

**WESTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday, March 12, 2009 7:00pm
Westside Pavilion 10800 W. Pico Blvd.
Meeting Room A (3rd Floor behind Food Court)**

1. Meeting is called to order at 7:00 PM.

In Attendance:

**Douglas Butler (1), Lisa Morocco (2),
Paul Reznick (3alt.)*, Steve Spector (4),
Lettie Bugarin (5), Jerry Asher (6),
Barbara Broide (7), Terri Tippit (8),
Gerry del Sol (9), Dick Harmetz (10)*,
Mary Kusnic (11), Stacy Antler (12),
Ron Stone (14), Charles Horwitz (15),
Melissa Kenady (16),
David Ty Vahedi (17)**

Also attending:

**Jay Greenstein, CD5
Deanna Stephens, DONE
Sergeant Podesta and
Officer Rashid, WLAPD
Jennifer Badger, Mayor's Office**

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

(Dick Harmetz left at 10:30PM. & Paul Reznik left at 10:35PM.)

- 2. Minutes of the February 12, 2009 WNC Meeting
were presented and reviewed. Barbara Briode noted
her request to make technical clarifications to the two
motions she had presented. Annette Mercer asked for her
report to be included.
The Minutes will be updated and reviewed for approval at the
next Meeting.**

3. PUBLIC FORUM:

Terri, Chair, introduced Sergeant Podesta and Officer Rashid, WLAPD. They announced that Captain Craig had resigned to relocate to Portland, Maine. Officer Rashid And Sergeant Podesta presented an overview of the status of crimes on the Westside. Stating that violent crimes were down, they reported that auto break-ins were up, in fact they were higher that anticipated.

They also reported the police cruiser with the license plate reader was damaged In an accident in October and not repaired yet, so there has not been license tracking.

Sergeant Podesta also discussed his plans to install a network of cameras, starting in the Wilshire Corridor area and commented on the Leave It Loose It campaign to discourage auto break-in.

Jerry A. commented that we acknowledge Ty's accomplishment and all agreed.

Rabbi Shifren spoke about his campaign for State Senator.

Taryn Anderson, Westside Tavern, announced that they will open on March 19, 2009

4.) REVIEW OF AGENDA:

(ITEMS AY NOT BE HEARD IN THE ORDER LISTED)

5.) AGENDA ITEMS

New Business

**a.) Michelle Sorkin, LA Planning Department
Update on west LA Community Plan**

Terri announced that the Planning Department is continuing their series of community plan workshops in March, and April to further develop land use, urban design, and mobility solutions for West Los Angeles. The next round of workshops will focus on guiding growth and development in a manner enhancing the character and qualities that distinguish the community, creating Livable Boulevards in the

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Commercial centers, improving the street environment for all users, and establishing design guidelines for buildings throughout the study area. The flyer has all details.

She encouraged everyone to attend a 1-day Neighborhood Walking Tour and Workshop - Saturdays in March and Thursday, April 2. Walking Tours with neighbors offer an interactive way to identify solutions for improving the street environment and the form and scale of development that should be accommodated in the future. During these "hands-on" walking tours, you will have the opportunity to show how you envision the commercial corridors and centers in your neighborhood, and identify open space and parking opportunities. See the attached flyer for Walking Tour dates and tour locations.

For additional information, please visit the West LA Community Plan website:
<http://sites.google.com/site/wlancp>

**b.) Lisa Morocco
Update on WNC Website
Pico Beautification Project**

Lisa presented an overview of the layout and features of the updated WNC website which is currently in process. She and Shlomo are working on the project and will advise on updates.

Lisa also presented a general overview of the Pico Beautification Project. She announced that there will be two upcoming meetings to continue getting the community and business input and ideas.

The meeting for Business Owners will be held at this location on Wednesday, March 25th, at 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM.

The meeting for the Community and Residents will also be held here on April 6th, 6:30PM to 8:30PM. Everyone is welcome.

Charles also announced that he is working with Lisa in planning an outreach fundraiser for schools. They are in discussion with Landmark Theaters to plan a "Spotlight on Schools" event.

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c.) Stacy Antler

Approval For Funding

LAPD Motion expressing WNC concerns with the lack of command stability and loss of officers.

Stacy reviewed the recommendations of the Funding Committee and submitted the following resolutions:

Motion

That the WNC authorize funds up to \$5,000.00 to the Crystalis Organization; with the work and services performed directed to the Pico Beautification Project.

Motion By: Stacy

Second By: Lisa

In Favor: 15 Oppose: 1 Abstain: 0

Motion

That the WNC authorize funds up to \$5,000.00 to Pacific Graffiti Removal.

Motion By: Stacy

Second By: Gerry Del Sol

In Favor: 16 - 0 - 0

Unanimous

Motion

Overland Avenue School

The WNC authorizes up to \$1000 to be spent for Rental Equipment to benefit the Overland Avenue School International Festival on May 16, 2009 at Overland Avenue School. This also includes a permanent banner thanking the WNC for their continued support.

Motion By: Charles

Second By: Lisa

In Favor: Unanimous

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Stacy commented on the WLAPD loss of 17 Captains in 3 years and presented the following motion.

**Resolution of
Westside Neighborhood Council**

The matter of Command changes at the WLA Community Police station came before the Governing Board of the Westside Neighborhood Council (WNC) for presentation, and discussion at its regular meeting of February 12, 2009. It was again agenzized for the March 12, 2009 regular meeting for action.

The WNC Board now adopts the following resolution:

That the board send a strong message to the Mayor, the City Council and the Police Commission that the continued changes in command at the WLA Station, coupled with the loss of more than 22 officers in the last 2 deployments periods, and more to come this deployment period, is not acceptable and not in keeping with true community policy.

The WLA division has had no continuity in command, and now suffers from having the lowest number of officers and active cars in recent history.

The community is outraged and this council issues a motion of concern and plea for stability.

Motion By: Stacy

Second By: Jerry A.

In Favor: 16 - 0 - 0 Unanimous

**d.) Mike Eveloff, Expo Light Rail Phase 2 Committee
Comments To Be Submitted on WNC Behalf**

Colleen Mason Heller updated the status of Expo Light Rail Phase 2, the detailed information is contained on the project website. There was extensive dialog and discussion detailing the status of the project and refining points to be submitted in the WNC letter, as drafted by Terri, including grade separations, adequate parking facilities, overall methodology and consideration of community impacts. Discussion points covered include:

• The Expo Phase 2 DEIR Traffic Study Area is too small. It does not study the fiscal impacts to businesses on Pico, Westwood or Overland due to traffic changes either during the 4 year construction period or during train operation even though many of these businesses are within mile of the trains and stations. Customer access issues of egress and ingress, service deliveries, and loss of parking on adjacent streets and the possibility of changes to area parking permits are concerns we would like addressed.

• The station proposed between Overland Avenue and Westwood Blvd. divides the communities of Westwood Gardens Civic Assn, West of Westwood HOA and the Overland Avenue School community. If it remains it should be a community station with no parking lot. Attention to aesthetic issues for the residential communities adjacent need to be considered for light and glare, shadow and shade and loss of privacy. The scenic vista of the mature liquidambar trees needs to be preserved along Westwood Boulevard. The Westwood Boulevard parking spaces and lane should be retained. A commitment must be made by MTA/Expo to provide a school crossing guard, prior to the project's testing or operation at the intersection of Ashby and Westwood where Overland Avenue School students cross daily.

• Several businesses in close proximity to the Westwood/Expo Station offer free parking to their customers. This free parking may well be impacted by riders driving to the Westwood/Expo station and parking in adjacent and nearby businesses rather than paying for parking at the station, or if the station parking overflows. If the station remains with a parking lot, we suggest the MTA and local governments work with local businesses to develop methods to monitor and control the poaching of business parking by Expo Line riders and the MTA and local government facilitate shuttles (similar to LADOT's DASH shuttle service) to take light rail users around the station area.

• Cut through traffic in area neighborhoods has not been sufficiently studied and no mitigation suggested even though WNC sits in the middle of some of the worst congestion in Los Angeles. The insufficient traffic study area fails to study impacts to many of the WNC communities, none north of Pico.

• Throughout West Los Angeles there is inadequate replacement parking proposed and the unreasonable assumption that parking permits could be altered. Please identify specific parking placement and do not assume that parking permits can be altered as a mitigation for current parking lost to the Expo project.

- The DEIR failed to study grade separations at the congested commercial corridors of Overland Ave., Westwood Blvd., Military Ave., and Sepulveda Blvd., though grade separations were studied and designed on the Venice/Sepulveda alignment. We are requesting that grade separations be studied in the EIR. An underground alignment from Overland Avenue to Sepulveda would eliminate the greatest number of impacts and improve the trains operation and ridership leading to greater overall benefits of the project.

An elevated alignment would eliminate some traffic impacts and some safety issues, but may be unacceptable to the single-family, low rise community on the ROW through the WNC communities.

The WNC concurs with the LADOT comments submitted on March 3, 2009 that Overland and Sepulveda need to be grade separated.

- The Overland Avenue School community proposes an underground alignment to mitigate safety and traffic impacts on Overland Ave. School but grade separation has not been studied. A fair evaluation of all options require that grade separated crossings be studied.

These comments offered by many into the DEIR scoping process have not been satisfactorily addressed. The Overland Ave. School Drop Off Lane is misidentified in the DEIR, leading to concerns that MTA is not aware of current students' arrival or departure patterns.

Safety at the drop off lane will be impacted by greater circulating traffic on all adjacent streets due to reduced parking availability and driver confusion because of new street turn restrictions. Parent drivers utilizing the Putney Drop Off Lane would encounter an increased number of cars on Northvale and perhaps Putney as vehicles attempt to avoid train-crossing delays. Current traffic on Northvale, Putney, Manning and Ashby is not included in DEIR studies.

We request that further traffic studies be done including Northvale, Putney, Manning, and Ashby as well as the Drop Off lane usage at Overland School, during the morning drop off period of 7:50 a.m. to 8:15 a.m., and at school dismissal time 2:20-2:50 PM. We request that the results of this new traffic study to be included in the EIR.

WNC is concerned about the changes to the LADOT identified Safe Route To School along Overland Avenue for impacts to both Overland School children walking to and from school, but also for the Overland students walking to Palms Park Daycare or park activities each day.

- The WNC is concerned about the restricted line of sight on northbound Overland as it approaches the at-grade crossing proposed at Northvale Road/Exposition and Overland Avenue. The severely limited line of sight creates a greatly increased chance of vehicle/train accident and possibility of train derailment.

The DEIR identifies no property taken or tree removal that would improve the line of sight sufficiently for safe crossing. Further the sound wall indicated on either side of the tracks leading up to the crossing made create a further impediment to a clear line of sight. The pedestrian storage areas identified at that crossing put children and others at great risk in the event of an accident. The crossing bells and horns may also put danger of hearing damage. The DEIR claims the noise of the train passing is 85 dBA at 100 feet. Children and pedestrians will be standing within 10 feet of the passing train if they are in the waiting area or crosswalk.

Grade separation at this intersection is a satisfactory mitigation for the restricted line of sight and removes children and others from immediate proximity to the severe noise impacts.

- The DEIR states some emissions will likely exceed SCAQMD* (South Coast Air Quality Management District) thresholds during construction and are “significant and unavoidable”. The DEIR offers no mitigations. We find this unacceptable. We request this be addressed in the EIR.

- We are concerned with the impact construction will have on the Sara Berman Greenway. All trees and shrubs that are impacted by construction must be replaced by the same size tree or plant.

The general consensus is that our commitment to safe and efficient transit systems is absolute but we maintain the belief that conviction that if Expo is not built right, fully mitigated, to serve the communities within which it runs, it should not be built at all.

Motion

That the WNC send the letter dated. March 13, 2009, with modifications as noted, to the Expo Line Construction Authority, Monica Born, PE Project Director , 707 Wilshire Blvd. 34th Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90017 regarding comments on Expo Line Phase 2 DEIR, State clearinghouse #2007021109.

Motion By: Steve

Second By: Ron

In Favor: 13 Oppose: 0 Abstain: 3

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**e.) Amber Scott, Renato Romano
Presentation on the 100 Houses Project**

Amber Scott presented an overview of the company operations which are focused on the bulk purchase of materials and the installation of solar energy systems resulting in green and energy efficient capabilities for homeowners and businesses. Complete information is available on the company website or by contacting the company directly.

**f.) Barbara Broide
Update on Billboard Issue**

Barbara reported that there will be a Special Meeting on Wednesday, March 18th, at 8:30AM, in the City Planning Office.

Issues include:

- 1.) Sign Specific Districts**
- 2.) Supergraphics**
- 3.) Inspections and the Special Settlement**
- 4.) Grandfathering provisions in districts.**

6.) Committee Reports

Overland Gateway Committee

Karina Wisenthal updated on the Overland bridge widening stating the project is scheduled to begin in July and run through 2010. There will be a community meeting scheduled.

Funding Committee

Stacy Antler stated that she would schedule another meeting of the funding committee in the near future.

Land Use Committee

Details are available in the committee report

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Deanna Stevenson, DONE Report

No formal report.

Jay Greenstein, CD5 Update

Jay Greenstein announced that MTA call for projects may be a beneficial opportunity to request funding for the Pico Beautification Project. He will follow up with Lisa to assist.

Jennifer Badger, West LA Area Representative, Mayor's Office

Jennifer announced that the Mayor will speak at the upcoming Alliance of Neighborhood Councils Meeting. She also stated that she will be getting the budget posters to the CD5 Office for distribution.

Chair's Report, Terri Tippit

Terri announced the schedule of the upcoming debates for CD5 Representative and LA City Attorney.

Motion to Adjourn: Stacy

Second By: Lisa

In Favor: Unanimous

Meeting Adjourned 10:50 PM

Reviewed and Approved By Recording Secretary

