

Westside Neighborhood Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, March 10, 2016
7:00 P.M.
Westside Pavilion
10800 W. Pico

1. Call to Order

Call to order: 7:07 PM

By Terri Tippit, WNC Chair

Attendance:

Jae Wu (Seat 1)

Lisa Morocco (Seat 2)

Steve Spector (Seat 4)

Sarah Shaw (Seat 6)

Terri Tippit (Seat 8)

Jeff Hronek (Seat 9 alternate)

Mary Kusnic (Seat 11)

Colleen Mason-Heller (Seat 12)

Francesca Beale-Rosano (Seat 13)

Lisa Tabor (Seat 16)

Aaron Rosenfield (Seat 17)

Seated after start:

Barbara Broide (Seat 7)

Not Present:

David Burke (Seat 5)

Stacy Antler (Seat 10)

Shannon Burns (Seat 14)

Vacant:

Seat 3

Seat 15

New Business:

A) Approval of February 14, 2016 Minutes:

Minutes were reviewed and discussed. Motion to approve the minutes by Ms. Kusnic.

Second: Ms. Mason-Heller

9-0-2

Seats in favor: 1,2,4,8,11,12,13,16,17

Seats against:

Seats abstaining: 6,9

Not present: 3,5,7,10,14,15
passed

B) Public Comment

Herb Gruber – 2122 Century Park Lane #305, 310-567-8321, herblg@att.net. Not happy about the FOX Studios expansion. They said 2,500 cars and they want to bring it to 4,500 and then eventually 6,000 cars. This area can't handle that. People cut through Century Park West. The agreement we had from the 1990's said that there would not be an entrance on Avenue of the Stars, and they made one. All the HOAs need to be together on this.

Barbara Broide is seated.

Ms. Tippit – March 16 there will be a meeting on the homeless at Heyler Realty at 6pm headed by Sean McMillan. This is a growing problem in our community. We decided to have committee that meets to discuss the issue to see what we can do. Eric is our Senior Lead Officer and he has been working on the issue. Our committee wants to see what we can do to address problem.

Ms. Spector –At last month's WNC meeting, I asked a bunch a questions about FOWLA. I met with Mike Eveloff who is with FOWLA. He showed me the financials and the bylaws and went through the history. The organization was developed to support the community, which they are doing. My meeting gave me even greater comfort that it was a good decision to associate with FOWLA on Pick Pico as the WNC has decided to do.

Ms. Mason-Heller – I wanted to bring to people's attention an update on second dwelling units, also known as granny flats. A tentative ruling from court has been made. Once upon a time, the City passed a strict ordinance on what could be built in a single family neighborhood. They allowed granny flats to be built that were about 600 sqft. Then with a stroke of a pen, a planning commissioner changed it without public outreach. He said the State has standards and he said we will go with them and allowed 1200 sqft granny flats. A through lot existed in Cheviot, which complied under State standards but not the original City standards. Now with the tentative court ruling, the law that was written in by pen is no longer the law. The City has a choice to either (A) do nothing and let the original law stand (of 600 sqft units) or (B) they can try to implement the relaxed standard but they have to go through the public process first.

Ms. Broide – We had a WSSM Board Meeting on Tuesday and the Board asked me unanimously to express their happiness with the tree planting project because the Flowering Pears are blooming. A special thanks to Lisa. The City is still taking comments on Small Lots. We want 15 ft. setbacks, not 5 ft. Martin Cadillac is considering a large mixed use project on Bundy and Olympic and there will be

hearings on March 16 from 6-8 PM and April 16 from 12-2 PM at Felicia Manhood at Santa Monica Blvd and Corinth. *More details on the project:*

<http://brentwoodhomeowners.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Martin-Public-Hearing.pdf>.

Ms. Tippit – The Martin Development issue will be heard at the WNC after these other meetings take place.

Ms. Wu – Pick Pico is coming up May 22. We have 40 businesses signed up already and last year we had 114. We want to support community businesses and make it a fun event for all of you.

Ms. Tippit – If you are a business or artist in the area within our borders you can go on our website and register to participate for a free table at: www.pickpico.org. Everything is free. This is strictly to promote our stakeholders including schools and the library. LAPD will be there and we are still waiting to hear what they will have. LAFD will have an obstacle course. It is great for kids. There will be a bouncy.

C) Michelle Robinson, stakeholder at 2833 Westwood Blvd and a librarian at Palms Rancho Park Library. I have been working at the library since 2002. I brought in the reading dog program about 5 years ago. The kids read to the dogs. What's nice about the program is the kids get to touch animals. They are licensed therapy animals that are safe. The goal of the program is to promote literacy. Reading out loud is crucial to learning. Kids in the program increase skills 20% over those not in the program. The program occurs every 3-4 months. We see about 120 kids a year in groups of 30 per session. We are asking to fund 120 kids at a cost of \$1000 for the year. We are going to give people a take home book as a keepsake. We advertise for ages 5-11 but we get younger too.

Motion by Mr. Rosenfield for funding approval for a NPG to Friends of Palms/Rancho Park Library for up to \$1000.00 to buy books and beanies for children enrolled in the BARK Reading Program for one year.

Second: Ms. Mason-Heller

11-0-1

Seats in favor: 1,2,4,6,7,8,11,12,13,16,17

Seats abstaining: 9

Not present: 3,5,10,14,15

Passed

D) Officer Bryan Gonzalez on the Baker to Vegas Run. This is a 120 mile run that occurs every year in the desert. Every division in the LAPD sponsors a running team usually. Even though it is department run, it is not funded by the department. We ask the NCs to help us pay for things like uniforms. The money from the WNC will help pay for t-shirts. WNC will be on the shoulder. They will probably be dark grey. An American Flag will be on the chest with and an 8-ball

on the back because our station is number eight. I am asking for \$1500. It is easier for us to get the donation from FOWLA with our vendor.

Motion by Ms. Kusnic for funding approval for NPG to FOWLA for \$1500 for WLAPD Baker to Vegas Event.

Second: Ms. Beale-Rosano

11-0-1

Seats in favor: 1,2,4,6,7,8,11,12,13,16,17

Seats abstaining: 9

Not present: 3,5,10,14,15

Passed

E) LAPD, Officer Eric Swihart. The homeless - City lost a case on an ordinance in court; it is now legal to sleep in vehicles. Increase in motor homes on Parnell south of Santa Monica Blvd. Feel free to contact me if you have questions regarding the homeless: 310-444-0738.

Ms. Wu – We are concerned about registered sex offenders living next to the school in a motor home. How can we regulate it?

Officer Gonzalez – If people make a complaint, we investigate and if they are a registered offender it would come up.

Officer Swihart – There has been an uptick in grand theft autos. Don't leave keys in your cars, even in subterranean parking. Hide your belongings; don't leave things in your car. No backpacks, laptops, ipods, left in plain sight.

Ms. Broide – We had a stolen Bentley that had been ticketed. If a car has been ticketed and it is stolen, is there cross-over access between the data systems?

Officer Swihart – Yes, but I am not sure how it works.

Ms. Mason-Heller – They are taking parts like back seats and catalytic converters. So what is with that?

Officer Gonzalez – The reason they do that of course is the value of it. We have made some arrests of individuals in the past, but new individuals have come in because it is an easy item to get and sell. We have a list of what is being taken posted that can be requested. Still having issues on Overland Avenue regarding thefts of parcels. They did make an arrest of one male and female and now they are out on bail. Police searched their house and found other stolen items. A lot of video evidence.

Ms. Morocco – We have been hit really hard on Pelham by graffiti.

Mr. Rosenfield – Same thing on Westwood Blvd under the 10 Freeway. I used the 311 APP last week and the City came out to remove the graffiti. They tagged again this morning. Here is a picture. The tag is of the Sawtelle gang.

F) Michelle Robinson, stakeholder at 2833 Westwood Blvd. There is a standing water problem outside my house. Pictures were presented of the water. It is murky; there is a mosquito threat. I have to live with this every day. You can't park your car there because you have to walk over the water. I have a petition and have gotten support from Westwood Gardens HOA.

Miguel Guerra, 2837 Westwood Blvd, maquerra1985@gmail.com. Made a presentation about water collecting in front of his residence. The water persists 8-9 months a year. On the west side of the street there is one storm drain. The storm drain is located on the corner of Westwood and Coventry. His estimated area of the water collected by this drain system is 32,200 ft². The elevations on Westwood from National to Coventry are as follows according to Google Earth: 1-160' 2-152' 3-148' 4-147' 5-146'.



Elevations: Utilizing Google Earth

- 1-160'
- 2-152'
- 3-148'
- 4-147'
- 5-146'



Between points 3 and 5, there is only a 2 foot drop in elevation. Winchell's gives us a ton of run off. Neighbors watering their lawn is also an issue. He described

two trees referred to as Tree 1 and Tree 2 that lift the sidewalk and street. This prevents the water from getting out. This is the main point, where the trees are there is a dam in effect and the water does not drain properly. In the hot summer the smell is so strong, we cannot even have the windows open during the day. A pic was presented of 2/17/16 showing the problem when it rained that day. The solution is: (1) to remove the trees, (2) grade the street by shaving concrete off the street, which is a temporary solution because the tree roots grow, (3) Demo street, remove tree roots and repave.

Phillip Bennett, CD-5 – For some time I have been in touch about this. Michelle raised the issue about West Nile being in the water. In past years we had money for this type of thing, but it's not an option anymore. BOE on 9/30/15 recommended restructuring of the gutter. They did see the problem. This type of solution is very expensive. We can periodically sweep the water up and do temporary asphalt, patching as an interim solution. I have sent the request for that repair to the Bureau of Street Services. I am going to elevate the issue with the supervisors in BOE. It has been logged for a restructuring at BOE but there are currently no funds for the operation.

Mr. Rosenfield – How expensive is it to restructure the gutter?

Mr. Bennett – I don't know.

Ms. Broide – They have to re-slant the whole street. You mention Winchell's. If they are causing lot of the problem, they may be required to install drains and things per restaurant health and safety or other codes.

Member of the public – It's not just Winchell's that is the problem. Some garbage trucks at Winchell's are parking there early in the morning and they leak smelly water everywhere that runs down the street.

Ms. Morocco – Log the number of the truck and can contact sanitation.

Ms. Mason-Heller – That might be the most actionable part of this for a first attempt.

Ms. Morocco – Has someone looked at the trees? I love trees but someone should look to see if the trees are at risk.

Ms. Mason-Heller – Why not put a drain there and tie it to the sewage system?

Ms. Bennett – There is a longer list for that to happen.

Ms. Mason-Heller – Even if they condemned the tree, it might take two years to cut down.

Ms. Tippit – Thank you for coming out tonight. Marilyn will stay on it.

Ms. Robinson – Can you all sign my petition I have here?

G) Margaret Gillespie, 2851 Motor Ave, mgillespie@littler.com – The EXPO at grade crossing at Overland is impacting driving patterns in the area. There is a lot of dangerous activity where people are trying to avoid the light to turn left and people zooming across lanes. This is something we see every day. We have seen accidents even before the train is running. A proposal now is up for 900 students on Motor and National at a new high school. People are going to be taking Northvale and going through this area to go to school. The Council should consider what to do about this.

Ms. Broide – Metro and the City don't have an interest in dealing with this. Perhaps we should be writing for grants that deal with mobility?

Ms. Tippit – You think they are going to stop the train and build a bridge or something. They should not have built it the wrong way in the first place. Councilman Koretz did not think this was ever going to work; it should have been grade separated.

Ms. Heller Mason – I am the WNC Mobility Chair. I have looked at this thoroughly. At this point, we are looking at what they are bound by. They have complied with the letter of the law. They have made an oral commitment to also look beyond what they are required to do by law. So, there is a dialogue going on. If EXPO is going to be there, we want to intervene on whatever the impacts are. I am cautious of any hyperbole. There will be 800 students; not 900 and that does not mean 800 cars. We cannot impact what the State and LAUSD allow, whether there will be a school there. All traffic leaving the school will be going up Motor.

Ms. Tippit – What is on the agenda is specifically the EXPO crossing, not the school.

Ms. Mason-Heller – A Metro truck made a wrong turn onto Northvale and then backed into the intersection because he made a mistake. Lots of students were around and people were screaming at the presented danger. Metro said you need to learn to watch for the truck. The alarm has been sounded. We are confident it's not a safe crossing. Perhaps it's time to talk to DOT now before someone gets hurt.

Ms. Tippit – We understand the problem and going from 3 lanes to 2 lanes back to 3 lanes does not help.

Ms. Gillespie – And to pick up on Colleen's point, what can we do about the school?

Ms. Tippit – Talk to council office.

Mr. Bennett – So far we are not taking a position.

Ms. Mason-Heller – We are waiting on a second study to come out and if it is not where it needs to be, we talk about it and go from there.

H) Jill Steward, Coalition to Preserve LA, Presentation on the Neighborhood Integrity Initiative. jilltepleystewart@gmail.com, 916-595-9033, 6500 Sunset Blvd. I was a journalist for LA Weekly for 9.5 years and the LA Times for 7 years. I quit my job with LA Weekly when I heard there was an initiative on the ballot to limit developers. The Neighborhood Integrity Initiative provides a moratorium on decisions by Councilmembers. Developers meet behind closed doors with Councilmembers. The Councilmember supports the project and other Councilmembers support the Councilmember whose district the project is in. The initiative calls for a 2 year moratorium on changing zoning by the Council. In the world of city planning, changing zones is not a good thing. Spot zoning is a problem. In the 1960s, they put a stop to spot zoning because of corruption. In many ways we have come full circle and it is happening again. We are working with a General Plan that is 20 years outdated. In 2005, the Council voted quietly without media to relieve themselves of their legal duty to update the General Plan. So, what we get from the City is piece by piece spot planning. What is too tempting is a developer giving donations, money or pet projects to Councilmembers to support their project. Some Councilmembers are much more involved in this than others. The job of the City is to create a General Plan that takes into account development based on current infrastructure, not on infrastructure that might exist 20 years from now. Under the initiative, you have to show that new development will not blow out the pipes. Under the law, they are supposed to link the development to infrastructure, but they find ways to get around it. In Boyle Heights and Westlake, we cannot afford to lose the housing that exists that is affordable. Right now there are many community plans that are inadequate and new ones that don't take infrastructure into account because developers influenced the plan. Link your community plan to infrastructure. The initiative bans the ability of developers to choose who writes the EIR. This is a fundamental conflict of interest, which skews traffic studies as has been seen in court. Come to our events, tell us your ideas, help us with things like graphic design. We envision a tremendous amount of civic activity if this approved because in creating a new General Plan, we are requiring the public process to be at nights and weekends when people have time to be involved. I appreciate you having me here tonight. Opposition says this stops parks; not true. They say it stops construction; not true. This is only about 5% of projects that don't comply with current zoning. An owner in Koreatown found out about spot zoning and knowing his Councilman supports him, he is going to build a 27 story building in a 2 story area. They are taking out the five houses and all the affordable housing

in the back. The row can't take it; the sewer can't take it; the water can't take it. Please put us back on the rails. Call us if you would like to volunteer or help out in anyway. *The Neighborhood Integrity Initiative as reported by the LA Times:* <http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-ballot-measure-mega-projects-city-hall-20151118-story.html>.

I) Ray Verches with the SoCalGas Pipeline Safety Team, schedule of pipeline work on Sepulveda. The pipeline safety enhancement project is about upgrading and the safety of pipelines. Pipe 4321 from Pico to Wilshire on Sepulveda was replaced last year. This was Phase 1. Now we are going to tie that line into existing lines and hydro test it, Phase 2. We pressurize with water to five times what it would usually be to make sure there are no leaks. We are working on final scheduling, which will be in the night and day. We are also trying to figure out which end we will start on. Two areas relevant to this area are Tennessee and Pico at Sepulveda where there will be construction for testing stations. We will come in mid-May until about October, before the holidays. There will be some noise from the compressors. I don't know how big they will be. We are working with BOE, the Counsel Office and there will be an effort to avoid noisy operations at night.

Ms. Mason-Heller – How do you prioritize which pipes are replaced and does it compromise weaker pipes downstream?

Mr. Verches – Age of piping, records to see how consistent and complete the records are with regard to maintenance. Once we are in an area, we try not to come back for ten years. Our concern is safety first.

Ms. Wu – How will the gas odor impact us?

Mr. Verches – You won't smell gas because the line is not operational yet. The new pipes will have automatic valves, which is also good from a safety standpoint.

J) Adee Drory, Director of Celebrate Israel Festival occurring May 15, 2016 – Been doing the festival five years now. Takes place once a year at the Cheviot Recreation Center. We have met with LAPD and Fire; still waiting on LADOT. Security is the same as past years. Projections are consistent with past years, 15,000 attendees. We are doing the walk down Pico again. I have met with Lucy and I am happy to meet with her, but she just doesn't want the festival there.

Ms. Mason-Heller – What about cars parking on Motor and Monte Mar?

Ms. Drory – Last year they were good because they were ticketing. We are doing a lot again at FOX, the Century Park West Garage. We are working with Uber this

year and have a promo code. So, we will see if that will help. New users get \$5 off their first ride. We are doing a fly over, like we have done the last three years. Any questions? We install fences on Wednesday, load on Thursday. Park is open Saturday. Sunday tennis courts and everything is closed off. Last year, we had 60 LAPD Officers plus 50 of our own security. We spread out the forces. It is the safest place in LA on Sunday. Ciclavia is not happening that day. I have postcards if anyone wants or if you want tickets let me know. *More details:* <http://www.celebrateisraelfestival.com/la/>.

K) CD-5 Field Deputy Phillip Bennett – Silver Towing on Caltrans right-of-away at Cotner began last Monday. The fence is painted a little better and is beige. They also moved their trailer so they are not blocking business signage. They have cleaned up most of the tents; still some stragglers. The camps on Exposition under the freeway have also been cleaned up by the City. Also the camps and debris on Pearl Street we are working on.

L) Ms. Morocco, Treasurer – Treasurer’s Report

We spent \$2,471.55 in February. Approximately \$4,500 will be left after Pick Pico. I will have a better idea at our next meeting. Let’s think about how to spend it at our next meeting.

Motion by Ms. Kusnic to approve the MER for February 2016.

Second: Ms. Wu

11-0-1

Seats in favor: 1,2,4,6,7,8,11,12,13,16,17

Seats abstaining: 9

Not present: 3,5,10,14,15

Passed

Team Nerds is hosting our website as recommended by DONE.

Motion by Ms. Morocco for funding approval for \$180 to Team Nerds for 1 year hosting.

Second: Ms. Rosana-Beale

11-0-1

Seats in favor: 1,2,4,6,7,8,11,12,13,16,17

Seats abstaining: 9

Not present: 3,5,10,14,15

Passed

Motion by Ms. Morocco for funding approval for \$300 for Pick Pico Lot Rental at Chase and BofA (will be taken from FOWLA \$19500 NPG).

Second: Ms. Wu

11-0-1

Seats in favor: 1,2,4,6,7,8,11,12,13,16,17

Seats abstaining: 9

Not present: 3,5,10,14,15

Passed

Ms. Tippit – I went to the BevMo hearing. The Planning Zoning Administrator initially gave them more hours than we approved or than they asked for. BevMo didn't want that so they ended up giving them the hours we approved, except for the holiday hours. The community said they wanted later trucks. 9-1 or maybe it was 10-1 is what was set for when the deliveries will have to occur.

Ray is back on the agenda for next month to discuss the schedule for the pipeline work.

Ms. Broide – We should add land use issues to the agenda too. Councilman Cedillo wants to exempt cite plans from review for affordable housing projects, which would fast track projects. Also an administrative process rather than a public process is being proposed. And the feasibility of outside consultants for EIRs for new projects; proposed change to the CEQA timeline to 3 months.

Ms. Tippit – To be on the agenda, you have to come prepared. People on the Board have to make an educated decision, and we cannot do that without materials.

Motion to adjourn, Ms. Kusnic 9:20.

Unanimous

Submitted: By Aaron Rosenfield, Secretary

Voting note regarding how abstentions are counted: Section 3 of the WNCs By-Laws state: "Except as otherwise specifically provided, an affirmative vote of a majority of those voting, not including abstentions, shall be required to pass motions."

<http://wncla.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Westside-nc-approved-bylaws-amendments-2014.pdf>