

Westside Neighborhood Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 13, 2015
7:00 P.M.
Westside Pavilion
10800 W. Pico

AGENDA (Items Appear As Called)

1. Call to Order

Call to order: 7:07 PM

By Terri Tippit, WNC Chair

Attendance:

Jae Wu (Seat 1)

Brandon Behrstock (Seat 3)

Steve Spector (Seat 4)

Sarah Shaw (Seat 6)

Barbara Broide (Seat 7)

Terri Tippit (Seat 8)

Sean McMillian (Seat 9)

Stacy Antler (Seat 10)

Mary Kusnic (Seat 11)

Francesca Beale-Rosano (Seat 13)

Eric Shabsis (Seat 15)

Lisa Tabor (Seat 16)

Aaron Rosenfield (Seat 17)

Absent:

Lisa Morocco (Seat 2)

David Burke (Seat 5)

Colleen Mason Heller (Seat 12)

Shannon Burns (Seat 14)

2. Agenda Items:

New Business:

A) Approval of February 12, 2015 minutes:

Minutes were reviewed and discussed. Two changes submitted to update the correct the spelling of Cotner and adjust numbering/lettering.

Motion to approve: Mr. Spector

Second: Ms. Antler

Passed, 10-0-3

B) Public Comment:

Felicia Park-Rogers, Sheila Kuehl's Office, Westside Senior Field Deputy.

fparkrogers@bos.lacounty.gov, 213-974-3333:

Ms. Kuehl was sworn in December 1. The Supervisor is opening a Westside LA Field Office at the WLA Civic Center by Mike Bonin's Office. The 3 top issues for the Supervisor are: (1) health, (2) transportation and (3) child family welfare. The Dept of Mental Health is being reorganized. 3 agency heads will report to one director. Work is being done on the Blue Ribbon Commission to clarify roles in protecting children. More info at: <http://www.blueribboncommissionla.com/>. Transportation funding for the Purple Line will be coming shortly. There are a lot of ways to find out what is going on with the Supervisor: (1) She can be liked on Facebook to receive a daily post, (2) there is a weekly email called "Kuehl Happenings", and the Supervisor's website is accessible at <http://supervisorkuehl.com/>. There is a new deputy for Housing and Homelessness and real attention is on the issue. It is great to be here tonight.

Elnie Vannatim, Fox Entertainment, elnie.vannatim@fox.com, 310-369-2810:

I have an update on movies FOX is providing for community events on June 24 and August 26.

Ms. Tippit – Did we already pay for the movies?

Ms. Vannatim – Rio and Ice Age The Meltdown will be brought to you by FOX if it has not been already paid for.

(Note from February 2015 minutes - Ms. Morocco made a motion for funding for \$525 for two movies for Palms Park's Summer Movie Program (Honey I shrunk the Kids for \$250 and Flubber for \$275) contingent on the funding not coming from another source such as FOX or NBC. Second: Ms. Antler 16-0-0.)

Craig Silvers, City Charter School, craig@bamrap.com:

A petition has been granted to start a high school. A co-location has been authorized by LAUSD for a 9th grade of approximately 125 students at Emerson. The plan is to be there for 1 year, while a lease is negotiated at the former Barbri site at Motor and National. Some Emerson students/parents are not happy about the co-location. The capacity of Emerson is 1500, but there are currently fewer than 600 students, so there is room. 125 students is not a big difference. We respect Emerson and will work with their program. They respect what we are doing, so we will not interfere with each other.

Mr. McMillian – Won't there be some impact on congestion?

Mr. Silvers – Yes, but there is capacity. The Emerson parents are concerned about having 9th graders on the same campus as 6th graders. LACES is considered one of the best schools in California and the nation and there are 6th and 12th graders there.

Mr. Behrstock – You are talking about the interim, but once you are there what if it becomes permanent? Why not put it in writing you will only be there for one year?

Ms. Silvers – I don't know if we can do that because we are assigned to Emerson by LAUSD. The goal of City High School is to be south of the 10 and east of the 405. Emerson is not where we want to be long term.

Ms. Tippit – Emerson does have space.

Ms. Broide – Have you thought about a carpool program to mitigate traffic?

Mr. Silvers – We are talking about it and one already exists at our other location.

Mr. McMillian – I drop off kids next door to Emerson and managing traffic is a good idea because you can be stuck in the stop and go for 20 minutes at times.

Member of the public – Why Emerson?

Mr. Silvers – It was LAUSD's decision and they appointed us to the school.

Ms. Tippit – Let us know if we need to put this on the Agenda and write a letter.

Mr. Shabsis – Long term we need to have a conversation with the neighborhood council on planning for the site.

Norm Bernier, West LA Chamber of Commerce, normanbernier@hotmail.com. 310-441-2900:

Good evening. Last month two members of our organization spoke. I will be the liaison to the neighborhood council in place of Steve. There is a upcoming event on Thursday, March 19 from 5:30-7:30 PM featuring Former Governor Michael Dukakis at the Delphi Greek, 1383 Westwood Blvd. Free for guests and \$20 for non-members. More info at: <http://www.westlachamber.org>.

Ms. Tippit – What is the Chamber going to be doing with regard to Pick Pico?

Mr. Bernier – Jae and Lisa spoke at our last meeting. No in depth conversation has occurred yet. This is the first year we are hearing about it.

Ms. Tippit – We look forward to partnering with you for the event.

Ms. Broide – Is the Chamber supportive of rezoning Pick Pico? We are not supporting it.

Mr. Bernier – I don't know, but I do not think so.

Adee Drory, Israeli American Council and Celebrate Israel, 818-974-0178, adee@israeliamerican.org, www.celebrateisraelfestival.com:

I am part of a production company that supports Jewish organizations. We are operating in six states with festivals this year in four cities. 17,000 people participated in Celebrate Israel last year. We are well aware of parking issues and we want to try to make sure people do not park in the neighborhoods. Last year, I did not receive any calls. I understand it was not a problem?

Ms. Tippit – Correct.

Ms. Antler – You had parking enforcement officers, which helped a lot.

Ms. Drory – We will again have FOX lots 4+7 this year, the same as last year. We will also have the Century Park West garage. We are not taking 2000 Ave because nobody parked there last year; it was a waste of money. LAPD feels we have enough parking. Celebrate Israel will be May 17. Gates will go up on Wednesday before. Thursday – Saturday will be the site preparation, with the park still open. Sunday the park will be closed, including the tennis courts for the Festival. I have called HOAs, but no responses back yet.

Ms. Antler – We can talk because I am in the area most impacted.

Mr. Behrstock – Signs are very helpful with sufficient distance to avoid traffic for people not going to the event. A sign is needed on Beverly Glen so people do not drive into the traffic and then cannot get out.

C) Aaron Rosenfield, WNC Member at Large on Mobility:

(Reference Agenda Item 4 b.) Aaron Rosenfield, Update on Mobility Plan 2035 and changes that were made from Mobility Plan 2035 DEIR circulated February 2014 which included additional miles on Transit Enhanced Network (TEN), Neighborhood Enhanced Network (NEN) to support pedestrian activity and Expand Enhanced Network (BEN).

Aaron - presented an update on the Mobility Plan stating that the City's DEIR impacts mobility thru 2035 and noted that it increases traffic congestion. Highlighting that the report openly states that the project will result in 'significant and unavoidable' impacts, he said we need a plan that increases mobility without

increasing congestion. Aaron discussed a summary of the impacts described in 5 key areas which he outlined as follows:

1. BEN – Bicycle Enhanced Network

Bike lanes for:

- Veteran (Expo to Santa Monica)**
- Manning (Santa Monica to almost Pico)**
- Tennessee (Veteran to Manning)**

WOWHOA - Counter proposed protected bike lanes for Sepulveda and Santa Monica. People do not have issues riding a bike down their small neighborhood street. The issue is getting beyond that. We do need a bike network that is safe and that your average Angelino will be safe utilizing. Aaron noted the plan will take away lanes/parking and bike lanes on local streets are not going to incentivize bike use and will create traffic. He said the proposed protected bike lanes –Sepulveda, National to Santa Monica complete the network existing in the area and that this is one of the chief routes going into the Valley.

2. TEN - Transit Enhanced Network

- Westwood Blvd – Moderate (all): No change to lane configuration; Double frequency of bus service.**
- Pico – Moderate Plus (all): Convert one vehicular travel lane per direction to a bus only lane during peak periods; Double frequency of bus service.**
- Sepulveda – Comprehensive (all): Convert one vehicular travel lane per direction to a bus only lane for the full day; Double frequency of bus service.**
- Santa Monica – Comprehensive (405 to passed Beverly Glen): Convert one vehicular travel lane per direction to a bus only lane for the full day; Double frequency of bus service.**

Aaron – stated that City is taking a one size fits all approach in this regard and that this needs to be studied and re-thought.

3. PEN – Pedestrian Enhanced Network - Infrastructure (e.g., way-finding, street trees, and lighting), bulb-outs and sidewalk widening.

Aaron – noted this includes the following streets:

- Westwood Blvd (all)**
- Olympic (most)**
- Pico (Overland to Sepulveda)**
- Overland (patches Santa Monica to National)**
- Veteran (just south of Santa Monica)**
- Sepulveda (patches Santa Monica to National)**
- Manning (patches between Santa Monica and Pico)**

4. NEN – Neighborhood Enhanced Network –

Aaron - stated the added street calming that can include the following: bump outs, roundabouts, ample sidewalks and street trees. Moderate - Signalized crosswalk, landscaped medians and street trees. Comprehensive - Curb bulb-outs, mini traffic circles, neckdowns, chicanes, raised crosswalks, speed tables and diagonal diverter.

He said the NEN's are proposed for the following streets:

- Olympic (405 to Manning) Constellation (405 to past Manning)**
- Veteran –Priority (all)**
- Manning – Priority (all)**
- Tennessee (405 to past Beverly Glen)**

5. VEN – Vehicle Enhanced Network

Aaron – explained that for Olympic this is comprehensive (all) – To increase vehicle travel speeds by 10 percent; Add one vehicular travel lane per direction by conversion of on-street parking to vehicle travel lanes during peak periods, which, as he noted, is already being done.

Barbara – said communication is needed with the Planning Commission and that a Planning Commission meeting was held today.

Sean – expressed concerns.

Barbara – said the Westside Mobility Study is still underway and not out yet; and this study is important to what is being presented here regarding the City DEIR. She also expressed concerns including noise from buses in neighborhoods and what the Expo impacts will be as well as the Century City TMO which shuttles to and from Expo.

Sean – stated concerns in significant increase in accidents and noted Overland as an example.

Eric – commented on mitigations.

Barbara – noted the need for paired streets for efficiency for the plan to work. There was additional detailed discussion of the members and several stakeholders present.

Aaron – stated the plan is not optimal.

Terri – highlighted concerns and spoke of potential issues and impacts of Expo which are not known at the present time.

Eric – said that Councilmember Mike Bonin is familiar with the Westside issues.

Terri - summarized issues and stated the Councilmember Mike Bonin is the Chair of the Los Angeles Transportation Committee.

Felicia Park-Rogers, Shelia Kuehl's Westside Field Deputy – noted their work and involvement in traffic mitigation and transportation issues and suggested sending and or copying a letter to their office.

Motion By Barbara – “The Westside Neighborhood Council moves to write a letter to Michael LoGrande in the Planning Department with a copy to Mike Bonin’s office in support of the comments that were submitted to the Planning Department on March 6, 2015 by WOWHOA and to address the issues and concerns as presented with the option to consider and submit a follow up letter with suggested alternatives.”

Second: Sean

Motion Passed 13 – 0 – 0

D) Mr. McMillian, WNC Homeless Committee Chair:

SB 608, the Right to Rest Act, gives homeless the right to rest in public environments like (parks, streets, etc). We know the homeless population in Los Angeles has fluctuated. I have read 82,000 homeless in LA as a statistic. 27% have lost jobs within a year. Living paycheck to paycheck can impact people at any time. How do we want to be advocates? What is our neighborhood connection? I have read 22% of homeless can be sex offenders. On Sepulveda they are changing restrictions. So where do people go? Will the homeless travel to Exposition? Under other freeway underpasses? What are the solutions to these problems? 30% are mentally ill. Kids, another scary part of the problem.

Ms. Broide – I received calls from businesses on Cotner between Santa Monica Blvd and Olympic. When the sidewalk is blocked, people cannot get around and it creates American Disability Act issues.

Member of the public – Some people under the underpass on Westwood were having a loud party.

Mr. Behrstock – Sex offender laws are driving some people to homeless encampments. It is a problem.

Member of the public – In San Diego there was a Supreme Court case applying to the City where you cannot just have a blanket 2,000 ft ban on sex offenders. Other areas could file similar lawsuits, even though this particular lawsuit was limited to San Diego.

Mr. McMillian – There are health and safety issues with bathrooms. There are crime issues. As a community we need to formulate an approach. I was recently at Skid Row and there are 10,000 homeless there now.

Ms. Broide – Does the City have a position on the bill? Do we want to make a motion to suggest the City Council take action?

Mr. McMillian – It is a good idea to make a motion.

Ms. Broide – We need to ask the legislative deputy.

Mr. McMillian – I have a meeting with Chuy on Monday. I can ask.

Ms. Tippit – Will there be a committee meeting?

Mr. McMillian – I need to figure out a schedule, but yes.

Ms. Tippit – While you are talking, do you want to also speak about schools?

Mr. McMillian – I wanted to let people know that I have been appointed the Subcommittee Chair for Westwood Charter issues dealing with enrollment. My kids do not go there. I am hearing about concerns of overcrowding, redistricting, redistribution to Nora Sterry and Richland. There have been lots of redistricting rumors, making parents alarmed. The school has been unprepared for the rumors. People invest in the community for the school. I went to the WSSM meeting and had a meeting at my office where 15 people showed up. People were very emotional. Fear is driving sentiments. The group wants to make a statement against redistricting.

Ms. Broide – It is an emotional issue. There is anxiety because of last year. People thought their kids were in Westwood Charter and then told they would be bussed somewhere else. People received a letter saying their school was overcrowded and their kids would be bussed to an undisclosed location. People have gotten crazed because they bought a house for a certain school and then became concerned because the boundaries could be moved. There is a state charter policy that says once you have attended a school you can stay until graduation.

Ms. Shabsis – As part of the law, parents have to give truthful information.

Ms. Broide – Parents are concerned the school is not vetting the students. Parents learned that other schools have personnel assigned to working on these issues. In this area, it is just a utility bill to show proof, which is not enough.

Member of the public – When people move from the school, they do not tell the school they move.

Ms. Wu – The bigger issue is that people who are not in the district are enrolling their kids. Enrollment started last week and this needs to be figured out immediately.

Mr. McMillian – We do not have an efficient system. It is a divisive community issue that encourages whistle blowing.

Mr. Shabsis – Parents not teaching children...

Member of the public – What is stopping the school for doing verification?

Ms. Broide – The principal needs to decide how to do it and budget for it. There is a financial issue. Only one of three people can do this work, plus there are associated monthly costs.

Mr. Spector – There is a cultural component. You do not want to have to throw people out.

Ms. Tippit – Carpenter did and students had to move in the middle of the year.

E) Mr. Spector, Online Voting:

There has been a request by the Los Angeles Neighborhood Council Coalition (LANCC) to put Online Voting on the agenda prior to a Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (BONC) vote on March 16th. The online voting system is estimated to cost \$1 million dollars in unused funds from the neighborhood council budgets.

Mr. Behrstock – This is a normal practice by governments for accounting, so that in the budgeting next year, money is not lost because it was returned.

Ms. Tippit – There has been a lack of discussion with the neighborhood councils on this.

Mr. Rosenfield – Is this an emergency motion?

Ms. Tippit – No.

Motion by Mr. Spector to support LANCC motion: We move that DONE not enter into a contract for online voting in Neighborhood Council elections at this time. We further move that DONE conduct additional outreach and survey each Neighborhood Council to determine whether or not the NCs wants this nearly \$1 million dollar expenditure to create online voting and whether or not each NC wishes to participate in online voting in the future. Finally, we move that the outreach and survey by DONE specifically examine and discuss how factual basis stakeholders will be verified to vote, including whether any person can vote

in any or all NC elections by simply claiming to have a stake in each neighborhood.

Second: Ms. Broide

Unanimous

F) LA City Council District Representative—Chuy Orozco:

Mr. Orozco presented on the Homeless Coalition meeting. Coordination is occurring with the Los Angeles Homeless Service Authority (LAHSA) and People Assisting the Homeless (PATH) to solve the homeless issue. It is not just about having RVs going from place to place, but to come up with real solutions. On the RVs, we asked it to be waived in committee. It is on the agenda for March 25.

Mr. Shabsis – You might consider reaching out to Carol Sobel who is a legal advocate for the homeless as it may be helpful for protecting the City on the back end. Sometimes it is better to reach out beforehand.

Mr. Orozco – I can do that. Other council districts are already using it.

Ms. Tippit – Mike Bonin’s is one of them.

Mr. Shabsis – 405 Cotner parking lot might be a good place as a solution.

Ms. Broide – If that happens, I suggest fencing.

Ms. Park-Rogers – Leo Back Temple is looking at opening its parking lot at night by the Getty. Case Managers and Security would be there.

Mr. Orozco – Interim Control Ordinance on Mansionization is going to PLUM on Tuesday at 2:30 PM. Last time it was tabled by Councilman Cedillo. Not sure if testimony will be taken because it was previously on the agenda. Developers are very concerned and have been contacting our office. 70% of the neighborhood we estimate is in favor.

Member of the public – Most of the neighbors do not know this is coming. I came tonight because of this issue. There needs to be further information and better communication.

Mr. Orozco – This is coming on the heels of several years of complaints.

Mr. Rosenfield – This is an 18 month temporary moratorium.

Member of the public – I want to make sure the neighborhood council speaks for the neighbors. I am one of the new families and this is the issue that captured my attention.

Ms. Tippit – The problem is you build bigger houses and you get overpopulation.

Mr. Rosenfield – I will say again that this is an 18 month temporary moratorium, a stop gap measure while we figure out a real solution to the long term issue. We should be talking about permanent solutions now.

Mr. Shabsis – Many of our constituents are not active and don't know what is going on. Some people are going through permitting for additions who are not developers. My advice has been to get applications in immediately. Not everybody designing a house is a developer. You can design a big house without it being a box. Now the recession is behind us, some families have extra money and they want to build. One family in Stacey's neighborhood has spent \$75,000 with an engineer on plans that are not in compliance with the ICO.

Mr. Behrstock – Everybody is arguing a position. Let's discuss the merits of those positions. The moratorium is so people can discuss merits and allow consensus to occur. Let's talk about the merits of the ICO.

Mr. Shabsis – A group of people are getting a voice that doesn't like the moratorium.

Ms. Tippit – Not every group chose to be a part of it.

Ms. Broide – Some people feel like the neighborhood character is being lost. When a 5,000 sq ft house gets built, it impacts everyone.

Mr. McMillian – There is a shifting of value to smaller properties basically becoming land value.

Mr. Orozco – The Los Angeles Marathon is on Sunday. It is starting ½ hour earlier because it is expected to be hot. More info at: <http://www.lamarathon.com/>.

Transit Neighborhood Plan – We have a draft. We are considering the comments made by Mike Eveloff and Aaron Rosenfield sent to our office.

The Special Olympic is July 23. Century City and UCLA are two of the locations. Different events will occur throughout the city. 170 countries are represented. More info at: <http://www.specialolympics.org/los-angeles-2015.aspx>.

Thank you very much to Jae for her work on Pick Pico. We will cover ½ the costs for Selby permitting.

Pop up library issues are being worked on.

E) WNC Treasurer Report – Brandon Behrstock, Treasurer:

**Mr. Behrstock made a motion to approve the Monthly Expenditure Report (MER), which includes \$563 in expenditures with a balance of \$36,284:
Second: Mr. Rosenfield
Discussion – 11 people is the new quorum based on DONE rules.
10-0-1 (Seat 3)**

Ms. Wu, Pick Pico Chair – Asking for a Pick Pico Budget for up to \$22,500, \$4500 of which has already been approved for Street Banners. We will have 35% increased capacity this year with Selby and the Bank of America parking lot. 50 businesses last year, 17 artists and six charitable organizations. More businesses and charitable organizations are slotted to participate. Wiggle room is built into the budget. I, of course, will try to get the best prices on all expenditures. We have sponsors already saving us \$10,000. We are going incorporate comments from last year's debrief such as having a food court.

Ms. Tippit – We are paying for cleanup this year. Last year the committee worked hard with trash, not again.

Ms. Broide – Will there be recycling?

Ms. Wu – yes.

Mr. Behrstock – Is it in the budget as a line item?

Ms. Tippit – Yes, it is included.

Mr. Behrstock – As rules go, \$150 for a past meeting cannot be reimbursed. There is a process. The board has to approve money in advance for an expenditure before money can be spent. \$150 needs to be removed from the budget approvals for a reimbursement.

Ms. Wu made a motion for funding for up to \$22,500 for Pick Pico 2015, which includes the following line items:

- \$4500 for street banners (previously approved, Feb 2015)**
- \$500 for food for remaining committee meetings**
- \$100 for Pick Pico website**
- \$750 for permits to close Selby street and alley and to place bathrooms in city lot.**
- \$400 for posters/flyers**
- \$1900 for T-shirts**
- \$3500 for 1500 tote bags**
- \$200 for plastic table cloth cover**
- \$285 for porta pottie**
- \$1500 for food court area--tables, tent, chair**
- \$1500 for clean-up**
- \$5000 for rentals**

**Second: Mr. Sepctor
Unanimous**

**Mr. Behrstock made a motion for funding for printer ink, up to \$100.
Second: Mr. McMillian
Unanimous**

**Mr. Behrstock made a motion for approval for a Backblaze WNC computer back up, \$50 for one year funding.
Second: Mr. McMillian
Unanimous**

**Mr. Behrstock made a motion for funding for Angela Pipkin, Apple One, for up to \$1,000 for 3 months to end of fiscal year to help Brandon with treasurer duties. Hourly rate is \$31.68.
Discussion: Mr. Behrstock detailed the burdensome process the City has designed for accounting which does not allow facsimile or computer documentation. Requesting assistance from Apple One is to help with the process. Mr. Shabsis commented on how the process is flawed and how it was a problem that money needed to be spent on this rather than on community betterment. Mr. Shabsis volunteered to help facilitate a conversation on the matter with the City Controller. Ms. Broide said we need to put this on agenda for next time to get WRAC to take action. DONE's process a waste of volunteer time.
Second: Mr. McMillian
Unanimous**

**G) Board Member Comments/Announcements:
Ms. Broide: What is happening with Macerich?**

Mr. Spector – A competitor made a public offer to control Macerich shares.

**Ms. Wu – 2015 Heyler Realty Chili Cook-off, Sunday, March 22, 2015 from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM at Heyler, 10659 W Pico Blvd. Heyler contact info at:
<http://heyler.com/>.**

Ms. Broide – The Mobility Plan will be presented on Tuesday, March 24 at the Police Civic Center Auditorium downtown from 6-8 PM.

**Motion to Adjourn At 9:42 PM.
Motion By: All
Second By: All
Motion Passed: Unanimous**

Submitted: By Aaron Rosenfield and Mary Kusnic