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Agenda Item 3

## MCWCC Board Meeting of 04/08/2008

### MINUTES

1. **Call to Order/Introductions:** Chair Andrew Lachman called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm. Of 37 members, 25 were present.
2. **Opening Remarks.** The chair made opening remarks expressing condolences to Vice-Chair Wayne Sachs on the death of his mother, and informing the Board that Vice-Chair Rickie Avrutin's mother was seriously ill.
3. **Approval of Minutes.** The minutes of the March 11, 2008 board meeting were approved by acclamation.
4. **Public Comment Period**
  - Wayne Williams of the California Clean Money Campaign spoke about the Los Angeles Ethics Commission's proposal for full public financing of city election, and that DONE and the City Council Rules and Elections Committee want feedback from neighborhood councils. He presented MCWCC with a copy of a letter from DONE and the Council President Eric Garcetti requesting that NCs hold a workshop on the issue. The California Clean Money Campaign offered to hold a workshop for MCWCC.
  - Ron Galperin, candidate for the 5th Council District in the 2009 election, introduced himself and spoke about his issues and platform.
5. **Financial Report from Treasurer:** Treasurer David Strouse provided the current financial report (on file). He pointed out that MCWCC is charged for committee meeting rooms at the NCJW, and emphasized the need to schedule rooms only as necessary, and to cancel rooms well in advance if not needed.
6. **Announcements from City Representatives**

Nikki Ezhari, Field Deputy for Councilmember LaBonge, spoke about the City's budget woes.
7. **Committee Reports/Motions**
  - a. **Arts and Recreation.** The committee announced that the monthly Art Walk would take place on April 19, 2008. The host gallery is the Korean Cultural Center. Sabrina Simmons requested assistance in distributing posters; Tara Brown volunteered to help.
  - b. **Education Committee:** David Mann moved that the Education Committee agenda item be advanced on the agenda. Without objection, the Chair advanced the item. Pierson Blaetz presented the following motion:

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**That the \$1000.00 allocated in the Mid City West special projects budget for a project at Fairfax High School be applied toward a beautification project to improve the landscaping in front of the school, along Melrose Avenue.**

Following brief discussion, the motion was approved by a vote of 23-0.

Pierson Blaetz reported that LAUSD had offered a charter middle school space on the Fairfax High School campus, and that there was less concern about a middle school than a charter high school on the campus.

- c. Election Committee:** Committee Chair Charles Lindenblatt discussed the election date for the upcoming Mid City West CC board elections, to be conducted by the City Clerk. MCWCC is in the Central Area group for regional elections. A majority of Central Area NCs voted to hold the regional election on Saturday, June 21, 2008. The Valley Area also voted to hold their election on a Saturday. The City Clerk offered to hold Mid City West CC's election on a separate date, either Tuesday, July 1 or Wednesday, July 2. The board discussed the pros and cons of staying with the regional, Saturday election or holding a standalone midweek election. The discussion focused on effect on participation by the business community and observant Jewish stakeholders.

Charles Tarlow made the following motion, which was seconded:

**That MCWCC's board election be held on Wednesday, July 2, 2008.**

Jeff Jacobberger made a friendly amendment:

**That MCWCC's board election be held on Tuesday, July 1, 2008.**

The amendment was accepted by the maker of the original motion. The amended motion was approved by a vote of 23 in favor, 2 opposed, and 1 abstention.

The City Clerk's office also requested that Mid City West CC select a 6-hour block during which the polls would be open. Brad Seiling made the following motion, which was seconded by Tamar Andrews:

**That the polling hours for MCWCC's board election be from 2 pm to 8 pm.**

After discussion, the motion was approved by a vote of 25-0.

Charles Lindenblatt reported that the City Clerk had disapproved of MCWCC's proposed polling place at the Farmers' Market, and that the polling place and candidate forum would be at Hancock Park Elementary School.

- d. Communications/Outreach:** Tamar Andrews reported that she had received widely varying quotes for the cost of reproducing the newsletter, ranging from \$4500 to \$13,500. The issue of funding the newsletter was tabled to the May meeting, so that the Board could have more information about the costs. The board directed that, in the interim, the newsletter be posted on the MCWCC website.
- e. Land Use Committee.**
- i.** Committee Chair Brad Seiling introduced a project at 420 N. La Cienega, a new restaurant to be operated by owners of existing businesses along that portion of La Cienega. He also corrected the background in the written motion presented to the Board to correctly state that the committee vote had been 8-0, and not 9-0. Wayne Avrashow spoke on behalf of his client Food Art Group. The Zoning Administrator hearing had been held on April 1, 2008, and the ZA agreed to hold the record open for 30 days to allow MCWCC to provide comment. At that hearing, the applicant had agreed to reduce operating hours to 11am to midnight on Sunday-Thursday, and 11am to 1am Friday and Saturday. Brad Seiling made the following motion:

**Subject to a one-year review, Mid City West supports the application for a CUP to permit the sale and dispensing of beer and wine only for on-site**

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**consumption with hours of operation from 11am to midnight Sunday-Thursday and from 11am to 1am Friday and Saturday.**

**Mid City West also supports the application to permit a modification in the existing parking requirements. In lieu of the 15 or 16 on-site parking spaces required by Code, Mid City West supports the restaurant providing a total of 8 spaces behind the restaurant and a nearby building owned by the applicant with the balance of parking to be provided at a leased offsite lot with valet service.**

This motion modified the hours in the written motion that had been distributed to the Board to reflect the shortened hours agreed to by the applicant. The motion was seconded by Sabrina Simmons. After discussion the motion was voted on with 23 in favor, none (0) opposed, and 1 abstention.

- ii. Committee Chair Brad Seiling introduced an application for Area nightclub at 639-43 North La Cienega. He also corrected the background to the written motion presented to the Board to correctly state that the committee vote had been 8-0, and not 9-0. Brad Seiling made the following motion, which was seconded by Ken Draper:

**Mid City West supports CUP to allow the continued use of an existing 446 square foot dance hall/floor in conjunction with an existing 8,665 square foot restaurant/nightclub use seating 160 patrons with an occupancy load of 355 persons and having hours of operation from 6pm to 2am daily, subject to a 10-year review.**

Rick Zbur, Latham & Watkins, spoke on behalf of the applicant, SRC Entertainment, and presented information regarding the application and operation of the nightclub. Bo Trumble, manager of the club, spoke and answered questions from the Board. Board discussion included Zone 1 representative Keith Nakata's report regarding his visit to the site and questions regarding trash pickup at the site. After discussion the motion was voted on with 21 in favor, none opposed, and 1 abstention.

- iii. **Participation in May 14, 2008 Meeting with Gail Goldberg.** Brad Seiling presented information regarding a May 14, 2008 meeting with Gail Goldberg, Los Angeles Planning Director, at the Wilshire Ebell Theater, sponsored by Greater Wilshire NC. Judy Perez **moved that MCWCC formally agree to participate in the meeting**, which was seconded by Sabrina Simmons. The motion was adopted by acclamation.
- iv. David Strouse presented information regarding concessions and modifications to requested conditions that El Guapo Cantina, 7250 Melrose, had made subsequent to the March 11, 2008 Board meeting at which MCWCC voted to oppose the application for CUP modifications. Mr. Strouse **moved that MCWCC commend El Guapo for listening to and responding to concerns of the community**; Doreen Klee seconded the motion. In public comment, Lucille Saunders of the Melrose Residents Association opposed the motion. After board discussion, **Mr. Strouse withdrew his motion.**
- f. **Public Safety Committee:** Committee Chair Tara Brown presented information regarding a proposed Emergency Preparedness Fair to be held on May 18, 2008 at the Melrose Trading Post, including proposed costs for the event. Tara Brown made the following motion, seconded by Alan Goldstein:  
**That \$1855.00 allocated from the FY07-08 MCWCC Special Projects Fund for support of the May 18th MCW Emergency Preparedness Fair at Fairfax High School.**

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The amount of this request is different from the \$1033.06 that was included in the written motion that was distributed to the Board. After discussion, the motion was voted on with 22 in favor, none opposed, and 1 abstention.

Tara Brown and Mitch Singer presented information regarding the proposed realignment of LAPD's Wilshire Division and Hollywood Division, after opening of a new division on Vermont Avenue near Wilshire Center. The current proposal is for Basic Car Area 6A71, which covers the portion of MCWCC north of Beverly Boulevard, to move from the Hollywood Division to the Wilshire Division, with Senior Lead Officer Maria Gray also transferring to Wilshire and continuing to serve as SLO for this area.

- g. Transportation, Parking and Streetscape Committee;** Committee Chair Jeff Jacobberger announced that the TPS Committee, in conjunction with the Land Use Committee, was preparing a list of conditions that MCWCC could adopt as requirements for approval of certain land use applications, and a wish list of projects to be requested as mitigation measures for certain land use applications.

**8. Public Comment Period. There was no public comment.**

**9. Board Member Comments/Announcements**

- Brad Seiling commented that the MCWCC agendas should be structured to put the people's business—issues for which stakeholders are present—ahead of MCWCC business—such as administrative or internal matters.
- David Mann expressed concern that MCWCC spends too much time on liquor licenses.
- Pierson Blaetz suggested that there should be a balance, and that it is good for stakeholders who are present for land use issues to hear about education and other issues.
- Chuck Tarlow expressed that MCWCC should not rush consideration of issues but give applicants, supporters and opponents "their day in court"
- Ken Draper mentioned that the City Council's Budget Committee would be looking closely at funding for DONE and NCs
- Doreen Klee expressed a desire that new board members should be mentored and provided training and education

10. Meeting adjourned at 9:07 pm.