

WESTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

GOVERNING BOARD

Minutes of Meeting January 8, 2004

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 PM in Community Room C at Westside Pavilion by Chair Terri Tippit.

Board Members attending:

Nancy Catullo – Seat 1
Steve Spector – Seat 3
Jean Shigematsu – Seat 4 (7:25)
James Lynch – Seat 5
Barbara Broide, alternate for David T. (Ty) Vahedi – Seat 7
Terri Tippit – Seat 8
Annette Mercer, alternate for Alan James Levine – Seat 9 (7:55)
Richard S. Harmetz – Seat 10 (7:15)
J. François Nion – Seat 11
Stacy L. Antler – Seat 12
Robert Guerin – Seat 13
Karen Weiss – Seat 14
Melissa Kenady – Seat 16
Jan C. Gabrielson – Seat 17
Susan Bursk – City Council District 5
Senior Lead Officer Mario Gonzalez, LAPD

Board Members absent:

Seat 2 - vacant
Gretchen Lewotsky – Seat 6
Sam Skootsky – Seat 15
Representative from LAFD

Note: Events are reported in order of occurrence.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of December 11, 2003 were approved without correction by a vote of 10 - 0.

Agenda Items

- b) Concern of condition of local streets and sidewalks.

Stakeholder Jonny Joseph (2730 Selby) reported. He showed photos and spoke of the poor condition of the sidewalks and pavement in his neighborhood (west of Overland, south of Exposition, north of National, east of Westwood Blvd.), which is buckling and crumbling into pieces. He presented photos and other exhibits which were made a part of the meeting's record. The streets have not been resurfaced within the memory of anybody he has spoken to in the neighborhood. He has tried to work with the Dept. of Public Works and CD5. A representative from CD5 walked the streets with him in the last half of last year. Susan Bursk said she will look into it. Terri referred the issue to the Public Safety and Traffic Committee. Talia Nosrati, another stakeholder from the same street, confirmed Jonny's description and added that the sidewalks have been damaged by roots, that she has tripped over them, and has heard children falling because of them. Susan Bursk said the City fixes sidewalks, and explained that there are 10,000 miles of sidewalk in the City, that 5,000 need repair, that the budget provides for 90 miles of repair in the entire City. All this comes down to 6 miles for each Council district, which CD5 has to split between the West Side and the Valley. She said it is possible to have a representative from Street Services come to our meeting. She also said that some day, neighborhood councils will decide how to allocate repairs.

Public Comment

Anne Kupper lives at 1819 ½ Thayer, just south of little Santa Monica, in one of 10 townhouses at 1817 - 1825 ½ Thayer. She got notice of a public hearing on January 14 on an application for a variance by a builder who proposes to build a six-unit condo with 15 garage spaces. She has not seen an EIR or traffic study. She went to the CD5 office and learned that the builder wants to build with a five-foot instead of a six-foot setback. Susan Bursk told Anne to call her.

John Beccaria owns the Best Western Royal Palace Hotel on Sepulveda. Last week there was an accident caused by racing. He wants a stop light at Richland and Sepulveda. Barbara Broide said one must be careful about asking for new lights because they affect the traffic in the neighborhood. Susan Bursk said she will talk to DOT about it.

Solomon Rivera is a volunteer for Karen Bass, who is running in Assembly District 47. He made a brief presentation.

Second Agenda Item

- c) Macerich - Landmark project (Westside Too)

After our last meeting, Rich Cahalan drafted a letter setting out our position on the project, which Terri then distributed to the Board, calling for comments. Terri's HOA had a number of concerns about items in the draft letter, which were discussed. Some conditions may not be possible, such as a ban on X-rated movies. People in the area did not want the entrance to the mall at the end of the alley closed, because there would be more valet traffic in the alley. Steve said they can knock down a wall to a storage area and add 59 parking spaces to help during the holidays. Terri got no other comments from Board members on the draft letter. The WNC should participate in a task force to monitor the project before, during, and after construction. Steve expressed concern that if approval of the project is held up, so that it does not appear that the project can open before the holidays in 2005, the builder may lose interest. Annette Mercer said that discussion of traffic should be regional, and not focused on any individual street. There was some discussion of the wine bar that Landmark wants to have in the theaters, and of the hours of operation of the proposed restaurants. Margaret Healy (2370 Midvale) expressed concern that closing the Westwood Blvd. exit part during some hours would divert more cars to Pico. The Board by consensus agreed to delete that recommendation.

It was moved, seconded, and passed, 13 - 0 (Steve abstaining) that Rich will revise the letter, mark the changes, and email it to Terri. Terri will forward it to the Board members with a deadline to respond. If more than half of the voting members object, the letter will go on the agenda at our next meeting. If not, it will be sent to Jack Weiss.

d) Update on proposed closure of Century City Hospital

Jim Lynch reported that Century City Hospital is going to close. The Century City Chamber of Commerce is encouraging the owner to find another hospital as a tenant. There are 500 doctors in the adjoining medical building who, without the hospital, will have little incentive to stay. Jim will do a letter for Terri to send to the owner.

Executive Board Report

Terri Tippit reported. The Executive Board met on December 30, 2003. Terri bought a laptop computer for the WNC. She appointed a nominating committee of Jan Gabrielson, Karen Weiss, and Francois Nion to pick a slate of officers for 2004. Anybody interested in being an officer should contact any member of the Nominating Committee. Because we amended our bylaws to give business seats a two-year term, we will not have Board elections for 2004. Anyone who wants to serve on a committee for 2004 should attend the first meeting of that committee, at which time each committee must elect a chair. Policies and Procedures will meet at Jan's house on January 20 at 6:30 pm. Public Safety and Traffic on January 14, same hour and place.

Council District 5 Report

Susan Bursk introduced Paul Backstrom, who will replace Beverly Kenworthy on our Board. He has been with Jack Weiss for two years. His email is pbackstr@council.lacity.org. The Century City Neighborhood Traffic Plan is being implemented at Pico and Motor. A West LA Regional Office of the Housing Dept. will open on January 29 at 3415 Sepulveda. Jack Weiss will speak. An article in the LA Times reported that Rancho Golf Course has a new concessionaire. New pros who teach there will have to have a PGA card. Those who have already been teaching there will be grandparented in.

Next meeting

February 12, 2004, 7:00 pm.

Adjournment

The meeting miraculously adjourned at 9:03 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
Executive Board	The officers of the WNC: Chair, Vice-Chair, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, Treasurer
HOA	Homeowners Association
MND	Mitigated Negative Declaration
NOD	Neighborhood Oriented District
NTM	Neighborhood Traffic Mitigation
PACT	Police and Community Together
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