

Westside Neighborhood Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday May 9, 2013
7:00 P.M.
Westside Pavilion 10800 W. Pico
Meeting Room A

1. **Call to order** at 7:08 p.m. by Terri Tippit, WNC Chair

Present:

John Padden, seat 1
Lisa Morocco, seat 2
Brandon Behrstock, (alt), seat 3
Steve Spector seat 4
Gregg Berwin, seat 5
Barbara Broide seat 7
Terri Tippit, seat 8
Drew DeAscentis, seat 9
Richard Harmetz, seat 10
Mary Kusnic, seat 11
Coleen Mason Heller, seat 12 (Arrived 7:45 p.m.)
Shannon Burns seat 14
Eric Shabsis, seat 15
Aaron Rosenfield, seat 17

We have a quorum

2. **Approval of April 11, 2013 Minutes:**

Co-Secretary Mary Kusnic received two additions to the Minutes from Bob Guerin (seat 13) and Barbara Broide (seat 7) in Section G pertaining to the elections and proposal that Bob Guerin lead a committee. With Changes:

Lisa moved to approve,

Aaron seconded.

11-0-2 (seats 3 and 15). Motion to approve minutes passed.

3. **Report from Council District 5 (out of order): Wesly Hernandez:**

Wesly announced that the council office was still in the throes of balancing the city budget. They are still trying to look for things on which to save money. Councilmember Koretz is looking for suggestions.

Wesly noted the DWP light and electrical outage issues earlier this week, when an underground

transformer blew up. As a result, several other above ground transformers also blew. Wesley noted that if an area resident had damage to an appliance or structure, there is a claims process to go through with the DWP. Wesley will get DWP claims forms for damages. He noted that from submission of the form, it does take a couple of months for review.

4. Report from LAPD/Officer Rashad (out of order).

Officer Rashad introduced Sargent Gaffney, undercover from the WLA Vice unit. Sargeant Gaffney noted that his unit was one of the smallest vice units in the City. Their unit deals with gambling, prostitution, and alcohol sales violations. Most gambling is off shore, so that is not a concern here.

Regarding prostitution, there are no street walkers in this area. In this area, there are generally out-call and in-call operations. Businesses may be set up in apartment complexes. If there are question about these issues to investigate, he will provide his number and they will investigate. Massage parlors – popping up everywhere. Zoning is an issue of the City of L.A. (i.e. with respect to the “NOD” - neighborhood oriented district). Vice does not handle. Zoning does. Police give permits and massage therapy permits. When Vice is notified, they first do an upfront inspection to see if there is a City permit and State permit with massage therapist council. They do not go out routinely like with the ABC where they do investigations every 2 years.

Main vice unit is downtown and they have a citywide vice unit that helps out. If abatement program is needed, they come out. Sargent Gaffney thinks about 50% are legitimate. If specific locations are of concern, or they hear from neighbors of various concerns, they will go out and investigate. Sargent Gaffney can be reached at 310-444-1514.

The vice unit establishes a database and will check to see if the massage parlors are in compliance. Workman’s compensation insurance is required, and they are not allowed to have locks on the inside room.

A question regarding whether the medical marijuana businesses are within the vice unit’s purview. Sargent Gaffney said no. He said that vice and narcotics don’t go hand in hand, they are separate units. The vice unit usually works weekends through Saturday; and are usually off on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday.

Regarding alcohol, they do monitor establishments for under-age drinking/purchases. They have a minor decoy.

Sargent Gaffney noted that the weekend of the 30th, because of the upcoming graduations, there will be lots of under cover operations. The goal is to make sure people are in compliance and not to entrap.

34223 (Gaffney badge number)

Officer Rashad then spoke. In response to questions about the last month, with police activity (including overhead helicopters), Office Rashad noted that streets had been blocked off on Pico and Military about 10 days ago. They broke into a car, which was reported, and ran into Bourbon Street Bar & Grill. This happened on April 28, 2013, past midnight. 1 guy got away.

Crime is down, but they are now experiencing high-end vehicle break ins. Parts are sold on ebay and Craigs list. Airbags, mirrors, etc.

Officer Rashad noted that on May 2nd, 2300 block of Selby – burglary.

Aaron questioned what recently happened in the 2800 block Glendon. Officer Rashad stated that the guy called the police on himself. He was popping pills and drinking.

25483 – Mario Gonzalez. 2100 block of Manning. Cutting through deadbolt of door.

To get updates on area crimes:

Www.Lapdepolicing . Org

Input one address.

Officer Rashad’s phone number:

310-444-0738

Baker to Vegas race was discussed. Will participate on Memorial Run next week.

LAPD elite team won this year, as did the women’s team.

5. New Business:

A. Cees Bailey, council file 12-0785 beekeeping in R-1 zone.

Cees discussed issue with Chelsea McFarland who knows the ins and outs of the council file. Cees lives at Manning and Tennessee, so a stakeholder. Works for Honeylove. Non profit. Helps educating on urban beekeeping. Teaches about urban vs. commercial beekeeping. Cees asked that the Council consider a Motion supporting their letter for motion favoring feasibility study on this. Helps the honey bee survive.

Barbara Broide spoke of her personal experience with bees. Terri Tippit said CD5 is in support. Chelsea said Councilmember Rosendahl has supported this. There are between 5 and 11 colonies here per square mile.

Cees and Chelsea have a website that explains the issues and how to set up one. Language in the file requires a permit. Brandon Behrstock: asked questions about motion and whether it had a rescue portion. Right now city brings in someone to rid. County manages abatement procedures. Brandon asked about the safety of adjacent properties. Chelsea said the regulations are very specific.

Eric Shabsis: Questions about DWP. They exterminate them. Is there going to be a pilot program? Susan in Manhattan beach will first call bee rescuer.

Motion to support council file proposal:

Mary made motion

Steve seconded

13-0-0 Motion passed.

Terri will send to Rosendahl's office and Koretz, with a copy to honeylove.org

B. Conner Everts. So Cal watershed alliance in Santa Monica.

Now called twin water tunnels. Conner appeared in place of Brenna Norton. Works for DWP. Works on environmental issue. Thinks proposal is premature. Water demands have flattened out. Right now in a dry time. Will take about 20 years, 20-50 billion to create tunnels. Long engineering project. Has a letter. Been to other NCs. EIR will come out in October. Can now do rain water which used to be illegal. May end up on property tax or water rates over a long period of time. Water rates will go up anyway but this will be more if this happens. Terri wants to know if they want us to write a letter supporting his letter. Is there an ordinance that allows this (conserving) and if so, what is it? Low impact in public works. State law for grey water. Will send info.

Connere@west.net

Motion to approve letter:

Aaron moves

John seconds

12-0-2 (3 and 14).

Motion passes.

C. **Clear Channel.** Off agenda this month.

D. **Terri – update on Casden**

Thinks it won't get to council before July 1st.

6. Lisa

A. Treasurer report.

B. Walk Westwood map, people working on this

C. Payments made to park, police dept. March 4th submitted and still not paid!

D. Funding committee meeting Saturday, May 11, 2013 at 5:30 p.m. Dick, Bob, Melissa, Mary and Terri. Will present how to fund things, will bring in June. Barbara says Board should come to committee with criteria and ideas. Lisa said she followed Barbara's advice, and bring ideas – started last year. Lisa said we're not putting into pockets like we did before. We started last year. To go over percentage to see what goes where. Want to keep it open to have each person make their case. We have 37k. Community benefits. Just doing the nuts and bolts of where to put it, but not specific projects.

7. Tree naming winners picked by Vito

A. Gracie Goverlman

B. Lauren Fowler

C. Caroline Heron

Public Comment:

1. Barbara spoke on Billboards.
2. Amber Meeshack, of DONE. Amber noted that May 15th is funding process deadline. Also discussed forms; bylaws deadlines, etc.
3. Dick Harnetz, re: Israeli festival.

Promises were made to Tract 7260 in connection with the Israeli festival. First year, none kept by the organizers. Mike Eveloff got a lot of promises the next year. They had several people patrolling. Only 8 signs were put up and pulled down almost immediately. No promises kept. One police car. No one got ticketed, other than a couple near Pico.

Tract 7260 is not opposed to festival, but thinks it should be operated properly and kept promises. Felt CD5 and Festival did not keep promises.

Terri noted there were other large events that weekend, and only so many DOT staff able to patrol. Feels Israeli festival organizers should look ahead so festival doesn't conflict with other things.

Colleen Mason Heller on behalf of Cheviot also complained and said not considering the community and making commitments they do not keep. They did not come to Cheviot HOA at all.

Adjournment:
Lisa moved to adjourn
Shannon seconded.
Adjourned 8:50 p.m.