

WESTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

GOVERNING BOARD

Minutes of Meeting – June 12, 2003

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:12 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  
Brad Gross, alternate for Karen Weiss – Seat 14  
Sam Skootsky – Seat 15  
Melissa Kenady – Seat 16  
Jan C. Gabrielson – Seat 17  
Beverly Kenworthy – City Council  
Nancy Catullo – Seat 1  
Louis Horvath – Seat 2  
James Lynch – Seat 5  
Richard S. Harmetz – Seat 10  
Senior Lead Officer Mario Gonzalez, LAPD

Board Members absent:

Representative from LAFD

**Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting of May 8, 2003 were enthusiastically approved later in the meeting by a unanimous vote of 15-0 after copies were made and distributed.

**Agenda Items**

- a) Noise and hours of operation of Jack in the Box at Pico and Military

Terri Tippit reported. Residents have complained of noise from the speaker and hours of operation of the Jack in the Box at Pico and Military. When the restaurant first went in, residents protested and some in attendance believed that the restaurant owners and the City had agreed to some restrictions, including that the restaurant would not be open after 11 pm and would not have a speaker. Later, they began operating 24 hours and put in a speaker. Now, the speaker is broken so that if it is used, the volume cannot be lowered below full blast. Terri faxed the agenda to them and two representatives attended the meeting, Area Manager J. D. Kyle and Construction Manager Mike Walterscheid. They said if the conditional use permit specifies the hours of operation, they will honor it. (Beverly Kenworthy said she would look for the permit.) They reported that the speaker system is 20 years old and that new systems adjust the volume according to ambient noise, and would cut down the noise. Mike has gotten the price, J. D. has approved it, and asked his supervisor to approve it. Mike described the new system.

It was moved, seconded, and passed 16-0 that Terri write a letter to Jack in the Box asking that they buy and install a state-of-the-art drive-through menu board system known as HME 400, that we ask for a response from them within two weeks, and that we revisit the conditional use permit.

The Board thanked Mike and J. D. for coming to the meeting, for their expressed desire to cooperate with us to solve the problem, and for their efforts to replace the speaker system.

- b) Non-emergency helicopter operations in the early morning and late at night.

Jan Gabrielson reported that lately there have been many helicopters flying over West LA as early at 6 AM and late at night, sometimes after midnight, creating a noise nuisance. Officer Gonzalez said that if they are over West LA at night and not using a floodlight, they are not police. LAPD helicopters avoid flying over West LA because of the number of complaints they have gotten. Jan asked those present if they had noticed helicopter operations at off hours. Several, including Peggy Hughes Weil, reported they had and had called in complaints to news stations. Terri will email her group to make notes of problem operations. Jan offered to take emails on the subject and collect information and to study it further. Barbara Broide suggested the Board could write to the news stations that have helicopters. Since Jan did not ask for Board action at this meeting, none was taken.

- c) Follow-up on letter to WLA Chamber of Commerce citing the City ordinance that prohibits merchants from trimming trees in the parkways without a permit

Barbara Broide presented a draft letter. The letter was informally approved after changing "serious problem" to "serious concern" in the first paragraph.

A discussion ensued over how to distribute the letter. Ty and Jan repeated their offer to deliver it to retailers. Applications for a permit to trim trees will be in the West LA Chamber office. An article will appear in the Chamber newsletter. Ty suggested also distributing the letter to apartment owners' associations. Judith Wain of the Century Park East HOA suggested all HOA's put it in their newsletters.

- d) Update on contacts with the City Attorney's office on the Trammel Crowe project

Richard Harmetz reported. The City approved the EIR although some thought it violated CEQA. The City Attorney would not comment, citing lawyer-client privilege. Richard lamented the lack of information and questioned the WNC's effectiveness. There ensued a broader discussion of difficulty in getting information from the City and how the WNC can get legal help from the City Attorney when the City Attorney also represents other City entities.

- e) LANI meeting

Richard Harmetz reported that he attended the congress of Los Angeles Neighborhood Initiatives the previous Friday at USC. The meeting was about improving neighborhoods and was well-organized. There were discussions of using trees and art to brighten neighborhoods. There is now a City number 311 for non-emergency City issues that routes callers to a human being in the appropriate department.

- f) Proposed WNC Board retreat (Agenda item d, taken out of order)

Alan Levine reported on the efforts of the Outreach Committee to set up a retreat in which we would figure out who we are and what we want to accomplish. Deanna Stevenson said we need a facilitator and talked about Juliet Musso and the Center for Non-Profit Management as possibilities. DONE wants to put together a module for training Neighborhood Councils. Gretchen said we need to do pursue plans for our own retreat and not just leave it to DONE to do it for us. Our own retreat would not conflict with doing one with DONE. Alan and François will email some questions about the retreat to Board members.

### **Public Comment**

Barbara Broide announced a meeting of the Westside Civic Federation on June 23 at 7 pm at Vista Del Mar. The Federation is a consortium of HOA's. The topic will be problems in dealing with the City.

Barbara and Marilyn Cohon said the City is not complying with the EIR in the Santa Monica Blvd. project. Lane closures has caused traffic problems on Westwood Blvd. DWP came in at the last minute to do some work that it would have had to do in five years. There have been problems with contractors and street closures. Beverly

said her office is spending hours each day on this.

### **Board Comment**

Ty Vahedi gave a brief update on the Wells Fargo problem that had been tabled to see how Wells Fargo dealt with it. They changed the dumpsters, but the new ones now have graffiti. Terri said they should just keep spray paint on hand and spray out the graffiti.

Beverly asked that Council District 5 be on the agenda for a report at every meeting. Terri said OK.

Stacy asked about our business cards. Deanna said there was some delay with the City. We can get generic cards with a line to write in our name, a solution that was greeted with frowns and groans, we can do our own, or we can wait for the City. But if we want the City seal on our cards, the City has to do them. Gretchen repeated yet again her generous offer to do cards and letterhead.

### **Executive Board Report**

Terri Tippit reported on the meeting of the Executive Board. The old Welfare Building on Pico at Veteran is not up for auction yet. Terri is trying to set up a meeting with HOA's and Council District 5.

Terri said she must have agenda for each Governing Board meeting no later than the Thursday before the meeting.

### **Budget Committee Report**

Bob Guerin said we are going to get money.

### **Policies and Procedures Committee Report**

Did not meet. No report.

### **Public Safety Committee**

Stacy Antler reported. The Committee met on June 11. Stacy, Alan, and Officer Gonzalez met with the Principal of Overland Avenue School to discuss the problem of parents and students crossing Ashby mid-block during rush hour. The Principal will do a notice to parents, then LAPD may be asked to cite violators. Stacy arranged for John Miller of Homeland Security to speak to the Board, the date to be arranged. She hopes to get people in each area to go through LAFD's CERT disaster-preparedness training. Stacy said that LAFD has free CPR training, but it is on weekdays, so she is looking for

other providers. Gretchen said Fox has a fire department that might be able to help.

**Land-Use Committee**

Gretchen Lewotsky reported. They met at Norm's and had a who-are-we? discussion. They discussed how to work with developers – figuring out what we want from them and what they want from us. They also did a mission statement for the Committee. They hope to study issues before they come before the Board, and brief the Board so that the Board does not have to take an issue on cold when it comes before us. The Committee hopes to gather information that the Board will need, and arrange for appropriate speakers to be present when an issue comes before the Board. The Committee has a standing meeting on the fourth Thursday, unless someone brings chairs.

**Outreach Committee**

Alan Levine reported.

**D.O.N.E Report**

Deanna Stevenson reported.

**Council District 5**

Beverly Kenworthy reported on the Coordinated Street Furniture Program (kiosks and bus-stop shelters). The City is negotiating with a company that will install these things for the advertising revenue, which will go half to the City, the other half split between Council districts. They want us to look at sites and say what we want where. Beverly will mail information to all of us. Business owners have final say over what goes in in front of their places of businesses. A style of bus-stop shelter has been chosen and will be the same everywhere. Each has its own trash can. If there was already a trash can there, it will not be phased out but can go somewhere else. Beverly wants us to talk to our constituents about this program.

**Next meeting**

July 10, 2003, 7:00 pm, same place.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Jan C. Gabrielson, Recording Secretary

**GLOSSARY OF ESOTERIC ACRONYMS, ABBREVIATIONS, AND BUZZ WORDS**

Brown Act	The Ralph M. Brown Act
CD5	City Council District 5 (Jack Weiss)
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CERT	Community Emergency Response Team
CUP	Conditional Use Permit
DONE	City of Los Angeles Department of Neighborhood Empowerment
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
Executive Board	The officers of the WNC: Chair, Vice-Chair, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, Treasurer
HOA	Homeowners Association
SLO	Senior Lead Officer
WNC	Westside Neighborhood Council