



Westside Neighborhood Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 14, 2012
Westside Pavilion
10800 West Pico Boulevard
Meeting Room A
7:00PM

1. Call to Order

Call to order: 7:05 PM
By Terri Tippit, WNC Chair

Attendance:

**John Padden (Seat 1 -Per Board Vote and Approval –
Agenda Item 4 A -Selection of Seat I Representative),
Michael McIntyre (Seat 3), Steve Spector (Seat 4),
Philip St. Pierre (Seat 5), Jerry Asher (Seat 6), Barbara Broide (Seat 7),
Terri Tippit (Seat 8), Susan Gearin (Seat 9b), Richard S. Harnetz (Seat 10),
Mary Kusnic (Seat 11), Colleen Mason Heller (Seat 12),
Bob Guerin (Seat 13), Shannon Burns (Seat 14), Melissa Kenady (16),
David Ty Vahedi (Seat 17)
Brandon Behrstock (Seat 17b to 7:24PM)**

Also Present:

Ryan Hursh (Seat 4b)

2. Approval of June 14, 2012 Minutes

Motion to approve the WNC May 10, 2012 Minutes as amended.

Motion By: Jerry

Second By: Shannon

Motion Passed: 11 - 0 - 2 (Seats 9b, 17b)

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

4. Agenda Items: New Business

4. Agenda Items:

A. Selection of Seat 1 Representative

- **John Padden**

Terri acknowledged and introduced John Padden. She stated that is a partner in Heyler Realty and noted their participation in both Plant Pico and Pic Pico. She commented, " You remember them at Plant Pico as they rode their bikes to deliver water to those planting trees." And Terri also said they graciously let us use their space as staging for Pick Pico.

Terri further stated that John is committed to reaching out to the business community and getting them more involved with the WNC.

John presented a petition signed by businesses in Seat 1 area supporting his selection by the WNC Board to represent them. John commented that he was most impressed with the work that the WNC does and their effectiveness. He highlighted his background and his Board affiliations.

Motion: The WNC moves to select John Padden to represent Business Seat 1 on the Westside Neighborhood Council.

Motion By: Melissa

Second: Barbara

Motion Passed: 13 - 0 - 0

B. Steve Spector

- **Recommended Bylaw Amendments to permit Selection/Election of Board Members by open vote at a Meeting (rather than by sealed vote election).**
- **Choice of Election/Selection Meeting Date – propose 2nd Thursday in November 2012 (the established WNC November meeting date).**

Steve presented a summary of the WNC Bylaw Amendments. Additionally, he noted that an election must take place on a Sunday per all DONE criteria and a Selection can be set on a day other than a Sunday.

Steve also reviewed that, as we mentioned last month, our region selected Sunday, October 28th, as the Regional Election Date. He and Terri noted that when DONE went to Regional Elections last election cycle, the WNC was the only NC in the region that did not want a Sunday election; however, there was a Sunday election.

Also, they noted that Susan Bursk, Century City Chamber of Commerce President and CEO and now an alternate on the WNC, had come to our meeting and shared her concerns that a Sunday Election would not work for the CC business community. Since the CC business community is a large percentage of the WNC, and only one WNC seat had two candidates the last two elections, it was agreed that the next election would not be held on a Sunday. Steve said in order to do this, the WNC would be going to have a Selection Election.

Steve presented the following two motions:

Motion: The WNC moves to adopt the replacement bylaw section DONE suggests and clean up the existing “selected” board seat bylaw provision as follows:

- 1) Delete the current Article X, Section 1 and replace it with:

ARTICLE X – ELECTIONS

Section 1. Administration of Elections. The Council shall hold a selection process instead of an election to fill the Governing Board. The Governing Board will be chosen at a meeting which will be held during month of November in even number years. The Governing Board shall, no later than July 7 in even numbered years, set the date of the selection process meeting. A selection committee consisting of stakeholders, who cannot be candidates, shall be appointed by the Governing Board no later than ninety (90) days prior to the date of the meeting. The selection committee shall promulgate procedures for the conduct of the selection process meeting and selection of Governing Board members. The selection committee shall also choose an independent and neutral third party to monitor the selection process and certify the result. All selection procedures shall be in conformity with the selection rules established by the City of Los Angeles and shall be approved by the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment.

- 2) Adopt a change in Article X, section 6

Section 6: Other Election Related Language

Selection Process for Board Seats Fourteen (14) to Sixteen (16)

These Board Members shall be selected by the organizations comprising each constituency corresponding to each such Board Seat. If there is more than one (1) candidate for any [delete “selected seat” and replace with “of Board Seats Fourteen (14) to Sixteen (16)”], those candidates must come to the first Board meeting of the newly elected Board. To be a candidate for a selected seat, a person must obtain a nominating letter from a constituent organization of the seat. Each candidate may bring additional letters of support and may make a presentation to the Board about their qualifications. The Board will then select by majority vote the Board Member for each of these contested seats. In deciding which applicant to select, the Board shall take into account the WNC’s goal of representing the diverse interests of all Stakeholders. Notice of the proposed selection, and of the proposed vote by the Governing Board to approve a candidate to fill the seat, shall be placed on the agenda of a Board meeting and be posted for the public and distributed to the Board in the same manner that all agenda items are set and posted.

Motion By: Steve Spector

Second: Mary

Motions Passed: 13 - 0 - 2 (Seats 7, 14)

Motion: The WNC moves that the date for the Election/Selection Meeting be on November 8, 2012, at 6:00 PM.

Motion By: Steve Spector

Second: Mary

Motion Passed: 13 - 0 - 2 (Seats 7, 14)

C. Melissa Kenady, Budget Committee
 • **Recommendation for fiscal year 2012-2013**

Melissa reviewed the Budget Committee report which Lisa had previously forwarded. Melissa stated the WNC Fund Budget Yearly Allocation is \$37,000.00, with \$0.00 in rollover, for a total \$37,000.00. She noted the reduction in budget is due to the City's budget cuts. Melissa reviewed the proposed WNC Budget for the Fiscal Year 2012 – 2013 as follows:

Budget - Category & Annual Total

Codes & Breakdown By Area:

100 Operations 6%

OFF WNC Voice Mailbox/Internet Service 30%	\$ 666
POS Postage/Mailbox 10%	222
OFF Office Equipment and Supplies 20%	444
MIS General Operations/Miscellaneous 40%	888
Sub Total 100.00%	\$2,220

200 Outreach 30%

Website Admin and Maintenance 16%	\$1,776
Outreach 84%	9,324
Sub Total 100.00%	\$11,100

300 Community Improvement 64%

CIP Sidewalk Repair Project 20%	\$4,736
CIP Pico Beautification 25%	5,920
CIP Other Community Improvement Projects 55%	\$13,024
Sub Total 100.00%	\$23,680

400 Neighborhood Purpose Grants

Sub Total

Grand Total \$37,000

She noted there is no rollover allocation this year due to a misdirected payment to Kathy Cerra. She explained that due to a banking error by the City, a Demand Warrant from Kathy Cerra was mistakenly charged to another NC. It was discovered late May which caused an unexpected shortfall of funds at end of year. To remedy this, the Valley Crest Tree Service's invoice to trim Pico trees was split so a partial payment was made from fiscal 2011 funds and the remainder will be submitted in July from fiscal 2012 funds.

Motion: The WNC moves to approve the WNC Budget for fiscal year 2012-2013.

Moved: Melissa

Second: Ty

Motion Passed: Unanimous 15 - 0 - 0

Terri acknowledged and thanked Melissa, Lisa and Bob for all their work on the budget and related areas.

D. James Greenwood, Friends of Palms/Rancho Park Library

- **Support to rename library The Ray Bradbury Palms/Rancho Park Library**

Terri stated that James Greenwood was unable to attend tonight's WNC Meeting. She said that she had learned today that CD5 has been working with the Bradbury Family since April on finding a location to name after Mr. Bradbury. Terri announced that the Family has requested that the naming of the plaza, in front of the Central Library in downtown Los Angeles, after and to honor Mr. Bradbury be explored instead of his local library. With this and the recent passing of Ray Bradbury, Terri said it is fitting that the WNC request that a plaque be put in the Palms/ Rancho Park Library to honor Mr. Bradbury. She added that not too many people are aware the room upstairs is named after him.

Motion: The WNC moves to support the naming of the plaza in front of the Central Library downtown after Ray Bradbury and a plaque be placed at Palms/Rancho Park Library in his honor.

Motion By: Shannon

Second: Bob

Motion Passed: Unanimous 15 - 0 - 0

Ty acknowledged and thanked Dick Harmetz for all of his previous work and ongoing support on behalf of the Palms/Rancho Park Library.

E. Evan Gordon, Casden Properties

- **Presentation on the proposed Casden Project at Exposition/Sepulveda**

Terri introduced the representatives attending on behalf of the Casden Project at Exposition and Sepulveda: Howard Katz, Casden Property Group Company, Ron Hirsch, Hirsch Green Traffic Consultants and Roger Wolf, Van Tilberg, Banvard and Soderbergh Architects. Howard, Ron and Roger gave a presentation and update of the mixed-use project which they stated ‘has undergone a number of changes, many of which are based upon the community’s input and comments.’ They gave a comprehensive overview of the project at present, discussed revisions and modifications and explained features of the renderings and illustrations of the project. Howard noted the project is a work in process and acknowledged the communities’ comments with respect to a number of project modifications to date.

Together, Howard, Ron and Roger highlighted their objective and goal is a high-quality mixed use development that promotes urban living, is compatible with mass transit – with uses that capitalize on future light rail and Metro Rapid public transit, to be compatible with the West Los Angeles Community Plan and surrounding land uses, enhance pedestrian circulation, incorporate high-quality landscaping and aesthetics, add to and support the City’s affordable/low income housing and to reduce vehicle miles by constructing retail amenities close to consumers.

There was a lengthy discussion with a number of the WNC Board members and numerous questions from stakeholders and board members with respect to the project, design, zoning, density, parking, access, transit, traffic, environmental concerns, safety resources and related aspects.

Terri noted that as we mentioned at the last meeting, the WNC has been in communication with other interested groups within the WNC. Coleen commented, noting details and highlighting some of the concerns set forth in the DEIR Draft Response.

Motion: That the WNC, while encouraging reasonable development of this historically underused parcel, support the CEQA concerns as outlined in the Coalition Comment Letter.

Motion By: Coleen

Second: Shannon

Motion Passed: 12 - 0 - 1 (Seat 13)

(Note: For additional and detailed information reference: Case No. ENV2008239892EIR – Casden Sepulveda Project – DEIR Draft Response - written on behalf of the following community groups:

The Cheviot Hills Home Owners’ Association -represents the residents of Cheviot Hills.

The Cheviot Hills Traffic Safety Association - focused on traffic impacts within the Cheviot Hills area.

The Overland Avenue Community - focused on impacts along Overland Avenue between Santa Monica and Pico Boulevards.

The Tract No. 7260 Homeowners Association represents residential property from Pico Boulevard to Santa Monica Boulevard and from Beverly Glen Boulevard to Century City.

The West of Westwood Homeowners Association represents residential property owners from Pico Boulevard to National Boulevard, the 405 to Kelton Avenue, Pico Boulevard to Ashby Avenue, and Patricia Avenue to Overland Avenue.

The Westwood Gardens Civic Association represents residential property owners with boundaries on the north at Pico Boulevard, on the south at National Boulevard, on the east at Overland Avenue & Dunleer Place, and on the west at Midvale Avenue.

The Westwood Homeowners Association represents residential property owners and covers the area from Wilshire Boulevard to Santa Monica Boulevard and Sepulveda Boulevard to the Los Angeles Country Club.

Response Overview

“As discussed throughout this response, it is abundantly clear that the process of evaluating, mitigating and monitoring environmental impacts in the City of Los Angeles is fatally flawed.

CEQA is a disclosure law. But the City repeatedly allows EIRs to inaccurately disclose project impacts on the infrastructure and on the city budget. Instead, EIRs conducted in the City of Los Angeles take as a matter of faith, rather than fact, that somehow, all these costs are worthwhile and that most impacts will be mitigated as approved (or at all).

At a minimum, CEQA requires that an EIR be based on the facts in the record and not on conclusory, speculative and unsupported statements. This EIR is a case study in such leaps of faith that the project is benign or at least a net positive for the City when in fact; it further burdens an area whose infrastructure is crumbling.

Even more stunning is that this EIR purports to be able to determine the impacts on fire response when City officials have openly admitted that there is currently no way to know the state of the fire department.

Unfortunately, the City has failed to compile data to be used specifically for making environmental decisions¹. As a result, each project can create its own set of “facts” to support its project. Each project claims that adequate infrastructure exists. And most importantly, as will be shown later, the City is not only asleep at the mitigation implementation and monitoring switch, it doesn’t even know where the switch is.”

**Correspondence regarding this should be sent to
CasdenProject@WestsideCoalition.Org.)**

6. Reports:

Terri Tippit, Chair:

U.S. Representative Karen Bass, 33rd District of California

Terri introduced US Representative Karen Bass.

Terri noted that Representative Bass was elected to Congress as the Representative from California’s 33rd Congressional District in November 2010 with 86 percent of the vote.

Representative Bass acknowledged the WNC Board and stakeholders and said she grew up with her family in the Venice/Fairfax area of Los Angeles and she gave a brief review of her background which included:

The California Assembly elected her to be its 67th Speaker and she served as speaker during California’s greatest economic crisis since the Great Depression.

She noted that from her experience balancing California’s budget in the State Assembly, she was asked to serve on the House Budget Committee. In addition, she serves on the House Committee on Foreign Affairs and is a member of the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health and Human Rights. Also, she was selected to serve on the Steering and Policy Committee, which sets the policy direction of the Democratic Caucus and also serves as the national co-chair of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee’s Women LEAD organization, which recruits and raises money to support Democratic women running for Congress.

Representative Bass stated that she has and continues to focus on issues facing working Americans and continues a long term commitment to transform the foster care system.

In an effort to be responsive to the people in her district, Representative Bass created the 33rd Congressional Council, which provides an opportunity for constituents to learn firsthand about the issues in Congress and how to become involved in the legislative process. She said she is looking forward to visiting the WNC again.

**Pick Pico Weekend:
June 1-3 2012**

Terri highlighted Lisa's report on Pick Pico stating after a year of talking and 5 months of planning the WNC Pick Pico Event hit the street on June 1-3:

Over 150 people gathered at the corner of Pico and Pelham to hear representatives from the City speak and to launch over 75 kids who formed the Pico Push broom Patrol.

This group from Westwood Charter, headed by Mary Kopp, cleaned up Pico and the alleyways from Patricia to Westwood. Local LAFD Station 92 came by with their trucks to lend support.

The first ever WNC Pico Business Walking Map, designed by Shlomo Fatal, received rave reviews. The map not only shows the business addresses, but features a color coding that distinguishes restaurants from shops and dentists from salons with a quick glance. 135 shops were listed on the maps and over 75 participated in the weekend by offering a deal or special discount.

Some of the most successful stories come from restaurants like FOOD, Islands, Bossa Nova, John O Groats and Steingarten and shops like Blossoms and Imprint Revolution. These merchants offered great deals and the public responded.

Over 8K maps and inserts were distributed throughout the WNC by local HOAs and Community Groups.

The WLA Chamber promoted Pick Pico as well. We were mentioned in LA Weekly and Rancho Park Online. All local HOAs and Community groups sent to their email lists.

Plans for a post Pick Pico Cocktail Hour with local business owners will be held on Monday June 11th at Heyler Realty. Business owners will gather with WNC Pick Pico Committee members to discuss what did and did not work this year and come up with new ideas for next time around.

This was a great effort on behalf of the WNC to bring all aspects of our community together.

Special thanks to Joan Pelico, Joseph Hari, Dimitri deSilva, Wesly Hernandez, John Darnell, Councilman Koretz, Mary Kopp, Westwood Charter Service and Learning Council, mOcean, Sarah Shaw, Aaron Rosenfield, Colleen Mason Heller, Shannon Burns, Melissa Kenady, Dick Harmetz, Jae Wu, John Padden, Sean McMillan, Brandon Behrstock, Jenny at Chef Eric, Judy at FOOD, Mark Morocco.

Mary also noted Terri's support and acknowledged Steve Spector and Ryan Hursh along with all the staff and stores at Westside Pavilion and Macerich who supported the event. Jerry Tsai also thanked Lisa & the WNC for their work and success with Pick Pico.

**Election Report
Steve Spector:**

Steve highlighted the following:

Appointment of selection committee

The WNC chair would need to appoint a selection committee consisting of stakeholders, who cannot be candidates or alternates, no later than August 8, if we choose the November 8 meeting date (90 days prior to the Nov 8 meeting date).

Duties – Essentially, the selection committee must satisfy DONE on the following:
The selection committee shall promulgate procedures for the conduct of the annual meeting and selection of Governing Board members. The selection committee shall also choose an independent and neutral third party to monitor the selection process and certify the result. All selection procedures shall be in conformity with the selection rules established by the City of Los Angeles and shall be approved by the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment.

I outline what the selection committee work likely will have to cover -

If November 8 is Town Hall meeting, then a review of DONE's recommended actions suggests the selection committee must assure:

Candidates Flyer – to be posted by October 8 or earlier

“Outreach for Candidates - The Board shall post a flyer to request candidates for the Board at a minimum of five (5) locations within the Council boundaries for a period of no less than thirty (30) days. The Board will conduct outreach throughout the Council boundaries for candidates during the candidate application period. The flyer shall state the Board seats available, the requirements of the candidates for the seats, the application process, the deadline for applications, the selection date and location and contact information for questions and/or to obtain the application.”

Deadline – 11 days after application and must be submitted by October 28th.

Outreach for Town Hall – Post flyers by October 19th:

“Within twenty (20) days of the town hall, information about the town hall selection process and the candidates shall be on the Council posting locations. The Board and candidates will conduct outreach throughout the Council boundaries about the town hall to encourage stakeholders to participate in the selection of the Board.”

Also, the selection committee would need to choose an independent and neutral third party to monitor the selection process and certify the result.

Rebecca Bernal: Senator Curren D. Price, Jr., 26th Senate District

Rebecca gave an update and announced the following upcoming events:

The C A L I F O R N I A HOMEOWNERS BILL of RIGHTS Town Hall

Thursday, June 21, 2012 • 6 pm
California Science Center
Wallis Annenberg Building (Muses Room)
700 State Drive, Los Angeles
For more information or to RSVP, please contact:
blackcaucus.legislature.ca.gov

Senator Curren D. Price, Jr.
invites everyone to attend a
TOWN HALL MEETING to discuss
“The Disproportionate Impact of School Discipline Policies on Minority Students”
with featured guest speaker Dr. John Deasy, Superintendent, Los Angeles Unified School District.
The event is on Saturday, June 30, 2012 • 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
The Expo Center - Comrie Hall
3980 Bill Robertson Lane
Los Angeles, California 90037

(For more information or to RSVP, please contact Senator Price's office at (213) 745-6656 or by email at senator.price@senate.ca.gov)

There will be a Health Disparities Conference on June 22, 2012 at 8:00 a.m – 3:30 p.m.
MAGNOLIA PLACE FAMILY CENTER
1910 Magnolia Avenue Los Angeles, CA 90007
Please RSVP by phone at 323.292.2002
On the web at www.haafii.org
By fax at 323.292.6121

**Wesly M. Hernandez, Field Deputy
CD 5 Update**

Dimitri introduced Wesly M. Hernandez to the WNC Board and stakeholders.

Rich Luellen acknowledged the WNC Board Members, recognizing those who have given 10 years in service to the community: Terri Tippit, Steve Spector, Bob Guerin, Melissa Kenady, Dick Harmetz, Mary Kusnic and David Ty Vahedi. Rich, Wesly and Dimitri presented a Certificate of Appreciation signed by Councilmember Koretz to each of these individuals in recognition of their service and commitment to the community.

Dimitri, updating on CD5 developments, noted the July 1st effective date for redistricting, And spoke briefly on DWP issues and crime, reminding everyone not to leave items visible in cars to help prevent auto break-ins.

**Bus Bench Meeting Report
Submitted By: Lisa Morocco**

May 21, 2012 Meeting highlights are as follows:

A meeting of approximately 12 HOA's and NC's gathered at CD5 to hear Lance Oishi and a representative from Martin Outdoor Media to discuss the new bus benches and vendor. The ten year new bench contract calls for 6000 new benches to be installed. Currently there are 5,250 benches city wide. Each Council District must have at least 300 benches in their area. Council District 5 has 644 existing and 144 newly added sites for a total of 788 benches. CD 3 and 12 have the most.

There are four styles and five colors to choose from with the standard color being green. Since the WNC had been in contact with Lance for the past two years regarding the Pico Beautification Plan, his office was aware of our color choice so when new benches started to appear in the WNC area they were delivered in silver, our preferred color. Our style is Standard.

There is a sticker on each bench with an identification number and a phone number to call if you see graffiti.

Martin visits each bench twice a week and cleans the area. Martin is required to install trash cans at 50% of the bench sites. Many complained that there is a serious need to have these cans installed sooner. They said they would take a priority list and get them up asap and then install the rest. I supplied them with four of our most serious sites in the area with the worst being at the N/E corner of Pico at Westwood in front of the Guitar Center.

While there is advertising at these benches, they are also required to supply PSA time for the community. The Outreach committee will work with Martin to be sure our new WNC poster will be supplied to them for display when there is space for such PSAs. There was a question if a bench can have a plaque installed designating the area...Like PicWood or Rancho Park and Martin said they would consider.

For more information go to http://bss.lacity.org/Engineering/index_busbench.htm
Or contact BSS Call Center at 800-996-2489 or bss.boss@lacity.org

**Motion to Adjourn At 9:27 PM.
Motion By: Jerry
Second By: Shannon**

Motion Passed: Unanimous

Submitted By Recording Secretary

