

Westside Neighborhood Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday January 10, 2013
7:0 P.M.
Westside Pavilion 10800 W. Pico
Meeting Room A

1. **Call to order** at 7:05 p.m. by Terri Tippit, WNC Chair
Admonishments to board and audience on silencing/turning off cell phones

Present:

Lisa Morocco, seat 2 (arrived at 7:13 p.m.)
Michael McIntyre, seat 3
Steve Spector seat 4
Phillip St. Pierre, seat 5
Sarah Shaw, seat 6 (gave seat to alternate during JMB presentation)
Barbara Broide seat 7 (arrived at 7:10 p.m.)
Terri Tippit, seat 8
Drew DeAscentis, seat 9
Richard Harmetz, seat 10
Mary Kusnic, seat 11
Coleen Mason seat 12
Bob Guerin seat 13
Shannon Burns seat 14
Eric Shabsis, seat 15 (seated following appointment)
Melissa Kenady, seat 16
Aaron Rosenfield, seat 17

We have a quorum

2. **Approval of November 8, 2012 minutes**

Co-recording secretary, Mary Kusnic, noted that both Shannon Burns and Barbara Broide submitted changes to her, which changes were discussed and incorporated into the amended Minutes.

Motion to approve Minutes, as amended: Melissa
Second by Phillip

Motion Passed: 12-0-1 (seat _)

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

4. **Agenda Items:**

New Business:

A) Selection Seat 15

Terri discussed Brandon Behrstock's (Seat 15, Schools) resignation and reconsideration/support of Eric Shabsis to represent Seat 15. Terri noted that Michael McIntyre (Seat 3, Business) indicated he needed an alternate, and has selected Brandon to act as his alternate. Brandon, who has a business in the Seat 3 area and qualifies, has graciously accepted that role. Terri further noted the two letters of support provided by Overland Avenue and Westwood elementary schools to Eric, and those letters were provided to the Board.

Eric spoke briefly regarding his work with the schools and his qualifications.

Motion to approve appointment of Eric Shabsis as representative for Seat 15:

Steve so moves

Melissa 2nds

Motion passed: 13-0-0

Eric seats himself.

B) Melissa Kenady, Nominating Committee Chair:

The Slate was previously provided to the Board members, following a request by the Nominating Chair for nominations/submissions.

Melissa presented the following slate for consideration by the Board:

Slate for 2013 WNC Officers:

Chair, Terri Tippit

Vice-Chair, Steve Spector

Treasurer, Lisa Morocco, Bob Guerin

Corresponding Secretary, Drew DeAscentis

Recording Secretary, Shannon Burns and Mary Kusnic

Melissa moves, Mike seconds.

Motion passes: 16-0-0

C) David Sutton, Metro

Contact:

suttond@metro.net

David Sutton, the new head of TAP (“Tap”) presented to the WNC updates on the Metro Tap Card, how to use the Metro Tap Card, and responded to questions from the Board and the audience regarding the Tap card.

Prior to his presentation, Terri discussed the reduced fare Tap Card for seniors and her new orange card. Mr. Sutton explained the senior and disabled applications that are used to receive discounted fares.

Mr. Sutton has been in his new position for the last 3 months. Made a lot of progress. Cubic makes the Tap card – a company down in San Diego.

Metro has converted the ticket vending machines to Tap machines. Can still use money on the Metro bus, but on rail, must use Tap. Metro will be locking the stations for Metro Link in June so will need by then. Testing

next week for several weeks. Locking gates for security, safety, revenue. Seeking “virtual” gates for those stations that don’t have real gates.

Mr. Sutton noted there is a Tap lab at Gateway building, across from Olvera Street.

Creating more alternatives for tapping card. Made minor changes, and making major changes. Short term changes made: Have a “head” sign that’s a static sign that explains why needed and what button to push first. Mr. Sutton brought an example to show of the “head” sign.

Also installing by ticket vending machines an explanation of various products Metro offers. So there’s a learning curve. Shows how to buy a ride on reduced and regular fares.

Long term software changes to make it easier to use. First time rider vs. return rider. Like an ATM machine.

Types of Passes:

Reduced fare – 62 or older may qualify. Need to provide photo. It’s free. Good for 3 years. Fill in the senior and disabled applications to receive discounted fares.

Terri commented that it takes over 3 weeks to get. Mr. Sutton said Metro is trying to reduce time to 10 days.

Reduced pass (orange). Can put stored value on card – various amounts. Then it will figure out if you are traveling peak vs non-peak hours. Can buy 30 day pass for \$14. Can select day pass for \$1.80.

How to load/ride:

Go to machine. Touch card at target. It will go right to screen where you need to go. There is a chip in the Tap card. If you have a blue card: press A, then press F (for 62 and older), you can use the blue pass and qualify for

reduced fare. Currently, for each ride, you have to do it how many times you want to ride in separate transactions. Updating software to do this in one transaction. Stored value vs. day pass issues. Press A. Then option of stored value vs. Metro product.

Terri suggested Metro consider a family pass. Thinks that's appropriate if Metro really wants people to use it. David said they should get a student fare from their local elementary school.

Board members expressed the fact that it is very complicated to use.

"One ride" rule – blue line, one ride; transfer to red line, one ride; transfer to bus, one ride. So \$5 day pass better deal since each "ride" = \$1.50.

Out of Order: Public Forum:

1. **Pick Pico:** Lisa announced "Pick Pico" coming back in June. There will be a meeting on January 28th at the Heyler company, corner of Pico and Pelham to discuss.
2. **Sidewalk Repair:** Terri noted that Ty and Barbara were chairing ad hoc committee on using funds for sidewalk repair. Needs from Barbara and new co-chair (since Ty no longer involved) an outline by the February meeting of how to use money. How to expend. Need to be ready for a motion in March. Barbara will handle.
3. **Daisie Cristobal Sanchez, from the Gas Company (So Cal Gas)** provided general information on the new Advanced Meter Project being introduced by the So. Cal Gas Co.. Ms. Sanchez also provided some packets explaining same.

Adding a radio communication device to the meters. 20 years is about the life span of the meters. Batteries in new meters are used rarely, and will last as long. So will be upgrading the gas meters with a communication device by 2017.

It automatically reads and securely transmits hourly gas usage info on a next day basis.

Poles (to transmit) – data collector units. There are about 384 in City of L.A. In CD5, there's about 31, 4 in WNC area. Sites will be on existing poles.

The Gas Company is doing the following outreach to communities: 90-60 days before installation, go to community outreach 30-60; community events

30 days before, they send a letter. It will give a phone number to call center for them to come out to set up date and time. So. Cal Gas Co. Employees will have their trucks. Check with call center to confirm legit.

4. Adee Drory; Tiara, assistant, for Celebrate Israel Festival.

The Festival will take place on April 21st this year, again at Cheviot Hills Park. Getting permits; getting list of streets from Lucie Bava. They have been asking for lists from 7260 and Lucie since November. Will coordinate with Lucie and Mike. Has February 1st deadline to provide lists.

Ms. Drory needs to know where signs need to be put up for no festival parking and tags to homeowners.

Ms. Drory noted that they have Fox lots 4 and 7 committed. Has just confirmed 2 more lots by Hyatt. Should have 12,000 parking spaces. Not doing VIP parking this year, because it caused a lot of traffic on Pico.

Will get info on bike parking next month. No plans to do kids projects – wasn't that successful.

Did outreach to all HOAs. Terri said not hers; Bob Guerin said not his. Ms. Drory said she got HOA info from CD5 and went by that.

This year door cost will be \$10 and \$20. Cheaper online presale. WNC will have table this year as well.

Responding to a question as to the general departing times of last year's attendees, Ms. Drory said that she found they left in 2 general groups – 4 p.m. for many families who did not want to stay for the big performance, and 6:30 p.m. for those who stayed.

Barbara suggested helping out Pico restaurants and businesses on that day with leaflets to attendees to patronize businesses close to the festival.

5. Aaron Rosenfield: On Fracking.

Aaron attended a meeting discussing this issue and provided the board with his detailed report. Hydraulic fracturing or fracking. LA one of the biggest drilling sites. Closest to WNC area is Baldwin Hills. The oil companies want to get efficiently every last drop, so they use this process of injecting water, sand, and chemicals underground at high pressure in order to release oil or gas. Fracking not regulated by the City, but by the State. There were mishaps and potential health issues. No disclosure about it unless there's a problem. Aaron provided links to websites. Earthquakes, water pollution, air pollution etc linked to this. Holly Mitchell rep assembly. Meeting on Feb. 1st.

WNC supports moratorium until we learn more about it. We previously moved to support moratorium. Terri will go to meeting on Feb. 1st.

(Back to Agenda)

D) Lisa Morocco:

Has funding motions.

1. Approve funding for 8 months website maintenance \$1600 and

website updates \$2,100 from Sketch Farm. Lisa said we've already committed to this; he's already done the work.

Motion to approve paying these bills:

Lisa moves

Melissa seconds.

15-0-1 (seat 14)

2. Approve \$1,500 to Friends of West LA for recreational equipment for LAFD 92

In response to question what is "FOWLA", Lisa stated it is a 501c(3) non-profit to take money and spend it on what WNC directs, in this case, recreational equipment for Station 92. WNC can't pay directly to LAFD to use because they aren't 501(c)(3) and any funding to LAFD would not go directly to benefit Station 92. In the past, WNC could provide funding to schools, libraries, LAPD and LAFD, but cannot do this any longer. Accordingly, Friends of WLA and other organizations (i.e. Friends of Palms Library) are given funds and they use it to pay directly for purchases. These non-profit organizations have no overhead. For example, Friends of Palms Library. They go out and buy books. We tell them what to spend money on. Run by volunteers. They have to file a statement each year on funds that come in and how they spent it.

Steve explained that if we want money to go directly to our local LAPD, if we gave to LAPD, it wouldn't go to our LAPD. Steve explains that we can't give directly, because DONE has concerns. We can't do – no vehicle by which they can accept the funds. The only way it can be accepted, it has to be through a vehicle.

Barbara feels transparency is necessary and we should see records that it goes where it's supposed to go. We need to make sure it's being processed appropriately. Eric suggests we send letter to fire dept. that they let us know what they got when they get it.

Barbara stated that her HOA is concerned over WNC expending money. Maybe there's something better out there to spend it on. Colleen stated that if there were concerns like this, the WNC needs more concrete comments from its board members rather than just "something better".

Bob G. wants to make sure any funding we provide gets where it needs to go.

Motion:

Lisa moves to approve \$1500 funding

Colleen seconds

Motion passes: 15-0-1 (seat 7)

3. Approval to fund \$768.73 to Rancho Park/Palms Library for books.

Again, the funding will go to Friend of the Rancho Park Palms Library to facilitate this.

Motion:

Lisa Moves:

Colleen seconds

Motion passes: 16-0-0

4. Recommend CD5 directs \$40,000 from Trammel Crow Funds for matching funds for MTA 2013 Call For Project (Pico Streetscape)

Lisa reported that we are now into the "long form" and we're very high up on the list. \$13 million to spend for streetscape. Ranked #2, with 87 point score.

We have 35 letters of support from the community, and Lisa thanked those who provided letters and matching fund support. Sought matching

funds from HOAs. About \$11,000 pledged from HOAs. CD5 has pledged \$50k, and thanks went to CD5. \$75k for trees already installed are counted.

Motion to Approve:

Lisa moves

Mary seconds

Discussion:

Shannon suggests HOA challenge.

Barbara said she previously requested funding from TC funds for speed monitoring equipment on Beverly Glen and was hoping to get those funds (\$22k) from TC and traffic mitigation. If more funds are coming up, Barbara would like the board to consider that. And the board to remember that request. Barbara said this equipment would be on both sides of Beverly Glen, east and west.

Steve wants to know when there will be an answer. Lisa said end of February, or March. If approved, it could take 1 - 4 years to begin work.

Motion Passes: 16-0-0

E) Sarah Shaw:(her alternate, Juan from Fox, moved into her place on the board)

Update on Century City Center

Sarah from JMB Realty. Draft EIR is close to being released. Expect release of DEIR in the next month. Very detailed; a lot of time spent on the traffic section. Will be happy to come back and answer detailed questions once it's out. They developed both Constellation Place and SunAmerica Center. They are leaders in getting Leed certification. JMB will continue with LEED and "green theme" – seeking first LEED Platinum high rise in L.A. Sixth in the nation.

The project was approved in 2006 for residential buildings. But market collapsed. Since then, 6 residential projects approved close by. So JMB wants to go back to an office project. Says 40% smaller. Following all guidelines in CC North specific plan. Going for 2 story, flexible office space to attract high tech start up companies.

Will have large gathering place that is outward rather than inward at corner of Constellation and Ave of the Stars. 5,000 square feet retail. 1,300 square feet to support commuters and their transit needs. Bike housing.

They will have a building “dashboard” with real time environmental information. Exterior has double skin facade.

7000 square feet of solar panels. High performance plant that produces ice at night; water reclaimed.

Sarah introduced Tim McOsker, one of the attorneys on the project, of Mayer Brown law firm. Talked about trips; what is size and what is use. Different trip generation from residential to office.

Discussed Save the Westside and what he believes is incorrect information provided by that group. Section 6 of the North Specific Plan provides for an “actual analysis”. LSA from Orange County is doing the analysis on the trips. Looking forward to full and robust debate on how much traffic this will generate. This has been the rule since the day the plan went into effect in 1981. Not changing the rules as others have.

Jerry: any air rights or transfer of air rights? Tim says no.

Terri wants to know what Zev meant with the intent of section 6. Because until we nail that down, we can’t talk about traffic counts. We need someone to ask Zev what the intent was. Everything comes down to traffic counts and how to calculate the trips. Ginny Kruger was the planning deputy when it was written in 1981. Zev wrote it.

Barbara suggests letting people know the website to find the Century City plan. Sarah says it's a paragraph. Terri says google it.

TDM programs drive down those rates. But Sarah says did not include potential subway.

5. Reports:

Officer Rashad:

LAPD Update (No report)

Wesly Hernandez:

CD5 Update

Wesly noted that the street repair bill has been moved to next week on bond. Koretz took his name off the 3 billion bond measure. No longer supports.

Terri commented on CD5 project – 99 Cent Store coming in in Lazi-Boy store. New owner purchased both lots. Ken Crane building will be torn down and used as a surface parking lot for the 99 Cent store. Terri's HOA is against it. Bad for traffic; bad for neighborhood. Sends a message not in line with what we want to present for Pico. There was a discussion as to whether this property was purchased by the 99 Cent Store. Barbara was told at her board meeting that they purchased it. Terri stated that her information is that the 99 Cent Store is simply leasing from the new buyer and suspects it will be a temporary lease until Expo is built. Terri feels surrounding HOA boards should take a position and let council know. Building will remain the same, signage will be changed.

Potential market/café on Pico where Sicily was. Supported by HOAs.

Barkworks no longer in mall.

On Jan 24th, CD5 will be working with other City Departments and the

public doing training. Looking for illegal dumping and signage. Meeting will be held at Cheviot Hills Rec at 6:30 to 9:00 p.m.

Open to everyone.

Copper wire theft – huge in neighborhood. Tract 7260 and Cheviot. If you see non-city trucks dealing with lights, call 911.

Announcements:

Zoning meeting

Sign Ordinance

CCF ordinance – very altered proposed by Council.

Motion to Adjourn:

Shannon moves

Mary seconds

16-0-0-

9:40 p.m. adjourned.