

WESTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
GOVERNING BOARD

Minutes of Meeting March 11, 2004

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM at Westside Pavilion, first floor, by Chair Terri Tippit.

Board Members attending:

Richard Cahalan – Seat 2
Steve Spector – Seat 3
James Lynch – Seat 5
Gretchen Lewotsky – Seat 6
David T. (Ty) Vahedi – Seat 7
Terri Tippit – Seat 8
Alan James Levine – Seat 9
Michael Eveloff, alternate for Richard S. Harmetz – Seat 10
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
Paul Backstrom – City Council District 5
Senior Lead Officer Mario Gonzalez, LAPD
Captain Ed Stimson, LAFD

Board Members absent:

Nancy Catullo – Seat 1
Jean Shigematsu – Seat 4
Sam Skootsky – Seat 15

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of February 12, 2004 were approved as corrected by a vote of 11 - 0 - 1.

Agenda Items (in the order they were heard)

4. a) City of Los Angeles Controller Laura Chick spoke to us.

She is the City's chief auditor and accountant and has a staff of 200 auditors and accountants. They keep watch over how the City and its departments spend their money. They have put out 65 audits since she has been in office. All are on her website. The cover letter with each tells the story. The City has three proprietary departments, which are run differently from other departments: Airports, Harbor, and Water and Power. Each has its own sources of revenue and are run by commissioners appointed by the Mayor. She touched on her findings from auditing those three departments. DWP transfers money to the City's general fund and the City depends on that revenue. Chief Administrative Officer Bill Fujioka has done an analysis of DWP's increase request. Laura will mail it to Terri for distribution to us.

4. b) Captain Vance Proctor, our new LAPD captain, spoke to us.

LAPD is under a hiring freeze and is faced with severe attrition. It is under a Federal consent decree because of Rampart, compliance with which is labor-intensive. West LA is the biggest division and has the smallest number of officers, because of a decline in calls for service. West LA is the safest division and has been for 30 years. Traffic will focus on problem areas. They need radar guns. There are 280 officers in his division, including detectives. 185 uniformed patrol officers. His phone is 310-575-8400.

4. b) Proposed DWP Power-Distribution Center at National and Bentley

Terri Tippit withdrew the item. She was told that they will be held to the negative declaration. There is talk of re-designing it or going back to the original design.

Replacement of resigned Board member

Seat 2 (Businesses north of Pico) has been vacant. Terri asked Rich Cahalan to get letters from businesses supporting him to fill the seat. He did and the letters are on file. It was moved, seconded, and passed 13 - 0 that Rich Cahalan be the Board member for Seat 2 for the balance of the current term.

Agenda Items (continued)

4. d) Santa Monica Transit Project update

Michael Eveloff, alternate for Richard Harnetz, reported. The requirement in the EIR that requires three lanes to be kept open has not been followed. He met with the project staff on October 20 and was told that because of last-minute needs of DWP, keeping three lanes open would delay the project.

Ron Low of Public Works, Chair of the Project Oversight Council spoke. In any project, unanticipated things happen. Some businesses prefer that the project be

completed sooner, even if it means fewer lanes open. Low said, "We have an EIR to guide us but we are not bound to follow it point by point." A number of speakers took issue with that statement. Project staff is trying to keep in touch with concerned groups and the public. Jim Lynch said the staff has been helpful and responsive. John Beccaria owns the Travelodge at Overland and little Santa Monica. He complained of noise, night work, and dirt. Tonya E. Durrell reviewed the Project's outreach efforts. They have a hotline, a website, and email plans two weeks ahead. Carl Nelson, the Project Manager, Bureau of Engineering projects 8/15/05 as the completion date. The contractor says they will be late. Keith Pritser, Deputy City Attorney, and Mark Wright, lead inspector, also spoke. Michael Eveloff did not ask the Board to take any action.

4. c) Website

Terri reported in Sam Skootsky's absence. An estimate of \$3,500 to set up a site and \$400 per year to maintain it was mentioned. Treasurer Bob Guerin said they need prior approval to spend that money. It was suggested that they work with a \$4,000 budget for planning purposes, and report back.

4. e) Department of Public Works Briefing

Annette Mercer reported on a meeting she went to. She wrote up a report, which was distributed and will be in the record of this meeting. The Department is short of money. She suggested that NC's could take the position that we think maintaining our infrastructure is a priority.

4. f) Century City Hospital

Both of the following motions were moved, seconded, and passed 13 - 0:

Motion #1:

The following resolution is adopted and shall be submitted to all relevant governmental regulatory and policy bodies, and to Tenet Healthcare Corporation, the hospital property owner, and Salus Surgical Group:

The Westside Neighborhood Council urges that Century City Hospital and its emergency department remain open at all times throughout any transition of hospital ownership or change of hospital operators.

Jim Lynch may draft a letter communicating this resolution and submit it to the Chair, who will distribute it to the Board, calling for corrections, comments, and objections within a reasonable period of time. If, after circulation and correction by the Board, a majority of Board members do not object to the form of the letter, and if the Chair approves the form of the letter, it shall be sent.

Motion #2:

Jim Lynch is authorized to attend hearings and meetings regarding the closure or transfer of ownership of Century City Hospital as an observer for the Westside Neighborhood Council. He may communicate the WNC's position as expressed in Motion #1, but may take no other position or make any other representation on behalf of the WNC without prior approval of the Board.

Public Forum Period

Nobody spoke.

Executive Board Report

Terri Tippit reported. The Executive Board met on March 3, 2004. A meeting with representatives of Catalina Pacific Concrete is set for March 16, 2004. The hearing on the Westside Too project is set for March 15, 2004 at 9am. The Policies and Procedures Committee was asked to devise procedures for approving and processing disbursements of money.

Budget Committee Report

Treasurer Bob Guerin submitted a written report, attached to the hard copy of these minutes. Nancy Catullo's signature is required to sign checks and she is not always available. Terri will replace her as authorized co-signer.

Policies and Procedures Committee Report

Jan Gabrielson reported. The Committee's minutes and report were previously emailed to the Board. The following recommendations, which were set out verbatim in the Committee's minutes and report, were made as motions and passed by the votes appearing after each Recommendation:

Recommendation #1: Amend Standing Rule 6 to read:

Audience members are allowed to address the WNC regarding each agenda item, immediately after the initial presentation on that agenda item, and before Board discussion on that item. Speakers from the public are limited to one presentation of two minutes per person on any one agenda item. The Chair, with the consent of the Board, shall reasonably limit the total time devoted to public comment on any agenda item, with the goals that as many stakeholders be heard from as possible, and that the meeting not be unduly prolonged. Board discussion and action, if any, follows public comment on each agenda item. After the conclusion of public comment on an item, no further comment from the

public on that item is permitted. [12 - 0 - 1]

Recommendation #2: The Chair, with the approval of a majority of the officers, shall set the amount of time for the initial presentation of each agenda item, include the time on the agenda, and inform the presenter of the amount of time allotted. [13 - 0]

Recommendation #3:

After the presentation, audience comment, and board discussion on an agenda item, the Chair should ask if any Board member wants to make a motion. If no motion is made, the Chair, where appropriate and with the consent of the Board, may consider and make an informal referral to the office of the City Councilmember for District 5 or to a committee. If a motion is made, the Board debates and votes, with no further statement from the audience. [12 - 0 - 1]

Recommendation #4:

The Chair, in presiding over meetings, shall enforce our Bylaws, our Standing Rules, our Code of Civility, and, where applicable, the rules of parliamentary procedure. The Chair should be a neutral arbiter, and should cede the chair before speaking on either side of an issue. It is the responsibility of the Board to assist the Chair in the orderly conduct of our meetings. Where a Board member disagrees with an action of the Chair, the issue may be raised by a point of order in accordance with the rules of parliamentary procedure. [12 - 0 - 1]

Recommendation #5: The Board approves Terri's standards for the conduct of Board members during Board meetings and its members shall make every reasonable effort to comply. They are:

- I will keep the meeting moving. Do not consider me rude if I ask you or a speaker to wind it up.
- We will not have side conversations. If I see or hear them, I will ask the participants to stop.
- Each board member will try to be on time.
- I will begin at 7 pm. If there is no quorum then, we will hope to have one by the time we need to take action.
- Get your dessert and drink before sitting down. No getting up during the meeting.
- If for some reason the meeting is going to run late, I will announce a break

around 8:15. If a majority of Board members vote not to take the break, we will proceed without a break.

- When a speaker is finished board members will not get up and go talk with them. Contact information will be given during the presentation. You can contact them after the meeting. [12 - 0 - 1]

Recommendation #6: The WNC does not endorse political candidates. When publically supporting a political candidate, Members of the Board should state unequivocally to the candidate that the name of the WNC must not be used in a manner that might suggest the WNC supports that candidate. [12 - 0 - 1]

Public Safety Committee

Stacy Antler reported. The Committee wants to revisit buying laser guns for the LAPD. CERT training will start July 6, 2004 and last six weeks. Stacy, Annette, and Alan will meet with an official on the condition of pavement west of Overland. Terri raised the issues of vans parked in inappropriate places and referred it to the Committee.

Land-Use Committee

Gretchen Lewotsky reported. With no projects to evaluate, the Committee is having an educational program on March 23 at Gretchen's residence with various people speaking on the process of putting together a project.

Outreach Committee

Alan Levine reported. The brochures have been printed and are being handed out. Sam spoke to the Overland Avenue School PTA and handed out brochures. The Committee is planning to set up an information table at the Century City shopping center on a Saturday and Sunday. We will need to overcome merchant apathy or lack of knowledge about us to promote the Pico Village concept.

Council District 5 Report

Paul Backstrom reported on upcoming events: Friends of the Library are sponsoring Ray Bradbury on March 31. An emergency-preparedness fair will be held on April 17. A congress of NC's on May 22. Century City CC is honoring Fox as citizen of the year on April 4.

Next meeting

April 8, 2004. 7:00 pm.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:54 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**

BID	Business Improvement District
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