

# The Neighborhood Council of Westchester/Playa del Rey Board of Directors' Meeting – June 6, 2006

**Present:** Sibyl Buchanan, Joe Callinan, Judith Ciancimino, David Coffin, Robert Dalton, Pam DeArmas, Steve Donell, Doug Ehlers, Lisa Farland, James Ferro, David Gray, Patricia Lyon, Geoff Maleman, Terry Marcellus, Sheila Mickelson, Harry Rose, Kathy Bartlow Santos, Denny Schneider, Cozette Vergari, David Voss, Gwen Vuchsas John-David Webster, Lisa Wellik and William West.

**Excused:** Robert Acherman, Lynne Allen, Mike Arias, Don Doyle, Jeff Elder, Paul Maynard and John Ruhlen.

**Item 1:** Gwen Vuchsas, President of the Board, called the meeting to order at 6:43 PM. The Roll was called.

**Item 2:** Pam DeArmas led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Item 3:** Public Comment – non-Agenda Items

- Raymond Yu – Los Angeles State Historical Park Meeting North Spring St. near Gold Line MTA Station – Wednesday June 7 – Gay and Lesbian Pride Parade/Festival June 10 & 11.

- Alphonse Edwards – Westchester resident – stated there are many accidents along LaCienega near the freeway. Drivers use the alley west of LaCienega to avoid the traffic and they drive too fast, treating it like it was a street, not an alley behind homes. It is not safe for homeowners or their children. Also, people drive down the alley and dump unwanted furniture, etc. Request to do something regarding the alley which is used as a street and dump.

## **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

**Item 4:** Report/Kathryn Frengs, Field Deputy for Councilman Bill Rosendahl – the first Empowerment Conference held on May 20, 2006 was well attended. Committees Chairs were designated. A meeting is being scheduled for the Committee Chairs to discuss the direction each committee will be taking. The next general meeting has not yet been scheduled.

- June 8 – Councilman Rosendahl will attend the Historical Society's Annual Meeting at the Westchester Elks Lodge.

- An individual, not a company, owns adult entertainment billboard on Sepulveda and the telephone number on the billboard is no longer in service. The billboard is permitted for several more years. The Council office could not find any violations that could be used to force it to be taken down. They are seeking the assistance of the City Attorney.

**Item 5:** Report/Lisette Covarrubias, DONE Project Coordinator – distributed a registration form for the Congress of Neighborhoods scheduled for June 17. They need volunteers for two shifts, 7:30am – 11:30am and 11:30am – 3:00pm Lisette distributed a sign-up form. The first 1,200 people who register will receive a Von's emergency kit.

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**Item 6:** Bylaw Committee Report – David Voss – the most recent Bylaw Amendments have been approved by DONE.

**Item 7:** Election Committee Report – Cozette Vergari – minor adjustments to election procedures have been made and were resubmitted to DONE on 6.6.06. The following changes were required by DONE:

- Remove ambiguous language from the boundary description
- Remove descriptions of non-residential seats because they are not in our bylaws
- Translation into Spanish

The Election Procedures were submitted without the name of an independent election administrator. The IEA must be approved by DONE and there is only one approved IEA in the City. We have a hold on one of his open dates. He is training two assistants and hopefully they will be approved prior to our election so that we will be able to chose our dates instead of having to fit them into his schedule.

**Item 8:** Public Comment– Agenda Items (limited to 2 minutes per speaker)

### Item 9a

- *Nancy Rose* –Culver City business owner–just finished a renovation of a building on Major Street near Centinela across the street from Playa Vista Car Wash and has learned that a gentlemen's strip club is proposed right next door. She asked for the NC's help in stopping this project.

### Item 9b

- *Nicola Lamb* – Westchester resident – stated our neighborhood is bombarded with noise and visual pollution without any relief. The action of widening Sepulveda will impact the neighborhood and the quality of life negatively. Asked that NC oppose this action.

- *Jackie Jones* – Westchester resident – absolutely against the widening of Sepulveda. It will cause pollution, noise and create a freeway cutting through the neighborhood.

- *Rebecca Garcia Prieto* – Westchester resident – against the widening of Sepulveda – the community says no! Please uphold the PLUC recommendation to oppose this proposal.

- *Susan Vegter* – Westchester resident – no reason for the widening, please oppose.

- *Laurie Najim* – Westchester resident – adamantly opposed to the widening of Sepulveda. It will increase the speed of the traffic behind the homes backing up to Sepulveda, increase pollution and not allow windows to be open due to the noise. Pedestrians use Naylor, not Sepulveda. Widening Sepulveda is not the answer to beautifying Westchester.

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- *Ellie Holm* – Westchester resident – At the 2001 Town Hall, which 900 residents attended, Ruth Galanter, our City Councilperson, made a Motion to not widen Sepulveda in the residential area. Don't be fooled, of course they will replace the sidewalks they will be removing them!!! Please vote no.
- *Judy May* – Westchester resident – please vote as recommended by PLUC against widening.
- *Mary Jane Ludwig* – Westchester resident – attended a meeting which LADOT said the proposed project was for widening. Please vote against the proposal.
- *John Mulvihill* – Westchester resident – agree it looks very bad along Sepulveda because it is never cleaned up. The traffic already makes our properties dirty and believes this proposal will only make things worse. Please oppose this widening.
- *Barbara Mulvihill* – Westchester resident – representing many Westport Heights families to ask NCWPDR to oppose this proposal. Air pollution has caused me to develop asthma and my property is a dirty mess and will only get worse if the traffic is moved 6 feet closer to my home.
- *Mordy H. Kay* – Westchester resident – please opposes this measure.
- *Renate Hild* – Westchester Vitalization Corporation – this project was discussed at the last Vitalization meeting. WVC decided to support the project with a contingency that it focuses on beautification and bike lane.
- *Leslie Siazan* – Westchester resident – opposed to this widening. The residents of 76<sup>th</sup> Street can't get out of their driveways because it is used as access from Airport Boulevard to Sepulveda and another lane will just increase the cut-through traffic.
- *Mary Hollifield* – Westchester resident – Bike lanes don't belong on Sepulveda, this proposal is intended for the widening of Sepulveda and will not enrich our community. Please oppose.
- *Danna Cope* – Westchester resident – this widening will attract more traffic. Please oppose this measure.

### **Item 9:** Planning and Land Use Report – Jim Ferro

- a) Motion to Oppose the Proposed Adult Entertainment business at 6820 Centinela Ave.
  - according to P&L all the entitlements are met. It will be across from a park owned by a Playa Vista homeowners association who are also opposed to this project and are willing to transfer title for the park to the City if that will stop the strip club.

Jim Ferro made a Motion as stated above. Robert Dalton seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously.

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b) Motion recommended by the NCWPDR Planning and Land Use Committee that the NCWPDR Board not approve Westchester Streetscape Improvement Association's request to support the widening project on the east side of Sepulveda Blvd. Between 74<sup>th</sup> and 76<sup>th</sup> Streets.

- Ken Hustings from LADOT said no additional lanes will be added. They just want to "fix " the alignment of Sepulveda.
- Barbara Musella, President of Westchester Streetscape Improvement Association, said that to fix sidewalks and beautify the "strip lots" along Sepulveda north of Manchester, will take over \$5 million. This project will beautify the neighborhood. We need more right turn lanes at 77<sup>th</sup> and Sepulveda northbound and this project will make that happen. LADOT came to WSIA with a plan to remove trees that damage sidewalks and install meandering sidewalks and new trees. WSAI supports this proposal.

David Voss made the Motion as stated above. Geoff Maleman seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously.

### **Item 10:** Governmental Affairs/City Services Report

a) Motion to Support the establishment of an Overnight Parking District pursuant to LAMC Section 80.54 and contingent on circulating petitions and acquiring two-thirds residential acceptance along 83<sup>rd</sup> Street from Falmouth to 82<sup>nd</sup> Street and 82<sup>nd</sup> Street from Saran to Berger; Reading Ave. from Ramsgate to Interceptor; La Tijera from Sepulveda Eastway to Manchester.

Robert Dalton made the Motion as stated above. Judith Ciancimino seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously.

– *Karen Kanter* – Playa del Rey Resident – the overnight parking of vehicles extends along 83<sup>rd</sup> Street past Saran to include the park/Gas Company lots which are West of Saran. Please extend the boundaries to include this area.

Denny Schneider made a Friendly Amendment that the area along 83<sup>rd</sup> Street be extended West from Saran to Sunnyside. The Friendly Amendment was accepted by Robert and Judith.

The Motion passed unanimously.

b) Motion to Support the Janice Hahn Ordinance to ban oversized vehicle parking between 2am and 6am. Robert Dalton made the Motion as stated above. Sibyl Buchanan seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously.

### **Item 11:** Membership/Marketing Committee Report

a) Motion to authorize funding for NCWPDR brochure – Sibyl Buchanan – circulated a copy of the new brochure. The printing cost would be approximately \$1,600 for 20,000.

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Sibyl made the Motion as stated above. Sheila Mickelson seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously.

b) CORO Training – Sibyl Buchanan – The CORO training scheduled for June 12 will be rescheduled. The date will be announced. The Board Members present agreed that a weekday evening was best.

### **Item 12: Budget and Finance Committee Report**

a) Motion for NCWPDR to adopt a policy whereby all community improvement allocations in 2005/2006 expire on the last day of the 2005/2006 fiscal year and that all future community improvement allocations shall expire on the last day of that same fiscal year. Steve Donell made the Motion. Cozette Vergari seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously.

b) Motion for NCWPDR to adopt Policies for Neighborhood Improvement Projects 2006. Steve Baule DONE made a presentation. Steve Donell made the Motion as stated. Geoff Maleman seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously.

c) Motion to send letter to the appropriate City of Los Angeles agency to seek assistance with a lighting problem that exists along Reading Avenue and Ramsgate between Manchester Avenue and Interceptor. Steve Donell made the Motion as stated. Harry Rose seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously.

d) Approval of Treasurer's Report and Budget– Steve Donell – two reports were distributed.

e) Motion to Approve Reimbursement to Board members for NCWPDR expenditures

- \$375 to Playa Capitol for 4 Banners for outreach
- \$85 for flyers for CERT training.

Steve made the Motion as listed. Robert Dalton seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously.

**Item 13:** Approval of Minutes of 5/2/06 Special Board Meeting – Denny Schneider made a Motion to approve the Minutes as submitted. Kathy Santos seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously.

**Item 14:** Appointment of NCWPDR Committee members – Karen Kanter was appointed to the Governmental Affairs City Services Committee. Geoff Maleman made a Motion to approve the appointment. Denny Schneider seconded the Motion. The Motion passed unanimously.

### **Presidents Report – Gwen Vuchsas**

**Item 15:** Empowerment Congress – Gwen Vuchsas was appointed Co-Chair of the Public Safety. Gwen will recommend Cyndi Hensch for this Committee

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**Item 16:** CD11 Service Cabinet – put on hold until further notice.

**Item 17:** Congress of Neighborhoods 6/17/06

**Item 18:** Fire Station Grand Opening 6/24/06 – NCWPDR will have a table.

- *Terry Marcellus* – on Westchester High School - the school needs the local students to attend. A group of concerned parents and others are going to apply for a Small Learning Communities grant in the amount of \$950,000. This group would like the assistance of the NC to help build community awareness and support of the High School.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 9:17 PM

**Next Meeting:** July 11 – 6:30PM

**Location:** Community Room

**Submitted by:** Judith Ciancimino