



# West of Twin Peaks Central Council

A Resource for Neighborhood Organizations West of Twin Peaks in San Francisco since 1936

PO Box 27112  
San Francisco, CA 94127

<http://www.westoftwinpeaks.org/>

## Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Monday, June 1, 2015

**Time:** 7:30pm – 9:00pm

**Location:** **Forest Hill Clubhouse**  
**381 Magellan Avenue**  
**San Francisco, CA 94127**

<b>Associations:</b>	Those Present shown in bold			
	Balboa Terrace	<b>Roger Ritter</b>	Monterey Heights	<b>Marco Magallon</b> Susan Zurinaga
	Forest Hill	Dena Aslanian <b>William Gus Guibert</b>	Mount Sutro Homeowners	
	Forest Knolls	Herbert Dunmeyer	Pine Lake Park	<b>David Golden</b>
	Ingleside Terrace	Paul Conroy Carolyn + Bob Karis <b>Mark Scaroina</b>	Saint Francis Woods	<b>Carolyn Squeri</b>
	Golden Gate Heights	<b>Sally Stephens</b>	Sherwood Forest	
	Greater West Portal	<b>Avrum Shepard</b> Matt Chamberlain	Sunnyside	Lisa Spinali <b>Estelle Smith</b>
	Lakeshore Acres	<b>Barbara Chionsini</b> <b>Bill Chionsini</b>	The Woods	Judy Clarke
	Lakeside Property Owners	Joyce Richardson	Twin Peaks	Denise LaPoint
	Merced Manor	Mike Garcia	Westwood Highlands	<b>Bhushan Mudbhary</b> <b>Blue Mudbhary</b> <b>Dave Bisho</b>
	Midtown Terrace	<b>George Wooding</b>		
	Miraloma Park	<b>Karen Breslin</b>		
<b>Officers Present:</b>	President – <b>Roger Ritter</b> Vice President- <b>Sally Stephens</b>		Treasurer- <b>Carolyn Squeri</b> Secretary – <b>David Golden</b> Parliamentarian - <b>Lee Hsu</b>	
<b>Guests Present:</b>	<b>Matthais Mormino</b> <b>Doug Comstock</b> <b>Mary Jung</b> <b>Joan Girarpot</b> <b>Billy Bob Whitmel</b> <b>John Farrell</b>			

### Roll Call and Minutes Review:

Meeting called to order: 7:30

**Roll Call:** 11 Member associations present.

**Minutes:** Avrum motions to approve the meeting Karen seconds. Meetings Minutes were approved for last two meetings, all in favor, there were no opposed.

**Featured Speaker:** Mayor Edwin M. Lee

Discussion: Last time he was here they talked about pension reform and street paving. We got the pension reform done, still working on street paving. Has a plan going forward to repave more streets. Today was “an exciting day, took the Muni from West Portal” filed papers for re-election today. Feels we have done a great deal, made lots of progress. This is the first time we are presenting a “no cuts” budget for all City Departments. Notes that we need to do more with the same amount of money. Suggests we funnel our input to our supervisors Tang and Yee. Reflections on budget- Budge plan is consistent with message- Safety and Economical prosperity. Now doing 2 year budgeting, 5 yr strategic, and capital planning 10 year. Goal is adding 400 police officers. Adding money for additional fire fighters and paramedics. Regarding paramedics wants each fire station to have its own paramedics. Notes that increasingly fire response are related to health issues. Re-instituting Cadet Police program that is eligible to high school students. Must be 21 to be a police officer. Cadet program helps bridge the gap between high school and 21 years of age. Will help with neighborhood relations. Had made it a goal to end Veterans Homelessness. Notes that City has received high profile donations. Adding more housing for Veterans. Providing more support to non-profits, including arts programs. Providing additional senior needs programs. Program for a “dignity” fund – for ongoing support for our seniors will get more funding. Investing in children and families. Talks about prop “c” and how it ends waiting lists for afterschool programs and camps. He believes we have one of the highest performing urban school districts in the state. Economic strength comes from 4 major economic sectors. Health Care is the largest sector in the city of San Francisco, growing to over 100,000 jobs. With UCSF we are very strong in attracting top talent from all over the world. Not only in providing healthcare but in pharmacies, and other related industries. SF General will open by end of Year. Second is Tourism and Hospitality, both are still very strong in the City. Conventions are big business; bring in large amounts of spending. Technology is third, many new and exciting companies. The Tech industry brings in new talent, and is also developing and using local talent. Including investing in our local school systems. Looking to make sure that our schools are properly funded. Make sure that principals and teachers have enough support to educate our kids. Finally, the 4<sup>th</sup> economic sector is Industry. Local manufacturing is coming back to SF. We once had a flourishing fashion industry. We now see fashion and food industries coming back again. A label “made in San Francisco” adds prestige to products and helps them be profitable. Looking to keep all our economic sectors strong. We have a 3.4% unemployment rate. There is a big challenge to find housing. After many years of study he believes we are falling behind with family housing and low-income housing. Looks to develop high density housing in areas we have already approved. Notes a number of neighborhoods including Hunters Point, Park Merced, etc. where there will be new housing. Targeting half of the new housing to be available to low income and middle class. Trying to be more respectful, positive relationship and build collaboration with board of supervisors. Notes that we are adding another \$48 million dollar for new buses and drivers among other improvements to Muni. Looking to place a new bond on the ballot for middle and low income housing and public housing, which does not add any new RE taxes. Looking to partner with private sector to and accelerate the timeline to build new housing. Thanks us for the opportunity to speak with you this evening.

Questions and Answers:

Question: There are enormous pressures to build new houses in the city, while there is increasing shortage for water and other resources. How will we accommodate all this new housing? Answer: When it comes to water, we are leading the state in our ability to control consumption. We are not wasting our water. And we don't have large lawns. We are, even here in the West of Twin Peaks, getting rid of lawns. We are an international destination, and very attractive city. Many young people want to be in the city. When we are compared to the suburbs we are both safe and provide much more culture. Provides a specific goal for the number of new homes. The Mayor doesn't want to try to “answer the housing crises” in any one neighborhood. Notes there is support from the City's churches to build housing for “essential workers” such as teachers and nurses, who are important.

Question: Balboa Reservoir- Very concerned about proposed project. Problems include parking, over flowing buses, intense traffic. Answer: Notes that they will differ to the input of the advisory committee. Notes how quickly the housing built in that area has filled and that there is need for additional housing. We will look at Muni and make sure that there is adequate investments in Muni to make sure that needs are met. Believes we will do better with our new cars which are more efficient. As we welcome more people to walk and ride bikes we need to focus on safety to make sure the traffic of all kinds can flow smoothly.

Question: AirBnB- Do you support AirBnB to circumvents our public zoning laws? Answer: Mayor Lee refers to the proposals in front of the supervisors which he supports modifications. Notes that they will provide more funding to enforce rules. May involve building department into enforcement which he believes will help. Looking to get data to see how this new industry is evolving.

Question: How much taxes has AirBnB paid to the city? Answer: Mayor doesn't know since he controls office is prevented from sharing that information with him. Estimates are as much as \$25 to \$30 Million.

Question:- Do you like San Francisco? Answer: Yes

Question: We are working on a pedestrian safety program for Sloat Blvd with Peggy. Senator Leno provided \$8m of funding? Answer- says he drives along Sloat blvd, and is pleased to see progress in slowing down traffic.

Question: How do you reconcile that AirBnB is taking units off the market given the "housing crises"? Answer: Mayor believes that we need more data, that he is not sure that Airbnb is providing these adverse affects.

Question: There was article in todays paper that City is considering to buying speeding cameras, these have been used effectively in Phoenix? Answer: They would be used on Sloat, 19<sup>th</sup> Ave, etc. We would need permission from the State to use cameras. Arguments against them include 'excuse to raise more money'. Mayor Lee notes that he would propose that all tickets go to street safety, not diverted to other needs like Muni. Mayor Lee proposes that we use Cell phones to first give warnings and then if speeding persists we give individuals tickets. All about Safety.

Question: Flip side, 19<sup>th</sup> Ave is often a parking lot, what are your views on potential gridlock in San Francisco? Answer: Mayor Lee is personal sensitive to it.... Notes that Diane Feinstein often complains. Mayor Lee is forming a task force that reports to him, to do what ever is necessary to decongest high utilized streets. 1) No double parking, higher police presents, 2) Construction activity should not cause additional construction at peek hours, cross traffic

Question: There is a \$400 million increase in the city budget? How much has been set aside from \$400m funding for housing? Answer: For housing \$50M in additional funding. Already set aside for development that are pre-approved, but housing is not getting built because we can't get the funding. Historically, we had to wait for National and State funding to match up with general fund dollars. Often close to a deadline.

Question: Last year you proposed to introduce a vehicle license tax, do you intend to reopen this idea and re-introduce this tax? Would you use this funding to off set costs related to measure B? Answer- yes, we might. We have not make a determination. Public discussion did note that we could use this money to offset prop B.

### **Featured Speaker:** Supervisor Katie Tang

Discussion: Tonight I am happy to answer any questions about what we are doing over in district 4. Mayor touched on providing new housing, I am working with my District 4 neighbors to develop new housing. Looking at where are the opportunity to site new housing. Early in my term, I looked at the 4 main corridors where we are already zoned for higher height limits, that have not yet been realized. Without touching any single family homes, we found we could add 1000 more units. She will make preserving the existing character of our neighborhoods, so we can make our contribution to the overall housing needs, without affecting the existing housing stock. New housing units will not exceed existing height limits. Believes we can make improvements to some of the trouble spots, such as the single story 7-11's that are "negative" spots on the streets. We are working directly with the planning department to figure out what we can do, that is consistent with our existing neighborhood. We will not add 10,000 units, but we may add 1,000. Mayor talked a great deal about public transportation. We pushed for the \$500m bond to make many infrastructure improvements. Looking to create more opportunities for people to use Muni instead of their cars. Transport them to strategic transportation hubs that we can augment to bring more people to these hubs. Maybe there are better ways we can get them to these hubs. We do have some focus groups we are doing on this subject. Katie Tang serves on the budget committee, will be looking at the budget after the analysis is done, hoping to make adjustments as necessary.

### Questions and Answers:

Question: Concerned about 1000 units that you are discussion. What assurances can you provide that new units will not be used as airbnb units, essentially making an unsanctioned hotel. Contacted City agencies and nothing

was done and no protections were provided to the neighborhoods. Concerned that the enforcement mechanism is asking neighbor to speak out against neighbor? Answer: There are two issues, housing can be used for multiple purposes. Second questions is regarding the new legislation which would put more restrictions in place. She notes that many people in her district believe they should have freedom to use their home as they like, and on the other side there are many who believe the airBnB's will have adverse impact on neighborhoods. Follow-up questions is what about enforcement, why should we need to rat out our neighbors? Answer: We need to balance the needs of owners home owners and neighbors. Question: The SAFE program is essential for our city? Not sure that the evidence is about the real affects of AirBnB.

Question: What is your favorite part of your job? Answer: Answering questions like these. I like local government, that I can make a personal connection with individuals, and that I can work collaboratively with individuals towards solutions. I also like meeting all the people who are trying to make neighborhoods better.

Question: What is so hard about getting a Conditional Use Permit, if it's so benign why not make it mandatory?

Question: I served on a jury, where an individual was arrested for stealing a quart of oil? Why aren't we enforcing the law in the same way? Question: These were not zoning changes, they were use changes. That is why so many people have a problem with the law. The amendments seem even more beneficial to AirBnB, going from 90 stay to 120. What I am questions, what are we doing with these amendments, rather than punish them, we seem to be giving them more? Follow-up, there is likely to be a ballot initiative, they could have worked out a deal, and its setup for a big battle fight, why couldn't we have avoided that? Answer: I think we were trying to find a compromise.

Question: With these other issues, such as pension plan, you went to voters, why isn't this being brought to the public, why is it being decided by the supervisors? Answer: You may very well see it.

**Featured Speaker:** Supervisor Norman Yee

Discussion: Thank you to everyone who participated in the participatory budget process. We had great participation. I am very supportive the Mayor's initiative for speeding monitors. In one location they had one moving. Regarding AirBnB, there is legislation going through for some amendments, its something I didn't support the first time, I tried to get it to be disallowed in RH-1D neighborhoods. Wants to know our reaction. In places that RH-1D, RH-1, RH-2, I would like to amend the law so that a neighborhood could ask for a hearing, which would take into account the neighborhood character, any prior bad neighborhoods, etc. In District 7, Supervisor Yee believes that there is wide spread opposition. There are no teeth in the law we have, and there is no way to enforce the law we have.

Question: What is your favorite thing about District 7? Answer: For me, (someone suggests "it's the people"). I like to be able to walk around the neighborhood, the atmosphere of the neighborhoods, and the open spaces.

Question: Thank you for your no vote on AirBnB? Many of groups that are RH-1D, so many of our neighborhoods are RH-1 and do not have CCNR's? Answer: It may come to a ballot initiative, and I believe that it may be a good way to settle the issue.

Question: Are you saying that an AirBnB operator would need a permit? Answer: As it is there is already a permit requirement in the law, but it would trigger a discretionary review.

**Officer Reports:**

**President / Roger Ritter:** Nothing

**Vice President / Sally Stephens:** Nothing

**Secretary / David Golden:** Please sign-sign-in sheet.

**Treasurer / Carolyn Squeri:** We currently have \$5412.28 in the bank, We will have an invoice soon for our directors insurance. We have discussed our insurance policy with many neighborhood associations.

**Parliamentarian / Lee Hsu:** Nothing

## Committee Reports:

### Planning and Land Use / Estelle Smith:

Technology / Avrum Shepard: Nothing

### Public Health / George Wooding:

Open Space & Parks / Sally Stephens: We did do a survey on balboa, which we can present at our next meeting.

### Transportation / Avrum Shepard:

Public Safety / Roger Ritter: We have a new captain at Tarval Station [Denise.Flaherty@sf.gov.org](mailto:Denise.Flaherty@sf.gov.org) is the new captain. Jim Aherne [James.Aherne@sf.gov.org](mailto:James.Aherne@sf.gov.org). Roger extends an invitation for Denise Flaherty to attend our meeting in a few weeks.

Question: I have heard there are break-ins where they kick in the door? Answer: Notes that when people knock on the door its better to make the visitor aware that someone is home. Great if you can get a vehicle identification and license plate.

Question: Is this a pattern or single person? Answer: This is a pattern, we are seeing this type of crime more.

Question: What is causing this uptick in crime? Answer: There are several things causing the increase- AB109, which let out non-violent offenders, to have over burdened probations system that can not monitor individuals. Prop 47- Misdemeanor vs. Felony. Every crime theft was changed from a felony to a misdemeanor if the crime is less than \$950. So not by putting them in jail for any period of time, then criminals so we believe there are more people out on the street. Population growth is a contributing factor. AirBnB also contributes to the problem with more transient people in the neighborhoods.

Question: Why was a Bart policeman (who was killed) following up on a parole violation? Answer: They were doing a probation search in the house.

## Old Business & New Business (15 min)

Elections: David Bisho nominates the current board. If anyone is interested in being an officer, please contact Dave Bisho

## 9:00pm Adjourn + Social

Avrum motions to Adjourn. We are adjourned.

Adjourned.

Minutes by David Golden, Secretary