

Westside Neighborhood Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 12, 2015
7:00 P.M.
Westside Pavilion
10800 W. Pico

AGENDA (Items Appear As Called)

1. Call to Order

Call to order: 7:05 PM

By Terri Tippit, WNC Chair

Attendance:

Jae Wu (Seat 1)

Lisa Morocco (Seat 2)

Brandon Behrstock (Seat 3)

Steve Spector (Seat 4)

Juan Camacho (Seat 6)

Barbara Broide (Seat 7)

Terri Tippit (Seat 8)

Sean McMillian (Seat 9)

Stacy Antler (Seat 10)

Mary Kusnic (Seat 11)

Colleen Mason Heller (Seat 12)

Francesca Beale-Rosano (Seat 13)

Shannon Burns (Seat 14)

Eric Shabsis (Seat 15)

Lisa Tabor (Seat 16)

Aaron Rosenfield (Seat 17)

Absent:

David Burke (Seat 5)

2. Agenda Items:

New Business:

A) Approval of January 8, 2014 minutes:

Minutes were reviewed and discussed, with no changes submitted.

Motion to approve: Ms. Burns

Second: Ms. Kusnic

Passed, 12-0-3 (Seats 6, 3, 1)

B) Public Comment:

Juan Camacho with FOX Studios – FOX has a long 95 year history in the area. FOX is looking at the next 25 years in Los Angeles. Working to update the Master Plan so its business can come into the 21st Century. FOX wants to continue to be good neighbors and corporate citizens. It looks forward to working with the NC.

Ms. Mason Heller – More details would be good such as a mission statement.

Mr. Camacho – We are in the initial planning stages. We don't want to catch the community off guard and we will share the information as we get it.

Ms. Mason Heller – Will there be HOA visits from FOX and feedback?

Mr. Camacho – Yes, we will be seeking feedback.

Ms. Morocco – FOX was a huge help at Pick Pico, responsible for picking up expenses like the stage, amplification equipment and DJ.

Ms. Broide – Is there an assumption FOX will be staying or leaving?

Mr. Camacho – We are staying. There has been lots of technological change and the goal is to update the studio. Other studios like Paramount and Disney have development plans and we need to remain competitive.

Matthew Gibbons and Steve Little from the West LA Chamber of Commerce – 2015 marks the 70th Anniversary of the WLA Chamber. We are celebrating the occasion with a business directory and community guide of the service area. Page 14-15 covers Laura Campfield from the Cheviot Hills Recreation Center. Page 22-23 covers Orli Belman of Rancho Park Online. Page 24 covers Jae Wu and Sean McMillan of Heyler Realty. We are building bridges with all of LA. A board member will be attending WNC meetings regularly. For the public, we are leaving a community guide on the refreshment table and Vito Bello has additional copies. Our board meetings are the 1st Monday of the month. Lisa Morocco will be attending our next meeting.

Ms. Mason Heller – Applauds the Chamber for the magazine. Good representation of different communities and it gives a tacit nod that the community is larger than just business.

Mr. Gibbons – It's all about community.

More info: <http://westlchamber.org/>, matthew@gibbonsmedia.com, 310-441-2900. 2370 Westwood Blvd Suite L1.

Eden Banarie from the Walk to End Genocide – The nation's largest anti genocide rally is April 19 at the Pan Pacific Park in Los Angeles from 9 AM to 1 PM. Expecting 4,000 people. Community is welcome to start teams at churches or synagogues, schools, etc. It is the 100th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. Raising money to help survivors and send a message to public officials about the importance of the issue. More info: <http://la.walktoendgenocide.org/>, eden@jww.org, 949-235-7304, 5551 Balboa Blvd.

Michael Eveloff with Friends of West LA – (1) Community did a good job of protecting homeowner against having to tear down wall. (2) Dream Games 2015 honoring MLK was a big hit at Westwood Rec. Over 150 kids played basketball, got a backpack and t-shirts. We had a portable pizza oven the kids loved. 18 Los Angeles City parks participated in the 2015 Dream Games. More info: <http://fowla.org/>.

C) LAPD Report:

Mario Gonzales reported on recent crime in the WNC area. Business robbery at 2000 Cotner, suspect is 200 lb male hispanic 5'9". Apartment burglaries at Glendon and Cotner, the second burglary having the same description as the business robbery at 2000 Cotner. 2100 Midvale burglary occurred where residential door was smashed. There were several car break ins. Its good to have a partnership with the NCs. At Delicious Art, money was stolen from the tip jar. Ms. Morocco alerted WLA PD. Suspect made way through several businesses stealing tips along Pico. The person posted on Instagram, so she was identified, but police don't know where she lives yet. Some arrests at Palms Park; PD is working with park on issues at the park. If people are not satisfied with responses they get from police (in general), Mario said to call the Sargent Lead Officer (SLO). We want businesses to stay here. Its my city too and I take pride in it.

Ms. Broide – 3 businesses were vandalized in the area, graffiti and broken windows.

Mr. Gonzales – Call Rashad and we can get a car down there.

Ms. Broide – A meeting is being organized at the local church; we can coordinate.

Member of the public – How many arrests have the police made in the city? We see crime and nothing happening.

Mr. Gonzales – Detectives follow up and make arrests. Go visit the station and ask what is going on.

Ms. Morocco – Thank you for going to see Jack and Donna at Delicious Arts regarding the theft.

Mr. Rosenfield – Mario has also been attending the CERT trainings at the LAFD station on Olympic and a liaison to the public in that fashion. The community connection is always appreciated.

Ms. Tippit - LAPD West LA Blood Drive is happening on Tuesday, February 24, 2015 from 8:00 am – 8: 00 pm at the bloodmobile parked on Butler. To make your appointment call 310-444-0753 or visit redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code BADGESoCal. All participants will receive a Battle of the Badges T-shirt, 2 complimentary VIP tickets for the Laugh Factory, 1 free Clippers ticket with a purchase of a \$20 ticket, a discounted ticket offer to an Anaheim Ducks game at the Honda Center & an LA Kings game at the STAPLES Center! Identification is required.

Mr. Spector – Chris Elliot will be my new alternate. He is the new manager of the Westside Pavilion.

D) Michael Shull, Recreation and Parks Department Manager, gave an update on Palms Park and budget concerns that impact the department. Mike said he tries to get around the city. Lots of significant parks and large unique parks in the area. He has been 25 years with the City of LA. This is his first year into his current job. He is a licensed civil engineer. He fell in love with the dept. It is difficult moving people around, especially when they are the fabric of the community. 2006 is really when things started to go bad for the dept. Before that, the dept did not have to pay for support costs like utilities or retirement and health benefits. Majority of dept costs are labor. In 2006 there were 2200 full time employees and 5,000-6,000 part-time staff. Now down to 1300 full time employees and 2500-3000 part-time staff. \$53 million or about 30% of budget goes to support costs and benefits. There are 450 parks and 180 recreation centers. Funding comes from 0.03125% property taxes (he believes figure) and other money is generated from revenues. Fewer staff people means there is a lot of ground to make up. Cluster coverage is done by staff and directors covering several facilities. Doors are open, but fewer hours and programming. Dept is committed to better communication. Mayor Garcetti is making collaboration better. It is the best City Council he has seen in years. They are engaging and collaborative. This years proposed budget for July for the first time in eight years will have no positions lost. They will lose the least amount of money they have lost in eight years, -\$1 million. Rebuilding the dept is going to take time and they will likely not get to where they once were. But, they are better run.

Ms. Tippit – Thank you for coming. At Palms there is a preschool and library on campus, so someone good is needed to run it. What is the status of the gate on Overland for after hours?

Mr. Shull – Someone has to open and close the gate. The issue is not installation it is operation. Several years ago another dept would have done that, which was absorbed by Police and doesn't serve the same kind of functions.

Ms. Mason Heller – Cheviot Private Security closes the gate on the Cheviot side of the park. If we can find funding to close the gate on Overland, would that work for your dept?

Laura Campfield – Confirmed the gate is installed, but the issue is opening/closing the gate.

Mr. Shull – We will work it out (so a private guard can open/close the gate).

Ms. Broide – What is the situation and process concerning LAUSD school yards used over the weekends?

Mr. Shull – There are more new parks than anywhere in the country. Since 2011, there has been the fifty parks initiative. 28 parks already built with ten more coming online this year. 7 new parks per year will be built for the next four years. Many new parks in needed areas.

Ms. Mason Heller – I am happy LA is getting so many new parks, especially south LA where they are needed. However, I am concerned about the quality. Lots of dead trees on Patricia both inside and outside the gate at Cheviot Hills Park.

Disease, renovation, lack of water, etc are taking their toll. Numerous calls to both City of LA and Parks Dept on the issue, but nothing is being done.

Member of the public – A tree fell on my property during Christmas time. 3 more trees are about to fall.

Mr. Shull – I will call about it tomorrow.

Mr. Shabsis – Thank you for coming out. Mike has been a longtime friend and he is a can-do guy. During 2006 and beyond, as non-general fund money was added, Mike was responsible for new park development and upgrades. Elected officials don't keep levels of programming that the public expects. Great things are going on at Palms Park. Palms is a model with Laura and Junior. It is the heart of our community and we have a responsibility to talk to the council office about the importance of the parks and programming. We also have to remember to ask for those communities that don't have a voice as well.

Ms. Tippit – Westwood Charter is overcrowded with more than 800 kids. Half the library has been a classroom. The plan for the next school year is for Westwood to house students in Kindergarten through fifth grade. Westwood students who are eligible for Transitional Kindergarten will be provided classroom space at Nora Sterry Elementary.

Mr. Shabsis – The State changed the cutoff for Kindergarten to (being 5 years old on or before) Sept 1. Transitional Kindergarten is for when a child (turns 5) between September 2nd–December 2nd. School has now gotten bigger and bigger because of its success. Not all parents play by the rules. There are close to 900 kids at the school, which is not made for that many people. Huge logistical problems. LAUSD needs to come up with some answers that are just and fair.

Ms. Tippit – We should agendaize this issue and have Board Member Steve Zimmer come out and speak. Spell out the choices.

Mr. Shabsis – There is a successful school like Westwood Charter in Studio City called Carpenter. Principal did bed checks and kids were removed mid-year for not being in the district.

Ms. Tippit – If it starts like this for pre-k, we can only imagine what follows.

Ms. Broide – Right before school started parents got letters saying their kids were moved. There was no transparent process. We need to talk about immediate and long run solutions. Our problems are associated with density and upzoning. There is no school infrastructure to support increased density. There are major access issues. We need a formal process that works with LAUSD. Westwood Charter's renewal is coming up and we need alternatives.

Member of the public – The City of LA, schools and parks, nobody is talking to each other. Westwood Charter has been transformed with all the people. Things have changed.

Mr. Shabsis – Westwood Charter is an independent charter under LAUSD as a neighborhood school.

Member of the public – Concerned about going from West of Sepulveda back to neighborhood. Can't get to other schools because of traffic.

Mr. McMillian – It is important that we understand LAUSD is running independently. We have to be a community voice. There are health and safety issues associated with crossing streets like Sepulveda. People who bought in a

certain community can be devalued based on school boundaries. They cannot give us just a few days to change. We need a unified voice to get Mr. Zimmer's attention.

Mr. Shabsis – We should also invite the Superintendent and Principal to the meeting. Since there has been changes in administration there has been some destabilization. We also need to hold parents accountable as much as the district. The infrastructure is not there for 900 kids.

Ms. Broide – There is a petition asking Westwood Charter to reduce kids to 750 students.

E) LA City Council District Representative—Chuy Orozco:

Mr. Orozco presented about the Interim Control Ordinance for Mansionization. Limits bonuses and exemptions for single family development. Exceptions include Beverlywood and the California Country Club.

Ms. Broide – Reviewed the history on the issue. The City passed an ordinance against mansionization. Many felt there were loopholes in it. Councilmember Koretz is trying to address loopholes. In the meantime, many people have gone to CD5 asking to be included in ICO as a temporary 18 month moratorium while the City comes back with revisions to the ordinance it originally passed. There was fear that if some had a moratorium and not others, development would be pushed to certain areas that were out of character with the neighborhoods.

Mr. Orozco presented on the homeless count.

Mr. McMillian – Helped to coordinate for the area of Santa Monica to Pico and Sepulveda to Century City. We counted 12 homeless. Not sure the time of day was the best. Lots of the homeless were migratory. We saw some people a block away later in the evening. I did not cover areas of Cotner, the freeway and Palms Park, it was someone else. Those are obviously key. We had 20 volunteers, lots of interest in addressing the issue.

Ms. Broide – Can we request those 20 volunteers names to form a sub-committee?

Ms. Tippit – Many of the volunteers were not from the area.

Ms. Broide – It would be good to get the ones that are in the area involved on the issue.

Mr. Orozco thanked the general manager of Rec and Parks for his attendance and for keeping Laura Campfield.

Ms. Tippit – What is going on with the Pico upzoning? We keep hearing the councilmember is against it, but it is still in the plan.

Member of the public – The pdf form online is not editable to give plan feedback.

Ms. Broide – We request Planning make a live form for easier comments.

Mr. Orozco – CD5 has not had the easiest communication all the time with Planning.

Ms. Broide – The Dept has not listened to our community.

Mr. Rosenfield – The upzoning issue and the place available for feedback can be found at www.latnp.org.

F) WNC Treasurer Report – Brandon Behrstock, Treasurer:

No major report at this time. Credit card fees were rejected, but it appears to be fixed. Update next month.

Ms. Antler made a motion for funding for up to \$800 for LAFD.

Second: Ms. Kusnic

15-0-1 (seat 6)

Ms. Burns made a motion for funding for up to \$1500 for WLAPD to purchase uniforms.

Second: Ms. Antler

16-0-0

Ms. Morocco made a motion for funding for \$525 for two movies for Palms Park's Summer Movie Program (Honey I shrunk the Kids for \$250 and Flubber for \$275) contingent on the funding not coming from another source such as FOX or NBC.

Second: Ms. Antler

16-0-0

Ms. Morocco made a motion for funding for Overland Ave School for \$1560 for classroom laser printers.

Second: Ms. Antler

Discussion: Mr. Shabsis – Friends of Overland (FOO) is providing approximately 25 Mac computers for 25 classrooms at a sum of \$25,000 to \$30,000. Many teachers have old computers that don't work or use their own. FOO is looking at also providing projectors. It is nice for WNC to help out with the printers.

16-0-0

Mr. Shabsis made a motion for funding for Westwood Charter School for \$1500 to purchase books for the Library that will introduce students to computer coding at their age level, peak their interests in ancient rulers, inspire humor and creativity, provide an escape or inspire a career.

Second: Ms. Mason Heller

16-0-0

G) Outreach Committee, Lisa Morocco Chair

Pick Pico is coming up June 7 and planning is set to begin. A planning meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 19 at Heyler at 6 pm.

Ms. Tippit – Dan Tamm said Pick Pico is one of the top ten things the Mayor will do this year.

Ms. Morocco – Recap on Pick Pico 2014: we had 48 businesses, 17 local artists and a number of community groups partake. As many as 2500 attendees at a cost to the WNC of \$16,000. The Pick Pico Committee is formed with Jae Wu as the new chair. (Applause for Jae). We had 25 banners last year along Pico which can be reused with a date change from June 1st to June 7th if the committee chooses. A 30ft X 4 ft banner will go across Westwood and we will be able to use the smaller banner from last year elsewhere. We had generous sponsors last year such as Macerich, JMB and FOX.

Ms. Broide – What is the budget for fliers?

Ms. Morocco - \$400 for posters last year. Budget will be talked about at the committee meeting. Word is out now so the cost might go up because of that, but we have lots of savings in other places like design and insurance. We will explore what we want to do again with things like tote bags.

Mr. Behrstock – We need to pay for garbage cleanup.

Ms. Mason Heller – It is important to brand ourselves. Can we put the little banner by the car wash?

Ms. Morocco – We will reuse the banner near the car wash or somewhere else.

Ms. Morocco made a motion for funding for up to \$4500 for street banners for Pick Pico.

Second: Mr. Behrstock

16-0-0

H) Motions and Resolutions, Barbara Broide:

Ms. Broide – A Conditional Compliance Unit has been established that looks at places that serve alcohol and have dancers. For the past year they have been developing a program that monitors and inspects establishments.

Ms. Broide made a motion to support CF 13-0046, 05-0020 and 14-0122, which includes fees to allow the Planning Department's Condition Compliance Unit to expand its current staffing level and more importantly to cover additional monitoring functions.

Second: Ms. Mason Heller

14-0-1 (seat 6)

Ms. Broide in her capacity as WNC representative to Westside Regional Alliance of Councils (WRAC) made motions to support the following WRAC motions:

(1) Baseline Mansionization Ordinance motion requesting closure of loopholes as introduced by Councilmember Koretz: WRAC supports CM Paul Koretz's proposed amendments to the Baseline Mansionization Ordinance (CF14-0656), which include elimination waivers for balconies, upper floor setbacks,

green building and attached garage, with additional amendments: Amendments shall be approved and executed in 4 months, and other areas/districts may be added during the approval process (as the City did for the Sign Ordinance).

Second: Ms. Mason Heller

Discussion – Exempts Beverlywood and California Country Club. ICO would be in effect for 18 months.

11-1(seat 15)-3 (seats 6,11,13)

(2) Outdoor Dining "r" permit: Request that the LA City Council amend the outdoor dining "r" permit ordinance to include requiring a window sticker advising the public that they have a permit.

Second: Ms. Morocco

Discussion – Advises the public that the establishment has secured permits for serving outdoors.

13-0-2 (seats 6, 11)

(3) Investigation of agreement for Offsite Parking: Request that the City Council investigate the Planning Department circumventing code by allowing offsite parking with only a lease agreement and not a covenant agreement or variance.

Second: Mr. Rosenfield

Discussion – Mr. Behrstock – There is no place for recording agreements with the community in the City. Does it make sense to add a friendly amendment to track recordings?

Ms. Broide – Vote on this and then we can do a separate amendment.

Ms. Tippit – WRAC asked us to vote on the motion as is.

Mr. Rosenfield – It would be germane to do an extra motion following the one by WRAC.

Mr. Shabsis – There is an issue that there are restaurants that want to go into neighborhoods to help liven streets. Mid City has issues where the US government won't record leases. There are also issues where two entities are using the same parking area at different parts of the day.

Ms. Mason Heller – How do you get the Feds to do more if we don't make an issue?

Mr. Shabsis – When you record agreements as a covenant it runs with the property for a long duration. It protects the community, but can hinder businesses who are operating in a changing environment. Buildings built with limited parking in 1935 are not going to meet the needs today.

Ms. Mason Heller – How is parking attached legally to the business? It should be in perpetuity.

Mr. Shabsis – There can be two issues: (1) Parking for employees and (2) Entities that have parking not giving it to those leasing the property.

Ms. Broide – Put it on the City to enforce the conditions. Should we vote on the first motion?

0-4(seats 3, 7, 8, 17)-11 (seats 1, 2, 4, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13,15, 16)

I) Board Member Comments/Announcements:

Ms. Antler – The name of Tract 7260 has been changed to Century Glen.

Mr. Shabsis – Westwood Charter Auction - On Saturday, March 7 from 7:00pm - 10:00pm at Writer's Bootcamp at Bergamot Station. More info:

<http://www.westwoodcharter.org/auction-2014>.

Mr. Shabsis - Overland's 26th Annual Gala and Auction – On Saturday, March 14 at the Beverly Hills Country Club. It will be a 1980's theme. More info at:

<http://friendsofoverland.org/id22.html>.

Motion to Adjourn At 9:35 PM.

Motion By: All

Second By: All

Motion Passed: Unanimous

Submitted: By Aaron Rosenfield