

WESTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

GOVERNING BOARD

Minutes of Meeting January 13, 2005

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 PM in Community Room A at Westside Pavilion by Chair Terri Tippit.

Board Members attending (Board elected in December 2004: terms effective January 1, 2005):

Richard Cahalan– Seat 1  
Steve Spector – Seat 3  
Renato Romano – Seat 4  
Gretchen Lewotsky – Seat 6  
Barbara Broide – Seat 7  
Terri Tippit – Seat 8  
Alan James Levine – Seat 9  
Richard S. Harmetz – Seat 10  
Stacy L. Antler – Seat 12  
Robert Guerin – Seat 13  
Blaise Antin – Seat 15  
Melissa Kenady – Seat 16  
Paul Backstrom – City Council District 5

Board Members absent:

Seat 2 – Vacant  
Mary Kusnic – Seat 5  
J. François Nion – Seat 11  
Seat 14 - Vacant  
David T. (Ty) Vahedi – Seat 17  
Senior Lead Officer Mario Gonzalez, LAPD  
Representative from LAFD

Others attending in a semi-official capacity:

Jan C. Gabrielson – Recording Secretary Pro Tem (Board term expired December 31, 2004. He did not vote at this meeting.)

### **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting of December 9, 2004 were approved as corrected by a vote of 11-0-0.

### **Swearing in of New Board**

Councilmember Jack Weiss swore in the new Board. He announced indictments in the Fleishman-Hillard scandal. He also announced the appointment of Dick Harnetz to a Board that oversees Recreation and Parks projects on the west side.

### **Public Comment**

Addie Miller, a candidate for Mayor of Los Angeles, introduced herself and stayed for much of the meeting.

Sabrina Venskus of the Ballona Wetlands Land Trust announced that 1,200 attended the town hall meeting on the expansion of the Playa Vista project. The project was approved by the City Council. Councilmember Antonio Villaraigosa was the only Council member who voted no. A suit has been filed.

### **Agenda Items**

4.b) Ron Lorenzen, LA City Bureau of Street Services, Tree Division spoke on the work of his department, the issuance of permits to trim or remove trees on City property, and related problems. The City wants people to trim trees (with permits) because the City can't afford to do it. On most commercial corridors, people are trimming trees without permits, not just on Pico. One can apply on line for a permit. The City follows the guidelines of the International Society of Arborists: remove only 25% of the foliage and not top the tree. If we see someone trimming and report it, an emergency truck will come. But they have limited enforcement capability. The City Attorney will not prosecute illegal tree removal without an eyewitness, photos, and a witness willing to testify. Merchants should not top trees to make signs visible, because the tree will grow more at sign level. It is better to let it grow and thin it below. Phyllis Kassel, a stakeholder, asked about a problem with trees over a sewer line. When a tree comes out, two trees (24" box) must go in.

4.a) Memorandum of Understanding between City agencies and neighborhood councils. Stacy Antler reported. The purpose is to force City agencies to come before us. The group meets once a month. Stacy will bring the materials to the February meeting. This item will be on the agenda.

4.c) Proposed Sewer rate increase. No action was taken.

4.d) Database privacy. Steve Spector reported that the City Attorney has opined that we do not have to give out our databases to anyone who asks under certain conditions. To establish those conditions, Steve moved that the WNC resolve that it has in the past compiled and maintained its email databases in a way that created an expectation of privacy and that the WNC shall continue doing so in the future. The motion was seconded and passed 9-3-0.

Revision to Standing Rule 5. Steve moved that SR-5 be amended to change "one minute" at the end of the second sentence to "two minutes." The motion was seconded and passed 12-0-0. Standing Rule 5 now reads:

After each regular meeting has been called to order and the minutes of the previous meeting approved, the third item on the agenda shall be a "Public Forum Period," during which Stakeholders and others may make announcements, comments or requests regarding matters not on the agenda. Each such speaker shall be allowed to address the WNC for no more than two minutes. The presiding officer shall determine the order of such speakers. At the conclusion of all WNC business, if time allows, the presiding officer may, at his or her discretion, open another Public Forum Period.

4.e) No-kill animal shelters. Melissa Kenady reported. This item will be on the February agenda. Proponents want LA to be like San Francisco: a "no-kill city." Paul Backstrom will try to get someone from Animal Control to attend the meeting.

4.f) End-of-year reports of committee chairs. Gretchen did an oral report for Land-Use Planning and will submit a written summary. The other committees had submitted written reports. It was moved and seconded that we change our existing policy and now permit Board members or alternates to be chair or vice-chair of any WNC committee. The motion passed 12-0-0.

### **Executive Board Report**

6. Executive Board report. Terri Tippit reported. Stacy Antler has been appointed to chair the nominating committee. The other members are Jan Gabrielson and Rich Cahalan. Paul arranged a meeting with Jack in the Box. They are closing their drive-through at 11pm. Hearings on the proposed FBI building will take place on Jan. 19 and 20. Rich will attend.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Bob Guerin reported. He handed out a 2004–2005 operating budget as of 12/31/04. We have \$206 in petty cash and \$5,109.01 on the credit card. We owe money to Tom Brohard and can't pay it because we don't have a second signer. To be

a second signer requires taking a class and the class isn't offered soon enough. Rich, Bob, and Melissa will meet with Deanna about the difficulties DONE is causing us in handling our money.

### **Public Safety Committee**

Stacy Antler reported. Barbara Broide will be chair. There was a discussion about meeting with Lucie Bava of Cheviot Hills HOA regarding her objections to Tom Brohard. Several Board members objected to having such a meeting.

The Committee will be having public meetings to gather information on our traffic problems. Barbara asked Board members to spread the word and to distribute questionnaires. Tom Brohard will be at the meetings.

### **Outreach Committee**

Alan Levine reported, referring to his written report.

### **Miscellaneous Important Item**

Gretchen showed a poster setting out meeting procedures to be displayed at future Board meetings.

### **D.O.N.E Report**

None was done.

### **Council District 5 Report**

Paul Backstrom reported. They are looking at the material from the DOT meeting and will send it out for more comment. He will talk to Barbara about the Regional Traffic Task Force.

### **Next meeting**

February 10, 2004, 7:00 pm, same place.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 10:17 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