



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

## MCWCC Board Meeting of 01/08/08

### MINUTES

Submitted by Joyce Kleifield, Administrative Manager  
Subject to approval of the Board on 02/12/2008

1. **Call to Order/Introductions:** Chair, Andrew Lachman called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. Of forty-three members, thirty (a quorum) were present.
2. **Opening Remarks:** None
3. **Approval of Minutes:** Rickie Avrutin asked that on page 4, item d, “**Rickie Avrutin moved to table the following motion:**” be amended to read “**A motion was made to table the following motion.**”, and also that on page 5 under item 9 (bullet point six), she would like the words “**countered explaining**” replaced with “**pointed out**”. **Minutes of December 11, 2007 were approved as amended.**
4. **Public Comment Period:**
  - Yuval Kramer asked that public comment be allowed to come before approval of the minutes so the public could weigh in on the minutes.
  - Yuval Kramer mentioned a problem with “stickering” in the community generally of stickers from two stores – The Hundreds on Fairfax and The Fast Life at Crescent Heights & 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. He will bring the issue to the Public Safety Committee for further discussion.
  - Lucille Saunders from the Melrose Neighborhood Association brought the issue of the Industrial Land Use Policy Project to the attention of the board. A map was distributed (on file) and she noted how important it was to maintain Industrial Land Use. She recommended visiting the city planning website for more information.
5. **Financial Report:** Treasurer, David Strouse provided the current financial report (on file) which was unanimously approved by the board. It was pointed out that \$17,274.51 remained in the special projects budget. Steve Kramer asked if personal outlays for any special projects should be reported so the board had an accurate record of costs. It was recommended that it should be brought up to the 501c3 “Friends of MCWCC” which was formed to supplement special projects.
6. **Announcement from City Representatives:** CD4 Field Deputy, Carolyn Ramsay introduced herself and made the following announcements:
  - There have been numerous incidents of pedestrians being struck by vehicles in the crosswalk at the intersection of Fairfax Avenue and Farmers Market Place. Meetings have been held with DOT and they are working on a solution – which may include moving the crosswalk.

- Greater Wilshire NC has invited MTA to speak about the subway to the sea at the Wilshire Ebell theater. Check website for dates.
- The Miracle Mile 5K Run will take place January 20<sup>th</sup> and will begin at Gilmore Lane, between the Grove and Farmers Market. More info can be found on the Miracle Mile 5K Run website.

7. **Board Retreat – January 13<sup>th</sup>** – Andrew Lachman announced that the Board retreat is scheduled for Sunday, January 13<sup>th</sup> at Pan Pacific Park auditorium from 1:00 to 5:00 pm. The idea is to highlight plans and goals for the next six months. He asked that board members let him know if they will not be able to attend. Food will be provided and an agenda will be posted.

8. **Committee Reports/Motions:**

a. **Arts & Recreation:** The committee announced that the monthly Art Walk would take place Saturday, January 19<sup>th</sup>. Carl Berg will be the host gallery with Noma providing food. Flyers will be available and posted on the website in a few days.

b. **Land Use:** Chair, Brad Seiling explained that he felt the LUC was getting a little more organized and on top of things and thanked the members of the committee. He also announced that a large project by Caruso developers on Burton Way will be coming before the board and that it would have an impact on the MCW area. Members were encouraged to attend the meeting when it came before the committee. The following motions were then presented:

i. 5757 Wilshire Blvd. – Samurai Sam’s Restaurant: Consultant, Manny Diaz presented background and the following motion was moved and seconded:

**“Mid City West supports the application for a Conditional Use Permit to allow the sale and dispensing of beer and wine only for on-site consumption in conjunction with the restaurant with hours of operation from 10am -11pm daily”**

Discussion, with questions asked of the representative, ensued. The board then voted unanimously (32) in favor of the motion.

ii. 7469 West Melrose. Brad Seiling explained that applicant was given opportunities to show up but never did and never contacted LUC, therefore the following motion was presented:

**“Mid City West opposes the application for a Conditional Use Permit to allow the sale and dispensing of beer and wine only for on-site consumption in conjunction with the restaurant. Mid City West opposes the request for hours of 9AM-3AM Sun through Thurs and from 9AM - 5AM Fri and Saturday. Mid City West opposes the variance to permit 25 leased off-site valet parking spaces in lieu of 25 on-site parking spaces or 25 off-site spaces secured by covenant.”**

Public comment on this item was heard with two stakeholders speaking against the application. Board discussion then ensued, Steve Kramer called for the question and two-thirds approved ending discussion. The vote resulted in twenty-nine (29) in favor of the motion; zero (0) opposed and three (3) abstaining. Motion to oppose application was supported.

c. **Bylaws Committee:** Chair, Rickie Avrutin explained the background of the original bylaws wording and reasons for the following proposed amendment:

**To replace the MCWCC Bylaws regarding Zone Representatives (Article II, Section 7) with the following language:**

**7. ZONE REPRESENTATIVES.** There shall be a total of seven (7) Zone Representatives, who will represent ~~geographic areas defined by the Board~~ seven geographical areas, designated on the map attached hereto as Attachment "A". In order to run for or serve as a Zone Representative, a person must certify that he or she lives within the borders of the Zone. There are no other requirements to serve as a Zone Representative. In the event there is a vacancy between elections, the Board may choose a replacement Zone Representative to serve until the next regularly scheduled election. A replacement Zone Representative must live within the Zone.

Sabrina Simmons asked that a friendly amendment be accepted as indicated above with the strikethrough and replacement sentence. Amendment was accepted. Lengthy discussion took place, a motion to extend discussion failed, with eleven (11) in favor and seventeen (17) opposed to doing so. A roll call vote of the motion was requested with the motion passing as indicated:

**In Favor (24)**

John Ahn  
Rickie Avrutin  
Donald Battjes  
Tara Brown  
John Burney  
Lawrence Dardick  
Michael Darner  
Babette Dickerson  
Ken Draper  
Alan Goldstein  
Jeffrey Jacobberger  
Doreen Klee  
Julie Kleinick  
Lois Luger  
Bruce McCormick  
Keith Nakata  
Joel Rosansky  
Wayne Sachs  
Brad Seiling  
Zachary Shepard  
Mitch Singer  
David Strouse  
Charles Tarlow  
Billy Yang

**Opposed (3)**

Pierson Blaetz  
Charles Lindenblatt  
James O'Sullivan

**Abstain (6)**

Stephen Kramer  
Andrew Lachman  
David Mann  
Sabrina Simmons  
Andrew Sousa  
Rebecca ver Straten-McSparran

As a result of the vote, James O'Sullivan stated that he and Zone 7 rep., Alice Cassidy, had been instructed by the Miracle Mile Residential Association to resign their positions on the board.

d. Election Committee: Chair, Charles Lindenblatt announced that the City Clerk will be taking over the Neighborhood Council elections. A series of informational meetings are being held. The board was advised that some bylaws changes may need to be considered with this new development, mainly regarding the terms of board members – two year or four year terms. Andrew Lachman stated he would try to bring more information to the upcoming retreat.

e. TPS Committee: Chair, Jeff Jacobberger announced that a representative from DOT will be at the next TPS meeting to discuss the Olympic-Pico one way proposal. All members were invited to attend – Tuesday, January 15<sup>th</sup> at NCJW, 7:00 pm.

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

10. **Board Member Comments:**

- Andrew Lachman presented an explanation of why Jim O’Sullivan and Alice Cassidy resigned. However he was engaging in outreach in the form of Residential Association roundtable discussions and would try to keep the Miracle Mile Residential Association (MMRA) involved.
- Many comments ensued about Mr. O’Sullivan’s resignation, with the general consensus being all efforts should be made to reach out to the MMRA and other residential associations to keep them involved.
- Ken Draper announced he has information about the elections which he will share.
- Charles Tarlow mentioned that the Olympic-Pico proposal will not be a solution to too much development. The council should think about quality of life in regards to over development.
- Donald Battjes announced that the Ahmanson Gallery, on the plaza level, at LACMA will be opening this Sunday. Also, the new BCAM at LACMA will be opening on February 7<sup>th</sup>, all board members will be invited to the free community weekend.

**Meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.**