

WESTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

GOVERNING BOARD

Minutes of Meeting July 14, 2005

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM in Community Room A at the Westside Pavilion by Chair Steve Spector.

Voting Board Members present:

Richard Cahalan – Seat 1
Shlomo Fattal – Seat 2
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
J. François Nion – Seat 11
Robert Guerin – Seat 13
Blaise Antin – Seat 15
Melissa Kenady – Seat 16
Shannon Burns, alternate for David T. (Ty) Vahedi – Seat 17

Non-Voting Board Members present:

Paul Backstrom – City Council District 5

Board Members absent:

Mary Kusnic – Seat 5
Stacy L. Antler – Seat 12
Seat 14 - Vacant

Other officials present:

Deanna Stevenson of DONE

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of June 9, 2005 were approved without correction by a vote of 8-0-2 (four Board members had not yet joined the meeting).

Blaise Antin, Barbara Broide and Richard Harmetz joined the meeting at 7:07 PM.

Public Forum

Blaise Antin noted a recent increase in graffiti in the area and asked about the process for getting rid of graffiti. He was informed that anyone who observes graffiti in a public place should call Pacific Graffiti Solutions, a city contractor, at 310-204-2749 and they will remove the graffiti, usually within 24-48 hours.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer, Melissa Kenady distributed the proposed WNC budget for the four quarters of the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2005. After discussion, upon motion duly made and seconded, the WNC approved this budget by a vote of 13-0-0.

Renato Romano joined the meeting at 7:15 PM.

Land Use Committee

Gretchen Lewotsky submitted the report of the Land Use Committee. She stated that the Committee had not received an outside presentation at its June 28th meeting, but had reviewed a number of old business items including the recently-adopted state law density bonus legislation (AB 1818) and a pending follow-on bill (SB 435). She asked Barbara Broide to report on this legislation. Barbara reported that SB 435 provided for on 15 days notice to the public of certain hearings and that neighborhood councils and their committees could not react that quickly to matters, so she stated that we might want to request a longer notice period. She distributed a summary of the legislation and an analysis by a person from a different neighborhood council was included. Various WNC board members felt that the summary and analysis raised a lot of issues that were worthy of further analysis before the WNC votes on them. Gretchen agreed to coordinate a meeting of the Committee with a City representative to further analyze this legislation and report back to the WNC as to how the Committee members viewed each issue.

The Committee will be receiving a presentation from JMB regarding their proposed Century City condo project at its July 26th meeting and will be receiving presentations from St. Regis regarding its proposed Century City condo project and Festival Companies regarding their proposed mixed-use project at National Place and Overland at its August 23rd meeting.

Deanna Stevenson of DONE joined the meeting at 7:25 PM.

Public Safety & Traffic Committee

Barbara Broide submitted the report of the Public Safety & Traffic Committee. She reported that the Committee had adopted its statement of purpose and scope, which will be placed on the WNC web site soon for everyone to see. She also reported that (a) she has asked Susan Bursk of CD5 to fund an independent analysis of the Adaptive Traffic Control System (ATCS), (b) the Committee has sent a letter to Susan Bursk of CD5 asking for more information to aid the Committee's review of Phase 2 of the Century City Neighborhood Traffic Management Plan (CCNTMP), (c) there have been numerous meetings with the representatives of the Santa Monica Boulevard project regarding their deviations from the project EIR (Richard Harmetz handed out a summary of the issues), (d) the Police Permit Review Board had recently heard the Silver Reign strip club's motion for reconsideration of the Review Board's revocation of their cabaret license and had decided not to reconsider their revocation decision (the matter is now in litigation in the LA Superior Court), and (e) there have been two recent vandalism incidents on Dunleer and a resident was assaulted at their home on Malcolm.

Outreach Committee

Chair Steve Spector reported that he has appointed Terri Tippit as the new Chair of the Outreach Committee following Alan Levine's resignation as the Chair of that Committee. He thanked Alan for his dedicated work on the Committee. He then asked the WNC Board to confirm his appointment of Terri as Chair of the Committee. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the WNC Board voted 14-0-0 to confirm the appointment of Terri Tippit as Chair of the Outreach Committee.

Terri announced that the members of the Outreach Committee would now be Terri Tippit, François Nion, Alan Levine, Melissa Kenady, Shlomo Fattal, Nancy Larrew and Blaise Antin.

Policies & Procedures Committee

In Jan Gabrielson's absence, Rich Cahalan gave the report of the Policies & Procedures Committee. Rich reported that the Committee had been asked to review the City's system for submitting Community Impact Statements (CIS System), which currently enables certified neighborhood councils to enter their official (Board-approved) positions on matters before the City Council so that their positions get into the City Council file and are considered by the City Council. The Committee recommended that the WNC authorize its five officers to enter its official positions into the CIS at their discretion. Rich also reported that the Silverlake neighborhood council was advocating that the CIS System be extended to allow neighborhood councils to propose action by the City Council, rather than just respond to matters already under consideration by the

City Council. The Committee recommended that the CIS System should be so extended. After discussion, upon motion duly made and seconded, the WNC voted 14-0-0 to authorize all five WNC officers to enter the WNC Board's official positions on pending City Council matters into the CIS System at their discretion. Further, upon motion duly made and seconded, the WNC voted 14-0-0 to support the extension of the CIS System to allow neighborhood councils to propose action by the City Council, rather than just responding to matters already under consideration by the City Council.

Council District 5 Report

Paul Backstrom reported that he had arranged for the LAPD to send an investigator out to the Royal Westwood Hotel on the 2300 block of Westwood Boulevard to gather the facts regarding reports of loud music coming from the hotel on various evenings. Paul said he expects a report soon and will forward the information along to the WNC.

Paul also distributed a flyer announcing a new 50/50 sidewalk reconstruction program that has been tried in another council district with some success and is now being made available in our WNC district. Under this program, residential property owners can schedule with the City to have their sidewalks repaired if they agree to pay for 50% of the cost. This program is on a first-come first-served basis.

D.O.N.E Report

Deanna Stevenson reported that the work of neighborhood councils is increasingly becoming of a higher level in working with the City in getting ordinances adopted or amended, etc. She stated that DONE is compiling a list of such accomplishments and that she would be appreciative if we would forward any of our accomplishments to her for the list. The Chair referred her to the WNC web site (www.wncla.org), which lists many of the WNC's principal accomplishments.

Melissa Kenady referred everyone to the web site of Healthy City (www.healthycity.org) which has a vast amount of very useful information.

Agenda Items

6.a.1) LAFD Fallen Firefighters Memorial Torch Relay Sponsorship. Terri Tippit referred to the WNC's June 2005 meeting at which everyone received a brochure regarding the LAFD Memorial Torch Relay event and opportunities to sponsor the event on behalf of our local Station 92. The top tier of sponsorship is stated at \$1,000+ for which the WNC would be listed on the Memorial's "Wall of Flame" (there would also be two tickets to a fire chief's reception dinner). Melissa Kenady made a motion to sponsor the event for \$2,000. Richard Harmetz made an amending motion to sponsor the event for only \$500 and to also donate another \$500 to LAFD Station 92 for its use. After discussion, the amended motion passed by a vote of 8-5-1. Melissa Kenady then made a second

motion to approve an additional \$1,500 for the LAFD Memorial Fund. By a vote of 4-9-1, that motion did not pass.

Renato Romano departed the meeting at 8:25 PM, but returned later.

6.a.2) LAPD National Night Out Sponsorship. Terri Tippit requested funding for the LAPD's BBQ at Stoner Park on August 2nd for its annual National Night Out, a community event. After discussion, upon motion duly made and seconded, the WNC approved a \$300 sponsorship of the LAPD National Night Out on August 2, 2005 by a vote of 11-0-2.

6.b.1) Country Club Estates HOA Block Party Sponsorship. Bob Guerin requested \$250 funding for the Country Club Estates HOA annual block party for 2005, noting that the WNC had sponsored the event as an outreach matter in 2004. Bob is a member of the Board of the Country Club Estates HOA. After discussion, upon motion duly made and seconded, the WNC Board voted 6-5-3 to sponsor the Country Club Estates HOA 2005 block party for \$250, with Bob voting in favor of the proposal. **[NOTE: After the meeting, the Chair learned that this motion could pass only by approval of a majority of the WNC Board members in attendance at the meeting, but without counting Bob's vote.]** Without counting Bob's vote, the vote was 5-5-3 and the motion did not pass.

6.c) Street Closure Fees and Farmers' Markets. Jennifer McColm, operator of the Century City, Pacific Palisades, Brentwood, Larchmont Village and other farmers' markets asked for the WNC's support in getting the City Council to continue to waive, for farmers' markets, the street closure fee (currently \$528 per event) for special events. Ms. McColm stated that her organization is a non-profit corporation and that her farmers' markets would have to cease business if the City started imposing the street closure fee on her farmers' markets. Various motions were made and discussed. Blaise Antin departed the meeting at 9:15 PM, prior to any vote, but Renato Romano had rejoined the meeting. Ultimately, upon motion duly made and seconded, the WNC Board voted 8-3-2 to have the WNC write a letter to Councilmember Jack Weiss and the City Council to support the continuing exemption of non-profit farmers' markets from street closure fees.

6.a.3) Terri Tippit asked the WNC to approve an arrangement for maintenance of the WNC's web site by The Sketch Farm, the company that designed the WNC web site. Board member Shlomo Fattal and his wife, alternate Nancy Larrew, are co-owners of The Sketch Farm. Deanna Stevenson of DONE stated that Shlomo had properly disclosed the ownership structure of The Sketch Farm and that he would have to remove himself from the discussion and voting on this matter. Accordingly, based on the advice of DONE, the WNC Board proceeded to discuss the WNC web site maintenance arrangement while excluding Shlomo from the discussion and the voting.

The web site maintenance services include: (1) monthly uploading of new Agenda and Minutes and archiving the old; (2) "static" site updates to include adding pictures,

changing text, creating new template pages, and making necessary corrections; (3) adding requested links; (4) new development -- adding new features to the existing site when available; and (5) site monitoring -- periodic monitoring and reporting of site traffic. The Sketch Farm reserves the right to assign other web designers or subcontractors to deliver this service as needed and the WNC reserves the right to cancel the arrangement on 30 days notice.

After discussion, upon motion duly made and seconded, the WNC Board voted 12-0-1 (with Shlomo Fattal not voting) to (a) approve payment of \$1,200 to The Sketch Farm for web site maintenance services rendered for the period January 1, 2005 through June 30, 2005 and (b) to commit to another six months of web site maintenance service for the period July 1, 2005 through December 31, 2005 for \$1,200 (to be paid when services are rendered), which shall automatically renew for successive six month periods until cancelled by either the WNC or The Sketch Farm and which shall be cancelable by the WNC upon 30 days notice given by the WNC to The Sketch Farm.

[NOTE: In the days following the meeting, the Chair learned that, to the surprise of the WNC, it may be the case that the WNC approval of this arrangement, calling for payments to a company co-owned by a WNC Board member, could be improper. Therefore, the Chair informed the WNC officers that the WNC would not make any payment under this arrangement and would ask the WNC Board, at its next meeting, to void *ab initio* any WNC authorization of this web site maintenance arrangement. Thereafter, at some future meeting, the WNC would try to determine a proper manner in which to arrange its web site maintenance.]

Public Forum

Annette Mercer reported that the Riddick Center at Overland and Ashby is available for WNC committee meetings (subject to scheduling availability) in exchange for a modest donation (something around \$300 per month) and that, as Macerich starts to demolish the existing Westside Too for the Landmark Theatres project, WNC committees will no longer be able to use Community Room C for meetings. After some discussion, Gretchen Lewotsky graciously offered for Fox Studios to pay the \$300 for the first year so that the WNC committees could use the Riddick Center for meetings.

Next meeting

August 11, 2005, 7:00 PM, same place.

Adjournment

The Board adjourned the meeting at 9:55 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, Councilmember)
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 (under state law)
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement (under federal law)
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 (a zoning overlay in the WNC district)
NTM	Neighborhood Traffic Mitigation
PACT	Police and Community Together
PLUM	Planning and Use Management Committee, LA City Council
POD	Pedestrian-Oriented District (a zoning overlay in the WNC district)
RAS	Residential/Accessory Services (a zoning classification for mixed-use -- commercial & residential together)
SLO	Senior Lead Officer
SUD	Supplemental Use District
TIMP	Traffic Improvement Mitigation Plan
WNC	Westside Neighborhood Council