADVOCATES (Jack Humphreville) (Discussion and possible Board action)

A. City Budget Update

Mr. Humphreville updated about the Budget.

B. Details of Union Contract

Mr. Humphreville reported that the City intends to hire 4,000 – 5,000 more employees, including replacements.

C. Settlement of the Telephone Users' Tax Litigation

Mr. Humphreville reported on the above.

D. Los Angeles Bid for the 2024 Summer Olympics

Mr. Humphreville reported that LANCC [the Los Angeles Neighborhood Councils Coalition; LANCC@EmpowerLA.org; www.LANCC.org] discussed the above.

IX. LANCC REPORT (Fred Mariscal/Colette Amin)

A. Call for Volunteers, Update on Upcoming Participation in the Congress of Neighborhoods (Mariscal/Amin) – Saturday, September 26 at City Hall, 7:45am to 4:30pm.

Mr. Humphreville updated about LANCC. Online voting and more was discussed.

B. Update on United Neighborhoods of LA/UNLA Coalition

Mr. Humphreville updated about the above.

X. OUTREACH COMMITTEE (Fred Mariscal et al.) (Discussion and possible Board action, as noted)

A. Update on pending City proposals, plans and processes for the operation of the Greek Theater (Fred Mariscal/Colette Amin) -- Greek Theater. (Note: a CIS was filed on the motion the Board took at the August 12 meeting.)

Kristina Chambers, Special Projects Coordinator, Nederlander West Coast (ofc. 323.817.6187; mobile 818.415.1550; KChambers@nederlander.com; www.nederlander.com), reported that the City Council's Arts, Parks and River Committee still is considering the above. She explained that the City's Recreation and Parks Department wants to run the Greek and plans to allow more public comment after it runs the Greek for one year.

B. LA Times Neighborhood Boundaries (Fred Mariscal) – Update on meeting with the LA Times to discuss their mapping policy.

Mr. Mariscal urged support for having the Times’ map be accurate.

C. Request for Citizen Recognition Award candidates (Fred Mariscal) – Please contact Outreach Committee members with suggestions for future awards.

Mr. Mariscal reported that candidates are needed; recommendations are welcomed.

XI. TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (Julie Stromberg) (Discussion and Board Action, as noted)

A. Status Update on the Transportation Committee

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

B. Update on LA Mobility Plan 2035

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

C. GWNC-CD 4 Street and Sidewalk Repair Requests: A Call for Submission of Nominations

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

D. The GWNC Transportation Committee is compiling data on streets and sidewalks in the Greater Wilshire Area within Council District 4 for Councilman David Ryu’s Office (CD 4). Submissions are due on Friday, October 9, 2015, at 5:00 p.m. All submissions should be sent to transportation@greaterwilshire.org. Submissions must include location of the repair site and general description. Photographs of the requested repairs are strongly encouraged. GWNC Transportation Committee member Julie Stromberg will be coordinating the project.

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

E. Next Transportation Committee Meeting: October 5, 2015, at 7:00 p.m.

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

XII. SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE (Julie Stromberg, Barbara Savage) (Discussion and Board Action, as noted)

A. Report and Status on the Sustainability Committee. Report on September 8th Sustainability Committee inaugural meeting.

Ms. Fox reported for Ms. Stromberg that the Committee's purpose is "to encourage alliances . . . on conservation . . . and other issues."

- B. Announcement of Partnership with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power for a Water Conservation Challenge for Neighborhoods within the Greater Wilshire Area. Several neighborhoods (by zip code) within the Greater Wilshire area are top 1% water users in the City of Los Angeles. The GWNC Environmental & Sustainability Committee is partnering with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power to encourage these neighborhoods to participate in a Water Conservation Challenge.

Mr. Funderburk reported that Ms. Stromberg requested that the GWNC Table Item #'s XII. B. – F. due to a personal emergency.

- C. GWNC Environmental and Sustainability Committee's Rain Barrel Distribution Program (November 2015). Announcement of program for distribution of rain barrels and qualifying rebate program.

Mr. Funderburk reported that Ms. Stromberg requested that the GWNC Table Item #'s XII. B. – F. due to a personal emergency.

- D. Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance (NCSA) Update. Report on NCSA Water Committee meeting.

Mr. Funderburk reported that Ms. Stromberg requested that the GWNC Table Item #'s XII. B. – F. due to a personal emergency.

- E. The GWNC to Join the Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance (NCSA) and Designation of GWNC Representative on the NCSA. Requested Motion: We, the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council, formally agree to be a member of the Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance. The Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance advances sustainability and resilience across Los Angeles through advocacy, sharing of best practices, and community action. Requested Motion: The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council appoint Julie Stromberg, Founder and Chair of the GWNC Environmental and Sustainability Committee, as the GWNC representative to the Neighborhood Council Sustainability Alliance.

Mr. Funderburk reported that Ms. Stromberg requested that the GWNC Table Item #'s XII. B. – F. due to a personal emergency.

- F. EarthFest 2015 Event. Report, proposal on participation in the EarthFest 2015 event. Recommended Motion: The GWNC Environmental and Sustainability Committee to purchase a booth at EarthFest 2015, to be held on Saturday, September 13, 2015, cost not to exceed \$280.

Mr. Funderburk reported that Ms. Stromberg requested that the GWNC Table Item #'s XII. B. – F. due to a personal emergency.

G. Date and Location of Next Sustainability Committee Meeting. The GWNC Environmental & Sustainability Committee will meet on Tuesday, December 1, 2015, at 7:00 p.m., in the Youth Chapel Room of the Wilshire Methodist Church, 4350 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90005.

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

A. 408 N. Plymouth

Issue: Proposed "hardship exemption" to limitations of the Interim Control Ordinance to the Baseline Mansionization Ordinance. Owner closed escrow and paid for permits on the property after ICO took effect. Proposed new construction did not conform to the limits of the ICO for square footage. Neighbors expressed opposition to proposed hardship exemption. LUC voted not to support. LUC Recommended Motion: That the GWNC not support the proposed hardship exemption from the Interim Control Ordinance to the Baseline Mansionization Ordinance for this project.

Mr. Wolf described the issue.

MOTION (by Mr. Wolf, seconded by Ms. Eggleston): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council will not support the proposed hardship exemption from the Interim Control Ordinance to the Baseline Mansionization Ordinance for the project at 408 N. Plymouth.

MOTION PASSED by a hand vote with 16 in favor; zero opposed; Mr. Genewick abstained.

B. 7016 Melrose Ave (Starbucks)

Issue: CUZ for extended opening hours of a new Starbucks from 5am to 12am (Elizabeth Valerio).

LUC Recommended Motion: That the GWNC support the proposed CUZ for extended opening hours for this project.

MOTION (by Mr. Wolf, seconded by Mr. Humphreville): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council will support the proposed CUZ for extended opening hours for this project at 7016 Melrose Ave.

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a hand vote with all 17 in favor; zero opposed; zero abstained.

[The following items are included for information only. No presentation is scheduled or Board action requested or required at this time.]

C. 107 and 109 Larchmont Blvd (The Bungalow)

Issue: Clarification on Q condition #2 of ordinance No. 168,334 to clarify the definition of a "restaurant" under the ordinance and what the phrase "primarily for the purpose of

selling food to be consumed off premises" means, which is used to classify "take-out" versus sit down restaurants. The LUC believes the requested interpretation is a matter for the City Attorney and that the earlier position in opposition to the applicant's request taken by the GWNC Board remains unchanged.

D. Reconsideration of application to install an unmanned wireless telecommunications facility atop an apartment building at 407 S. Gramercy

Issue: Verizon proposed a rooftop installation of several antennas and other equipment atop a 1920s apartment building. The equipment is needed to provide improved high-speed data service to area cell phone users, and will be concealed behind RF-transparent screen structures designed to mimic the brick cladding and window arches of the building. At the July 8, 2015 meeting, the GWNC voted to support the installation as presented, on the condition that the applicant return to the LUC after the installation is complete, to verify that the details of the project as constructed match what is being proposed. Verizon asked that the item be continued to September meeting so that they could address the concerns of the renters in a separate meeting with the Landlord.

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

- i. Application to build 6,000 square feet of retail space at 101 N. La Brea.
- ii. Demolition of 9 single-family residences and construction of a new 5-story, 88 unit apartment building over garage levels at 501-543 N. Wilton
- iii. Application for a Tract Map to build 8 new condominium units at 800 S. Lorraine Blvd.
- iv. Construction of new 5-story, 44-unit condominium building at 836-850 S. Crenshaw Blvd.
- v. Application for a tract map for new condominiums at 850 N. Sycamore Ave.
- vi. Application to demolish existing structures and build 169 apartments at 904- 932 S. La Brea
- vii. Change of Use to convert the old Scottish Rite Temple to a private, nonprofit museum at 4357 W. Wilshire Blvd.

XIV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Review of Revised GWNC Bylaws Transmitted by DONE (Jane Usher, Elizabeth Fuller, John Gresham et al.) (Discussion and Board action) Recommended Motion: That the GWNC Ad Hoc Committee on Bylaws (to be defined) work with the GWNC Secretary to communicate to DONE the GWNC's concern that two previously agreed-to changes in the GWNC bylaws be made by DONE, specifically—

- a) In Section 4, "Terms and Term Limits", page 6, the title is changed to just "Term Limits" and the last sentence referring to term limits is deleted.
- b) In Attachment B, on page 17, regarding who can vote for the seat of the At Large Representative, the text "...or those who declare a stake in the neighborhood as a community interest stakeholder..." is to be deleted.

Mr. Smith read aloud the two below revised Bylaws change requests.

- a) In Section 4, remove all references to term limits as DONE previously agreed.
- b) Replace the newly provided Attachment B, which identifies which stakeholders can vote for each board seat, with the Attachment B that the GWNC provided to DONE to use during our previous two elections.

Mr. Gresham explained history of the issue.

MOTION (by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Lombard): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council Ad Hoc Committee on Bylaws (to be defined) will work with the GWNC Secretary to communicate to DONE the GWNC's concern that two previously agreed-to changes in the GWNC bylaws be made by DONE, specifically — a) In Section 4, remove all references to term limits as DONE previously agreed; and b) Replace the newly provided Attachment B, which identifies which stakeholders can vote for each board seat, with the Attachment B that the GWNC provided to DONE to use during our previous two elections.

Board Member Frances McFall left at this time, making 16 Board Members (or their Alternate(s)) present (the GWNC quorum is 11).

MOTION PASSED unanimously by a hand vote with all 16 in favor; zero opposed; zero abstained.

XV. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Launch of “Melrose Future Vision” Project (Jeff Carpenter).

The Melrose BID was awarded a \$3.9 million Metro Call for Project grant to undertake its “Melrose Future Vision” project and the BID has retained a consultant team of Perkins+Will together with Civic Enterprises, to direct the effort, targeting Melrose between Highland and Fairfax. The first charrette was conducted on August 14 and included BID, GWNC and MCWCC stakeholders as well as BSS and LADOT program support staff, along with LADOT's designated project manager, Anna Tabuena Ruddy. This community outreach, visualization, consensus-building and planning phase is targeting 2019 when capital improvement funding from the grant award is scheduled to become available.

Mr. Carpenter described the above project.

XVI. REQUESTS/MOTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no requests at this time.

XVII. ADJOURNMENT

A. Next meeting, Wednesday, October 14, 2015, 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Smith noted the above.

Mr. Smith declared and the Board agreed to **ADJOURN** the Meeting at 8:35 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>.