

WESTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

GOVERNING BOARD

Minutes of Meeting April 8, 2004

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM in Community Room A at Westside Pavilion by Chair Terri Tippit.

Board Members attending:

Richard Cahalan – Seat 2
Steve Spector – Seat 3
Jean Shigematsu – Seat 4
James Lynch – Seat 5
David T. (Ty) Vahedi – Seat 7
Terri Tippit – Seat 8
Alan James Levine – Seat 9
Richard S. Harmetz – Seat 10
J. François Nion – Seat 11
Stacy L. Antler – Seat 12
Robert Guerin – Seat 13
Kevin Singer, alternate for Karen Weiss – Seat 14
Melissa Kenady – Seat 16
Jan C. Gabrielson – Seat 17
Paul Backstrom – City Council District 5

Board Members absent:

Nancy Catullo – Seat 1
Gretchen Lewotsky – Seat 6
Sam Skootsky – Seat 15
Senior Lead Officer Mario Gonzalez, LAPD
Representative from LAFD

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of March 11, 2004 were approved as corrected by a vote of 11-0-1 (11 for, 0 against, 1 abstention).

Public Forum Period

Dick Harmetz announced that Ray Bradbury spoke at the library on March 31.

Dick has some of his books to sell and half the proceeds will go to the library.

Erika Jordan of the Karen Bass for Assembly campaign announced that Karen Bass is setting up think-tank groups. The first meeting is 4/22/04 at Karen Bass headquarters.

Jan Gabrielson asked that a bylaw amendment be put on next month's agenda that would allow stakeholders to vote for their local representative and the at-large seat. Jan Gabrielson disclosed a potential conflict of interest since he is the at-large representative and might benefit from the amendment.

Agenda Items

4.a) Election of Corresponding Secretary

Terri announced that Karen Weiss is moving from the area and has resigned as Corresponding Secretary. Terri nominated Stacy Antler to fill the position for the balance of Karen's term. The Board approved the nomination 13-0-1.

4.b) Overland Avenue School International Festival

Joanne Dorfman reported. The Festival will be on Saturday, May 22, 2004. They expect 1,000 people. They usually charge a fee of \$75 for a table, but will waive it for us. Bob Guerin said we could afford it.

It was moved, seconded, and passed 13-0-1 that we sponsor a table and allocate \$150 for it.

4.c) Website

Melissa Kenady reported. We got a proposal from Terra Sage, which was distributed before the meeting. They want to open up the bidding. Schlomo Fattal said we should identify the top three reasons why we think we need a website. That process will tell us what we need to include. We could get a template website for free.

4.d) Wall along 10700-10800 block of Ayres behind Westside Pavillion

Kevin Greenfield reported. He lives at 10816 Ayres. He read his letter of April 8, 2004 to the WNC, asking for improvements in the wall between Westside Pavillion east of Westwood Blvd. and Ayres in connection with the revamping of Westside Too. Steve Spector responded on behalf of Macerich and said it would cost over \$100,000 to build the wall that Kevin wants. The existing wall is too old to raise and would have to be replaced. Also, concessions were made to residents of Ayres when Westside Pavillion was built. Paige Imatani of 10816 Ayres also spoke. Kevin Singer suggested adding a trellis to the top of the wall and planting vines. Steve said

Macerich would be willing to consider that. Alan said that only one resident of Ayres attended the hearing and her issue was the ramp, which had been there for years. Janette Miller of 2517 Westwood Blvd. expressed concern about crossing the driveway and about accidents on Westwood between Pico and National. Terri suggested that Kevin and Paige meet with Macerich. Kevin Singer also expressed his willingness to help. No action was taken.

Old Business

e) Catalina Concrete Plant

Terri Tippit reported. She, Barbara, and Renato Romano met with 5 people from the plant, including their attorney. They complained of noise from the PA system, dust, and chipping dried concrete from the trucks with jackhammers. The problem of trucks lining up on Sepulveda occurs about once a week, and only when there is a delay in the plant. The plant now has radios so they can remove two of the three PA systems and will turn down the third one. They will limit chipping hours. They took measures to reduce dust, but the day laborers' site complained about those measures.

Day Laborers' Site

Terri Tippit reported. She attended a meeting. Work-seekers are loitering again. Employers can get workers for cheaper outside the site. Merchants on Sawtelle are complaining. Terri called the mayor of Pasadena for a copy of their ordinance that might serve as a model for LA. The Site, while controversial, is beneficial to workers, as they get education there. There will be another meeting.

f) Laser gun for LAPD

Stacy Antler reported. It was moved, seconded and passed 12-2 that we buy a laser gun for LAPD and accompany it with a letter that we want them to use it in our district.

g) Trees

Barbara Broide reported on our letter to merchants about illegal tree-trimming on Pico. We will mail the letter to business owners. Once we distribute our letter to merchants, the City will enforce the law. We asked the City to approve the letter. The City has two grants to plant trees, one on major corridors, and the other where kids walk to school. Barbara asked them to put a number of streets on the list, including Olympic, Pico, Westwood, and Overland. In common areas, new trees will replace existing trees. The landowner has to agree to water the tree for five years, until it can take care of itself.

Old-Business items not on agenda

Melissa Kenady reported that sofas and mattresses are back on the sidewalk at Sofas U Love (east side of Sepulveda south of Expo).

Jim Lynch reported on Century City Hospital. He met with government people in Sacramento. There was no time to circulate a letter. Jim is encouraging the government to move along the bureaucratic process for permits.

Executive Board Report

Terri Tippit reported. The Executive Board met on April 1, 2004.

On May 5 at Emerson Middle School, at 7 SLOs from West LA LAPD will meet with the community and hear complaints.

On May 13 is an SLO summit.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Bob Guerin reported. We spent \$10.97 last month on Earthlink.

Policies and Procedures Committee Report

Jan Gabrielson reported. The Committee met on March 16 and distributed its minutes and report containing 10 recommendations. Recommendation #5 was withdrawn for further study. Alan said a public liaison person during the meeting might be a distraction and a poster with our procedures to orient the public might be better. The Committee will study the issues further and consider Alan's suggestion. Recommendations 1 through 6 and 8 through 10 were moved, seconded and passed by the votes set out below after each recommendation.

Recommendation #1: Alternates are allowed two minutes each to speak to an agenda item after the initial presentation, and after public comment on that issue, even if that alternate has already spoken on that issue. This privilege is subject to the right and duty of the chair to close public comment in an appropriate case, taking into account the hour, the amount of time already devoted to that item, and the remaining items on the agenda. Once public comment and alternate comment on any agenda item has concluded and Board discussion begins, there shall be no further comment by the public or by alternates on that item. This procedure should be monitored and reviewed from time to time. (14-0)

Recommendation #2: Create a new Standing Rule: An alternate may not sit at the Board table unless that alternate's Board member is absent. If the Board member

attends the meeting and voluntarily gives his or her seat to the alternate, that member's alternate sits as if a Board member for the rest of that meeting and that Board member may not return to the Board table or vote. (13-1-0)

 Recommendation #3: The Chair should give a brief introduction to the agenda items so that stakeholders who are not Board members can quickly grasp the issues. (14-0-0)

 Recommendation #4: A one-page sheet of tips and guidelines for non-professional presenters, designed for members of the public who plan to speak on an agenda item or at the Public Forum Period, shall be made available at the information table. The Policies and Procedures Committee, with the consent of the Board, shall design the sheet. A draft is attached. (14-0-0)

 Recommendation #6: The glossary of esoteric acronyms, abbreviations, and buzzwords that is attached to every set of minutes should be printed separately, copied, and be made available on the table with the speakers cards, agendas, and other meeting materials. (14-0-0)

 Recommendation #7: In addition to the time for initial presentation being set in the agenda, the Chair should estimate an overall discussion time and announce it before or immediately after the initial presentation of each agenda item. The Chair may extend the time when appropriate, taking into account the importance of the item, the number of speakers, and the other items on the agenda. (14-0-0)

 Recommendation #8: Every passed motion that assumes future action by the WNC should be placed on the next agenda as Old Business until that action has been completed or expressly abandoned by the Board. The Recording Secretary shall note in the minutes when such an item has been reported as completed. (13-1-0)

 Recommendation #9: The following three Board actions shall be numbered and included in our Standing Rules:

[Previous approved] 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.

[Previous approved] 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.

[Previous approved] 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. (14-0-0)

Recommendation #10: Approve as a Standing Rule: In the case of a vacant seat on the Westside Neighborhood Council, notice of the vacancy, and of a proposed vote by the Governing Board to approve a candidate to fill the vacancy, shall be placed on the agenda and be posted for the public and emailed to the Board in the same manner that all agenda items are set and posted. Nominations to fill the vacancy may be made by the candidates themselves, by Board members, by Board alternates, or by any member of any constituency represented by the vacant seat. (14-0-0)

Public Safety Committee

Stacy Antler reported. CERT training starts Monday evening July 12 and will continue for six weeks. The last session will be on August 16. Street condition West of Westwood south of Expo: Stacy, Ellen Stein, Jonny Joseph, and Annette Mercer walked the neighborhood to look at the streets. The City does not have enough money to fix the streets that need it. Ellen said she would try to get Selby fixed.

Land-Use Committee

Rich Cahalan reported. They had an educational meeting on the process for approving development projects.

Outreach Committee

Alan Levine reported. He got a letter from Mar Vista NC about setting up a super-committee of NCs. We can set up our table at Westside Pavillion and Century City shopping center whenever we want. He will send an email calling for volunteers.

Council District 5 Report

Paul Backstrom reported. An emergency-preparedness fair will be held on April 17. Another group is looking at beautifying Pico between Beverwil and La Brea. He will email information about a meeting on the DWP substation. The Palms NC and the Amman Cultural Center want to close Motor on April 25 between Woodbine and National.

Miscellaneous Item

Wendell New introduced himself and mentioned California National Bank on Overland and Esther.

Next meeting

May 13, 2004, 7:00 pm, same place.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 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