

Westside Neighborhood Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, September 10, 2015
7:00 P.M.
Westside Pavilion
10800 W. Pico

1. Call to Order

Call to order: 7:05 PM

By Terri Tippit, WNC Chair

Attendance:

Jae Wu (Seat 1)

Lisa Morocco (Seat 2)

Chris Elliott (Seat 4 Alternate)

David Burke (Seat 5)

Barbara Broide (Seat 7)

Terri Tippit (Seat 8)

Stacy Antler (Seat 10)

Mary Kusnic (Seat 11)

Francesca Beale-Rosano (Seat 13)

Ira Lee Newlander (Seat 14 Alternate)

Wendie Goode Dox (Seat 16)

Aaron Rosenfield (Seat 17)

Absent:

Sarah Shaw (Seat 6)

Seated after start:

Vito Bello (Seat 3)

Steve Spector replacing Chris Elliott (Seat 4)

Sean McMillan (Seat 9)

Colleen Mason Heller (Seat 12)

Eric Shabsis (Seat 15)

2. Agenda Items:

New Business:

A) Approval of August 13, 2015 Minutes:

Minutes were reviewed and discussed, with changes submitted by Ms. Wu clarifying ring.com operates by smartphone, not regular telephone.

Motion to approve as corrected: Ms. Morocco

Second: Ms. Kusnic

Passed, 10-0-2

Seats in favor - 1,2,4,7,8,10,11,13,16,17

Seats abstaining – 5,14

Ms. Mason Heller is seated

Mr. Shabsis is seated

B) Public Comment

**Sandra Caldwell with Kids Artistic Sense, 310-474-7888,
www.KidsArtisticSense.org, KashappyKids@gmail.com.**

Ms. Tippit – We remember you from Pick Pico.

Ms. Caldwell – 3 months ago we did Pick Pico and we are now just opening in the mall. We offer several programs: (1) Mommy “N” Me for 18-24 month olds doing finger painting, clay and more. (2) Pre-K Transition Program for parent and child 2-3.9 years old. (4) Art Program for 4-10 year olds with mixed media drawing, painting and clay. (4) Art Birthday for 3-10 year olds with customized art parties. We are located on the 2nd floor of Westside Pavilion, close to Nordstrom.

Ms. Morocco – Will you be joining us for Pick Pico next year?

Ms. Caldwell – Yes.

Ms. Morocco – Thank you for coming.

Ms. Caldwell – Thank you to Chris for inviting us.

Mr. McMillan is seated

Bill Christopher with Urban Concepts, a consultant for Fox Studios, 3701 Wilshire Blvd #414, 323-966-2610 x 115.

I have served as a consultant to Fox Studios for the past 10 years. We came to the WNC in February to let you know we are looking at planning for what the Studio will look like over the next 10-20 years. The effort is focused on what is on the lot now. We did a hard count for 3 days and found 4,500 people work each day during the peak periods. Winter is the peak period and summer there tends to be fewer people on the premises. Every six months we report to DOT the daily vehicle trips. Over the last six months, there were 11,470 average daily trips. During the peak period, that number rises to 13,280. We will be using the higher 13,280 number for planning purposes. In 1993, we had 2,400 people on the lot and have had annual growth of 2.9% over twenty years. 2-3% growth over 20 years would translate into 4,000 jobs and \$2 billion of investment. We want to look at how our lot can house that kind of growth. We are trying to figure it out now.

Ms. Antler – Pico/Westwood is the closest light rail station, will there be shuttles?

Mr. Christopher – Yes.

Ms. Shabsis – MTA has gone to the Federal Government to ask that the timeline for the Purple Line be moved up because of the Olympics.

Mr. Christopher – We would be happy to see that occur.

Ms. Broide – Thank you for coming tonight and to our HOA meeting. Employers often say they are going to generate so many jobs. But, are they really new jobs or are people just moving from one location to another?

Mr. Christopher – We have looked at that ourselves. We are expecting for growth housed on the lot.

Ms. Tippit – I need to stop this. This is public comment. There is not supposed to be back and forth with the board. Public comment is supposed to be two minutes. If you want to give a detailed update, please ask to be put on the agenda.

Mr. Christopher – We will do that either next month or the following.

C) LAPD, Eric Swilhart, 310-444-0738, 36964@lapd.lacity.org.

Officer Swilhart – I am the new SLO, filling in for Officer Sharif. I have been in West LA since 2008 working on various assignments. Our jobs take awhile to get used to; to get to know the community members. My goal is to solve crime.

Ms. Dox – Does forcing in front doors happen a lot?

Officer Swilhart – You can get in a lot of places with a knife.

Officer Mario Gonzalez – Put in a camera.

Officer Swilhart – If people want to get in they will.

Officer Gonzalez – The biggest thing that happened recently was the burglary at Rolex in the Century City Mall. Oct/Nov is typically the peak period for burglaries. I also want to mention ring.com.

Ms. Broide – Is the up tick in crime in South LA effecting our deployment?

Officer Gonzalez – They are not borrowing anyone from us if that is what you are asking. We are paying attention to termite notices, because burglars are going into tented houses when gas fumes are no longer a hazard.

D) Norm Bernier, West LA Chamber of Commerce, normanbernier@hotmail.com, 310-441-2900.

City Controller Ron Galperin filled in for Ted Lieu for our Sept 2nd event. Reps from Ted Lieu's office, as well as the offices of Sebastian Ridley-Thomas and Paul Koretz were in attendance. Checkbook is now online, where you can view every check written by the City. Our website is still under construction, but you can now pay in advance for events online. On October 7, the First Wednesday Breakfast will be with Consul General of Canada from 7 AM – 9 AM. Email me for the member rate at info@westlachamber.org. The Women's Networking Group will be meeting September 15.

E) CD-5 Field Deputy Philip Bennett

1. Yesterday on the block of 2000 Fairburn relatives of the person living there found explosives and the block was shutdown. Neighbors were evacuated and the issue was taken care of without incident. 2. There will be a City Council resolution next week on oversized vehicles for Cotner and Pontius. Signs will address a myriad of issues. It will cover Pico to Santa Monica Blvd.

Ms. Morocco – Enforcement is the issue. Is it possible to get some enforcement once this becomes the new normal?

Mr. Bennett – The Captain in the Parking Department has been very responsive to these types of inquiries in the past, so I do not see why not.

Ms. Antler – What are the restrictions?

Mr. Bennett – I do not have the specifics, but they will include the typical oversized vehicle restrictions.

Mr. Rosenfield – Thank you to the Councilman for adding restricted signs to Westwood and surrounding areas. The restrictions I believe begin at 2AM. Is there parking enforcement at that time of the night?

Ms. Tippit – Yes. They work 24/7.

Ms. Morocco – Where are we with the Councilman's five cats initiative that would up the limit of cats people can own to five?

Mr. Bennett – I can check.

Mr. Shabsis – Thank you to your office for the speed feedback sign on Overland. Is LAPD out doing enforcement?

Mr. McMillan – I can comment on that because I live right there. No.

Mr. Shabsis –We should loop back in with Jay to discuss.

Ms. Mason-Heller – Where are we with the McMansions?

Mr. Bennett – It was recently renewed.

Mr. Shabsis – This was meant to be temporary. But they are supposed to be working on a permanent ordinance.

Ms. Mason-Heller – Where are they with that?

Ms. Dox – The last few years there has been a High Holy Day issue with chicken slaughters. Animal Services will now enforce violations.

Ms. Tippit – The place on Pico was saying they are a yoga studio, but they are really a psychic. Can we get a copy of the NOD and see what it says with regard to there being no psychics permitted on Pico?

Mr. Bennett – I will check on it.

F) Ms. Morocco Treasurer's Report

Ms. Morocco – Shannon and Craig have stepped up to help with treasurer troubles. Craig has made it all work. We owe him a huge debt of gratitude and he will help with the MERs. We really appreciate it. Last month we spent \$1,251.29 and the months prior, we spent \$34.60 for a balance of \$40,714.11.

Motion by Ms. Morocco to approve the MER with expenditures of \$1,251.29 for August with a remaining balance of \$40,714.11.

Second: Ms. Wu

Passed, 15-0-1

Seats in favor – 1,2,3,4,5,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,15,16,17

Seats abstaining - 14

Motion by Ms. Morocco for funding for one year of the PO BOX for \$220.

Second: Ms. Wu

Passed, 15-0-1

Seats in favor – 1,2,3,4,5,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,15,16,17

Seats abstaining - 14

G) Laura Campfield, Facility Director Palms Recreation Center

At Palms Park, we have some dead space between the child care area and the picnic area. In the space there has been some camping and stashing of things. We want to use it productively for programming. We want to beautify the park and teach kids about nature, instead of fencing it off. We want to use planter boxes with native plants and garden varieties, the cost of which is \$4,800. The project details, as submitted:

SECTION III - PROJECT BUDGET OUTLINE- Please outline the project budget below.		
6A) Personnel Related Expenses	Requested of NC	Total Projected Cost
<i>No incremental expenses</i>	\$	\$ 0
	\$	\$
	\$	\$
	\$	\$
6B) Non-Personnel Related Expenses	Requested of NC	Total Projected Cost
<i>Garden Hard goods: Soil, building materials, etc.</i>	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000
<i>Live plants, seeds, butterfly cocoons, etc.</i>	\$ 1,700	\$ 1,700
<i>Educational Materials & Signage</i>	\$ 600	\$ 600
<i>Supplemental and/or replacement plants, seeds, soil additives for following seasons</i>	\$ 500	\$ 500
7) Is the implementation of this specific program or purpose described in box 4 above contingent on any other factors or sources or funding? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, please describe below <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		
Source of Funding	Amount	Total Projected Cost
	\$	\$
	\$	\$
	\$	\$
	\$	\$
8) What is the TOTAL amount of the grant funding requested with this application:		\$ 4,800.
9) What is the expected completion date? <u>5/1/2016</u> (mm/dd/yyyy) (required)		

Ms. Morocco – How big is the space?

Ms. Campfield – Not sure exactly, roughly the width of the WNC meeting room and length of one quarter of the meeting room.

Mr. Newlander – Will the raised beds create line of sight issues?

Ms. Campfield – They are only going to be raised as high as the tables.

Ms. Morocco – Is it a class?

Ms. Campfield – It would be for pre-school, camp and be part of the science program.

Mr. Shabsis – How are the beds secured, so they are not dismantled?

Ms. Campfield – We found that the people there don't usually destroy stuff, but the maintenance crew would make sure they are securely fastened.

Ms. Broide – Have you done outreach to area schools who have done this?

Ms. Campfield – That is actually where the idea came from, Overland elementary.

Mr. Shabsis – James O. who ran for City Council helps schools build gardens and to help with upkeep. He may be a good contact.

Ms. Broide – There are people in the community who could make plant donations.

Ms. Morocco – When will you start?

Ms. Campfield – The next three months.

Ms. Broide – We should be transparent about how funding is routed.

Ms. Tippit – We cannot fund them directly, so it has to go through a 501c3.

Ms. Morocco – DONE requires forms be submitted to show the money is spent exactly as intended.

Motion by Ms. Antler for a Neighborhood Purposes Grant of up to \$4,800 for a children's garden at Palms Park.

Second: Mr. Shabsis

Passed, 15-0-1

Seats in favor – 1,2,3,4,5,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,15,16,17

Seats abstaining - 14

H) Ms. Broide on beekeeping

The City Council is in the process of reviewing backyard beekeeping. The WNC voted in favor of beekeeping as a pilot program in Mar Vista a couple years ago. The City Council is now trying to implement a universal bee keeping program. Members of the Pacific Palisades Community Council have expressed concerns with the ordinance. Under the ordinance, beekeeping could occur in R1, with up to two hives per 1,250 sqft with no distinction on how big the hives are, no notification to neighbors, no protection or distinction for different uses, no data to be collected. People would have to register the hives with the County, but that information would not be available to the public.

Mr. Spector is seated replacing Mr. Elliott.

Motion by Ms. Broide that the WNC no longer support backyard bee keeping because it is no longer a pilot program as originally proposed.

Second: Mr. Newland

Failed, 3-6-7

Seats in favor –2,7,13

Seats against – 4,9,10,11,15,16

Seats abstaining -1,3,5,8,12,14,17

(seat 14 not eligible to vote because did not take ethics certification; placed under seats abstaining category).

I) Announcements

Ms. Morocco – Take Me Home Days will be at the Westside Pavilion on October 10, 17 and 24. The 10th will be hosted by the West LA Shelter, the 17th by Lange and the 24th by NKLA. Thank you to Westside Pavilion; we will be in the Love and Leashes store front. The Councilman will be in attendance, hopefully on 10/10. We will also have the doggy poop bag holder WNC giveaways.

Mr. Spector – Thank you to Lisa for doing the work and finding out how to order the WNC giveaways.

Ms. Wu – 1. Emerson is giving a special tour of their newly renovated campus, including a brand new gym and sports field on September 28 at 8:45 AM. RSVP to jerboll55@gmail.com or rwemersonms@gmail.com. 2. Heyler with Tree People will be having two free “Green City” Workshops. There will be a Native Plants and Turf Reduction Workshop on September 20 from 10-12 and a Rain Water Harvesting Workshop on October 11 from 10-12. There will be a rainwater bin raffle giveaway.

Mr. Shabsis – As the school representative, I wanted to let people know that the State changed testing standards last year implementing Common Core. The two elementary schools in the area did exceedingly well. Over 90% of the student body did at or above grade level. The middle schools in the area I checked into were also very good.

Motion by Ms. Antler to adjourn.

Second: Everyone

Unanimous

Submitted: By Aaron Rosenfield, Secretary