

WESTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES (Unapproved)
Thursday, August 9, 2007 7:00pm
Westside Pavilion 10800 W. Pico Blvd., Meeting Room A

1. Call to Order 7:08 pm by Terri Tippit

Attendance Barbara Broide arrived late and Katharine Greenebaum sat in for her until she arrived (Seat 7), David Ty Vahedi (Seat 17), Dick Harmetz (Seat 10),), Steve Spector(Seat 4), Renato Romano (Seat 3), Terri Tippit (Seat 8), Bob Guerin (Seat 13), Stacy Adler (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), Letty Bugarin (Seat 5), Don M. Parker (Seat 2), Francois Nion (Alternate Seat 11)

Non-Voting Members Present Jay Greenstein (CD5) Deanna Stevenson (DONE) arrived later

2. Approval of July 12, 2007 minutes

Stacy Adler motions to approve, **Gerry Del Sol** seconds 11 **Favor 0 Opposed 3 Abstaining**

3. Review of Agenda (ITEMS BELOW MAY NOT BE HEARD IN THE ORDER LISTED)

4. Public Forum

Annette Mercer announcements: 405 Northbound Carpool Public Hearing on Wednesday, August 22 at 5 pm at Skirball Center followed by a 6:30pm hearing. Two projects in Beverly Hills: 1) Robinsons-May into mixed use condos, hearing is Monday, August 20. 2) Hilton Hotel remodel, hearing on Wednesday, August 22 at 6:00pm. Both will be heard at Beverly Hills City Hall.

Steven Chung/Mayor's Representative

Recent early morning earthquake reminds us of need for Emergency Preparedness so attend the September 29th event in Westchester. City, County, State agencies, along with local groups will be providing emergency packets. Mayor's Budget Team needs NC participation, Mayor will address Neighborhood Congress. Contact him directly with any concerns like tree maintenance, family and youth issues.

5. Reports

- **Policies and Procedures, Jan Gabrielson Also Agenda item 6. c.) Amendments to bylaws**

The Committee did not meet in July.

Two proposed amendments to our bylaws were presented at the July 12, 2007 meeting. These proposed amendments were discussed by the Board, but not voted on, at our July 12, 2007 meeting. The text of the proposed amendments was distributed to the Board before tonight's meeting. One amendment makes changes clarifying the definition of a stakeholder. The other eliminates Seat 17. **Steve Spector** moved to approve both bylaws as set out in the proposed amendments submitted to the Board before the meeting, with

the following changes:

1. Add: The elimination of Seat 17 does not affect the current term. It will take effect as of the next regular Board election.

2. In the proposed new version of Section 2 of Article III, add on line five, after the word “Thirteen” the words “and qualified to fill the corresponding seat”. On line six, change “is entitled” to “are entitled”. **Melissa Kenady** seconded and **passed 14-0-2**.

- **Land Use Committee, Ty Vahedi (item 6. a)**
John Goodwin, Westfield Shopping Center

Support for CUP application for Rock Sugar Pan Asian Kitchen

RSPAK states intention to stay open Friday and Saturday evenings. Looking for 360 seats so asking to amend CUP. Expansion of number of seats only for this operation, not transferable. **Bob Guerin** makes motion to support the Rock Sugar Pan Asian Kitchen project Charles **Horwitz** seconds **14 In favor 0 Opposed 3 Abstaining**

Terri T.: developers have to do a PDT within 500 feet of project. Many notices are returned to NC post box due to incorrect addresses and bad names. wasting paper, postage, time, etc. This puts an unfair burden on developers. In this regard, we have complaints from neighbors re cell tower, etc. **Bob G.:** send back to Land Use Committee to determine why the process is not working. **Terri T.:** meet to do this specifically.

- **Mobility Committee, Letty Bugarin (including improving communications with Caltrans and DOT and Comments on Sepulveda Pass Widening.)**

Letty ask the Board to Vote on letter about Sepulveda Pass widening needing additional information regarding all options. Approval letter in support of this request, **Steve Spector** motioned, **Stacy Adler** seconded.

In favor of approving letter with comments: **In favor 14 Opposed 1 Abstaining 2**

- **Officers’ Report, Terri Tippit (including support for AB138)**
Veterans Parking Placards, AB 138. **Ty Vahedi** asks to table it. **Tabled until October.**

- **CD5 Update, Jay Greenstein**

Lisa, Planning Deputy had a baby 8 days ago, named Caitlin. She will be out for 3 mos. Jay passed out DWP’s energy saving light bulbs to each board member. Barbara B.: reminded everyone to dispose of these bulbs in hazardous waste receptacle due to its mercury content. October 17 deadline for Community Beautification Grants. Workshop in Venice on September 5. Corner of Overland and Pico sign banner removed.

- **DONE Report, Deanna Stevenson**
Budget Day October 13. Neighborhood Congress October 28.

6. Agenda Items
New Business

b) Captain Matt Blake, new Commanding Officer of West LAPD

- **Introduces himself to stakeholders**

d) Karina Wiesenthal

- **Vote on DWP Rate Increase**

Ques. 1) The POWER Rate Action has three parts: The first is a base rate increase of 2.9% on January 1, 2008; 2.9% on July 1; 2008; and 2.7% for 2009. Total of (8.5%)

Accept or Reject the Power Base Rate Increase **Accept 6 Reject 8 No Vote 2**

Ques. 2) The second POWER rate increase the Power Reliability Surcharge to fund the POWER Reliability Program to replace, upgrade and repair the electric infrastructure such as power poles, underground cables, distribution transformers and high voltage station transformers. The new Pass Through component will not be capped.

Accept or Reject the Power Reliability Surcharge: **Accept 12 Reject 3 No Vote 2**

Ques. 3) The third part is the Power Rate Restructuring Plan which is revenue neutral.

Accept or Reject the Power Rate Restructuring Plan: **Accept 9 Reject 4 No Vote 4**

Ques 4) The WATER Rate Action proposes increases in the Base Rate of 3.1% on July 1, 2008 and 3.1% on July 1, 2008 (6.2%)

Accept or Reject the Water Rate Increase. **Accept 0 Reject 15 No Vote 2**

Ques. 5) DWP's annual Transfer to the City's General Fund is projected to be \$216 Million, of which \$183 Million from Power and \$33 Million is from Water. The Power transfer is 7% of the previous year's revenues and the Water Transfer is 5% of the previous year's revenues. The Power rate was increased to 7% from 5% about five years ago. The non payment would impact the City's budget.

Accept or Reject: **Non-issue** since letter sent. (Last meeting approved)

Ques. 6) DWP has funded various City non core projects as in the study of the LA River, the Zoo, the Mayor's Housing Initiatives, and selected community projects that are not directly related to DWP's core services.

Accept or Reject funding for Non Core Projects. **Accept 0 Reject 16 No Vote 1**

Ques. 7) DWP workers enjoy substantially higher compensation and benefits than the rest of the City workers. The differentiation between City and DWPO may be as much as 25% - 40%. This has been a source of tension for City employees.

Accept or Reject: DWP should stabilize its labor cost **Accept 14 Reject 2 No Vote 1**

Ques. 8) DWP has \$2.3 Billion in unfunded liabilities related to post retirement medical benefits and pensions. This will result in additional rate increases if it is not funded properly. Accept or Reject: DWP should give priority to fully funding these liabilities while not increasing the current level of benefits. **Accept 15 Reject 0 No Vote 3**

Ques. 9) An independent Rate Payers Advocate, funded by DWP, and independent of DWP, the Board of Commissioners, the Mayor, the City Council, the Controller and BWG, would analyze the finance and operations of DWP and make recommendations that benefit the rate payers.

Accept or Reject a Rate Payers Advocate: **Accept 15 Reject 0 No Vote 2**

- Treasurer Report, Melissa Kenady (item 6 e)
WNC Proposed Budget Workshop

Melissa K: Funding 411: Due to no admin assistance it is necessary to streamline funding process. Have brought your Treasurer's Tool kit which lists procedures, DONE's website which has all the necessary documents that are available for downloading. Click on Funding which shows current balances for NC budgets. To process checks, need minutes showing vote taken for your particular project. Looking at approved budget from last month there are three areas of the budget: 25% outreach, 10% operating expenses, and 65% community improvement/public benefit projects. **Terri T:** Let's put this to the

Funding Committee to come up with a plan. **Ty V:** Funding Committee take a straw vote on what this board want s to do. **Letty B:** traffic study and how to do what we can with lists we have already .**Melissa K:** A sense of community is what we are all about. Beautification projects can involve business, like planting flowers with business watering them. Should state top two or three goals for council to accomplish. **Deanna/DONE** many projects can be improvement or outreach; line items are flexible and adaptable. (Richard Horvitz left 950pm) **Melissa K:** send a letter to all businesses that we are committing to a beautification plan and want their input. Another issue, are we comfortable with percentages? **Steve S:** Give general direction to funding committee.**Ty V:** Beautification could be considered outreach... **Melissa K:** I move we take approved budget and increase transportation and beautification project as core funding projects. **Jerry A** seconds. **Deanna/DONE** not properly placed on the agenda. **Motion withdrawn.** **Steve S:** asked for a straw vote on Melissa's motion In **favor 13 opposed 0 abstained 3**
Terri T: how to list as agenda item? **Deanna** percentage of budget revisions.

Stacy Antler motions to end meeting, **Melissa Kenady** seconds. Adjourned at 10:14 pm

Minutes prepared by Carolyn Ward, AppleOne, August 18, 2007
Reviewed, Edited and Approved by Recording Secretary Bob Guerin