

Westside Neighborhood Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday June 11, 2015
7:00 P.M.
Westside Pavilion 10800 W. Pico
Meeting Room A

AGENDA (Items Appear As Called)

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:

Jae Wu (Seat 1)
Lisa Morocco (Seat 2)
Brandon Behrstock (Seat 3)
Steve Spector (Seat 4)
Barbara Broide (Seat 7)
Terri Tippit (Seat 8)
Sean McMillan (Seat 9)
Stacy Antler (Seat 10)
Mary Kusnic (Seat 11)
Colleen Mason Heller (Seat 12)
Francesca Beale-Rosano (Seat 13)
Shannon Burns (Seat 14)
Eric Shabsis (Seat 15)
Aaron Rosenfield (Seat 17)

Absent:

David Burke (Seat 5)
Sarah Shaw (Seat 6)
Lisa Tabor (Seat 16)

We have a quorum

2. **Approval of May 14, 2015 Minutes**

Minutes were reviewed and discussed, with no changes submitted.

Motion to approve: Ms. Kusnic

Second: Mr. McMillan

Passed, 12-0-1

Seats in favor - 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 17
Seats abstaining - 15

3. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:

- A. Stephanie Carbone of Art Party. Thanked WNC on Pick Pico event.
- B. Sharla Lieberman. Of “Simply Succulents”. Introduced herself. Discussed drought and landscaping with native plants. Ms. Tippit suggested that Ms. Lieberman partner with the WLA Chamber of Commerce and the WNC on this type of project. Ms. Broide suggested starting a WNC sub-committee and will bring motion next month. Mr. Shabsis noted Pico Beautification project funding and wondered if we could incorporate drought tolerant plants at this time. Ms. Morocco stated that this could be done, and the WNC could upgrade 9 new trash cans on Pico. Trees being trimmed tomorrow. Mr. Shabsis also questioned whether the public “triangles” on Olympic might be considered for native plants.
- C. Mimi Goh – So Cal Gas. Tel: 2130817-4537. Here to provide update on advanced meter project. 2010 PUC gave authorization to update system. Started installing in 2012. Completed in 2017. Nothing changes on bill, but can get updated information online less than monthly, including hourly if desired. To find out where spike occurs, if you are interested. Gives customers more control over gas usage. Can help you practice conservation. On Page 5, it shows what’s happening in area. Installation takes 5 to 10 minutes. Installers come out and retro current meter. Fitted on meter. Nothing changes on how meter is read. Transmitted electronically to their network on AA battery. Many questions and concerns raised about opting out.
- D. Steve Spector wishes to propose at the next WNC meeting board members acting for 4 years instead of 2, which will require an amendment to the by-laws.
- E. Eric Shabsis reported on an accident at Cushman & Overland. He and Overland Avenue Elementary are working with Jay Greenstein at CD% and LADOT for the installation of a speed feedback sign and random traffic control for 25 mph around the school. Hope to have this in place by August. Ms. Mason-Heller noted that once Expo is up and running, there will be congestion at the crossing, and that will slow peak periods. Speed ups will happen and that is a safety issue.

4. Agenda Regular Reports.

- A. LAPD: Rashad Sharif reported.

Crime: Residential burglaries in his area included one in the 2100 block of Prosser -

construction/remodel tool removal; 10700 Cushdon. Car burglaries/break ins included: 2600 block of Veteran - catalytic converter taken.

Mr. McMillan asked about the knock knock burglaries. Officer Sharif reported that there were some cause in the Palisades. Ms. Antler asked about car break ins on Fox Hills Drive.

B. Los Angeles City Attorney: Veronia de la Cruz

Ms. De la Cruz introduced herself as they neighborhood prosecutor. Reviewed prevention issues. It is a free service by trained mediators. Available for any type of dispute to avoid escalating disputes that end up with physical or property damage. Leaflets available for various issues (i.e. disputes over the planting on parkways of non-approved plants). Noted Bureau of Street Services website for parkway issues.

Mr. Rosenfield discussed tagging along the Expo line and who to contact. Officer Sharif will get the gang unit out.

Ms. Antler asked about the bank robbery on Sepulveda. Was told that is Pacific division, not Sharif's area.

Ms. Tippit presented to Officer Sharif and Ms. De la Cruz Pick Pico swag, and noted that she had additional items to give to Officer Gonzalez who was not present. The WNC was thanked for the items and allowed a photo op.

Ms. De la Cruz stated that she was aware of the Palms Park issues relating to encampments. There is a civil restraint order against one individual and there is prosecution pending against 2 others.

C. CD-5 Field Deputy Philip Bennett.

Mr. Bennett introduced himself, stating that he had been in CD5 since February. He was previously with the City Attorney's office. Mr. Bennett grew up in Culver City.

Mr. Bennett then presented certificates of appreciation from the City of Los Angeles to Jae Woo and Lisa Morocco and, along with Terri Tippit, thanked both of them for their hard work on Pick Pico.

Ms. Mason-Heller asked about the encampment near Cheviot, by Dunleer Place by the soundwall. Mr. Bennett sent out status requests on the issue, but had no responses as yet. He will update the WNC when there is more concrete information. Mr. Shabis noted that although there is a soundwall, there is direct access from Overland Avenue.

An unnamed audience member had a question: she has a home by Expo that she has

rented out for the last 10 years. She is concerned about the noise and the dust the project has caused.

D. WLA Chamber of Commerce. Norm Bernier.

Discussed various chamber activities. There is a breakfast the first Weds. Of the month. July will be Mike Fuerer there It's at the Olympic Collection at the corner of Olympic & Sawtelle. Go to www.wlachamber.org

4. **Presentations (Discussions and/or Possible Action).**

Due to potential conflict, Ms. Morocco leaves the room.

A. Rob DeCosmo, Architect, presentation on proposal to build a four unit, townhome style small lot subdivision project at 1819 Veteran Avenue.

This project will be 4 units. They will be sold off, not as condominiums, but as 4 separate units, a small lot sub-division. Individual garages will be underneath each of the 4 units. All zoned R-3. Mr. De Cosmo's presentation included posters of the project. Mr. De Cosmo noted that there would be a rooftop patio but they would all be within the height limitation.

Audience/Board comments/questions:

1. Sunshine Stone. Since there are individual homes all in a row, who takes care of them and the common areas? Who maintains? Also raised concerns about noise on the rooftop patio. She lives in an apartment next door.
2. Marilyn Cohon. Discussed "open space" and how noise was magnified. Would like the developer to abandon the patio rooftop.
3. Mr. Martin Wassell. He lives next door to the project. Notes that the hedge currently between his property and the project will be cut. His bedroom is right there. He did not want garage doors opening and closing next to his bedroom in the middle of the night. He also asked about lighting. He was told that there would be pool lights flowing down, and not pointed at his apartment. Mr. Wassell also was not in favor of the patio rooftop.
4. Mr. Behrstock. Reminded the board and the audience that the developer was building "by right" and not seeking a variance. A discussion ensued with the audience as to what the term "by right" meant. The only reason it is brought to the WNC is because this is a small lot subdivision.

5. Ms. Broide. Stated there would be a loss of rental units in the area.

Motion: to write a letter supporting the project with the following: proper buffering of sound and lighting away from neighbors, but move that the project go forward with consideration for neighbor concerns, including non-intrusive lighting, sound and noise buffering (including quiet garage operational equipment), maintenance of the driveway and exterior common areas. Motion made by Ms. Mason-Heller.

Second, Ms. Antler

Passed, 11-1-1

Seats in favor - 1, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17

Seats opposed - 3

Seats abstaining - 7

8:55 p.m., Ms. Morocco (Seat 2) returns; Ms. Beale-Rosano (Seat 13) leaves.

B. Mobility Plan 2035, and support to oppose Mobility Plan 2035 and the Westwood Boulevard bike lane for reasons of safety, increased congestion, densification and emergency response impacts; presented by Marilyn Cohon.

Ms. Cohon discussed the Mobility Plan; that sidewalk fixing should be included. Issues re: Plan include:

1. People who make plans don't live here.
2. Buses go up and down Westwood from Expo to UCLA
3. Won't make it safer for cyclists; more dangerous
4. Bus time should be more predictable and rapid enough to make it meaningful.
5. Wants Wellworth to Le Conte taken out of plan.
6. Pico Neighborhood Plan is wrong. 14 blocks of 5 story buildings contemplated along Pico. Plan envisages more density around transit areas.

Should involve community input and not blunt force. Does not support community plan as currently designed.

Comments:

Ms. Mason-Heller noted that the City has a statement of "over-riding considerations" but too non-specific. Gives the green light to every kind of development.

Ms. Broide commented that Metro is funding all of the planning.

Motion: The Westside Neighborhood Council (“WNC”) join the Westside Regional Association of Councils (“WRAC”) Land Use Committee in rejecting Mobility Plan 2035 and the MP 2035 Statement of Overriding Considerations and that the WNC board authorize the Chair to send a letter to the Los Angeles Planning Commission and to the Los Angeles City Council informing them of our non support.

Motion, Colleen Mason-Heller

Second, Aaron Rosenfield

Passes 11-0-1

Seats in favor - 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 17

Seats abstaining - 15

5. Further Public Comment

Mr. Shabsis, Seat 15, stepped out of the room at 9:20 p.m. since a stakeholder indicated he wished to discuss BevMo.

Mr. Wassell, who lives on Veteran adjacent to BevMo’s parking lot, voiced his opposition to the WNC board action taken at the last WNC meeting re: BevMo’s request for extended hours. He received a flyer from Westwood South of Santa Monica Homeowner’s Association (“WSSM”), attended WSSM’s HOA meeting, and that meeting and the flyer prompted him to come to the WNC to address his concerns. Mr. Wassell’s areas of concerns are:

- A. The hours claimed by BevMo in their presentation to the WNC Board were in error (he claims they said they were open currently from 10 to 9 M-Sa, and Sunday 10 to 7). That BevMo is actually open 10 to 9 M-Sat., and therefore they made it appear that they were not requesting much of an expansion.
- B. Asserted that Mr. Shabsis violated his duties as a board member because he did not leave the room at the time BevMo was making their presentation, and had a conflict of interest. Therefore any vote by the WNC board is void.
- C. BevMo is not a good neighbor, claiming trucks make 15 to 20 deliveries each day, arrive early in the morning and make a lot of noise.

Beatrice Baldrige, who lives at 1811 ½ Veteran adjacent to BevMo also spoke of her concerns. She stated that she wrote to WSSM in response to their flyer. Concerns about noise, wine bottles being thrown into the dumpster, among other issues.

A stakeholder who identified herself as “Sunshine” lives close to BevMo. She stated that trucks come around 6:30 a.m. with motors running as they unload. Patrons often leave the

parking lot with music blasting. The 1 hour change 2 nights a week does make a difference.

Board discussion:

Ms. Broide discussed specific problems raised at the WSSM meeting.

Ms. Tippit asked why these stakeholders did not come to the last WNC meeting, since that is when it was on the agenda and the stakeholders should have been noticed by their seat representative. When told they only received the flyer about the WSSM meeting (and appeared to be confused as to the difference between the WNC and WSSM) Ms. Tippit expressed her frustration that these stakeholders were not notified, since the agenda is supposed to be disseminated to stakeholders timely.

Mr. Spector raised the issue as to whether, based upon Mr. Wassel's demand that we reconsider the prior month's motion or consider potential violations by a board member, we could reconsider the matter. It was decided that the WNC need City Attorney assistance and an opinion as to both of these issues, and whether we were required to vote to reconsider now or next time. We need the City Attorney to address the issue as to whether a person with a conflict, actual or potential, must leave the meeting room.

6. Treasurer's Report.

Ms. Morocco made a motion to approve the April, 2015 Monthly Expenditure Report (MER), which includes \$ _____ in expenditures with a balance of \$ _____ :
Second: Ms. Mason-Heller
Board Vote: 12-0-0.
Seats in favor - 1,2,3,4,7,8,9,10, 11,12,14, 17.

Ms. Morocco made a motion to approve the May, 2015 Monthly Expenditure Report (MER), which includes \$ _____ in expenditures with a balance of \$ _____ :
Second: Ms. Mason-Heller
Board Vote: 12-0-0.
Seats in favor - 1,2,3,4,7,8,9,10, 11,12,14, 17.

Ms. Morocco made a motion for funding to spend up to \$400 for WNC promotional items at future events.
Second: Mr. McMillan
Board Vote: 12-0-0.
Seats in favor - 1,2,3,4,7,8,9,10, 11,12,14, 17.

Motion by Shannon Burns to adjourn; Mary seconds. Adjourned: 10:15 p.m.