

WESTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

GOVERNING BOARD

Minutes of Meeting June 9, 2005

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 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  
Renato Romano – Seat 4  
Mary Kusnic – Seat 5  
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  
David T. (Ty) Vahedi – Seat 17

Non-Voting Board Members present:

Captain Basaites, LAFD

Board Members absent:

Seat 2 – Vacant  
Gretchen Lewotsky – Seat 6  
J. François Nion – Seat 11  
Seat 14 - Vacant  
Blaise Antin – Seat 15  
Melissa Kenady – Seat 16

Other officials absent:

Deanna Stevenson of DONE  
Paul Backstrom -- City Council District 5  
Senior Lead Officer Ali, LAPD

### **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting of May 12, 2005 were approved as corrected by a vote of 10-0-0. Two references to "Motor Drive" were changed to "Motor Avenue".

### **Public Forum**

Terri Tippit announced the upcoming fundraiser Memorial Torch Relay to benefit the LAFD Fallen Firefighters Memorial Fund. The event takes place from May 14, 2005 to October 1, 2005, but the torch passing in our area will take place during the week of July 11th. Terri asked that this fundraiser be placed on the agenda for the WNC's July 2005 meeting to consider a WNC sponsorship of this event.

Dick Harmetz announced that the Tract 7260 Homeowners Association annual meeting will take place at St. Timothy's Church social hall on Wednesday, June 15, 2005. He invited all WNC board members and alternates to attend the dinner and meeting.

Stacy Antler announced that the Cheviot Hills Homeowners Association will hold its board election at the Cheviot Hills Recreation Center on Wednesday, June 22, 2005. She invited everyone to attend.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Melissa Kenady was absent from the meeting, so former Treasurer Bob Guerin gave her report for her. He reported that there were no transactions in the past month and no changes since the last Treasurer's report.

Terri Tippit stated that she had been unable to use the WNC credit card to pay the recent invoice for the WNC Earthlink email account, so she had to pay the invoice by check. Terri was instructed to provide an invoice to the Treasurer for reimbursement of this expense. Terri also stated that she had let the WNC use a phone line at her home for WNC business but that she no longer needed the line, so if the WNC wanted to keep using the line, the WNC would have to pay for the line. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the WNC Board, by a vote of 10-0-0, approved the WNC paying for, or reimbursing Terri Tippit for, the cost of the phone line at her home used exclusively for WNC business, starting with the most recent May invoice. Terri was asked to check to make sure that the phone line was only for the cheapest basic service going forward.

### **Finance Task Force**

Rich Cahalan stated that there was no report this month.

Ty Vahedi joined the meeting at 7:20 PM.

## **Public Safety/Traffic Committee**

Barbara Broide gave her report on various topics, including:

- Announcing the upcoming June 14th LAPD consent decree meeting from 6:00 to 9:00 PM at Emerson Middle School.
- The status of the Santa Monica Boulevard project.
- The proposed JMB Constellation Place 47 floor mixed use project -- the Planning Department is holding a scoping meeting for the eventual EIR with a deadline of June 22nd for written comments.
- The proposed 1767-1787 Westwood Boulevard RAS 4 zoning project to be 55-60 feet high to accommodate a ground floor of commercial use and four floors totalling 111 residential guest rooms (having 355 square feet each and no cooking facility in the rooms). Barbara stated a number of issues regarding this project, including the issue of whether RAS 4 zoning would supersede the Pedestrian Oriented District and Neighborhood Oriented District zoning overlays that are so important to our district. It is hoped that the CD 5 office will become actively involved in this case by providing strong support for the community's point of view in opposing this project and in protecting the POD/NOD and character of the area. Barbara stated that there is a June 15th deadline for written comments on the project's mitigated negative declaration and, therefore, the WNC must act on an emergency basis. Similarly, Barbara stated that the proposed City ordinance for affordable housing density bonuses based on a recently-enacted state law had been on for hearing earlier today and that the WNC should request an extension of time to comment on that proposed ordinance. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the WNC Board, by a vote of 11-0-0, voted to approve the WNC sending a letter to the Planning department asking for additional time to comment on the proposed ordinance regarding affordable housing density bonuses. In addition, the WNC Board, upon motion duly made and seconded, voted 11-0-0 to send a letter to the Planning Department to object to the mitigated negative declaration for the 1767-1787 Westwood Boulevard RAS 4 zoning project on various grounds and to ask that the Pedestrian Oriented District and Neighborhood Oriented District zoning overlays not be superseded by any RAS zoning changes in our district.
- Barbara asked if the WNC would allocate up to \$200 to purchase up to six water cans with the WNC logo on them to be given to the businesses who had adopted trees along Pico and Westwood Boulevards. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the WNC Board, by a vote of 11-0-0, voted to approve this expenditure.
- The CERT refresher course has taken place.
- Everyone needs to renew their efforts for earthquake preparedness.

## **Public Forum**

The Chair reopened the Public Forum.

Ben Refuerzo stated that he is a 20 year resident, located behind the Royal Westwood Hotel on the 2300 block of Westwood Boulevard and that, lately, the hotel has been playing music and serving hors d'oeuvres outside of the hotel, disturbing neighboring homes such as his home on Glendon. Ty Vahedi asked that this matter be placed on the WNC's July 2005 agenda. In the meantime, Barbara Broide said she would inquire at the CD5 office to see if they could help on the issue. In addition, it was suggested that Mr. Refuerzo also contact Paul Backstrom at the CD5 office to inquire.

John Beccaria reported that traffic on May 31st was horrible and that he sees no police enforcement. John was referred to the Public Safety/Traffic Committee and its regional traffic plan work.

Captain Basaites of the LAFD made further announcements regarding the LAFD Memorial Torch Relay benefit.

## **Land Use Committee**

Gretchen Lewotsky was absent, so Rich Cahalan gave the report. He stated that there had been no meeting of the Committee in May and so there was no written report.

Rich reported on the proposed expansion of the Wine House's tasting room to become an 80 chair restaurant with a full liquor license and the ability to operate until 2:00 AM each night, with a requirement of adding 10 parking spaces to the existing 54 spaces. The matter had not been before the Land Use Committee and had not been placed on the WNC agenda because sufficient notice had not been provided to the WNC regarding the project. Rich stated that interested parties could write letters to the file, which had been kept open until June 16th for purposes of WNC input.

Rich also reported on the Police Permit Review Board's hearing and decision to revoke the cabaret permit of the Silver Reign strip club on June 1st due to a long history of legal violations at the site. Rich stated that the club is likely to appeal the decision.

Ty Vahedi stated that the Rancho Park Golf Course still announces golf start times over its loud speaker and it bothers the residents along Patricia Avenue. Ty wanted to get the golf course to consider using pagers instead. Rich Cahalan agreed to send Ty the contact information for the manager of the concessionaire that operates the golf course.

### **Outreach Committee**

Alan Levine reported that there had been no meeting of the Committee during May and that he wished to step down from the position of Committee Chair. Terri Tippit had expressed interested in Chairing the Committee, so the Chair was asked to put this matter on the WNC's July 2005 agenda for formal action to appoint Ms. Tippit as the new Chair of the Committee.

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

Deanna Stevenson was absent, so the Chair reported that the amended Bylaws of the WNC recently adopted by the Board had been approved by DONE and were now effective. He also reported that there is a Community Impact Statement (CIS) process for getting neighborhood council positions on the City Council agenda. He asked the Policy & Procedures Committee to undertake a review of the CIS process and to make a recommendation to the WNC for possible action at a future WNC meeting as to whether to use CIS, which Board officers should be authorized to have access to the CIS system and whether to take a position on whether a neighborhood council should be able to cause the City Council to add items to their agenda if a neighborhood council so requests through CIS.

### **Council District 5 Report**

Paul Backstrom was absent so there was no report.

### **Agenda Items**

6.a) Farmers Markets. This matter was deferred to the WNC's July 2005 agenda.

6.b) City Planning Director Interviews. DONE had requested that one representative from each neighborhood council to participate in the interview process of the three final candidates for the City Planning Director position. The Chair announced that Terri Tippit had asked to be appointed as the WNC representative and that he had made this appointment.

6.c) Proposal to Fill WNC Seat 2. The Chair announced that Shlomo Fattal had expressed interest in filling the vacant Seat 2 on the WNC Board. This is a business seat representing businesses from the north side of Pico northwards to Santa Monica Boulevard. It is the companion seat to Seat 1, currently filled by Rich Cahalan. Mr. Fattal presented several letters of approval from local businesses in the designated area and gave a very brief presentation. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the WNC Board, by a vote of 11-0-0, approved of Mr. Shlomo Fattal filling Seat 2 on the WNC Board for the duration of the unexpired portion of the current term.

**Next meeting**

July 14, 2005, 7:00 PM, same place.

**Adjournment**

The Board adjourned the meeting at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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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