

WESTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

GOVERNING BOARD

Minutes of Meeting March 10, 2005

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM in Community Room A at the Westside Pavilion by Chair Steve Spector.

Voting Board Members present:

Richard Cahalan– Seat 1  
Steve Spector – Seat 3  
Gretchen Lewotsky – Seat 6  
Barbara Broide – Seat 7  
Terri Tippit – Seat 8  
Alan James Levine – Seat 9  
J. François Nion – Seat 11  
Jan Gabrielson, alternate for Stacy L. Antler – Seat 12  
Robert Guerin – Seat 13  
Sarah Fitzsimmons, alternate for Blaise Antin – Seat 15  
Melissa Kenady – Seat 16  
David T. (Ty) Vahedi – Seat 17

Non-Voting Board Members present:

Senior Lead Officer Ali, LAPD (West LA Division)  
Captain Ed Stimson, LAFD (Fire Station 92)

Board Members absent:

Seat 2 – Vacant  
Renato Romano – Seat 4  
Mary Kusnic – Seat 5  
Richard S. Harmetz – Seat 10  
Seat 14 - Vacant  
Paul Backstrom – City Council District 5

**Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting of February 10, 2005 were approved without correction by a vote of 10-0-2.

## **Public Forum**

Sheryl Thomas of LA World Airports introduced herself as the person to contact with questions about our airports. Her telephone number is (310) 348-2521 and the LA World Airports web site is [www.lawa.org](http://www.lawa.org).

Barbara Broide stated that the LA City Council recently passed a motion seeking reimbursement for police costs for the LA Marathon, which is a for-profit business venture. She asked to be on the next agenda to write a letter to support the Council's motion for reimbursement.

As at the WNC's February meeting, Daniel Cardozo, representing Assemblymember Karen Bass, introduced himself and gave his phone number (323-937-4747).

Captain Ed Stimson of the local LAFD fire station (#92) introduced himself. He is one of six captains at the station. Our new Fire Chief is Chief Klein (who was introduced later in the meeting when he arrived). The phone number at the station is (310) 840-2192. In response to a question about calling the fire station instead of 911 when the 911 system is busy, Captain Stimson stated that you are welcome to call the fire station directly, but you are normally better off calling 911 in an emergency because the best available resources are sent to help you through 911. The fire station is having an open house on Saturday, May 14, 2005 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Senior Lead Officer Ali of the LAPD introduced himself. He stated that crime in our area is pretty stable, whereas the need for police is currently greater near La Cienega and Olympic as well as north of Sunset to Mulholland (due to the hillside burglaries). His cell phone is (310) 622-3985. You can call (877) ASK-LAPD for access to city services; similar to 311. The LAPD web site is [www.lapdonline.org](http://www.lapdonline.org).

## **Agenda Items**

5.a) Stacy Antler was absent due to illness and so the DWP proposed Memorandum of Understanding with Neighborhood Councils was deferred until the next meeting.

Deanna Stevenson of DONE arrived at the meeting at 7:30 PM.

5.b) Melissa Kenady introduced a motion regarding the No Kill Animal Shelter Proposal that had been presented to the WNC at its February 10, 2005 meeting. Some board members expressed disappointment that a representative of the LA Department of Animal Services had not attended the meeting to present their views on the topic, despite having been asked to attend. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the WNC voted 9-1-2 to send to CD5, sister neighborhood councils, the Mayor's office and the

Department of Animal Services a general letter of support in spirit for exploration and implementation of a no kill animal shelter concept.

5.c) Barbara Broide presented the LA Environmental Affairs Department offer to provide trees for planting on certain designated streets in our neighborhood under the "Rooted in Neighborhood" program. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the WNC voted 12-0-0 to ask the homeowners' associations with eligible streets for trees under the Department's program to distribute a form letter from the WNC to notify residents of eligible streets about the program and to solicit their interest. The form letter was presented to the meeting and was also approved, with one change -- deletion of the words "and one that will not come along for a long time to come" at the end of the first paragraph of the letter. The form letter has been deposited in the WNC's official records.

5.d) Rich Cahalan proposed the formation of a WNC Finance Task Force to act as the WNC's advocate for (a) simplification of the neighborhood council budget and spending process, (b) further extension of the current City policy for rolling over unspent neighborhood council budget monies from year to year, and (c) developing the WNC relationship with the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) on finance matters. Rich presented a proposed WNC Finance Task Force Statement of Purpose and Scope ("Finance Task Force Charter") to the meeting. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the WNC voted 12-0-0 to form the WNC Task Force in accordance with the Finance Task Force Charter presented to the meeting, to adopt the WNC views reflected in the Finance Task Force Charter and to appoint Rich Cahalan as the Chair of the WNC Finance Task Force. A copy of the Finance Task Force Charter has been deposited in the WNC's official records. Mr. Cahalan announced that, in view of his new roles as Recording Secretary and Chair of the Finance Task Force, he had resigned his position as Vice Chair of the WNC Public Safety/Traffic Committee (though he will remain a member of that Committee) and that Annette Mercer had been appointed as the new Vice Chair of that Committee at the Committee's most recent meeting.

5.e) Jan Gabrielson presented the report of the WNC Policies, Procedures & Bylaws Committee's February 22, 2005 meeting. After reviewing the report, Jan asked the Board to approve in principle a set of seven recommendations of the Committee. Upon separate motions, each duly made and seconded, the WNC voted 12-0-0 on each motion to approve, in principle, the following set of seven recommendations in the following order:

**Recommendation #1**

Amend Article VII, Section 1 of the Bylaws to delete all standing committees (including Schools and Public Service) from the Bylaws.

### **Recommendation #2**

Amend Article VII, Section 2 of the Bylaws to provide that:

The Governing Board, by majority vote, may establish or terminate any committee at any time.

### **Recommendation #3**

Amend Article VII, Section 4 of the Bylaws to provide that:

The WNC Chair appoints committee chairs with the approval of the Governing Board. All committee chairs serve at the pleasure of the Governing Board. Any committee chair can be removed as chair at any time by a majority vote of the Governing Board. Each committee chair selects the members of that committee, taking into account the goal of reflecting the diversity of stakeholders (the same goal that the Nominating Committee is mandated to take into account when nominating officers) and efficient operation of the Committee. Committee members may be removed by the committee chair, according to the same criteria provided in the Bylaws for removing a member of the Governing Board. Any committee member removed by the committee chair may ask the Governing Board to reverse the removal by majority vote (*underlined language added to recommendation at the meeting*).

### **Recommendation #4**

Amend Article VII of the Bylaws to authorize the Governing Board by Standing Rule to provide additional rules for the establishment, operation, and termination of committees in any manner consistent with the Bylaws and applicable law.

### **Recommendation #6**

Hold the election for the Governing Board the second or third week in November. Appoint the Nominating Committee by the second Thursday of November or the November meeting of the Governing Board, whichever is earlier. The Nominating Committee distributes its list of candidates no later than seven days before the January meeting of the Governing Board. Elect officers at the January meeting of the Governing Board, to take office immediately.

### **Recommendation #7**

Amend Article III, Sec. 7 of our Bylaws to provide: If a seat on the Governing Board is vacant for any reason, the vacancy may be filled by majority vote of the Governing Board in accordance with the following procedure: 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 of a Board meeting and be posted for the public and emailed to the Board in the same manner that all agenda items are set and posted. At that meeting, the Board shall fill the vacancy by majority vote. Any stakeholder who is eligible for that seat may apply by notifying the Chair or the Recording Secretary in writing. 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. In electing the replacement Board member, the Board

shall consider any expressions of support or opposition, whether written or oral, from the constituency represented by the seat vote (*underlined language added to recommendation at the meeting*).

### **Recommendation #5**

Amend the Standing Rules or make new ones as needed, setting out the following guideline for the conduct of business at Board meetings, subject to the Chair's discretion to deviate from this sequence for good cause:

No later than:

7:00 Call to order and approval of minutes

7:10 Public Forum period. As to each speaker, after two minutes (or after any additional time granted by the Chair), the Chair shall stop the speaker. If appropriate, the Chair may refer the matter to a committee, put it on the agenda of a future meeting, or suggest other informal follow-through such as conferring with the Board's representative from CD5.

7:30 Committee and Treasurer's reports (including reports from Board members from LAPD and LAFD as requested by the Chair or officers.

8:00 Agenda items

9:00 Target adjournment time

Bob Guerin stated that, currently, only Board members or their alternates can serve as committee chairs and he asked the Committee to consider broadening that rule to permit any stakeholder to chair a committee. Jan stated that the current "rule" was really just adopted as a motion by the Board and the Board could act at any future meeting to approve any stakeholder as a committee chair if the Board wished to do so.

Deanna Stevenson of DONE departed the meeting briefly at 8:45 PM.

5.f) Gretchen Lewotsky reported on the efforts of various people, including Gretchen, Mona Strassburger, Blaise Antin, Sarah Fitzsimmons and Terri Tippit, to compile a list of questions to ask the mayoral and council candidates at the proposed April candidates forum. Inasmuch as the CD5 race had been decided in favor of Jack Weiss, the council candidate questions were not considered. Gretchen asked the Board to email their comments on the questions to her or Mona Strassburger so that they could put together a final list. The Board discussed various issues regarding the format of the mayoral candidates forum to be held on April 14, 2005 at 7:00 PM in Community Room C of the Westside Too section of the Westside Pavilion.

### **Officers' Report**

Steve Spector stated that the officers had met on March 3, 2005 to set the agenda for this meeting.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Bob Guerin distributed a one-page report from DONE on the financial position of the WNC. Bob stated that, despite his best efforts, he had not yet been able to reconcile this report to the WNC's financial records. He noted that the DONE report shows a greater "funds available" balance than does the WNC financial records. Bob stated that he would report further when he is able to reconcile the DONE report to the WNC's records.

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

Barbara Broide reviewed her report of the Public Safety/Traffic Committee. The highlights were:

- WNC Traffic Study: working on statement of scope; need to compile data obtained from surveys; traffic consultant, Tom Brohard, received his first check yesterday from the LA City process after a long wait. Bob Guerin noted that he, as Treasurer, was not informed of that payment by the City.
- DOT's ATSC Report: desire for an independent review of this report; traffic consultant has quoted \$3,000 to \$4,000 to do an independent review. Barbara asked that this be on the next WNC meeting agenda.
- Le Lycee Franais Haul Route Hearing: Annette Mercer reported that neighborhood councils are considered part of LA City government and, therefore, can't appeal decisions of City bodies. Nonetheless, the City reviewed the substance of our appeal of the recent haul route hearing decision and our proposed alternate route for the hauling. The appeal was formally "denied", but the City Council adopted the proposed alternate route for eastbound hauling. Annette has sent a letter to Renee Schillacci, CD5 Planning Deputy, asking, among other things, that the notice list for planning department hearings be carried over for haul route hearings. A copy of Annette's letter has been deposited in the WNC's official records. Annette would like the Board to invite the City Attorney to address the WNC Board on the issue of what we can and cannot do legally in challenging City decisions.

Deanna Stevenson of DONE rejoined the meeting at 8:55 PM.

- SB466 -- Mobile Photo Radar Enforcement System: Barbara plans to follow this legislation in our Committee.
- The next Santa Monica Boulevard project monthly meeting is scheduled for March 17, 2005 from 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

## **Land Use Committee**

Gretchen Lewotsky reviewed her report of the Land Use Committee. The highlights were:

- Service Station project on Cotner: has eliminated alcohol license from business plan; operator doesn't believe a variance is needed for his use in this M-1 zone.
- Festival Companies project at 10612 National Boulevard: have not come back to the Committee to present again as planned.
- Committee has begun dialog with CD5 about the flow of notices regarding City hearings to the WNC Board and the Committee.
- Vineyard Express Project on Overland south of Pico: operator wants on-sale beer and wine license to enable wine tasting on premises; will present to Committee at its March 22, 2005 meeting.
- FBI Regional Headquarters Proposal: Gretchen and Rich Cahalan had telephone conference with Lisa Pinto of Rep. Henry Waxman's office; she will get back to us regarding the alternative site analysis promised by the FBI and the U.S. General Services Administration.
- Committee is gathering information on so-called "granny flats" (second housing units on R-1 zoned property).
- Bob Guerin is lining up a speaker for our Committee on the topic of conversion of M-1 zoned property to retail use.
- Committee is looking into developer practice of applying for apartment development and, at tract map hearing, switching to condominium development, thereby avoiding public scrutiny for the project during the "apartment" phase of the development; these developers file for apartments without any intention of building apartments even though they sign an agreement to keep the property as apartments for 10 years; the 10-year commitment is voided when they switch to condominium development; CD5 calls this process the "switcheroo" and is looking into how to curtail the practice.

## **Outreach Committee**

Alan Levine stated that the Committee has few members and hasn't met recently as a committee. However, the members have done a lot of work on the new WNC website ([www.wncla.org](http://www.wncla.org)). Alan volunteered to speak at all local community meetings, if invited, to explain the WNC's role in the community and to promote the WNC.

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

Deanna Stevenson stated that there was no DONE report.

**Council District 5 Report**

Paul Backstrom was absent, so there was no CD5 report.

**Next meeting**

May 12, 2005 at 7:00 PM, same place; nevertheless, the Board may hold a meeting on April 14, 2005 at 7:00 PM in Community Room C of the Westside Too part of the Westside Pavilion if the WNC officers decide that there will be enough time before or after the planned mayoral candidates forum to hold a brief Board meeting.

**Adjournment**

The Board adjourned the meeting at 9:11 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Rich 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