

Contact Information

Neighborhood Council: Westside Neighborhood Council

Name: Terri Tippit

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Date of NC Board Action: 06/13/2013

Type of NC Board Action: Against Proposal

Impact Information

Date: 07/29/2013

Update to a Previous Input: No

Directed To: City Council and Committees

Council File Number: 11-0923

Agenda Date: 07/30/2013

Item Number: 1

Brief Summary: Ordinance will impact the character of the residential neighborhood. R-1 and Low Density should be exempt.

Additional Information:



WESTSIDE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
P.O. Box 64370 Los Angeles, CA 90064
www.wncla.org (310) 474-2326



Westside Neighborhood Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 13, 2013
7:00 P.M.
Westside Pavilion
10800 W. Pico
Meeting Room A
(3rd Floor behind food court)

AGENDA

1. Call to Order

Call to order: 7:07PM

By Terri Tippit, WNC Chair

Attendance:

**Jae Wu (Seat 1b),
Abby Brookheim (Seat 2b), left in Public Forum after Adee presented
Michael McIntyre Seat 3)
Steve Spector (Seat 4),
Gregg Berwin (Seat 5),
Sarah Shaw (Seat 6),
Barbara Broide (Seat 7),
Terri Tippit (Seat 8),
Drew DeAscentis (Seat 9),
Richard (Dick) Harmetz (Seat 10),
Mary Kusnic (Seat 11),
Colleen Mason Heller (Seat 12),
Bob Guerin (Seat 13),
Shannon Burns (Seat 14),
Eric Shabsis (Seat 15),
Melissa Kenady (Seat 16),
Aaron Rosenfield (Seat 17)**

Also Present:

Wesly Hernandez

2. Approval of May 9, 2013 minutes

Motion by Shannon: "That the Westside Neighborhood Council approve the May 9, 2013 Meeting Minutes."

Second by: Dick

Motion approved 11 – 0 – 5 (Seats 1, 3, 6, 7, 16)

3. Review of Agenda (ITEMS BELOW MAY NOT BE HEARD IN THE ORDER LISTED)

4. Agenda Items:

New Business:

A) Shannon Burns:

- **Mural Ordinance CF11-0923**

Terri and Shannon updated, sharing concerns with WNC board members and stakeholders on the current Mural Ordinance; and Barbara gave an overview.

Barbara spoke in detail and she reviewed the current status of the upcoming June 19th City Council Meeting and anticipated vote, highlighting the following per the Action Alert:

The new ordinance will allow for the creation and preservation of Original Art Murals and Public Art Installations on Private Property including single family homes. She stated ‘ACTIONS ARE NEEDED TO OPPOSE THE ORDINANCE AS CURRENTLY WRITTEN.’ This ordinance allows murals to be placed on R1 (and all low density residential properties). Also, she highlighted the following which should be considered:

- request the return of the exemption for R1 and/or
- request the return of the exemption for R1 and all low density residential properties (per Planning Dept. staff report/recommendations)
- request it return to PLUM for further work. (Also, would ‘Council’ adopt the provisions related to commercial properties and return it to PLUM for further review on residential housing...)

Barbara and Shannon discussed with the members that a very problematic change to the ordinance was made at PLUM which has to do with the minimum number of residential units to be allowed to display a mural.

Noting, as first proposed by the Planning Dept., murals were to have been EXCLUDED from residential properties of fewer than five units. Then at the City Planning Commission, that was reduced to a ban on residential properties of two or fewer units. Murals were to be allowed anywhere in the city except for duplex and R1 properties. At PLUM following discussion, instructions given to the City Attorney were to draft an ordinance with NO carve-out or exception for R1. The ordinance passed out of PLUM 1/15/13 allowing for murals on all residential properties for drafting at the City Attorney’s office. There has been no apparent activity since then. She again stated that that the Ordinance is to be heard on JUNE 19 before the full Council and explained:

IF ADOPTED AS PROPOSED THIS ORDINANCE WILL HAVE A TREMENDOUS IMPACT ON RESIDENTIAL NEIGHBORHOOD CHARACTER. While the ordinance includes a provision that requires those planning to install an art mural on their property to do community outreach, there is no requirement to respond to, act upon or implement comments received from neighbors or the community.

Motion by Barbara: “The Westside Neighborhood Council is opposed to the Mural Ordinance, CF 11-0923, as currently proposed.”

Second by: Shannon

Motion Passed For 13 – Against 3 (Seats 10, 13, 14) - Abstain 0

B) Lameese Elqura, Department of City Planning:

- **Exposition Corridor Transit Neighborhood Plan (proposed zone changes for Expo and Pico)**

Lameese and Patricia presented an overview including and covering the following:

The “Expo Line” light rail line recently opened, connecting Downtown Los Angeles with Culver City and many neighborhoods in between, including USC. In 2016, four more stations will open in the City of L.A.

when the line connects to Santa Monica. They stated last year, the Los Angeles Department of City Planning kicked off a two-year effort to develop plans around five existing and future Expo Line light rail stations.

The City of Los Angeles, in partnership with Metro, goal aims to support vibrant neighborhoods around transit stations, where people can live, work and shop or eat out, all within a safe and pleasant walk to transit stations. In June 2012, the Los Angeles Department of City Planning began a 2-year effort to create Transit Neighborhood Plans for the areas surrounding ten transit stations along the Exposition and Crenshaw/LAX Light Rail lines.

They highlighted Phase One of the “Expo Line” light rail line recently opened, connecting Downtown Los Angeles with Culver City and many neighborhoods in between, including West Adams, USC, and South LA. In 2016, as part of Phase Two of the Expo Line, four more stations will open within the City of Los Angeles when the line continues to Colorado Boulevard and 4th Street in Santa Monica.

Also adding, as part of the City’s Transit Neighborhood Plans project, the City Planning Department will be creating a Plan for the following five station areas:

- Culver City (station open)
- Palms
- Expo/Westwood
- Expo/Sepulveda
- Expo/Bundy

Lameese and Patricia stated that the focus of the Plan will be the establishment of new development regulations that better support transit ridership, such as allowing some increased development intensity near stations where appropriate, requiring the design of new buildings to be pedestrian-oriented, and improving the configuration and condition of streets to better promote pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicular circulation. The plans also cover building size and design, public amenities, streetscape elements, and pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicular circulation around the stations

They cited the Department also anticipates the creation of new Streetscape Plans for the blocks of several key Westside streets near stations: Olympic Boulevard, Bundy Drive, Pico Boulevard, Sepulveda Boulevard, National Boulevard, Palms Boulevard, and Motor Avenue. The Department will seek to encourage streetscape improvements along Venice Boulevard, as well, although this street is a State Highway managed by the State of California and the extent of potential planning has not yet been determined.

Also, they said that the City Planning Department recognizes that every station neighborhood has a unique character and a distinct mix of existing land uses that will be reflected in the Department’s approach to planning in each area.

The presentation opened a detailed discussion of the areas within the WNC addressing many concerns with the WNC board members and stakeholders present from a number of WNC area neighborhoods. The discussion provided an opportunity for the WNC and stakeholders to review and address concerns and give feedback on preliminary concepts for development regulations, timelines, zoning, traffic and considerations that hopefully will better support vibrant, pedestrian -friendly neighborhoods around the stations.

Terri and the WNC Board acknowledged and thanked Lameese and Patricia. For additional information see the website www.tnporg.

C) Terri Tippit:

- Update on Casden Project

Terri discussed that the Casden project on Expo at Sepulveda will be the first of several Transit Oriented Developments in our area. She said it will set the tone for those that follow.

Summarizing, Terri said that the local Neighborhood Councils and HOA groups have felt that the project should not go to city council until after July 1st when the 7 new council members and the new mayor will take office. They will be making decisions on future TOD projects and should be the ones deciding what to approve on Casden’s project.

She noted that several of us were at the hearing and heard the City Attorney (CA) representative urge the commission not to take action - because they were approving the project with many conditions that substantially changed the project and felt the project should go back to the committee to make certain it is what they wanted. We were told the CA representative was wrong.

Terri acknowledged Councilmember Koretz and Rosendahl and City Attorney Carmen Trutanich for their work and efforts and reviewed their letters in this regard. WNC board members including Bob, Barbara, Shannon, Dick, Eric, along with Terri, Stacy, Jerry and Annette discussed aspects of the project in detail.

Motion by Barbara: “That the Westside Neighborhood Council oppose the development of the mixed use project proposed to be located on Sepulveda and Pico, at Expo, which is referred to as the Casden project. (Reference CF No. 13-0523 - Casden West LA, LLC, CPC-2008-4604-GPA-ZV-HD-CUB-DB-SPR)”
 Second by: Colleen

Motion Passed 11 - 0 - 4 Abstain (Seats 5, 6, 11, 15)

D) Bob Guerin:

- Treasurer Report

Bob and Melissa presented and reviewed the WNC Treasurer’s report as follows:

Starting Balance	11,606.39
100 Operations Starting Balance	1,173.86
Verizon (Monthly Charges Total for YTD)	398.20
Earthlink (Monthly Charges Total YTD)	241.30
PO BOX Renewal 1 YR (Oct)	218.00
Verizon May	38.16
Go Daddy	20.34
Go Daddy	9.99
Demco Bulletin Board	268.19
Backblaze Computer Back Up February	50.00
Toshiba Repair for Terri Laptop (October)	24.95
Cawley Company Name Badge for John Padden (Nov)	26.86
Cawley Company Name Badges for New Members (December)	44.91
Epson Ink March	96.94
Total Spent May	336.68
Remaining Balance 100 Operations	837.18
200 Outreach Starting Balance	4876.30
CopyLand Take Me Home Postcards (August)	99.16
Lisa Morocco Reimbursement for Pick Pico Street Permit (Sept)	414.48
Lisa Morocco Reimbursement for Plant Pico Flyers (Oct)	49.04
Kinkos Printed Copies of Pico Beautification Plan(December)	215.11
Sketch Farm Web Maintenance(January)	3,700.00
Louises Food for Outreach meeting February	145.56
Pico Tree Contest March	115.10
Ribbons, Markers, Plastic Holders Pico Tree Contest(Staples and F and S)	85.25
Sketch Farm Web maintenance 1,400.00	
Contest Prizes for tree Ribbon Contest	150.00
Transfer funds from 200 funds to 300 funds for Sidewalk Project	4,443.77
Total Spent/Transferred May	4,593.77

Remaining Balance 200 Outreach	282.53
300 Community Improvement Starting Balance	2,312.25
Valley Crest Tree Service/Tree Trim Pico (July)	3,072.29
Valley Crest Tree Care 2 Trees on Pico (Sept)	300.00
Valley Crest Tree Care 6,808.00	
Transfer from 400 funds for Sidewalk Project	3,243.98
Transfer from 200 funds for sidewalk Project	4,443.77
Sidewalk Project Transfer to BSS	10,000.00
Total Spent May	10,000.00
Remaining Balance 300 Funds	0

400 Neighborhood Purposes Grant Starting Balance	3,243.98
Westwood Charter Grant for iPads(December)	1,300.00
Overland School Grant for Mural(December)	1,375.00
FOWLA for LAFD (January)	1,500.00
Friends of Rancho Park/Palms Library(January)	768.73
FOWLA for Palms Park(February)	1,300.00
FOWLA for LAPD (March)	1,699.75
Transfer to 300 Funds for Sidewalk Project	3,243.98
Total Spent/Transferred May	3,243.98
Remaining Balance 400 Community Improvement	0

Ending Balance	January	1119.71
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Motion by Bob: “That the Westside Neighborhood Council approve the 3rd Quarter Purchasing Card Reconciliation.”
 Second by: Mary

Motion Passed 13 – 0 – 2 (Seats 1, 17)

- E) Melissa Kenady:
 - WNC Funding Committee Report

The WNC Funding Committee Meeting Report was presented by Melissa on behalf of Lisa Morocco, Funding Chair; and she highlighted the following:

The meeting was held on May 11th at 5:30pm at the Westside Pavilion Community Room A with the following members present:

Terri Tippit, Melissa Kenady, Dick Harmetz, Mary Kusnic, Lisa Morocco

The Funding Committee met to draft a budget for the WNC board to review and possibly approve at their upcoming June 13th meeting. The budget is due to DONE by June 15th.

The WNC has the lowest operational percentage cost in the entire NC system. The WNC can keep this so low because of Macerich donating meeting space, excellent secretaries who volunteer their time and the generosity of the WNC Chair who allows the WNC to use her internet and phone equipment.

Since our budget has been cut by 12%, it was discussed and reflected in the budget that our web maintenance bill is cut by the same percent. This has been discussed with our webmaster and he has decided to relinquish his position. Terri has heard from someone who is willing to help. It is strongly urged by the treasurer and co treasurer that new ideas for funding projects be brought forth earlier in the year. Last minute filings only causes stress and headaches for those involved.

As suggested by a board member last year, the budget is open for a more diverse opportunity of funding ideas.

The Pico Beautification Plan is the only named Community Project in this Draft.

Motion by: Melissa: "That the Westside Neighborhood Council approve the 2013 – 2014 WNC Budget submitted by Bob Guerin, Co-Treasurer and Lisa Morocco, Treasurer."

Second by: Mary

Motion Passed 15- 0 - 0

5. Reports:

Officer Rashad:

- **LAPD Update**

There was not a report as there was an alert in process in the WNC area with the officers responding.

Wesly Hernandez:

- **CD5 Update**

Wesly update and gave a brief overview of the \$7.7 Billion budget. He said the new budget preserved tree trimming and street resurfacing in CD5. He added that there will not future cuts to LAPD. Additional details are available on the CD5 website and in their newsletter.

WNC Treasurer Report / June, 2013

**Bob Guerin, Co-Treasurer with Melissa Kenady and on behalf of Lisa Morocco, Treasurer
Report referenced - See Item D.**

6. Public Forum

Terri announced the movie schedule for Movies in Palms Park and asked that everyone share this information with share with your stakeholders:

The Movies are on Wednesdays at dusk at The Palms Recreation Center Sports & Recreation Field, with Free Admission. The WNC is sponsoring the summer series.

Adee spoke on a new event that she is working on for the LA Opera.

She said on Sept 21st the opening of "Carmen" will take place at the LA Opera in downtown LA. The LA Opera would like to do a live simulcast of the opening night of the Opera at Rancho Park.

The event will be a free event for people to come and view the opera from the park. The idea is to have some food trucks, beer garden, arts and crafts for kids and a sing along prior to the live cast.

As before she stated she will take care of parking out of the community, with directional signs, security and LAPD presence.

She added that she is submitting all the permit requests to LAPD, LAFD, ABC, Recs & Parks, Street Services etc.

There was a detailed discussion of the members including Colleen, Barbara, Eric, Bob, Dick, Shannon who expressed concerns, conditions and criteria that would need to be addressed. Adee will follow up.

Terri introduced Ellen Moy, Assemblymember Holly Mitchell's office. Ellen updated on their activities and their 2013 Legislative Calendar.
More information can be found on their website or by contacting ellen.moy@asm.ca.gov.

Barbara updated on the DWP Smart Meters, noting that the period to opt out is NOW.

Steve introduced Aaron Spector, General Manager of the Westside Pavilion. He also acknowledged their Marketing Manager Vito, who was present as he regularly attends the WNC Meetings.

Aaron spoke of his background including his prior position at the Santa Monica Place Mall.
Steve also noted that Aaron is his nephew.

Motion to Adjourn At 9:40PM.

Motion By: Melissa

Second By: Steve

Motion Passed: Unanimous

Submitted By Recording Secretary

