

WESTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

GOVERNING BOARD

Minutes of Meeting – July 10, 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
Ivor Williams, alternate for 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 (7:25)
Melissa Kenady – Seat 16
Jan C. Gabrielson – Seat 17
Beverly Kenworthy – City Council District 5
Nancy Catullo – Seat 1
James Lynch – Seat 5 (7:12)
Richard S. Harmetz – Seat 10

Board Members absent:

Louis Horvath – Seat 2
Senior Lead Officer Mario Gonzalez, LAPD
Representative from LAFD

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of June 12, 2003 were approved without correction by a vote of 11 - 0.

Agenda Items

a) Susan Strick, WLA Neighborhood Prosecutor

Susan briefed us on her office's function. The Neighborhood Prosecutor program was started in March 2001 to put an individual prosecutor in each of LAPD's 18 districts. She reviews, files, and tries the cases herself. The program is not designed to deal with neighborhood disputes. Lately she has been working on produce trucks, adult entertainment, transients, and graffiti, among other things. Her telephone number is (310) 575-8745.

b) Update on billboard ordinance

Ted Wu reported. Two years ago the City Council passed an ordinance banning new billboards, and billboards along the freeway. An exception allows a Council member to set up a Supplemental Use District. Ted heard of a proposal by CD 9 to remove three billboards and to put new ones along the freeway. Ted read a draft letter that he wanted us to send. After some discussion, the matter was referred to the Land-Use Committee for study.

c-1) Update on status of old welfare building at Pico and Veteran

Terri Tippit reported. She attended a meeting with Maria of Zev's office. They said the County would give 2300 Residents.org until January 1 to buy the building. It was appraised last year at \$5.5 million. A Venice art group was interested but would have to raise a large sum of money to renovate and maintain it. Barbara Broide said the County must sell it to the highest bidder, unless a community college wants it. The County wants to sell it soon. Beverly said that stopping the auction was an accomplishment on our part, regardless of the outcome.

c-2 Update on Jack-in-the-Box

Terri Tippit reported. The people from Jack-in-the-Box said they would install a new speaker in response to our pressure.

Non-agenda item

A discussion arose that was not on the agenda. Beverly said a neighborhood traffic management plan was approved. Jack Weiss made an agreement for Trammel Crowe to give \$300,000 for traffic management and the neighborhood council decides how to use it. Dick Harmetz said \$3.2 million went for Motor Avenue. \$500,000 from Fox went for salaries. \$1 million was to be furnished for the Constellation Place project and the money has gone to DOT. So that the same thing doesn't happen again, DOT can only get 10% to cover its costs. Barbara and Dick went to the Council to protest. Alan Levine said the mitigations on the list are almost all for

Cheviot Hills. Lesley Reisbord took issue with the suggestion that Cheviot Hills was getting more than its share of money and mitigations.

This matter was referred to the Public Safety and Traffic Committee.

d) Follow up of letter to WLA Chamber of Commerce citing the city code merchants are violating if they trim trees in the parkway without a permit

Barbara Broide reported. Since the last meeting, they received a list of labels for property owners from Rich Cahalan to mail letters to the landlords as well as distribute them to the current tenants. They are waiting for a Chamber volunteer to make a flyer to accompany the letter and are recruiting volunteers to help walk and distribute the letters to the merchants on Pico and Westwood.

e) Update on the Santa Monica Blvd. Project

Jim Lynch introduced Tanya Dorrel, Public Affairs Officer, and Mark Wright, the lead inspector on the project. Both are from the Department of Public Works. They reported that in spite of initial problems, the project is evolving and improving. Tanya said they are mostly doing utility work on water mains and conduits. DWP is replacing the whole main and a storm drain is going in. In spite of earlier hopes and statements, the contractor said it is not possible to avoid all lane closures. Mark talked about efforts to minimize traffic problems. They are posting traffic officers at certain intersections, and doing what quiet work they can at night. They are staggering alley closures to prevent people from using them – part of an effort not to divert traffic into residential areas. In Century City they are not starting work before 9:00 am, to avoid blocking lanes during rush hours. The EIR did not take into account that utilities cannot be replaced piecemeal. When the utility work is done, they will go back to the EIR plan of keeping three lanes open in each direction.

The project office is at 10350 Little Santa Monica Blvd, (310) 785-2300
More information appears on the project's website <http://www.smbld.org>.

Public Comment

Hugh Johnson reported that a giant sycamore tree on the parking strip in front of his house on Cushdon near Manning blew down in a windstorm in April and his efforts to get the City to repair it have been more frustrating than fruitful. Beverly told Hugh to call her to see what CD5 can do to help.

Annette Mercer asked the WNC to facilitate a traffic summit where people can exchange information. Gretchen said Fox was to widen the Overland Avenue bridge, then CalTrans said it could not be done. DOT gets the money but it doesn't go to the neighborhood. Gretchen volunteered to do a presentation.

Lesley Reisbord commented on traffic on Motor Avenue and adjoining streets.

Executive Board Report

Terri Tippit reported. The Executive Board met on July 7, 2003. Terri has our computer.

Budget Committee Report

Treasurer Bob Guerin reported. He activated our money card. We have \$6,200 on it. We will also get \$500 cash. We get the City's discount at Office Depot, but only if we use the card.

Policies and Procedures Committee Report

Chair Jim Lynch said the committee did not meet, but will meet before the next Board meeting. Gretchen said the work of this committee is important.

Public Safety Committee

Stacy Antler reported. We have a firm commitment from John Miller of homeland security for LAPD to speak to us at our October meeting. Stacy will work with the Outreach Committee to publicize the event. She will try to get CD5 to donate money for CPR classes. Alan Levine said DOT has played off HOA's against each other and put out a long list of traffic mitigations, 85% of which are in Cheviot Hills. Things brought up by other HOA's were ignored. Some thought that DOT would hear from everybody, and work with them. Instead, at a recent meeting, they presented their plans as a fait accompli. We want to make DOT representatives come and talk to us. Barbara Broide said that George Mihalsten, a lawyer with Latham and Watkins, representing Trammell Crowe, said he would help us work with DOT. The plan for using the Trammell Crowe mitigation money was supposed to be regional. The issue was referred to the Public Safety and Traffic Committee. Stacy said the Committee would set up a town-hall type meeting and ask Jack Weiss to sponsor it.

Melissa Kenady asked that issue of adult entertainment be on the next meeting's agenda.

Land-Use Committee

Gretchen Lewotsky reported that the Committee did not meet last month, but will meet on July 17. They will get the billboard ordinance. They are working on a checklist of what is needed from developers.

Outreach Committee

Alan Levine reported. François Nion does not want to be chair. They started working on a retreat but bogged down in the idea that we needed a facilitator. Alan handed out a pre-retreat questionnaire. The Committee will work with Deanna and Juliet Musso.

D.O.N.E Report

Deanna Stevenson reported. There is some unspecified problem with using the City seal on our letterhead. Deanna asked Jim Lynch to email her about it. Juliet Musso can work with neighborhood councils because of a grant from the Irvine Foundation. She suggested we have a summit with other neighborhood councils on the west side.

Council District 5

Beverly Kenworthy announced that on July 20, 2003, there will be a Community Day and Safety Fair to help the people who suffered losses from the plane crash into an apartment in the Fairfax area, and to honor the people who responded.

Next meeting

September 11, 2003, 7:00 pm, same place. It was decided not to have a meeting in August.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:33 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan C. Gabrielson, Recording Secretary

Approved at Meeting of: _____

Without correction _____

As corrected _____

**CUMULATIVE 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
CPAB	Community Policing Advisory Board
CRA	Community Redevelopment Agency
CUP	Conditional Use Permit
DONE	City of Los Angeles Department of Neighborhood Empowerment
DOT	Department of Transportation (LA, California, or federal)
EIR	Environmental Impact Report (also a lyric from “Old MacDonald’s Farm”)
Executive Board	The officers of the WNC: Chair, Vice-Chair, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, Treasurer
HOA	Homeowners Association
NOD	Neighborhood Overlay District
PLUM	Planning and Use Management Committee, LA City Council
SLO	Senior Lead Officer
SUD	Supplemental Use District
TIMP	Traffic Improvement Mitigation Plan
WNC	Westside Neighborhood Council