

**WESTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL  
MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday, December 11, 2008 7:00pm**  
Westside Pavilion 10800 W. Pico Blvd.  
Meeting Room A (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor behind Food Court)

**1. Meeting is called to order at 7:06 PM.**

**In Attendance:**

**Phyllis Kassel ( 1alt.), Lisa Morocco ( 2),  
Steve Spector (4), Sander DeWildt (5alt.),  
Barbara Broide (7), Terri Tippit (8),  
Karina Wiesenthal (9alt.),  
Dick Harmetz (10), Mike Eveloff (10alt.),  
Mary Kusnic (11), Stacy Antler (12),  
Robert Guerin (13), Ron Stone (14),  
Charles Horwitz (15), Annette Mercer (15alt.),  
Melissa Kenady (16), David Ty Vahedi (17)**

**Also attending:**

**Deanna Stevenson, DONE**

**Terri Tippit, Chair** states there is a quorum - with  
15 member seats represented.

**2. Minutes of the November 13, 2008 WNC Meeting  
were presented, reviewed and approved as noted.**

**Motion: Melissa Second: Stacy**

**In Favor: 11 - 0 - Abstain: 4**

**3. PUBLIC FORUM:**

**Terri, Chair, introduced Officer Rashid, WLAPD.  
Officer Rashid updated on crime on the Westside, citing that incidents of burglary  
from vehicles continues. He urged everyone to be aware – not to leave valuables in  
vehicles. With the City budget constraints, West LA is losing officers, now at 26.**

**Announcements:**

**The Fisher House, is holding their dedication ceremony on Friday, February 6, 2009 at 1 p.m., at the:**

**West Los Angeles VA Medical Center  
11301 Wilshire Boulevard  
Los Angeles, CA 9007**

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**Also, tonight there is a Town hall Meeting -  
Los Angeles City Councilmember Bill Rosendahl  
Chief William Bratton, Los Angeles Police Department  
DISCUSS THE FUTURE OF  
POLICE DEPLOYMENT ON THE WESTSIDE  
When: 7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.  
at the Felicia Mahood Senior Citizen Center Auditorium**

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**Mr. Mark Van Gessel, Supervisor  
MTA, Senior Construction Manager  
Lorena Y. Hernandez**

**The impacts of the HOV I-405 widening project in our area, off Sepulveda near Exposition, were discussed in detail. It was stated that the Westside Neighborhood Council represents its business and residential stakeholders; this will have negative impact on the area and also directly negatively impact the San Marco Design /Piazza Europa Business operations, 2490 S. Sepulveda Blvd., is situated at the site. ( Note: Renato Romano, owner, Represents Seat 3 on the WNC, is not present at today's meeting)**

**Robert Romano, representing San Marco Design/Piazza Europa, gave a detailed statement on the 15+ year business operation and the negative domino effect this would have – citing the probable closure of the business – loss of jobs, local revenues, etc.**

**There was not a clear rationale for why this project could not be located west of the freeway, in a more industrial area.**

**It was concluded that this project will impact both classes of stakeholders in significant and material ways, and that more information is required prior to any consideration in supporting the project.**

The concerns discussed include the following:

**What is the aggregate number of leases being terminated**

**What is the aggregate number of employees employed by those businesses?**

**What is the aggregate city business tax paid by those businesses?**

**Does the project intend to provide Relocation Benefits to displaced businesses as described in Appendix Din the FEIR for the project?**

**The specific discussion in the WIR of traffic impacts caused by increased use of the Exposition/Sepulveda light. As discussed, we believe that increased use of this intersection for east/west traffic will decrease the effective capacity of Sepulveda Boulevard, thus impacting Pico Boulevard with a ripple effect throughout the area.**

**The specific discussion in the EIR of the loss of businesses due to MTA lease terminations.**

**Why the day-laborer site could not be used for those functions currently planned for where revenue-generating businesses currently exist?**

**Comment specifically on the potential impacts and costs of relocation should the Expo light rail line be approved. Also, why an alternate location should not be found now which would not create that expense later and would also preserve businesses that generate city revenue and provide valuable jobs.**

**Comment on all security measures being taken, including lighting, security guards and surveillance, at project parking lots. Also please comment on the environmental impacts of the increased foot traffic, vehicular traffic, site lighting, site noise and possible increased crime impacts on the local community. Cite the section in the EIR that contemplated these impacts.**

**It was indicated that MTA had reviewed other locations for both parking lots and for the unified project office. Please provide the list of properties considered and their relative costs so that we understand the financial case for displacing businesses.**

**Comments on the rationale to locate the unified project office at one of the most impacted intersections in the area, and how the project will interact with possible Expo work; and, possibly the Casden Project work. Note that the provided timelines for the Casden Project directly conflict with the MTA's project timeline.**

**How many employees will be on site the first year for the design phase of this project?**

**When will the staging area currently used by MTA on Sawtelle be available if needed for this project?**

**It was acknowledged that no irreversible action would be undertaken until we have received the requested information and have an opportunity to discuss this with Mark Van Gessel / MTA at our next meeting/ earliest opportunity.**

#### **4. REVIEW OF AGENDA:**

**( ITEMS AY NOT BE HEARD IN THE ORDER LISTED)**

#### **5.) AGENDA ITEMS**

##### **New Business**

##### **a.) Councilwoman Wendy Gruel: Morocco, Presented and Discussed Transportation Reported on Quimby Funds**

**Terri introduced guest speaker Councilmember Wendy Gruel for a discussion on transportation, traffic and The “Strategic Plan.”**

##### **Highlights of the presentation:**

- **Background: Wendy Gruel has been the Chair of the Transportation Committee for the past several years. She has been focusing her efforts on dealing with traffic and how it impacts business. She has actively investigated both the incentives and disincentives of using public vs. private transportation.**
- **The “Strategic Plan:” A publicly and privately supported plan, which includes the support of the MTA and other groups.**
- **Significant transportation milestones:**
  - **The addition of the Orange Line and its Extension: Originally, it was planned that 9,000 people would use the Orange line, yet approximately 20,000 currently use it on a daily basis.**
  - **The synchronization of traffic lights in Los Angeles: Sensors underneath the asphalt adjust to cueing of cars.**
  - **The passing of Measure R: Voters passed it by 67%.**
  - **The addition of anti-grid-lock zones: at first, the amount of tickets increased, yet has started to decrease.**

- **Future transportation goals:**
  - Increase the number of left-hand turn signals.
  - Research more transportation management systems.
  - Obtain more balance between job location and housing; some employees cannot afford to live where they currently work
  - Develop more options for businesses and their employees to manage traffic. Options include: shared-cost benefits, reduced-costs benefit packages, enforcement of Parking Cash-Out law, among others.
  
- Wendy Gruel can be reached at [wendy.gruel@lacity.org](mailto:wendy.gruel@lacity.org)

Question and answer session included why with the City budget constraints is \$500,000. still going to be spent on the Mayor's Olympic/Pico plan. She stated she would look into this.

Quimby Funds were also discussed. Quimby funds are fees from subdivisions and zone changes, not condo conversions. The funds are restricted and must be spent in a radius area are around where they are collected. She is looking at recommendations how these city/state requirements may be positively changed, how to spend the funds, incrementally or accumulatively, and expanding the definition of allowable uses. Current uses include, cost of a childcare facility in a park, etc. The funds can be used to supplement Prop K projects.

**b.) Neely Irwin, Recreation Coordinator, Palms Recreation Center  
Presentation on Proposed Soccer Field**

**City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks  
Palms Recreation Center  
2950 Overland Ave, Los Angeles, CA, 90064**

Neely gave background on the center, their activities and the stakeholders they serve. She presented the provisional plans for the major improvement project of our Sports and Recreation Field. Due to the adverse conditions of our soccer field the estimated cost is \$800,000. - \$1,000,000. There are quimby funds available which may be increased for various projects at the Center.

c.) Lisa Morocco  
Westside Regional Alliance of Councils Meeting  
Support for 5 Motion Request to the City of Los Angeles  
City Council

- Better communication with Building and Safety and Planning Departments



- Accounting of both 5117 Parking Funds and Quimby Funds
- Moratorium on new bill boards
- Mechanism and fine system to alleviate gridlock
- Allow N.C.'s the right to appeal

**Motion No.1**

**1. That Early Notification of all applications to the Department of City Planning, the Bureau of Engineering and to the Department of Building and Safety shall be sent to all impacted certified Neighborhood and Community Councils recognized by their Councilperson (hereafter, "council"), and the applicant shall be required to send notice, by certified RRR mail, to the applicable council, of all subsequent requests for modifications, adjustments, amendments, alterations, or revisions to the application.**

**2. Planning and Building and Safety shall review all such applications, and such review shall include, prior to approval, compliance with all relevant Community Plans, Specific Plans, and Overlay Districts.**

**3. With respect to all applications to Planning and Building and Safety for which a public hearing is not required, notice shall be sent to the applicable council of the terms of the proposed approval, no later than 10 calendar days prior to issuance of the approval, and consideration shall be given by the decision maker to any objections, comments, or questions submitted in writing by the applicable council during the 10-day period.**

**4. Planning and Building and Safety shall each establish an ombudsman or community advocate who is accessible to officers of a council and whose responsibilities shall include facilitating access to Department personnel, procedures, and documents.**

**Motion By: Lisa**

**Second By: Charles**

**Motion Passed Unanimously**

**Motion No 2.**

**At a regularly scheduled meeting of the Westside Neighborhood Council on December 11, 2008, a motion was made and seconded and passed as follows:**

**That the Los Angeles City Council be requested to supply each Neighborhood or Community Council with an accounting of both 5117 parking funds, and Quimby Funds for its district.**

**Motion By: Lisa**

**Second By: Bob**

**Motion Passed Unanimously**

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**Motion No. 3**

**The Governing Board of the Westside Neighborhood Council hereby supports adoption of an Interim Control Ordinance (ICO) / moratorium as proposed by the City Planning Commission temporarily prohibiting the installation of all new offsite advertising signs and supergraphic signs, as well as prohibiting alteration to existing offsite signs and supergraphic signs, until a new offsite sign ordinance can be developed, adopted and implemented. There should be no exceptions that might weaken the enforceability of the moratorium.**

**Motion By: Lisa**

**Second By: Barbara**

**In Favor: 11 Abstain: 1**

**Motion No. 4**

**As gridlock is a major quality of life issue, the City of Los Angeles City Council is hereby requested to implement an enforcement mechanism and fine system to alleviate the constant gridlock in intersections in the City Limits.**

**While the City has found it both effective and profitable to implement “Tiger Teams” to clear ‘No Parking, Tow Away Zones” during peak hours, the city has been unable to control gridlock.**

**Motion By: Lisa**

**Second By: Stacy**

**Motion Passed Unanimously**

**Motion No. 5**

**That the Los Angeles City Council be requested to amend the working documents for Neighborhood and Community Councils, thereby allowing N.C./C.C.’s the right to appeal city department decisions.**

**Motion By: Lisa**

**Second By: Barbara**

**Motion Passed Unanimously**

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**d.) Shannon Burns, Chair Land Use**

**Motion to update LUC function**

**Will be moved to a future WNC Agenda in 2009 as Shannon is ill.**

**6.) Reports:**

**Funding, Stacy Antler**

**Stacy said the committee will meet to discuss and recommend funding for the Palms Recreation Center Project.**

**Chair's Report, Terri Tippit**

**Terri announced that the Rancho Park Golf Course representatives will be attending and presenting the proposed renovation plans at the January 2009 WNC meeting.**

**Also, she stated that the WNC will send a formal letter inquiry based on the meeting discussion regarding the MTA Lease Terminations on Expo.**

**DONE Report, Deanna Stevenson**

**There was not a formal DONE report.**

**CD5 Update, Jay Greenstein**

**There was not a formal CD5 report.**

**Move to Adjourn: Stacy Second By: Lisa**

**In Favor: Unanimous**

**Meeting Adjourned 9:40 PM**

***Reviewed and Approved By Recording Secretary***