Westside Neighborhood Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 13, 2011
Westside Pavilion 10800 W. Pico
Meeting Room B

Call to order: 7:07 by Terri Tippit

Attendance: Barbara Broide (Seat 7), Ty Vahedi (Seat 17), Steve Spector (Seat 3), Dick Harmetz (Seat 10), Lisa Morocco (Seat 2), Terri Tippit (Seat 8), Bob Guerin (Seat 13), Colleen Mason Heller (Seat 12), Melissa Kenady (Seat 16), Charles Horwitz (Seat 15), Jerry Asher (Seat 6), Mary Kusnic (Seat 11), Drew DeAscentis (Seat 9), Michael McIntyre (Seat 1)

Approval of November 18, 2010 Minutes: Lisa Morocco moved to approve the minutes, noting the clarification to the Pico Beautification motion. Mary Kusnic seconded the motion. The motion passed with the change to the minutes as noted.

Public Forum:

- LAPD SLO Mario Gonzales reported. He announced that Captain Bill Eaton, Van Nuys (formerly West LA) passed away this morning. Details are forthcoming regarding services. Also he announced that Officer Rashad is on assignment until February 2, 2011. Drew and Barbara noted residence break-ins in their areas. Officer Gonzales also introduced Officer Rashad’s assistant and noted vehicle break-ins, stressing the importance of not leaving items unattended in your car and keeping it locked.

- Rebecca Bernal from State Senator Price’s office reported that Senator Price is Chair of the Legislative Black Caucus. She stated that also as Chair of Business and Professional Economic Development, he is responsible for oversight and investigations for state certified programs including cosmetology, dry cleaning, University of Phoenix. Rebecca also announced that their toy drive collected 1200 toys which were distributed to 26 organizations.

- Ryan Hursh, Macerich, announced that the work on the Westside Pavilion parking lot which is in process will continue with the implementation of a parking system similar to that of the Westfield Century City Shopping Center. He noted that work on their traffic system is scheduled to begin on January 18, 2011 and be operational on June 1, 2011. Ryan also introduced Whitney Weigel, Marketing and Tim Murphy, the Construction Supervisor.

- A representative of the DWP Scattergood Project gave an update stating that the EIR had identified three possible routes which will be studied by the Board of Water & Power Commissioners. She stated meetings are scheduled to take place on February 23 and 24, 2011 with more information available on the web site.

- Barbara Briode provided an update on the WW NOD with respect to the favorable City Attorney ruling on digital billboards.

- Lisa Morocco announced that a fund had been started for Perla Beds by the Shelter Animal Advocacy Fund. Melissa noted that funds should also be allocated to the WNC area shelters to include Friends of Animals and the Lange Foundation.
Lisa Morocco updated on the opening of the Wellsbourne Restaurant Lounge, in the old Anna’s location on Pico Blvd. The soft opening without food caused concerns by area residents. Lisa stated she had met with the owner who will be adding food.

A.) Colleen Mason Heller, Nominating Committee

Colleen announced and moved the nominations for the 2011 WNC Officers:
Terri Tippit, Chair
Steve Spector, Vice Chair
Melissa Kenady, Mary Kusnic, Co-recording Secretary
Letty Bugarin, Corresponding Secretary
Lisa Morocco, Treasurer

Ty seconded the motion
Motion passed - Unanimous 14-0-0

B.) Thomas Gaul and Laura Muna-Landa, Fehr & Peers
LA DOT Survey – Parking Element of the WLA Community Plan

Thomas and Laura gave an overview presentation and discussed aspects and status of the Westside Mobility Plan. Thomas stated that they are embarking on an important survey to study the parking elements of the WLA and that the WLA Community Plan is on hold at present. Colleen also introduced and discussed issues on the Westside and noted areas where transportation is already an issue with pending development of rail, etc. Thomas stressed the importance of getting area input. There was an extensive discussion of the issues by board members including Barbara, Lisa, Jerry, Teri, Steve, Ty and constituents present. Laura stated that there has been outreach to the community including five meetings to date. Thomas and Laura asked everyone to fill out the survey which can be found on www.WestsideMobilityPlan.com. Colleen urged everyone to take time for this important issue. Terri also said she would email the survey information.

C.) Bruce Spector
Moat Lot Residential Project, Century City

Mr. Spector gave a presentation and update on the 1.6 acres parcel which is located north of the Century Woods Entrance Gate before the MGM Building. He stated this property originally was deeded to Century Woods HOA and the terms called for a private park that would be expensive and most likely no one would use. He stated that after 3 years of negotiation with JMB, CD5, Mike Eveloff and area HOA’s, agreement had been reached for JMB to develop 12 single family lots which would be sold to private retail buyers. Sara Shaw of JMB was also present and gave additional information on the project. Mr. Spector and Sara stated that the project would be in full compliance with all requirements. They further stated that approximately $2.5 M from the sale of the lots would be set up in a Community Benefit Fund which would be administered by the California Community Foundation. Funds would be used for area schools, fire and police, etc.
D.) Evan Gillespie, Sierra Club
Presentation on LA Beyond Coal

Evan gave a detailed presentation on the situation regarding the use of coal and reviewed information illustrating that Los Angeles is behind the times with regard to this issue. He stresses the importance of limiting the use of coal as an energy source. Evan also said he has been receiving substantial area support. Evan asked that the WNC support this timely issue.

Jerry made a motion to support and there was discussion of the members. Barbara Broide moved that “The item be tabled to the February 2011 WNC meeting. Drew seconded the motion to table. Motion to Table Passed 9 – 3 - 0

E.) Terri Tippit
WRAC motion to oppose Mayor’s P-3 (Public Private Partnership) City Parking Lot Proposal

Lisa made the following motion; Barbara seconded.

“The Westside Neighborhood Council OPPOSES the Mayor and City Council’s "P-3" proposal ("Public-Private Partnership") to lease for 50 years nine public parking garages located in Westwood, Hollywood, Downtown L.A., Sherman Oaks, Studio City, Van Nuys, and on Robertson Boulevard to corporate institutional investors, thereby giving up a 50-year revenue stream of $3.5 billion in operating profits resulting in exposure to greatly increased parking rates in each of these nine public garages; OPPOSES the sale or lease of any other city parking garages and/or parking meters; and SUPPORTS the continuation of existing parking programs currently provided at the city's Broxton Parking Garage in Westwood Village.”

Motion Passed unanimous 14 – 0 -0

F.) Charles Horwitz

Item moved to February 2011 WNC Meeting

Committee Reports & Updates

Lisa Morocco:  
Pico Beautification Project Update

Lisa gave an update of the Pico Beautification project stating that it is in consideration for the grant award –MTA 2011 call for projects and reviewed the status of fundraising for the project and thanked everyone. Pledges include WSSM, CD5 and Overland Gateway funds; an additional $19K pledge is needed.
Motion by Barbara Broide; seconded by Melissa.

“The Westside Neighborhood Council recommends to CD 5 that a $ 9,000 (or $ 10,000) allocation from the Trammell Crow traffic safety fund be pledged to the Pico Beautification project to be used for traffic and safety enhancements.”

Motion Passed Unanimous 12 – 0 – 0

The additional committee reports were covered earlier in the meeting during public forum and relating to discussion of Agenda Items.

Melissa Kenady moved to adjourn @ 10:10pm
Lisa Morocco seconds - Motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by Recording Secretary