



FOGCUTTER

Greater West Portal Neighborhood Association Newsletter - Since 1974

A Note from GWPNA's President

Dear Neighbors:

It is with great sadness that I report to our members the death of one of GWPNA's founders, Doris Neumann. Here is a memorial tribute to Doris, written by GWPNA Steering Committee member Carolyn Klemeyer.

Mary F. Burns, President



**DORIS
NEUMANN
(1912 - 2005)**

Friends and family filled the Sinai Memorial Chapel March 23rd to honor the life of Doris Neumann. A GWPNA Steering Committee member for more than 30 years, Doris was GWPNA's liaison to the West Portal Avenue Merchants Association for most of that time. I often met her

dashing in high heels across Claremont Boulevard, saying "I can't stop to talk or I'll be late to the merchants' meeting, but how's the family?" The latter query was sincerely meant. Doris was always interested in her friends' loved ones; I'm sure our daughter is one of many friends who gave her the honorary title "Auntie" Doris. She was justifiably proud of her own offspring. Grandson Mark, now a fine young man, used to romp with other children at the Steering Committee's annual Stern Grove picnic. Mark's mother, Sandy, was a devoted companion to her mother, bringing her (complete with walker) to recent

GWPNA meetings after Doris fell and couldn't get there on her own, and joining Doris for years to work at our local polling place every election day. When polls were consolidated and we could no longer stroll down the block to be warmly greeted by Doris & Sandy; the joy went out of voting in person for me, and I switched to absentee ballots.

Doris will also be remembered by many as the quintessential "Granny" with her elegant white hair piled high as she provided advice and special children's clothing at Granny's Place, the shop on West Portal owned by Supervisor Sean Elsbernd's family.

In the eulogy, Doris was described as "Lud's devoted wife of 64 years and a true lady of peace." In our thirty years' friendship, I never heard Doris say an unkind word about or to another person! With her concern for others, twinkling eyes, and vivacious manner, Doris was so much a part of our neighborhood, it's impossible to believe we won't again encounter her petite figure hurrying down West Portal Avenue.

Her outgoing nature won Doris friends of many generations during her 92-year life; our neighborhood has lost a remarkable lady.



GWPNA Meetings for 2005

First TUESDAY each month

7:30 pm to 8:45 pm

May 3 - June 7 (Election)

(No meetings in July and August)

*Meetings held at West Portal Clubhouse, 139
Lenox (on top of MUNI Tunnel)*



GWPNA Steering Committee

February 1, 2004 Meeting Minutes

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:37 PM on Tuesday, March 1, 2005, by President Mary Burns.

President's Report:

President Burns started a discussion of how we might determine issues that are important to GWPNA to facilitate quick response when asked to vote on issues at the West of Twin Peaks Council and Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods. Mary asked Steering Committee members to each develop a list of the five most important issues that GWPNA must address in the coming year and send them to her by March 15. She also asked for volunteers for a policy committee to analyze the list that's developed and set them up in categories in order to fully address each issue with sub-committees. The Policy Committee will prioritize and consolidate the list.

Guest Speaker: Supervisor Sean Elsbernd

Sean.Elsbernd@sfgov.org

Aides: Olivia Scanlon and John Gavin (415)554-6516

The Laguna Honda admissions policy has been changed back to the old policy of accommodating the elderly. Quarterly status will be reported to the Board of Supervisors. The Health Department will have to get approval from the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor to change the admissions policy in the future.

City departments will prepare budgets in May and June. The Supervisors can't afford the road show that occurred a couple of years ago, however, Supervisor Elsbernd will go to neighborhood groups and hold town hall meetings in early April with City staff present.

March is District 7 cleanup month. Meet at Lowell High School on March 19th at 9 am. Large dumpsters will be at Lake Merced parking lot at 8 am this Saturday, March 5th. Look at www.sfcleancity.com to get more info.

Muni: The Muni budget can only be voted yes or no. The BOS can't change the budgets. Supervisor Elsbernd said that \$1.50 fare may not be adequate to address Muni's long term needs.

Special Reports:

Golden Gate Park Concourse

Ken Kruszka presented a revised second GGPark Concourse resolution. Don Enochson raised the same objection to this resolution that he did at the January meeting. The chair proceeded with the resolution.

Resolution: GWPNA understands that the overall traffic plan for Golden Gate Park lacks a critical element – planning for commuter-cross-traffic through the Concourse – that would significantly impact an appropriate design for access routes to the underground garage. Therefore, GWPNA is supportive of delaying the design of the garage access route until it can be integrated into a more comprehensive plan for traffic flow within and across the Park.

This resolution passed 11 yes, 3 no, and 3 abstain.

Proposals for Improving San Francisco's Infrastructure Management

Frank Noto presented a resolution to be presented to the Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods and asked that the GWPNA Steering Committee endorse the resolution.

Resolution:

WHEREAS, neglect of the City of San Francisco's infrastructure such as roads, water and sewer systems, buildings and parks and recreation facilities has serious implications for the City's finances, safety and quality of life, and

WHEREAS, San Francisco's physical infrastructure has been allowed to deteriorate, and there is no real process for prioritizing the City's capital planning needs,

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COALITION FOR SAN FRANCISCO NEIGHBORHOOD DOES HEREBY RESOLVE that CSFN urges the Mayor and members of the Board of Supervisors act to support a comprehensive City program of capital planning and maintenance of the city's infrastructure, including parks and open space; to establish a budget set aside for capital maintenance; develop a program to track maintenance and repair and replacement needs; and, clarify Rainy Day Fund capital provisions; and consider options for requiring departments to budget for maintenance.

Fred Martin moved that we endorse the resolution and Tim Colen seconded it. The resolution was endorsed by the Steering Committee 13 yes, 1 no and 3 abstentions.

New Business:

Peggy daSilva announced that a group will meet on February 23rd to discuss the Jane Jacobs' book "*The Death and Life of Great American Cities*".

Mary Burns appointed Tim Colen to chair the nominating committee.

Reports of Committees:

Friends of West Portal Playground:

Helen Johnson reported that a planting grant had been obtained to plant vegetation on the Lenox Street side of the club house. The clubhouse will have a grand opening on March 12. They will be working on improvements every weekend and can use all the help people can give. If you have any question or want to volunteer to help, please call Helen at 731-7201.

Membership: Marilou Lascari reported that Steering Committee members need to renew their membership dues. She suggested that we have programs of interest once in a while to attract new membership.

Lake Merced: No report.

Laguna Honda Neighbors: Steve reported that there will be a meeting on February 15 to address a comprehensive access plan connecting Laguna Honda Hospital with the reservoir and Glenn Canyon.

*Minutes submitted by Secretary Avrum Shepard,
(Minutes are edited to fit space.)*

Special Presentation on Identity Theft and Privacy Issues

At its May 3rd meeting, GWPNA is sponsoring an open forum presentation on Identity Theft and privacy issues that is being advertised to the general public. The problem of identity theft is fairly new but it has been increasing at an astronomical rate over the past year. This presentation will provide you with tools to protect yourself.

Our speakers are experienced professionals in this field and will be available for questions after their presentations.

Steve Gruel is a retired U.S. Prosecutor who worked for the Justice Department for 17 years. He was in charge of the RICO task force and prosecuted cases of identity theft. He is currently in private practice. He will be making his presentation along with an agent from the CIA. Steve also happens to be president of the Golden Gate Heights neighborhood association.

Andrew Brandt is an Associate Editor of *PC World* magazine. He has published scores of articles about privacy issues and how to protect yourself against identity theft from attacks on your computer through the Internet and email miscreants.

Location: West Portal Clubhouse, 139 Lenox
(above Muni Tunnel)

Date: Tuesday, May 3rd

Time: 7:30 pm

If you can, please RSVP by email to webeditor@gwpna.org

Greater West Portal Neighborhood Association
 P.O. Box 27116, San Francisco CA 94127
 IRS ID: 501(C)(3) EIN #51-0169982
 www.gwpna.org
Families working to improve their neighborhood

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Inside this Issue . . .

- ❑ Remembering Doris Neumann (p.1)
- ❑ March Meeting Minutes (p.2)
- ❑ Come to Identity Theft Forum (p. 3)

Join GWPNA! Come to a Meeting!
Get Involved for the Good of your
Neighborhood!

Visit us at www.gwpna.org

The Fogcutter is the newsletter of the Greater West Portal Neighborhood Association, published bi-monthly and distributed to GWPNA members. Please contact any officer, or the newsletter editor, with your ideas, issues and questions. **DAYTIME calls only please!**

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