



Westside Neighborhood Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 13, 2011
Westside Pavilion
10800 West Pico Boulevard
Meeting Room A 7:00PM

Call to order: 7:11PM by Terri Tippit, WNC Chair

Attendance:

Bennett Cohon (Seat 7b), Steve Spector (Seat 4), Mike Eveloff (Seat 10b)*, Lisa Morocco (Seat 2), Terri Tippit (Seat 8), Shannon Burns (Seat 14B), Sarah Shaw (Seat 6b), Mary Kusnic (Seat 11), Phillip St Pierre (Seat 5b), Bob Guerin (Seat 13), Stacy Antler (Seat 16b), Charles Horowitz (Seat 15), Arturo Martinez (Seat 12b), Mike McIntyre (Seat 3), Brandon Behrstock (Seat 17b) (*Mike Eveloff left @8:30PM/ Dick Harnetz in @8:30PM, Charles left @9:20PM)

2. Approval of September 8, 2011 Minutes:

**Mary moved to approve the minutes as noted – Lisa’s Motion \$500. for the Pico Beautification project, with the Second by Mary.
Stacy seconded the motion approving the Minutes.**

The motion passed 10 – 0 – 5 (Seats 5, 6, 7, 16, 17 abstained)

3. Public Forum:

Steve Spector, acknowledged Ryan and introduced Neima Doff, Architect, West Coast Design for Macerich.

Brandon announced his neighborhood block party which will be held this Sunday, October 16th.

5.) Agenda Items

A) Justine Wengrod

Request for WNC to fund 3 Speed Humps on Tennessee from Patricia to Beverly Glen

Lisa presented a detailed history on this issue which originally dates back to 2005 and more recently is focused on efforts by the Wengrods since 2009 in their numerous attempts to get the speed humps.

Lisa introduced Justine and Ken Wengrod who gave an historical account of their efforts and the situations they have encountered in attempting to get this matter resolved and speed humps installed all - without any results to date.

The Wengrods also presented a chronological history of events and outlined a number of their attempts to obtain information from WSSM. They also stated that City representatives back in 2009 advised them that unfortunately there was not funding available for the speed humps – however - they were encouraged to look for funding elsewhere to facilitate the project and come back to the City within certain deadlines regarding process, necessary approvals, etc.

Justine additionally gave a historical accounting of their attempts to secure information, funding and support from WSSM – none of which she explained yielded any results to date. She said that she experienced hesitation and delays and could not get an answer to most questions.

She stated she asked for information on what funds were available from Trammell Crow and was not given an answer to her many inquiries for this information. She believed there to be a total lack of cooperation from WSSM.

Mr. Wengrod stated he believed Barbara Broide /WSSM was against the speed humps and felt the TC monies better spent on traffic studies and consultants.

There was also a group discussion regarding a developer who was willing to assist to get this project done – Lisa stated that there was no response by WSSM in this regard.

Bennett said he was told the WSSM Board voted to meet with CD5 representatives. This meeting did not include the Wengrod's.

Additionally the Wengrods stated they had been given inaccurate information from various City representatives which was confusing regarding historical and November deadlines to try to get any solution workable to the City to get the speed humps installed.

Mr Wengrod stated it was most unfortunate that neither Barbara or Marilyn was available to be here at this meeting.

Mike presented and added clarity to the situation stating that there are funds available from a developer and that Westwood South has funds; and, that the traffic impacts - if any - are negligible; and he said that these are all positives looking ahead.

Steve asked if there was any reason to believe WSSM was against the speed humps. Lisa said Barbara does not want to set a precedent with this matter. Bennett said that WSSM stated that there is no mechanism in the City to install.

Terri stated that it was indeed most unfortunate that Barbara was not here tonight.

Mike asked – 'Isn't it possible to have a private contractor install?'

Bennett repeated that the City cannot install.

Mr. Wengrod asked - why were they given a deadline to perform.....they've spent enormous amounts of time over the past years with no progress at all in getting this very important matter resolved for the overall safety of their street and neighborhood.

Jay stated that the speed hump program was eliminated in 2009 – regarding the que – said it was not that high in que. Jay said in 2010 – there was a bid out to contractors for certain projects – one contractor pulled out.

Steve stated we are/represent a collection of diverse stakeholders and sometimes views don't always align. Mike added there are conflicts inherent with HOA's and the WNC (NC's).

Shannon asked why CD5 and WSSM with Barbara met without the Wengrods. Jay said he believed WSSM was trying to help.

Bennett stated he took two pages of notes and would meet with the WSSM Board on this matter. Steve thanked him on behalf of the WNC.

Mike said we have to look forward not past and the City has no money or people to get this done – however – what is the case if funding and a contractor are secured....

Arturo confirmed that the WNC is an advisory board and does have certain limitations.

In an effort to support and assist in moving this matter forward the WNC put forth the motion, noted herein. Lisa will follow up with CD5 and the Wengrods on this matter and advise.

Motion:

“That the Westside Neighborhood Council moves to support the placement of three speed humps on Tennessee Ave. from Lauriston Ave. to S. Beverly Glen Blvd.”

Motion By: Lisa Morocco

Second By: Charles Horwitz

Vote:

FOR - 14

OPPOSE - 0

ABSTAIN – 1 (Seat 17b)

B) Lisa Morocco

Motion to approve \$250 for Kathy Cerra for meeting with Million Trees Program and City Survey

Motion to approve \$361.46 from outreach funds for 3 WNC posters – 2 in bus shelter, 1 in kiosk

Lisa presented background stating that Kathy Cerra was not compensated (in the funds approved for her original work) for attending these meeting; also stating her efforts and participation greatly assisted in securing more than 100 trees for Pico.

Motion:

“That the WNC moves to approve \$250 to Kathy Cerra for meeting with Million Tree Program and City Survey as preparation for Plant Pico.”

Motion By: Lisa Morocco

Second By: Stacy Antler

Vote: Passed Unanimous

Lisa stated the posters were designed and finished.

Motion:

“That the WNC moves to approve \$361.46 from outreach funds to purchase 3 WNC posters to be used in the new bus shelter located near the Menorah Housing and kiosk.”

Motion By: Lisa Morocco

Second By: Bob Guerin

Vote: Passed Unanimous

C) Charles Miller, Palms NC

Support that Indigenous Plants be utilized for all landscaping for Expo Phase 2

Charles explained that it is not only important that drought tolerant plants be utilized for landscaping but it is important that the plants selected be indigenous to Southern

California to promote a healthy preservation and balance of our ecosystem with respect to native species – animals, insects, birds and plants.

He stated that 90% of the insects won't use and thrive on non-native species; also, species of birds have left the area and we've already lost 80% of the butterflies/catepillars due to the introduction and growing use of non-native plantings.

He added that this is a better option that won't add significant costs to the project.

Motion:

“That the Westside Neighborhood Council moves to support the Palms Neighborhood Council request that indigenous and compatible plants be utilized for all landscaping for Phase Two of the Exposition Line light rail project.”

Motion By: Lisa Morocco

Second By: Bob Guerin

Vote:

FOR - 13

OPPOSE - 0

ABSTAIN - 1 (Seat 14)

D) Marc Saltzberg, Venice NC Outreach Chair

WRAC Motion to support Venice NC – asking county to do EIR for MDR Project

Terri highlighted background from the information she had previously circulated to the WNC Board stating this/ Marc is asking NCs to support their request that LA County do EIR on the project in Marinas Del Rey.

She added this is a bit out of area but like Bundy Village but they as many feel it will impact others. Noting, we did not take a position in Bundy Village for various reasons including outside our area and that the NC most impacted did not take a position against the project.

The following are the talking points from Venice NC presented by Marc and which were discussed with WNC Board and attending stakeholders:

- We cannot let developers and cities that are not part of the City of Los Angeles take advantage of our communities by refusing to consider the impacts of development on us, simply because the approving authorities are not in LA City.
- At the very least, our community's opinions regarding local development should be actively solicited and taken into account, even if the impact is considered "regional" by the developer rather than "local." This kind of behavior has already occurred with the now shelved proposal for Bundy Village. And now it's happening again with the County's proposal for MDR and the planned Bergamot Station development in Santa Monica. Our communities are being ignored in the rush to produce new mega-developments.
- Traffic on the Westside is already gridlocked. Adding more vehicles ALWAYS has a negative impact. This is a problem for all of us. Developers should not ignore adjacent communities.
- Parking on the Westside is already at a premium. Removing parking spaces in favor of new residential or commercial space or granting variances that allow fewer parking spaces than required for new projects adds to the pressure on residents, their guests and the tourists that are a big part of our local economies. Adding the hassle of finding parking to the frustration of traffic on the way makes our communities less desirable, hurting our economies.
- Inadequate parking has a huge impact on local traffic as cars pile up in an area and while looking for available spaces.
- Piece meal development is a time honored practice in LA. A little here, a little there and so often we have a mega-development with huge impacts rather than the smaller development proposed. That's exactly what the county is trying to do in this case - with a proposed amendment to their Local Coastal Plan that covers only 4 or 5 projects

when 17 are on the books. We need to send a message that we're aware of this and that it can't be tolerated.

- We don't want to let the County (or any jurisdictional body) off the hook if they claim they've provided the equivalent of an EIR for the 4 or 5 projects involved - when 13 more are in the pipeline.
- The regional impacts are enormous. In addition to parking and traffic impacts already noted, buried in their LCPA are regional infrastructure problems such as:
 - 100% reliance on LAUSD to provide schools for the new families that will be moving in
 - 100% reliance on the City for ball-fields and swimming pools for new residents
 - 100% dependence on the City of LA to transport their sewage to Hyperion (with sewage lines that are already barely adequate to keep up with current demand)
 - 100% dependence on the City of LA to provide freshwater to the new projects (with the projection that current supplies will be inadequate for the increased demand)
 - 100% reliance on the City of LA to maintain the streets and roads that provide both ingress to and egress from the Marina as well as transporting the increased traffic on surface streets.

Marc also reviewed the following "FAQ's"

1. Is passing this motion time sensitive?

Yes – The California Coastal Commission will be considering the County's Local Coastal Plan Amendment (LCPA) the first week of November – in Oceanside. We are currently asking the CCC to postpone the item to December so it can be heard in the LA area – but we don't know if they will be responsive to our request. We of course would like WRAC to endorse the motion prior to the CCC Meeting – so the sooner it is passed at the NC / CC level, the sooner the President of WRAC can get a letter off to the CCC letting them know of WRAC's stance.

2. Doesn't CEQA require that the County perform an EIR and that it be approved prior to any major development?

Yes - CEQA requires that an EIR or its equivalent be created for every major development (according to CEQA, an LCP or its amendment qualifies as the functional equivalent of an EIR). The County has bundled several projects into a single LCPA, fulfilling the CEQA EIR requirement for those projects. But the amendment does not take into account the other 13 projects that are currently in the approval queue. Those projects are proceeding according to the traditional approach with an EIR being produced for each individual project. We are asking for ALL projects to be included in a single EIR or its equivalent so that the cumulative impacts can be taken into account.

3. Why should the County provide such a comprehensive, cumulative EIR for all projects proposed for MDR? Sounds expensive...

Because CEQA defines a "Redevelopment Project" such that the proposed developments, as a group, would seem to fall under that definition, and further specifies that Redevelopment Projects need such an EIR. The Coastal Commission has already "suggested" that the County proceed with such a document – but the County has declined. The question of whether the projects fall under the definition of a "Redevelopment Project" has not been adjudicated.

4. Why should our council consider a problem, though real enough, in an area where the impacts won't really affect our community?

Because sometimes the only power we have as NC/CCs is the power of our numbers and the people we represent. In the City of LA we have are part of the City with credibility and responsibilities. And the City often listens to our opinions. We are not anti-development – but in LA developers must include us in the process and are starting to recognize that fact.

But if any one of our NC's tries to tackle the City of Santa Monica, or Culver City or the County of Los Angeles, we will be ignored. Again, it is only by banding together that we can demonstrate that these other jurisdictions need to listen. It is only by banding together that we can get the mega-developers and adjacent jurisdictions to recognize the necessity of including us in the process and understanding that if they don't involve us we will take action together to oppose their projects.

Motion:

“The Westside Neighborhood Council supports the need for a comprehensive EIR (or its equivalent) that considers regional impacts on the City of Los Angeles and takes into account the cumulative impact of constructing 17 new developments on LA County lands in Marina Del Rey.”

Motion By: Bob Guerin

Second By: Stacy Antler

Vote:

FOR 12

OPPOSE 0

ABSTAIN - 2 (Seats 5. 6)

E) Yvette – Pacific Graffiti Solutions

Quarterly Report

Yvette was unable to attend.

6. Committee Updates:

LAPD:

Officer Rashad reported on the two violent crimes which occurred in our division recently. They were on National and Westwood and Sepulveda and Richland. He also reported that theft from motor vehicle is still ongoing and stressed the importance of not leaving any items visible in your vehicle even if it's in your driveway. He also reported on neighborhood breakings and asked everyone be vigilant, watch out for your neighbors and report anything suspicious. Officer Rashad also announced the Haunted House at the WLAPD Station, 1663 Butler Avenue on Friday and Saturday – October 28th and 29th.

Terri Tippit, Chair's Report

WRAC Joint Meeting to address Council Member Krekorian's 4 motions to change the NC System / Board of Neighborhood Commissioners Meeting

Terri gave a brief overview and updated - adding that she had previously also attended the WRAC Mayor Town Hall. She said still in question is the issue regarding NC elections in 2012. - It seems that while the city wants to have more time to address this issue the Mayor would like the elections in 2012 – not to mention costs and lack of available funding. She stated as she had previously told WRAC that with holidays and other issues impacting our area coming up in order to do the planning needed to hold an election and do the proper outreach we would need to know soon if indeed we will be holding elections and budget for it. We don't want to budget for it and then like last year find out we have extra money we have to spend NOW.

Bob asked and Terri confirmed that WNC can still hold the officer elections.

She added that it has been suggested that Seat 17 would be changed to Factual instead of At Large which will require a bylaw change.

The last elections - some NCs were faced with folks who did not live or work in the area but said they were a factual stakeholder for various reasons. Venice made this change to their bylaws and suggested before the next election others do the same to avoid problems on election day. We will discuss this at our next mtng.

Steve added that as we previously discussed, our current bylaws approved earlier this year (but still awaiting DONE approval of our May 2011 application for approval) do make clear that only Seat 17 is the only seat that can be voted upon an 'affirmation.'

"ARTICLE IV STAKEHOLDER"

"WNC membership is open to all Stakeholders. "Stakeholder" shall mean any individual who lives, works or owns property in the Westside Neighborhood and also those who declare a stake in the Westside Neighborhood and affirm the factual basis for it. The only seat for which a person may vote on an affirmed factual basis is the at-large seat (Seat 17)."

Terri is checking with DONE on the status, but Steve said we believe we are as covered on this point – though we are getting the DONE process completed to assure this concern is addressed. Terri said we will have more information to update and discuss next month.

CD5:

Jay Greenstein reported on CD5's efforts to help mitigate the traffic problems due to the work on the 405. He also stated there are elevation issues with the bridge area now and he will keep us updated with the status of Pico Paving. He said the Westside Mobility Study meeting is on November 10th; Terri urged him to see if the date can be changed as it is conflicting with the November WNC Meeting

Mobility:

Lisa gave a detailed overview of the September 19, 2011 Mobility Committee Meeting – which focused primarily on the present status of requests for three speed humps on Tennessee from Patricia to Beverly Glen dating back to 2005 and more recently 2009 to present. To date no speed humps are installed and there is not an approval/ funds/plan in place to complete the project.

This item is covered in greater detail with discussions of the issue with Board Members and stakeholders, including the residents living in this area, in Agenda Item 5A.

Outreach:

Lisa briefly reported on the success of "Take Me Home Days", acknowledging and thanking Steve, Ryan and their staff for Macerich's support. She will report on additional items including Pico Tree Planting and Pick Pico Weekend at the next WNC meeting.

Brandon Behrstock, updated on the Rancho Park Golf Course Concession. He stated the City is running store and pro-shop concessions now and that they are continuing to show improvement. He said James Ward is the Manager and added that they are going forward on the improvements which are based on the original design, however the project may take more time.

Rebecca Bernal, State Senator Price

Rebecca updated on their activities and highlighted the upcoming Seniors Scam Stoppers Meeting. The free meeting will be held on October 20th 1:00PM – 3:00 PM at the Claude Pepper Center, 1762 S La Cienega Blvd., Los Angeles, CA. 90035. For more information call 213 745 6656.

Shelia Kouhkan, CD5

Shelia spoke briefly on SB 100 and updated on the current CD5 activities stating more details can be found on their CD5 website

Joseph Hari, Mayor's Staff

Joseph announced that Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, in conjunction with the Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates will present the Mayor's Community Budget Day. Meeting details are:

Saturday, October 29, 2011

8:00 AM – Registration Begins and Complimentary Continental Breakfast

8:30 AM – Welcome Remarks and Presentations Begin

Location: City Hall, 200 N. Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

There will be a presentation by the Mayor, other elected officials, and the current fiscal year's Budget Advocates and Regional and topical budget discussions

Free Parking at City Hall

Terri announced that Lisa and Brandon will be attending.

Motion To Adjourn at 9:25PM

Motion By: Stacy

Second By: Lisa

Motion passed: Unanimous

Submitted by Recording Secretary