

WEST OF TWIN PEAKS CENTRAL COUNCIL MINUTES
September 23, 2013 – DRAFT

13 Associations Present:

Balboa Terrace, Roger Ritter
Forest Hill, Walt Farrell
Golden Gate Heights, Sally Stephens
Greater West Portal, Avrum Shepard
Ingleside Terraces, Paul Conroy
Lakeshore Acres, Bill Chionsini
Midtown Terrace, George Wooding
Miraloma Park, Karen Wood
Monterey Heights, Copley Crosby
Pine Lake, David Golden
Saint Francis Homes, Carolyn Squeri
Westwood Highlands, Dave Bisho
The Woods, Judy Clarke

Guests Present:

Mitch Bull, Westside Observer
John Farrell, Forest Hill
Barbara Chionsini, Lakeshore Acres
Blue Mudbhary, Westwood Highlands
Rae Doyle, Greater West Portal
Matthias Mormino, Sup. Norman Yee's Office
Lee Hsu, Greater West Portal
Kathy Montague, Pine Lake
F.X. Crowley
Michael Breyer
Anand Singh, No Wall on the Waterfront

7 Associations Absent:

Forest Knolls, Lakeside Property Owners, Merced
Manor, Mount Sutro Homeowners, Sherwood Forest,
Sunnyside, Twin Peaks Improvement

Officers Present:

Matt Chamberlain, President
Roger Ritter, Vice President
Carolyn Squeri, Treasurer
Sally Stephens, Secretary
Avrum Shepard, Parliamentarian

Meeting called to order: 7:30 pm, there was a quorum (13 of 20)

Minutes: The draft of the June 24, 2013 minutes were approved with one correction – Marco Magallon represented Monterey Heights at the meeting – Dave Golden moved, Dave Bisho seconded.

President's Report: Matt Chamberlain noted that he was going to aggressively push to finish the meeting before 9 pm.

Treasurer's Report: Carolyn Squeri reported WOTPCC has \$4617.76 in the bank. A few invoices for dues still need to go out to people.

Parliamentarian's Report: Avrum Shepard noted that the merchants on West Portal are looking into creating a Community Benefits District on West Portal. They are also considering putting flower baskets on West Portal and they may want WTPCC support for that. He reported that Squat and Gobble, the dental office, and the wine bar are being rebuilt after the fire. The property owner of Vin Debut and the dental office is seeking a variance because ADA law requires them to install an elevator. To get the same square footage of useable space as they

had before the fire, the dentist needs to encroach on the backyard setback for the building. They also will enclose the stairs that are outside in the alley. The backyard is unused space. The exterior of the building on the street will not be changed but will be similar to what it was before the fire. The alley will be a bit narrower but doesn't affect the store front, nor does it affect access to the alley. Vin Debut will need to get a conditional use permit in order to get the same amount of square footage as they had before the fire. Avrum noted that the dentist has been in this location for a long time. Avrum made a motion that we support the application for the variance and ask that they move forward with all due speed so that the dentist can return as soon as possible. Paul Conroy seconded. The motion passed with 10 associations in support, none opposed, and 3 abstentions.

There was no Vice-President's or Secretary's Report

Committee Reports:

Public Health Committee: George Wooding reported that there are plans to move dialysis chairs from SF General Hospital to Laguna Honda Hospital. The very sick people who are used to going to SF General for dialysis treatment would have to go to Laguna Honda three times a week. He is not sure why they want to move the treatment. He added that he and Supervisor Norman Yee had toured the mental health center at Laguna Honda where they are sending people who used to be in the mental health center at SF General. These patients are now mixed with dementia patients at Laguna Honda. George noted that the unit seemed safe.

Open Space Committee: Sally Stephens reported that UCSF had announced that they were going to cut down over 1000 trees on Mount Sutro as part of emergency fire safety work. They said this was in response to an independent assessment by the SF Fire Dept. Because of extra-hazardous fire conditions, they had to clear 100 feet around any buildings, including the dorms/apartments off Clarendon. This was separate from their plans to remove 30,000 trees as part of a forest maintenance plan currently undergoing environmental review (this was discussed at the June 2013 WTPCC meeting.) Opponents of the larger plan had submitted Sunshine Law requests to the SF Fire Department for correspondence with UCSF over the emergency plan and had discovered that UCSF had reported a potential fire danger to the Fire Department (not the other way around), and that the Fire Dept had not done any inspection of the forest on Mount Sutro until the very day the cutting was begun. Opponents are concerned that there was no fire emergency, but UCSF used that excuse to cut down many trees without having to do an Environmental Impact Review of the project.

Transportation Committee: Avrum Shepard suggested people pay close attention to the Transit Effectiveness Project. There is a plan to lose one lane to create a bus-only area on Van Ness. This will prevent left turns along Van Ness except at Broadway. Matt Chamberlain noted that there was a meeting on the 19th Avenue Transit Study tomorrow (September 24). Roger Ritter said that MTA had eliminated the idea of an elevated train on 19th Ave, and they may eliminate stops between St. Francis Circle and 19th Ave. Bill Chionsini reported that two new beacons for pedestrians have been installed at Forest View and Sloat. Pedestrians press the button if they want to cross, and the beacons first give an amber light, then a red stop light for cars on Sloat. Three new motorcycle cops have been assigned to the Taraval Station, so there may be more enforcement on Sloat. They're considering bulbouts at 23rd Ave, and are looking for money for more changes.

New Business:

Supervisor Norman Yee appeared and reported that he had convinced the Board to add money for District 7 projects for two issues important to him to the next city budget – Pedestrian Safety and Open Space. For Pedestrian Safety, Yee got \$250,000 for pedestrian safety projects in District 7 added to the budget. The second draft of the Pedestrian Safety Report he held hearings on is due soon. He also hopes to revive student school crossing guards as a way for kids to learn leadership and start them thinking about pedestrian safety. For Open Space, Yee promised to stay on top of the budget to ensure playgrounds at Golden Gate Heights and Miraloma Parks will be renovated as part of last year's Parks Bond. West Portal Playground needs work too, and he has asked Greater West Portal Neighborhood Association to write a proposal, with hopes of getting up to \$500,000 from the city. He also wants \$100,000 for planning on Ocean Avenue where the Ingleside Library is. He would

like to put a garden there, since the region has no parks nearby. He added that the Rec and Park Dept will open JP Murphy Clubhouse, as part of a plan to reopen one closed clubhouse in each district. Yee suggested RPD include programming for seniors at the clubhouse, as well as programs for children. When asked about enforcement of Sit/Lie laws on West Portal, Yee said that a new beat cop assigned to West Portal should help with that. He added that the first drafts of the 19th Avenue Transit Study had lots of things that people did not like, but he thinks that the MTA is now changing their plans in the right direction. He noted that Ingleside Terrace is celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Sundial.

Proposition A: Retiree Health Care Trust Fund: Supervisor Mark Farrell spoke in support of Proposition A on this November's ballot. He sponsored the measure, with Supervisor Norman Yee as a co-sponsor. He said that San Francisco faces a long-term retiree health care liability of \$4.4 billion, less than 1% of which is funded now. The City has not saved money for this. This year, San Francisco will spend \$150 million for retiree health benefits, paid out of the General Fund. In 20 years, that liability will be \$500 million per year. This will have to come out of the General Fund, since it is not otherwise funded. One reason for the increase is that until 2008, employees became eligible for lifetime health care if you worked for the City for only five years. In 2008, Proposition B changed that to 20 years of employment by the City before becoming eligible for lifetime health care. Current employees pay 2% of their salary, and the City contributes an additional 1% into a retiree health care trust fund. Proposition A in November would say that the City cannot touch assets in the retiree health care trust fund until the fund is fully funded. In 30 years, today's Pay-As-You-Go approach to retiree health care will become a fully funded model. At that point, the \$4.4 billion liability will be wiped off the books; it will be fully funded. Once funded, the City will no longer have to draw from the General Fund to pay the yearly \$500 million retiree health care bills, freeing up that money for other programs. If Proposition A passes, Farrell said, San Francisco will be the only major city to address both pension reform and retiree health care reform. He described Proposition A as win-win since employees do not have to pay any more for retiree health care benefits than they are already paying, and there is no need to reduce the benefits they are entitled to receive. He added that in the event of a major catastrophe, and with the approval of the Mayor, 2/3 of the Board of Supervisors, the Controller, The Board of the Retirees Health Care Trust Fund, and a Third Party Fiduciary Advisor for the Trust Fund, the City could access money in the Retiree Health Care Trust Fund. But only in extreme circumstances, such as a major earthquake. When asked, Farrell explained that in order for the Trust Fund to become fully funded in 30 years, there is an assumption that investments in the Fund will receive 7% interest return. While this seems unrealistically high, it is a number used by CALPERS and other similar funds. When asked, he said that opposition to Proposition A is primarily from the Libertarian and Green Parties, and the Grey Panthers. Most municipal unions support it, as do business groups. A lot of the opposition, he said, grows out of a generic distrust of government doing what it says it will do.

New Business: Karen Wood reported that the US Government has decided to take 3.2 acres of private property on Marietta Drive in the Miraloma neighborhood via eminent domain, to create habitat for an endangered manzanita plant. 22 homes may lose part of their backyards to this project. In addition, they want land on Mt. Davidson to plant more manzanita. Her concern is about the use of eminent domain to plant something that was never there before. Matt Chamberlain said that we may want to take a position on this in the future. Blue Mudbhary suggested WTPCC may want to send a letter admonishing the Recreation and Park Dept for its lax enforcement of its own rules that resulted in a park worker running over and killing a woman laying on a blanket with her baby and her dog at Holly Park earlier in September. Matt Chamberlain reported that two local streets have been accepted into the MTA Traffic Calming program – Ulloa between 14th Avenue and West Portal, and Vicente between Madrone and West Portal.

Meeting adjourned at 9:24 pm.

Minutes submitted by Sally Stephens, Secretary

2013 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS:

Fourth Monday of every month – January 28, February 25 (location TBD), March 25, April 22, May 20 (note the date change for May due to the Memorial Day holiday), June 24 (annual meeting), September 23, October 28, November 25. No meetings in July, August, and December. *All meetings are at 7:30 pm. Location at Miraloma Park Clubhouse, 350 O’Shaughnessy Blvd at least through the summer, as the Forest Hill Clubhouse is renovated. October and November meetings will be at the renovated Forest Hill Clubhouse.*

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS: Balboa Terrace – Forest Hill – Forest Knolls – Golden Gate Heights – Greater West Portal – Ingleside Terraces – Lakeshore Acres – Lakeside Property Owners – Merced Manor – Midtown Terrace – Miraloma Park Improvement Club – Monterey Heights – Mount Sutro Homeowners – Pine Lake Park – St. Francis Homes – Sherwood Forest – Sunnyside – Twin Peaks Improvement Association – Westwood Highlands – The Woods