

WEST OF TWIN PEAKS CENTRAL COUNCIL MINUTES
October 28, 2013

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 Breslin
Monterey Heights, Stacey Pinoris
Pine Lake, David Golden
Twin Peaks, Denise LaPointe
Westwood Highlands, Dave Bisho
The Woods, Judy Clarke

7 Associations Absent:

Forest Knolls, Lakeside Property Owners, Merced
Manor, Mount Sutro Homeowners, Saint Francis
Home Association, Sherwood Forest, Sunnyside

Officers Present:

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

Guests Present:

Rani Singh, SF District Attorney's Office
Keith Burbank, Westside Observer
Blue Mudbhary, Westwood Highlands
John Farrell, Forest Hill
Gus Guibert, Forest Hill
Kathy Montague, Pine Lake
Doris Slinnenbach, Twin Peaks
Copley Crosby, Monterey Heights
Barbara Chionsini, Lakeshore Acres
F.X. Crowley
Joel Engardio
Mike Garcia
Louise Renee, No on B and C
Tim Colon, Yes on B
Ron Sherman, Recology

Meeting called to order: 8:00 pm, there was initially a quorum (13 of 20). Due to the late start, we moved to New Business first.

New Business:

State Sen. Mark Leno appeared and noted that he now represents all of San Francisco and a little bit of San Mateo County. He will overlap with State Sen. Leland Yee for next two years, then Yee is termed out. Leno said that he is the Chair of the Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee, and, because of the budget, he works with almost every aspect of state government. He reported that one of his big successes legislatively this past year was to restore funding to Laguna Honda and the Jewish Home that had been hit doubly hard in cuts made to the way the state funds health care. He said the State Legislature passed his bill, written with support from Attorney General Kamala Harris, to use some of the surplus money in the Dealer Record of Sale for background checks for firearms to confiscate weapons from those people who are not legally allowed to have them. This would apply, for example, to someone who legally owned a gun, then committed a crime, and so is no longer legally allowed to own a gun. Attorney General Harris is now confiscating about 1000 weapons/month from people no longer allowed to legally own them. Leno said that the state budget problems are really a revenue problem. He noted that Gov. Schwarzenegger's repeal of the Vehicle License Fee, originally imposed in 1935, had a disastrous cost to the state, with \$1 billion each cut from UC, from the state courts, and from state colleges. Prop 30 last year has helped balance out the deficit. When asked why tax revenue has not gone up as the population has increased, Leno said that the economy's recent nosedive wiped out any tax increases from population growth. When asked about

commercial real estate taxes that do not increase as much as home real estate taxes, Leno noted that the state is losing billions of dollars every year because of this. As it stands now, even though ownership of a commercial building changes, as long as 50% of the stock does not change hands, property tax is not reassessed. He added that Assemblymember Phil Ting has suggested a split tax roll, with residential property tax governed by Prop 13, with commercial property tax reassessed on a regular basis. Leno also noted that he has a bill that would lower the vote needed to pass a parcel tax for schools only from 2/3 to a simple majority. When asked about the fairness of votes on parcel taxes when, as is the case in San Francisco, 70% of voters are renters for whom increased parcel taxes are not passed through, he admitted that parcel taxes are not the best way to handle funding for schools, but added that they may be the only way to raise revenue for maintenance of schools. When Barbara Chionsini noted how hard it has been to work with Caltrans on improvements to Sloat Blvd, Leno said that his office can help with that.

Propositions B & C, 8 Washington Development: Tim Colon presented the case in support of the 8 Washington development and in support of Propositions B and C on the November 2013 ballot. He said the project will add over 100 residential units, and expand recreational facilities and public open space, opening up Joshua and Pacific Streets with publically accessible space. He noted that the development had been approved through a painstaking process, including at the Board of Supervisors, and said it would bring in \$7 million in fees, revenues, and taxes for years to come. The project will give \$11 million for affordable housing, although that will not be built on the site. Louise Renne spoke against Propositions B and C, and against the 8 Washington development, saying that the propositions will change the existing height limits on the Embarcadero for this project to heights higher than the old Embarcadero freeway. There are three other lots on the northern waterfront that are open for development, and, if height limits are changed for 8 Washington, they can be changed for those other three spaces. She noted that after the Board of Supervisors approved the project, it came out that it would be built too close to a major sewer line and could pose a risk to that line. In addition, she said, much of the added open space for the project will be private and not publicly accessible.

Vin Debut Conditional Use Permit: Avrum Shepard noted that last month, WTPCC voted to support a variance for the rebuilt building at 15 West Portal (next to Squat and Gobble and destroyed by the fire that destroyed that restaurant) for the property owner to ensure the interior area of the building would be the same as it was before the fire, even after a new elevator was installed to meet ADA requirements. He moved that WTPCC support a conditional use permit for the building tenant, Vin Debut, to ensure they have the same amount of space they had before the fire. Denise LaPointe seconded. The motion passed with 11 votes in favor, no votes opposed, and one abstention.

Other Business: Rani Singh, the Neighborhood District Attorney for the Taraval and Ingleside Police Districts introduced herself. Because of the lateness of time, no Committee or Officer Reports were given. No minutes were approved.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 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