

# FOGCUTTER

Greater West Portal Neighborhood Association Newsletter - Since 1974

## A Note from GWPNA's President

Our summer vacation is over, and the re-elected GWPNA Steering Committee (with a few new members, see page 2 for complete list) is returning to many of the issues and concerns that were roiling away in June. Foremost among those issues are the proposed legislation on Secondary Units, and the city Planning Department's proposed Housing Element of the Citywide Action Plan. As of this writing, there is a Planning Commission hearing on the Secondary Unit legislation scheduled for Thursday, August 21<sup>st</sup>, starting at 1:30 pm (or later) in Room 400 at City Hall. The GWPNA Steering Committee, on behalf of its members, voted last June to oppose the legislation, as follows:

"The Greater West Portal Neighborhood Association opposes Supervisor Aaron Peskin's proposed legislation on Secondary Units in San Francisco. We question the basis of the proposed legislation - i.e., that San Francisco "currently has a severe housing shortage" and we have serious reservations about the ability of the City's agencies to enforce any or all of the permit requirements that are contained in the legislation, especially in regard to parking permits and conversion of existing illegal units. We are very concerned about the interconnected issues of increased density and increased parking problems that will occur in our neighborhoods should the legislation be approved. As a neighborhood association, one of our goals is to preserve and enhance the character of the residential districts on the west side of the City. We believe that providing increased opportunities to legally change single-family dwellings into multiple dwelling units will further erode the quality of life in these neighborhoods."

This statement will be submitted in writing to the Planning Commission, and time permitting, will be read aloud into the record at the August 21<sup>st</sup> hearing.

The Planning Commission also has planned a (perhaps last) hearing on the Housing Element on October 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm. The Steering Committee members will be discussing and voting on a proposed statement on this issue at its September 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. We urge everyone to obtain a copy of the Housing Element from the Planning Department (or read it online) in order to familiarize yourself with its proposals and ideas. Please contact any member of our Steering Committee if you would like to make your opinion known to your neighborhood association officers. See you at a meeting!

Mary  
Burns  
President, GWPNA



### **GWPNA Meetings for 2003-04**

First TUESDAY each month\*\*

7:30 pm to 8:45 pm

**\*\*September 9 - 2nd Tuesday!**

**October 7 -- November 4**

**\*\*December 9 - 2nd Tuesday!**

**January 6, 2004 -- February 3 -- March 2**

**April 6 -- May 4 -- June 1**

*Meetings held at St. Brendan's Hall, 200 Ulloa*



**GWPNA  
Steering Committee Meeting Minutes**

**June 3, 2002** *[Note: minutes are abridged to fit space.]*

**Call to Order:** Mary Burns, President, called the meeting to order.

**Attendees**

**Officers:** Mary Burns, Helen Johnson, Bruce Engle, Chris Radich, Fred Martin, Mary McDermott

**Steering Committee members:** Sheila Bost, Charles Browne, Tim Colen, Rae Doyle, Don Enochson, Eileen Fanelli, Joan Kingery, Marilou Lascari, Ron Lichty, Doris Neumann, Howard Strassner, Stephen Suacci, and Bud Wilson;

**Members:** Harry J. Aleo, Marilyn Amini, James Esser, Marge Fraenkel, Stuart Gardiner, and Julia Kaufman;

**Guests:** Tim Hester and Ken Pianin (Sunset Scavenger Co.); John Gavin (Dist. 7 Field Organizer for Newsom for Mayor) Aaron J. Keyak (Intern with John Gavin); and Kit Powers (Mayors Office).

**Approval of Minutes:**

Minutes for May 2, 2002 were approved after discussion about the authority of GWPNA to make public statements about critical issues on behalf of the membership. A motion was made by Marilyn Amini to require either that membership consensus be gained prior to making statements about important issues, or that GWPNA should indicate that such statements were only authorized by the Steering Committee, and not on behalf of the membership. The motion was defeated, with Steering Committee members noting that the by-laws specifically empower the Steering Committee to act for the membership and for the president to be the public spokesperson.

**President's Report**

Mary Burns reported that a search of the Planning and Zoning records of the city turned up a requirement for extensive landscaping around the SBC Service Center at West Portal and Sloat Blvd., and that a letter to the Planning Department would report that recent tree and shrub clearing violated the conditions of that plan.

All were urged to attend on Monday, June 9, a Town Hall meeting to be convened by the District 7 Advisory Committee to Supervisor Tony Hall to discuss and receive questions on the proposed City Housing Element plan and proposed legislation by Supervisor Peskin to permit ancillary units in houses within 1250 feet of transit corridors under certain conditions.

Helen Johnson noted that there would be a meeting for all who wished to attend to seek a remedy for an obtrusively parked RV on the street. She will report action at the next meeting, noting that Supervisor Tony

Hall, the police and the city attorney had been contacted on the matter.

It was reported by Bud Wilson that he had filed an appeal of a ruling that the city did not need to get an Environmental Impact Report on the impact of the proposed amendment by Supervisor Peskin.

**Special Report**

Tim Hestor of Sunset Scavenger announced that he had been reassigned within the company and that Ken Pianin, whom he introduced, would assume the role of Recycling Project Coordinator. Ken pledged a commitment to excellent service to both increase recycling and reduce the amount of refuse requiring land fill.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Chris Radich reported that the ledger balance of GWPNA stood at \$28,105. He said membership receipts were \$3,680, which was \$450 less than the previous year. Mary McDermott said this resulted because some who had paid \$20 in previous years had dropped to the \$10 level.

**2003-04 Elections**

Nominating Committee Chair Tim Colen proposed the reelection of the following slate of officers: Mary Burns, president; Helen Johnson and Bruce Engle, vice presidents; Chris Radich, treasurer; Fred Martin, secretary; and Mary McDermott, Membership. He then proposed the following for election or reelection to the Steering Committee: Joe Basuino, Sheila Bost, Charles Browne, Tim Colen, Rae Doyle, Don Enochson (new), Eileen Fanelli (new), Emeric Kalman, Joan Kingery, Carolyn Klemeyer, Marilou Lascari (new), Helen Naish, Avrum Shepard, Howard Strassner, Stephen Suacci, Bud Wilson and Art Zendarski. Marilyn Amini indicated a desire to be nominated, and Tim Colen moved to add her to the ballot, which was approved. The vote was cast and tallied and all nominees were elected.

**Proposed GWPNA Bylaw Revision**

Bylaw Revision Committee Chair Bruce Engle moved the adoption of a one-sentence change in by-laws to provide that the president shall serve on all committees with the exception of the Nominating Committee. This was approved by vote of the general membership.

**Special Presentation:**

Nominating Committee Chair Tim Colen called special attention to the long and dedicated service which Doris Neumann has given to GWPNA as she ended her many years of service on the Steering Committee. Doris will continue attending meetings as a Steering Committee Emeritus member. He thanked her and the membership joined in rousing applause.

**Adjourn:** Mary Burns, having been reelected president, adjourned the meeting.





### ***What's New on the Avenue***

There are currently no vacancies on West Portal Avenue as of this edition of the

*FogCutter!* In fact, there are a couple of renovation and face-lift efforts going on: the **Empire Theatre** closed for about three days (fast work!) to re-do its lobby carpeting and spiff the place up, and the little **New Golden Village** chinese restaurant mid-block (near Copperfield's) is closed for renovations and a change in ownership. We noticed that the **French Village Café** also has changed hands, and appears to have taken on a decidedly Mediterranean flavor for many of its dishes. Food- and drink-wise, our first block is certainly international – Peruvian, Mexican, Irish, Mediterranean, Italian and “American” (whatever that is!). Check it out!



### **Free Tai Chi Classes Will Continue ...**

...at the **WEST PORTAL PLAYGROUND (Lenox Way) tennis court. With Instructor Oliver Chu.**

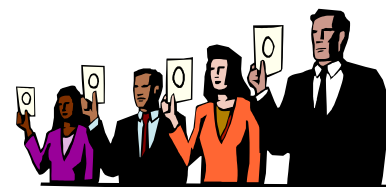
**Fridays 10:00am – 11:00am**

### **Edgehill Mountain Planting Efforts**

The winter planting work at Edgehill Mountain Park has proved remarkably successful this year. Native plants now replace the overburden of English and cape ivy in large areas of the park. **Workdays continue every second Saturday of each month from 1 – 3 pm.** Contact Stan Kaufman (415-681-4954, email at [skaufman@epimetrics.com](mailto:skaufman@epimetrics.com)) for more details. Better yet, visit Paul Furman's official public web site at <http://www.edgehil.net> and join the private “Friends of Edgehill Mountain Park” web group at <http://www.epimetrics.com>.

### **Mayoral Candidate Forum to be Held**

The Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods (CSFN), of which GWPNA is a member, will be holding a Mayoral Candidate Forum on **Tuesday, September 16<sup>th</sup>**, 7:00 pm at the State Building Auditorium, 455 Golden Gate Avenue. Radio commentator Ray Taliaferro will be the moderator. CSFN's newsletter informs us that members can submit questions in advance – so we're asking you, OUR members, to send us your questions for submission before the forum. You can mail them to GWPNA, P.O. Box 27116, SF, CA 94127 or email them to [maryburns@getrealpr.com](mailto:maryburns@getrealpr.com). In any event, please try to attend this important opportunity to listen to our mayoral candidates!



### **West Portal Playground/Clubhouse Closure**

Due to the upcoming renovations, the clubhouse at the playground will be shut down beginning in November. The parent/child class has been relocated to Junipero Serra Playground beginning August 22, still under the guidance of Joanne Devine, SF City College instructor.

Our committee has gained an infusion of new members as we work toward a new model for community-based activities for West Portal residents. If you are interested in learning more about our child-centered programs or the construction project planned for the clubhouse, or participate in park-related projects, email Helen at [PlaygroundPals@aol.com](mailto:PlaygroundPals@aol.com).

### **FRIENDS OF West Portal Playground GARAGE SALE**

**ONE DAY ONLY!**

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 23**

at the 2600 block of 14<sup>th</sup> Ave. at Wawona.  
Stock up on treasures, cheap!

