

**Greater West Portal Neighborhood Association**  
**General Meeting**  
**Feb. 3, 2004: Minutes**

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

***Attendees:***

**Officers:** Mary Burns, Helen Johnson, Bruce Engle, Fred Martin, Chris Radich, Mary McDermott. **Steering Committee members:** Marilyn Amini, Tim Colen, Rae Doyle, Charles Browne, Don Enochson, Emeric Kalman, Carolyn Klemeyer, Marilou Lascari, Avrum Shepard, Howard Strassner, Steven Suacci, Bud Wilson, and Art Zendarski; **Members:** Katherine Thompson and Gene Farber. **Guests:** Joe Acosta, Marcy deLuce, Jim Keith, Bill Mandel, Brendan Spiers, Liam Spiers, and Architect Warner Schmalz.

***Approval of Minutes:***

Minutes for the December meeting were approved. There was no meeting in January.

***President's Report***

Mary Burns announced that the Civil Grand Jury was looking for persons interested in serving. Fred Martin added that those who are picked must provide a complete listing of all financial assets.

***Special Guest***

Guest speakers presented pro and con presentations on the proposed construction of apartment units in Diamond Heights between Clipper and Portola Drive, in a city approved land swap to allow for the Edgehill property to remain open space.

Marcy deLuce, President of Friends of Portola Park and speaking on behalf of neighboring property owners, argued that the property is what she labeled Portola Park, and that neighbors object to the proposed construction. She said Supervisor Bevan Dufty who represents that area was cooperating in efforts to see the open space preserved. She said there was an ongoing dialogue with Spiers Construction and with city agencies in an effort to find an alternative site. She said area residents were blindsided by the land swap, and now aware of it have developed a ground swell of opposition.

Jim Keith, speaking on behalf of Liam Spiers, who spoke briefly, said they believed their project would meet a need for family housing. He said they entered into the swap in good faith, and if denied the right to go forward with the project would have to revert back to the Edgehill site, or the city, which signed a contract, would face liability..

Turning to the architect, Warner Schmalz, a drawing of the 36-unit, 40-foot high project was presented. Both contended that views are not blocked for surrounding residents and described the project, and the underground parking, along with the preservation of existing trees and the addition of considerable landscape.

No action was taken on the issue pending further information as to alternate sites.

## ***Special Reports***

Update on Housing Element Appeal: Bud Wilson reported that an appeal was filed to overturn the issuance of a Negative Declaration for an Environmental Impact Report on the proposed Housing Element and Secondary Housing plans for the city. Bud indicated that while they may lose before the Planning Commission, they expected to win before the Board of Supervisors. He said that the last two proposed changes did require an EIR.

Update on Change of Process for Discretionary Reviews: Bud noted that the Coalition for San Francisco Neighborhoods strongly supports the Pre-Application for Discretionary Review by the Planning Commission. Marilyn Amini updated the steering committee on the proposal to change the venue for discretionary review hearings from the Planning Commission to an administrative review board of staff members in the Planning Department. She proposed the following resolution:

We oppose the delegation of Planning Commission power of Discretionary Review (DR) to the Planning Department staff;

We strongly support the Pre-Application Process;

We request that the question of DR process change be severed from the question of establishment of a Pre-Application process, and that said Pre-Application Process be established, with duly noticed public hearing, and implemented immediately.

This resolution was adopted, and Mary Burns agreed to compose and deliver a letter to the Planning Commission before the scheduled hearing on March 5.

Discussion of Parking Permits initiative: Howard reported that the Vision Committee had met and proposed that the number of neighborhood parking permits be limited to those now held. While allowing current permit holders to keep their permits, the proposal would set a finite limit on the number of neighborhood permits that could be issued and limit future applicants to one per household. It was agreed that the matter would be put over until the next meeting.

Discussion of Support for Assemblyman Yee's legislation on Violent Videogames: Marilou Lascari reported that Assemblyman Leland Yee had introduced legislation to restrict the sale of graphically violent and first-person-shooter video games to minors. It also would require video game retailers to display video games with mature content in a manner consistent with the industry's advisories. Action was put off until the next meeting.

***Status of Projects:*** No Reports

***Reports of Committees:***

Lake Merced: No report.

Laguna Honda Neighbors: No report.

By-laws: No report.

Friends of West Portal: No report.

Edgehill Mountain Open Space & Stewardship: See guest presentation.

Vision Committee: See above.

***Treasurer's Report:***

Chris Radich submitted a written report stating that the GWPNA beginning cash balance as of Jan. 1, 2003, was \$24,248.81, with inflows of \$28,688.48, outflows of \$22, 856.38 and net cash outflows of \$5,832.10 for a cash balance of \$30,080.91 as of Dec. 31, 2003.

***Other Organizations:***

**WTPCC** – See above.

**CSFN** – See above.

**WP Merchants:** No report.

***Special Order of Business:***

Tim Colen asked that the meeting adjourn in memory of Joan Kingery, a long member of the Steering Committee, former treasurer and a dedicated member of GWPNA. She worked untiringly to preserve the Edgehill Park open space. She will be sorely missed.

**Adjourn:** Mary Burns adjourned the meeting at around 9 PM.