

Westside Neighborhood Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday March 14, 2013
7:00 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:

John Padden, seat 1
Lisa Morocco, seat 2
Michael McIntyre, seat 3
Steve Spector seat 4
Susan Bursk, (alt) seat 5
Sarah Shaw, seat 6
Barbara Broide seat 7
Terri Tippit, seat 8
Richard Harmetz, seat 10
Mary Kusnic, seat 11
Arturo Martinez, (alt) seat 12
Bob Guerin seat 13
Shannon Burns seat 14
Craig Silvers, (alt) seat 15
Stacy Antler, (alt) seat 16
Aaron Rosenfield, seat 17

We have a quorum

2. **Approval of February 14, 2012 minutes**

With a verbal change request by Barbara Broide, seat 7 on item 5, report, asking to delete “and is not relevant”:

Sara moved to approve the Minutes and John seconded

Motion passed: 10-0-4 (Seats 2, 14, 4 16)

3. Out of Order: Public Forum (Part 1)

A. Rebecca Hutman, from Eric Garcetti for Mayor, on behalf of Eric Garcetti.

Rebecca informed the NC that Eric and/or his team would be on the Westside several days a week with the hope to garner support, and touch base with her during the meeting or after the meeting if you had any questions for her.

B. Shannon Burns (Seat 14)

Shannon noted that there was a lot of events and functions going on at our religious institutions in the area, and passed out calendars of events for Temple Isaiah, Westwood Hills Congregational, and St. Timothy's. Shannon noted that Passover commences on Monday evening March 25th; Westwood Hills Congregational Church is having a number of events, including an Easter Egg Hunt for children beginning around 11:30 a.m. on March 31st following Easter worship; and in addition to the Palm Sunday, Saturday Night Vigil, and Easter services at St. Timothy's they were also having a Lenten Dinner and Speaker Series, on March 15th and March 22nd in their Parish Hall.

Shannon also mentioned that The West End craft cocktail bar and neighborhood kitchen has opened up next to Koutoubia on Westwood Blvd just south of Mississippi, handing out a few menus, and letting WNC members and guests know that it is being run by Alex, the son of Michel (who has owned and run Koutoubia for the past 30 years), and reminded people that we need to keep these long time family businesses going for the vibrancy and success of the neighborhood.

4. New Business:

A) **Lisa Morocco:**

(1) **Pick Pico**

We will be having a second annual Pick Pico event. We are going to have a central "place" for Pick Pico. The plan is to take over the Chase bank parking lot, but will need the assistance of Bank of America, since they have additional parking just north of Chase's lot. Also in discussion to take over the City parking lot north of Chase on Overland. Currently, we need written agreements and need to sign off on liability. Since this will take time, we will push Pick Pico to a later time and will seek funding for next year due to time constraints.

(2) Funding for Pico Tree Trimming/Planting

Regarding the Plant Pico with trees last year, which was a great community success, Lisa noted that some are green, some bushy, some flowering. Lisa learned this is because there were two types of flowering pear trees planted. There is the Evergreen, with green leaves all year around, and the other, that currently looks like a stick, because it is not evergreen.

80 trees put in; 1 tree didn't make it, at Prosser & Pico. Wants to trim some of the trees on the boulevard. Manning to Veteran on south side and Overland to Kelton on North Side. Tree trimming needed. Lisa also noted that the ficus in front of Nizam needs to be removed. Nizam's owner, Sam, wants it replaced with a pear tree. The ficus trees in front of Torofuku and Blee Inara also need to be removed. So 4 new trees need to go in. And insects to be destroyed.

Sarah Shaw said she believes that JMB Realty will pay for it – she will check.

Lisa makes a Motion to approve up to \$7,000 to Valley Crest for trimming, removal, planting, and Steve seconds.

Discussion.

Arturo questions what Lisa said re: dead trees, etc.

Barbara concerned with fees from City. Lisa said DOT mandates it.

Motion Approved: 15-0-1 (seat 10)

(3) Funding for \$6,000 for concept, design and printing of Walk Westwood Map and update Pick Pico Map with new businesses

Pick Pico Map discussion. Lisa said she wants the Board to consider adding a "What's on Westwood" map, with all of the businesses color coded, etc., as in the Pick Pico map. Some of the businesses have requested that there be a blank area on the map so that each business who wants to add a stamp with their discount can do so.

Lisa said that the WNC has spent a lot of effort on Pico, but have neglected Westwood, but it's time to work on Westwood, especially with the bike lane proposal and Expo station. This will be a map that goes from Pico to Santa Monica.

Motion:

Lisa Moves for up to \$6,000 for funding.

Stacy seconds.

Discussion:

Lisa said Shlomo will help with the design for a cost of about \$3,000. Mike said he would be willing to do the design without cost.

Shannon wanted to add Westwood Congregational to the map. Will consider.

Barbara suggested Pick Picwood to incorporate both maps.

Mike will figure out how best to incorporate or do two maps.

Motion Approved: 16-0-0

(4) Funding for \$350 for Pico Pear Tree Poetry Contest ribbon, printing and prizes

Lisa noted that for Plant Pico Day, over 200 showed up, and kids were naming their trees. Lisa wants to do a commemorative event re: trees. Wants to contact kids. Pick up orange ribbon; write name of tree and put it on tree. Chili cook off at Heyler and winners will get prizes.

Motion:

Lisa moved for up to \$350 for Pico pear tree prize.

Stacy seconded

Discussion:

Jae said on San Vicente they have metal placard.

Lisa talked about tying something around the tree, but the city thought it “ginchy”

Registration of the tree name will take place Heyler.

Motion approved: 16-0-0

B. Sidewalks and repair.

Barbara discussed sidewalks and funding for repairs. Can't dig up bad sidewalks. But will do shaving of concrete and filling with asphalt that can be fixed with asphalt. Street services will provide services on their off time. Will buy truck loads of asphalt. They have to do pass-overs (1/8 of an inch). About \$75 for shaving.

Barbara will count up concrete shavings and those with asphalt needs.

It was noted that DONE needs by May 15th.

Prosser to Veteran proposed as first block for repairs. The Bureau of Street Services now allowing this – residences, NC, allow for overtime services. See their website. Barbara said all we need to do is encumber funds. We just need paper on desk. Doesn't have to be done until later, but needs to encumber funds with documentation.

Motion: Barbara moved for up to \$10,000 for sidewalk project, subject to the availability of funds.

Lisa seconds.

Discussion:

John just wants to make sure we spend good money. Barbara said feels shaving first is the best. Council members agree that shaving is better over asphalt fills.

Motion Approved: 15-0-1 (seat 10)

5. Out of Order: Public Forum (Part 2)

Terri noted Evan Roosevelt, a representative from Clear Channel Outdoor has come to the meeting, but he is not on the agenda. Accordingly, before discussion on the agenda motion on billboards, Evan spoke in Public Forum.

Evan stated that he is willing to return and give a bigger presentation regarding the Billboard Settlement, and what is moving forward in City Council concerning the billboards. Clear Channel does not want the WNC to vote on anything this month, but wait until next month, after Clear Channel can be agenda and discuss their side of the issue. They want to be part of the conversation. Evan noted Clear Channel was part of a coalition that includes non profits like the Ad Council, Operation Hope, and law enforcement agencies, like County Sheriff Lee Baca and FBI that supports digital signs. Wants us to postpone any decision until the next meeting so they could have the opportunity of making a presentation to the board. Could find information about the coalition at Signupla.org The coalition is promoting the digital billboards because they provide community and safety information.

WNC members asked when the PLUM hearing was to take place, and it was noted that would be this month. Won't have voice in PLUM if WNC honored Evan's request.

6. New Business (Part 2):

A. Billboards.

Barbara discussed Citizens of L.A. and the hearing on the Summit Media case challenging secret billboard settlements that allowed hundreds of billboards to convert to digital. Barbara discussed the process and the appeals court decision. She noted that the City has been working on a sign ordinance for years. There are permitted signs that will remain under the new ordinance in sign districts (commercial districts).

A Visioning Committee was formed to see if there was something they had in common. Nothing happened. The Committee report will come out saying this is premature. Barbara wants the WNC to approve a motion to send a letter to PLUM to implement the appeals court ruling and remove the illegal signs, among other things.

Motion: Bob – to table the agendized motion of Barbara until next month to allow Clear Channel to present their side, and John seconds.

Discussion:

Stacy wanted to know if a letter by the WNC will impact PLUM one way or another. WNC was told that it needs to get to PLUM by the 18th to be considered. It was stated that, yes, it is important that any motion by the WNC needs to be considered by PLUM, and generally more weight is given to a NC weighing in than a homeowner's association, so the impact is there if the WNC does not take a position at this time.

Bob felts that in fairness, we should hear from both sides. Susan wanted to know if the WNC had taken a position on this issue in the past, and it was stated, yes, it had. Steve said he would like to hear from Clear Channel, but could do so next month.

Shannon stated her concern that Clear Channel, who clearly knew about the WNC meeting and what was on the agenda, and knew of WNC's previous record on the issue as well as the long history of constituent concerns and battles, waited until the last minute to try to, in her view, undermine the process by not getting on the agenda. They know the rules, they know the Brown Act. We have a properly noticed meeting with an agenda with this issue on it and she does not condone their tactics. While Shannon would have appreciated listening to their side, she does not appreciate this improper tactic trying to come in at the last minute to derail this motion, and because of that, she would be against tabling the motion.

Bob called for the question.

Motion defeated: 3 (seats 1, 8, 13) - 10 - 3 (seats 4, 6, 11).

Motion: Barbara:

The WNC urges the City of Los Angeles to fully implement the appeals court ruling in the Summit Media LLC v. City of Los Angeles and to remove the 103 illegal digital billboards blanketing our city. Further, we oppose any and all attempts to grandfather these illegal billboards, or any other action that would retroactively seek to legalize them. We also urge the City to determine the legal status of older, un-permitted static billboards as soon as possible, and to immediately proceed with the removal of all illegal billboards so that a baseline level of permitted signs can be established.

Seconded: Lisa

Motion approved: 11 – 0 - 5 (Seats 1, 6, 8, 11, 13)

B. Update on Casden Hearing

Terri noted that the deadline for consideration was that day. Otherwise staff recommendation would have gone forward to PLUM. Asked for 16 stories be moved 500 feet from freeway. Design a little better.

Will continue to watch.

C. Bike Plan

Aaron discussed the Bike Lanes Don't have to follow CEQA. Exempt.
Susan said Century City Chamber sent a letter saying council said there would be a full EIR. Goes against what City Council said originally.

Shannon mentioned Rev. Kirsten of Westwood Congregational opposed bike lanes on Westwood. There was a cyclist accident last Sunday.

D. DONE NC future election date (choose between 3 choices-Spring 2014, Fall 2014 or Spring 2015)

Terri discussed elections and postponing them. The City wants us to pay for election – \$7k we'd have to pay if it was done this year. We'll be getting another reduction in NC money. We don't want no further cuts and not delay.

Options Spring 2014
Fall 2014
Spring 2015

Poll:

Option 1: 0

Option 2: 2 (seats 4, 13)

Option 3: 14

7. Reports:

A. Officer Mario (Rashad not present):

LAPD Update. Crime down. Shannon asked about massage parlors. Will get someone coming next month from Vice

B. CD5, Wesly Hernandez:

CD5 Update. Israeli festival – coming next month
planning meeting today with them today. Have 11,400 parking spaces available.
Date for April 21st.

CICLAVIA – Also April 21, 2013.

Sean Bayliss will be the new Christopher Koontz for the interim period.

C. WNC – Now with Phillip St. Pierre resigned, Gregg Berwin Westfield – Development Director, introduced himself. He works at Westfield, and wants Seat 5; Susan wants to be alternate. On agenda for next month.

8. Public Comment (Part 3)

Barbara Broide discussed the plan for street installation of LED lights. Barbara will forward letter for review and consideration. Brightness etc. Needs a yellow hue. LAPD will be involved. Bureau of street lighting.

Arturo Martino requested that in the billboard letter to include the WNC's plan to hear from Clear Channel next time.

Motion to adjourn:

Shannon

Mary seconded

Unanimous

Adjourned: 9:15 p.m.