

**Greater West Portal Neighborhood Association
General Meeting
April 6, 2004**

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM on Tuesday, April 6, 2004, by President Mary Burns.

The minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

President's Report

Housing Element:

Mary reported that the Appeal on the Housing Element will be heard on April 22nd, or may be delayed till May.

Three individuals met with officials from the Planning Department and discussed negotiating a compromise to the Housing Element that might obviate the need to appeal the negative declaration. This issue generated controversy within the Appellant Group, with some people arguing that accepting a settlement out of court would be better than going to court, while others argued that compromise would weaken the appeal position and that it is sure to win in court.

Muni Citizens Advisory Council:

The Citizens Advisory Council had a three hour meeting with Michael Burns, head of Muni, and discussed service cuts that will be needed to meet budget constraints. There will be public meetings to get input from all affected. Muni lines 26 and 54 might be cut in District 7. More information can be found at www.sfmuni.com.

Guest Speaker: Ray Favetti General Maintenance Superintendent Muni:

Muni is working with DPW to repair street surface damage on Taraval Street between 15th and 19th avenues. Other work scheduled to begin in January 2005 includes replacing the tracks and fix paving at the intersection of West Portal and Ulloa and at the Saint Francis Circle intersection. Service will be impacted but Muni will mitigate as best they can. At the same time, they will replace the wires in the Twin Peaks tunnel and renovate the West Portal Station. They are working on removing the "temporary" trailers, and will repair and paint the canopy. Helen Johnson suggested that neighbors would volunteer to do some landscape design for above the tunnel at West Portal Station. Mr. Favetti said that they are working on the pigeon problem. Mary Burns suggested that GWPNA might consider contributing some money to Muni for landscaping.

Guest Speaker: Sergeant Jim Acevedo of Taraval Police Station

The big news at the Taraval Station is that Captain Sanford had a baby boy born on April 5th. Sergeant Acevedo reported crime statistics for our

neighborhood over the past few months. He stated that Taraval Police Station is understaffed to the extent that police effectiveness will be impacted. There are 10 sergeants and 71 officers (their staffing level is "supposed to be" around 105). The sergeant suggested sending letters to Chief Fong and Supervisor Hall about our concerns regarding the lack of adequate police staffing. Middle school children are making a mess in the West Portal playground, which is undergoing renovation. Police are working on getting them under control. Chris Radich reported traffic problems created by people double parking on Lenox during the evening rush hour. They await commuters arriving at West Portal Muni Station. There is legislation moving through the State Assembly to allow bars to remain open till 4 am. He suggested writing our representatives to oppose this legislation.

Special Reports: Revision to Parking Permit regulations

Mary said she will schedule a Vision Committee meeting to discuss the parking permit issue.

New Business:

Folding tables

Mary suggested that GWPNA consider donating money to purchase new folding tables to St. Brendan's, or for general renovation of the community meeting room. They have allowed GWPNA to meet in the Parish Hall for many years without charge and we are indebted to them. Bud Wilson said he would talk to the pastor about what is needed and let the SC know at the next meeting.

Possible Tree Removals

Howard Strassner reported that he has communicated with Carolyn Blair, Chair of the Urban Tree Council, to attempt to get assistance in ensuring that two 80-year-old trees across the street from his house are not removed. He circulated a petition for people to sign to protest removal of the tree. There will be a hearing on April 26th. A motion was passed for GWPNA to write a letter to the appropriate agency protesting the removal of the trees. Howard is to draft the letter and send it to Mary Burns for approval and signature.

Discovery Shop:

Rae Doyle requested that GWPNA send a letter to the landlord of the Discovery Shop on West Portal protesting the rent increase. Since we don't know both sides of the story in this dispute, it was decided to send a letter of support for the Discovery Shop, but not protest the rent increase. Rae is to draft the letter and send it to Mary Burns for approval and signature.

Reports of Committees

Friends of West Portal Playground:

Vandals did serious damage to the tennis courts - apparently done by middle school students. They have found two of the perpetrators, as they signed their names on the concrete at the playground. The Friends of West Portal Playground is conducting a survey and is requesting people to go to the GWPNA web site (www.gwpna.org) and click on the link to take the survey. They are developing programs for teens and formulating plans for having neighborhood-driven site managers for playgrounds.

Lake Merced:

The Lake Merced Task Force has requested the PUC make plans for tertiary water treatment so that golf courses and other non-drinking-water users can begin to use recycled water. They have about \$100 million. Cal Trout will stock the lake on April 24th and give away tackle boxes and fishing rods to kids.

Laguna Honda Neighbors: No report.

By-Laws: Bruce Engle will be gone for three months, so there will be no report till he returns.

Finance: No Report.

Vision: Mary will schedule a meeting to discuss revision to Parking Permit regulations.

Other Organizations:

WTPCC:

There was not a quorum for the last meeting. They are in the process of coordinating strategies for the April 22nd planning commission hearing on the Housing Element.

CSFN: No report.

WP Merchants: No report.

Attendees:

SC Members

Marilyn Amini
Joseph Basuino
Sheila Bost
Mary Burns
Tim Colen
Rae Doyle
Donald Enochson
Eileen Fanelli
Helen Johnson
Emeric Kalman
Carolyn Klemeyer
Marilou Lascari
Fred Martin
Mary McDermott
Helen Naish
Chris Radich
Avrum Shepard
Howard Strassner
Steve Suacci
Bud Wilson

SC Absent

Bruce Engle, Vice-President (three month excused absent)
Charles Browne
Art Zendarski

Guests/GWPNA Members

Jim Acevedo SFPD
Larry Aleo
Peggy daSilva
Ray Favetti
Ken Kruszka