

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

1. Call to Order

Call to order: 7:08 PM

By Terri Tippit, WNC Chair

Attendance:

Jae Wu (Seat 1)

Lisa Morocco (Seat 2)

Brandon Behrstock (Seat 3)

Chris Elliott (Seat 4 Alternate)

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)

Eric Shabsis (Seat 15)

Wendie Goode Dox (Seat 16)

Aaron Rosenfield (Seat 17)

Absent:

David Burke (Seat 5)

Sarah Shaw (Seat 6)

Shannon Burns (Seat 14)

Seated after start:

Steve Spector (Seat 4)

Barbara Broide (Seat 7)

2. Agenda Items:

New Business:

A) Approval of July 9, 2015 Minutes:

Minutes were reviewed and discussed, with changes submitted by Ms. Broide clarifying signage was referring to digital signs and by Ms. Tabor correcting the West LA Chamber donations were given to her at the Discovery Center.

Motion to approve as corrected: Ms. Morocco

Second: Ms. Mason Heller

Passed, 10-0-3

Seats in favor - 1,2,4,8,9,10,11,13,15,17

Seats abstaining – 3,12,16

B) LAPD Not in Attendance

Ms. Tippit reported that LAPD's new SLO was supposed to come to the WNC meeting, but did not attend. Former SLO Sharif has transferred to a new area closer to where he lives.

Ms. Broide is seated

C) August Czment, a@ring.com, 310-925-8696 – www.ring.com

Ms. Tippit - Introduced ring as a doorbell that functions as a camera and that can be used to talk to a person at the door from wherever you are via smartphone.

Mr. Czment – Ring is a video doorbell. Our mission statement is to reduce crimes. Our product is a smart doorbell providing audio and video capabilities, as well as motion detection. Video recording download services cost \$3/mo. If anyone is moving on the front of your property, you get an alert. We are partnering with the LAPD on this product. It is a tool that allows the police to request footage when a crime has occurred. The idea is if enough houses use ring, the crime will go down. We have had success in an area on Wilshire already.

Ms. Antler – Will it work for condos as well?

Mr. Czment – If there is a central entrance that is where it would work best.

Member of the public – Do you have to pay for recordings?

Mr. Czment – If you want to access past recordings, you have to pay a fee.

Mr. Behrstock – If someone steals the device, what then?

Mr. Czment – We do not want people to be concerned about buying the device and having it stolen, so if it were to be stolen we will replace it for free.

Ms. Beale-Rosano – How clear is the video?

Mr. Czment – The picture quality is HD. It has two way audio and one way video. It is valuable to give the perception you are home when you are not. The product is \$200, and you get \$20 off with promo code 1523ringsafe.

Mr. Shabsis – Does it connect to any smart phone or tablet?

Mr. Czment – As many devices as you want. Whoever picks up first gets the call. We have an accessory plug in chime that goes into any outlet in your house. The doorbell can be wired to your house so it can charge and ring the doorbell in your home.

Ms. Mason Heller – How far out does it view?

Mr. Czment – The motion detection is 30 feet and the video is farther, maybe 50 feet?

Ms. Beale-Rosano – Can it go in other places?

Mr. Czment – Yes, it is basically an affordable security camera. It is a surveillance system rolled up as a doorbell.

MOBILE ACCESS

See and speak with visitors from anywhere using the free Ring™ app, receive motion alerts, and review recorded footage

WI-FI CONNECTED

Simply connect the Video Doorbell to your Wi-Fi network and it's ready to go.

EASY INSTALLATION

Installs in minutes - no professional help or special tools required.

HD CAMERA

Always have a clear view of your home's entrance with wide-angle HD video.

NIGHT VISION

See what's going on any time of day, thanks to infrared LEDs.

COLORS  Satin Nickel



TWO-WAY TALK

Seamlessly speak with anyone at your door via the built-in speakers and microphone.

MOTION DETECTION

Motion sensors activate the camera and trigger instant mobile alerts when movement is detected.

CLOUD RECORDING (OPTIONAL)

Never miss any activity at your home with optional Cloud Recording.

DUAL POWER

Connects to existing doorbell wiring, or runs off the built-in battery for total convenience.

CERTIFIED FOR OUTDOOR USAGE

Never worry about your unit being damaged by heat, humidity, rain, sleet, or snow.

LIFETIME PURCHASE PROTECTION

If your Video Doorbell is stolen, we'll replace it free of charge.

D) Deputy Chief Daren Palacios, LAFD, daren.palacios@lacity.org, 310-548-2558

Deputy Chief Palacios – In January, the FD was reorganized into 4 bureaus similar to the way LAPD functions. Your NC is mostly a part of Battalion 18, which is a part of South Bureau. Each bureau has 3 battalions covering approximately 30 stations. The City has 106 fire stations.

We are trying to get more involved with the community and attempting to be more visible at events. We are putting together a newsletter called Fire Stat that has simple fire related metrics.

Looking at 2014 LAFD 911 Call Data, the WNC area had a slower response than the rest of the city (6:57 vs 6:38). The department’s job is to go back and see why we were slower. FD is becoming more metric driven. Geographic problems are real; we cannot change traffic patterns, but we can change the time it takes to get out of the station.

Westside NC		2014 LAFD 911 Call Data					DRAFT
LAFD Receives and Creates 911 Incident to 1st Unit on Scene:							
	Transports	All Calls	ALS	1st ALS to ALS call	Fire/Alarms	Structure Fire	
<i>Goal:</i>		6:20-6:30	6:30	10:30	6:20	6:20	
Area Served	Count	Average	Average	Average	Average	Average	
Westside NC	1,860	6:57	6:40	6:53	6:37	5:09	
South Bureau	61,152	6:38	6:26	6:47	6:02	4:53	
All City Total	216,702	6:38	6:24	6:43	6:14	5:05	
Top 5 LAFD Resources Responding into Westside NC:							
LAFD Resource	Unit Type			Fire Station	Bureau		
Light Force 92	AT - ALS Assessment Truck			92	South Bureau		
Rescue Ambulance 892	BLS			92	South Bureau		
Rescue Ambulance 92	Paramedic			92	South Bureau		
Engine 59	AE - ALS Assessment Engine			59	West Bureau		
Rescue Ambulance 59	Paramedic			59	West Bureau		
Top 911 Incident Types in City of LA Compared to Westside NC per 1,000 residents:							
Incident Type	City Total	City #/1,000 people	Westside NC	Westside NC /1000			
Sick	50,384	13.3	426	13.7			
Difficult Respiration	35,279	9.3	242	7.8			
Chest Pain/Heart	29,693	7.8	235	7.5			
Fall	29,677	7.8	417	13.4			
Unconscious	29,601	7.8	283	9.1			
Traffic Accident	26,288	6.9	332	10.7			
Automatic Fire Alarm	25,570	6.7	624	20.0			
Person Down	20,534	5.4	170	5.5			
Assault	17,919	4.7	53	1.7			
Seizure	15,152	4.0	71	2.3			
Over Dose	12,244	3.2	64	2.1			

The WNC also had a higher rate of the following types of calls than the city as a whole: sick, falls, unconscious, traffic accidents, automatic fire alarms and person downs. Why were falls higher we might ask?

Ms. Mason Heller – We have an elderly population.

Member of the public - ...and bad sidewalks.

Deputy Chief Palacios – Metrics will allow you to look at what your NC needs.

Ms. Mason Heller – Have you been able to perfect the efficacy of the phone system?

Deputy Chief Palacios – The call still gets routed through LAPD. There has been a 23 second improvement in transfers. On the FD side, we are more instantaneously dispatching. It is approximately 22 seconds to go through LAPD dispatch.

Ms. Broide – We have a lot of large infrastructure projects in our area, which impact response times. How do we get your comment for them?

Deputy Chief Palacios – I can put you in touch with the inspectors.

Ms. Broide – Why does a fire truck go with an ambulance on a medical call?

Deputy Chief Palacios – Because it takes that many people to address whatever issue is being called about.

Ms. Broide – Is there a way to train people not to call FD with minor problems?

Deputy Chief Palacios – We are finally making contact with hospitals to find out the end result of patients taken there. We are looking at educating the public, the preventative piece and seeing what people are needing. We are trying to see what is really going on in different areas. We are also looking at super users who call the FD hundreds of times a year.

Mr. Shabsis – At Fire Station 92, the hook and ladder and the paramedics roll out together because we do not have an engine. The questions Barbara brought up become more true.

Deputy Chief Palacios – We would ask for the engine back, but we are 300 fire fighters short.

Ms. Tippit – May I email you to be put on the newsletter list, so we can send it to our stakeholders?

Deputy Chief Palacios – Yes.

E) Art Rodriguez of Art Rodriguez and Associates, 626-683-9777,
art@aralices.com

Mr. Rodriguez – I am a licensing consultant. Ralphs hired me to help with a Type 86 license. The people holding the tasting events will not be Ralph's employees, it will be a vendor. Only one alcohol type is allowed per day.

Mr. Shabsis – People are allowed three ¼ ounce pours.

Ms. Antler – They came to the Century Glen HOA meeting, gave a presentation and the board approved the plan as presented.

Mr. Rodriguez – The tasting service is free of charge.

Ms. Broide – On the map of the floorplan for the market, it shows the tasting space is 5ft X 6 ft, very small. How do you control that area with other shoppers and is it realistic?

Mr. Rodriguez – Similar sized spaces already work in other stores that we have.

Ms. Morocco – Is there a timeline?

Mr. Rodriguez – It depends on the City of LA. We have to do a conditional use permit. That costs is \$7,848 for the application. It is an additional \$4,300 when approved for effectuation.

Motion by Ms. Antler to support Ralph's Market's (10309 Olympic Blvd) application for a Type-86 liquor license.

Second: Mr. Shabsis

Passed, 12-0-1

Seats in favor – 1,2,3,4,8,9,10,11,12,13,15,17

Seats abstaining – 7

Wendie Goode Dox absent during vote

Ms. Antler temporarily steps out

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

We have concluded our survey out to the members. The minimum wage was the closest vote. The question regarding bike lanes was the most lop-sided, people not being in favor of them. Several events are coming up:

West LA Chamber Women's Networking Group
Tuesday, August 18 at 6:00pm
Barrister Executive Suites at 11620 Wilshire Blvd, Los Angeles CA 90025

Chicago School of Professional Psychology Ribbon Cutting
Wednesday, August 19
Block of 1900 Westwood Blvd.

After Hours Mixer with Mrs. Asia USA Rima Sapien
Thursday, August 20 at 5:30pm
Delphi Greek at 1383 Westwood Boulevard

The Last Monday of the Author's Club, Featuring – Bob Zeidman
Monday, August 31 at 6:00pm
Los Angeles Public Library, Westwood Branch

First Wednesday Breakfast
September 2, 2015, 7:15 AM - 9:00 AM
11301 Olympic Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90064
\$20 for WNC Members

Ms. Tippit – Have you taken a position on sidewalk vendors? Century City Chamber has written a letter.

Mr. Bernier – No, it has not been discussed.

Ms. Broide – Businesses often illegally cut their trees, sometimes with good intentions so that people can see their storefronts and signage. Perhaps we can work together to educate businesses there is a process for tree trimming?

Mr. Bernier – We would be presumably happy to work together. Our board meeting is coming up.

G) CD-5 Field Deputy Philip Bennett –

The block of 2700 Greenfield does not have street lighting. We have started the process for a street lightening district. We also want to start a neighborhood watch, but we are waiting on the new SLO.

We are working with DOT on a resolution for oversized vehicles on Pontius/Cotner.

Speed Feedback signs are up and running on Overland near the school. They are registering most cars, but they can only pick up so many cars.

Mr. Rosenfield – Does it record the speeds?

Mr. Bennett – No.

Mr. Shabsis – The City moved at lightening speed to get this done 2 weeks early. It is not intended to be a permanent solution, but there were a number of accidents. It is temporary until we see how traffic really moves with the train.

Mr. Bennett – Officer Anthony Perez is also going to come out to cite drivers in the area early one morning.

Curbs were asked to be repainted near Notre Dame on National and it has been completed.

Jay and DOT are investigating traffic issues on Military.

Regarding the 2035 Mobility Plan, it is a plan currently without funding. Mr. Koretz is going to take up the Westwood Bike Lanes in a separate committee.

Ms. Mason Heller – A lot of Councilmembers had specific things but felt they did not have an opportunity to address the issues. So will there be an opportunity for amendments? What is the timeline?

Mr. Bennett – Yes, but I do not know the timeline. I know other members of the Council want to make amendments as well.

Ms. Broide – None of us have seen something passed by the Council and then had it sent back to committee afterwards. This is new territory.

Ms. Tippit – Did the inspector get out to the location where they are doing psychic readings, but came in under the false pretenses of a Yoga Studio?

Mr. Bennett – I will check on it tomorrow.

Ms. Wu – Thank you to FOX and CD5 for movies in the park. They were wonderful community events.

Ms. Morocco – Thank you for wrangling oversized vehicles on Overland. We are clearly on a hauling route.

Ms. Mason Heller – There are dead Eucalyptus trees along Northvale from the train construction, particularly near Dunleer Gate. What is happening?

Mr. Bennett – Jay needs to get the City Departments working together, you should be in touch with him.

H) Dan Levi, aka “Dan the Man” of Dan the Man Super Kids Gymnastics, 310-268-8300, info@danthemangym.com, <http://www.danthemangym.com/>.

I have been teaching gymnastics since 1999. I opened a facility in 2000 and then moved the location to Pontius. We have had a difficult time dealing with the homeless and vagrants. There has been defecation, obscene exposure, drugs and fires. I am trying to better the community. I give lessons to underprivileged children. I am desperately begging for help dealing with the problem.

Mr. Spector is seated

Ms. Broide – An organized group of merchants in that area can ban together and start to have an impact, while working with the City.

Mr. McMillan – The powers that be know that it is a hot spot. The big question now is where do people go? The bureaucracy is overwhelming. What Barbara is saying is right. It is the collective squeaky wheel. This is a huge problem. The VA is working on the veteran’s component, but it is important to get the businesses involved.

Dan the Man – How do you do that? Who leads it?

Mr. Behrstock – That is what you got to volunteer and organize.

Ms. Broide – There should be a meeting of the businesses. You can start with a survey and form a group.

Ms. Antler reseated

I) Lisa Morocco Neighborhood Purpose Grant funding request

Motion by Ms. Morocco for a Neighborhood Purpose Grant funding request for Friends of WLA for \$300 for LAPD National Night Out.

Second: Mr. Spector

Passed, 14-0-0

Seats in favor – 1,2,3,4,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,15,16,17

J) WRAC Motions by Ms. Broide

WRAC requests that Councilmembers Bonin and Koretz co-sponsor a resolution in City Council opposing AB57, which passed in Assembly recently and is now in two State Senate Committees.

Mr. Bennett – Motion of opposition has already been adopted by the Council and signed by the Mayor.

Ms. Tippit – Since it has been adopted already, it is no longer an issue we need to vote on.

Motion by Ms. Broide to support WRAC recommendation that the City of Los Angeles oppose AB744 and requests Councilmembers Bonin and Koretz introduce a resolution opposing AB744.

Second: Ms. Antler

Passed, 12-0-1

Seats in favor – 1,2,3,4,7,8,10,11,12,13,16,17

Seats abstaining – 15

Sean McMillan was not present for the vote

Motion by Ms. Broide to support WRAC recommendation that the City of Los Angeles oppose AB 1373 and requests Councilmembers Bonin and Koretz introduce a resolution opposing AB 1373.

Second: Ms. Antler

Passed, 9-0-4

Seats in favor – 2,3,4,7,8,9,10,12,13,

Seats abstaining – 1,11,16,17

Mr. Shabsis recused himself out of an abundance of caution

Motion by Ms. Broide to support WRAC recommendation that land use and planning-related recommendations shall be disclosed in all City determinations in a "standing" section of City Staff Reports and City Determinations called "Neighborhood Council Recommendations." Along with those recommendations, an explanation to be provided by the City decision maker if the NC recommendations are NOT followed.

Second: Ms. Mason Heller

Passed, 13-1-0

Seats in favor – 1,2,3,4,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,16,17

Seats against – 15

Ms. Mason Heller – Whereas the Phase 2 Expo Light Rail construction has caused extensive damage and death to mature trees, and established native and naturalized plants along Northvale Road in Cheviot Hills, and;

Whereas Expo's construction of three sets of emergency exit stairs leading from the train tracks to Northvale Road have caused additional damage and denuding of landscaping, and;

Whereas the Phase 2 Expo environmental study failed to include construction of three sets of emergency stairs leading onto Northvale Road directly across the street from homes, there was no study of mitigation of subsequent damage from the construction, and;

Whereas, Expo has committed to installing native landscaping along the tracks between Westwood Boulevard and Overland Avenue adjacent to the planned Westwood Greenway Project, and has committed to repairing damage to the Sarah Berman Greenway along the Expo ROW between Westwood and Military Avenue, and;

Whereas Expo has placed soundwalls on all segments of the Phase 2 Expo alignment where it faces residential property from Motor to Military except in Cheviot Hills, including below and behind homes across the tracks from Northvale Road which will cause additional train noise from reflected sound, and;

Whereas the need for noise mitigation and a soundwall along Northvale was timely brought to Expo's attention in environmental documents submitted by the Cheviot Hills HOA, Friends4Expo and by Neighbors for Smart Rail, and;

Whereas Expo failed to properly describe the Northvale ROW in their EIR, specifically saying that the tracks were in a trench all the way to Overland when they actually rise out of the trench for several blocks starting south of Butterfield Road and then climb to rooftop height above homes prior to Overland Ave, and;

Whereas, it is a matter of equity and fairness that all parts of the Phase 2 Expo project be mitigated by the same standards,

I hereby move that the WNC write a letter to responsible agencies and Decision makers declaring their support for the repair and replanting of landscaping by Expo along Northvale Road which has been damaged by the Expo light rail construction, and further move that the Phase 2 Expo Light Rail fully mitigate the noise and visual intrusion of the Expo trains by installing a sound wall from south of Butterfield to Putney Road.

Second: Ms. Antler

Passed, 13-0-0

Seats in favor – 1,2,3,4,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,16,17

Mr. Shabsis recused himself due to proximity of his home to impacted area

K) Ms. Tippit regarding emergency motion concerning street vendors

This issue is going to Council before our next WNC meeting. This hurts businesses. Why should businesses pay taxes, rent, etc and not the street vendors? Right now it is illegal, but it is happening everywhere.

Ms. Broide makes motion to take the issue of street vending up as an emergency motion.

Second: Ms. Beale-Rosano

Passed, 14-0-0

Seats in favor – 1,2,3,4,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,15,16,17

Mr. Rosenfield makes motion to keep illegal and enforce the prohibition on street vending.

Second: Ms. Beale-Rosano

Passed, 12-2-0

Seats in favor – 1,2,3,4,7,8,9,11,12,13,15,17

Seats against – 10,16

L) The Treasurer's Report by Lisa Morocco

Motion by Ms. Antler to approve the MER with expenditures of \$34.60 for July.

Second: Ms. Mason Heller

Passed, 14-0-0

Seats in favor – 1,2,3,4,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,15,16,17

Motion by Ms. Morocco to have Shannon Burns as Treasurer and Lisa Morocco as Credit Card holder.

Second: Mr. Spector

Passed, 14-0-0

Seats in favor – 1,2,3,4,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,15,16,17

Motion by Ms. Morocco for the approval of \$1800 for 2015-2016 website--\$1200 Webmaster and \$600 to revamp website.

Second: Ms. Antler

Passed, 14-0-0

Seats in favor – 1,2,3,4,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,15,16,17

Motion by Ms. Morocco for the approval of up to \$500 for outreach items for Take Me Home Days.

Second: Mr. Rosenfield

Passed, 14-0-0

Seats in favor – 1,2,3,4,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,15,16,17

Ms. Morocco – Thank you Westside Pavilion for allowing the WNC to use a storage unit free of cost.

There will be a training on funding next month. From now on, if you make a motion on funding, you will fill out the Neighborhood Purposes Grant forms.

Submitted: By Aaron Rosenfield, Secretary