

Westside Neighborhood Council Meeting

On November 9, 2006, at the Westside Pavilion, Los Angeles

Present: 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 Antler, 12; Bob Guerin, 13; Ron Stone, 14; Blaise Antin, 15; Ty Vehedi, 17; Non Voting Members Present: 5; Deanna Stevenson, DONE; Senior Lead Officer Munif Ali, LAPD; Jay Greenstein, CD 5

Absent: Renato Romano, 3; Melissa Kenady, 16 (Note: Seats 1 and 2 are currently vacant.)

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by President **Steve Spector**.

Victoria Trimble spoke in behalf of Landmark Theatres and invited the WNC and neighboring homeowner groups to a presentation about the new theatres being constructed at the Westside Pavilion.

Charles Dorman thanked the WNC for its consideration of the Fisher House at the VA Medical Center. Jay Greenstein said that he hoped in the future to be able to address the various issues that have been raised by Congressman Waxman and others regarding the Fisher House and more particularly the various land issues involving the VA center. Dorman feels that it is not fair to allow land use issues to interfere with the Fisher House. Various WNC members expressed concern that no master plan exists for the VA center and that the various land use issues concerning the VA property have not been adequately addressed..

Keith Jeffreys representing Citizens for Veterans Rights said his organization has taken an interim position in support of Fisher House. He said he prefers to see a comprehensive plan developed first so that all potential uses for the property would be weighed against their relationship to veteran needs.

Jay Handel of Greater WLA Chamber of Commerce complained about the church use of the two theatres on the veterans' property. He wants the VA to provide information about how the VA properties are being used and what revenues are being derived from those properties. He also would like to know why all the contracts currently in effect have not been made available for public scrutiny. Dorman responded that the complex information would be made available on December 4 at a meeting with invited NC reps.. He said that the requested information has been given to the government but that Fisher is not allowed to release the information without government approval.

Jessica Landry of Citizens for Veterans Rights and American Legion Post 283, mentioned that VSOs by law cannot take up political issues. .

Senior Lead Officer Munif Ali said that property crimes burglaries, and robberies are down.

Gretchen Lewotsky, Land Use Committee Report, said that the Land Use Committee did not meet in October because no land use issues had been submitted to the committee for review. She announced that the next meeting of the committee will be held on November 28.

Barbara Broide, Traffic/Public Safety Committee Reports said that at the 5th Annual Mobility 21 Transportation Summit much discussion took place about the issue of goods movement of merchandise from local port arrivals that need to get to the rest of the country. Forty per cent of goods shipped to the US start at the ports in San Pedro and Long Beach. She also indicated that Tom Brohard will be meeting with DOT on November 16 to discuss the WNC Westside traffic survey results and to get their responses to questions submitted on behalf of the Traffic Study as part of the work to finish Phase 1.

Annette Mercer announced that the Next Red and Gold Lines Art Tours are scheduled for November 18 and will start at 10 a.m. at the Western Avenue Metro subway entrance.

Mike Eveloff said that the EIS for Federal Bldg. is expected to be released in either December or January.

Barbara Broide noted that a shortfall of \$ 1.2million exists on the package to complete implementation of the Century City Neighborhood Traffic Management plan traffic calming measures developed south of Pico as part of the Trammell Crow project conditions.

Alan Levine is a member of the Urban Design Committee doing work in conjunction with landscape the wallscape designs for Expo Phase 1 to Robertson/Venice for downtown. Much community outreach is involved in the design of the various stations along the route.

C-PAB. Traffic Committee, is forming a Gridlock and Dangerous Intersections committee(s).

Outreach: Terri Tippit reported that voting for membership on the WNC board will take place from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Thursday, December 7, 2006, at the "Westside Pavilio,n Community Room A. Election nominations have closed. All candidates are running unopposed except those in Seats 6, 7, and 9. Terri suggested that the WNC increase its awareness within the community by hiring someone to speak to store managers about the purposes of the Neighborhood Council and to ask the managers to put WNC posters in the windows of their shops.

Allan Levine suggested that the WNC give laminated signs to stores. The signs would signify that the store is a member of the Westside Neighborhood Council. He would also ask the member stores to put WNC posters in their windows.

There is an individual who would like to be considered for the school position on WNC. It was suggested that the Council do outreach to all the schools in the area to inform them of the school rep position and to determine if there are any other interested parties who would like to be considered.

The Palms Neighborhood Council Secretary. sent out an email soliciting volunteers to distribute a petition supporting inclusion in the Palms Neighborhood Council of a small section of land currently listed as within the boundaries of the WNC. He has also suggested that the area under consideration is a no man's land. Terri notified him that the area is part of the WNC and that the WNC does not intend to vote on the issue until after its new members are seated in 2007.

Ron Stone said that the new spending committee will meet prior to the December WNC meeting..

Jacquelyn M. Horton, a deputy to Assemblymember Karen Bass, introduced herself to the WNC.

A workshop on the issue of McMansions will take place at the Felicia Mahoud center on November 15.

The Moreton FigTree: \$30,000 is being solicited to help pay for moving the power lines from within the crown of the Moreton Bay Fig Tree at National and Military. DWP involvement is also sought.

Jay Greenstein reported that a kiosk at Missouri and Westwood out of which cellular phones are being sold was cited when a street use inspector said the business was not properly permitted. Newspapers previously had been sold at the kiosk. Barbara agreed to check/monitor to make certain the kiosk has not re-opened for business. The council office is working with schools to submit grant applications for the Safe Routes to Schools program. The Council office also is looking into ways of cleaning up the pedestrian tunnel at Santa Monica and Selby.. (A WNC board member noted that realtor Chad Lund has offered to be responsible for regular periodic clean-ups of the tunnel graffiti.) Jay is going to look into whether or not the tunnel can be maintained in conjunction with the "Clean and Green " Program.

Trammell Crowe Closures. The last phase of the Trammell Crowe project will begin at Avenue of the Stars and Constellation Boulevard. The closures will start tomorrow and will be completed within a short period of time and will require road closures.

MSP unanimously by a vote of 11 to 0 to allocate to Terri Tippit up to \$1200 to purchase a laptop computer for WNC use.

Cheviot Hills will hold an annual meeting on at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, December 15, at Vista del Mar.

Palms-Rancho Park Library “Hot off the Pres” program needs new best sellers to be available to readers for 7 days for free with a fine of 25 cents for each day after the 7.

Free Trees: DWP will make available free trees for residents to plant. Stacey Antler will provide the DWP form, which is required for the proper processing of requests for free trees. This is part of the Mayor’s campaign to plant 1 million new trees across the City.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40pm

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