

Westside Neighborhood Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 13, 2007
Westside Pavilion 10800 W. Pico
Meeting Room A

Call to order: 7:06 by Terri Tippit

Attendance: Barbara Broide (Seat 7), Shannon Burns (Alternate Seat 17)*, Renato Romano (Seat 3), Mike Eveloff (Alternate Seat 10), Don M. Parker (Seat 2), Steve Spector (Seat 4), Terri Tippit (Seat 8), Bob Guerin (Seat 13), Stacy Antler (Seat 12), Melissa Kenady (Seat 16), Ron Stone (Seat 14), Charles Horwitz (Seat 15) , Gerry Del Sol (Seat 9), Jerry Asher (Seat 6), Douglas Butler (Seat 1)

Absent: Letty Bugarin (Seat 5), Mary Kusnic (Seat 11)

* Seat 17: Alternate Shannon Burns sat at the Board table and Board member Ty Vahedi sat in the audience most of the meeting, occasionally leaving the room."

Non Voting Members Present: Jay Greenstein (CD5), Deanna Stevenson (DONE)

Approval of April 12, 2007 Minutes: Stacy Antler motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Steve Spector seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 12-0-1 (2 members arrived after this vote was taken).

Public Forum:

- **Steve Spector** introduced Tara Bieber, new Senior Property Manager for the Westside Pavilion (Macerich) and indicated that she would be the alternate for his seat.
- Whitney Wigle, Representing the Westside Pavilion, spoke to the assembly about the upcoming opening of the New Landmark Theatres. She invited those present to attend the Grand Opening party from 6-10 pm on May 30th. The event will feature appetizers, drinks, and a special screening of the movie "Show Business." RSVP requested to wpevents@macerich.com.
- **Jack Weiss**, CD5 Councilman, asked the WNC to support the motion he recently made to the City Council requesting the City Attorney to investigate the feasibility of amending the LAMC to provide neighborhood councils the ability to appeal the following entitlements: Tentative Tract Maps, Parcel Maps, Specific Plan Exceptions, Conditional Use Permits, and Variances. Councilman Weiss directed the City Attorney to report back in 30 days with his findings.

Mr. Weiss explained and asked for support of AB922. The bill would require State agencies to collect data for the Wilshire Corridor that would normally be collected only at the City level.

His final topic was the Pico/Olympic one-way traffic plan offered by County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky. Allyn Rifkin, the traffic consultant hired by Supervisor Yaroslavsky, gave a report at a May 1, 2007, task force meeting, which Mr. Weiss did not feel satisfactorily answered many questions. This report is available on line at http://zev.lacounty.gov/images/OLYMPIC-PICO_REPORT-EXHIBITS%20APPENDIX.pdf

These questions have been directed to the DOT for answers. The next meeting of this Task Force has not been set. Mr. Weiss said that either he or Jay Greenstein will inform us when the next meeting has been scheduled.

- **Gretchen Martin**, representing EF Educational Homestay, requested host family volunteers for a high school student exchange program for students from Italy. The dates are July 1 thru July 21, 2007. Ms. Martin can be contacted at 310-592-3326 or gretchenEF@yahoo.com.
- **Phil Brown**, Architect, spoke to the group about Los Angeles' need to have a master plan for land use and transportation. He stated his firm opposition to the segmented district or local area approach.
- **Jan Gabrielson** requested that four proposed bylaw changes and repeal of Standing Rule 4 be placed on the agenda for next month.

Committee Reports:

- **Treasurer Report:** **Melissa Kenady** reported that the WNC has a current balance of \$155,000 and funding progresses on CIP's as approved by the Council. Sales tax will be calculated as part of the CIP budgeted expenditures. Per DONE, inclusion of the sales tax does not change the focus of the approved expenditures.
- **Outreach Committee:** **Terri Tippit** announced that Lisa Morocco will be the chair of Outreach. She needs volunteers who will walk Pico/Westwood to talk with the merchants about the WNC and get their opinion of the proposed One-Way Pico/Olympic plan. They will also leave a copy of our newsletter.
 - Newsletters will be distributed this weekend.
 - Business cards were distributed.

Agenda:

- a) **(cancelled)**
- b) **Mike Eveloff, chair of the Aqua Line Ad Hoc Committee**, moved that we confirm the Chair's April formation of the Aqua Line Ad Hoc Committee and ratify the approval of April's initial budget allocation of \$5,000.00. Mike Eveloff moved, Stacy Antler seconded, motion passed 12-0-1.
- c) **Jay Greenstein, Deputy for CD5**, asked that the WNC write a letter of support for AB922. Mike Eveloff moved, Steve Spector seconded, motion passed 13-0. Terri Tippit, Chair, will write a letter of support.
Mr. Greenstein also asked that the board support Councilman Weiss' motion amending the LAMC to allow NC's the ability to appeal certain entitlements. The board included in the motion the requirement that the city provide necessary documents to the NC's to help with the appeal process. The motion presented was as follows: "I Therefore Move that the City Attorney report back in 30 days on the feasibility of amending the LAMC to allow NC's the ability to appeal the

following entitlements: Tentative Tract Maps; Parcel Maps; Specific Plan Exceptions; CUPs; and Variances." Additionally the motion included the

- provision that the City would provide resources to support NC research on Land Use issues. Steve Spector moved, Ron Stone seconded; motion passed 12-1-0. The Chair, Terri Tippit, will write the letter of support.
- d) Michael and Howard Marylander** gave a presentation on their proposed business named “The Massage Place and Petite Spa” in the strip mall at Overland/Cushdon. They have other spas on the Westside. It was agreed that this business would compliment the businesses in the strip mall. They requested we support their application for a CUP and a Zone Variance. Terri has asked CD5 to cite another massage business a few door away on Overland that does not have a zone variance to operate at their location. Barbara Broide raised some issues that were adequately addressed by the applicant. Gerry Del Sol moved, Jerry Asher seconded, motion passed 15-0 for a letter of support. Terri Tippit will write the letter of support.
- e) Stacy Antler, Chair of Public Safety**, reported that the CERT Program is being considered for cutbacks. After a discussion Stacy Antler moved, Melissa Kenady seconded, and the motion passed 13-0-1 that Stacy write a letter to the Mayor and members of the Public Safety Committee supporting the CERT Program and strongly encouraging the Mayor to leave it intact.
- f) Ron Stone, Religious Seat Representative**, reported that since DOT changed the parking restrictions on Pico in front of Temple Isaiah it has become a safety issue for parents dropping their children off at school. Ron Stone moved, Gerry Del Sol seconded, and the motion passed 14-0 that we write a letter asking DOT to amend restrictions on Pico Boulevard in front of Temple Isaiah.
- g) Dr. Karen Williams, LA County Mental Health Department**, reported that the county needed a clinic near the Mental Health Building on Olympic/Sepulveda that would provide group therapy sessions and identified a building on Westwood Boulevard where they have entered into lease negotiations. Group Therapy sessions would be permitted in this building. There was no need for a letter of support from the WNC. Barbara Broide raised the issues of the safety for the children that would cross over Westwood at La Grange after school and parking concerns. It was suggested that Barbara find out how many students would be affected and that this would be the same as any other building that provided therapy. There will be parking for staff, and 80% of the clients use public transportation. Ty Vahedi suggested we write a letter to the County that they request as part of their lease agreement that adequate parking is provided by the owner of the building. Mike Eveloff moved, Jerry Asher seconded, and the motion passed with a vote of 11-0-3 that a letter be written in this regard to Dr. Karen Williams or the appropriate LA County Mental Health Department lease negotiator. Ty Vahedi will write the letter.
- h) Loren Kosmont, Westwood Gardens Civic Association president**, reported that her HOA board reviewed the Traffic Study Report that was presented by the WNC Traffic Committee last month. They raised the following questions and concerns about the report: There were approximately 400 surveys returned in an area of

81,000 stakeholders. The proposed route of the Exposition Light Rail has not yet been determined. There is a possibility that it will be at grade affecting the north/south traffic. The survey was conducted before the proposal of the one-way Olympic/Pico streets that is currently being studied by DOT. This proposal will have a major impact on north/south traffic. Ms. Kosmont recommended that we stop any further time or funding on the traffic study until these issues have been resolved. Barbara Broide and Annette Mercer reported that the traffic study is ongoing and that they have had a difficult time getting City agencies to answer questions in a timely fashion. Stacy Antler moved, Melissa seconded that we stop the traffic study at this time. After further discussion it was decided that no vote be taken but that Barbara and her committee will have until August to finish the traffic study. Barbara indicated that there were mitigations they would like to implement once their study has been completed, and she noted that because traffic is a major issue in the WNC, the recommendations from the Traffic Committee will need to be addressed. The report has taken 3 years to complete. The committee continues to factor in new traffic issues as they occur. Implementing their recommendations will take a considerable amount of time considering how long it takes to get responses from City agencies. The board realizes that the traffic study should be the focus of the committee.

Melissa Kenady moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Bob Guerin and unanimously passed.

Meeting Adjourned 09:50 PM

Minutes prepared by Bob Guerin, Recording Secretary, with the greatly appreciated assistance of many others and as such are Respectfully Submitted.