

Westside Neighborhood Council

Minutes of the Meeting on June 8, 2006 At the Westside Pavilion, Community Room A, Los Angeles

President Steve Spector called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

Voting Board Members Present: Steve Spector, 4; Mary Kusnic, 5; Gretchen Lewotsky 6; Barbara Broide, 7; Jeanne Dorfman, 8; Alan Levine, 9; Richard S Harmetz, 10; François Nion, 11; Stacy Antler, 12; Robert E. Guerin, 13; Jay Fuhrman, 14; Blaise Antin, 15; Melissa Kenady, 16; David Ty Vehidi, 17

Voting Board Members Absent: Renato Romano, 3; Terri Tippit, 8.

Non-Voting Board Members Present: Senior Lead Officer Munif Ali, LAPD with Officer Mario Gonzalez

Non-Voting Board Members Absent: Representative of the Fire Department

Other Officials Present: Paul Backstrom, deputy to Councilmember Weiss

MSP to accept the minutes with the correction that both Mary Kusnick and Stacey Antler were absent at the previous meeting.

Public Comment:

Linda Kurtun expressed frustration with inability of people to cross the intersection at Kelton and National and she said the sidewalk is being pushed up by trees.

Daniel Cardozo, Field Representative of 47th Assembly District Member Karen Bass, said his office could answer questions about sound walls. He said that Bass's committee has put up over twenty bills to take care of foster child problems. Bass's office can be contacted at (323) 937-3466.

Agenda (taken out of order):

d) Transportation Survey: On behalf of the Transportation Committee, **Barbara Broide** and **Annette Mercer** introduced **Tom Brohard**, the traffic engineer who had been retained by the WNC to correlate the results of a survey undertaken a year and a half ago to identify West Los Angeles transportation issues.

He said that in January 2005, four meetings were conducted with area residents, business people, and commuters to identify issues and solutions to Westside transportation problems. He reported that 464 questionnaires were returned and outlined the problems that were identified.

He said that one major problem is that Century City is in the wrong place and is not going to move.

One recommendation is that the focus should be on major arterial streets, which does not mean streets like Motor and Overland but rather boulevards like Pico and Olympic. He noted that while traffic calming has its place, when you move traffic off one street, you only move it onto another.

He said that some missing street signs should be replaced. He noted that the south side of Pico has all sorts of signs, often with different parking times.

He asked, can't the trash be picked up, maintenance be taken care of and trees trimmed on the arterials during off-peak hours?

He noted that a number of intersections have been set for the installation of right turn signal lights in the next four years.

He expressed skepticism about the Department of Transportation's high claims for the beneficial results of computerized traffic signals such as ATSAC.

He discussed the possible installation of one-way streets on Olympic and Pico Boulevards with each street moving in the opposite direction of the other. However, he said that two lanes would be devoted on each boulevard to reversible bus lanes to avoid forcing people to walk the long distance between the boulevards to catch a bus.

He said he was surprised to learn that so many cars used arterial streets rather than the freeways during rush hours and was also surprised to learn that the heaviest traffic was west on the freeways in the morning and east in the afternoon.

Next Step In This Study:

- Update the dynamic listing of problems/issues ("Hot Spots")
- Identify current LADOT/Caltrans efforts to address problems/issues
- Conduct field reviews of problem locations that are not being addressed
- Identify locations/problems for further study and evaluation.

Committee Reports:

Treasurer's Report: **Melissa Kenady** noted that the WNC's fiscal year ends on June 30. She called for a June 2 rollover fund date for funds to be voted on this evening.

Land Use Committee: Gretchen Lewotsky reported that Jane Blumenfeld of the Planning Department would discuss the planning process at the June 27th meeting of the committee.

Outreach Committee: The Pico Boulevard beautification project has been launched. The north side of Pico from Veteran to Westwood has been steam cleaned and the windows washed.

Twelve out of the fifteen banners are up. One is in front of the Barnes and Noble.

The website is being updated.

In July, we will vote on election procedures.

A picnic dinner at Reynier Park this year will mark National Night Out, which the WNC sponsored last year. The committee is requesting \$300 for a WNC Outreach presence. MSP by a unanimous vote of 14 in favor to allocate \$300 for a sponsorship of National Night Out.

Traffic and Safety Committee: **Barbara Broide** reports as follows:

The raw data from transportation questionnaire is being made available on the WNC website.

Red and Gold Line Public Art Trouurs are available.

Cal Trans is planning an open house for the Overland Bridge.

The radar-implemented program that ticketed traffic offenders within neighborhood streets has been killed. It was tried out experimentally in Beverly Hills and apparently was killed because of lobbying by those who did not wish to see the program implemented by non-police.

A body was found on the tracks between Overland and Westwood on Exposition Blvd. No foul play was detected.

The West Los Angeles Police Captain does not want the money from the Trammell Crow Century City project to go for six police cameras because she says she believes the LAPD would take at least four of the cameras and distribute them to other police districts.

Council District 5 Report: Paul Backstrom is setting up a preferential parking meeting for interested homeowners.

Spending Committee: Gretchen Lewotsky said that definitions on spending and guidelines have been evaluated and a structure is being set up for procedures for the WNC to follow in making donations.

A meeting on a Palms/ Motor RAS (mixed use project) will be held Friday at the Palms/Rancho Park.

Agenda:

c) Marcus Castain from the Mayor's office spoke in support of placing control of the Los Angeles Unified School District in the Mayor's hands. Giancarlo Mercado, an LAUSD teacher, completing his eighteenth year, at Westminster elementary in Venice, spoke in opposition. (A motion on the matter was withdrawn.)

A community forum on the Westside to discuss the Mayor's education proposal will be held on July 20th.in the evening at a location to be announced.

a) Jay Handl, a restaurant owner, spoke in behalf of the WLAPD. He said that its phone system doesn't work and that it has no proper system to transfer calls. Computers and printers don't function properly. Printers are not adjacent to computers. Morale at the front desk is difficult in part because those who work there are disabled, are on administrative discipline, or are new and their phone system doesn't work properly.

Handl said he was trying to raise \$30,000 for bookcases, better chairs, a database of critical phone numbers, and an upgraded phone system, computers and printers.

MSP by a vote of 13 in favor and one abstention and none opposed to spend \$5,000 as a sponsorship to the WLA Police Department for a renovation of its front desk communication system, the check to be made out to the vendor.

e) Tom Ponton, Mar Vista NC(CD11 Rep to DONE 912 Commission) suggested the WNC select a representative to attend DONE Congress on 6/17 to vote on who should represent Area 7 on 912 commission.

MSP by a unanimous vote of 14 in favor to nominate Melissa Kenady to represent the WNC at the June 17, 2006, Congress of Neighborhood Councils.

b) Ty Vahedi made a motion to support Ted Lieu AB2501, SM Airport to log durations of planes idling on runway.

MSP by a unanimous vote of 14 in favor to adopt the letter marked 6 B in the Agenda package.

Ty made a second motion to support the opposing of granting either a conditional use permit or a variance for an auto modification to Meridian Automotive Design on Westwood Blvd.

MSP by a unanimous vote of 14 in favor of the motion.

g) Dick Harmetz made a motion to support recommendation to the Los Angeles Public Library that the Palms/Rancho Park Library be renamed to include the name of Ray Bradbury.

MSP by a unanimous vote of 13 in favor of the motion.

f) Barbara Broide made a motion to send a letter to the Department of Water and Power asking it to reroute power lines away from Moreton Bay Fig Tree on National Blvd.

MSP by a unanimous vote of 13 in favor of the motion.

Barbara made another motion to approve a letter in opposition to the proposed land auction of the ten-acre Army Reserve Center at Federal and Wilshire.

MSP by a vote of 12 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention

The meeting was adjourned at 10:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard S Harmetz,
Recording Secretary