

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council

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Impact Information

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Update to a Previous Input: No

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Council File Number: 11-0262

Agenda Date:

Item Number:

Brief Summary: On Wednesday, March 9, 2011, the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council voted unanimously to support the proposed Community Care Facilities ordinance, as it stood at that time.

Additional Information:



Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council General Meeting
March 9, 2011
APPROVED BY THE BOARD, 4-13-11

1. Call to Order

A duly noticed meeting of the Board of Directors of the Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council (“GWNC”) was held on Wednesday, March 9, 2011, at the Ebell of Los Angeles, 743 South Lucerne Blvd., Los Angeles. President Owen Smith called the meeting to order at 7:08 p. m.

2. Roll Call

Secretary Elizabeth Fuller called the roll. Board Members in attendance at the roll call were: Yigal Arens, Vince Cox (Alternate for Charles D’Atri), Betty Fox (Alternate for Charles Dougherty), Mike Genewick (Alternate for Alex Jones-Moreno), Elizabeth Fuller, John Gresham, Jack Humphreville, Frances McFall, Clinton Oie, Mary Rajswing, Owen Smith, Jane Usher and James Wolf. Kathleen Mulligan (Alternate for Patricia Carroll) and Fred Pickel arrived later.

Thirteen of the 20 Board Members or their Alternates were present at the roll call. 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. One Board seat (Area 9 (Oakwood-Maplewood-St. Andrews)) is vacant. Also attending: 25 Stakeholders and guests. Board Members absent and not represented by an Alternate: Jane Gilman, Barbara Kumetz, David Lunzer, Matthew Oldham and Benjamin Rosenberg.

3. Approval of the Minutes

MOTION (by Mr. Cox, seconded by Mr. Gresham): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves the Minutes of its February 9, 2011 General Meeting as written.

MOTION PASSED without any objections by a voice vote.

4. President’s Report (Owen Smith)

A. Nominations/Seating of Additional Board Members & Alternates.

Remaining vacancies – please recruit:

Area 2 (Citrus Square) – Alternate

Area 9 (Oakwood-Maplewood-St. Andrews) – Director & Alternate

Area 12 (We-Wil) – Alternate

Education – Alternate

Renter -- Alternate

Mr. Smith indicated that there were no nominations at this time.

- B. Bylaws Conformation to DONE's new uniform Table of Contents (John Welborne)
[This Agenda Item was addressed after Item #6A.] Mr. Welborne reported that there will be a [Bylaws] draft – designed to conform to DONE's new Table of Contents requirements - circulated before the next Meeting.

[Alternate Board Member Kathleen Mulligan (for Patricia Carroll) arrived at this time.]

C. Ethics Training –

Current: Dougherty, Gresham, Jones-Moreno, Smith, Wolf. All others must take the training at <http://Ethics.LACity.org/Education/Ethics2007/?audience=done>
Mike Genewick and Frances McFall said they have also completed the training within the last two years.

5. **Guest Speaker** – Sgt. Anthony Espinoza, LAPD Vice Squad
Sgt. Espinoza (213-382-9495; 35423@lapd.LACity.org;
http://www.LAPDonline.org/olympic_community_police_station), described Vice services and types of activities investigated.

[Board Member Fred Pickel arrived at this time.]

Investigations include prostitution (mostly on Western Ave.), gambling, ABC alcohol enforcement, minors participating and counterfeit products including CDs, cigarettes, clothes and accessories. Most of these crimes occur Thursdays through Saturdays 8:00 p.m. through around 3:00 a.m. “Enforcement and suppression” are the two main ways to fight back. Ms. Usher recommended contacting Matt Blake, LAPD Olympic Division Captain (213-382-9495; Matt.Blake@LAPD.LACity.org) for more information. Sgt. Espinoza reminded people to call 9-1-1 if it's a crime in progress; if it's a non-emergency call 1-877-ASK-LAPD. Concerns were expressed regarding the amount of such activities and what can be done.

6. **Local Government Updates**

A. CD4 Update (Nikki Ezhari)

Nikki Ezhari, Deputy District Director for L.A. City District Four Councilman Tom LaBonge (213-485-3337; 323-957-6415; Nikki.Ezhari@LACity.org), reported that the new smoking Ordinance prohibits smoking within 10 feet of outdoor dining and food courts and within 40 feet of mobile food trucks and carts. Also, the Bicycle Master Plan was approved March 1st; 200 miles of bike paths will be installed every five years.

B. CD5 Update (John Darnell)

John Darnell, Field Deputy for L.A. City District Five Councilman Paul Koretz (310-289-0353; John.Darnell@LACity.org), reported that the Councilman is working with Councilman LaBonge on both the smoking and bicycle Ordinances. Also, a water main is being constructed between 3rd and Sunset; work is anticipated to end in November 2012. They're also “working on reforms for Preferential Parking Districts . . . you'll be able to print out a parking pass online.”

C. CD10 Update

A CD10 representative could not attend and there was no report at this time.

D. 42nd Assembly District Update (Nicole Carcel)

Ms. Carcel could not attend and there was no report at this time.

E. 26th Senate District Update (Andrew Lachman)

Mr. Lachman could not attend and there was no report at this time.

7. Community Concerns

A. Dianne Lawrence, Editor, The Neighborhood News

Ms. Lawrence introduced herself and distributed “The Neighborhood News” (323-871-8580; TheNeighborhoodNews@yahoo.com; www.TheNeighborhoodNewsOnline.net) and said she will organize a list of what the Neighborhood Councils want. She encouraged registering on and visiting their website for information and participation. She said 15,000 copies have been distributed in targeted neighborhoods. Ms. McFall encouraged and Ms. Fuller reported that the Outreach Committee discussed placing ads in the newspaper.

B. Kings College Exchange Student Hosting – Holly McKee Clark

Ms. Clark introduced herself and distributed “Become a host family for international students” fliers. The College has an International School of Engineering opening in Hollywood. They need families to host students for two weeks to two years, anywhere within 45 minutes of the School. They offer a weekly stipend; students are usually 18-24 years old and many are from Taiwan and Korea.

8. Treasurer’s Report & Budget Items

Monthly budget report/approval

Ms. Fuller distributed and reviewed the “Monthly Spending Report – February 1, 2011–March 8, 2011” including credit card [P-Card] purchases. The February 18th and 21st purchases were toward the Miracle Mile Artwalk including for banners. Also noted: DONE paid seven invoices for our Minutes Writer.

MOTION (by Mr. Pickel, seconded by Ms. Usher): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves the “Monthly Spending Report – February 1, 2011–March 8, 2011.”

MOTION PASSED without any objections by a voice vote.

9. DWP Oversight (Jack Humphreville)

Mr. Humphreville distributed copies of the below “DWP Office of Public Accountability” Motion. He noted that 75% of people who voted on this in the recent election voted to approve a Ratepayer Advocate and that LANCC [the L.A. Neighborhood Councils Coalition] approved the Motion.

MOTION (by Mr. Humphreville, seconded by Mr. Oie): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council supports the following Motion:

Whereas under Charter Amendment I creating an Office of Public Accountability for the LADWP, the Citizens Committee’s only function is to select the Executive Director of the Office of Public Accountability and its selection is left to a later enabling Ordinance, the LANCC and its DWP Committee requests the City Council to enact an Ordinance that contains the following provisions:

- 1) *The Citizens Committee for the DWP Office of Public Accountability shall permanent so it can be a sounding board for the Executive Director and assist in creating the organizational structure of the Office of Public Accountability. Additionally, a Citizens Committee can serve as a “cheering squad” for the OPA and help in communicating its mission and objective information to the government and the community.*

- 2) *The Citizens Committee be composed of five Los Angeles City residents selected as follows:*
 - a) *One selected by the Mayor with a term to end on June 30, 2013.*
 - b) *One selected by the City Council with a term to end on June 30, 2012.*
 - c) *One selected by the Neighborhood Councils with a term to end on June 30, 2014.*
 - d) *One selected by the City Council with a term to end on June 30, 2015.*
 - e) *One selected by the Neighborhood Councils with a term to end on June 30, 2016.*

- 3) *At the end of each term as shown above, a new five year term shall start to be appointed by the designated appointing authority. At the end of each term or if a member resigns or is unable to serve, the appointing authority shall appoint a replacement.*

- 4) *The members of the Citizens Committee shall serve as volunteers with no compensation. A member of the Citizens Committee shall not be excluded from being selected as a member of the staff of the Office of Public Accountability. However, no member of the Citizens Committee shall serve simultaneously as a member of the staff of the Office of Public Accountability or as an employee of the Department of Water and Power.*

MOTION PASSED without any objections by a voice vote.

10. City Budget Issues (Jack Humphreville)

Mr. Humphreville reported that the City budget gap is projected to be \$400 million. He described City employee pension, infrastructure and other funding, budget and political challenges. Ms. Usher noted that the City Attorney’s Office has had no new hires in the last two years, many early retirements and furloughs, and a 30% budget reduction.

11. Outreach Committee

A. Saturday/Sunday GWNC-sponsored events:

Ms. Fuller reported that the Committee has been discussing weekly and quarterly events such as an Adopt-a-Street program in various neighborhoods, possibly starting with Country Club Heights. Ms. McFall (the representative from that neighborhood) was not in favor of the idea, so Ms. Fuller said it would not be pursued. Mr. Smith encouraged contacting L.A. City District 10 Councilman Herb Wesson (323-733-8233; Councilmember.Wesson@LACity.org; <http://CD10.LACity.org>) regarding District 10 concerns.

B. Upcoming meeting speakers/events:

April 13 – DWP Recycled Water Program (Jack Humphreville)

May 11 – More school principals?

June 8 – MTA or Pedestrian Safety?

July 13 – Los Angeles Economic Development Corp. (Jack Humphreville)

August – TBD

September – Assembly Member Mike Feuer

Ms. Fuller reviewed possible upcoming speakers. Responding to questions about the process of creating the board's agendas, Ms. Fuller explained that the Agenda is a combination of things requested and things required. She encouraged Agenda ideas and feedback from the Board.

12. Other Committee/Project Reports

Wilshire/La Brea Station Area Advisory Group (Fred Pickel, Elizabeth Fuller)

Mr. Pickel reported that the Committee had the first of three scheduled Meetings to discuss features of exterior design and encouraged submitting ideas to him, Ms. Fuller or Mr. Smith.

13. Board Member Comments/New Business

Ms. Rajswing reported that the GWNC received Certificates of Commendation “in honor of the GWNC’s unwavering commitment and dedication to the Wilton Green Islands Project.”

Ms. Usher described City Municipal Code enforcement challenges and introduced the City Attorney’s proposed Administrative Citation Enforcement (ACE) program, which will soon be voted on by the City Council. She explained that criminal enforcement is usually the City’s only enforcement tool, and it takes a long time. But under ACE, a City department can write the equivalent of a ticket. The recipient can comply and pay, contest in court or have an Administrative Hearing. It’s about a three-month process. The City could use the revenue for the General Fund and other purposes. She said the proposal has been in the City Budget and Finance Committee for about a year now, but it may be threatened by a suggestion to turn it into a limited pilot program within the Department of Animal Services, rather than rolling it out citywide. Ms. Fuller noted that the issue will be on the Land Use Committee’s agenda later this month.

Ms. Fuller reminded board members that there’s money in the GWNC’s Budget for an assistant, and suggested that the Minutes Writer could help with letter writing and some other chores allowed by DONE.

MOTION (by Mr. Arens, seconded by Mr. Pickel): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council approves of the Minutes Writer assisting Ms. Fuller with drafting letters and other GWNC work.

MOTION PASSED without any objections by a voice vote.

Mr. Smith directed Ms. Fuller and the Minutes Writer to “work it out.”

14. Land Use Committee (LUC) (James Wolf)

[Each section’s first paragraph is directly from the Agenda.]

A. Modified Parking Requirement Districts Proposal

Issue: The City of Los Angeles is considering a new Ordinance that would create a Modified Parking Requirement (MPR) District offering eight optional parking requirement modification tools including (1) change of use parking standards, (2) use of a new Parking Reduction Permit, (3) off-site parking within 1500 feet, (4) decreased parking requirements, (5) increased parking requirements, (6) commercial parking credits, (7) universal valet, and (8) municipal garage proximity relief; and create a Parking Reduction Permit to be used exclusively within the MPR District. The proposal was reviewed by Land Use Committee members, who generally supported the new policy, but expressed concerns about the size of the districts being addressed.

LUC Recommended MOTION: [see below].

At this Meeting, Mr. Wolf described the Proposal and noted that the Committee recommended that the Board support the Proposed Ordinance with the recommended Committee revisions.

MOTION (by Mr. Wolf, seconded by Mr. Cox): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council recommends that the Modified Parking Districts proposal Section 13.16c size and boundaries be modified to encourage Districts that are a minimum of 32 acres, but in no case less than 16 acres, and that any proposed District thoroughly consider impacts within 1,500 feet of any District boundary.

DISCUSSION: Stakeholder Lucille Saunders of the La Brea - Willoughby Coalition and PlanCheckLA was concerned that “multiple elements were eliminated or deleted [and] not added in the new proposal.” Stakeholder John Kaliski observed that a “full spate of Public Hearings and community notifications” would be needed to implement the Motion. Ms. Usher recommended including the phrase “and provide notice” as below.

AMENDED MOTION (by Ms. Usher and agreed to by Mr. Wolf and Mr. Cox): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council recommends that the Modified Parking Districts proposal Section 13.16c size and boundaries be modified to encourage Districts that are a minimum of 32 acres, but in no case less than 16 acres, and that any proposed District thoroughly consider impacts and provide notice within 1,500 feet of any District boundary.

AMENDED MOTION PASSED without any objections by a voice vote.

[Board Member Jane Usher had to leave at this time and was replaced by Alternate Margaret Sowma.]

B. Proposed GWNC Policy on Wireless Telecommunications Facilities

Issue: As requests for installations of cell phone antennas, poles and other equipment have increased in the last year, the Land Use Committee has been working to create a policy that can help guide Board actions and applicants’ proposals for such installations in our area. (See policy draft handout.)

LUC Recommended MOTION: That the GWNC adopt the “Interim Wireless Telecommunications Equipment Location Policy” as revised at the February 22 LUC meeting.

Mr. Wolf reviewed the issue, but because the handout wasn't available at this meeting, a vote was tabled until next month. Ms. Fuller will e-mail the Policy to Board Members in the interim. No Motion was made.

C. New City Ordinance on Community Care Facilities

Issue: The City Council will soon vote on a new Ordinance regulating Community Care Facilities (sober living houses, board and care facilities, etc.) The Land Use Committee has reviewed the new Ordinance and has registered no objections.

Proposed MOTION: [see below].

At this Meeting, Mr. Wolf described the issue. Mr. Kaliski described the purposes of Ordinance as:

[Board Member Frances McFall and Alternate Margaret Sowma had to leave at this time.]

1) bringing the City into compliance with State law; 2) cleaning up the City's language regarding "what a family is"; and 3) requiring a limit of one vehicle per bedroom or bed for any facility with seven or more residents. He said it's generally favorable to neighborhood interests and that that the Ordinance "would apply to any residential zone in the City." Ms. Saunders relayed that the La Brea - Willoughby Coalition "supports strengthening this Ordinance in all areas . . . if there were standards and regulations it would protect all our communities."

MOTION (by Mr. Cox, seconded by Ms. Fuller): The Greater Wilshire Neighborhood Council supports the new City Ordinance [Council File # 07-3427] governing Community Care Facilities.

MOTION PASSED without any objections by a voice vote.

The following items are presented for information only. No action is requested or required at this time:

D. Los Angeles Bicycle Plan

Issue: The City Council recently voted to adopt a new Bicycle Plan that establishes goals, objectives, policies and programs for bicycle transportation. The plan, which has a 5-year implementation strategy, creates 1,680 miles of designated bikeway facilities, including Bicycle Paths, Bicycle Lanes, Bicycle Routes, Bicycle Friendly Streets and Bicycle Boulevards. Land Use Committee members received information about the plan and discussed local concerns such as traffic flow considerations, safety and public education.

E. Los Angeles Tennis Club Parking

Issue: The Los Angeles Tennis Club was built in the 1930s with little off-street parking. The club recently converted one tennis court to off-street loading and parking space, and was told by the Dept. of Building and Safety that this would be allowed under a 1938 variance. It was later discovered that additional variances would be needed, and the Club is now working with the City Council office, Building and Safety and nearby neighbors to legalize the new parking area. After hearing comments from both a Tennis Club Board

Member and one neighbor who has some objections to the parking area, the Land Use Committee asked the Club to continue working with the neighbors to mitigate their concerns.

F. 901 S. Wilton Board and Care Facility

Issue: A CUP application has been filed to convert an existing 9-unit apartment building to a 26-bed (with 6 parking spaces) board and care facility for the mentally disabled. No hearing date has been set yet, and the Land Use Committee asked the applicants to meet with the Wilshire Park Neighborhood Association and return to the LUC before a public hearing occurs.

G. Getty House Wall and Events

Issue: The Getty House, official residence of Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, has filed for an application for a variance to allow construction of a 6-foot wall, as well as the frequency of parties and events at the house, which they equate to commercial use in an R-1 neighborhood. No hearing date for the wall application has been set yet. The Windsor Square Association has voted to oppose the variance application. The Windsor Square HPOZ Board and the Park Mile Specific Plan Design Review Board will also weigh in.

H. Ogamdo Restaurant CUP Application (842 ½ S. La Brea)

Issue: The restaurant has applied for a CUP that would allow sales of a full line of alcoholic beverages, extended nighttime hours, use of a previously unpermitted dining patio behind the restaurant and leased off-site parking in lieu of the required number of on-site parking spaces. A previous CUP application with these same requests was denied in 2006 based on objections from the nearest neighbors. The GWNC and the Sycamore Square Neighborhood Association have voted to oppose the current application as well, based on neighbors' continuing complaints, but the restaurant's representative asked for time after the January 24 ZA hearing to meet with both groups. The case file was held open until February 22, but although both GWNC and the SSNA tried to schedule meetings with the representative before that date, the meetings never occurred.

Potential Agenda Items for March 22 LUC Meeting (in addition to those above):

- Update on variance to legalize "residential" (office) use of an accessory building (garage) at 4714 W. 8th St.
- Update on cell phone poles proposed for 1st/Wilton & 9th/Mansfield.
- Update on Eastern Presbyterian Church Renovations (4720 W. 6th St.)
- Conversion of a gas station at Wilton and Olympic

Mr. Wolf is waiting for more information regarding the above potential Agenda Items.

15. Public Comments

Stakeholder Joan Taylor distributed an article regarding high-speed rail and urged everyone to oppose public spending for "the San Francisco to Los Angeles bullet train . . . [it'll have a] high taxpayers cost and be a burden for generations . . . to come . . . the money would go to South Korea, not the U.S." Mr. Arens stated that the Outreach Committee decided that it "would stick with things that impact our district specifically."

16. Announcements and Adjournment

[Next meeting: Wednesday, April 13, 7:00 p.m.]

Mr. Smith **ADJOURNED** the Meeting without any objections at 9:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
David Levin
Minutes Writer