



WESTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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**Westside Neighborhood Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 10, 2012
Westside Pavilion
10800 West Pico Boulevard
Meeting Room A
7:00PM**

1. Call to Order

Call to order: 7:11PM

By Terri Tippit, WNC Chair

Attendance:

Lisa Morocco (Seat 2), Steve Spector (Seat 4), Michael McIntyre (Seat 3), Philip St. Pierre (Seat 5), Jerry Asher (Seat 6), Barbara Broide (Seat 7), Terri Tippit (Seat 8), Drew DeAscentis (Seat 9), Richard S. Harmetz (Seat 10), Mary Kusnic (Seat 11), Colleen Mason Heller (Seat 12), Bob Guerin (Seat 13), Charles Horowitz (Seat 15), Melissa Kenady (16), David Ty Vahedi (Seat 17)

Also Present:

Brandon Behrstock (Seat 17b), Ryan Hursh (Seat 4b)

Aaron Rosenfield (Seat 8b)

Mike left at 8:50PM, Philip at 9:10PM, Dick at 9:30PM

2. Approval of March 8, 2012 minutes

Terri Tippit, Chair, updated that the March Minutes were not reviewed at the last meeting. Barbara submitted a request for modification.

Motion to approve the WNC March 8, 2012 Minutes as amended.

Motion By: Bob

Second By: Jerry

Motion Passed: 12 – 0 - 3 (Seat 7, 15, 17)

Motion to approve the WNC April 12, 2012 Minutes.

Motion By: Lisa

Second By: Bob

Motion Passed: 14 – 0 – 1 (Seat 10)

3. Review of Agenda (ITEMS BELOW MAY NOT BE HEARD IN THE ORDER LISTED)

4. Agenda Items:

New Business:

A) Terri Tippit, Chair

Terri announced the following appointments, noting the co-chairs sharing leadership roles will allow for more productive committees. She also noted the following and stated if anyone would like to be on a committee to please contact the chairs. The appointments are as follows:

Appointment of Ad Hoc Election Committee Co-Chairs
Steve Spector and Lisa Morocco

As DONE has confirmed that we will be holding an election/selection of the WNC Board, Steve is policy and procedure chair and Lisa is outreach chair - (Lisa waltzworld@gmail.com), Policy and Procedure (Steve steve.spector@macerich.com).

Appointment of LUC/Mobility Committee Co-Chairs
Shannon Burns and Colleen Masson Heller

Land Use and Mobility complement each other so we are combining the two committees. Shannon (wncluc@yahoo.com) will continue to take the lead Land Use and Colleen (cmasonheller@yahoo.com) will take the lead on Mobility.

Appointment of Ad Hoc Sidewalk Committee Co-Chairs
Barbara Broide and Ty Vahedi

They are advocates on sidewalk issues and will co-chair - Barbara (bbroide@hotmail.com) and Ty (tvahedi@aol.com).

Appointment of Public Safety Committee Co-Chairs
Mike Eveloff, Drew DeAscentis

Mike (meveloff@gmail.com) has brought many LAFD concerns to our board and Drew (drewdeasc@yahoo.com) is on the WLAPD Community Police Advisory Board they will co-chair Public Safety

Concerned Resident Against Airport Pollution request to AQMP to regulate emissions from Santa Monica Airport

Terri stated that the communities impacted by the Santa Monica Airport have been asked to support CRAAP with details as outlined in the letter which requests the South Coast Air Quality Management District implement an Indirect Source Review Rule regulating emissions from Santa Monica Airport as per the California Clean Air Act (Cal. Health & Safety Code 40440(b)(3)).

Motion: The WNC moves to support the attached Concerned Residents Against Airport Pollution letter to the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

Moved By: Barbara

Second By: Melissa

Motion Passed: 14 – 0 – 1 (Seat10)

B) Lisa Morocco, Treasurer:

Lisa presented and reviewed the WNC Quarterly Budget; and announced the Budget Committee Meeting, scheduled for May 17th, Westside Pavilion, 11am, Meeting Room A. She also noted the WNC budget will be \$37,000 for fiscal year 2012-2013 if the proposed LA City Budget is approved.

Lisa reviewed the quarterly WNC Treasurer Report as of May 10, 2012 as follows:

Starting Balance \$19,616.79

100 Operations Starting Balance \$ 271.68

Verizon	635.17	
Earthlink	329.00	
PO Box rental	109.00	
Badges/Name Plates	59.50	
Sketch Farm Design	274.38	
New Laptop	421.24	
Total Spent		-74.97

Remaining Balance 100 Operations 196.71

200 Outreach Starting Balance \$11,415.12

TMH Poster at WSP	\$ 172.72	
CC Emerg. Prepare Day	40.76	
Bus Shelter Poster	361.46	
CVS Photos of Events	13.35	
Pick Pico Meeting	146.59	
WNC Promo Video	In process	
Sketch Farm Design Fee	In process	
AAA Banners for Pick Pico	In process	
Business Walking Map	In process	
Total Spent		- 0

Remaining Balance 200 Outreach \$11,415.12

300 Community Improvement Starting Balance \$ 7,929.99

Schools

Westwood Charter	\$ 2,600.00	
Overland Avenue	In process	
Pico Beautification	In process	
LAPD/LAFD	6,581.25	
Library	3,948.75	
LA Parks	5,265.00	
Total Spent		0

Remaining Balance 300 Community Improvement \$ 7,929.99

Ending Balance

\$19,541.82

Lisa explained that the Demand Warrants were submitted to DONE for approved expenditures and are in process; and, the Total Demand Warrant Expenditures amount pending is \$18,866.06. She noted acknowledged and noted CD 5 is transferring \$500 to WNC funds to partially cover DOT fees for Pico Tree Trimming and as the transfer was not completed by this report, it is not reflected in totals.

**C) Thomas Soong, DONE
WNC Elections
Proposed Bylaw Amendment for 2012 Election**

Jerry Kvasnicka, Election Coordinator, Consultant for DONE presented as Thomas Soong was unable to attend the WNC meeting. Jerry's detailed comments focused on the election process. Steve and Terri and members questioned Jerry and expressed their concern that Jerry was not updated and informed by DONE with respect to the previous weeks of discussions as to the best option for the WNC.

There was considerable discussion regarding board elections on the Selection & Election procedures with the WNC members and Jerry and the process details for each. Terri, Steve, Lisa and others who had been in communication with Grayce Lui, Director of Policy and Communications at DONE, had discussed details of the Selection process as a viable option, especially noting the time and budget considerations.

Jerry continued to discuss and focus on Election process details. Steve stated that he and Terri had been working on behalf of WNC regarding the details of a Selection process with DONE; and this appeared to be a better option for the WNC. Steve also highlighted the DONE conversations and messages over the last few weeks - to conclude that a selection process given all considerations may be more efficient for WNC. - especially where WNC has historically had trouble filling all board seats, and only a few seats are contested despite significant outreach to encourage people to take these volunteer but responsible positions.

The Steve, Terri and Board members thanked Jerry for the information and his time.

Steve stated that it would be best for he and Lisa (appointed as co-chairs of the ad hoc election and bylaws committee would follow up with DONE in order to determine the most cost effective, volunteer friendly and fair election/selection process. Terri and the members agreed.

5. Reports:

Aaron Rosenfield, Celebrate Israel Festival and Expo Phase 2 Bike Path

Celebrate Israel:

Terri extended a big 'Thank You' to Aaron and Lisa for taking the time to sit at a table and represent the WNC at the event. Aaron went on Saturday to set up and make sure our WNC banner would be displayed at the event. They distributed information on WNC and the upcoming WNC election/selection. Terri noted she received phone calls from individuals who wanted to follow up with the WNC. She and Aaron noted although the festival was run well inside the venue, folks in Tract 7260 found it difficult to find a parking space on their block. Also, they noted the concentration was on south of Pico without considering the impact to those stakeholders north of Pico. Dick also commented on some of the complaints received by residents of Tract 7260.

Phase 2 Bike Advisory Committee:

Aaron presented highlights of the recent bicycle ride on the bike path along Expo route. Drew, Colleen, Terri and Jerry were among the members commenting on issues and concerns including safety and various aspects of the route.

Colleen Mason Heller, LUC/Mobility Committee:

Update Expo Light Rail Phase 2 Motor Avenue Bridge Project:

Colleen presented an overview stating Skanska Rados is building Expo Light Rail Phase 2. She and Terri noted that at the request of Palms NC last year, WNC changed our southern boundary giving a portion to Palms NC. Skanska Rados went to Palms NC and Cheviot to present their plans for the demolition of the bridge over Motor/National Blvd. Colleen highlighted details as follows:

Phase 2 of the Exposition Light Rail announced plans to demolish the historic railroad bridge which crosses above Motor Avenue north of National Boulevard between the Palms community and Cheviot Hills. A new, wider bridge to accommodate two tracks needed for the light rail will be built in its place.

The plans call for up to one week of night work during the demolition which will require the complete closure of Motor Avenue at that location from 7:00 pm until 7:00 daily.

Community concerns include:

- **Excessive night time noise:** The Cheviot streets near the planned bridge demolition and construction were not part of any Expo EIR noise impact evaluation. As a result there is no existing noise level baseline for that area against which to measure the impact of Expo's day and night construction noise
- **Bright worksite lights:** Experience with Phase 1 Expo construction resulted in numerous complaints of light intrusion from night time construction sites into nearby homes.
- **Blocked access to emergency first responders:** Total blockage of Motor should be avoided.
- **Loss of area parking impacting businesses and homes:** See "Loss of Parking below".

She noted that after demolition the construction of the new bridge will take up to one year. (Currently Motor Avenue has two lanes traveling in each direction between Manning Ave and National Blvd with a wide middle "safety lane" to facilitate safe turns into local businesses and the neighborhood. During the construction Motor traffic will be reduced for 300 feet on either side of the bridge) to a single lane each direction with no center safety lane and no parking. K-rails and restriping will be put in place to re-channelize traffic during the year-long construction.) She noted significant community concerns and business impacts.

Business impacts include: The businesses in the Motor Ave and National commercial area exist in a seriously compromised parking environment now, and traffic access and circulation are a constant challenge. Currently, efforts are being made to improve the business climate for customers and the businesses, including planting of street trees, new signage and a current momentum to establish a local, weekly farmers ' market near the Palm's/National intersection. All of that beneficial good could be undone, with serious irrevocable impacts including the permanent loss of some businesses, if Expo does not mitigate the impacts. Expo has provided no evidence that they have a plan to mitigate the impacts which will result from the physical environmental changes of the Bridge demolition and reconstruction in the business community.

Motion: The Westside Neighborhood Council (WNC) requests that the Exposition Construction Authority prepare and present to the WNC and the CD-5 Council Office a study of the Motor Avenue Rail Bridge Reconstruction Project detailing the level of additional delay to traffic, parking and emergency response teams in the WNC area which will result from the closure or reconfiguration of Motor Avenue; And that a plan for mitigating and monitoring those community impacts by the Exposition Authority and the CD-5 Council office is put in place; And that the WNC work with the CD-5 Council Office to identify funding and the means to improve the design of the bridge so that it becomes a “source of neighborhood pride in the community. (Complete details in the LUC/Mobility Committee Report)

**Moved By: Colleen
Second By: Charles
Motion Passed 10 – 1 (Seat 6) - 1(Seat 7)**

Casden Mix-Use Project:

Terri highlighted the Proposed Casden Mixed-Use Project located at Sepulveda/Expo/Sawtelle/Pico, consisting of 266,800 sq ft of retail commercial floor area and 538 residential units of approximately 518,764 square feet and stated the Comment period is extended to June 18, 2012.

She said the project requires a zone change among many other things; and, the DEIR acknowledges that “the Development Project would result in inconsistencies with important objectives and policies related to retention of industrial land uses, and sitting residential land use near significant sources of air pollution. Also, she stated that it is inconsistent with the West Los Angeles Community Plan. The 785,564 square foot development includes several large scale buildings and towers, the tallest of which is proposed to be 15 stories and 200 feet tall. (Complete details are including in the WNC LUC/Mobility Committee Report.)

Terri is requesting support for WRAC motion to have DEIR redrafted to reflect additional projects and cumulative impact on regional infrastructure (Westside Regional Alliances of Councils (WRAC westsidecouncils.org).

WRAC Motion:

Whereas the proposed Casden project is only one of several projects in the West Los Angeles region along the Expo line, and whereas the West Los Angeles Community plan has not been completed and adopted, WRAC recommends the DEIR, ENV-2008-3989-EIR, be redrafted to reflect these additional projects and their cumulative impacts upon regional infrastructure: water traffic, sewage, power, schols, parks, and public safety departments [police and fire]

Motion: The WNC Moves to support WRAC motion to have DEIR, ENV-2008-39989-EIR redrafted to reflect additional projects and cumulative impact on regional infrastructure.

**Moved By: Drew
Second By: Charles
Motion Passed: 12 – 0 – 0**

**Lisa Morocco: Pick Pico June 1-3, 2012
Update**

Lisa summarized the Pick Pico Event and said it's focus is to promote Pico Businesses through a special weekend where over 75 stores are participating by offering special deals or discounts to encourage customers to EAT PLAY or SHOP on Pico. The event starts on Saturday 6/2 at 9:30AM – everyone is to meet at Pelham and Pico to receive your Pick Pico reusable Bag. Lisa also said there will be a speech by a representative of the Mayor's Office.

Lisa also proudly acknowledged and introduced the Pick Pico Pushbroom Patrol consisting of the Westwood Charter School Student Council Students' Service Learning Committee - "Push Broom Program". The students also spoke about their participation in the event. They students are as follows:

Leah Schilowitz/ Lily Schneeberger / Ryan Sarraf / Dean Philips

The WNC board and all present expressed their appreciation thanked the students.

Lisa said there will Pick Ribbon Cutting to start the event. She highlighted the event promotions including:
Street Banners Pelham to Manning/Veteran to Camden
Pick Pico Participant Posters in all shops
Website
Flyers to Residents
HOA Websites/School Bulletins
Walking Map of Pico with Inserts at all shops, local hotels, libraries 135 businesses
FOX NEWS 11 & Wendy Birch Good News Foundation

She also noted that Councilman Koretz will be at Heyler Realty, 1pm-3pm to meet the children; and, said everyone should watch for the Pico Prize Patrol - Anyone on Pico with Orange Bag could be stopped by Prize Patrol Video Crew and win a \$50 to use at a Pico Store

LAPD: Senior Lead Officer Rashad

Officer Rashad gave an overview and discussed with members and stakeholders some of the recent crimes in the WNC area which he stated have been low. . He highlighted the home break-ins are following the same pattern of gaining access in the back of the properties. He encouraged everyone to be vigilant; and, also noted to be sure to lock windows and doors.

Officer Rashad and representative WLAPD Officers acknowledged and thanked the WNC for their support of this year's Bakersfield to Las Vegas Race Event.

Introduce new Patrol Captain Rolando Solano

Officer Rashad introduced Captain Rolando Solano, who spoke about his background. He said he has come home having lived with his family in West Los Angeles. Captain Solano stated he is in charge of Patrol Operations. Terri and the WNC Board and stakeholders present all welcomed him.

LAPD Fund Raiser September 15th, Century City

Terri and members asked for information about the upcoming event; the Officers said they would check and get back to Terri regarding details.

CD5: Dimitri De Silva

Dimitri spoke in more detail about the Celebrate Israel Event. He stated overall it went smoothly and acknowledged there were areas which could be improved. He also spoke briefly about the recent traffic fatality on the 405 and Santa Monica Blvd.

**Member of Congress Karen Bass
33rd District California**

Earl Massey, Field Representative, introduced himself and stated he would be attending the WNC future meetings.

6. Public Forum

Laura Campfield, Palms Park, gave an update on the June and July movies at Cheviot Hills and stated that the WNC logo will be on the flyers. She will be forwarding a flyer sample to WNC for review.

The “ Pick Pico” Pushbroom Patrol consisting of the Westwood Charter School Student Council Students’ Service Learning Committee - “Push Broom Program”. were introduced by Lisa. (Details are listed with the Pick Pico Update for event continuity.)

They students are:

Leah Schilowitz/ Lily Schneeberger / Ryan Sarraf / Dean Philips

Motion to Adjourn At 9:45PM

Motion By: Melissa

Second By: Steve

Motion Passed Unanimous

Submitted By Recording Secretary

