

WESTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

GOVERNING BOARD

Minutes of Meeting – May 8, 2003

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:14 PM in Community Room A at Westside Pavilion by Chair Terri Tippit.

Board Members attending:

Steve Spector – Seat 3
Jean Shigematsu – Seat 4
Gretchen Lewotsky – Seat 6
David T. (Ty) Vahedi – Seat 7
Terri Tippit – Seat 8
Alan James Levine – Seat 9
J. François Nion – Seat 11
Stacy L. Antler – Seat 12
Robert Guerin – Seat 13
Karen Weiss – Seat 14
Sam Skootsky – Seat 15 (Arrived 8:11 pm)
Melissa Kenady – Seat 16
Jan C. Gabrielson – Seat 17
Beverly Kenworthy – City Council
Randy Judd – LAFD

Board members absent:

Nancy Catullo – Seat 1
Louis Horvath – Seat 2
James Lynch – Seat 5
Richard S. Harmetz – Seat 10
Representative from LAPD

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of April 10, 2003 were amended to show that three people voted against supporting the issuance of a full liquor license to La Serenata Restaurant and were approved as amended.

It was moved, seconded, and passed to show in the minutes the number of votes for and against each motion. Because the Recording Secretary is a slow learner,

the number of votes for and against that motion was not recorded.

Agenda Items

- a) Follow-up to letter written to Supervisor Yaroslavsky regarding the proposed sale of the old Welfare Building on Pico at Veteran

Terri Tippit reported that she sent the letter to Zev, telling him we wanted some say in what is done with the building. Terri also talked to Maria Chang in Zev's office who said there is nothing we can do because neither the City nor the County wants the building and so it will be auctioned off. Rich Cahalan suggested the County could extract a commitment from the buyer as to what is to be done with it. Barbara Broide said we should get the marketing materials from the County so we can use them to find other buyers. Terri will call Maria and find out when the auction is to take place.

- b) Review of letter to WLA Chamber of Commerce citing the City ordinance that prohibits merchants from trimming trees in the parkway without a permit

Barbara Broide read the proposed letter. Somebody said to attach the procedure for getting permits. There is no fee for the permit. Violation is an infraction; the maximum fine is \$250 plus penalty assessments. Beverly Kenworthy reported that an investigation is under way as to one incident. The owners have been cited, but the store operators ordered the trimming, not the owners. Our letter should include that owners can be cited. Deanna Stevenson said to send a copy of our letter to the head of tree services. Barbara will make the letter from the WNC and the WLA Chamber. Ty Vahedi and Jan Gabrielson volunteered to distribute the letter to merchants along Pico.

- c) Community concern of the lack of property maintenance of the Wells Fargo Bank on Pico at Glendon

Ty Vahedi reported. The bank does not maintain the planted area. The trash bin lid is sometimes open and the bin is overfilled. The local HOA Board wrote to Wells Fargo six months ago. Ty called Wells Fargo the day of the meeting to tell them they were on our agenda. They said they would call Bay West to switch the dumpster. Ty spoke to the property manager who claimed to be shocked. The matter was informally tabled to see what Wells Fargo would do about the problem.

- d) Approval of proposed budget

The proposed budget was presented and discussed. Deanna Stevenson said our fiscal year starts as of when we get our money. It was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously to approve the budget. If we need to change something in the budget later, the change will require Board approval.

Because of the urgency of transmitting minutes of this meeting, showing the approval of the budget, and because the Recording Secretary will be out of the country for two weeks beginning the day after the meeting and cannot prepare complete minutes, Deanna Stevenson asked that partial minutes be prepared and emailed to her. [Note: Partial minutes were emailed to Deanna on May 9, 2003.]

Public Comment

Kia McInerny of the Kelton Apartments Ad Hoc Committee spoke. The Cultural Heritage Commission has voted to place the apartments on the Cultural Monument list, and the City Council unanimously approved. The Planning Commission said an EIR would be necessary. The developer said they would entertain offers to sell and the Committee is looking for a buyer. Gary Kwist said they wanted to know if people make offers in case the developer does not cooperate.

Barbara Broide said her HOA has gotten complaints about the re-striping at Overland and Pico. Beverly Kenworthy said her office has too.

Executive Board Report

Terri Tippit reported on the meeting of the Executive Board. The Outreach Committee should develop a presentation to give about the WNC. Terri ordered our computer. The next Executive Board meeting will be on June 5 at 5:00 pm at Terri's house.

Budget Committee Report

No meeting is planned. When we get our money and start spending it, the Committee will review the process and refine the procedures.

Policies and Procedures Committee Report

Stacy Antler reported. The Committee did not meet but will. It will keep a binder of "everything." Somebody said again that we need letterhead. Nobody disagreed.

Public Safety Committee

Mario Gonzalez, Alan Levine, and Stacy Antler will meet with the Principal of Overland Avenue School about parents and students crossing Ashby mid-block through crazed, rush-hour traffic. We may ask the police to cite people. Beverly Kenworthy is involved in the School Safe Traffic Zone Task Force. Stacy's goal is to have people take the LAFD's disaster preparedness certification course and have at least one person on every block who knows CPR and has had the first level of disaster training.

Land-Use Committee

Gretchen Lewotsky reported. They plan to meet the second Thursday after the Executive Board meeting. The first meeting will be at Norm's on May 22 at 7:00 pm. Some ideas expressed were to ask what people want from Neighborhood Councils, asking land-use lawyers what their clients need, and how to bring people to our meetings who we need to deal with, such as local government officials.

Outreach Committee

Alan Levine reported. They met and came up with lots of ideas. One of those ideas was to figure out who we are and what we stand for. Another idea is for the Board to meet on a Saturday and come up with still more ideas. Anyone with ideas should email them to Alan.

D.O.N.E Report

Deanna Stevenson reported. DONE will provide some resources for us such as mailing, printing, and handbill distribution, and not take the cost from our budget. There will be some delay in getting our computer because of a personnel issue. Some neighborhood councils are doing a work plan for the year. At the end of each year we are supposed to report on how well we have served our constituents. DONE would like to have local newspapers write about our activities.

Board Comment

Someone said that each City Council member gets \$275,000 to use for the community, so if we need some money, we should ask Jack Weiss.

Announcements

The bike path from Robertson and Venice to Sepulveda has been funded and should be completed by 2006.

There will be red Metro Rapid buses on Pico and Santa Monica Blvds.

Next meeting

June 12, 2003, 7:00 pm, same place.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:16 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan C. Gabrielson, Recording Secretary