

Contact Information

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Impact Information

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Update to a Previous Input: No

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Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Brief Summary: The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council supports the creation of a Centralized Revenue Collection System.

Additional Information: The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council further recommends that the Mayor, City Council and City Controller carefully review our revenue collection processes and continue to work for substantial improvements.



Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council General Meeting  
January 8, 2014  
DRAFT MINUTES

1. **Call to Order** (Owen Smith)

A duly noticed Meeting of the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council (“GWNC”) Board of Directors was held on Wednesday, January 8, 2014, at the Ebell of Los Angeles, 743 S. Lucerne Blvd., Los Angeles. President Owen Smith called the meeting to order at 7:04 p. m. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Frances McFall.

2. **Roll Call** (Jeffry Carpenter)

Secretary Jeffry Carpenter called the roll. Sixteen of the 21 Board Members or their Alternates were present at the beginning of the Meeting: Jeffry Carpenter, Patricia Carroll, Ann Eggleston, Betty Fox, Michael Genewick, Jack Humphreville, Fred Mariscal, Frances McFall, Jeff McManus, Robby O’Donnell (Alternate for John Gresham), Clinton Oie, Jason Peers, Barbara Savage (Alternate for William Funderburk), Owen Smith, Briana Valdez and Greg Wittmann. Karen Gilman (Alternate for Jane Usher), Patricia Lombard and Joane Pickett arrived later. Board Members absent and not represented by an Alternate: Daniel Whitley and James Wolf. The GWNC quorum (the minimum number of Board Members needing to be present to take binding votes on Agendized Items) is 13, so the Board could take such votes. All 21 Board Seats were filled. No Board Seats were vacant (some Alternate Seats were vacant). Also attending: 14 Stakeholders and guests.

3. **Approval of the Minutes** (Jeffry Carpenter)

**MOTION** (by Mr. Humphreville, seconded by Ms. McFall): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its December 11, 2013 General Meeting as written.

**MOTION PASSED** by a voice vote with no objection.

4. **President’s Report** (Owen Smith)

A. Board Vacancies

Mr. Smith noted that Alternates are needed for: Area 2 (Citrus Square), Area 9 (Oakwood-Maplewood-St. Andrews), Area 12 (We-Wil), Other Non-Profit, and Religion.

B. Ethics & Funding Training –

[The following is from the Agenda.] All Board Members and Alternates must complete Ethics Training in order to vote on funding motions before the Board. The course is available online at <http://ethics.lacity.org/education/ethics2007/?audience=done>  
In addition to Ethics training, all Board Members and Alternates are also **REQUIRED** to take a new Funding Training course (about the new system of NC checking accounts that will be launched soon). The course is at

<http://www.slideshare.net/EmpowerLA/nc-checking-account-training-62413>.

The last page of the presentation contains a link --

<http://www.empowerla.org/Boardregistration> – to a completion form you can submit to register your attendance. Board members and Alternates MUST complete both trainings to be eligible to vote on funding-related matters. [Tables are in the Agenda that show which Board Members and which Alternates have completed which trainings.]

Mr. Smith noted the above.

## **5. Local Government Updates**

### **A. Mayor's Office (Yeghig Keshishian)**

Mr. Keshishian was not present and there was no report.

*Alternate Board Member Karen Gilman arrived at this time.*

### **B. CD4 Update (Ben Seinfeld)**

Tommy Newman, Field Deputy for L.A. City District Four Councilman Tom LaBonge (213-485-3337; Tommy.Newman@LACity.org; <http://CD4.LACity.org>), reported that at the zoning change Hearing of Flywheel Retail Store and Testing Room, 147 N.

Larchmont, “the crowd was overwhelmingly in favor of the change.” The L.A. Dept. of Animal Services will be at a Meeting January 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at Marlborough School to discuss coyotes and more.

### **C. CD5 Update (John Darnell)**

John Darnell, Field Deputy for L.A. City District Five Councilman Paul Koretz (310-289-0353; John.Darnell@LACity.org; [www.lacity.org/council/cd5](http://www.lacity.org/council/cd5)), reported that the BID [Business Improvement District that includes Melrose Ave. from Fairfax to Highland] started January 1<sup>st</sup>, as did the City plastic bag ban. Trees will be planted on Melrose from Highland westward.

## **6. Community Concerns / Public Comments**

### **A. Presentation of GWNC Citizen Recognition Award: Fred Pickel (Fred Mariscal)**

*Board Member Bill Funderburk arrived at this time, replacing Alternate Barbara Savage.*

Mr. Mariscal described some of Mr. Pickel's contributions to the community and the City and presented the Award to Mr. Pickel. [Applause.] Mr. Pickel recounted the formation of the La Brea-Hancock Neighborhood Association with Mr. Smith and others.

*Board Member Joane Pickett arrived at this time.*

### **B. Wilshire BRT Project Update (Ginny Brideau)**

Ms. Brideau, a construction outreach consultant ([www.WilshireBRT.com](http://www.WilshireBRT.com)), reported that construction starts January 13<sup>th</sup> on St. Andrews Pl. She said “the curb lanes will be redone with concrete; the inner lanes will be done with asphalt”; they expect to finish “by the end of the year.”

### **C. Other Public Comments**

Brett Hornblatt, Campaign Manager for City Council District Four Candidate Sheila Irani, spoke in support of Ms. Irani's candidacy.

7. **Election Committee Report** (Barbara Savage)

A. Candidate Filing Period Open Until Feb. 15

Copies of a Candidate solicitation flier were distributed. Ms. Savage reported that the filing period for the Sunday, March 30, 2014 Election is from January 16 – February 13. DONE [the L.A. Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment] is still developing the Election web page. Filing can be at the January 19<sup>th</sup> 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Farmers Market; volunteers are needed. There will be a Candidates Forum March 18<sup>th</sup>, probably at Wilshire United Methodist Church.

*Board Member Mike Genewick left at this time.*

B. Flyer Distribution (through Neighborhood Associations)

Stakeholder Elizabeth Fuller described GWNC Election flyer distribution.

C. Candidate Registration Table at Larchmont Farmers Market – Jan. 12 & 19

[See above Item #7. A.]

D. Candidate Forum – Tuesday, March 18, 6:30 p.m., Wilshire United Methodist Church

[See above Item #7. A.]

E. Other Outreach Efforts

[See above Item #7. A.]

F. Update on Bylaws Adjustment for Elimination of Term Limits (Smith)

Mr. Smith described that a number of Board Members would have to resign if DONE does not approve a GWNC Bylaws adjustment in time for the March 30<sup>th</sup> Election.

8. **Treasurer's Report and Budget Items** (Patti Carroll & Elizabeth Fuller)

A. Monthly Budget Reports/Expenditures approvals

Copies of revised GWNC July - December 2013 Expenditure Reports were distributed. Ms. Fuller explained the need for the GWNC to re-approve Expenditures Reports due to DONE's rejection of previous Reports.

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Ms. Carroll, seconded by Ms. Gilman): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves its "Monthly Expenditure Reports" for July - December 2013.

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a roll call vote all 16 eligible voters present with 16 in favor ("Yes" or "Aye") (Carpenter, Carroll, Eggleston, Funderburk, Gilman, Humphreville, Mariscal, McFall, McManus, O'Donnell, Oie, Peers, Pickett, Smith, Valdez and Wittmann).

**FUNDING MOTION** (by Ms. Carroll, seconded by Mr. Funderburk): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves its expenses for December 2013.

**FUNDING MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a roll call vote all 16 eligible voters present with 16 in favor (“Yes” or “Aye”) (Carpenter, Carroll, Eggleston, Funderburk, Gilman, Humphreville, Mariscal, McFall, McManus, O’Donnell, Oie, Peers, Pickett, Smith, Valdez and Wittmann).

B. YTD Budget

See above Item #8. A.

C. Progress report on outstanding contracts (Ebell, WUMC, etc.)

Ms. Carroll described difficulty “getting Board Member reimbursements from DONE.” Neighborhood Council checking accounts will soon start.

D. Funding Request: EnrichLA (Tomas O’Grady/Liz McAllister)

(Note: this is an initial presentation only; all grant proposals will be voted on at the April GWNC Board meeting.)

Ms. McAllister, EnrichLA Director of Programs, and Hannah Noonan, Education Coordinator, presented. Copies were distributed of a Neighborhood Purposes Grant Application and “support statements” from Lydia Olivier, Wilshire Crest Elementary School Farm Manager; Christine Park, Wilton Place Elementary School Teacher; and Gene Benda, Wilshire Park Elementary School Problem Solving Data Coordinator. EnrichLA does “work at Wilton Place and Wilshire Park, and built the garden at Wilshire Crest.” They said that “all the Schools are in support of this and they want to maintain their programs.” EnrichLA is asking for \$5,000 in funding to “purchase materials to continue supporting the gardens at both Wilton Place and Wilshire Park.”

*Board Member Patty Lombard arrived at this time.*

**9. DWP Oversight** (Jack Humphreville)

Mr. Humphreville reported that rates probably will increase 25% over the next four years to fulfill “unfunded mandates” and infrastructure maintenance and improvements. A significant part of the DWP budget is for Owens Lake dust mitigation. Regarding the “Joint Training and Safety Institutes,” the IBEW has “refused to give” information; the Mayor and Controller are ready to “issue subpoenas” to get it.

**10. City Budget Issues** (Humphreville)

Mr. Humphreville reported that the City is preparing its 2014-2015 Budget. The “LA 20/20 Commission” ([www.LA2020Reports.org](http://www.LA2020Reports.org)) report gave a pessimistic view of the City and will give recommendations in 90 days.

A. Proposed Motion on Centralized Collection:

**MOTION** (by Mr. Carpenter, seconded by Ms. McFall): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council supports the following Resolution: WHEREAS the City Controller, the Commission of Revenue Enhancement (CORE), the Inspector General and the Neighborhood Council Budget Advocates (NCBAs) already reviewed and estimated the presence of between \$10 million to many hundreds or millions of uncollected dollars, the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council recommends that the Mayor, City Council and City Controller carefully review our collection processes. The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council recommends creation of a Centralized Collection System.

**DISCUSSION:** [The following is from the Agenda.] Additional information from the LANCC [the L.A. Neighborhood Councils Coalition]: The largest groups of uncollected obligations are in the Department of Transportation (parking ticket citations) and the LAFD (charges of Emergency Medical Services). It is estimated that an additional \$167 million in potential annual charges and collections exists related to the fact that LAFD does not charge of the Medi-Cal services provided by our EMS.) Initially, documentation and description of the parameters of their findings may be found in:

1. The City Controller estimated \$ 271 million in old, uncollected Accounts Receivable (AR).
  2. The CORE Report which estimated \$ 451 million in old uncollected Accounts Receivable (AR).
  3. The productivity reports of the Office of Finance quantify the gap between billings and receipts.
  4. The Inspector General reports have estimated of \$ 79 million in current or “annual” AR and \$ 10 to \$ 20 million in increased potential collections, each year.
- The LANCC agrees that our current collection methods are unfair, inconsistent and ineffective. We believe that a Centralized Collection System would free the Departments from the workload of collecting their own billings. It would permit the Departments to refocus on their primary Mission and Vision Statements. This could return hundreds of employees to the primary activities of their Departments. It could increase our collections by many hundreds of millions of dollars, every year.

**MOTION PASSED** unanimously by a hand vote.

#### **11. Old Business**

Ms. Gilman reported that street widths are very narrow around the small lot subdivision project at Melrose and Grammercy.

#### **12. New Business**

Ms. McFall was concerned that the Board may rush funding decisions. Mr. Smith pointed out that no funding was allocated at this Meeting. Ms. Gilman and Ms. Fuller explained that all funding requests will be considered at the March [12<sup>th</sup>] Board Meeting.

#### **13. Transportation Committee** (Gerda McDonough)

A. Wilshire/Crenshaw Staging Yard – meeting on January 30, 6 p.m.

Ms. McDonough reported that she met with residents of the Windsor Village Neighborhood Association (WVNA) about the Metro “staging lot” at Wilshire and Crenshaw. There are homes next to the staging lot. She explained that, as a “staging,” not “work” site, “it doesn’t have to comply” with normal work rules. She requested the installation of sound-blocking materials and reduced work hours. CD4 will respond by January 30<sup>th</sup>.

B. Metro request for extended hours for subway construction

See above Item #13. A. Diane Dixby, of the WVNA, reported that Metro is doing 24-hour-a-day staging work with high-powered lights and trucks causing “ground shaking” and beeping whenever they back up. Also, due to the construction disruption, bus riders are leaving trash and using the area as an outdoor bathroom.

**14. Outreach Committee** (Fred Mariscal)

A. Looking for Citizen Recognition Award nominees, especially “unsung heroes”  
Mr. Mariscal announced that John Burroughs Middle School Principal Dr. Steven Martinez will be the Award recipient at the February [12<sup>th</sup>] GWNC Board Meeting.

B. Larchmont Zoning Conversations – next steps (Patty Lombard)  
Mr. Mariscal reported that there will be a meeting “in the next few weeks.”

C. CD4 Candidate Forum (Humphreville/Lombard)  
Mr. Mariscal reported that eight Candidates have agreed to participate.

**15. Board Member Reports and Comments**

A. Update on Board member opt-out option for paper copies at Board Meetings, WiFi connection at Ebell (Wittmann)  
Mr. Wittmann reported that the Ebell installed “a wireless booster” in this room for Meeting attendees to use the Ebell’s wi-fi connection. This will help provide Board Members with the option to not receive paper copies of documents. Ms. Lombard announced that January 17<sup>th</sup> the YMCA will celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day with a Breakfast at the Biltmore Hotel.

**16. Public Comments**

There were no public comments at this time.

**17. Land Use Committee** (LUC)

[NOTE: The Land Use Committee did not meet in December. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 28.] Potential agenda items for future LUC meetings:

- Condo development at 853-859 S. Lucerne
- Building line repeal at Kangnam Restaurant (4103 W. Olympic Blvd.)
- 30-unit development at Wilshire/Crenshaw
- Presentation for proposed Cheerful Helpers school
- CUB for liquor sales at restaurant at 6919 Melrose
- Sidewalk plaza/widening in lieu of street widening at 710 El Centro

Mr. Smith noted the above.

**18. Announcements and Adjournment**

Mr. Smith noted the next General Board Meeting date: Wednesday, February 12, 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Smith declared and the Board agreed to **ADJOURN** the Meeting at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
David Levin  
Minutes Writer