

WESTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES (Unapproved)
Thursday, December 13, 2007 7:00pm
Westside Pavilion 10800 W. Pico Blvd.
Meeting Room A (3rd Floor behind Food Court)

1. Meeting is called to order at 7:08pm

In Attendance: Jerry Adler (6), Gerry Del Sol (9), Jay Fuhrman (alt 14), Melissa Kenady (16), Bob Guerin (13), Letty Bugarin (5), Terri Tippit (8), Steve Spector (4), Stacy Antler (12), Ty Vahedi (17), Mary Kusnic (11), Barbara Broide (7), Annette Mercer (alt 15), Mike Eveloff (alt 10), Lisa Morocco (alt 2), Renato Romano (3), Douglas Butler (1)

Terri Tippit, Chair states there is a quorum with a full house of 17 members

2. Approval of November 8, 2007 minutes as corrected

Bob Guerin motions to approve, **Annette Mercer** seconds

All in Favor: Favor 14 Opposed 0 Abstaining 3

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

4. Public Forum

Lisa Morocco introduced owners of two new businesses in the area who gave brief presentations. The first was a new restaurant and market called FOOD. Owners John Evans and Judy Ornstein spoke about their commitment to the neighborhood. Since they live in the neighborhood, they were aware it was underserved and their type of restaurant would be supported and appreciated. John said they have made a serious commitment and added that he is an architect who works for the Redevelopment Agency and so is concerned what will happen in the area.

The second new business, TOUCH OF ROMANCE has opened on Pico Boulevard across from the Mall. It is a family based business, woman owned and run. PK started with home parties and expanded into stores. The closest store is in Culver City but it was time to move into the Westside and into the Valley. Her daughter and granddaughter work in the company.

5. REPORTS:

- Policies and Procedures

Terri stated that the WNC would not be taking a position on the 912 Commission, since no one stepped up to chair a committee to study it.

Terri added that **Jan Gabrielson** submitted the Board approved bylaws amendment for DONE. **Jan** will no longer chair the Policies and Procedures Committee, so a new chair is needed. This is an important committee for the WNC.

- Land Use Committee, Ty Vahedi

- Mobility Committee, Letty Bugarin (including vote on holding the Mayor's Olympic /Pico proposal until further analysis and stakeholder input is included in the process)

- Outreach Committee, Lisa Morocco (including funding for database collection and website upgrade)

Lisa reported that at their last meeting upgrading WNC Website was discussed, adding extra features and the need to build the database. The committee is developing an outline of what is needed and will get it out to the Board to read. The outline will include costs. Will know by January how much funding will be required. There are two bids out now.

- Officers' Report, Terri Tippit (support for Pico NC Resolution for Mayor's Olympic/Pico Proposal)

Terri thanked everyone who brought a toy for Tiny Tots.

- Treasurer Report, Melissa Kenady

Melissa reported the Treasurer's report is held over to January. DONE will sponsor a training workshop in January at a convenient time. Anyone on the Funding Committee is encouraged to attend because the process needs to be streamlined.

Terri reminded that anyone seeking funds for an organization or particular concern must attend the committee meetings. Money will not be given out without the proper paper work. If you want money, you will need to know how to fill out the warrant request.

- DONE Report, Deanna Stevenson

Deanna stated that DONE would set up the training. Other local NCs will also be invited. The trainer will come to the Westside to do it. It will take an hour and a half. Will pick a few dates, to find the best one.

- CD5 Update, Jay Greenstein

(Following discussion by Barbara Broide under New Business below) **Jay** reported that the landlord (Citibank building on Pico at Overland) and sign company have appealed the order to comply. The council office is urging Building & Safety to expedite their hearing date. Will let the WNC know so members can attend the meeting. The council office will add comments at that meeting. **Jay** also discussed the bridge at Palms that has been under construction for more than 2 years. Caltrans is rebuilding to support additional car lanes. Crews found utility line that now needs to be relocated. Should be completed sometime in spring. This is a joint project by DOT and a State contractor working on HOV lane. . Councilman Weiss convened a summit with elected officials to talk about getting the Westside Subway done. Begun lining up funding. Rosendahl, LaBonge and Danny Zane, Chair of Subway to the Sea are working with regional leaders to expand their approach.

6. AGENDA ITEMS

New Business

a) Barbara Broide

- Support for letter on Billboard Video and Billboard on building at 10680 Pico

Barbara reported the billboard was totally illegal, was up for a few months, then the owner was cited. Council has worked on getting it down quickly. WNC needs to understand how these things are handled at Building and Safety. Our constituents and

businesses that are at a disadvantage contact us. Fining and being cited does not pay for the illegal sign to be removed. Barbara had drafted three letters, one requiring fines and regulating fee restrictions to move city forward to remove this particular sign. Building and Safety has voted to stop the digital billboard for now. She recommended WNC send a thank you letter to Building and Safety.

Barbara motioned to approve sending a letter (II) regarding the West Pico Blvd. Supergraphic sign with two word changes. **Ty seconded**

In favor with corrections: In **Favor 15** **Opposed 0** **Abstaining 1**

Barbara motioned to approve letter (III) to the Planning Commission and City Council regarding Wetlands Park, **Ty seconds**

In Favor 5 **Opposed 2** **Abstained 8**

Barbara motioned to approve Thank You letter (IV) to Commissioners of Building and Safety regarding recent vote denying motion picture video off-site billboard.

Ty seconds Vote **In Favor 10** **Opposed 0** **Abstained 5**

b) Ty Vahedi

- Support for letter to Planning Dept about the General Plan

Terri recommended a revised letter be submitted at the January 10th meeting. It will be circulated 3 days ahead of January meeting. What direction do we want this to go in? Is this a recommendation or a mandate?

- Two motions from LUC

Ty motioned to require applicants to provide prior notice regarding their presentations to LUC (1.) to a larger area and specifically to all tenants in the larger buildings via building management and to each committee member, each Board member and each Alternate on the WNC. **Mike Eveloff seconded**

Vote: In **Favor 15** **Opposed 0** **Abstaining 1**

Ty motioned to require applicants provide an additional 15-day notice of presentation meetings at the LUC to the stakeholders to result in more participation and input.

Jerry del sol seconds Vote **In Favor 14** **Opposed 0** **Abstaining 1**

c) Jan Gabrielson

- Policies and Procedures recommendation on WNC support of the 912 Committee recommendations

(WNC will not be taking a position)

d) John Fisher, Assistant General manager DOT

- Mayor's Olympic West/Pico East Proposal briefing

Terri reported that the Mayor held a press conference at Overland and Pico without inviting WNC board members. **Terri** suggested people forward their questions to John Fisher at his email John.Fisher@lacity.org

John Fisher began his presentation, stating that through past work with the community, he heard many recommendations including, only one left turn on Pico; keep metering out of residential area; and, incorporate traffic calming measures. DOT will continue that commitment for community input. Supervisor Yaroslavsky recommended to operate Pico and Olympic Blvds., as psuedo-one way streets. Held 14 community meetings to get

input and feedback how his plan was perceived. It was determined there were problems and many aspects were not feasible. So, the City Council directed DOT to find something else more feasible. We have proposed a Three Phase plan. But, nothing can be done until the City Council approves the plan and allocates the funding necessary. Three phases will provide more mobility for Pico by changing traffic patterns sending traffic further east along Pico and Olympic when most motorists exit Century City. We send more traffic down to Robertson. We **propose uniform peak period restrictions and preferential time signals** on Olympic westbound and Pico eastbound to increase flow of traffic and motorists can choose which one they want to use. Signals will be timed to maintain speed at 25-mph which will save 7 minutes for commuters. Pico, Motor, Patrice, Prosser and Manning have established left turn meters and we have made that commitment to protect the neighborhood. Phase 3 is not requesting funding yet but will include one more westbound lane on Olympic and one more eastbound lane on Pico. To accommodate this, there will be one less lane on other side of the street. Parking restrictions are scheduled for 7am to 10am and 3pm to 7pm, possibly moving parking onto side streets, and possibly restricted parking on alternate sides of the street. Center lane will be for left turns. If we can shift traffic patterns to Phase 1 and 2, we can add this phase to alleviate traffic and give another choice for motorists. **But if these do not work after three months, the Council has agreed to scrap it.**

Question: What about mom and pop businesses who will only have 5 hrs parking daily? They will adjust by going out of business. That is bad for communities. AM and PM peak periods will be detrimental to businesses without parking. Some schools are on blocks where parents can't drop off their kids.

John: The challenge for NC's is Mobility vs. Local and Residential needs but my pervue was for mobility, not community businesses.

Comment: A **stakeholder** said mobility is for the greater region and motorists, not for the community.

Comment: **Jay Handl** of West LA Chamber of Commerce said, "we need to stop." This cannot happen now. If you hurt the little businesses in this area you will ruin the community. Look very hard at this, and ask the question, because when they say "we'll pull the plug if it doesn't work", they never will.

Question: **Terri** asked John questions she had received: Who decides if "it is working?" The residents? Or the Mayor? If traffic is flowing, and the residents don't like it, who will be listened to?

John: One measure is how much traffic is using Olympic and Pico and traffic flow improvement. Need to show fewer cars in the residential neighborhood. DOT is only offering an option to alleviate traffic flow.

Terri wants WNC to host a town hall meeting in January (possibly on the 14th) to bring in hundreds in the area to attend so we can have input before the Commission votes on January 23. As a NC we need to intelligently add our comments. CD5 has to provide us with a larger venue so we can do this.

Bob: The community and the board tried (without any firm commitment) to have the investigation and community information gathering extend into February or March.

Barbara asked how the traffic studies regarding Pico and Olympic were done on October 2 and 3?

John said they got a sample of what traffic was like. If this worked we would move on to phase 2.

Stacy: After Council's approval, how long will it take to implement?

John: Signal Timing changes within 1 to 2 months. Need to run these changes for 3 months to monitor. Would have results by July.

Jerry: What about north/south? Timed lights on Overland?

John: Same times on north/south streets. No change. Century City Chamber of Commerce invited DOT to their meeting. They made own survey regarding 23 commercial buildings, what their employees use and need.

Bob: You said DOT would test for 3 months but couldn't change the stop signs and islands once they are in. But will they be open to change really?

Terri: If expo line is at grade what will happen with the traffic?

John: They would time the lights to accommodate traffic. DOT uses the "carrot and stick" approach with built in measures to deter traffic into residential streets with no left turns and street humps.

Stakeholder: Special parking funds are the accumulated dimes and quarters from parking meters and have created the parking lots behind Maria's, etc. Maybe we need parking structures.

Ty: Have you considered environmental laws and restrictions?

John: There are exemptions for traffic plans.

Comment: A 7 minute saving is building a regional pattern freeway not local need of getting from the store to home.

John: The City Council has directed the DOT to alleviate the traffic on Pico and Olympic. Can't take on the whole world only regard the mobility concern.

Terri: WestsideNC@earthlink.net to use for your comments. They will be compiled on the site as well.

Barbara: We need time to make this work and go through the problems community by community. We are being faced with organizing or just talking. We got a commitment at the transportation committee to postpone until February.

Jay Handl: We need to see the report from DOT at each community you went to and give us time to read them over. This should be translated to the Mayor's office. And he will get us this survey and give us a true voice in the decision process as the Charter says.

John: DOT can't comment on the Council's plan.

It was suggested the WNC write a letter not supporting the plan and send it to the Mayor, copying DOT, CD5, CD11, and the L.A. City Council Transportation Committee.

Terri asked for a motion. **Letty motioned, Stacy seconds**

Vote In Favor 16 Opposed 0 Abstaining 0

Bob moves to adjourn, **Melissa seconds**

Adjourned 1034pm