



543 N. Fairfax Avenue Room 106 Los Angeles CA 90036 323 651-3512  
[www.midcitywest.org](http://www.midcitywest.org)

## MCWCC Board Meeting of 05/13/08

### MINUTES

Submitted by Joyce Kleifield, Administrative Manager  
Subject to approval of the Board on 06/10/2008

1. **Call to Order/Introductions:** Chair, Andrew Lachman called the meeting to order at 7:13 p.m. Of thirty-seven members, twenty-three were present.
2. **Opening Remarks:** Andrew Lachman reminded board members about the City Planning event with Gail Goldberg at the Ebell theater on the 14<sup>th</sup> and acknowledged all the work Charles Lindenblatt had been doing on the elections.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** Stakeholder, Lucille Saunders asked that Land Use Item 7.e.iv. be changed to show that she represent the Melrose Neighborhood Association not the Melrose Residents Association. **Minutes of April 8, 2008 were approved as amended.** Ken Draper asked about minutes of the stakeholder meeting held prior to the board meeting in April. Secretary, Jeff Jacobberger stated he didn't get a chance to prepare them.

Ken Draper also suggested a motion be brought to appoint an Outreach committee. Andrew Lachman said he would be appointing a committee and asked for any people who would be interested in sitting on the committee. Ken Draper and Stakeholder, Lucille Saunders both volunteered.

4. **Public Comment Period:**
  - Tom Rubinson, Candidate for Superior Court Judge (Seat #82) in the June 3<sup>rd</sup> election introduced himself.
  - Allan Nadir, Candidate for Superior Court Judge (Seat #123), also introduced himself.
5. **Financial Report:** Treasurer, David Strouse provided the current financial report (on file) which was unanimously accepted. Mr. Strouse said the overage on rents must be approved at the next board meeting.
6. **Announcement from City Representatives:** CD5 representative, Maya Zutler announced that on May 16<sup>th</sup> the community is invited to provide public comment on the city budget. If unable to attend letters can be sent to Eric Garcetti or CD5.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS / MOTIONS:**

7. **Arts & Recreation:** David Mann announced that the monthly Art Walk would take place Saturday, May 17, The Muse, with an after party event.

8. **Election Committee:** Charles Lindenblatt announced that the first Candidate Information session was held on Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup>. The next one would be held on Wednesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>. The candidate filing period ends June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Candidate forum will be June 18 and the elections held on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

9. **Public Safety Committee:** Tara Brown announced and explained the upcoming Emergency Preparedness Fair to be held Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at Fairfax High School from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Charles Lindenblatt asked that election information be available on the tables during the Fair.

10. **Land Use Committee:**

a. Chair, Brad Seiling reiterated Mr. Lachman's reminder regarding the community meeting at the Wilshire Ebell Theater with L. A. Planning Director, Gail Goldberg.

b. Brad Seiling introduced Margaret Taylor, representing Whole Foods who provided background and answered questions regarding the following motion:

**Mid City West supports that application to modify the conditional use permit to (1) permit the sale of alcohol from 6:00 a.m. to 12 a.m., (2) permit unlimited wine tasting events, and (3) expand the floor area for onsite consumption of wine. .**

David Mann so moved and Judy Perez provided a second. The board vote resulted in eighteen (18) in favor; two (2) opposed; one (1) abstaining.

c. Brad Seiling provided a summary of the following motion and introduced the applicant's representative who offered to answer questions:

**Mid City West supports the application for a CUP for the sale of beer and wine only for onsite and offsite consumption with hours of operation 11 a.m. to midnight daily.**

Alan Goldstein seconded the motion, the board voted with twenty-one (21) in favor, one (1) opposed and one (1) abstaining.

d. Brad Seiling explained the following motion:

**The Land Use Committee moves that Mid City West oppose taking any further action on the City's draft Housing Element until the Planning Department provides the opportunity for Neighborhood Councils and the public to provide meaningful input; and encourage the Planning Department to re-open the comment period to allow for such meaningful input.**

Stakeholder, Lucille Saunders suggested including wording stating that a letter would be sent to the Planning Department. The committee accepted that as a friendly amendment. The board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

Brad Seiling announced that two projects, a mixed use Caruso project on Burton Way and a project at Crescent Heights and Wilshire, would be coming to the May 28<sup>th</sup> Land Use meeting and all were invited to attend the meeting. Mr. Seiling also explained that when an action is taken, a letter is sent by the Chair of the committee to the appropriate department, with a copy to the Administrative

Manager. A follow up system is being developed so the board can be aware of what final action is taken by the planning department.

11. **Transportation, Parking, Streetscape:** Chair, Jeff Jacobberger presented information about the Westside Extension and some of the alternatives being considered. He explained that the issue would be covered in detail at the next TPS committee meeting.

TPS Committee member, Mitch Singer reported that the Melrose Neighbors in Action raised \$10,750. toward the Melrose Avenue cleanup, which was very successful.

12. **Executive Committee:**

a. The board agreed to retain the June 10<sup>th</sup> board meeting date.

b. Andrew Lachman led discussion regarding the suggestion that some Neighborhood Councils allocate a portion of their budgets to City programs facing budget cuts. Discussion led to Yuval Kremer **moving to strongly oppose any cuts to neighborhood council budgets.** The motion was seconded and the vote resulted in thirteen (13) in favor; four (4) opposed; five (5) abstaining. Andrew Lachman would write a letter to the city reflecting the board's position.

c. Secretary, Jeff Jacobberger explained the recommendation that MCWCC cosponsor, with the Greater Wilshire NC, a workshop on proposals for full public financing of municipal elections. **The board voted to empower the Executive Committee to work with Greater Wilshire to find a location and a date for the workshop within the next month.** It was suggested that they find a free location.

13. **Public Comment Period:** No public comment at this time.

14. **Board Member Comments:**

- Ken Draper reminded board members that the Citywide Alliance would be meeting on May 17<sup>th</sup>. Mayor Villaraigosa would be a guest and Jane Usher will be there. They will be discussing SB1818, which is a big issue.
- Yuval Kremer suggested that money left in the MCW budget be allocated toward more cleanup, perhaps in conjunction with the Fairfax Business Association. He felt the newsletter should be published on the website.
- Brad Seiling suggested the board should cut back on all the paper for board meetings, that board members should read things ahead of time and print their own copies. Yuval Kremer stated he liked having the board member folders at each meeting and suggested that people could opt in or out. The executive committee would address the issue.
- Zachary Shepard reminded members that propositions 93 and 98 will be on the June 3<sup>rd</sup> ballot and everyone should vote.
- Judy Perez explained the budget crisis in the schools and named the numerous things not covered by the district. She invited all board members to a fundraiser, Family Fun Day, at Hancock Park Elementary school on Saturday from 12:00 to 4:00 pm.
- Merrill Whatley commented that he felt budget monies could be better spent on a large project in the community than on a newsletter and suggested the Fairfax High School hall of fame.

**Meeting adjourned at 11:15 pm.**