

WNC Governing Board Meeting December 8, 2005 Minutes

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

Voting Board Members present

Renato Romano, 3; Steve Spector, 4; Mary Kusnic, 5; Gretchen Lewotsky, 6; Barbara Broide, 7; Terri Tippit, 8; Alan Levine, 9; Richard S. Harmetz, 10; Francois Nion, 11; Stacy L. Antler, 12; Robert Guerin, 13; Ron Stone, 14; Blaise Antin 15 (Sarah Fitzsimmons assumed seat at 8 p.m.); David Ty Vehidi 17

Voting Board Members Absent and not Represented by an Alternate

Mellisa Kenady, 16

Non-Voting Board Members Present

Paul Backstrom – City Council District 5

Non-Voting Board Members Absent

Senior Lead Officer Ali, LAPD; Representative from LAFD,
Deanna Stevenson of DONE

Minutes: MSP to accept as submitted the minutes of the previous meeting by a vote of twelve in favor, none opposed, and one abstention.

Public Forum

Nancy Catullo, an owner of Pastina Trattoria, 2260 Westwood Boulevard, complained about disturbances on Friday and Saturday nights for the past ten years at the Masonic Lodge at 2244 Westwood Boulevard. She said that parties at the site are out of control, and on occasions, parties drifted onto the streets and took over the area. On Thanksgiving weekend shots were fired from a passing car. Patrons have been harassed; car windows been broken; fires, set; flowerbeds, trampled, and trees, broken. Catullo said her customers have been frightened and business has suffered. The Masonic Lodge management does not return her calls and the police have not been taking care of the problems. She said, it took the restaurant three years to regain the business it lost after a shooting ten years ago.

Terri Tippit suggested that a meeting be held with Police Captain Villegas, Ron Phillips of homicide, representative of the Westwood South of Santa Monica HOA, Catullo, and herself to attempt work out the problems. It was suggested additionally that the Neighborhood Prosecutor and the Westside Neighborhood Council also work toward a solution of the problems at the Masonic Lodge.

Barbara Broide said that an agreement actually had been worked out with the lodge ten years ago after the shooting but that nobody can find a copy.

Terri Tippit said she would make a motion at the next meeting asking that the landscaping that had been removed five years ago from the freeway overpass at Military Avenue and Westwood Boulevard be restored.

Agenda item "b" (taken out of order) Ron Stone was elected to the board as a representative of religious institutions. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of thirteen to zero.

Committee Reports

Treasurers Report. Terri Tippit read the treasurer's report. Bills from Sketch Farm and the phone company have been paid. The Los Angeles Fire Department and the Westwood Charter School need to submit invoices before their bills can be paid.

Land Use Committee. Both JMB and the Related Companies are expected to appear before the Land Use Committee to discuss their respective Century City projects. Barbara Broide noted that the period to file comments on the JMB EIR ends January 7, 2005.

A Memo of Understanding is being worked out between the Neighborhood Councils and the City Planning Department to provide advance notification of filings and of significant projects. Shannon Burns has submitted a working draft of the MOU to the WNC. The next meeting of the committee working on the MOU will take place on January 7, 2006.

Public Safety and Traffic Committee. Barbara Broide reported that the committee has reviewed its missions and priorities and finds that it has been trying to do too much. The committee will be focusing the majority of its efforts on issues related to future light rail expansion, Santa Monica Boulevard Parkway project, and Century City mobility, and the WNC Traffic Study. The committee will try not to duplicate the work of the Land Use Committee.

Barbara Broide announced that dates of future Community Emergency Response Team can be obtained from her.

A \$100,000 grant for street resurfacing is being offered to each Neighborhood Council. Applications for projects must be made by end of December. The Councils are expected to work with homeowner associations and other relevant organizations in order to make up a prioritized wish list of locations for potential street resurfacing. Paul Backstrom said there is plenty of money available for repair of major streets and suggested that the WNC concentrate on residential streets and streets that don't have a bus route. Since \$100,000 does not cover much, the WNC should not make long list, he said. The Bureau of Street Service has prepared a list of recommendations for the \$100,000 and will proceed with the list if the neighborhood council does not develop a list of its own.

Gretchen Lewotsky noted that an audit of the Department of Transportation by the Controllers Office will be available in January

Outreach Committee

Terri Tippit said that about \$3,000 would be needed to do pilot program for street cleaning related to the Rancho Park Village beautification project. Merchants and owners in the pilot program area would be expected to kick in one hundred dollars each towards the cost of the project. The cost would come to approximately two to three thousand dollars per quarter.

At the Westside Pavilion's Family Day on December 4th the Overland Avenue School made available WNC magnets and other WNC at their table.

Officer Committee

Steve Spector appointed Shannon Burns (who volunteered) to represent the Westside Neighborhood Council at the Planning group with Terri Tippit as the alternate.

An announcement was made that on Thursday, February 16, 2006, the City Attorney's office will hold a Neighborhood Council Roundtable Discussion at the Westside Pavilion from 5 to 7 p.m. Steve Spector appointed Bob Guerin (who

volunteered) as WNC representative to the Roundtable, and suggested stakeholders with questions about the laws governing NC's provide them to Bob ASAP. Steve Spector's alternate on the WNC, Erica Dixon, is moving to South Carolina in January. Steve is appointing Laurel Crary as his new alternate.

Agenda

a) Procedure for WNC When Contacted by the Media. Jan Gabrielson reported that the Policy and Procedure committee suggested if a WNC member is contacted by the media and asked to make a comment on a WNC action, the board member should state that his or her comments are made on an individual basis. (Only the president can speak for the WNC.)

MSP that the principles set forth in the Policy and Procedures report at the meeting of December 8, 2005 under Item 1 be incorporated as a standing rule. The motion passed unanimously with twelve votes in favor.

c) Viacom Decaux Street Furniture Program. Francoise Nion reported that some members of the City Council feel that kiosk and bus shelter authorizations are awarded too slowly while others feel that they are awarded too quickly. An amendment to the contract has been proposed, which would allow council offices seventy-five days to approve sites selected by Viacom. Council members need not inform the community of their deliberations. If the council office/community does not approve the chosen site, an alternate location within five-hundred feet must be identified for Viacom. As currently written, Neighborhood Councils will be responsible for identifying alternate sites. Also as currently written, the contract amendments state that if Viacom does not approve the alternate site suggested, Viacom can return to the originally chosen location. The discretion to reject locations at the CD level will no longer exist. The City's portion of the income from this program is divided as follows: half goes to the General Fund and the other half is split evenly amongst the 15 council district offices.

MSP by a vote of nine to two with two abstentions a resolution asking the City Council to retain the authority to approve or reject the final sites and to assure that there be adequate time allowed for community input in the process.

d) City Budget Survey. Deanna Stevenson was not present, item not acted on.

e) Changeable Message Signs (CMS) on Santa Monica Blvd.

Barbara Broide briefed the board on the proposed CMS for Santa Monica Blvd.

MSP by a unanimous vote of thirteen to zero to support Councilman Weiss's motion in opposition to the placement of any Changeable Message Signs in Santa Monica Boulevard reconfiguration area and that placement of such signs anywhere else in the city should be subject to public process.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.