

Westside Neighborhood Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 10, 2016
6:00 P.M.
Westside Pavilion
10800 W. Pico

1. Selection Election

Call to Order by Jay Handal, 6:30 PM

The selection election was held for the following seats:

Seat 1: Jae Wu

Seat 2: Lisa Morocco

Seat 3: Vacant

Seat 4: Steve Spector

Seat 5: Brendan Kotler

Seat 6: Sarah Shaw

Seat 7: Barbara Broide

Seat 8: Terri Tippit

Seat 9: Sean McMillan

Seat 10: Vacant

Seat 11: Mary Kusnic

Seat 12: Colleen Mason-Heller

Seat 13: Francesca Beale-Rosano

Seat 17: Aaron Rosenfield

There were no contested seats, which means by affirmation the above seats were selected. Unanimous approval by stakeholders in attendance.

2. Call to Order of monthly meeting

By Ms. Tippit, WNC Chair, 6:55 PM

Attendance:

Seat 1: Jae Wu

Seat 2: Lisa Morocco

Seat 5: Brendan Kotler

Seat 7: Barbara Broide

Seat 8: Terri Tippit

Seat 11: Mary Kusnic

Seat 12: Colleen Mason-Heller

Seat 13: Francesca Beale-Rosano

Seat 17: Aaron Rosenfield

Seated after start:

Seat 9: Sean McMillan

Not in attendance:

Seat 4: Steve Spector

Seat 6: Sarah Shaw

Vacancies:

**Seat 3
Seat 10
Seat 14
Seat 15
Seat 16**

3. Board Approvals for Vacant Seats

Motion by Mr. Rosenfield for Lisa Tabor to fill Seat 3.

Second: Ms. Morocco

Seats in favor: 1,2,5,7,8,11,12,13,17

9-0-0

Passed

Ms. Tabor is seated

Motion by Ms. Morocco for Stacey Antler to fill Seat 10.

Second: Ms. Kusnic

Seats in favor: 1,2,3,5,7,8,11,12,13,17

10-0-0

Passed

Ms. Antler is seated

Motion by Ms. Kusnic for Mr. Shabsis to fill Seat 15.

Second: Ms. Morocco

Seats in favor: 1,2,3,5,7,8,10,11,12,13,17

11-0-0

Passed

Mr. Shabsis is seated

Motion by Ms. Antler for Ms. Dox to fill Seat 16.

Second: Ms. Kusnic

Seats in favor: 1,2,3,5,7,8,10,11,12,13,15,17

12-0-0

Passed

Ms. Dox is seated

4. Tut Hayes – Public Comment, 5961 West Blvd 1866-234-4357:

I am here to talk about Metro. I am from another neighborhood council. The word TAP does not exist in Metros resolutions. People who do not have tickets can

basically get away with it because of enforcement problems. NYC has the most extensive system in America. India has five tunnels. We can't afford to "Make America Great Again" and put a tunnel through Sepulveda Pass? The Blue Line is the deadliest railroad in America because it is at-grade. Expo had a crash at USC and then another crash, because they are at street level. We got the money with Measure M, let's put it underground. Light rail is quick and dirty and that is what you have. We want the Crenshaw Line underground and will ask for your support.

5. Board Approvals for Vacant Seat 14

Motion by Ms. Kusnic for Ms. Burns to fill Seat 14.

Second: Ms. Morocco

Seats in favor: 1,2,3,5,7,8,10,11,12,13,15,16,17

13-0-0

Passed

Ms. Burns is seated

6. Jay Handal, Budget Advocates, <http://ncbala.com/>: We have met with 18 of 42 City Departments. Nine resolutions have been passed and sent to Council, including the proposal for the Rams to pay for LAPD services. We are going to put out shorter White Papers this year. The LA 2020 Commission, a panel of professionals, submitted one paper long ago and we are asking the Council to agendaize the item to consider their input. We will meet with every City Department by December 1st. When the City Council gives the NCs \$5,000, it is great. But, we could have used more staff at DONE. Most NCs do not spend their money. \$1.1 million of \$4 million and change is given back from the NCs every year. This year only \$500,000 was given back because of the forced requirement to spend money on NC elections. The City Council has been remiss on funding DONE and keeping them accountable. We are the watchdogs of what happens in our city. There are 36 of us and we take our jobs seriously. We feel like they do not care about us. No matter how we vote, they do what they want. That is why we are pushing to have money spent in the right places. We are not living within our means and the City is not giving us the services we pay for. If NCs cannot get the support they need, there is a problem. The biggest problem in our city is IT. We are working with chalkboards. The IT dept cannot get it together. Watch what is going on out there and make sure your Council Members are responsive. So, when we send out a link to a survey or info, spread the word and make sure people are weighing in.

Mr. McMillan is seated.

7. Paul Koretz, City Council Member District 5

Mr. Koretz swore in the WNC Board. Certificates were handed out to Board Members for their service to the community.

Mr. Koretz – I am trying to get Metro to address the increase in train services that have occurred without sufficient notice.

Ms. Burns – Traffic build up and the synching is woefully insufficient. Please get them to come out, see it and address it.

8. LAPD SLO Ricardo Ballesteros - 33652@lapd.lacity.org, 310-444-0738: The area has been doing good except for robberies that started south of us, moved here and then into the Valley. Two vehicles we thought were connected to the incidents were stopped, but it turned out to be unrelated. Be aware of your surroundings. Walk with people. If you are out at night, be in well lit areas. GTAs- we still have a little, but it has gone down. Plain thefts such as bags left on vehicles, it is always going to be there, but it is low. Other than the robbery series, I have not seen a whole lot. Lock it, hide, keep it with the holidays approaching. If you are going shopping, don't load up your trunk and then go back into the store. When you leave your home, secure your house.

Ms. Broide – The people being robbed on the street were having their cell phones taken.

Officer Ballesteros – That is correct. I cannot tell you what is being done with them, sold for parts or whatever, but that is what we understand to be the case.

Ms. Antler leaves for the evening.

Mr. Shabsis – May we give consideration to the presenters that are here to have them speak now?

9. Presentation on application for Conditional Use for Quick Silver Towing Service at 1981 Cotner Ave. CPC 2016-3367-CU.

Presentation by:

Dana Sayles, ThreeSixty, 4309 Overland Ave Culver City, 310-204-3500, dana@three6ixty.net and Ed Arensdorf, Quick Silver Towing, 1981 Cotner Ave, 310-478-1201, earendorfofG8@gmail.com.

Ms. Sayles – I have met with community leaders to talk through the project. We are the police towing yard for the LAPD. We are located on Cotner between Missouri and Mississippi. It is a public facilities zoned lot. There are 5 acres on the site that are used for municipal towing operations. The R3 on the opposite side of the freeway constitutes the nearest adjacent most restrictive zone, which does not allow towing. So, as a technicality, we need a Conditional Use Permit. Quick Silver provides a service to the City.

Mr. Arensdorf – Quick Silver has been around since 1954. It was originally on Barrington and the Expo Line is now there, so we moved to La Cienega and Rodeo, where we did a short-term lease because we need to be able to get to the various parts of the city in a quick timeframe. LAPD was happy about the location on Cotner. It is land under CalTrans. We cleaned up the property. There was previously lot's of crime and homelessness. We added fencing, did tree trimming, added lighting and security. We are not allowed to build on the property. We have a trailer on the property. We have put \$250,000 into the property. 10% of the towing is related to traffic accidents. Most of it is related to unlicensed drivers, robberies, multiple tickets. We work closely with the LAPD captain and SLOs over there.

Mr. McMillan – I travel through the area and what you have done is an improvement. I think it is an absurdity that you need to do this and do support it. But, I wanted to know, do you hold auctions?

Mr. Arensdorf – About 15% of the cars do not get picked up and they go to public auction. We have to follow State rules. We don't have enough inventory to do an auction every week, so we hold one every other week. At 6pm is the viewing and 7pm the auctions start. By 9pm we are done. There are 17 employees at Quick Silver. 7 AM to 7 PM are the public hours Monday through Sunday. The business itself is open 24/7. We tow about 600 cars per month. The lot carries 175 cars. We travel on all the surrounding streets depending on where we are coming and going from.

Ms. Mason-Heller makes a motion that the WNC support the CUP for the continuation of Quick Silver's towing operations at 1981 Cotner Ave.

Second: Mr. Shabsis

Seats in favor: 1,2,3,5,7,8,9,11,12,13,14,15,16,17

14-0-0

Passed

Handouts from Quick Silver Towing:

QUICK SILVER TOWING PROJECT SUMMARY
1981 S. Cotner Avenue, Los Angeles, CA
CPC-2016-3367-CU

Quick Silver Towing ("Quick Silver") has been an Official Police Garage (OPG) contractor for the Los Angeles Police Department since 1954. They were previously located at 5875 Rodeo Road and 2284 S. Barrington Avenue. As an OPG, they act as an extension of the Police Department. Part of Quick Silver's responsibility to the LAPD involves towing and storing vehicles impounded by the LAPD resulting from driver arrests, driving without a license, and they hold vehicles that have been used in crimes for investigation.

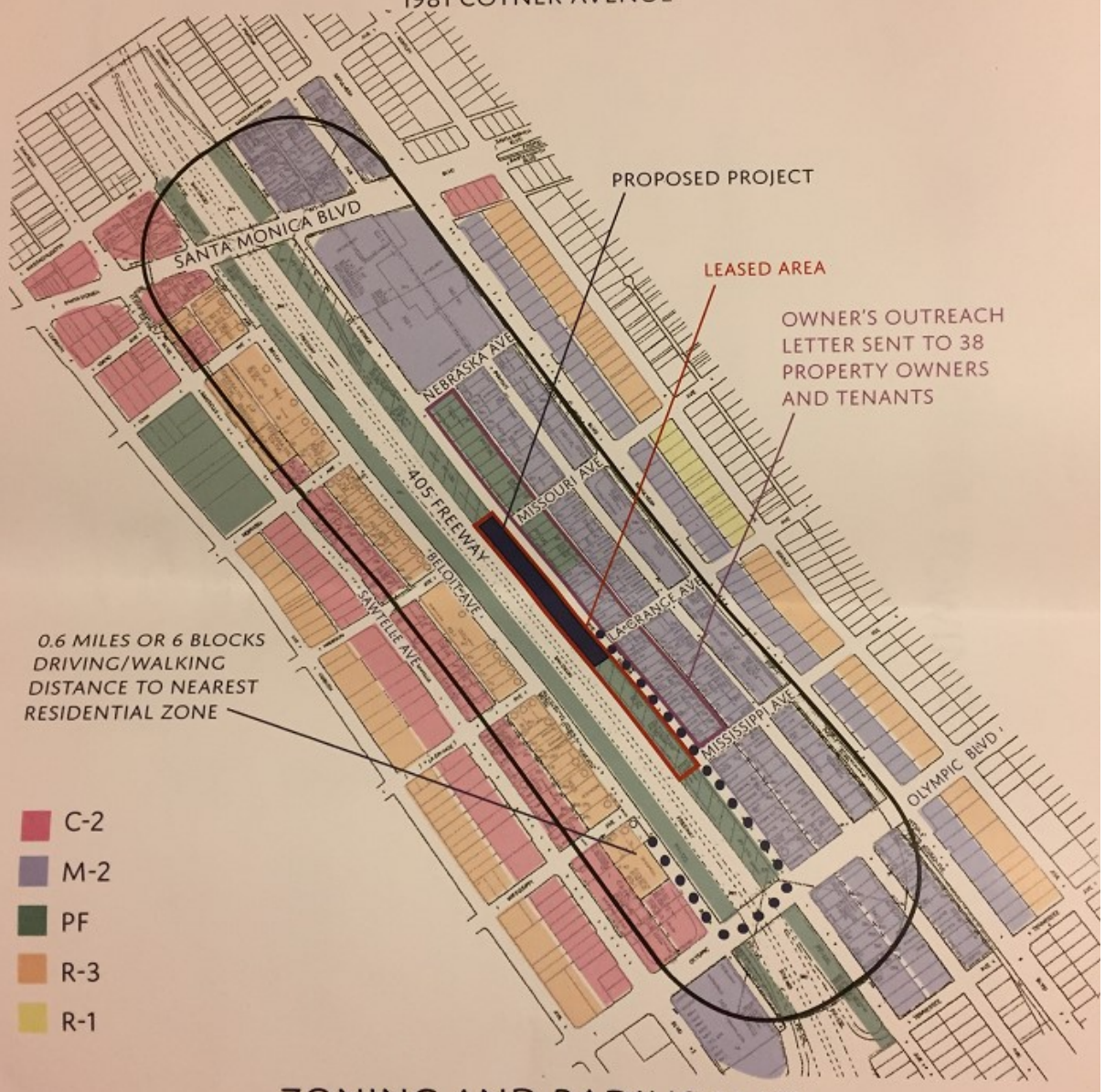
In 2015, Quick Silver leased remnant land from the 405 widening project generally between Mississippi Avenue and Missouri Avenue from Caltrans. Both Caltrans and the City of Los Angeles have deemed this one of the highest and best uses for public facilities zoned land adjacent to the freeway. Quick Silver has made physical improvements to the property in order to secure the site and help control some of the crime and blight that previously existed. Improvements include fencing and security on Cotner Avenue, light poles, electrical work, cameras, trash bins, landscaping, graffiti removal, and temporary power.

As part of ongoing operations of Quick Silver, the Department of City Planning is requiring Quick Silver to obtain a Conditional Use Permit ("CUP") for this location. The Conditional Use Permit was deemed necessary because of an interpretation that the R3 zoned land along Beloit Avenue on the opposite side of the 405 freeway is considered "adjacent" to the tow yard. Since the R3 zone does not permit public facility and industrial uses such as this, a CUP is needed.

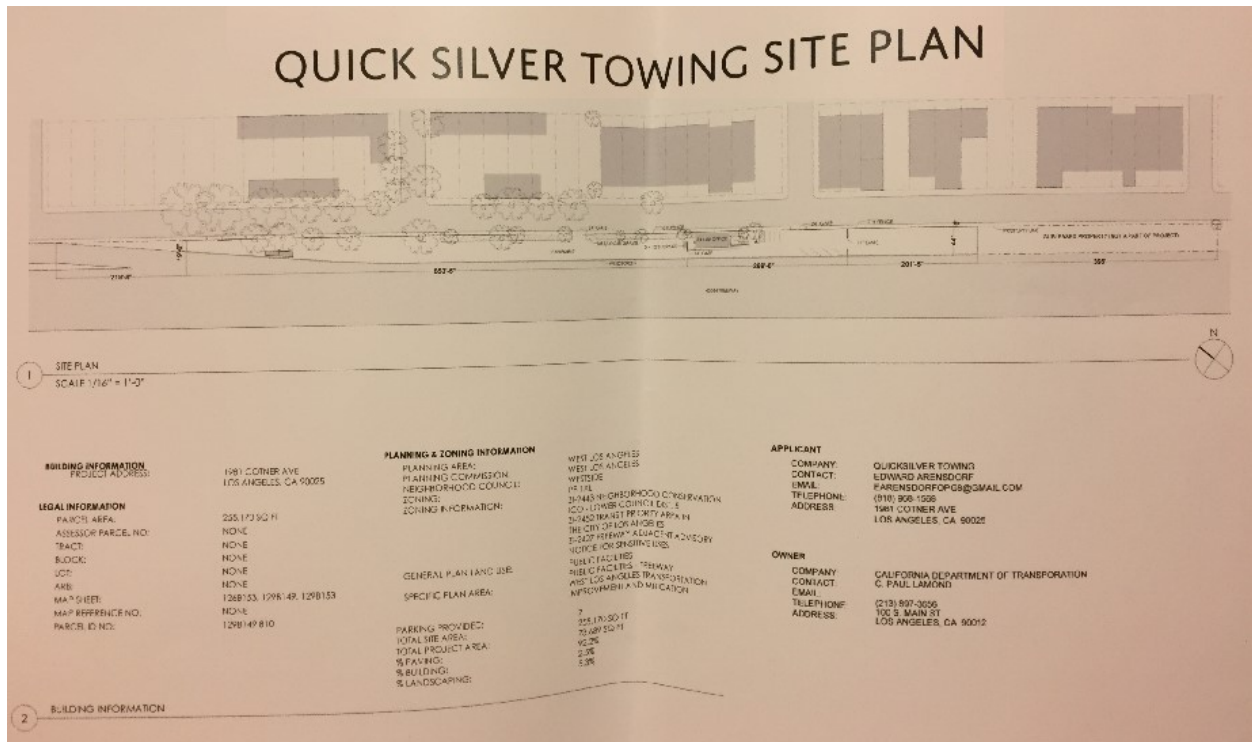
Across the 405 freeway is a Public Facilities (PF) zoned parcel that was also used for construction staging of the 405 similar to Quick Silver's land; however, the Department of City Planning considers this parcel contiguous with Quick Silver's parcel despite the separation of the freeway since it is also owned by Caltrans. Therefore, the R3-zoned parcels across Beloit Avenue from the freeway are considered the nearest adjacent most restrictive zone to the Property. These properties are almost 400 feet away and 0.6 miles away from Quick Silver by car or foot. Nonetheless, they are the technical reason a Conditional Use Permit is required.

The City of Los Angeles has permitted Quick Silver to begin operations on site as their west side OPG, as this is an essential service for the City, and interruption of these services would be detrimental. We are hopeful that the Westside Neighborhood Council recognizes that this entitlement action is the definition of an unusual circumstance, and that Quick Silver has been a good neighbor for the Cotner Avenue businesses by helping to reduce long-standing crime and blight in the area.

QUICKSILVER TOWING CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT 1981 COTNER AVENUE



ZONING AND RADIUS MAP



10. Discuss and possible action on Prop D Cannabis/Marijuana Regulations for the City of Los Angeles.

Ms. Tippit – Andrew could not be here tonight and there was too much to review in a short period of time. We will table this item.

Mr. Rosenfield – There will be hearings related to Cannabis regulation on November 29 at 6pm in LA City Hall and Dec 7 at 6pm in Van Nuys City Hall.

Karin Curtis, Public Comment, 10550 Santa Monica Blvd – I have been a resident here for about one year. Prior to that, I was in Miami as a violent crimes prosecutor. I prosecuted a lot of narcotics cases. I understand there are a lot of concerns with the legalization of Cannabis. I also applaud the passing of Prop 64. Businesses have been given an opportunity. I know lot's of people in these businesses and they just want to comply with the rules. If we legalize these products, we need to have regulated access. As municipalities are considering how to handle this new measure, I urge people to go to your local dispensaries and talk to the business owners. If you knew these people it lends insight. It is easy to have negative stereotypicals of these businesses. But they are not eligible for federal tax deductions. Lots of the businesses are owned by minorities and

women. If we don't give them an opportunity to compete, they will not be able to do so.

Daniel Curtis, Public Comment, 10550 Santa Monica Blvd – I arrived in LA 1.5 years ago. I have been in Barbara's HOA area for one year now. It seems that in NorCal communities have been more proactive about allowing citizens to have access to Cannabis via a limited number of permits and special zoning. There, applicants will put together a business plan that is okay with the community. That limits the number of stores, traffic, etc. It seems in LA the approach is different. The approach here being to limit businesses all together; but at the same time there seems to be actually a lot more business activity here.

Ms. Broide – Part of the issue is because of the huge proliferation. There was a measure called Prop D. We have nine dispensaries in our area now; we had many more previously. LA is very litigation conscious. They will never let each community decide the precise number.

Ms. Tippit – Let's get the regulations and have them pay taxes, but we do not need fifteen on a block.

Mr. Hayes – Why does the cigarette tax also cover e-cigarettes? Because the people who crafted the measure say it actually leads to more smoking. At some schools they have come up with entertainment for children instead of education. In my area, high schools like Crenshaw are being taken over by the State. MLK Hospital lost its accreditation because of poor health care. Dope is entertainment. We have to recognize that it's pleasant; it is a lot of things. I have never been high. But one thing leads to another over time. Be careful what you take in because it could be destructive.

11. Support for a traffic signal to be installed at Military and Pico with a queue from Pico to Exposition to address the increase in cars using Military because of the 99 Cent Store and Expo Rail.

Ms. Tippit – I have sent pictures on the back up occurring on Military. On Pico at Military, there is currently no signal. There is only one lane. Jay has worked hard to help. The real solution of course would be grade separating the train. What they are going to do is make two lanes on Military; one that goes left and the other that goes right onto Pico. But, of course, Pico is stopped. A signal is finally

going to be supported at Pico and Military, but they need a letter of support. WOWHOA has already issued a letter of support.

Ms. Morocco – I would like to outreach to the businesses to let them know about this.

Member of the public – I know the manager at Norms and I know they want it because the intersection has been deadly.

Mr. Greenstein, CD5 – There is no timeline. We need to get it in the queue and to identify funds.

Ms. Mason-Heller – There is Case Law that once the City is on notice of a problem and something happens, it is on the City.

Mr. Greenstein – Lot's of areas have the potential for accidents. All we can do is work with DOT to address it.

Mr. Shabsis – I don't disagree with this mitigation but my concern is where there are other issues. We are making requests about individual intersections and that has reactions. We should figure out the whole area around the WNC and study it together. We need to look at things in an inter-connected manner.

Mr. Greenstein – I don't disagree, but there are a lot of individual issues too and we work with the community to address matters that arise.

Mr. Kotler – NCs need to do a better job of asking for things from developers.

Mr. Greenstein – If we are going to get money for a traffic study, a developer could be a good potential source.

MR. Kotler – It would be smart to do EIRs and to include larger areas.

Ms. Tippit – We have done that.

Mr. Kotler – Because traffic updates are now provided live on Waze, any traffic study that is done will be instantly out of date.

Ms. Broide – Is there a deadline for comments on the WLA TIMP?

Mr. Greenstein – It will come to the City Planning Commission early in the New Year.

Ms. Broide – That is where the list that developer money goes to. We need mitigations for EXPO on that list.

Mr. Greenstein – Things have changed dramatically with the increase in train schedules. DOT is scrambling to manage traffic. Meanwhile, we will push on MTA.

Mr. Rosenfield – The lights are timed to slow traffic down to avoid potential accidents with the train. You can't have it both ways. You either speed traffic up or slow it down.

John Darnell, CD 5 – Any random Joe can go on DOT's website and ask for a traffic signal. Once the request is made, DOT needs to study it.

Mr. Greenstein – It is always helpful to work with the community and to have support for projects to get issues addressed.

Ms. Mason-Heller makes a motion for the WNC to send a letter of support for a new signal to be added to the intersection at Pico and Military.

Second: Ms. Burns

Seats in favor: 1,2,3,5,7,8,9,11,12,13,14,15,16,17

14-0-0

Passed

12) Treasurer's Report – Ms. Burns: The budget was presented as follows with a remaining balance of \$33,053.42. In addition, as previously mentioned, there will be \$5,000 added to our budget by the City Council.

Department of Neighborhood Empowerment				MONTHLY EXPENDITURE REPORT				
Reporting Month: OCTOBER		Submitted: 11/13/2016 5:29:55		EMPOWER LA Department of Neighborhood Empowerment				
NC Name:		Budget Fiscal Year: 2016-2017		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	VENDOR	INVOICE NUMBER	APPROVAL CODE	DATE - DESCRIPTION	BUDGET CATEGORY	OUT OF STATE VENDOR	1099 Reportable	TOTAL
1	The Lange Foundation			10/29/16 - Annual Event	NPG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$2,000.00
2	Frontier Comm			10/3/16 - Telephone	OPERATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$46.85
3	Frontier Comm			10/31/16 - Telephone	OPERATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$46.78
4	Ralphi			10/17/16 -- Heyley Harvest, COCHA	OUTREACH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$53.21
5	Smart & Final			10/17/16 -- Heyley Harvest, COCHA	OUTREACH	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$77.90
6	Valley Crest Tree			10/5/16 -- Tree trimming Flco	NPG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$228.00
7	FCWLA			10/21/16 - Officer Uniforms	PRIOR YR NPG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$1,000.00
8						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
9						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
11						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
12						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
SUBTOTAL: Expenditures by Line Item (May include totals on page 3 if entered)								\$3,453.44
CUMULATIVE EXPENDITURES FROM PRIOR MONTHS / CURRENT FISCAL YEAR								\$1,493.14
OUTSTANDING COMMITMENTS (OBLIGATIONS)								
1	Overland Elem			10/20/16 Math/Science Night	NPG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$500.00
2	Take Me Home Days			Take Me Home Days	NPG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$500.00
3	FCWLA			Officer Uniforms	PRIOR YR NPG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$1,493.98
4						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
7						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
8						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
9						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
10						<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
SUBTOTAL: Outstanding Commitments (Includes total on page 3)								\$2,493.98
Total Expenditures & Commitments								\$7,446.55
Total Adjustments (such as new taxes assessed, prior fiscal years items, etc.) (Use "-" for credits, "+" for deductions)								(\$2,499.98)
Approved Budget 2016-2017								\$37,000.00
Balance of Budget 2016-2017								\$32,053.42

MONTHLY CASH RECONCILIATION				
Beginning Balance (A)	Funds Deposited (B)	Total Available (C) = (A+B)	Cash Spent this Month (D)	Remaining Balance (E) = C - D
\$10,422.70	\$8,124.15	\$18,546.85	\$5,453.44	\$13,093.41

MONTHLY CASH FLOW ANALYSIS						
Category Identifier	Budget Category	Adopted Budget (A)	Total Spent this Month (B)	FY 2015-16 Expenses Cleared in FY 2016-17 (C)	Total Spent in Prior Months (D)	Unspent Budget Balance (E) = A - B - D
100	Operations	\$2,000.00	\$83.63	\$0.00	\$1,493.14	\$413.23
200	Outreach	\$2,000.00	\$131.81	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,868.19
300	Community Improvement	\$3,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,000.00
400	NPG	\$30,000.00	\$2,228.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$27,772.00
500	Elections	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	TOTAL	\$37,000.00	\$2,453.44	\$1,000.00	\$1,493.14	\$33,053.42

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL DECLARATION	
We, the Treasurer and Signer of the above indicated Council, declare that the information presented on this form is accurate and complete, and will furnish additional documentation to the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment upon request.	
Treasurer Signature	Signer's Signature
Print Name	Print Name
Date	Date
NC Additional Comments	

Revision Date: 06/25/16

Motion by Ms. Burns to approve the MER for October 2016 as presented.

Second: Ms. Morocco

Seats in favor: 1,2,3,5,8,9,11,12,13,14,15,16,17

Not Voting: 7

13-0-0

Passed

Motion by Ms. Morocco to approve funding to pay Kristina Smith for website maintenance for 9 months, November – July, in the amount of \$900.00.

Second: Ms. Kusnic

Seats in favor: 1,2,3,5,8,9,11,12,13,14,15,16,17

Not Voting: 7

13-0-0

Passed

13. Discussion and vote to cancel December Meeting

Mr. Shabsis makes a motion to cancel the December WNC Meeting.

Second: Ms. Beale-Rosano

Seats in favor: 1,2,3,5,7,8,9,11,12,13,14,15,16,17

14-0-0

Passed

14. Announcements:

Ms. Morocco – Please add to the January agenda a discussion on funding for Pick Pico.

Ms. Burns – We have to reapprove a past MER because we did not have the bank account statement to base an MER. Please add it to the January agenda.

Ms. Morocco – I wanted to report that Lange received their NPG. Ms. Morocco read a letter of thanks.

Ms. Broide – Please add the sign ordinance, which may come up by then.

Mr. Shabsis – I was at a meeting on the remaining areas left to deal with Mansionization. A number of neighborhoods, including Lower CD5, were moved to another meeting date, which I believe is December 8. I told Sean we should be apprised when these meeting dates are changing. Other things: (1) the principal at Overland has initiated to add fifty stalls of parking on the black top of the school. (2) More accidents on Overland around the school and close calls are occurring with cars trying to beat the gates. On Ashby and Overland a car ended

up in someone's living room. (3) Also wanted to mention Overland has been named a top 10 elementary school in California.

Motion to adjourn at 9:05 PM by Ms. Morocco.
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>.