

**Meeting Minutes: Wednesday, February 8, 2007**  
**Westside Pavilion 10800 W. Pico**  
**Meeting Room A**

**Call to Order:** 7:01pm by Terri Tippit

**Present:** Douglas Butler, Renato Romano, Steve Spector, Letty Bugarin, Barbara Broide, Terri Tippit, Gerry del Sol, Mary Kusnic, Stacey Antler, Bob Guerin, Ron Stone, Charles Horwitz, Melissa Kenady, Jay Greenstein, Shannon Burns, Richard Harmetz

**Absent:** Don Parker, Jerry Asher, David Ty Vahedi

**Non-voting members Present:** Sergeant Ponderosa, Officer Gonzalez

**Minutes:** Rich Baron mentioned his last name was misspelled in the January 11th minutes. The correct spelling has one "r". After this issue was addressed, Steve Spector moved to approve the minutes. Stacey Antler seconded the motion. Motion passed, 15 – 0-1

Terri states that Mary Kusnic needs to be sworn in.

**Agenda Items**

**a) Approval of splitting Public Safety and Traffic Committee, Terri Tippit:**

Bob G. makes a motion to split the Public Safety and Traffic Committee. The motion passes unanimously 16 – 0

**b) Appointment of Committee Chairs, Terri Tippit:**

Ty Vahedi will do Land Use Committee, Stacy Antler will do Public Safety, Barbara Broide will do Traffic, Jan Gabrielson will do Policies and Procedures, Ron Stone will do Funding, Terri Tippet will do Outreach. Stacey A. made a motion to approve the appointments. Melissa K. seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 16 – 0.

**c) Gabby Gonzalez Expo Construction Authority Representative and Steve Polechronis Project Manager**

There is no voting tonight; this is just informational. Gabby Gonzalez reported that Phase I of the Exposition Light Rail Transit Project is currently underway from Downtown LA to Culver City. Expo hired consulting firm, Dingin Harris to oversee planning for Phase 2 (which would extend the line from Culver City to Santa Monica.) Steve Polechronis explained that they are going into an Environmental Process right now. To look at transportation improvements on the Westside, such as transportation alternatives for light rail, bussing improvements, and considering costs. The process is guided by NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act), CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act), and FTA guidelines. Process starts with "scoping", where the public is asked to come up with ideas for improvement, potential solutions, technology, etc. Scoping is an important time to raise issues for studying traffic and safety. Expo wants to make sure at the beginning there is a clear understanding of people's concerns so that they can come up with studies so that policy makers and government can come up with best solutions. Scoping meetings will be held in February and March. Current scoping meetings are scheduled for: February 27, and 28, and March 6<sup>th</sup> (a flyer was passed out with dates, times, locations). Next week, Expo will start sending out postcards. Mass mailing to addresses \_ mile on either side of the corridor. Postcards will have meeting info and phone numbers. Also considering ending email blasts, posting info at libraries, PSA on cable TV. Public comment starts on the March 12<sup>th</sup>, will go 49 days. In the

postcards and at meetings Comment cards will be made available so that public can email or give at the meeting. These comments will be addressed in the Environmental Process. After the Environmental Process, the Initial Screening of Alternatives narrows down practical alternatives. Within the next 15 months, there will be an Environmental Impact Statement. Around next winter that report will circulate for public comment. For any questions, email: [phase2@exporail.net](mailto:phase2@exporail.net). Terri Tippit advised Steve Polechronis to get back to her by Monday regarding addressing the board's and stakeholder's concerns regarding not having adequate time to prepare and organize before the scoping meetings, sending more notices than the currently planned mailing to addresses within \_ miles of the corridor, and having an additional 4<sup>th</sup> meeting after March 6<sup>th</sup>. She further advised for individuals to send concerns, questions to Expo via email. Website address for the project is [www.fieldexpo.org](http://www.fieldexpo.org).

**d) James Dickerson, Support for CUP for Shock Lounge (2000 S. Cotner between Olympic and Santa Monica Blvd.)**

An informational packet prepared by Land Use Committee was distributed. Mr Dickerson presented his proposal to open a lounge, called the "Shock Lounge." He has been in touch with neighbors, getting feedback, getting petition signed. Obtained support from neighboring businesses. He has completed necessary and required alcohol and drug application requirements. Emphasized that there would be no adult entertainment or any other live entertainment. The lounge will have a full liquor license and have a full size menu. Parking will consist of 45 spaces on Cotner. Seating for 150 inside the lounge. Valet parking in the car wash lot. Food and alcohol will be served until closing (business hours are 6 p.m. to 2 a.m., 7 days a week). His hearing is on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, and he would like a letter of support from WNC.

Concerns were expressed regarding adequate parking, darkness, proximity to 4-Play, overspill of clientele from 4-Play, bringing in crime, need of documentation, transfers to future owners.

Melissa Kenady moved that WNC not take a position on the issue of Skybar LLC dba Shock Lounge due to lack of concrete information. Stacey Antler seconded the motion. The motion passes with 8 in favor, 5 against, and 3 abstentions. WNC will not be writing a letter.

**e) George Garugus, Secretary, Palms Neighborhood Council**

Reminded WNC of Boundary change petition and indicated that (Palms) PNC will cooperate with WNC on this issue. Further he reminded WNC that regarding the Second boundary to I-10 freeway was to be delayed till after the December 2006 board elections. Minutes state the WNC approved it.

## Reports

▪ **Policies and Procedures, Jan Gabrielson:**

Jan sent everyone a draft. This should be the final report. There are three issues to take up: 1) Grounds in the bylaws for removing a board member, 2) policies and guidelines for back and forth communication through emails, to ensure cooperative tone, 3) Code of civility. Jan has now completed annotating the bylaws; will email them to Terri. Terri will review first. After that, everyone can sign off approval.

▪ **Traffic Committee, Barbara Broide:**

Barbara emailed everyone the minutes.

1. If anyone is aware of any problems with the new Santa Monica Blvd. project, unintended things that happen such as traffic jams, the City would appreciate the public's comments on these issues.

2. City parking permits not sticking to bumpers, becoming illegible.

Terri suggests that it would be important to hear from the business people. The contacts are Jay Greenstein from the CD5 office, Mike Eveloff, Barbara Broide. Terri adds that if people have comments to make, to go to WNC website [wncla.org](http://wncla.org), and there is a link to "Traffic". In addition, she welcomed Rich Baron to the committee.

▪ **Public Safety Committee, Stacey Antler, Shannon Burns:**

Distributed yellow booklets on emergency preparedness. Not enough for everyone in the audience, but will try to bring more next meeting.. Booklets are helpful for people with disabilities, activity limitations. Includes a checklist for emergency preparedness. They are easy to read or understand. If interested in taking the City emergency preparedness training, it will be held March 14, at Rancho Park. It is very important that people from every neighborhood attend to learn how to be prepared to respond in emergency situations.

▪ **Outreach Committee, Terri Tippit:**

Terri sent the report to everyone. Terri was pleased that, Lisa joined the committee. WNC will outreach to businesses from Santa Monica to Pico, from the 405 to Century City where we have not been able to get people to represent. Lisa will go to the home show as the WNC representative, December 16-18. Terri has given her magnets and postcards to distribute. This will give WNC more exposure. Hopefully next month will be able to report on how we were able to outreach to the community.

▪ **Funding, Ron Stone:**

Everyone should have the funding report. Reason that funding committee exists is to give an avenue for putting words and requests for funding into action.. There needs to be a vote on what to fund, so we can plan to see if we have the money. We have \$60,000 to use or commit by June. There are three motions that the board will hopefully approve. We have a tight deadline, till the end of June—DONE has given a February 28 deadline for fund allocation plan. On January 29<sup>th</sup>, we approved allocations recommendations on how to spend the money:

- Overland Ave. Elementary -- \$9,000
- Westwood Charter Elementary -- \$9,000
- Public Safety/LAPD and LAFD -- \$16,000
- Palms Rancho Branch Library -- \$5,000
- Riddick Youth Center -- \$1,000
- Sidewalk Repair Program-- \$20,000

If board were to adopt these allocations as a guideline, Ron proposes that the Funding Committee send a letter to these institutions informing them our interest in funding and request that they come back with actual projects, suggestions to Funding Committee, which then would be submitted to the whole board.

Regarding the Sidewalk program, Ron explained that the option for funds to go to 50/50 in Federal program is not possible because it's a gift of public money to private entities, according to LA City Attorney. Second option: Give the money to the City to do the work on (which would take a long time) specified sidewalks. Third option: Have WNC hire a contractor to work with the city to get permits. This seems to be the best option.

Estimate is \$12/ square foot for sidewalk repair. In response to concerns about how to spend Sidewalk Program funds, Melissa K. explained that there is more money in our treasury that can be accessed. This \$60,000 is a special instance; it will go away if not used by the deadline. In July we will receive another \$50,000. This is an open-ended process.

Pam Keehn, from Riddick Center: The charter, which was written in 1940, is to service youth of the community. The building was donated by the Air Force. The organization is a non-profit. 26 Girl Scout and Boy Scout troops use the center. This year, money is needed for essentials such as heating, cooling, electrical, and beautification. City granted \$10,000 in the form of the beautification grant, which is a matching fund. (Pam passed pictures around of dilapidated building). She asked WNC to donate \$8,000 in matching funds to do the hard costs of the repair of the black top. Will be holding a Gala celebration, where sponsors of the event get prominent display. Council members, community members will be there. Must fund by March 5<sup>th</sup>, which is the construction date. But have till November to get funds.

*WNC Funding Motion #1:* Bob Guerin moved that the WNC Board approve the short-term Community Improvement Project allocations as follows:

- Overland Ave. Elementary -- \$9,000
- Westwood Charter Elementary -- \$9,000
- Public Safety/LAPD and LAFD -- \$16,000
- Palms Rancho Branch Library -- \$5,000
- Riddick Youth Center -- \$8,000 (with \$7,000 coming out of additional funds)
- Sidewalk Repair -- \$20,000

Stacey Antler seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously, 16 – 0

*WNC Funding Motion #2*

Bob Guerin moves that the WNC Funding Committee chair send a letter to each recommended entity informing them of the WNC's decision, providing them with a "Westside Neighborhood Council Community Improvement Project Application", and requesting that they submit candidate projects for funding. Bob further moved that the WNC Funding Committee review applications for funding and schedule at least one Funding Committee meeting wherein stakeholders can make presentations regarding their requests.

Bob further moved that the WNC Funding Committee submit its project recommendations to the full WNC Board for approval.

Stacey Antler seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously, 16 – 0

*WNC Funding Motion #3*

Bob Guerin moves that the WNC Funding Committee develop a sidewalk repair program including the method for identifying sidewalks to be repaired and the process for selecting a sidewalk contractor.

Further move that the WNC Funding Committee submit its recommended sidewalk repair program to the full WNC Board for approval.

Stacey Antler seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously, 16 – 0.

*WNC Funding Motion #4*

Richard Harmetz moved that WNC donate \$4000 to Palms Rancho park library from next year's funding. Gerry del Sol seconded the motion. The motion passes unanimously 16 – 0.

▪ **Schools, Charles Horwitz**

Charles Horwitz found a new school in our neighborhood: LAUSD CVS Community Day School is a small high school on Westwood Blvd, close to Mateo's, has 17 students. Is an umbrella under continuing education part of LAUSD. Charles had a chance to talk to Principal Massey. Principal would like a field trip for 5 students to travel to Washington D.C. for the next school year. They are in dialog about future collaboration. Charles sent emails to everyone with schools' wish lists. This might be more of funding committee issue to address school's needs. Terri says to go through funding committee. Notre Dame had a parking issue. The HOA is doing a great job of working through problem with them. St. Tim's Principal expressed bus stop issue in front of school, an issue which there will probably be some dialogue about.

▪ **Treasurer's Report, Melissa Kenady**

Everyone has received latest balance from DONE. We have over \$160,000 in our account now. It is a healthy fund to spend. Melissa reiterated that all expense items approved this evening will be funded. It is helpful to have funding process in place.

**Terri Tippit:**

- Requested that everyone put contact info for a WNC business card on the sheet going around.
- WNC told PNC that new board could decide what they wanted to do. Terri appointed Melissa Kenady to chair committee to review Palms NC request to change our boundaries and overlap Palms Park & Library. Richard Harmetz to remain on committee. George Garugus (PNC Secretary) doesn't have to be at meetings.
- Neighborhood Congress is April 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Need from Renato Romano help with outreaching to people
- How to contact businesses when hear about them starting a project or doing something affecting the neighborhood? Should we tell them to come to NC? Land Use Committee in order to be responsible to our stakeholders? March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2:30 p.m. on Corinth.
- Introduced Anchulee Raongthum as the new note taker. We have a new laptop. Anchulee will be entering list from election night into database. Terri wants to ensure that everyone is emailing agendas to appropriate groups.
- Barbara – This Sunday at Winfield Park from 9 a.m. – 1p.m. Communitree L.A. is having a tree adoption day. Offering free trees, energy efficient light bulbs. Door hangers being distributed. They love to do some school plantings. Maybe Charles can help with this effort.
- Shlomo to prepare business cards for WNC. \$2,000. He prepared two variations of the card. WNC will go in favor of the white business card. Barbara Broide made the motion to approve the business cards. Bob Guerin seconded the motion. It is the same price to print one sided and double sided.
- Photographs of the WNC Board members
- Steve Spector moves to adjourn the meeting. Letty Bugarin seconded the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

**Meeting adjourned:** 10:05p.m.

*Minutes prepared by Anchulee Raongthum, AppleOne. Reviewed, Edited and Approved  
by Recording Secretary Bob Guerin*