Westside Neighborhood Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, August 9, 2012
Westside Pavilion
10800 West Pico Boulevard
Meeting Room A
7:00PM

1. Call to Order

Call to order: 7:07 PM

By Terri Tippit, WNC Chair

Attendance:

John Padden (Seat 1), Lisa Morrocco (Seat 2),
Steve Spector (Seat 4), Susan Bursk (Seat 5b),
Jerry Asher (Seat 6), Terri Tippit (Seat 8),
Mary Kusnic (Seat 11), Drew DeAscentis (Seat 9),
Arturo Martinez (Seat 12b), Francesca Beale-Rosano (Seat 13b),
Colleen Mason Heller (Seat 12), Melissa Kenady (16),

Also Present:
Wesly M. Hernandez, Jerry Tsai

2. Approval of July 12, 2012 Minutes

Motion to approve the WNC July 12, 2012 Minutes.

Motion By: Mary
Second By: Melissa
Motion Passed: 7 - 0 - 4 (Seats 5, 9, 12, 13)

3. Review of Agenda (ITEMS BELOW MAY NOT BE HEARD IN THE ORDER LISTED)
4. Agenda Items:
   New Business

4. Agenda Items:

A) Joanne Dorfman, Selection Committee
   • Approval of WNC Selection Procedures Worksheet

Terri stated that the WNC will be holding a Selection on November 8, 2012 at 6 PM. She introduced Joann Dorfman, the Selection Committee Chair.

Joanne stated that ALL NC's have to complete the same worksheet per DONE; and, that the WNC Selection Procedures Stipulation Worksheet is required to be approved in the Minutes.

There was significant discussion about the process and how important it is that everyone have confidence and strive to make sure the process is fair and transparent. Joanne stated the Selection will be overseen by a neutral third party, Jay Handle and reviewed the WNC outreach activities in this regard. She said the minimum age to vote is 16 and outlined the applications will be available online on August 20, 2012. There will NOT be any write-ins and all candidates must be registered by October 8, 2012.

Steve provided background and stated that Grayce Liu of DONE has acknowledged that the system for WNC Selection is consistent with all DONE's advice and that the process is transparent.

He recapped the prior months of working together with DONE and per their direction the work on the By-Law Amendments regarding this process.

Steve summarized for clarification:

- Only residential stakeholders are qualified to vote on residential seats (and same for business seats/stakeholders)
- There will be a record of who registers to vote (and who each actually votes for) for each seat (so someone would be able to check/question if the voter really qualified). Self affirmation will be subject to oath, so that someone lying about a provable fact would be subject to perjury type repercussions.

If anyone is concerned about any voter wrongfully claiming status, there will be a ability to challenge the result (as always). The board expects and asks that the individuals involved will all help all to assure that the process is not hijacked by someone trying to mislead on the voters qualifications to vote for that seat; and also, if anyone is concerned about any voter wrongfully claiming status, there will be a ability to challenge the result (as always). Additionally, he noted the self affirmation applies primarily to Seat 17 "at large seat", where almost anyone can legitimately claim a stake in our Neighborhood (i.e., they drive thru the neighborhood on occasion) and that other self affirmation will be subject to oath, so that someone lying about a provable fact would be subject to perjury type repercussions.

Steve also said there will be a record of exactly who voted for each seat, and the independent party appointed for oversight will have sufficient ability to question credentials of any voter (since the basis of his or her voting will be verifiable for all other seats up for election).

It was also noted that the Candidate Town Hall will be held on October 18, 2012 at the Westside Pavilion (meeting room location and details to follow).
WNC moves to approve the Neighborhood Council 2012 Selection Procedures Stipulation Worksheet.

Moved: Drew
Second: Mary

Vote:  11 - 0 - 0

B) Lisa Morocco, Take Me Home Days
• Approval of $150 for posters and flyers

Lisa acknowledged and thanked Steve, Ryan, Whitney and the Macerich staff for their support in the ‘Take Me Home” Pet Adoption Days which she stated will be held 3 Saturday afternoons on the first floor in front of Macy’s at the Westside Pavilion. She said the event features pets available for adoption from the WNC area shelters and encouraged everyone to get the word out and to stop by.

The WNC moves to approve up to $150 for posters and flyers for Take Me Home Days Event.

Moved: Lisa
Second: Melissa

Vote:  11 - 0 - 0

C) John Padden
• Request to restrict eastbound Pico on to northbound Pelham
• Mobility/LUC Meeting August 13th Meeting Room A 6:30pm

John spoke in detail about the conditions contributing to the extremely dangerous turn at the corner of Pico and Pellum (eastbound Pico onto northbound Pellum). Lisa provided additional information.

John said the request to restrict traffic at this turn will be considered at the Mobility/LUC Meeting on August 13 2012 at 6:30PM in Meeting Room A.

D) Alexander Nagy, Food and Water Watch
• Support for Councilmember Koretz Resolution to put moratorium on Fracturing until it is proven safe for public health, Los Angeles water supply and the environment
Brenda of the organization spoke in detail about their activities in this regard. She explained that Food and Water Watch (FWW) is a public interest consumer organization working to ensure the food and water we consume is safe, accessible, and sustainability produced.

She said they are working on two campaigns. The first campaign is focused on stopping a $30-50 billion California corporate water grab that will particularly affect Los Angeles residents. Last week Governor Brown announced his plan to fast track building a pair of massive water tunnels near Sacramento. It would potentially be the largest public works project in the history of California. This construction of this tunnel would be a major gift to a few corporate agriculture giants in the Central Valley at the expense of Los Angeles ratepayers and taxpayers. If this passes, Los Angeles residents will be drastically impacted through water rate hikes. FWW has commissioned an independent economic analysis of the true cost of this pipeline to be released this week - in brief, it will cost Los Angeles anywhere from $1.6 billion dollars to $10.9 billion dollars. Councilman Koretz has not taken a position on the tunnel at this time.

The second is the campaign to ban hydraulic fracturing, better known as fracking, in California. She explained that fracking is the process of injecting millions of gallons of water, sand, and toxic chemicals underground at high pressures in order to release oil and gas. Oil companies are fracking here in Los Angeles on the largest urban oil field in the nation, and throughout the state. She noted fracking poses a direct and dire threat to our water and health. She said a growing list of statewide and local organizations, neighborhood councils, homeowners associations are signing on to the letter to Governor Brown and the state legislature asking for a ban on fracking statewide. The most recent local organizations calling for a ban on fracking include: the Baldwin Hills Neighborhood Council, and the Mar Vista Community Council and the Venice Neighborhood Council, just to name a few.

She said they would like the WNC support for the strong resolution on fracking authored by Councilmember Koretz. Also, that they would like us to consider signing on to the 3 letters.

Their Website: www.foodandwaterwatch.org

There was a detailed discussion of the members and stakeholders. Colleen presented information about the fracking process as she is familiar with it given her family’s background. She also commented that inferior technology and process is being utilized in a number of the current oil/gas sites.

WNC supports Councilmember Koretz resolution to put moratorium on Fracking until it is proven safe for public health, Los Angeles water supply and the environment.

Moved: Mary
Second: Melissa
Vote: 11 - 0 - 0

6. Reports:

Wesly M. Hernandez, Field Deputy
CD 5 Update

Wesly recapped the current activities of CD5. He stated that CD5 and DOT are also looking at the Pico/ Pellum turn issue.
LAPD: Senior Lead Officer Rashad
   Senior Lead Officer Mario Gonzales

Crime Update

Officer Rashad provided an update on recent crime in the WNC area. He talked about property crimes and said that distraction burglaries continue to occur. As always, the Officers urged everyone to be vigilant and to watch out for your neighbor.

He also talked about National Night Out and detailed the success of their event which was held at Stoner Park.

WestFest LA 2012 Event in Century City
Saturday Sept. 15th 4:30 - 9:00 PM

Officer DeWayne Davis and Jackie
Mark Chinapen, President, BIG TIME AFFAIRS LLC

Officer Davis, Jackie and Mark Chinapen presented details for the planned event which is being marketed as LA’s Premier Food & Beverage Festival. They said the location is at Constellation Blvd. in Century City, CA. and the event will be held on Saturday, September 15th, 2012, from 4:00 PM to 9:30 PM.

Officer Davis explained that WestFest hosted by and benefiting the West Los Angeles Community Police Station Youth Programs. He spoke to the City’s inability to assist in the funding for these valuable programs.

Officer Davis noted that the West Los Angeles Community Police Station is the largest station in Los Angeles covering over 64 square miles - that protects and serves over 500,000 persons each day and 748 street miles, bordering the cities of Beverly Hills, Culver City, and Santa Monica, Los Angeles County and the Pacific Ocean. In comparison to the other 21 community police stations, he said West Los Angeles is responsible for the largest number of square miles and that West LA Community Police Station is a community-focused department that is dedicated to promoting and ensuring the safety, education and welfare of all people throughout the city.

The group spoke about WestFest LA and said it was created to raise awareness and funds for the Youth Programs, which are designed to offer youths an opportunity to develop skills that help them throughout their lives. This includes discouraging involvement in gangs, drugs, encourages academic excellence, volunteerism, and to leverage those achievements to positively impact the community where they live. This is one of the most effective programs for the prevention of gang activity in Los Angeles.

They outlined the following:

100% of the ticket sales goes directly to West Los Angeles Community Police Station Youth Programs a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization with the following programs:

Police Athletic League (PAL): A youth crime prevention program that relies on educational, athletic and other recreational activities to cement a bond between police officers and the youths ages 6 to 17 years in our community. Team Sports are offered to kids to better themselves and their communities.

Jeopardy Program: A gang prevention and intervention program for young people ages 8 to 17 years old that provides youths and their families with tools, guidance and resources necessary for making good choices that prevent them from being drawn into the gang lifestyles and aid them to become a productive adult.
Juvenile Impact Program (JIP): The Juvenile Impact Program is to prevent and correct negative or inappropriate behavior in kids ages 9 to 17, by instilling discipline, self-esteem and respect for themselves and others. This accomplished through an intense regimented academic and physical training program much like a military boot camp.

Deputy Auxiliary Police Services (DAPS): The DAPS Program introduces kids, ages 8 to 13 to the law enforcement profession and provides the physical and mental preparation necessary to make the transition from DAPS to Cadet Programs or any other department sponsored kids programs.

Cadet Program: The purpose of the LAPD Cadet Program is to help instill discipline, leadership, academic excellence and life-skills in all youth participants ages 14-21. The LAPD Cadet Program also seeks to empower students to maximize their personal, scholastic and their personal lives.

They acknowledged the WNC for their support and assistance and said that Sponsorship and Advertising opportunities are available as well as tickets for the event.

The contact information for details is:

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6. Public Forum

Colleen announced the unanimous decision of the California Supreme Court to hear the Expo Case. She noted this is the result of many individuals and their years of hard work and dedication.

Motion to Adjourn At 9:12 PM.

Motion By: Lisa
Second By: Francesca

Motion Passed: Unanimous
Submitted By Recording Secretary