

# WILMINGTON NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

## Minutes – February 23, 2011

The meeting of the Wilmington Neighborhood Council (WNC) was called to order by Chair Tom Dahlgren 6:12 PM at the Wilmington Senior Center, 1371 Eubank Ave., Wilmington.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Tom Dahlgren

“As provided by the Brown Act, persons in the audience may address the neighborhood council on any issue they may have during the public comment period or when public comments are solicited during the discussions of an agenda item. Speakers are limited to 3 minutes, unless otherwise allowed by the chair person. Speakers may address the council as a group. Any personal derogatory remarks to a specific council member or persons in the audience will not be tolerated. Anyone desiring to speak please fill out a speakers card found on the back table and hand it a council member or the Council’s Secretary.”

Chair Dahlgren informed those present that there was an English/Spanish interpreter available for those needing translation.

1. Roll Call of Governing Board Members (12) confirming quorum.

Present: Thomas Dahlgren, Donna Ethington, Jackie Garcia, Arthur Hernandez, Robert Jasso, Salvador Lara, Ana Medina, Hank Osterhoudt, Susan Prichard, Annabelle Romero, Patricia Sullivan, Patrick Wilson

Late: Jack Babbitt, Gary Kern, Nelson Williams

Excused: Marisela Caraballo, Cecilia Moreno

Absent: Socorro Fimbres, Susan Ogle

2. Approval of Minutes from previous meeting

Motion (Wilson/Ethington) the Minutes of January 26, 2011 be approved as presented

Passed (13-0-0)

3. Los Angeles Police Department/ Port of Los Angeles Department-

LAPD – Officer Garcinela called to say she would be unable to attend this evening

LAHD - Sgt. Ryan Howley

Previously a resident of Wilmington and understands Port’s impact on the community.

320 Commercial citations given in January

Officer Robert Ramirez, beginning 2/28, will be new CRO for Wilmington

Officer Cheryl Morris has been rotated

Introduced Officer Morgan Evans, Motor Officer for LAHD

Days – Two – four (2-4) officers on duty

Nights – Two (2) officers on duty

Questions from Board

Ethington – Any staffing changes in marina area?

No – Maritime Officer is still Phillip Heem

Wilson – How many of the citations were in residential areas?

104 for parking and/or moving in residential area

4. Public Comment

Richard Diaz – 310-835-8854, [rickyboyce@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rickyboyce@sbcglobal.net)

What is the status of the Wilmington Oil Franchise Fee Account?

Chair Dahlgren indicated WNC’s Public Works Committee is working on this matter

Carol Maldonado, President, Wilmington Friends of the Library, 1301 W. Sandison St.,  
[carolmaldonado@sbcglobal.net](mailto:carolmaldonado@sbcglobal.net), 310-835-1796

Speaking on behalf and asking support of Proposition “L” on the March 8 Ballot.  
Needs simple majority to pass – 50% + 1 vote

If passed, would permanently increase library departments allocation from

This would help the education of young and old alike

Would not increase taxes, nor effect property value and assessment.

John Pham, Wilmington Senior Librarian, [jjpham@gmail.com](mailto:jjpham@gmail.com), 310-548-7503

LA’s Library system is seeing more patrons than its previous 139 year history

System provides free computer access

Recent budget cuts

Eliminated 30% of work force

Closed libraries on Sunday/Monday and two nights a week

If passed, funding would return library to 2009 staffing levels over a four(4) year period.

Would help pay the rising costs of utilities and maintenance of structures

Passed out “Fact Sheet”

Don Compton – 310-830-5905

Compton announced LAHD will conduct its annual community presentation on Monday,  
February 28, 6-8 p.m. at Crown Plaza Hotel.

Update - Wilmington Waterfront and San Pedro Waterfront activities

Asks for community support of Beacon Warehouse, 245 Fries Avenue

Understands San Pedro wants it to be used for Red Car Museum

Feels it should become a Service Center for Wilmington residents

Suggests – food bank, 24-hour health clinic, etc.

## 6. Announcements

Chair Tom Dahlgren announced the WNC’s new Administrative Support Officer

Takeisha Smith Lankford

## 7. Presentation Items

a. Sharefest Community Development, Chad Mayer: [chad@sharefestinc.org](mailto:chad@sharefestinc.org),

Provided a power point overview of organization’s community involvement.

Shared New Logo

Fosters volunteerism – annual event – this year on May 14

Shared success of

Los Cruces area –

WNC’s own Salvador Lara took the lead in this partnership

Banning High School

Plaza area would have cost LAUSD - \$400,000

with community support/volunteers – cost only \$16,000

Mentoring Youth

Regina Awtry, Principal, Avalon High School,

Sharefest’s effort known as the Youth Development Academy

Discussed organization’s positive impact students her school.

97-98% attendance rate – unheard of at continuation schools

Graduates – currently 56, by comparison – only 2 in 2007

Lifetime Fitness Course – in cooperation with CSU-Dominguez Hills

Students receive 3 college credits plus LAUSD credits for attending class

She requests WNC's continued financial support

Questions from board

Romero – is Powerpoint available -

- b. Los Angeles County Mental Health (MHA)- Terry Lewis: [tlewis@dmh.lacounty.gov](mailto:tlewis@dmh.lacounty.gov),  
She has been with Department for 32 years

Proposition 63 -The Mental Health Services Act - passed about 6 years ago,

Subsequently Governor has cut everything but chronically & ? ill

Only tax people with incomes over \$1million.

MHA experienced a cut on all other funding programs that were previously in place which  
required agency's reevaluation of how to continue their level of service provided.

Los Angeles County's MHA is largest in the Country

Provides access 24/7 programming – in all threshold languages

Provides threat assessment services and conferences for teachers

72 hour holds

75 sites

100 different programs

#1 which is the Sheriff jails and detention centers

1300 contracts

Peer support services

Public Guardians

Outcomes

Treated 250,000

Cost \$11M/month to hospitalize, therefore saved \$37 million

Keep out of hospital

Partner with clergy

Service Area Advisory Committees – 8 SPAs in County, Wilmington in #8

In 2014 Mental and Physical Health Departments will merge

Mental Health Commission

15 members, two yea terms

## 8. Action Items

- a. The Transportation and Land-Use & Planning Committees

Motion – Committees/Jasso that the WNC send a letter of support to Councilwoman Hahn and Caltrans to extend the Overweight Corridor 1700 feet from Blinn Ave. to Sanford Ave. on the Pacific Coast Highway to facilitate deliveries of product to the ACX shipping facility.

Discussion-

Robert Jasso

Inquired about the existence of the trucking route already in use.

Any citations already given out for overloaded trucks.

Strong winds in area between 2:30-3:30 p.m. – who cleans area?

Response –Tom Dahlgren and Pat Wilson

Extends current route by 1700' or 20%

ACX has avoided citations by obeying current regulations

Clean-up process in place to monitor levels of debris generated by the trucks.

The benefits for allowing the overload:

All the trucks for ACX are kept compliant,

This would reduce number of truck trips by 500 per year

ACX will participate in property clean- up and beautification projects.

Susan Prichard

Is ACX to be held responsible for property clean- up and beautification?

Response – Jack Babbitt

No government involvement here, but they have a handshake agreement with

ACX's CEO and company owner's son.

Art Hernandez

How many trucks/day now? In the past, we had up to 100 truck trips per day

Inexperienced drivers driving these large loads could cause problems because trucks pivot differently because of extra axle.

Response – Tom Dahlgren

The approval of the overweight corridor would reduce truck trips to 500 less per year.

Nelson Williams

Is there a report regarding the impact the extra weight will have on the streets?

Response –Jack Babbitt, Pat Wilson

The truck will distribute all weight over more axles therefore extra weight will not effect the road surface

The trucks were doing mostly back and forth driving - come in unload their cargo before reloading hay and going out onto overload corridor.

**Motion Passed (10-1-3)**

b. Motion (Osterhoudt/Lara) that the WNC send a letter to the Governor, Senator and Assemblyman strongly opposing the Governor's proposal to abolish redevelopment agencies.

(Failed 7-5-1)

Discussion-

Gary Kern

Sits on the current Wilmington Expansion. Feels CRA forces issues that community does not see or feels it needs. The repeal of the CRA would give that tax increment back to the schools. Mr. Kern stated that the future of Wilmington resides in rehabbing the youth, not old buildings. The community deserves to have the youth enhanced by not laying off qualified teachers and increasing the classroom size. This will greatly enhance our community.

Response - Tom Dahlgren

Percentage of tax money going to the schools automatically.

A CRA project would increase property value therefore more taxes

Arthur Hernandez

Reminded WNC that over \$2 billion has been returned to Wilmington through the Wilmington Industrial Park. The CRA is beneficial for community development. The CRA has nothing to do with LAUSD.

Susan Prichard

This is an issue of balancing the current State budget. The CRA will not be abolished forever. This is temporary until the budget is balanced

Annabelle Romero

The CRA strategically invests to create economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for the people and that is very important to Wilmington. There are many abandoned buildings. Helping develop community pride will help in other areas of community life.

Nelson Williams

Stated that of all the work we have done to promote many community projects thus far have not been approved and may never see the light of day. The CRA is doing great things for Wilmington but we are just getting started and there are many projects to tackle. Mr. Williams stated that he is for the letter being sent on behalf of the CRA.

Patricia Sullivan-

Would the schools definitely receive this money if the CRA would be abolished.

Response - Tom Dahlgren

Stated that the comments have been focused on the schools, but he didn't see how it really tied in.

Public Comment-

Laura Espinoza

WNC should send letter for support for CRA. She would like to see a change in her community. Would like for the center of Wilmington be first, not the Industrial part. The development of the center will be good for the children of Wilmington.

Don Compton:

As a retired educator, he has knowledge that there is over a billion dollars in the CRA funds that could be used by the schools instead. The CRA is not in danger of going out of business permanently, it will return.

### **Motion Failed (5-7-1)**

## 9. Report of Officers

a. Chair – Tom Dahlgren

1. Los Angeles Journal, February, 2011 edition, "Tale of the Tape

Included in package – hopes WNC membership will read

2. March Committee Schedule

If changes, please notify

b. Vice-Chair (not present)

c. Secretary , Susan Prichard

Asked WNC membership to provide any comments after preliminary minutes are sent.

d. Treasurer - Patrick Wilson-

Discussed WNC budget balance - \$ 7,308.08 carried forward from '09-10 fiscal year.

We have \$45,000 funding from 2010-2011 fiscal year.

DONE's report should confirm these numbers – expects for March meeting.

Discussion

Jasso/Prichard/Wilson

How much currently available based on permanent known expenditures

This will show in DONE report

10, Report from Committees

- a. By Laws Committee (absent)
- b. Executive Committee (pass)
- c. Finance Committee (pass)
- d. Gateway and Beautification Committee – Babbit/Chair
  - Bench/Trash Receptacle Program
  - Final paperwork will be given to Councilwoman Hahn’s office next week.
  - Locations – Municipal Building, Dana Strand, Figueroa/”L”, and Hawaiian Avenue Elmenetayr (trash cans)
- e. Land-Use and Planning Committee – Babbitt/Chair
  - 711 Stores on Pacific Coast Highway
  - Gordon Teuber, CD15 – 310-732-4515
  - 711 has decided to separate two locations
  - Previously WNC had voted against citing of 711 stores because of company’s all or nothing stance.
  - Motion (Babbit/Wilson) that the WNC invoked Section 54954.2 (b) 1 & 2 of the Brown Act to publicly identify a time sensitive matter that needs immediate action, and requires a two-thirds majority vote of the Board to hear and take action on the matter.

**Passed (11-3-0)**

Representing property owners

Rob Katherman, 1308 Satori Ave., Torrance 90501 – 310-618-1999 [rob@katerco.com](mailto:rob@katerco.com)

Corner of PCH/Avalon

Understands no alcohol to be sold on premise

Only two stores in mini mall – RAC and 711

E. Kelly Harrison, 1417 S. Sepulveda Blvd., LA 90025, 310-312-6698, [Kelly@bm1.com](mailto:Kelly@bm1.com)

Corner of PCH/Wilmington Blvd.

WNC’s concerns have been addressed with CD15

Owner - capital investments (\$150,000) to address parking, landscaping concerns

Offsite parking - employee parking - motel across street

RadioShack will be taking over Laundromat space

Laundromat will become smaller

LAPD restrictions to be abided – handout provided

No alcohol after 11:00 p.m.

The landlord will abide by all committee’s concerns

Discussion- Board

Hernandez- indicated his support

Williams - Indicated concern regarding merchandise sold at 7-11

Considering Wilmington Christian School down the block.

Public Comment-

Oscar: Sochini, 730-1/2 Anaheim Street, 714-805-4866, [oscarsorchini@yahoo.com](mailto:oscarsorchini@yahoo.com)

711 will be a positive influence for the community

unlike the negative influence that the existing bars represent.

Motion (Babbitt/Wilson) to send a letter to Councilwoman Hahn supporting the location of a 711 Store in the Avalon/PCH.- 111 West Pacific Coast Highway, with condition that no alcohol is served.

**Passed (14-0-0)**

Motion (Babbitt/Wilson) to send a letter to Councilwoman Hahn supporting the location of a 711 Store in the Wilmington Blvd./PCH.- 945 West Pacific Coast Highway, with condition that no alcohol is served after 11:00 p.m. and other conditions..

**Passed (8-6-0)**

f. Transportation Committee - Ethington

Metro 445 will be eliminated as of June 25, 2011

They have already had to reduce bus services due to deficit.

BNSF Community Meeting – possibly in May

g. Public Works Committee - Medina

Chair feels there needs to be a delineation of duties for each committee in order to avoid overlap of effort.

Kern felt this might stifle input

Babbitt – important to share information

Romero drafted letter for Council Woman Hahn regarding pipeline fees.

Hernandez feels it is important for Hahn to provide accounting information

Next meeting will include a presentation/update on clean air efforts

h. Publicity – Prichard – no meeting

I – PCAC – Dahlgren

Discussed Clean Air Action Plan

Dock 1 – Warehouse redevelopment

Wilmington Waterfront

Buffer Zone

Avalon Triangle Park

Relocation of Catalina Freight

Relocation of DWP Tank Farm to Alameda/Robidoux

11. Unfinished Business

Chair- stated that he has a copy of the letter to Hahn regarding pipeline funds,

Will present letter at March meeting.

12. New Business

El Unico Restaurant (near Domino's Pizza) is petitioning to sell beer and wine.

Executive Director on Port of LA will give an update on all projects at next meeting.

Efforts to have WNC meeting announced in local media

Donations

13. Reports for Caucus Groups

Education – Prichard

Ethics Training

Required every two years

Two (2) hour course on computer

Only Babbitt & Romero are current.

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Budget Survey

Cut-off is in the first week of March – encourage participation

Friends of Library Meeting

Encouraging each school to send representative

14. Reports from Members at Large

Romero – Port update meeting next Monday evening

Wilmington residents need to attend

voice their opinion on the potential uses of The Bekins Building.

Adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Next meeting will be March 23, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

Minutes taken by Takeisha Smith Lankford, Admin Support Officer  
and Susan Prichard, Secretary

Approved, Tom Dahlgren, Chair