

Governing Board Westside Neighborhood Council

Minutes of the Meeting of November 10, 2005 Westside Pavilion, Community Room A

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

Voting Board Members present

Steve Spector, 3; Mary Kusnic, 5; Gretchen Lewotsky, 6; Barbara Broide, 7; Terri Tippit, 8; Annette Mercer, 9; Richard S. Harmetz, 10; Stacy L. Antler, 12; Robert Guerin, 13; Blaise Antin, 15; Melissa Kenady, 16; Shannon Burns, Seat 17

Voting Board Members Absent and not Represented by an Alternate

Renato Renado, 4; Francois Nion, 11

Non-Voting Board Members Present

Paul Backstrom – City Council District 5

Non-Voting Board Members Absent

Senior Lead Officer Ali, LAPD; Representative from LAFD,

Other officials present

Deanna Stevenson of DONE

Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting of October 13, 2005, were approved as corrected by a unanimous vote.

Public Comment:

Lenore Rebeschinl reported that a huge pothole exists on the 2200 block of Patricia Avenue.

John Freund asked what resources were available to help the community should an emergency situation exist. He suggested that an inventory of available resources in the several Westside cities be collected and made available to the entire community.

Barbara Broide responded that the WNC Public Safety and Transportation Committee has been working on community emergency responses. She said that first responders have been recruited and trained through the Fire Department's CERT program and that additional trainings will be scheduled. The Neighborhood Watch is being invigorated.

Ron Stone, who has served on the city's Board of Neighborhood Councils, which has certified neighborhood councils including the WNC, expressed a wish to serve on the WNC as the representative of religious organizations.

Committees

Treasurer's Report

Melissa Kenady reported as follows:

1. WNC received funding notification from DONE for Fiscal 2005/2006.
2. The following approved expenditures were issued:
 - A. Tom Brohard - traffic study
 - B. Riddick Youth Center - outreach contribution
3. Only outstanding approved expenditure is outreach to WLAFD Station 92 as they have not confirmed an in kind donation.

Land Use Committee

Gretchen Lewotsky reported that the committee heard a presentation in September by the Related Company on its plans for the replacement of the St. Regis Hotel by a condominium building.

Festival Properties wishes to present its plans for the property at National and Overland, where it plans to build a combined office and residential structure.

Cooperative Efforts with the Outreach Committee. The Land Use Committee wants to work in conjunction with the Outreach Committee so that affected neighbors can be informed in advance about any projects being presented before the committee.

Public Safety

The Photo Radar Registration bill was pulled by its author, Sheila Keuehl, from the last legislature session and probably will be reintroduced. The Auto Club has expressed the concern that the bill might raise privacy issues. The police want to make sure that the program does not result in any job losses for the police officers. (At best, photo radar enforcement in residential neighborhoods is not a money making proposition and can be expected to break even at best.)

JMB EIR. Barbara Broide announced that the JMB EIR for the JMB Century City condominium project is available as a PDF. It can be downloaded and printed. The cost of printing is approximately \$80 for the document, which is over a thousand pages long.

Santa Monica Blvd. Reconfiguration. All streets except Veteran between Bentley and Westwood at the intersection of Santa Monica Blvd. on the south side of SM Blvd. are expected to be closed at specified times due to road construction. This will put stress on local streets, particularly Missouri and the alley south of SM Blvd. As a result of the one-way configuration of LSM between Westwood and Beverly Glen, south of Santa Monica Blvd. between Westwood and Beverly Glen is being used as a roadway creating dangerous situations at intersections. The alley behind Santa Monica between Westwood and Beverly Glen is being used as a roadway. Despite objections from Councilmember Weiss and from all the homeowner organizations adjacent to the Santa Monica Boulevard reconfiguration project, the Department of Transportation remains adamant in its decision to place Changeable Message Signs on the boulevard. Weiss and the HOAs fear that the signs would divert traffic from the boulevard onto residential streets.

Disappearing Mitigation Moneys. Laura Chick, the city controller, is continuing her investigation of the dispersal of mitigation moneys. Mitigation moneys allocated by the developers of Fox Studios, the MGM Towers, and other properties allegedly have not been used for their intended purposes. The community has requested an audit of these funds and a review of practices that are meant to track expenditures.

Expo Light Rail Line. The MTA Board has not taken a position yet on the building of the Exposition Boulevard Light Rail Line from. It is expected to vote in favor of the line, downtown to Robertson Blvd which could be completed from downtown to Robertson Blvd. by the year 2010.

Water Quality. As a result of the passage of Proposition O, the Department of Water & Power has funds to improve water quality in Los Angeles. The DWP is seeking clean water projects and is asking for public input on the matter.

Santa Monica Airport. The Santa Monica Airport is holding a town hall meeting with elected officials. At its meetings, it discusses such issues as air and noise pollution and safety.

CERT. A CERT class is not presently scheduled. However, a refresher course is being offered over a January weekend in Palmdale.

Community Police Training Academy. Gretchen Lewotsky said she has just completed a community police training class. She passed out information about drugs and about gangs and gang crimes.

Outreach Committee

WNC Slogan and Outreach Tools. Terri Tippit announced that the slogan, Where Neighborhoods Connect, has been chosen as the WNC's slogan. The slogan was submitted by Annette Mercer. WNC cards, refrigerator magnets, large lawn signs cautioning drivers to Watch for Kids and other items produced by the committee were distributed. All bear the name of the Westside Neighborhood Council prominently.

Pedestrian Friendly Community. Only two property owners and two business people and a Chamber of Commerce representative attended a meeting to discuss a Pedestrian Friendly Community on Westwood and Pico Boulevards. The property owners were asked if they would pay for garbage can emptying and for power washes at a price of \$100 a month. They said they would. A ninety day pilot program is contemplated with the work to be done at around 8 a.m. when people are awake should the plan prove feasible.

News Racks. As part of a city-wide program, the city will remove news racks in August of next year in some areas on the Westside. They will be replaced by uniformly green news racks, no more than four to a location.

Officers Report

Recording Secretary. MSP unanimously to elect Dick Harnetz WNC recording secretary for the remainder of the term.

Nominations Committee. The following were appointed to form a nominating committee for officers of the WNC: Gretchen Lewotsky, Melissa Kenady, and Terri Tippit. Steve Specter noted that it is necessary for officers to be board members of the WNC and to be representative of community.

DWP Representative. The WNC needs a representative to the Neighborhood Council Department of Water & Power meetings that resulted from the joint Memo of Understanding forged between the two organizations. . Meetings, which are held once a quarter or more often if needed.

Planning Department. Shannon Burns expressed interest in serving on a group of Neighborhood Council members that is to work with the Planning Department. Barbara Broide suggested that Mike Eveloff, an alternate WNC member, serve with Burns on the committee.

Bus Shelter Benches. Councilman Weiss has expressed opposition to a speeded up process for the location of bus shelter benches and amenities.

Westwood Charter School Halloween Hoot. Colleen Seager, co-chair of the Westwood School Halloween Hoot, discussed the success of the Halloween Hoot. She said that the WNC was given much exposure at the event. The WNC banner was prominently placed on the school fence and remained up after the event for additional exposure.

MSP unanimously to donate \$500 to Westwood Charter School in recompense for the exposure it gave to the Westside Neighborhood Council during the two weeks around Halloween.

Agenda Items:

Nextel Antennas. Larry Miner, a Nextel representative, spoke in favor of Nextel antennas proposed for 10951 Pico Blvd and intended to upgrade the his firm's cellular system.

Rich Cahalan, a member of the community, however, spoke against the antenna proposal on grounds of aesthetics, antenna height limitations, and zoning regulations. He emphasized the fact that the antenna's height would violate the POD that governs land use on Pico and Westwood. Those opposing the antenna suggested that alternative sights be seriously considered. Cahalan requested that the WNC send a letter to the zoning administrator opposing the project. The project is opposed by Westwood South, West of Westwood, and Tract No. 7260 Association.

MSP to oppose the application for the Nextel cellular facility 10951 Pico Blvd. because it might set a precedent that would allow exceptions to the P. O. D. height limit and to the underlying zoning ordinance. The vote was seven in favor, four opposed, with one abstention. (The Nextel representative offered to appear again before the WNC).

Congress of Neighborhood Councils. Steve Twining, a representative of the Congress of Neighborhood Councils, spoke in behalf of the WNC joining the Congress.

MSP for the Westside Neighborhood Council to become the fifteenth member of the Congress of Neighborhood Councils passed by a vote of eleven in favor and one opposed.

Billboards. **MSP** unanimously to support Councilman Jack Weiss's pending City Council measure "Off Site Sign Inspection Program" motion (File no.05-2297 to compel the Department of Building and Safety to make an inventory of Billboards to determine which billboards have proper permits. The motion also authorizes Barbara Broide on behalf of the WNC to approach the City, Neighborhood Councils, homeowner associations, and other organizations to ask for support of the Weiss Off-Site Sign Inspection Program.

City Budget Process

Materials pertaining to the city budget and a survey have been received and are being duplicated and distributed. Two reps (including stakeholders) from each neighborhood council are being asked to attend budget meetings and to report back to their respective councils. After the budget survey of neighborhood councils has been completed, neighborhood councils are expected to discuss and prioritize the items on the survey.

Mini-mall on the Southwest Corner of Westwood and Olympic Boulevards. Melissa Kenady reports that no storm drain exists at the mini-mall at Westwood and Olympic, which hosts seventeen news racks but no trash cans. She said that papers dumped from the news racks create an unsightly scene. Melissa suggests that two trash receptacles be put on the scene to ease the serious litter problem that has been created at the mini-mall. Additional conversations

with the mall operator should be held to determine how run-off from the mall can be captured rather than having it travel into the adjacent residential neighborhood.

Rancho Park Golf Course. The lack of progress on reducing noise from the paging system was discussed.

The meeting adjourned at 10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard S Harnetz, Recording Secretary
Westside Neighborhood Council