

Westside Neighborhood Council Minutes
January 14, 2010

Meeting was called to order by Terri Tippit at 7:06 pm

In attendance: Douglas Butler (1), Lisa Morocco (2), Alice Romano (alt 3-B), Steve Spector (4), Jerry Asher (6), Barbara Broide (7), Terri Tippit (8), Drew DeAscentis (9), Richard D. Harmetz (10), Mary Kusnic (11), Stacy Antler (12), Bob Guerin (13), Charles Horwitz (15), Melissa Kenady (16), David T. Vahedi (17)

As 15 member seats represented, meeting was called to order by Terri Tippit.

Minutes submitted with correction regarding Westside Pavillion parking structure traffic flow improvements. Steve Spector noted a validation system similar to Century City Shopping Center is being studied.

Motion to approve was made by Jerry Asher, seconded by Stacy Antler.

Motion passed 12 – 0 – 3.

LAPD – Officer Rashid reported a 20% increase in residential burglaries in the last 6 weeks. Rear invasion most common access. LAPD response is to concentrate bike patrols in area. Barbara Broide submitted WWSM flyer posted in the HOA area. Drew DeAscentis noted same m.o. indicates same perpetrators. Marilyn Cohon suggested alarm systems be used and Officer Rashid noted that gardeners should be alerted to this crime wave so rear access to homes is secured. Annual Baker to Vegas Run to be held in April. Station would do a fund raiser to raise money for event.

Public Forum

Gabriel Ha from U.S. Census Bureau stressed importance of census since funding for street repairs, schools etc is based on populace. Undercounting from last census is estimated at 70,000. Census jobs are available.

Terri Tippit will send email and post information on Westside NC website.

Rebecca Bernal, from Senator Price's office, announced a series of 4 Town Halls to discuss State programs and resources. A flyer was passed out for stakeholder information and will be posted on Westside NC website.

New Business

Election of Officers: David T. Vahedi moved that the nominations be accepted as submitted: Terri Tippit President, Steve Spector VP, Stacy Antler and Lisa Morocco Co-Treasurers, Letty Bugarin Corresponding Secretary and Mary Kusnic and Melissa Kenady Co-Recording Secretary. Charles Horwitz seconded.

Motion passed: 15 – 0 – 0

Bong Hwan Kim, Head of Department of Neighborhood Empowerment spoke re the future of Neighborhood Councils. Westside NC is the 49th council he has visited. Due to city financial crisis, NC funding will most likely be cut proportionately, by 25.0 – 30.0 K. Cut backs on roll over funds will most likely occur as well. Mr. Kim's goal is to save the future of the NC program. A volunteer management program was discussed. The Mayor's Budget survey should be filled out for outreach response. Stake holders should make their voices heard re NC community improvements, especially land use issues. Barbara Broide suggested there be a flexibility of time allotted to answer questions and concerns posed by

NC advocates on the L.A. City Council include Paul Koretz and Paul Krekorian.

Jeff Sealy/Tina Prado/Steve Jamison from Bev Mo spoke regarding store opening at site of old Glabman's Furniture on Santa Monica Blvd. A proposed voluntary conditions to be included in CUP was presented. Adequate parking spaces (29) are available.

CD 5 has not yet taken a position. Community concerns were expressed as follows by:

Marilyn Cohon : a good company in a bad location. Too close to residential area and traffic congestion will be a problem. Requested that Westside NC take no position.

Kevin Grant and Maria G. Grant from Lutheran Church spoke against Bev Mo location as a disruptive influence due to local homeless population and AA meetings held at the church. After discussions, the following motion was made by Melissa Kenady:

Motion to Support Proposal

Consideration of a Conditional Use Beverage Permit (CUB) and Alcoholic Beverage Commission (ABC) applied for by Beverages and More, Inc., a California Corporation, for the sale of alcoholic beverages for

to the following condition added.

#27 No Offsite billboard signage, window stencils with brand advertising be allowed.

Motion was seconded by Charles Horwitz and passed 10-0-5

The WNC will send a letter to the appropriate agency in conformance with this motion.

Margaret Jacobs from Westwood NC formation committee requested support from Westside NC for the new NC and invited Westside NC members to attend the BONC certification meeting.

Following opinions were expressed:

Steve Sann from Westwood Village Business Assn is against formation, noting no guarantee of diversity is present. Formation of a community council would allow UCLA to participate. Asked Westside NC to stay neutral.

Marilyn Cohon from WSSM suggested a formation committee be organized within Westside NC to study issue and advocated the WNC stay neutral at this time.

Westwood stakeholder, Jackie Friedman, spoke in favor of a community council due to more work needing to be done regarding NC by law requirements. When Ms. Friedman asked said she was on the Westwood Community Council Formation Committee.

Steve Resnick, the new president of Westwood HOA, spoke in favor of a community council and asked us not to support the WWNC.

Carol Spencer from Comstock Hills Homeowner Assn does not support formation of NC. She supports a Community Council instead and is on the formation committee for community council. Concerns include lack of outreach by WWNC, lack of discussion and a rush to meet DONE deadlines. When Ms. Spencer asked said she was on the Westwood CC formation committee.

Wolfgang Veith spoke against formation of NC due to "too much diversity" and asked Westside NC to stay neutral. When asked he said he is on the Westwood CC Formation Committee.

In support of WWNC, Sandy Throop asked for Westside NC so the Westwood area stakeholders would have a voice including renters in larger community.

Renato Romano spoke in support of WWNC. WWNC would offer an organization to support and solve stakeholder issues and is the best starting point.

Westside NC board comments included:

Dick Harmetz – Westside NC has been a positive experience for the community

Bob Guerin – supports the concept of WWNC but felt Westside NC should not take sides.

Charles Horwitz – discord between the two groups re Community Council vs Neighborhood Council is counter productive to stakeholders in need of a voice. Supports the formation of WWNC.

David T. Vahedi – without complete information, it is difficult to make a decision. However, it was noted the both DONE and City Attorney approved WWNC by laws.

Barbara Broide agreed with Bob Guerin and supports abstention.

Steve Spector commented re by laws: there is a forum for consensus from different groups. NCs operate under the Brown Act, so transparency is built into the system.

Stacy Anter moved that the Westside NC support the the application before DONE for the formation of the WWNC, provided that the NC board be elected versus appointed.

Alice Romano seconded.

Motion passed: 10 – 3 – 2

Elected Officials Report:

Jay Greenstein from CD 5 presented the following:

DWP Power Substation update: there are procurement problems and work will resume in February with proposed April start up.

Alley area to be resurfaced will be reviewed. Terri Tippit will keep Jay informed re stakeholder concerns.

New Field Deputy Eric Wisert is on board. Jay is to focus on transportation issues. Wilshire Bus Lane FEIR is due mid February.

Expo funding will be voted on February 4th. Repaving of Pico Blvd is to be done during FY 2009/2010.

Lisa Morocco will outreach to local businesses.

Councilmember Koretz Town Hall date is to be determined.

Jennifer Dodger – Mayor's Office

Committee Report.

David T. Vahedi presented metered parking hours in neighborhood. He moved that meters hours be rolled back to 6 pm from the current 8 pm.
Barbara Broide seconded. Motion passed unanimously 13 – 0 – 0 . Terri Tippit will send motion to DOT.

Chair's Report:

FEIR will be presented on Feb 4th @ 2 pm and Westside NC members should attend if possible. Mary Kusnic will email information.

Sarah Hays / Light Rail for Cheviot spoke supporting certification of FEIR. Commented that it will be a boon to the neighborhood to travel without cars. She also supports an Expo green area and encourages discussion re light synchronization @ Ashby and a queing lane.

Barbara Broide spoke to the need of more information.

Annette Mercer spoke in support of Expo Light Rail.

Drew DeAscentis spoke re stakeholder concerns re safety around schools.

Stacy Antler reported our roll over money will probably be taken away and will have a huge impact on Pico Beautification. She suggested we spend it quickly.

Lisa Morocco presented the Mobility Committee report (see attached). Bundy Village was discussed since traffic congestion will be felt by our stakeholders.

Re Bike Plan

The WNC Mobility Committee recommended that WNC not take a position or submit WNC comments in response to the draft Bike Master Plan at this time.

After presenting the bike plan information to the board at a regularly scheduled meeting and extensive follow up with each board member and representative from each HOA, only limited response was received and of that response no common ground could be found.

While it is true that leaving an automobile behind in favor of a bike would reduce the amount of vehicles on the road and benefit us all, our stakeholders have show limited interest in contributing to this Master Plan and therefore we must represent them accurately. Moved by Charles Horwitz, second by Stacy Antler

Motion passed 12 – 0 - 0

Motion to approve will be attached to the report.

Outreach report will be held over to February WNC meeting.

2010 WNC Elections Report was presented, including filing timelines, write in deadline and website resource info(www.cityclerk.lacity.org) The Westside NC Ballot Voting Model was distributed.

It is of utmost importance that candidates fill out filing report.

Move to adjourn meeting was made @ 11:29 pm by Melissa Kenady, seconded by Terri Tippit.

Motion passed unanimously.