Westside Neighborhood Council Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, October 13, 2016  
7:00 P.M.  
Westside Pavilion  
10800 W. Pico

1. Call to Order  
By Ms. Tippit, WNC Chair  
Call to order: 7:02 PM

Attendance:  
Kate Kennedy (Seat 1-alt)  
Lisa Morocco (Seat 2)  
Craig Silvers (Seat 3-Alt)  
Steve Spector (Seat 4)  
Barbara Broide (Seat 7)  
Ms. Tippit Tippit (Seat 8)  
Francois Nion (Seat 11)  
Colleen Mason-Heller (Seat 12)  
Francesca Beale-Rosano (Seat 13)  
Aaron Rosenfield (Seat 17)

Seated after start:  
Brendan Kotler (Seat 5)  
Sean McMillan (Seat 9)  
Stacy Antler (Seat 10)  
Eric Shabsis (Seat 15)  
Wendy Dox (Seat 16-Alt)

Not in attendance:  
Sarah Shaw (Seat 6)  
Shannon Burns (Seat 14)

New Business:  
A) Approval of the September 8, 2016 Minutes: The minutes were reviewed and discussed. There was one correction dealing with a spelling change of Jay Handel’s name. Motion by Ms. Broide to approve the September 8, 2016 minutes  
Second: Mr. Spector  
Seats in favor: 4,7,8,12,13  
Seats abstaining: 1,2,3,11,17  
5-0-5  
Passed
B) LAPD SLO Ricardo Ballesteros - 33652@lapd.lacity.org, 310-444-0738: Thefts and grand theft autos (GTAs) are the major part of the report today.

*Ms. Antler, Ms. Dox, Mr. Kotler and Mr. Shabsis are seated*

If you are parking tandem, don’t leave your keys in the car. That is how the GTAs occur. We are out there educating people not to do that, please share this info not to do this. We had a burglary. But I want to talk about the assault with a deadly weapon. An elderly woman got hit with a shovel at Tennessee and Westwood. A witness got involved. He saw the transient hit the woman. The woman was hit five times. The witness chased the suspect and then lost him. The suspect may have gone through the mall, so we are hoping to get him on the video there. The descriptions is a 5’6 white male with black/brown hair.

Ms. Broide – There is still a problem with the food truck patrons that are parked at the car wash. At night, cars drive up across the sidewalk and park.

Officer Ballesteros - I will pass it along to the officers. The truck is able to be there, but it is the patrons that cause an issue and I will pass it on.

Officer Gonzales – On Manning and Roundtree, a male Hispanic without provocation stabbed a victim. The victim attempted to defend himself. The suspect fled on foot. He was arrested in someone’s back yard. The suspect appeared to be on a meth binge. The victim is doing well. The suspect lives in the Slauson area, so came a long way to get here.

*Mr. McMillan is seated.*

C) Public Comment - Turon Vahedi, 2300 Glendon speaking on Orange Theory Fitness. The gym is set to go in where Lange is right now. One of my huge problems with this is the parking situation and I know they want to open at 5 AM in the morning. There should be a right hand turn only out of Apple Pan. Apple Pan has 8 parking spots and they just had 24 patrons in there when I stopped by. I love their burgers, but I am tired of picking up all the noise and traffic and it’s going to get worse with Orange Theory.

Ms. Tippit – The Apple Pan is grandfathered in because they have been there so long.
Ms. Morocco – What I am concerned about is the Apple Pan’s parking lot backs up into an alley and that means people have to go onto Pico. We should take into account how a right turn only change will impact flow.

Ms. Vahedi - I hope we can come up with something that works for everyone.

Ms. Tippit – Orange Theory was on our agenda a few months ago. We have to remember to get the agenda out to our stakeholders, so that everyone knows about what is going on. We gave our support to them awhile back. We can’t take action tonight because it is not on the agenda. I have talked to people who say the classes are small.

Ms. Dox - At 5 AM the Apple Pan and Guitar Center are not open. I don’t see an impact at that time.

Ms. Turon – I hear people jamming up and down the street early in the morning. The gym will always be going from 5 AM to 9:30 at night. It is not once and done, it is every day.

Mr. Shabsis – I spoke with Terry and she is very well aware of the issues. I know she is trying to put something together with Paul, the owner. They really do want to make that place work. They are getting two store fronts. One is correctly zoned and the other needs the variance. We talked if there is some way of working the entrances so you had to enter and exit off of Pico. In the morning hours, there is ample parking. The issue you are talking about is really an existing issue perhaps exacerbated by the new tenant, but is not the new tenant.

Ms. Turon - I have heard UCLA students and Expo people are using the parking garage. That parking structure needs to be taken care of.

Ms. Morocco – I don’t know what is going on with that structure, but what I have seen is it is basically empty.

Mr. Shabsis – Paul wants to make sure there are gate arms. They are validating and paying for parking, so they want to make sure their customers can park. The landlord may have been problematic over the years.

Ms. Turon – As a homeowner, I have told Terry I don’t want to see any more traffic.
Ms. Mason-Heller – People coming out of the parking garage go out to Pico. If you are coming out of Apple Pan with a right turn only, there are two routes turning the same way and that might create an impenetrable backup.

Mr. Shabsis – What about a one-way alley?

Ms. Mason-Heller – I don’t know the solution, but I think we are moving into a new normal of gridlock in our area.

Mr. Shabsis – Out of Lenny’s, there is signage that you cannot go North. I think DOT needs to look at how people exit the whole strip of alley.

Ms. Broide – We had a great showing of neighbors at our WSSM meeting. The two things variances are being considered for are: (1) You can’t operate a fitness studio in one of the stores, and (2) The hours of operation.

Mr. Shabsis – One of the neighbors threatened to sue, so I suspect it will go back to the ABC. So, the WNC will likely have another opportunity to weigh in.

Ms. Morocco – I want a solution to work for everyone, but I want to make sure Apple Pan’s voice is in the mix.

Ms. Vahedi – I love Apple Pan and Sunny. But I am the one having to call the police when people are drunk and leaving late at night and getting into fights. I would love to have a conversation with them.

D) Ronnel Conn, Assistant Executive Director at Westside Jewish Community Center, 323-556-5209, rconn@westsidejcc.org. I am here today to talk about the 5K Run/Walk to support health and wellness community programs. It is happening on Sunday December 11 on San Vicente Blvd. More info at: https://www.wizathon.com/wjcc5k/index.php.

*Ms. Morocco recuses herself and leaves the room*

info@jamisonproperties.la. Subject: The proposed zone change to RAS4-1, for a 33 unit mixed use apartment building at 1855 Westwood Blvd.

Ms. Broide – The project came to our last WSSM meeting. Not only were the blocks behind the project very interested, but people around Santa Monica, Glendon and Midvale were too because it is a precedent setting.

Mr. Ries – It is my desire to work through as many issues as we can and work through this process and mitigate concerns. Currently, the building on the premises is way in the back of the property and is for an automotive use with surface level parking. We want to build a mixed use project, which we think meets the vision the City has. It adds housing and puts housing near transit and jobs. The rapid bus runs down Westwood and it’s not far from EXPO. We have a commercial building frontage. We have designed a 13 feet sidewalk in front. We have a driveway to the southern portion of the site that circulates down to three subterranean levels. We have bike parking for residential and commercial uses. The first story is for a commercial use and the four stories above are for residential purposes. We have lot’s of open space for residents. To me the residents will be workers from Century City or the Westwood area. Certainly students could live there as well. We have not worked out a marketing plan yet. There is a 5 foot setback for the commercial level in front. We have made about 30 feet of separation from back of the property but because of trees, we are having trouble finding out exactly where the back of the property ends. I did not say last week, but we will have the trees slated for removal on the environmental documents so we are covered, but if they are in fact on our property, we would like to leave them if possible. We don’t have a specific commercial use yet, but don’t intend to have restaurants and the plan is retail only.

AR – Do you have electronic copies of the pictographs you are showing us that you can forward to Terri?

Mr. Ries – Yes…We have a zone change from C4-1VL to RAS4-1. RAS4-1 generates a lot less trips. We are asking for a height district change from 1VL to 1. The project will be a 5 story mixed use apartment complex. We have no intention of converting this to condos, it is for apartments. This is for individuals to getting out of their cars and for people who want to move around the city without a car. There will be 33 residential units in the form of 16 one-bedroom units and 17 two-bedroom units. They will range from about 700 sqft to 1125 sqft each. The site is a 13,000 sqft lot. The proposed project is over 30,000 sqft with a 3:1 FAR.
Mr. McMillan – Is there any precedent for that height?

Mr. Shabsis – There is a building on La Grange.

Ms. Broide – That was before Prop U I think. It is an office building...You mentioned the height could be unlimited in height and stories. I have never heard of that and I believe it is limited to 45 ft.

Mr. Ries - We are asking for a change of 1VL to 1. The 1 allows us more latitude. The 1VL goes up to 50 ft and the 1 allows 9ft additional of height.

Ms. Tippit – About one story.

Mr. Rosenfield – There has been a negative image portrayed of your client having a hands off approach to building maintenance. Would your client be willing to work with the community to have an agreement on maintaining a quality space?

Mr. Ries – We would be willing to do so as a condition of approval. We would be sure to get rid of graffiti and to maintain the landscape. If the current code is not sufficient enough, we certainly could talk about something else.

Ms. Broide – What we have heard is that the buildings inside are not being maintained on some of the older properties. There are some concerns about the conduct of the company over the long run.

Mr. Ries - It would be our desire to change that perception.

Ms. Broide – Please come to us before plans are final if you are planning more buildings in the area...There are concerns on this project about the hours of operation, hours on the roof, trash collection, what kind of retail, we don’t want marijuana dispensaries. We have a concerns about the school capacity with Westwood Charter full. This is not on the project, but as a community we have to be proactive and say before we start mixed use on Pico, we need to have a plan for the kids.

Mr. Ries – Every project has to pay school fees with the construction of a project.

Ms. Broide – But it won’t help Westwood Charter because it is at full capacity.
Mr. Shabsis – I think there are some opportunities here for coming up with some conditions. I think some conditions would help us to take a position on this project.

Mr. Ries – We would appreciate that opportunity.

Ms. Tippit – Sometimes when we take a position right away and send a letter of support, the projects change later and because the projects use our letter of support going forward, it looks like we support the changes when we were never made aware when we took a position.

Ms. Broide – I suggest we take no action for this at this time and we can work through the HOA groups to come to some agreement.

Ms. Tippit – Somebody from the WNC needs to be in on that as well as the WSSM Board. There is no need to go through it multiple times. It would be best to get your group and some board members here to all work together on this.

Mr. Ries – I would appreciate the opportunity to work with your Board and committee and see what we can come up with.

Ms. Broide – Has the soil been tested?

Mr. Ries’s colleague – Yes, it was just tested and it is clean.

Mr. Shabsis – Is this an EIR or an MMP?

Mr. Ries – We believe it is an MMP.

**WSSM Recommendation to WNC: Despite being contacted by the developer in the spring, no project plans were presented to the community until after the formal entitlement application was submitted to the City. A first meeting with the community took place at the WSSM Board meeting of October 2, 2016. There were a number of Midvale residents present as well as Glendon residents concerned about the possibility that this project could establish precedents affecting future Westwood Blvd. development. WSSM respectfully requests that WNC takes no action on this project at this time as there has not been sufficient time since the October 2nd WSSM meeting for the developer to attempt to address the issues raised by the community, and there are some important issues to be addressed.**
No action taken. Ms. Wu is seated and replaces Ms. Kennedy. Ms. Morocco is reseated.

F) Philip Bennett, CD-5 Field Deputy – 1. Stop signs have been added at Mississippi and Pelham and Tennessee and Pelham. 2. Emergency sewer work is being done on little Overland. We are working with the contractor to limit the impact of that work. If there are more problems, people can let me know. 3. I hope LAPD mentioned the stabbing incident. The captain said it is an isolated incident and crime is not up in the area. 4. We are working with LAPD, PATH and several groups to do an open house/town hall event so all the questions you have can be asked on homelessness. Hopefully it will be in the next few weeks at Rancho Park Auditorium or Palms Park Library.

Ms. Morocco – Thank you for the overweight vehicle patrol. They are ticketing. There is a 6,000 lb limit on little Overland. I wanted to remind you the parents are having a problem getting across to Westwood School. Maybe we can circulate back to that soon?

Mr. Bennett – Yes, definitely…I don’t have any update on the Selby Tunnel other than the lightbulbs have been replaced and the commissioner is working on it.

Mr. Kotler – As we hear more about potential developments around single family houses in the area and dirt is going to need to be hauled away, truckers will be directed to go through the neighborhoods. You are going to have trucks idling or there is going to be cut through traffic. What can the council district do to enforce haul routes?

Ms. Broide – We have asked for years to have a sign on the trucks so that haul routes are known and can be enforced.

Mr. Kotler – When projects are approved, maybe the council district can put something with teeth into enforcing these haul routes. Something, perhaps, to put on Faisal’s desk as well?

Mr. Bennett- Excellent question and I will check in with Faisal and the Councilman.
Mr. Berson – Thanks to Philip, the RVs have been taken care of mostly. They can’t park most of the day, but park during the allowable hours. So now Philip is trying to get some meters for the street.

Mr. Shabsis – The RV issue keeps coming up and most meetings.

Mr. Berson – 3 or 4 RVs now park on Venice because there is no signage. The problem with the RVs is they take up many spaces.

Mr. Shabsis – Most of our meetings we discuss RVs. What is it the Council Office can do to figure out some comprehensive policy? I don’t think we will ever get a handle on it if we move them from here to there. At some point, we have to all give up or there has to be a solution. I know someone suggested religious institutions at one point would allow parking. I know for your office to have closure it would be helpful to get a solution.

Mr. Berson – The problem with RVs is they are not paying tax to use the streets and they have a bigger impact on the roads. Maybe approved RVs should pay a yearly fee?

Ms. Tippit – We know the problem. In my area signs went up and they all moved and now they have one side of the street to park. If you don’t put up the parking signs it’s worse.

Ms. Broide – We have talked occasionally about a place for RVs to park. This is a citywide problem. What can we do to facilitate a citywide plan to be developed? It is also a public health hazard. Should I bring it to WRAC?

Mr. Shabsis – Maybe the Councilman can take some leadership to work with community leaders, experts and others in the City to come up with a grassroots solution to the problems we identified?

Mr. Bennett – This issue came up at the homeless townhouse last month hosted by Sean and Jae.

Mr. McMillan – We are looking for leadership from our Councilman to coordinate and work with other parts of the City to address this issue.

Ms. Dox – The ordinance to kill chickens has been suspended. The LAPD suspended the ordinance but would not say why. The LAPD was violent against
people protesting. Hundreds of dead chickens were killed. Please bring up the felony arrest of the lady. I was a witness and she did nothing and she was physically assaulted by the LAPD.

Ms. Tippit – When is the Sara Berman Greenway going to being cleaned?

Mr. Bennett – I will check in with Jay.

Ms. Tippit – My annual meeting is in two weeks, any update on parking?

Mr. Bennett – I will check.

Ms. Mason Heller – When I hear the Sara Berman Greenway I think about the Northvale Greenway. We heard about some kind of remediation was in the works, but I have not seen any movement. We need to find a way to go forward with Jay or maybe Andrew. I know it needs to involve the Council Office and perhaps Mark Ridley Thomas’s Office because the property is partially owned by the City and partially by the County. Northvale was destroyed during the EXPO building and to build the emergency stairs. 

G) Colleen Mason-Heller: R1 Variation zones – Today the LA City Council heard a motion about R1 Variation Zones. We now have a new BMO that has passed the City and is going Council. That motion allows maximum of a 0.43 FAR. Planning has gone neighborhood to neighborhood to come up with a plan to allow four separate variation zones inside the city that would operate inside ICOs, which we are one. Those zones would be covered by a variation of the R1 zones. We are in Lower CD5, which covers Sunset to Venice. They have suggested R1V2 (see below) for Lower CD5. That goes from a FAR of 0.35-0.45. The impacts for our 15 HOA board members were pretty minor surprisingly. Only two of them would not have been allowed to have the same house they have now. In some cases, it would limit what people would want to have, but then again you can go for a variance. Some neighborhoods have said they want the smaller one. Beverlywood wants to be 30% bigger. Keep in mind, the neighborhoods that did not have the ICO were overrun by development.

An emergency motion would reserve the rights of the WNC to lend comment. Something to the effect of we support the City’s efforts to include variations in the municipal code.
Ms. Beale-Rosano – My community is completely against R1V2.

Ms. Mason-Heller – The meeting for Lower CD5 is Nov 10 on the variations for consideration. We will not be able to comment before our next meeting, so we need an emergency motion to consider anything. I encourage everyone to run the numbers, it looks more restrictive than it is.

Mr. Spector – A procedural point that for a board action to be taken on an item not on the agenda, there are two requirements: (1) The need to take action came up after we had our agenda out and (2) There is need to take action before our next meeting, plus the board must vote that both requirements exist by 2/3 vote.

Ms. Mason-Heller – The City put out the 11/10 date yesterday and it’s before our next meeting. By supporting it, it gives us weight to comment later.

Mr. Shabsis – But we don’t give up our right to comment later even if we don’t comment now. The State Law only requires a 72-hour notification. So, we are going to continue to bump up with issues like this because the City is following the State requirements.

Ms. Mason-Heller – I request to consider an emergency motion relevant to the R1 Variation Zone Code Amendment.
Second: Ms. Broide
Seats in favor: 1,2,3,4,5,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,15,16,17
15-0-0
Passed

Ms. Mason-Heller – I move that the WNC write a letter to the Planning Commission stating support for the R1 Variations Zones Amendment being adopted into the LA Municipal Code CPC-2016-2110-CA.
Second: Ms. Morocco
Seats in favor: 1,2,3,4,5,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,15,16,17
15-0-0
Passed
H) Treasurer’s Report – Ms. Morocco: We spent $457.51 last month and have a balance $34,706.84.

Motion by Ms. Morocco to approve the MER for September 2016 as presented.
Second: Ms. Mason-Heller
Seats in favor: 1,2,3,4,5,7,8,9,10,12,13,15,16,17
Not Voting: 11
14-0-0
Passed
Ms. Morocco – The $1000 we gave to FOWLA for the RING Initiative was not spent in the correct fiscal year. They cashed the check late and it bounced. We are trying to work with the City to get the payment out of the last fiscal year, otherwise we may need to authorize spending for this fiscal year. Also a $1400 dollar check was sent back by FOWLA in error. So those are two things to mention, but we will work it out.

Motion by Ms. Morocco to approve funding to pay Kristina Smith for website maintenance for July, August, September in the amount of $300.00.
Second: Ms. Antler
Seats in favor: 1,2,3,4,5,7,8,9,10,12,13,15,16,17
Not Voting: 11
14-0-0
Passed

Ms. Wu, Ms. Beale-Rosano and Mr. McMillan recuse themselves

Motion by Ms. Morocco for up to $200 for outreach at Heyler Harvest and County Club HOA events.
Second: Mr. Antler
Seats in favor: 2,3,4,5,7,8,10,12,15,16,17
Not Voting: 11
11-0-0
Passed

Ms. Wu, Ms. Beale-Rosano and Mr. McMillan are reseated.

Motion by Ms. Morocco for $228 for the Post Office Box for one year.
Not voting: 11
Second: Ms. Broide
Seats in favor: 1,2,3,4,5,7,8,9,10,12,13,15,16,17
Not Voting: 11
14-0-0
Passed

Ms. Tippit – Any other announcements or items for next month’s agenda?

Ms. Broide – WSSM sent a letter about considering a marijuana policy.

Ms. Tippit – I am putting it on the November agenda.
Ms. Broide – The Final EIR on the WLATIMP is out. That will decide where monies go to community improvement from development. So if the list good, it funds good things; if the list is bad, money won’t go to good things.

Mr. Shabsis - On 10/20, Overland School will have Family Math and Science Night. Thanks to the WNC for the support. The sign ordinance will be at PLUM on 10/25.

Ms. Tippit – I will be at the APC on Wednesday next to the City Attorney regarding the Midvale Project we heard a couple months back. If you do a community impact statement, the NC is allowed to send someone.

Ms. Antler – The Lange sale is on Westwood Blvd across from Lenny’s. We will be there through November open Wed-Sun 10-6. Come by and please donate!

Mr. Shabsis – I got a hold of the Ethics Commission to ask for an update on ethics and request that they send someone out. I was told there are no funds for that.

Ms. Broide – Also on 10/20 at Roxbury Park, 6-7:30 is the first community meeting EXPO is having on the subway.

Motion to adjourn at 9:20 by Mr. Spector.
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.”