

Westside Neighborhood Council Meeting Minutes  
Thursday February 13, 2014  
7:00 P.M.  
Westside Pavilion 10800 W. Pico  
Meeting Room A

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1. **Call to order** at 7:05 p.m. by Terri Tippit, WNC Chair  
Admonishments to board and audience on silencing/turning off cell phones

**Present:**

John Padden, seat 1  
Lisa Morocco, seat 2  
Steve Spector, seat 4  
David Burke, seat 5  
Juan Camacho, (alt) seat 6  
Barbara Broide, seat 7  
Terri Tippit, seat 8  
Drew DeAscentis, seat 9  
Fidel Quiralte, (alt) seat 10  
Mary Kusnic, seat 11  
Colleen Mason, seat 12  
Francesca Beale, (alt) seat 13  
Shannon Burns, seat 14  
Eric Shabsis, seat 15  
Melissa Kenady, seat 16  
Aaron Rosenfield, seat 17

We have a quorum

2. **January 9, 2014 minutes**

Minutes of 1/9/2014 were reviewed and discussed, with typographical errors submitted to the Co-Secretary by Shannon Burns.

Motion to approve as amended: Melissa Kenady

Second: Lisa Morocco

Passed 10-0-6 (9, 13,A, 10A, 5, 12, 14)

### 3. **Report of Mayor's Deputy**

Daniel Tamm, Office of the Mayor (Garcetti)

Discussed the City Budget 101. Program will be Feb. 26, 6-8 p.m. at Mar Vista Rec Center.

Rick Cole, Deputy Mayor will be present to find out what the residents want this city to look like. The Mayor will be present. Will break out into work groups. This is the last of 4. 3 previously held. Share ideas as to what kind of city we want to live in.

Ms. Edwards will run DWP to reform DWP, beginning with customer service.

WLA Planning Commission – Tom Donohue has been re-appointed. Mr. Tamm can be reached at: [daniel.tamm@lacity.org](mailto:daniel.tamm@lacity.org)

### 4. **LAFD Report**

LAFD reported.

Overview. Want to get staffing levels back up. Motion before City Council. Don't know if it will pass. Putting through 70 recruits. Staffing levels are critically low so they work very long hours. Thinking of putting ambulance in Westwood while keeping ambulance at 92.

Informed the WNC that LAFD 92 would be participating in the annual Chili Cook-Off on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, Chili Cook-Off. At Heyler Realty, Pico & Pelham, from 1-3 p.m.

### 5. **Los Angeles Police Department Report**

Officer Rashad discussed

- A. Transient issues. He can move them, but can't arrest them. Will move them outside residential. Went out to meet with the homeless with Dept of Mental Health and PATH. Don't want housing and have to follow rules. People call the council office. LAPD can't arrest them for sleeping on sidewalk. But can ticket. If stuff is on one's property, the owner, as a private citizen, can do whatever they want with the property. That is not the case with respect to a police officer. As a police officer, he can't throw that away. Officer Rashad also noted that the homeless fight each other. Not regular citizens. Need legislation to enforce the law.
- B. Burglaries: Officer Rashad knows there were burglaries on Patricia/Blythe that were reported on the news. However, that's Mario's area, and Officer Rashad did not have the information. WNC members requested that the area get the decoy patrol car back. In Officer Rashad's area, there was an attempted burglary in the 2700 block of Midvale. Alarm went off, they ran. Tried a property on Exposition. But that property had a German Shepard that thwarted the attempt. Got into a property in the 2000 block of Greenfield and stole property. Note: if

suspect is gone, calls regarding the burglary goes to non-coded and response is delayed.

- C. Upcoming police events: Battle of the Badges. Blood Drive Tuesday at the Station. 310-444-0743. 3/5 - 5/7; English speaking police academy. Learn something from a police officer. April 16<sup>th</sup> at Century Plaza forum. Members of the Clergy to talk. On Westside. Rashad will email information

**6. CD5 Report.**

Jesus Oroczo reported. Met with Mike Feuer last month regarding the homeless situation. Lost a lot of cases on moving the homeless.

The LA Marathon is March 9<sup>th</sup> – reminder. Santa Monica Blvd will be impacted

**7. REGULAR AGENDA:**

- A. Alisa Smith reported. The WNC Selection Election will be held November 13, 2014. An independent administrator will be present. Will start meetings regarding same at the end of April/beginning of May. Will try to do something that is easier to understand. Please look at posted bylaws; update the maps for the WNC on the Empower LA website. Alisa passed out her card. Acceptable forms of ID are on that website. Will let know when candidate filing period is. Outreach opportunities will be going on. A table will be at the Budget 101. Will also have region-wide events. Will include Terri in her emails. Terri will forward. November will be the date of our election. Will get new NEA. Representative from Neighborhood Empowerment. Amber was our representative. Tom Soon will be our administrator.
- B. “WNC Next Door”. No presentation was made because the representative who requested to be on the agenda, Marquis Olison, was not present at the WNC.
- C. “LA Parking Freedom”. No presentation was made because the representatives who requested to be on the agenda, Steven Vincent and Jay Beeber, were not present.
- D. Funding requests:
  - 1. Eric Shabsis requesting \$1600 for entry buzzer at Westwood Charter to allow for security and safety. The cost is double what is requested. Wise Foundation will make a matching grant. Jae Woo read a letter from Westwood Charter seeking relief – from Westwood Charter Security Committee. Needs a front door buzzer. \$3470 total cost. It is in

conjunction with a security monitor. Westwood has several gates and nearly 900 students.

Motion to Approve: Melissa

Second: Aaron R

Passes: 13-0-0.

2. Lisa Morocco requesting \$748 to Valley Crest Tree Service. Discussed Contempo Tile & another business who wrongfully damaged/butchered the tree in front of their properties on Pico. Got two checks from them totaling \$748. Valley Crest is requesting payment of \$1500 for both the tree replacement at that location, and tree replacement at Westwood by Nordstrom. Requires an additional \$748.

Motion to approve: Lisa

Second: Mary

10-0-0

- E. Treasurer's Report: spent \$90.36 last month for the Verizon bill (\$40.36) and Backblaze Computer back up software of \$50.00. The starting balance was \$23,936.88. The ending balance is \$23,845.92.

Motion to approve Treasurer's report: Melissa

Second: Colleen.

10-0-0.

- F. Committee Reports:

- (1) Barbara reported on sidewalk repairs (\$10k). Almost ready to go forward.

- (2) Barbara reported on CUP compliance issues. No enforcement. Seeks support for CF 14- 0122. New conditions compliance unit that is tiny. Now a sensible process. Motion to pull it back. Motion to support Bonin's proposal to support. Council File. No back-up documentation was provided, including the Council File information.

Motion to Support: Barbara

Second: Colleen

11-0-4 (6, 15, 11, 14)

- (3) Lisa reported that at the end of February the watering commitment for the trees on Pico will be expiring. However a new contract will be in place for another year from Friends of WLA.

- G. Pitfire Pizza Presentation. It should be noted that prior to the presentation, Lisa Morocco recused herself from the meeting, since she would not be able to be present at or hear the presentation.

The presentation was made by Manny Diaz and Demetrius Thomas (GM of this location of Pitfire. Manny does all the permits. Manny noted that Pitfire was previously approved for a 5 year term. Want to renew. Previous floor plan off a bit. Wanted to add an hour of operations. Go from 10 to 11 Monday - Saturday, and Sundays to 10 p.m. Want a happy hour, weekdays 3-6 p.m. Have been good neighbors and have a clean record. Shared parking.

Aaron wanted to know if catering space is separate from the restaurant. Yes, it is. Sometimes they do sit in the back room.

Barbara wanted to know when there will be a hearing. Manny says 2 months about, doesn't know. Barbara feels the facts set forth in the application don't reflect reality. The catering area is in fact being used as a serving area. The furniture store has issues with parking.

Shannon asked about putting up signs at Westwood Congregational and at Pitfire not to park at the church.

Eric supports the restaurant. Family neighborhood restaurant. They've sought out the schools for fund-raising.

Motion to Support Pitfire's request: Eric  
Second: Coleen  
13-0-2 (10A & 7).

## 8. PUBLIC COMMENT.

Terri noted that Drew has now moved out of the area and therefore must resign. Drew thanked everyone, and the Board Members thanked Drew for his service to the WNC.

Motion to adjourn: Colleen  
Mary seconds  
Passed unanimously  
Adjourned: 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shannon Burns, Co-Secretary