



**WESTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL**  
P.O. Box 64370 Los Angeles, CA 90064  
**www.wncla.org (310) 474-2326**



**Westside Neighborhood Council Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, August 11, 2011  
Westside Pavilion  
10800 West Pico Boulevard  
Meeting Room B**

**Call to order:** 7:10PM by Terri Tippit

**Attendance:**

Barbara Broide (Seat 7), Steve Spector – to 8PM (Seat 4) and Ryan Hursh – 8PM to close (Seat 4b), Dick Harmetz (Seat 10)\*, Don M. Parker ( Seat 2b), Terri Tippit (Seat 8), Shannon Burns (Seat 14B), Jerry Asher (Seat 6), Mary Kusnic (Seat 11), Drew DeAscentis (Seat 9), Phillip St Pierre (Seat 5B), Stacy Antler (Seat 16b), Charles Horowitz (Seat 15),

\*arrived at 7:20PM

**2. Approval of July 14, 2011 Minutes:**

Steve moved to approve the minutes with corrections as noted.  
Jerry seconded the motion.

The motion passed 9 – 0 – 1 (Seat 16b)

**3. Public Forum:**

**LAPD:**

Officer Rashad reported on crimes in the WNC area. He stated that although home break-ins and auto break-in continue, crime is down 15 -20% in the area. He asked everyone to be aware and be vigilant. He also commented the most common crime continues to be vehicle break-ins. Officer Rashad again stressed that items should NOT be left in automobiles. Several crimes occurring off of Olympic Blvd. were also discussed.

Captain Evangelyn Nathan, West LAPD, was introduced. It was also announced that Captain Nathan is an honoree at the Century City Chamber Women of Achievement Awards. The event will take place on Thursday, October 20, 2011, 11:30AM to 1:30PM. The award ceremony and luncheon will be held at the Beverly Hilton. More information and registration is on the Chamber web site.

#### **4. Review of Agenda**

#### **5. Agenda Items:**

##### **A) Samantha Sommer: Sustainable Works Green Living Workshops**

Samantha presented an overview of the program which is providing information and environmental education in the areas of water, energy, waste, chemicals, transportation, shopping and food. She said their prime focus is solutions and strategies for sustainability.

Samantha announced that they are presenting a 6 week workshop series – which is at no cost to attendees - beginning on Thursday, October 13, 2011, at 7PM – 8:30 PM located at the Westside Pavilion Community Room B. She added the workshops are provided through funding by LADWP through a grant from the US Department of Energy. Registration is at [www.sustainableworks.eventbrite.com](http://www.sustainableworks.eventbrite.com).

##### **B) Lisa Mowery, Bureau of Sanitation RePower LA Campaign**

Lisa gave a brief history of the City of Los Angeles's public works, bureau of sanitation. She spoke about the treatment plant facilities and the city's sewer system – highlighting that 125,000 sewer pipes (5,900 miles) are cleaned annually, 800 miles are inspected with closed circuit television, 60 miles restored annually and 350 million gallons of waste water are treated daily.

To maintain the system Lisa stated that \$168 million is required to protect our neighborhoods, for safety and compliance with requirements and guidelines. Mrs. Antler asked if there were state or federal grants available and Lisa said unfortunately no. Barbara commented on other proposed City Council assessments to cover various costs. Lisa reviewed and stated that a 10 year financial plan has been prepared with a proposed sewer fee increase of \$32. per year for each of the next 10 years per the average LA family. For more information refer to [www.lasewer.org](http://www.lasewer.org).

**C) Mike Eveloff:**

**Support to request the CA study how to implement a Borough System in L.A**

Mike spoke of and noted that Bob Hertzberg introduced the borough system as an option when the Valley was talking about succeeding from the City of Los Angeles. Mike stated that there is not a way to determine what the best model for the City would be without a study. Barbara said the City should look at other models and how to foster the best system. Steve added the City does need a better way to operate. Both Mike and Steve stated the City attorney may be conflicted out – with the study going to another entity.

Motion: The WNC moves to request to the CA to study how to implement a Borough System in L.A.

Moved: Stacy

Second: Mary

Seats Yes: 11      Seats No: 0      Seats Abstain: 1 (Seat 6b)

**D) Susan Bursk: Century City Chamber of Commerce**

**Presentation on the proposed subway station at Constellation in Century City**

Susan gave a background history of the subway and provided documentation and information that stated, “Transportation officials have been planning for a station at Constellation Boulevard since the 1960’s.” She also discussed that there are schools across the US – including California – that have subway tunnels under them. She cited the Bentley School in Oakland, (since 1920) and the West Portal Elementary School in San Francisco, (since 1951). Susan also cited the Southern California Rapid Transit District May 1968 Final Report which listed the Constellation route description. Additionally she discussed in detail the demographics supporting the station location at Constellation Blvd.

Susan presented the following supporting information:

TOP TEN REASONS TO HAVE THE SUBWAY STATION AT  
CONSTELLATION & AVENUE OF THE STARS

10. It will bring passengers into the “heart” of Century City, maximizing the number of employees and visitors within a convenient walking distance from all directions.

9. Will reduce the need for shuttles to bring passengers from the outside fringe areas on Santa Monica Blvd., to the center of the business district.
8. Century City is a vital economic engine for the City of Los Angeles and bringing the subway to the corporate “hub” will contribute to the economic vitality of the community and the Westside region.
7. Improve the environmental quality and reduce vehicular traffic on major thoroughfares leading into and around Century City...or at a minimum slow the increase of future vehicular traffic.
6. Location of the station will greatly enhance a high-pedestrian-use environment which complements the Century City Greening Plan which was adopted by the Los Angeles City Council.
5. With nearly 50,000 employees within Century City clustered around this intersection, they are more likely to use the subway for commuting and trips during the day if the portal is conveniently located.
4. This location will encourage travelers that work and live in the southern region of Century City to utilize the subway rather than walking or driving increased distances to Santa Monica Blvd.
3. If you build it ( in the best location at AOS and Constellation), they will come!”
2. Having this subway centrally located, reduces emissions and contributes to a greener and cleaner environment for generations to come.
- 1....and the Number One reason to put the subway station at Constellation Blvd. and Avenue of the Stars...aligning a subway station along an employment corridor makes the most “cents” and “sense” both financially and practically!

The “MYTHS & FACTS” were presented by Susan and discussed :

Myth: A Santa Monica Boulevard station would cost significantly less – \$60 million less - than the alternative at Constellation;

Fact: This assertion is based on preliminary information contained in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Report. METRO is currently in the process of conducting additional analysis and Preliminary Engineering, including updating costs, associated with all of the Century City Station alternatives. More accurate information will be documented in the Final Environmental Impact Statement/Report. It is misleading to talk about comparative costs until all of the information is available.

Myth: A Santa Monica Boulevard station is closer to more commercial space than the alternative at Constellation

Fact: The one-quarter mile radius around the intersection of Constellation Boulevard and Avenue of the Stars encompasses 11,555,261 square feet of commercial space with 27,263 occupants. The one-quarter mile radius around Santa Monica Boulevard and Century Park East encompasses 4,241,760 square feet of commercial space with 9,874 occupants (This does not include any proposed new development projects on AOS and Constellation Blvd. which would add to the existing square footage)

Myth: A Santa Monica Boulevard station would attract more riders, according to current calculations by the MTA;

Fact: No conclusions on ridership for each station have been made. Again, this assertion is taken from the Draft EIS/EIR which is currently being updated. METRO is still in the process of calculating ridership for all of the Century City Station alternatives.

Myth: A Santa Monica Boulevard station would reduce travel time to Westwood.

Fact: Even if travel time is reduced by a minute or two, the true cost in lost ridership is likely to be huge. Until METRO completes its analysis of all of the station alternatives, no one can predict what the real time or cost consequences will be.

Myth: While the geographic center of Century City is at Constellation and Avenue of the Stars, the workday population is clustered closer to Santa Monica.

Fact: A station located on Santa Monica Boulevard would abut the Los Angeles Country Club golf course on the north with commercial space only to the south. Conversely, commercial space in Century City surrounds Constellation Boulevard and Avenue of the Stars on all sides. A station there would likely be easily accessible to the same commercial buildings as a Santa Monica station and will also be more easily accessible to properties farther south including Fox Studios, the residents south of Olympic and the Hyatt Intercontinental located even farther away from Santa Monica Boulevard.

Myth: Tunneling under the campus could also severely restrict the BH district's ability to build and modernize.

Fact: The tunnel will be located so far underground that no building or modernization project will ever come close to it. Schools all over the country and the region are located next to and on top of transit systems with zero effect on their operations, or the health and safety of their students. Metro tunnels today run under many buildings without problems. Some of the buildings were there before the tunnels were built. In other cases, the buildings have been successfully built atop existing Metro tunnels and stations.

Myth: METRO always contemplated a station at Santa Monica Boulevard. The Constellation Station is a 'bait-and-switch.'

Fact: A station in Century City has been part of METRO's planning since the 1960's. Prior subway planning studies conducted in 1968, 1974 & 1990 all show a Century City station on Constellation. The January 1, 1968 minutes of SCRTD (So. California Rapid Transit District) state the following from the Los Angeles City Council Ad Hoc Transit Committee: "On the Wilshire Corridor, specifically, this Committee has recommended to the Council, which they are now considering, that the alignment is satisfactory as far as it goes, but we think it should go beyond. We feel that the Wilshire Corridor Line should be

extended west under Wilshire with stops at Robertson Blvd., Beverly Drive, and then under Constellation Avenue in Century City, with a stop at Century City, and a return to Wilshire Blvd., The line should continue west in subway with stops to serve Westwood and terminate at Barrington Avenue. We feel the extension of that Wilshire Corridor to serve these areas is imperative.” ( Documentation is available upon request and additional information is available on the Century City Chamber Web site [www.centurycitycc.com](http://www.centurycitycc.com)

Carol Spenser commented that it is not safe for the subway to go under Beverly Hills and to look at the merits of the situation and safety for another route – i.e., north of Santa Monica Blvd. Annette said she is in support of Constellation. Don Parker said he supports Constellation but stresses geological study and safety as he almost lost his car in a sinkhole which suddenly appeared in front of his home. Barbara cited that the construction impacts must be thoroughly studied and mitigated. Stacy and Dick said they support the Constellation location. Charles said he works with a Beverly Hills group and Jerry commented on a 1964 campaign, costs and stated that Constellation is more convenient given the buildings and area demographics.

Motion: The WNC moves to support a subway stop at Constellation Blvd. in Century City.

Moved: Jerry

Second: Shannon

Seats Yes: 9                      Seats No: 0                      Seats Abstain: 3 (Seats 2b, 9, 15 )

**E) Perry Zimmerman:  
Support of Reform First Initiative**

**F) Jonathan Weiss:  
Support of Elevated Bike Path**

Jonathan spoke about the Expo line and made the following points. He stated that there are not bridges for bike paths at grade crossings. He strongly recommended elevated bike paths at Sepulveda, Sawtelle, and Pico Gateway. Jonathan also raised other issues and concerns that need to be addressed for LA to be a bike friendly city and for safety; they included, anti-harassment ordinance, bike safety zone, safe route for and to schools and bike parking areas. He also stated the Mayor is supportive of many of the safety issues he’s discussing tonight. Annette stated she is also supportive.

Sarah Hayes said she is supportive and asked everyone to study the issue. Shannon and Terri also commented in support of proper route elevations and addressing safety concerns for bike riders and the public.

Motion: The WNC moves to support a request to Metro to study elevating the bike path at Sepulveda, Sawtelle, Pico/Gateway and Barrington to eliminate conflicts between bicycles and cars and to enhance and encourage bicycle travel along the corridor.

Moved: Shannon

Second: Ryan

Seats Yes: 8                      Seats No: 0    Seats Abstain: 4 (Seats 9, 8, 10,2b)

**G) Shannon Burns:**

**Motion to fund Take Me Home Days up to \$200.00**

**Motion to contribute \$250 to the Congress of Neighborhood Councils**

Shannon discussed the area animal shelters and the WNC's "Take Me Home Days" at the Westside Pavilion. She presented the following motions.

Motion: The WNC moves to fund up to \$200 for flyers and posters for Take Me Home Days.

Moved: Shannon

Second: Charles

Seats Yes: 12                      Seats No: 0                      Seats Abstain: 0

Motion: The WNC moves allocated \$250 for Congress of Neighborhood Councils.

Moved: Shannon

Second: Stacy

Seats Yes: 12                      Seats No: 0                      Seats Abstain: 0

**6. Committee Updates:**

**LAPD: In Public Forum**

**Chair's Report: Terri Tippit**

Terri updated and announced:

The CCCHA is having their annual block party on 10/16, Saturday from 12-3pm. The party will be on Cheviot Drive between Cavendish and Earlmart.

WNC had a table there last year and talked about Pico Beautification and the WNC in general. People were very interested in both and we made some really good contacts from it. Terri asked if anyone would like to represent the WNC and hand out information; please let her know as Lisa will be out of town and unable to attend.

Mr. Bill Roschen, President of the City Planning Commission will be special guest speaker at the August Plan Check NC Program. Please save the date and get the word out through your networks. Let's show that stakeholders do care to hear about Land Use and Planning issues. Our Second Saturday, August 13, 2011 – 10:00 a.m. Program will include: Mr. Bill Roschen, President of the City Planning Commission and update on current Planning and Land Use code studies, projects and ordinances; and Alan Bell, Acting Deputy Director, City Planning Department, and Noel Weiss, a City Hall Idea Advocate for the middle class.

**West Los Angeles Mayor's Office Representative:  
Joe Haray**

Joe made the following announcements:

Monday, September 12, 2011 – West LA Town Hall Meeting at 6:30 PM at the Felicia Mayhood Center

He said he will be meeting with small community groups to get to know community priorities and he will also be scheduling to meet with Terri and Lisa.

**CD5: Shelia Kouhkan**

Shelia stated that she would forward her report to the Chair given the late time frame.

**Other:**

Drew noted the large metal structure at Westwood Gardens area and Barbara announced the Century Plaza Draft EIR deadline is September 6, 2011.

Stacy announced the Lange Foundation sale which will take place during the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend in August, 2011.

**Motion To Adjourn**

Motion By: Jerry

Second By: Ryan

Motion passed: Unanimous

Submitted by Recording Secretary