

Westside Neighborhood Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, August 11, 2016
7:00 P.M.
Westside Pavilion
10800 W. Pico

1) Call to Order
By Terri Tippit, WNC Chair
Call to order: 7:05 PM

Attendance:
Jae Wu (Seat 1)
Rick Mendoza (Seat 3)
Barbara Broide (Seat 7)
Terri Tippit (Seat 8)
Sean McMillan (Seat 9)
Mary Kusnic (Seat 11)
Colleen Mason-Heller (Seat 12)
Ira Newlander (alt-Seat 14)
Wendy Dox (alt-Seat 16)
Aaron Rosenfield (Seat 17)

Seated After Start:
David Anderson (alt-Seat 2)
Talia Nosrati (alt-Seat 5)
Elnie Vannatim (alt-Seat 6)

Not Present:
Steve Spector (Seat 4)
Stacy Antler (Seat 10)
Francesca Beale-Rosano (Seat 13)
Eric Shabsis (Seat 15)

2) Approval of the July 14, 2016 Minutes: Minutes were reviewed with no additions or changes submitted. Motion by Ms. Kusnic to approve the July 2016 minutes.

Second: Mr. McMillan
Seats in favor: 1,3,8,9,11,12,17
Seats abstaining: 7,14,16
7-0-3 Passed
Not Present/Not Voting: 2,4,5,6,10,13,15

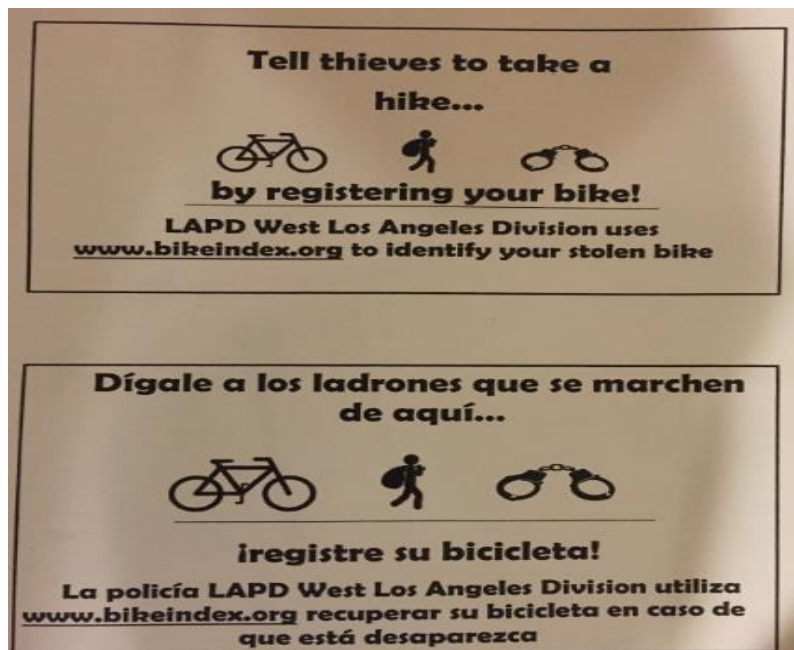
3) LAPD

Officer Ricardo Ballesteros, the new Sargent Lead Officer (SLO) – I have been in the department for 20 years, in which time I have served in West LA twice. I have experience working four years undercover; I have done detective work. I have been given this opportunity to be SLO in a great area; a great neighborhood. I can be reached at 33652@lapd.lacity.org, 310-444-0738.

Ms. Nosrati and Ms. Vannatim are seated

Officer Ballesteros: On theft, don't leave it out or it will be gone. Nowadays, you have to think about safety, terrorism and different things, and you have to think about these things even at your own home. Secure your vehicles, lock doors and roll up windows, even if it is in front of your house. A lot of thefts occur where the stuff is left on the seat. GTA –grand theft autos, we have had a couple. Sometimes people take the vehicles for joy rides. Lastly and most importantly, burglaries, I know in the past there have been lots of break-ins. Secure your property. If you have an alarm, use it. Slow down and make sure things are secure. I saw a report someone stole a Ring doorbell, but the company will replace it. Often the location people enter is a restroom window. They are small and high, but I have pulled people out of those windows. Lock your dead bolts.

I brought pamphlets detailing a “bike index” website. We do not have a registry for bikes at the LAPD. Bike index is a great program that we are utilizing. You go online and fill out your personal info, take a pic, list the bike's serial number and upload the details to the system. LAPD can run a check on that system if your bike is stolen. Website: www.bikeindex.com. The public cannot access people's info on the system; the public can only register bikes.



Ms. Mason-Heller – The DMV should have a process to register bikes.

Officer Ballesteros – It comes down to resources and that takes a lot of manpower. But this is a great resource for us to go to. I did leave info also about child ID safety card. You can fingerprint the kids. If you fill out the card and have it handy at home, you can at least give police the card.

Ms. Dox – If you cannot get the info of a person following a car accident, what do you do?

Officer Ballesteros – Well, if it is a fender bender, there is no police report. But you can create the call by phoning us. If the person does not have a license or insurance, we will deal with it. Always try to get the basics.

Officer Mario Gonzales – We made some significant arrests regarding the stealing of packages. We also caught the catalytic convertor perpetrators. We are getting a lot of pictures from Ring. Keep sending us the pictures because it is helpful.

Ms. Broide – Did you abandon the program where everyone registers the cameras that they have on their houses?

Officer Gonzales – Yes we did. We find most people have cameras, but the program did go away.

Ms. Kusnic – There were three cruisers at Century Park East today, do you know what happened?

Officer Gonzales – A guy was lurking around, but they did not find anything. At 2800 Westwood, a gentleman came in and complained about the homeless guy there. They have arrested him several times, but as soon as they do that, he is out on the streets again.

4) Brian Ross Adams – Sebastian Ridley Thomas’s Office, brian.adams@asm.ca.gov: I am going to be attending the WNC meetings going forward for the Assemblyman’s Office. Pick Pico is a fantastic event. I see my friend here of my favorite local restaurant GULP (Rick Mendoza). I live on Century Park East, so this is my Neighborhood Council. Homelessness is the number one priority for the Assemblyman. Right now we are trying to get the Governor to declare a State of Emergency, and it has not happened this year.

Ms. Mason-Heller – We got an email today from the Assemblymember about senior scams. Can you tell us about that?

Mr. Ross Adams – There is an event this weekend on senior scams at the Meridian Senior Living Center on 3304 Shelby Drive. We bring in an acting troupe, almost like in All In The Family, if you know that show.

5) Chris Wiggins, candidate for US Representative 37th District, 760-828-0137. www.chriswigginscongress.com, email: info@chriswigginsforcongress. I am running for Congress in the 37th District. I am concerned about opportunity and jobs. I have been going around the community talking to small businesses about jobs. I am a Bernie Sanders supporter; go Hillary too. I am committed to single payer. I grew up in San Diego, went to college in Texas and then interned for a Republican in Texas. I have spoken with some Republican Legislators who say they are committed to certain things. I want to keep a dialogue going. I look forward to hearing from you. I was a Board Member of the West L.A Democratic Club. It gave me a lot of experience looking at the district. I think there are some good things Karen has done, but I think I can do some things better. I am a recruiter at Hulu, so I am out there getting people jobs and I am also out there registering voters, and I think that qualifies me enough. I think the distinction between middle and working class is eroding. You can be struggling to live well and you can be struggling to pay rent. Everybody should be able to live well and be able to pay bills.

Mr. Anderson is seated

6) Philip Bennett, CD-5 Field Deputy: I want to thank Sean for being very persistent with a lot of the issues in the neighborhood. Rick is aware of the issues. When I talk to Sanitation, it is about being persistent. We have been effective on Coventry, near the 10 freeway. Sanitation is able to go out there in under three weeks now. The response time is a lot quicker now. Selby tunnel - the graffiti is mostly cleaned up. We will get Sanitation out there to get the last bits of trash. For the long term, we want to manage and secure the tunnel. We are getting a clearer picture of what the use looks like; lot's of students. We don't know what the tunnel restrictions will look like yet. We will meet with Public Works and we hope to have a strategy going forward.

Ms. Broide - If the crossing guard is unable to lock and unlock the gate, one suggestion is to have a combo lock.

Mr. Bennett – Those are things that have been discussed. That may be better addressed by the neighborhood prosecutor. Veronica and SLO Eric helped to get this effort started with Lisa and myself.

Ms. Wu – If the HOA had an interest in helping, there was input that would help preserve the tunnel the most. They want you to have a voice in making sure the tunnel is preserved.

Ms. Broide – We will be a part of that.

Mr. Bennett – One thing we are discussing is the cost to really preserve the tunnel in terms of lights and maintenance. Baseline Mansionization Ordinance (BSO) – Faisal says the new BSO was passed by the City Planning Commission. The changes included exempting only 200 sqft of an attached garage in front, and to continue the exemption of a 400 sqft garage if it is in the rear. The BMO limits construction to 45% of the lot. The next step is to hear this at PLUM and then the Council. It is expected to be heard by the full Council by March. More info on the BSO: http://preservation.lacity.org/sites/default/files/Q%26A%20Revised%207-6-2016_0.pdf.

7) Caryn Friedman, Overland Ave School, request for a Neighborhood Purpose Grant (NPG) for \$500 for Family Math and Science Night: I am a parent at Overland Avenue School. I have taken on the position as Chair of the Math and Science Night event. It is happening Oct 20 from 5-8 PM. The purpose of the night is to get kids to have fun with math and science. I reach out to community people and ask them to do a workshop for twenty or so kids. I have gotten confirmations from Esteem, MTA Metro, Sylvian, Zaniac, Westside Wizards, JPL, Rolling Robots and more. MTA will design a city on a mat and show where things in a city can be placed. The theme this year is Star Wars. The kids are already excited. Any money you can give would be helpful.

Ms. Tippit – We gave money for a service dog reading programs. They gave away these dog pens (shows audience) that say donated by the WNC. As long as there is a denotation somewhere that says the WNC did something.

Ms. Friedman – Our posters and fliers will have the sponsors listed, including the WNC.

Motion made by Ms. Mason Heller for a Neighborhood Purpose Grant of \$500 for the Overland Ave School for Family Math and Science Night.

Second: Ms. Kusnic

Seats in favor: 1,7,8,9,11,12,16,17

Ineligible to vote: 2,3,5,6,14

8-0-0 Passed

Not Present/Not Voting: 4,10,13,15

8) Ms. Tippit – Summer Bark is coming up Friday (tomorrow) from 4-5 PM. There will be 3-4 dogs. The kids read to the dogs. Presented by Palms Rancho Park Library.

Palms-Rancho Park Library Presents:

SUMMER BARK!

**Read Your Favorite Book to
your Favorite
Reading Dogs!**

Molly, Nico, Nigel and Destry from the
BARK Program are looking
forward to reading with you!


 Incentives generously
 provided by the
Westside Neighborhood Council




Palms-Rancho Park Library
2920 Overland Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90064

Phone: 310 840-2142
www.lapl.org

readingdogs.org

Friday, August 12

4 pm to 5 pm




As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and, upon request, will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services and activities. Within 72 hours of the event please call (213) 228-7430 should an accommodation be needed.

9) Ms. Tippit – Treasurer’s Report

MONTHLY CASH RECONCILIATION				
Beginning Balance (A)	Funds Deposited (B)	Total Available (C) = (A+B)	Cash Spent this Month (D)	Remaining Balance (E) = C - D
\$165.86	\$9,250.00	\$9,415.86	(\$1,339.00)	\$10,754.86

MONTHLY BUDGETARY ANALYSIS					
Category Identifier	Budget Category	Adopted Budget (A)	Total Spent this Month (B)	Total Spent in Prior Months (C)	Unspent Budget Balance (D) = A - B - C
100	Operations	\$2,000.00	\$160.98	\$0.00	\$1,839.02
200	Outreach	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
300	Community Improvement	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00
400	NPG	\$30,000.00	-\$1,499.98	\$0.00	\$31,499.98
500	Elections	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
900	Unallocated	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	TOTAL	\$37,000.00	-\$1,339.00	\$0.00	\$38,339.00

Department of Neighborhood Empowerment							
Reporting Month:	JULY	MONTHLY EXPENDITURE REPORT					
NC Name:	Westside	Submitted: #####					
Budget Fiscal Year:	2014-2015						
FILL IN ALL THE UNSHADED (WHITE) FIELDS (Must be submitted to the Department within 10 days of Board Approval along with documentation and hard copy)							
EXPENDITURES BY LINE ITEM (for more than 12 expenditures, you may continue entering on page 3 of this worksheet - see below)							
A	Date / Item / Service Description	BUDGET CATEGORY	VENDOR	INVOICE NUMBER	OUT OF STATE VENDOR	1099 Reportable	TOTAL
1	7/1/16 Office Supplies	OPERATIONS	Staples		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$121.13
2	7/5/16 Telephone Service	OPERATIONS	Frontier Communications		<input type="checkbox"/>		\$46.85
3	7/8/16 Bank Service Charge Reversal	OPERATIONS	Union Bank				-\$7.00
4	7/13/16 Officer Uniforms - Refund	NPG	Friends of West LA				-\$1,499.98
5							\$0.00
6							\$0.00
7							\$0.00
8							\$0.00
9							\$0.00
10							\$0.00
11							\$0.00
12							\$0.00
SUBTOTAL: Expenditures by Line Item (May include totals on page 3, if entered)							-\$1,339.00
B CUMULATIVE EXPENDITURES FROM PRIOR MONTHS							\$0.00
C OUTSTANDING COMMITMENTS							
C 1. Outstanding Checks (checks that have been issued, but have not yet cleared the account)							
C 2. Rent/Lease							
C 3. Contractual Services							
C 4. Large Purchases							
C 5. Neighborhood Purpose Grants (pending or in process)							\$0.00
C 6. Temporary Staffing Services							
C 7. Storage							
C 8. Other Outstanding Commitments Description:							\$0.00
SUBTOTAL: Outstanding Commitments							\$0.00
D Total Expenditures & Commitments							-\$1,339.00
E Total Adjustments by Department (such as use taxes assessed, credits from prior fiscal years, etc) (use '+' for credits, '-' for d							
F Approved Budget 2014-2015							\$37,000.00
G Balance of Budget							\$38,339.00

Motion by Ms. Broide to approve the MER for July 2016 as presented.

Second: Ms. Mason-Heller

Seats in favor: 1,2,3,5,6,7,8,9,11,12,14,16,17

13-0-0 Passed

Not Present/Not Voting: 4,10,13,15

Motion by Mr. Rosenfield to approve \$500 for Take Me Home Days.

Second: Ms. Mason-Heller

Seats in favor: 1,7,8,9,11,12,16,17

Ineligible to vote: 2,3,5,6,14

8-0-0 Passed

Not Present/Not Voting: 4,10,13,15

Motion by Ms. Mason-Heller to approve up to \$750 for a laptop.

Second: Ms. Wu

Seats in favor: 1,7,8,9,11,12,16,17

Ineligible to vote: 2,3,5,6,14

8-0-0 Passed

Not Present/Not Voting: 4,10,13,15

10) Ms. Mason Heller, Expo Line Noise: Based on comments from the community on noise associated with the Expo Line a report was done. They were very good at taking down all the complaints when we met with them a few months ago. Last week we met with them again to follow up. Regarding the noise in the West of Westwood and Westwood Gardens areas, they have been able to reduce the number of clacking sounds from four long clacks to two short clacks. However, there have been complaints there is one or no clacks in some cases. They have put shrouds on the gates, which have diminished the noise a bit, but it's still not ideal because the noise emanates towards the houses near the line. Someone suggested they position the shrouds downward, since they are to alert pedestrians under the gate. At the station at Westwood, they had speakers announcing logistics inside the train cars and outside the train, which was loud for the entire community. They turned off the outside speakers announcing where the train is going. The only remaining issue for that stretch, is they are experiencing a lot of wheel squeal, which they think is related to breaking because it is a straight away and the two stations of Sepulveda and Westwood are very close. At night, apparently its worse. Wheel squeal is very difficult to mitigate. MTA does not have to mitigate anything that is not in the EIR. Expo's EIR stated that they were not expecting wheel squeal because there is a 600 ft radius noise threshold and they didn't expect to fall below it. They said that they would run the trains for a year and then deal with mitigation if the squeal was a problem. There are three curves on the line in our area, One curve is a 500 ft radius, less than threshold. The next curve has a 1200 ft sound radius and then it's a 1500 ft sound radius near the school. All are still recording loud squeal even though they have added lubricating devices. They will next try grinding the rails to improve wheel contact but they are not optimistic it will work. Chances are they are not going be able to do any permanent fix. Overall, there has been some improvement at the crossings, but there is also some permanent lack of a quality of life along the route.

Ms. Broide – South Pasadena had problems with noise, but they did something out there.

Ms. Mason-Heller – There the houses were 15 ft away or less from the Gold Line and they are now empty; there is no mitigation for that. Here, we have houses that are 30 ft away. The Gold Line lawsuit is still not resolved. WNC will probably not get anymore scheduled follow up from the MTA on this. At this point, they will probably deal with neighbors one by one and we all know it's hard to get them to do anything as individuals.

11) Ms. Mason-Heller, Second Dwelling Units: A number of people in the community met with CD-5 on the SDU issue. Some of what we discussed was new to Paul's staff. We got his attention, and he got it. When we made the

obvious link with AirBnB, which he has been opposed to, he got it. It does not increase the amount of affordable housing. My daughter lives near sunset in Hollywood for \$1500/mo and that is not affordable.

Ms. Broide – It seems to me these platforms are increasing the cost of living in LA.

Ms. Mason-Heller – I have to give credit to Planning, who seems to now want to plan a city that works for the people. The ordinance they are looking at now would retain the 640 sqft and retain setbacks. The state allows you to build up to 1200 sqft without a lot of constraints. What the Councilmember did not know is the state allows you to set up an auxiliary ordinance or a series of parallel ordinances instead of using the state's 1200 sqft. It seems to me like that is win-win. The good news is Paul is taking a leadership position in favor of the current ordinance. We told him one of his tasks is to educate the rest of the Council about what the State ordinance says.

Ms. Broide – Mike Bonin's people said the policy the City is working on is not really doing anything, it is just codifying what already exists.

Ms. Mason-Heller – Which is not the case. Instead of doing the hard work of planning, they decided to sweep out what was. It does not work, we do not have consensus, but they are laying a tremendous amount of the burden on single family communities.

Ms. Broide - At one point, Zev said there is plenty of single family to accommodate the needs for housing. However, R1 is being blamed for the lack of the housing. I see people say it and it's all over the internet. How do we ask the City to look at how many units actually exist in R3 and R4 zones? How do you create incentives to build affordable housing on those lots?

Mr. McMillan - If you use bonus densities near transit, on a lot that is less than \$1 million, you are going to get a huge return. How do you incentivize an owner of R3 and R4? Also, do you have the infrastructure to support the growth is another question?

Ms. Mason-Heller – We had no fire coverage in our community last year at times because they were elsewhere. LAFD is retiring 200 people a year and only 60 cadets are coming out; that is a huge deficit.

Ms. Broide – It is the dog chasing its tail.

Mr. Berson – Even for homelessness, our weather is amazing and we have a huge safety net. There is a reason why 11% of the population of this country is in one state.

Mr. McMillan – Speaking as the Chair on homeless issues, I will be hosting a meeting at Heyler on the Mayor’s Program, called the Welcome Home Program. The Mayor’s concept is embracing the homeless. Pushing people out of the neighborhood is not going to be the way. The idea is to shift our mindset in how we think about it. They are trying to identify mental health issues, substance abusers, they know the demographics. My hope is Board Members will send it out to their stakeholders. There are huge statistics that if people can be helped right away, they are less likely to go back out on the street.

Mr. Anderson – Is PATH being invited?

Mr. McMillan – I have a list of invitees, they are being invited. What do you do about the issue is the question?

Mr. Berson – Probably 40% of homeless people do not want structure, and that is the hard part.

Mr. McMillan – The term is service resistance. Right now though, it is a big problem. It is there one day, gone the next and then big encampments form. Sept 10 will be the meeting; look for the email.

Ms. Mason-Heller – I want to thank you for picking up the mantel on this and allowing yourself to be changed with the conversation. When my kids were little, we took them to St. Vincent DePaul. Having a dialogue with kids I think is important.

Mr. McMillan – That is the point in the meetings, we need ideas. If you want change you have to affect the newest generation. Sept 10 at Heyler.

12) Announcements

Ms. Broide – This Saturday Ron Ziff is speaking against Metro’s Master Plan at PlanCheck. Last month they had someone speaking for it. Then, on Saturday September 10 at 10 AM, the new Planning Director Vince Bertoni is coming to PlanCheck. <http://plancheckncla.com/>.

**Motion to adjourn, Ms. Dox. 8:35 PM
Second: Ira Newlander**

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>.