

WESTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
GOVERNING BOARD

Minutes of Meeting – September 11, 2003

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 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
Kevin Singer – Alternate for Karen Weiss – Seat 14
Sam Skootsky – Seat 15
Jan C. Gabrielson – Seat 17
Beverly Kenworthy – City Council District 5
Richard S. Harmetz – Seat 10
Senior Lead Officer Mario Gonzalez, LAPD
Captain Randy Judd, LAFD

Board Members absent:

Louis Horvath – Seat 2
Melissa Kenady – Seat 16
Nancy Catullo – Seat 1
James Lynch – Seat 5

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of July 10, 2003 were approved as corrected by a vote of 12 - 0. Beverly Kenworthy will supply additional corrections to the “Non-agenda item.”

Candidate-Guest

Ricky Ivey introduced himself. He is a candidate for the 47th Assembly District, Herb Wesson's district. It includes Crenshaw, Beverly Hills, Ladera Heights, Culver City, Cheviot Hills, Westwood, and Marina Del Rey.

Agenda Items

a) Department of Public Works – update on City's 10-Year Plan

Daniel Hackney, the Bureau of Sanitation's Liaison to Neighborhood Councils, telephone 213-473-7479, spoke to us about the operation of the Department of Public Works. He encouraged us to attend the City's Integrated Resources Planning meetings. The City's infrastructure is old and failing and will cost a lot to fix. They anticipate a shortfall of \$4.8 billion over the next 10 years. By order of the Mayor, every department now has a liaison. Sanitation is replacing trash trucks with trucks that burn LNG. Jan Gabrielson suggested while they are replacing the trucks, they get softer backup horns on the new ones. Dan told Jan to email that idea to him. [Jan will do that, but not until he finishes typing the minutes.] Marilyn Cohon commented that coordination between City departments on the Santa Monica Blvd. projects has been abysmal. Dan referred to Teamwork LA, which the Mayor has created from all 43 City departments. They meet once a month and should deal with the types of coordination problems that Marilyn commented on. Stacy Antler commented on the fragility of trash containers. Dan said they are on it.

b) Update on Fox Studios Traffic-Mitigation Plan

Gretchen Lewotsky reported. Fox Studios Development was approved by the city in 1998 to be built in three phases. Each phase of construction has city mandated traffic mitigations associated with it. Phase I of Fox Development has been completed and all mitigation measures associated with it have been completed as well. Currently Fox in Phase II of development. Including an entrance on Olympic through the Fox Plaza parking structure. This entrance is limited to 300 vehicles a day and is egress only. The Fox Studios Development Agreement expires December 31, 2006. Total permitted development is directly tied to the number of vehicles driving on and off the lot. The Fox Network Operations Center runs 24/7, so people come and go throughout the day and night, and so not add to rush-hour traffic. Fox has the only traffic-monitoring system in the state, perhaps country, that tracks traffic flow in and out of the studios by hour, 24 hours a day, 52 weeks a year. This information is presented twice a year to LADOT for their approval. Fox has met all mitigations, and have performance bonds on all projects required for Phase II development. All mitigations for Phase II must be complete before a certificate of occupancy is issued.

c) Update on status of proposed adult-entertainment ordinance

Alisa Griner reported. Jack Weiss has not decided how to vote on the proposed ordinance directed at adult-entertainment clubs, which will be before the City Council on Tuesday. The ordinance would require performers to stay six feet from patrons, and ban private rooms. There is concern that the four clubs in our area offer prostitution and degrade the quality of the neighborhood.

Stacy Antler moved that we write a strong letter to the City Council to support the proposed ordinance. Second by Bob Guerin. Passed 9-1, 3 abstentions. Stacy will write the letter and email it to Terri and the Board will comment.

d) Update on newsrack ordinance

Alisa Griner reported. CLEAN asks us to join in a letter in support of the ordinance. Lobbyists got the City Council to have a moratorium on enforcement of the existing law. Alisa has done over 200 city forms for reporting violations. Asst. CA Chris Westoff, who wrote the proposed ordinance, has been working on this issue for eight years. Not only are the newsracks unsightly, they block access to the sidewalk from parked cars. Alisa noted that she has had to take her baby out of the car on the traffic side of her car. Dick said there may be a free-speech issue, that the ordinance may hurt alternative newspapers who can't afford to comply, noting that the Westsider is in trouble and is important. Bob said that free papers should not be put out of business because of fees. Debra Manoogian said many newstands are filthy and contain objectionable material, that there are racks in loading zones, and that some block the view of traffic at driveways.

Kevin Singer moved, and it was seconded, that we join in the letter. The motion passed 7-6.

e) Trammell Crowe update

Dick Harnetz reported. Tract 7260 HOA has sued the City of Los Angeles. They and Westwood South of Santa Monica HOA have negotiated with the City and with Trammell Crowe. He thinks they will settle. Barbara Broide said Westwood South of Santa Monica HOA sued because questions they raised long ago were never answered. Larry Abelson, President of Calif. Country Club HOA spoke. *His concern was that Phase 1 of the Traffic Plan would be implemented, the Law Suits would not necessarily be resolved by the completion time of Phase 1 or in fact it could be determined that Phase 2 would never happen, thereby leaving a partially completed traffic plan, all to the detriment of the Cheviot, Motor and Manning Groups. He asked that Phase 1 be delayed until the resolve of the 2 filed law suits.* [Italicized passage was substituted verbatim on motion of Robert Guerin and passed at the Board of Governors' meeting on October 9, 2003.] Barbara said that traffic planning needs to be done regionally. Beverly said Jack Weiss supports a more regional approach. No action was

taken.

f) Update on noise from news helicopters

Jan Gabrielson reported. News helicopters continue to operate over our area early in the morning, and late at night. Recently, several news helicopters hovered over a residential area near the junction of the 10 and 405 at 5:20 am, filming a routine traffic incident. Jan read a proposed letter to send to TV news stations to elicit information from them on their operations.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed 11-0, with one abstention authorizing Jan to send the letter on behalf of the WNC. Also, Gretchen volunteered to check on the operations of the Fox News helicopter and call Jan.

Public Comment

Steve Spector proposed an amendment to the bylaws to eliminate staggered terms for board members [based on (a) concern that elections every year may be inefficient and (b) reasoning that the benefits of current staggered term system may be only slight if any at all]. He said that current bylaws provide that the 6 business seats (nos. 1 thru 6) expire 1/1/04, while the 11 other voting seats expire 1/1/05. He asked that this proposal be lodged with the Recording Secretary in writing [it was] and that it be on the agenda of the next meeting as a formal proposal to amend the bylaws by deleting Article III, Section 4 (copied below) so that all board members will have concurrent 2 year terms with all 17 current board members' terms expiring 1/1/05:

PROPOSED TO BE DELETED:

"Sec. 4. STAGGERED TERMS. There shall be two groups of Board Members , one whose term shall expire as of January 1 in odd-numbered years and one whose term shall expire as of January 1 in even-numbered years. The Board Members whose term ends in even-numbered years shall be the representatives of the Business organizations listed in Section 1(A) above. The Board Members whose term ends in odd-numbered years shall consist of the remaining representatives listed in Section 1 above."

We will need a 2/3 vote of the entire number of Board Members (so we need 12 votes) in order to get to the next step. If we get that vote, then within 14 days a Notice of Proposed Adjustment of Bylaws needs to be submitted to DONE for review and approval.

Executive Board Report

Terri Tippit reported. The Executive Board conferred by email on the agenda and administrative matters, but did not meet this month.

Budget Committee Report

No report.

Policies and Procedures Committee Report

Terri reported that Chair Jim Lynch told her that the Committee is “making progress.” No details were given.

Public Safety and Traffic Committee

Stacy Antler reported. John Miller, Chief of LAPD’s Anti-Terrorism Bureau will speak to us at our meeting on October 9. Stacy wants enough people to take the Fire Department’s CERT training that there will be a person on every block who can help out after a disaster, keeping in mind that fire and rescue services may be delayed in arriving.

Land-Use Committee

Gretchen Lewotsky reported. The Committee met in June and developed proposed guidelines for developers. Westside 2 has approached them and the Committee will try the guidelines out on them. Mid-City West NC has asked the Committee to share its guidelines. There appeared to be no opposition.

Outreach Committee

Alan Levine reported. Alan, Sam, Francois, and Beverly met with the USC people, who have a grant from the Irvine Foundation to study neighborhood councils. They are planning a Visioning Workshop – a three-hour session in an evening. Mark Eliot of the USC project introduced himself, but he didn’t fill out a speaker card, so the minutes will not show what he said (nothing).

D.O.N.E Report

No rep from DONE attended, so no report was done.

Council District 5

Beverly Kenworthy reported. Jack Weiss has some new City Council committee assignments: PLUM, Public Safety, and IT and General Services, of which he is Chair. A motorized billboard on Pico is illegal and will be taken down. They are looking into uses for the welfare building on Pico. As for the Santa Monica Blvd. project, they are working with the City Attorney to create an area to monitor all development, to discuss

further negative effects. The problem with the Parnell house goes to court September 12, 2003 to get an order to clean it up.

Next meeting

October 9, 2003, 7:00 pm, in Community Room C, Westside 2, above Tony Roma's. NOTE CHANGE IN MEETING PLACE FOR THIS MEETING ONLY.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:07 pm, setting the record for our longest meeting to date.

Respectfully submitted,

Jan C. Gabrielson, Recording Secretary

Approved at Meeting of: _____

Without correction _____

As corrected _____

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

BID	Business Improvement District
Brown Act	The Ralph M. Brown Act
CD5	City Council District 5 (Jack Weiss)
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act (nothing to do with Liberace's suits)
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
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