

Westside Neighborhood Council Board of Directors Minutes of the Meeting of February 8, 2006 Westside Pavilion, Community Room A

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

Voting Board Members present

Renato Romano, 3; Steve Spector, 4; Mary Kusnic, 5; Gretchen Lewotsky, 6; Katharine Greenebaum, 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; Mellissa Kenady; David Ty Vahedi 17

Non-Voting Board Members Present

Senior Lead Officer Munif Ali, LAPD (Officer Ali left the meeting early in order to resume his police duties.)
Paul Backstrom – City Council District 5; Representative from LAFD

Non-Voting Board Member Absent

Representative of the Fire Department

Other officials present

Deanna Stevenson of DONE

Minutes: MSP unanimously to accept as submitted the minutes of the previous meeting with a vote of fourteen in favor.

Public Comment

George Garrigues, a resident of Palms, noted that Palms is now celebrating its 120th birthday. He proposes that a section of Palms (east of Overland, north of National and south of the I 10) that is currently part of the WNC be ceded to the Palms Neighborhood Council.

Officer Munif Ali noted that crime is down in the WNC area and urged residents to check www.lapd.org for tips on crime prevention and for timely information about crimes, crime statistics, and lists of wanted persons. He also said that there was a possibility that Senior Lead Officers would be reassigned to different areas. Asked by a board member whether he wished to transfer, Officer Ali stated that he would prefer to stay where he is since he has built relationships in the area. He said he believes that the other SLO in the WLAPD also want to stay in their current basic car area. Members of the board expressed the wish that Officer Ali remain in his current location. Terri Tippit, who sits on the Community Police Advisory Board, said that she would call the Captain of the WLAPD and ask her to keep Officer Ali and Officer **Mario Gonzales**, who was also present at the meeting, at their current locations.

Committees Reports:

Public Safety:

Annette Mercer reported that the committee did not have a meeting in January. She said that the I 10 sound wall project broke ground on February 3. The Cheviot Hills HOA board has arranged for members to tour the Gold Line on Saturday, February 18.

Land Use:

Gretchen Lewotsky reported that the property managers of Century City are forming an emergency preparedness committee.

Stacy Antler reported on a visit to the office that controls traffic lights in the City. She also noted that the City has prepared an eighteen-minute DVD on disaster preparedness.

Outreach:

Terri Tippit reported that of nineteen stores in the **Rancho Park Village** demonstration project area, the proprietor of only one store did not seem interested in joining the project. However, the committee is having difficulty locating the owners of the affected properties.

Request for postings on the website have been submitted. Until the website gets more "hits" all that will be posted are the meeting time, place, and names of the chairs.

The committee is considering a proposal that the WNC apply for **Adopt a Highway Program**; Military east to Overland on the northside of the I 10. Signage would be free, but it would cost the WNC \$500 to customize a sign. The WNC would be responsible for periodically cleaning up the area, an obligation which the area's HOAs have offered to undertake. In addition a steering committee will be formed to add additional trees along the I 10 in that area.

Elections to the WNC board are to take place in November of this year.

The USC Neighborhood Participation Project has requested that Board members respond to the Project's poll on-line.

Barbara Broide appeared on Public Access Channel 35 with Robert Ringler on the Neighborhood Café. They discussed transportation issues.

Scam Artists will be the subject of a talk by Detective Gil Esconitras on April 4 at the old Walden Books in the Westside Pavilion. She encouraged the board to notify their constituents.

Officers Report:

Steve Spector introduced the following members of the staff of the Westside Shopping Center: Laurel Crary, General Manager; Elizabeth Hewson, Associate Manager; and Victoria Trimble, Marketing Managers. He reported that Ty Vahedi attended the first meeting of the Neighborhood Congress and that the next meeting of the Congress is on Saturday, March 4. Also, Terri Tippit will take over the role of Ty's alternate to the Neighborhood Congress. Bob Guerin will attend City Attorney's Roundtable on the Brown Act.

Council District 5 :

Paul Backstrom said that because the Planning Department and the Department of Transportation do not communicate well on planning issues, Councilmember Weiss will introduce a motion that would shift planning responsibilities from DOT to the Planning Department. Paul also reported that work on Olympic Boulevard from Pontius to Linnington is taking the existing lighting system from 5,000 volts to 3,000. Paul also spoke about Car Repairs and Real Estate Signs on Boulevards. He said that car repair shops are supposed to have all their parking on their own premises. *Condos for Sale* advertising signs posted on vehicles parked on major streets, however, present a more complicated issue.

DONE:

Deanna Stevenson reported the City Attorney's Office will present a roundtable on the Brown Act from 5 to 7 p.m. on February 16 at the Westside Pavilion. She said this meeting is meant for board members only.

Agenda

g) (taken out of order) Overland Ave. School Library Program:

Sherry Hanover spoke in behalf of the library at Overland Elementary School. She said that the library has a grant of \$35,000 from the Wonder of Reading Foundation. The grant will be used to restock books and for other library purposes. The school is soliciting matching funds and already has raised \$10,000. Hanover requested that the WNC donate \$2,500 so that the library can purchase two wooden display cases with windows. She said a portion of the cases would be used to provide space to the WNC for meeting notices, etc. She also said that as part the Wonder of Reading program, volunteers would read to kids during and after school in a mentoring program.

MSP by a unanimous vote of 14 to 0 that the WNC approve support of the literacy program in the amount of \$2,250 to provide two display cases provided WNC gets a name plate and the right to post notices.

a) Related Companies Century City Condominium Project Presentations

Jim Witte of Related said the project will consist of 147 luxury condo units on a three to four acre site. The units will average 3,500 sq. ft. and will be housed in a forty story building designed by Robert Stern, Dean of the School of Design at Yale University. **Jim Sinsheimer**, also of the Related Companies said that the project would include a new parking structure with 368 spaces, with 2 cars per unit as required by code. Access would also be available to an already existing three-thousand car garage. **Jerry Overland**, Related's traffic consultant, said that Related's traffic studies indicate that the new building would not attract more cars than the site's current usage. Related's representatives believe that the project will not consume all the trips available to it. However, Related is willing to put in writing that it will not transfer or sell those trips to another Century City project. The overall project will take three years to complete. The St. Regis Hotel, which the project would replace, would not be imploded in order to minimize dust and debris. As a result, eight to nine months will be consumed taking down the building. The haul route is yet to be determined. Most of the equipment will be staged on site.

MSP by a vote of 13 to 1 to write a letter of support for the Related project.

c) Proposed location for Mental Health Center at Brotman Hospital:

Jay Handal of the Greater West Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce spoke about the proposed mental health center at Brotman Hospital. The group behind the project will withdraw its application at tomorrow's Culver City Planning meeting. The group will meet with local groups in an effort to gain community input and support and will submit in the near future a revised proposal that it hopes will meet community objections. The center would be located somewhere near the Culver City/Los Angeles border. **Cliff Cheng, PhD**, and **Luana Murphy**, Recovery CEO, and **Dr. Robin Kay** also spoke on this matter.

b) Encroachment of Outdoor Dining on Public Sidewalks:

Angela Guzman spoke in behalf of **Daniele Elliot** on the subject of sidewalk dining.

Guzman complained about the congestion on the sidewalks caused by sidewalk dining..

She offered the following proposals

1. Outdoor seating should not consist of more than 50% of the seating capacity indoors.
2. The parking requirements for outdoor seating should be the same as those for indoor seating
3. Notices of hearings for permits for outdoor seating should be distributed by the city within a five hundred foot radius of the property that seeks the permits.

d) Rancho Park Golf Course Public Address System:

David Ty Vehidi spoke about the proposal to use beepers on the Rancho Park Golf Course. He said that no decibel tests have been made to discover whether the speaker system is violating noise ordinances. He also said that the golf course management says that it can do nothing if the project costs more than \$1,000.

MSP to match up to \$900 to pay for a noise free beeper system for Rancho Park Golf Course with the City to use the system and maintain it thereafter and to discontinue use of the public address system. The vote was twelve in favor, one opposed, and one abstention.

f) Parking Problems on Selby Ave.:

Blaise Antin has agreed to take the lead in the matter of the parking problems at Notre Dame High School/Elementary Schools. Theresa Bacca an aggrieved resident of the Notre Dame area would like her street to be designated for permit parking and says that the Department of Transportation has said it would consider a request for permit parking for the street if the request were to be endorsed by the WNC.

MSP to adjourn the meeting at 10:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard S Harnetz, Secretary

Westside Neighborhood Council