

WESTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

GOVERNING BOARD

Minutes of Meeting February 10, 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:

Richard Cahalan– Seat 1  
Steve Spector – Seat 3  
Renato Romano – Seat 4  
Mary Kusnic – Seat 5  
Gretchen Lewotsky – Seat 6  
Barbara Broide – Seat 7  
Terri Tippit – Seat 8  
Annette Mercer, alternate for Alan James Levine – Seat 9  
Richard S. Harmetz – Seat 10  
Stacy L. Antler – Seat 12  
Robert Guerin – Seat 13  
Blaise Antin – Seat 15  
Shannon Burns, alternate for David T. (Ty) Vahedi – Seat 17

Board Members absent:

Seat 2 – Vacant  
J. François Nion – Seat 11  
Seat 14 - Vacant  
Melissa Kenady – Seat 16  
Paul Backstrom – City Council District 5  
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 January 13, 2005 were approved without correction by a vote of 13-0-0.

### **Election of Officers**

4.a) The Chair called Agenda item 4.a) first in order to elect officers of the Westside Neighborhood Council (WNC) for the ensuing year. Stacy Antler, Chair of the Nominating Committee, submitted nominations for officers as follows:

Steve Spector -- Chair  
Bob Guerin -- Vice Chair  
Terri Tippit -- Corresponding Secretary  
Rich Cahalan -- Recording Secretary  
Melissa Kenady -- Treasurer

It was later clarified that Melissa Kenady would take office as Treasurer, effective upon completing the Treasurer training class required by the City of Los Angeles and that Bob Guerin, the current Treasurer, would continue to serve as Treasurer until such time. The Chair called for additional nominations from the floor, but there were none. Steve Spector stated that, as Chair, he would intend to involve other Board members in various matters and that his priorities would be for the WNC to continue to serve as a forum for our community, to maintain the momentum of the various WNC committees, to pursue the WNC Regional Traffic Study in progress, to pursue the Pico Village project, to improve the WNC Bylaws and to protect the WNC from manipulation by those who might have inappropriate intentions. Steve also gave a tribute to Terri Tippit for her work as Chair during the past two years. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Governing Board voted 13-0-0 to adopt the following:

The Westside Neighborhood Council Governing Board hereby approves the Nominating Committee's recommendations for election of officers for the ensuing year and, therefore, the following people are elected to serve as the respective officers of the Westside Neighborhood Council for the ensuing year and until their respective successors are elected and qualified:

Steve Spector -- Chair  
Bob Guerin -- Vice Chair  
Terri Tippit -- Corresponding Secretary  
Rich Cahalan -- Recording Secretary  
Melissa Kenady -- Treasurer (effective upon completion of the City-  
required Treasurer training course)

The new officers, other than the Treasurer elect, took office immediately, and Steve Spector served as Chair for the remainder of the meeting. The Board members then introduced themselves to the audience.

### **Public Forum**

Joe Weisz of 2311 Parnell Avenue presented an issue he has with one of his adjacent neighbors who apparently constructed a wall on his own property line to separate his driveway from Mr. Weisz' driveway. Mr. Weisz stated that he can no longer use his driveway normally. On February 6, 2005, the WNC had responded to February 5, 2005 email from Mr. Weisz on this subject, inviting him to present at the WNC's February meeting, noting that Mr. Weisz and his neighbor were involved in pending litigation on the issue and stating that it was uncertain that the WNC could do anything about the situation inasmuch as the WNC does not generally get involved in individual disputes between neighbors and, in any event, cannot give legal advice.

Daniel Cardozo, representing Assemblymember Karen Bass, introduced himself and gave his phone number (323-937-4747).

Annette Mercer announced that Overland Avenue Elementary School would be holding its prospective parents night on Thursday, February 24, 2005 for parents of new students who were thinking of enrolling their children at the school.

At this time, Jan Gabrielson formally turned over the WNC minute book to Rich Cahalan and announced that he had already turned over the WNC archives to Mr. Cahalan. He also presented the WNC officers with copies of all WNC proceedings on CD-ROM. The Board expressed its thanks to Mr. Gabrielson for his very professional service as Recording Secretary over the past two years.

### **Agenda Items**

4.g) Jan Gabrielson submitted the report of the Committee on Policies, Procedures & Bylaws, which he had previously submitted to the Board by email. He asked for feedback on the items discussed in the report, but some Board members felt that they needed more time to review the report. The Chair suggested that the Board members review the report and email comments to Jan and that the Board take the matter up for vote at its March meeting. At the Chair's request, Mr. Gabrielson reviewed part of his report in detail to give the Board members some background on the issue.

4.d) Charlotte Laws of the Greater Valley Glen Council asked the WNC to embrace a proposal for making Los Angeles, a "no-kill" animal shelter city and appointing a WNC Board member to be our Director for Animal Welfare (DAW). Ms. Laws distributed her proposal to the Board. The Board had asked Paul Backstrom to arrange for a City Animal Control representative to be present at the meeting to present the City's

perspective on the proposal, but no representative was able to attend. Accordingly, the Board did not act on the proposal at this meeting.

4.b) Memo of Understanding Between City Agencies and Neighborhood Councils -- Stacy Antler stated that the item was not ready for presentation and so it was deferred.

4.c) Proposed CD11 Candidate Forum -- Sabrina Venskus of GRVNC was not at the meeting, so this item was deferred.

4.f) Blaise Antin moved that, following the Mayoral primary in March, the WNC invite representatives of the two runoff candidates for Mayor to attend our April meeting to speak about issues specific to our WNC district area. Stacy Antler proposed to amend the motion to also invite the two CD5 runoff candidates. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the amendment to the motion was approved by a vote of 13-0-0, and the main motion was also approved by a vote of 13-0-0. The Chair appointed Mona Strassburger, alternate for Gretchen Lewotsky, as the person to solicit, by email, proposed candidate questions from the WNC Board members and alternates and to present the questions to the Board at the WNC's March meeting so that the Board can approve the questions and submit them to the candidates ahead of the WNC's April meeting.

#### **Public Forum (continued)**

Michael Bai of Mayor Hahn's office (cell phone is 213-359-4136) reported that the City has allocated \$100,000 to each neighborhood council of elected members (such as the WNC) for the sole purpose of street repairs. The money is being made available out of surplus California gas tax revenues and the WNC will make the decision as to where the road repairs funded by this allocation will be made. Mr. Bai stated that each Council District now gets funding for 13 miles of road repairs per year (the previous allocation was for 24 miles). Deanna Stevenson of DONE agreed to get all the relevant details about this \$100,000 allocation and the WNC's role in spending it so that the WNC would have the necessary information to act on the matter.

Mr. Bai also reported that the local freeway sound wall project will be funded at \$1.5 million and that it is an experimental sound wall. Therefore, if the sound wall doesn't work, further proposals can be made.

At 8:45 PM, the Chair announced a short break. The meeting resumed at 8:53 PM and all WNC members returned to the meeting, except for Terri Tippit and Richard Harmetz (i.e., there were 11 members then present).

### **Executive Committee Report**

The Chair stated that there was no report. The Chair recognized Shlomo Fattal, who reported on the status of the WNC web site. Shlomo stated that all WNC agendas and meeting minutes and the WNC bylaws were now posted on the web site. He called for all Board members to provide their brief biographies (or updates) for posting on the web site.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer distributed the current financial report. The Treasurer stated that he had received a financial report from DONE, but that he had not yet reviewed the report from DONE in detail, as he had just received it. The Treasurer said he would distribute the DONE report to the Board at or prior to the March WNC Board meeting, together with an explanation of any differences between his report and the DONE report. The Treasurer also stated that he had submitted the WNC's funding request for the fiscal third quarter and the petty cash reconciliation.

Rich Cahalan raised his concern that the WNC won't be able to spend its budget properly because the City process for spending money has so much red tape that it is virtually impossible for the WNC to spend money. Further, he stated that he and others found that DONE was not helpful enough in leading the WNC through the spending process. He noted that the WNC Board members were only part-time volunteers, not full-time City employees and that they could not realistically be expected to all attend the Treasurer training; nor could they be expected to spend endless hours working their way through the City process. Rich said that DONE's narrow responses to specific questions were not sufficient to help the WNC and that no one from DONE proactively takes responsibility for getting WNC financial items processed efficiently. Deanna Stevenson, the DONE representative, agreed that the City processes were complicated and agreed to take a proactive role in getting WNC financial items processed quickly. The Chair appointed Rich Cahalan to communicate with DONE to see how we can spend our budget dollars or, failing that, how we can get the City to "roll-over" our budget into the next budget year (July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006).

### **Public Safety/Traffic Committee**

Barbara Broide gave reported that the WNC regional traffic study meetings had been held and that the deadline for survey responses had been extended to February 28, 2005. She reported that CD5 was now launching its CD5 Regional Traffic Task Force and that the WNC needed to appoint a representative to that task force. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the WNC appointed Barbara Broide as its representative to the CD5 Regional Traffic Task Force by a vote of 10-0-1 (Barbara Broide abstaining from the vote).

Barbara also reported that:

- CPAB was seeking volunteers to help deploy speed trailers in the community, which requires training and ability to drive a half-ton pickup truck.
- A local resident recently had to wait 10 minutes before 911 answered the phone so she could report a fire-in-progress in her home -- the Public Safety/Traffic Committee will make an inquiry of the fire department on this issue.

Barbara asked Annette Mercer to report on the recent haul route hearing for the Le Lycee Français project. Annette reported that she got inadequate notice of the hearing and that the approved haul route was not, in her opinion, the best route. She preferred a route to the National entrance/exit of Freeway 10, rather than the Overland entrance/exit, since the National route would not pass single family homes and would not impede such a busy intersection. By motion duly made and seconded, the WNC authorized Annette Mercer, by a vote of 7-0-4, on behalf of the WNC, to appeal the approved haul route decision and to propose the alternate haul route discussed at the meeting and to register a complaint of inadequate notice of the haul route hearing.

### **Land Use Committee**

Gretchen Lewotsky reported that the Committee met on January 25, 2005 and had presentations regarding landscaping for a condominium project and a mixed-use development at National Place and Overland Avenue. She stated that the mixed-use project representatives (for Festival Companies) had asked to postpone their presentation to the WNC until they prepared further information. Gretchen also stated that Rich Cahalan's report of the January 19, 2005 meeting regarding the proposed FBI regional headquarters at 11000 Wilshire Boulevard had been distributed to the WNC Board. Finally, she reported that JMB has proposed developing a high-rise condominium project in Century City and that they were not yet ready to present to the Land Use Committee in detail, but that Gretchen had asked them to come soon to the WNC to make a public comment introducing their project.

### **Outreach Committee**

No report was given.

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

No report was given.

## **Council District 5 Report**

No report was given.

## **Agenda Items (continued)**

4.e) The Chair asked Rich Cahalan to report on the January 19, 2005 Roundtable Meeting that he and Gretchen Lewotsky had attended regarding the proposal for an FBI regional headquarters project at 11000 Wilshire. Rich referred to his written report and quickly stated that the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) is now considering two different proposals -- a so-called "three building" scenario (which is the proposal originally advanced in May 2004, calling for construction of two new buildings totalling just under one million square feet of space adjacent to the existing 560,000 square foot Federal Building at the site) and a so-called "two building" scenario (which was first announced at the Roundtable Meeting, calling for either the construction of one new building of just under 500,000 square feet adjacent to the existing Federal Building at the site or, alternatively, demolition of the existing Federal Building and construction of two new buildings totalling just under one million square feet of space at the site). Rich stated that Rep. Waxman and most community organizations had opposed the "three building" scenario, but it was too early to know all the details of the "two building" scenario. He also reported that the GSA had agreed to form a traffic advisory group of concerned community members to work with the GSA's traffic consultant as they prepare their traffic study. Finally, Rich stated that the GSA and FBI had only given cursory consideration of alternative sites and had defined the feasible area so narrowly as to exclude most likely alternative sites.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the WNC, by a vote of 11-0-0 voted to send a letter to the GSA (1) reiterative the WNC's opposition to the original "three building" scenario, (2) taking no position on the "two building" scenario pending receipt of further information about that proposal, and (3) reiterating the WNC's desire to see the GSA seriously study alternative sites in a broader geographical area.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the WNC, by a vote of 10-0-1 (Rich Cahalan abstaining) voted to designate Rich Cahalan (or, in his absence, his delegate) as the WNC's representative at any further meetings regarding the project and to the traffic advisory committee being formed to work with the GSA's traffic consultant on the traffic study for the project.

## **Next meeting**

March 10, 2005, 7:00 PM, same place.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 10:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Richard Cahalan, 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