

**WESTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES**

**Thursday, February 11, 2010 7:00pm
Westside Pavilion 10800 W. Pico Blvd.
Meeting Room A (3rd Floor behind the Food Court)**

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

In Attendance:

**Douglas Butler (1), Lisa Morocco (2),
Steve Spector (4), Jerry Asher (6),
Barbara Broide (7), Terri Tippit (8),
Drew DeAscentis (9), Dick Harmetz (10),
Mary Kusnic (11), Stacy Antler (12),
Robert E. Guerin (13), Charles Horwitz (15),
David Ty Vahedi (17)***

Also attending:

Annette Mercer, Shannon Burns

Jay Greenstein, Chris Koontz, CD 5

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

**2.) Minutes of the January 14, 2010 with revisions will be approved at the
March, 2010 WNC Meeting, announced by Terri Tippit, Chair.**

3.) PUBLIC FORUM:

**A general announcement was made stressing the need to donate blood. Charles
stated that there is a blood drive currently underway with locations at the WNC
area schools.**

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Friends of Overland

Steve Herman announced that the Annual Fundraiser is underway. He discussed The need for items for the Silent Auction and urged everyone's support; he stressed the schools need our help especially with the economic situation and budget cutbacks. The 21st Annual Overland Elementary School Gala will be held on Saturday, March 13th at Beverly Hills Country Club. Contact Steve at Sherman@calbt.com for more information.

Senator Curren Price 26th Senate District

Rebecca Bernal gave an overview highlighting a few of Senator Curren's current Programs, Projects and resources, including work on job creation and jobs related to the Arts, with a meeting on February 26th, 9:30 – 12:30. Additional programs discussed included Child Safety, "Shero's Nominations and the Cash for College Workshop on February 20th. For more information contact Senator Price's District Office at 213-745 – 6656.

Dick Harnetz

Dick gave a brief statement citing the historic preservation efforts regarding the Century Plaza Hotel should work to preserve the following areas of significance including the Ballroom and Presidential Suite.

Michael Buhler, Esq. Director of Advocacy Los Angeles Conservancy

Michael Buhler gave an update on the meetings and negotiations in process with the owner/developer of the Century Plaza Hotel and property. He discussed that this is an ongoing process and stated the developer has been receptive. While certain areas of the property will be retained and incorporated into the new project, the ballroom and sunken plaza at this point are not included. He stated there are a number of entities involved in the process including the Cultural Heritage Commission, who will be announcing an upcoming open meeting for public comment.

Chris Koontz, Planning Deputy CD5, confirmed that Councilman Koretz supports the preservation efforts there is not a formal agreement with the CD5 office at present and will forward the Councilman's recent letter regarding the project. For more information on the project contact mbuhler@laconservancy.com.

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4.) REVIEW OF AGENDA:

(ITEMS AY NOT BE HEARD IN THE ORDER LISTED)

5.) AGENDA ITEMS

New Business

**A.) Elizabeth Peterson, Wally's 2115 Westwood Blvd.
Presentation on Sommelier Wally's**

Elizabeth Peterson presented a detailed overview with Steve Wallace, Wally's Owner/ Operator of the project. She stated that although they have filed 4 months ago, due to the City's cutbacks there is no scheduled or anticipated date for their project. Steve Wallace, noted that Wally's supports the community – donating over \$1 Million to local charities in their 40 years of operation. He also cited that since opening in 1968 they have always been in compliance with all governing agencies – no ABC or operating violations in their history. The Sommelier Room project will host wine tastings and private events that conform to code. Moshe Elad and Christina Close, residents addressed their concerns. Steve Saltzman also commented. Per the LA Municipal Code, Section 12:24 W1, Wally's is requesting a Conditional Use Permit for a Type 42 license with a Type 20 license.

B.) Lt. John Romero, LAPD Media Relations, Nixle Presentation

Lt. Romero gave a detailed presentation of the Nixle Program, America's Information Exchange. The contact and alert system is used by government entities, municipalities, police departments, and other agencies. He stated the system is extremely fast; whereas networking sites, like Twitter, can take up to 1 – 4 hours to relay alerts and data. It can be easily personalized to individual criteria

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B.) Nixle immediately connects you to important information by text message, email, and over the web. By registering, you not only get your police department alerts and advisories, but you can send messages to your neighbors and connect with any community groups. Individuals can sign up free of charge. To obtain additional information or enroll go to the website www.Nixle.com.

C.) Lisa Morocco, City Budget Cuts to Neighborhood Councils

Lisa reviewed the changes in NC funding including the elimination of petty cash and no reimbursements in the future. She also reviewed the February 3, 2010 BONC letter and their recommendations to City Council on the NC's proposed budget cuts. Lisa made the following motion.

Motion by Lisa: That WNC recommends that City Council support the Neighborhood Councils and their annual funding and in light of the City's budget crisis, encourage them to implement the The Board of Neighborhood Commissioner's (BONC) ideas for change as outlined in their letter to City Council Members dated February 3, 2010.

Second by: Stacy

Motion Passed: Unanimous

Lisa also reviewed the status of the WNC elections which will be held on April 11, 2010, 10:00AM – 4:00PM. Additional information is on the LA City Clerk's Election Website.

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Barbara Briode

Barbara reviewed and discussed Councilman Koretz' November 24, 2009 motion, which is contained herein for reference, regarding an ICO (Interim Control Ordinance) as follows:

“MOTION NOV 242009

The City of Los Angeles recently updated its regulation of off-site advertising and signs. Work continues on the proper regulation of on-site signage including digital and other non-traditional forms of signage. The volume, visibility and design of signage have a major impact upon communities, their design and their quality of life, Signage, whether for on or off-site advertising, can also have an impact on traffic safety and on environmental quality through illumination and spillover lighting.

Work remains ongoing on reforming citywide signage regulations for on-site signage.

Additionally, the Department of City Planning is working on new Community Plans throughout the City that will provide community-specific regulations on many issues including signage, No two neighborhoods within the City of Los Angeles are identical and therefore a need exists for geographically specific planning and zoning restrictions.

Council District 5 is governed by a variety of Specific Plans, Design Overlays and Scenic Highway designations intended to preserve the visual quality of the district and its neighborhoods. These plans, restrictions and designations were adopted prior to the widespread adoption of digital signage and do not contain adequate provisions to protect neighborhoods from the negative impact of digital signage,
Councilman Paul Koretz, 5th District”

‘WNC’ Motion by Barbara:

Motion:

The WNC moves to support Councilman Koretz motion 09-2855 for an Interim Control Ordinance (ICO) be initiated to prohibit new digital on-site signage and digital on-site advertising within Council District 5, until such time as permanent neighborhood-specific regulations are adopted.

Second by: Stacy

Motion Passed: Unanimous

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Barbara further discussed signage including Westwood, Santa Monica, ICO's and recommended that the WNC send a letter of support to Reyes making the following motion

Motion: That the WNC send a letter of support to Reyes and encourage him to schedule timely follow up on the matter

Second By: Lisa

Motion Passed: In Favor 12 Oppose 1 Abstain 0

6.) Committee Reports

Treasurer Report, Stacy Antler

Stacy gave an overview of the WNC funds and commented on the proposed budget cutbacks as outlined in the BONC letter to City Council.

Chair's Report, Terri Tippit

Terri commented on issues including Century Plaza Hotel, Rancho Park and the LA Planning Commission Hearing on 2131 South Westwood Blvd., on Wednesday, February 17, 2010, 4:30PM, at the Henry Medina Center. She also stated that anyone, individually, may write a letter on Barbara's appeal regarding the sign at 10333 Santa Monica Blvd.

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CD5 Update, Jay Greenstein and Chris Koontz

Jay announced that the Community Budget Meeting will be held on February 22, 2010 at Hamilton High School , at 6:00 PM.

Jay and Chris discussed the impact of City cutbacks with respect to services, Recs. And Parks and transit services, including the Dash, in West LA.

They also commented on the status of the work on the 405/ Sepulveda project and the Century Plaza Hotel Project interaction with CD5.

Jay and Chris discussed in detail Councilman Koretz' February 4, 2010, FEIR notes regarding Expo Phase 2. A copy is attached with the Minutes for reference.

Annette Mercer

Annette briefly reported on issues including the LA CEQA notice for an MND for 80 foot high netting at Rancho Park Golf Course. Comments are due by March 3, 2010.

Motion to Adjourn: Jerry

Second By: Lisa

Unanimous

Meeting Adjourned 10:00 PM

Reviewed and Approved By Recording Secretary

