

WESTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, February 12, 2008 7:00pm
Westside Pavilion 10800 W. Pico Blvd.
Meeting Room A (3rd Floor behind Food Court)

1. Meeting is called to order at 7:07 PM.

In Attendance:

Douglas Butler (1), Lisa Morocco (2),
Renato Romano (3alt.), Steve Spector (4),
Jerry Asher (6), Barbara Broide (7),
Terri Tippit (8), Gerry del Sol (9)*,
Dick Harmetz (10)*, Mary Kusnic (11),
Stacy Antler (12), William Graysen (13 alt.),
Charles Horwitz (15)*, Sarah Fitzsimmons (16 alt.),
Shannon Burns (17 alt.)

Note: Katherine Weisenthal (9Alt.)*, Annette Mercer (15 alt.)*
In attendance for Seats 9 & 15 until the representative arrived

Also attending:

Jay Greenstein, CD5
Deanna Stephens, DONE

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

*(*Charles Horwitz arrived at 7:35PM and Gerry del Sol arrived at 7:21PM.
Dick Harmetz left at 10:30PM.)*

2. Minutes of the January 8, 2009 WNC Meeting
were presented, reviewed and approved as noted;
with the addition of Steve Spector, Corresponding
Secretary, Item 5a.

Motion: Jerry Asher Second: Stacy

In Favor: 12 - 0 - Abstain: 3

3. PUBLIC FORUM:

Terri, Chair, introduced Rick Staff of Chrystalis Enterprises.
Rick Staff, Director of Business Partnerships, works with communities and
organizations in providing reliable professional workers. He stated that
Chrysalis Enterprises offers their services to businesses and agencies throughout
Los Angeles County while providing paths out of poverty for thousands of men and women every
year by providing them training and job opportunities. He also
Stated that he has successfully partnered with NC's to provide services to their
communities and is looking for opportunities to work with WNC. He and Stacy will coordinate to
have him meet with the Funding Committee to discuss in greater detail.

Jennifer Badger, who worked at CD5 in WLA, introduced herself to the WNC.
She is now the West Area Representative from the Major's Office. She stated she works with
Stephen Chung. Jennifer announced that she has recently been
assigned to work on Signs and Billboards.

5.) AGENDA ITEMS

New Business

a.) Joe Avila, LA DWP

Mr. Avila presented an overview of the DWP's plans to implement a 400 megawatt solar installation. His remarks included discussion of grid parity with natural gas as it affects pricing and that the DWP estimates a 1% rate impact as it will displace other sources. Group discussion focused on the cost and process which by passed the communities and stakeholders.

In discussion of Measure B, Mr. Avila stated that the "Working Californians worked directly with and thru the Major's office and City Council, bypassing DWP. Additional information is available on the DWP web site.

b.) Barbara Briode
Support for AB109

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING AB109

The Westside Neighborhood Council Hereby urges support for California Assembly Bill 109 introduced by Assemblyman Mike Feuer, 42nd District, enacting a moratorium on placement of any new digital billboards and digital advertising displays visible from state, county, or city highways until Jan. 1, 2102.

These brightly-lighted signs with rapidly-changing messages create a potential traffic and pedestrian hazard by distracting motorists, and should not be allowed while safety studies are being conducted.

In addition, these digital billboards and signs have created light "trespass" into residential neighborhoods, and pose an environmental threat due to their high energy usage.

Until such problems posed by these signs are effectively mitigated, the construction of any new digital billboards and signs and the conversion of any conventional billboards and signs to digital should not be allowed.

RESOLUTION FOR CITY PLANNING COMMISSION/CITY COUNCIL ON SIGN CODE REVISIONS

The Westside Neighborhood Council hereby urges the City Planning Commission to take the following actions regarding the city sign code revisions as currently proposed by the city planning department.

1. Support the proposed regulations on size, number, and placement of signs.
2. Support the prohibition of digital signs.
3. Support the prohibition of any signs that cover doors or windows.
4. Oppose elimination of the distinction between off-site and on-site signs.

Instead, strengthen the off-site sign ban currently in place by removing the city's discretion to grant exceptions in supplemental use districts, specific plans, and approved development agreements. These exceptions have led to a degrading of the city's visual environment and a crass commercialization of public space.

Page 4

5. Oppose the provision allowing otherwise prohibited signage such as digital and supergraphic in sign districts. The proposed ordinance would tighten the criteria for establishing sign districts, but the sign district provision remains a huge loophole that will inevitably result in larger, brighter, and more intrusive signage in the commercial areas of the city.

6. Enact meaningful penalties for illegal signage that will act as a real deterrent to this unlawful activity that is currently blighting our city, and make provision for the recovery of "ill-gotten gains" from companies that reap large financial return from illegal signs.

Motion:

That the Westside Neighborhood Council supports California Assembly Bill 109, introduced by Assemblyman Mike Feuer, 42nd District.

Second By: DICK

In Favor: 15 Unanimous

c.) Sharon Korobkin, NTVCC
Organization Educating Seniors About Fraud

Ms. Korobkin presented an overview of the National Telemarketing Victim Call Center (NTVCC). Located in West Los Angeles, the NTVCC provides education and prevention services to older consumers who have concerns and or have been victimized by various types of scams including mass market scams.

The NTVCC is a nonprofit organization that is funded by AARP Foundation and works in partnership with various law enforcement agencies.

She stated that she is always looking for volunteers to assist the organization with their valuable work in the community. NTVCC is located at 1964 Westwood Blvd., Suite 325, Los Angeles, CA 90025. Interested individuals may contact them at 310 441 8866.

d.) Vida Halavi
RAS Project
2136 Westwood Boulevard

Highlights of the presentation:

The project, located at 2136 Westwood Boulevard and is applying for a zone change to RAS -4 in order to construct their project. Vida and her architect presented the mixed-use project and stated that the City encourages mixed use.

Barbara commented that RAS 4 is too dense with consideration for the area and that a major concern is that this would possibly set a precedent in the neighborhood.

An overview of the project illustrated that although a tremendous amount of cooperative work had been done in development and it appears very well done; the concern remains the RAS 4 zoning for the location. Stacy commented on the elements of the project; Dick and Charles expressed concerns for the traffic conditions that exist on Westwood Blvd.

Motion:

The Westside Neighborhood Council opposes approval of the 2136 Westwood Boulevard Project as a RAS 4 project for its' potential precedent setting nature.

Motion By: Barbara
Second By: Bill

In Favor: 10 Oppose: 2 Abstain: 3

e.) LAPD Representatives
Deputy Chief Terry Hara, West Bureau
Captain James Craig, Captain Ruben Delatorio, SLO Mario Gonzales
LAPD Commitment To The Community Police Partnership

Background:

Terri, Chair of WNC, wrote to address the LAPD commitment and the stakeholder concerns given the recent officer staff reduction and transfer of Captain Eaton. Captain Eaton, who had been in place approximately 14 months, recently received a transfer notice to Van Nuys Station. During his tenure at WLA he and his officers have significantly reduced crime with a reduced number of officers.

Chief Hara addressed the WNC Board and attending stakeholders and expressed his commitment to the WLA area residents and community stakeholders. He provided background on the promotions within the police department, given 55 Captains, with 35 -45 promoted within the organization, and the impact this presents; as well as providing insight to the growing retirement population at LAPD.

Captain Craig commented that our community engagement is outstanding, given Terri's letter and

accessible to the community.

6.) Committee Reports

Overland Gateway Committee

Karina Wisenthal stated that she would be emailing her updated report and that she will be writing a letter to 2929 Overland.

Funding Committee

Stacy Antler stated that she would schedule a meeting of the funding committee to review and present recommendations to the WNC Board at the March 12, 2009 meeting.

Land Use Committee

Shannon Burns presented for consideration the following LUC Resolution. Also as follows the Current Purpose and Scope was reviewed and discussed.

RESOLUTION FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE WNC BOARD FROM THE LAND USE COMMITTEE, AS APPROVED AT ITS MEETING ON DECEMBER 16, 2008

Resolved, that the Land Use Committee, in conformity with planning and land use committees of other Neighborhood Councils within the City of Los Angeles, change its mission statement to permit the Committee to make recommendations to the governing board of the Westside Neighborhood Council to support or oppose specific projects that come before the Land Use Committee from time to time.

A copy of the current and proposed Mission Statement is set forth in their entirety below:

CURRENT STATEMENT OF PURPOSE & SCOPE:

Statement of Purpose and Scope-

The purpose of the Westside Neighborhood Council (WNC) Land Use Committee (LUC) is to provide an educational resource to the WNC and the community, and to facilitate the exchange of information between the WNC, the community, city departments, and developers of proposed new projects.

The LUC will review land use proposals with developers and other interested parties to identify potential community impacts and/or benefits, and will submit a summary of its findings to the WNC. This summary may include project scope, status, and timeline, as well as issues and concerns raised by the community, and any other information the LUC deems relevant.

The LUC's scope will include commercial and multi-family residential projects and all proposals for zoning changes, but individual single-family dwelling issues that do not involve a zoning change will not be considered without a compelling demonstration of community-wide impact. At its discretion, the WNC may refer broader land use issues of potential interest to the community to the LUC for review. These issues may not result from any one specific development, but may pertain to trends, changes in neighborhood character, or actions proposed by local government. In collaboration with the Public Safety/Traffic Committee, the LUC will consider the traffic and mobility impacts of proposed projects, and any proposals by local government to alter or improve traffic conditions generally.

The LUC will not make recommendations to support or oppose specific projects, but will provide information to the WNC to facilitate a fair and informed consideration of both specific and general land use issues.

PROPOSED STATEMENT OF PURPOSE AND SCOPE

Statement of Purpose and Scope-

The purpose of the Westside Neighborhood Council (WNC) Land Use Committee (LUC) is to:

- (1) Provide an educational resource to the WNC and the community,

- (3) make recommendations to the WNC Board, if appropriate, to support or oppose specific projects.

The LUC will review land use proposals with developers and other interested parties to identify potential community impacts and/or benefits, and will submit a summary of its findings and recommendations to the WNC. This summary may include project scope, status, and timeline, as well as issues and concerns raised by the community, and any other information the LUC deems relevant.

The LUC's scope will include commercial and multi-family residential projects and all proposals for zoning changes, "RAS" developments, and projects coming under SB 1818, but individual single-family dwelling issues that do not involve any of the above changes will not be considered without a compelling demonstration of community-wide impact.

At its discretion, the WNC may refer broader land use issues of potential interest to the community to the LUC for review. These issues may not result from any one specific development, but may pertain to trends, changes in neighborhood character, or actions proposed by local government.

The LUC will provide information to the WNC to facilitate a fair and informed consideration of both specific and general land use issues

Motion:

That the WNC approve the LUC Resolution adopted in the LUC, December 18, 2008 Meeting; and, as herein above written.

Motion By: Shannon

Second By: Stacy

In Favor: 12 Abstain: 2

Outreach Committee / Mobility Committee

Lisa Morocco announced that the Expo Phase 2 DEIR comment period is extended to March 13, 2009 Annette also commented on the possible changes and as this technical information is available on CD, that the WNC should purchase as this project will significantly impact WNC and surrounding areas.

Motion:

That the WNC allocate up to \$100.00 to purchase the Expo Light Rail DEIR and Technical Reports.

Motion By: Lisa

Second By: Charles

In Favor: Unanimous

Deanna Stevenson, DONE Report

Deanna commented on the By Laws update and Steve confirmed the WNC had already complied.

Jay Greenstein, CD5 Update

Jay Greenstein presented an overview and update regarding the Super graphics issue and discussed the ICO on Billboards. He cited a safety issue on signs covering windows on buildings.

Motion to Adjourn: Stacy Second By: Lisa

In Favor: Unanimous

Meeting Adjourned 11:00 PM

Reviewed and Approved By Recording Secretary

