

Westside Neighborhood Council
Meeting Minutes – November 12, 2009

1. Meeting is called to order at 7:11 pm

In attendance:

Bob Guerin (Seat 13), Sander de Wildt (Alternate Seat 5), Richard Harnetz (Seat 10), Barbara Broide (Seat 7), Renato Romano (Seat 3), Melissa Kenady (Seat 16), Mary Kusnic (Seat 11), Steve Spector (Seat 4), Terri Tippit (Seat 8), Lisa Morocco (Seat 2), Shannon Burns (Alternate Seat 17),
Stacy Antler (Seat 12), Charles Horwitz (Seat 15), Phyllis Kassel (Alternate Seat 1)

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

Minutes from the October 2009 meeting will be approved at the December meeting.

2. PUBLIC FORUM

Jay Greenstein introduced Councilmember Paul Koretz who addressed the following issues:

- DWP update. In order to strengthen DWP operations and repair broken infrastructure, Councilmember Koretz supports more funding for DWP and supports a rate payer advocate.
- Councilmember Koretz does not support the increase of appeals fees from \$150.00 to \$3,000.00. This increase is intended to keep people out of the planning process. There will be no fee increase until outreach is made to Neighborhood Councils
- Update: Digital Billboards ruling negates the 2006 settlement and these billboards will be taken down.
- City of Los Angeles budget crisis: some progress made in meetings with unions reducing a \$400 million shortfall to less than \$100 million.

Renato Roman asked if the Councilmember is in favor of BID. Koretz is supportive of both efforts, especially Westwood Village. He will explore and follow up on idea of weekend parking at the Federal Building.

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. Drew DeAscentis is nominated by Charles Horwitz to fill Seat 9.

Nomination is seconded by Lisa Morocco. WNC unanimously approves his election with a vote of 14 – 0 – 0

Drew is sworn in by Deanna Stevenson and takes his seat on the board.

B. Mario Gonzalez (LAPD) addressed recent crimes in our area. Burglaries and car break ins have increased and LAPD is forecasting a big spike in crime around the holidays.

C. Officer Nguyet Do presented details of LAPD Crime Stoppers Program, a non profit, county wide program.

Mark Spear, Executive Director, also spoke. This programs pays for tips and anonymity of informant is maintained. This program is supported by the community, law enforcement and the media and has resulted in a 95% conviction rate . Tips are received via telephone/text/web 24/7.

Contact via 800-222-TIPS (8477)

Lacrimestoppers .org

8:10 pm Alternate for Jerry Asher, Bess Hochman, arrives.

- D. Shlomo Fattal discussed problems with Norms Restaurant. Recurrent issues are noise ordinance violations, with noise with dumpsters unloading 24/7, unsanitary conditions from parking lot, flocks of birds spreading refuse around neighborhood.

Shlomo will document actions and violations in order to present specific complaints with time and place noted to Susan Strick.

Barbara Broide will write a letter from WWSM and Terri Tippit will also write a letter to the owner of Norm's.

- E. Sandy Troop spoke regarding formation of a Westwood NC. Boundaries proposed are Sunset Blvd/Beverly Hills/Santa Monica Blvd/405. Outreach has been made via website, phone calls, door to door visits. 62% of the area is comprised of renters who are not represented by HOAs in place. Steve Sand, local businessman, spoke against the formation of the NC, citing lack of transparency and adequate outreach to the community. Asked for an opinion, Deanna Stevenson from DONE commented that extensive outreach efforts had been on going. Spirited discussion ensued regarding the pros and cons. Jay Greenstein read a statement from Councilmember Koretz supporting a process of organic evolution toward the formation of a NC and that DONE and BONC should be involved regarding any disputes.

Steve Spector moved:

Whereas the Los Angeles City Charter calls for a Neighborhood Council for each neighborhood, the Westside NC supports any group working to establish a NC in Westwood in accordance with the LA City charter, encouraging any such group to assure that the process is inclusionary and transparent as we trust that DONE and BONC will help assure; and nothing that the WNC had no Bylaws before us to approve and that the WNC is not endorsing any specific application.

Lisa Morocco seconded.
Motion passed 11 – 0 – 1

- F. Chris Spitz and Barbara Cohn, representing Pacific Palisades Community Council, spoke re cell towers being created without notice and with no regulation. She asked for support for a new city ordinance with clear and consistent standards and procedures regulating all wireless telecommunication facilities in Los Angeles. Motion was made by Barbara Broide, seconded by Stacy Antler.
Motion passed 11 – 1 – 0

The Westside NC will write a letter supporting this motion.

- G. Annette Mercer reviewed the Bike Plan for our area (details at www.labikeplan.org) The current bike plan has not been updated and an EIR needs to be included in the Community Plan. Comments included Lisa Morocco's input from local businesses that they can not sacrifice parking spaces vs bike lanes. No motion was made.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Outreach Committee, Lisa Morocco

“Take Me Out to the Movies” was a huge success and will hopefully be an annual event. Good will was generated in the community and a new support avenue for our local schools created. Funds raised were \$6500 and Landmark Cinema sold lots of drinks and popcorn.

WNC Elections will take place on April 11, 2010 10 am – 4 pm. Filing period is until February 2010 with write in period until March 12, 2010.

An ad hoc election procedures committee will consist of Steve Spector, Lisa Morocco and Jan Gabrielson.

Motion passed to use \$2,000 from WNC outreach budget for joint outreach with other NCs for 2010 NC elections.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 pm