

**Westside Neighborhood Council Board of Directors
Minutes of the Meeting of March 9, 2006
Westside Pavilion, Community Room A**

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

Voting Board Members present

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
Barbara Broide, Sarah Fitzsimons

Voting Board Members Absent

Renato Romano 3

Non-Voting Board Members Present

Paul Backstrom – City Council District 5; Representative from LAFD
Deanna Stevenson of DONE

Non-Voting Board Member Absent

Representative of the Fire Department; Senior Lead Officer Munif Ali, LAPD

Minutes: MSP unanimously a vote of 14 in favor to approve the minutes as submitted.

Public Forum:

George Garriques spoke on the question of the WNC ceding to the Palms Neighborhood Council a small area within the WNC, which Mr. Garriques believes would be more appropriately placed in the PNC area. He was told that the WNC has no problem with the 10 Freeway being the border.

Lori Zigler, a representative of the Century Woods Condominium Owners Association in Century City, asked the WNC to rescind its letter of acceptance of Related's condominium project in Century City. She said that shadows from the proposed project cast on Century Woods condos would create a cave-like atmosphere. She also complained that the proposed restaurant that would be part of Related's project would be on a site too close to Century Woods. Representatives from St. Regis agreed to meet with the Century Woods COA to address their issues.

Miguel Morales of the West Los Angeles Community Job Center at 11299 Exposition Boulevard across the street from the post office asked the WNC for help publicizing the job center. He said that the day labor situation on the streets of Los Angeles is a reality. Skilled labor, which obtains work through the job center, receives \$15 or more per hour. The job center would like to reach out to homeowner associations to solicit their help in informing their members about the center. He also wants to better publicize the center so that more workers will use it and its services. About forty per-cent of the workers' jobs come from homeowners and that about forty per-cent of workers who use the center on any given day get jobs.

Committee Reports:

Treasurer's Report

Melissa Kennady reported that the WNC treasury currently has a balance of \$127,190.85. The March report reflects outstanding approved expenditures of \$2,200. (Deanna Stevenson of DONE said that a neighborhood council is given three years to spend each year's allotment of funds provided by the City.)

Land Use Committee:

Gretchen Lewotsky said that she will submit a report on the committee February meeting, which she was unable to attend, at the next WNC meeting.

Public Safety and Traffic:

Barbara Broide said the Public Safety and Traffic Committee is trying to pay more attention to crime and emergencies.

A Red Line and a Gold Line excursion is being considered for members of the WNC to help them understand the Exposition Light Rail Line, which should be under construction by the end of this year. (When the first stage is completed around 2010, the Expo Line will run from downtown along Exposition Blvd. to Robertson Blvd.)

Barbara reported that compilation of the traffic study data for the WNC area is near completion. She said that her committee will need money for making a data base list of the names and addresses of those who submitted surveys for the study and was told that the money for such a list had already been budgeted so that e-mails could be sent out to the survey's respondents. The results of the survey will be used to help find solutions to currently existing traffic problems.

The current completion date for the Santa Monica Blvd. Reconfiguration project is August of this year. The project has gone over budget and was increased from \$74 million to \$84 million. It now requires an additional \$8 million.

Starting March 17th, the 405 Freeway Pico/Olympic southbound off ramp will be closed.

Outreach:

Terri Tippit reported that about \$2,500 worth of WNC magnets and other materials intended to make the community aware of the WNC are missing. (Note: Subsequent to the meeting, the missing items were found.)

Twenty-two trees were planted with the help of Tree People on the 2700 block of Greenfield and Veteran. The Department of Environmental Affairs is working with the WNC to plant more trees in the residential area. St. John's Presbyterian Church wanted to move some trees on their property at Military and National. At a community meeting, the church agreed to save some trees and to plant new trees where they removed trees.

Property owners are being given thirty days to respond to information about the Rancho Park Village pilot project, after which the project will begin along Pico Blvd. on the north side of the street from Veteran to Westwood. During a 6-month period the streets will be steam cleaned twice and store windows cleaned, trashcans will be emptied twice a week with the addition of 5 new trashcans.

Complaints that the city is not cleaning the trash cans at the parking lot near Starbucks have been made. The broken water pipe in front of the Starbuck's has been fixed.

Westfield's Century City Mall will place a WNC poster across from the Gap at the concierge stand. **Francois Nion** added that WNC banners would be hoisted over city streets within the next three months.

Officers' Report.

Steve Spector announced that Terri Tippit would chair election committee. The election will take place on December 7.

Due to the fact that the next meeting of the WNC is scheduled for the second day of Passover, the meeting will be April 20th.

Board Member Reports:

Ty Vehedi reported that cohesion at the last meeting of the Neighborhood Council Congress had improved. He said that the Rancho Park golf course is setting up a meeting with neighbors and with representatives of the WNC to discuss a beeper system at the golf course to summon players to start play. He said that the current speaker system could not be entirely abandoned since it is used for purposes in addition to summoning players. Vehedi, Stacey Antler, and Bob Guerin will attend the meeting.

Residents around National & Overland near St. Paul's want a parking permit district for their area. However, Paul Backstrom said that a moratorium on new parking permits is in force. The 2600 block of Bentley is having parking problems according to Ty. Teri says that the property is within an existing district. Paul said that those people can get permitting. Representatives of Notre Dame say that a preferential parking district near the schools would have an adverse effect on the park across the street..

Ron Stone announced the appointment of Jay Fuhrman, a member of St. Timothy's, as his alternate as the religious representative..

Bob Guerin attended the Brown Act meeting. He briefed the board on several items: when, how and number of agendas that must be posted 72-hrs prior to meeting, how to conduct meetings outside of board meetings and that they cannot exceed a quorum of board members, role of ad hoc committees.

Agenda:

6c) Martha Weiss, Director of Spay Neutering Program, said that the program needs to be expanded. She said that the cost of slaughtering animals is costly to the city.

MSP by a vote 11 in favor, 0 opposed and 3 abstentions to contribute \$2,000 to Friends of Animals for its spay and neuter program.

6a) City Signage: David R.Keim, an official of the Department of Building and Safety Code Enforcement Bureau, said that the City regulates the kinds of signs permitted at residences. However, the State says some businesses cannot be restricted from displaying signage. In the case of The People vs. Kripps, it was decided that under the 1st amendment that while local jurisdictions can regulate the height, kinds and size of signs, they cannot regulate what is on a sign. He also said that permanent signs require permits and that 99% of the time, sandwich boards on public parkways are illegal. Building and Safety does not have jurisdiction on the streets. However, he noted that although it is legal for a trailer to contain advertising signage, it is not legal for a trailer with advertising signage to park on public streets.

6b) Katherine Greenebaum spoke in behalf of the Animal Cruelty Unit, a provisional unit, which goes after gross offenders. She said the WNC should support this unit because the unit goes after serious cruelty violations. She noted that such violations often are precursors to horrific human torturing and to rapes in that offenders often start with animal cruelty and go on to human cruelty. Greenebaum urged the WNC to support Chief Bratton's position on this issue.

MSP unanimously by a vote of 14 to 0 to write a letter in support of LAPD Animal Cruelty Unity and sent to Police Chief Bratton, the Police Commission and Susan Strick, Neighborhood Prosecutor.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.