

**Greater West Portal Neighborhood Association
Steering Committee Meeting
September 6, 2005**

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM on Tuesday, September 6, 2005, by President Mary Burns.

Minutes: Bud Wilson moved to approve the minutes of the June meeting. Mary McDermott seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

President's Report

President Mary Burns announced that the Muni Ulloa & West Portal track work has been delayed till March, 2006. The guest speaker, Anthony Bryant, will make a presentation at a meeting closer to that date.

Mary introduced Lisa Content from the SF World Film Festival. There will be a film festival at the West Portal Cinema the last 2 days of September and the first 2 days of October. Lisa passed out some brochures.

Mary asked people to provide their email addresses in order to build an email database to communicate neighborhood alerts. She announced the new committee structure that was discussed at the June meeting and invited people to join committees of their choice. She announced that you don't have to be a Steering Committee member to join one of the sub-committees.

Guest Speakers:

Supervisor Sean Elsbernd Sean.Elsbernd@sfgov.org

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

Supervisor Elsbernd said that the Board is back in session today. Marilyn Amini asked the Supervisor to delay the Planning Commission hearing on the Better Neighborhoods Plus plan. The Supervisor suggested that the time between the Planning Commission's final hearing and the Board of Supervisor's first hearing be extended. Someone asked where the money has been spent that should have been spent on street maintenance. There is a \$600 million deferred maintenance – about \$30 million per year. The Supervisor asked for a commitment to spend the money each year instead of deferring it.

Richard Brandi: *Images of America, San Francisco's West Portal Neighborhood*

Mr Brandi gave a slide presentation about his book which was just published by Arcadia www.arcadiapublishing.com. Afterwards, he sold many autographed copies of the book.

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New Business: Tim Colen announced that his new employer, the Housing Action Coalition, would be giving a walking tour of West Portal and asked for GWPNA to co-sponsor the tour. The tour will be conducted on September 18 and start at the West Portal Tunnel. The tour was announced in the Fogcutter.

Steve and Carol Dimmick presented proposals for changes to the SF zoning codes to protect our single-family neighborhoods from developers who are buying up properties and putting in illegal units. Steve said that they reported to the Department of Building Inspection that an illegal unit was built, and were told that

the department had to see the violations in order to take action against the property owner.

The proposals are as follows:

- 1) Limit the number of outlets that appear on architectural drawings as "storage areas," "gyms", ie basically anything other than bedrooms or bathrooms.
- 2) Limit the number of lights allowed in these same rooms. An example would be to limit the number of lights and outlet in "storage rooms" to one.
- 3) Do not allow tubs in downstairs bathrooms.
- 4) No sinks larger than 13" to be installed in bathrooms.
- 5) Downstairs rooms have a "communicative opening" with the upstairs.
- 6) Substantial monetary fine that will serve as a deterrent to lawbreakers. Presently, the state sets a small fine.
- 7) Insist that officials enforce the codes.
- 8) Insist that our elected officials push to have codes enforced and strengthened.
- 9) Ask the housing committee of the GWPNA to act on this matter in a timely manner and make a strong presentation to any over-arching neighborhood organizations.
- 10) Ask our supervisors to work with Leland Yee to help us on the state level. (ie stiffer fines for developers who ignore laws against building illegal units in designated single-family neighborhoods.)

Mary referred the proposal to the Housing & Growth Committee.

Reports of Committees:

Community Education: No report.

Quality of Life: No report.

Housing & Growth:

422 Vicente

In keeping with past GWPNA positions and practices, HGS recommends that GWPNA request a 10 foot front setback of the third floor for the proposed construction at 422 Vicente. Furthermore, HGS recommends that GWPNA provide partial funding for a Discretionary Review, if necessary. (The Discretionary Review fee is \$300.00 with a surcharge of \$72.00 on permits over \$10,000.00. HGS hopes for more neighbor involvement if a few neighbors chip in.)

Walking Tour on Sunday, 9/18

HGS recommends that GWPNA agree to cosponsor the Walk, limited to announcing the event.

SBC site at West Portal and Sloat

HGS recommends that GWPNA take the following positions to give potential developers guidance for this site:

- A) GWPNA supports additional housing at the SBC site, in a manner that preserves neighborhood ambiance and respects the quality of life of existing residents.

- B) GWPNA supports expanding the Residential Parking Permit, RPP, program to all neighborhoods surrounding the SBC site, as required.
- C) GWPNA will require that new housing at the SBC site be excluded from the RPP program. (B and C together should preserve curb-side parking for existing residents.)
- D) GWPNA will not require a one-for-one parking for development on the SBC site (given that excellent public transportation is available, many services are within walking distance, and Carshare is looking to provide a pod in WP).

No vote will be taken tonight. This issue will be placed on the agenda for next month.

Better Neighborhoods Plus (BN +) draft legislation

- A) GWPNA believes that the current planning process is broken.
- B) GWPNA supports improving the current process.
- C) GWPNA believes that BN + is a work in progress and could itself be improved. Therefore, at this time GWPNA will not offer endorsement of BN+, but will work to provide suggested improvements which, if adopted would earn a full endorsement by GWPNA for BN+

The SC voted to have Ken Kruszka read the above statements at the Planning Commission meeting on BN+ on September 15th. The vote was 17 yes, 2 no, and 1 abstain.

(Note: The discussion of BN + proceeded for 10 to 15 minutes, at which time, President Mary Burns delayed discussion and allowed Richard Brandi to make the presentation of his book. There was a great deal of interest in the book, and Mr. Brandi sold copies after his presentation was completed. After his presentation, President Burns advised people that the Steering Committee would continue discussion of BN+ and that general members were welcome to leave if they wanted. Mary asked Steering Committee members to move to the rear of the room, while Mr Brandi autographed his book closer to the front door.

Business on the Avenue:

This committee met and discussed the following action items to be taken in the future. No vote was taken on these items.

- Ask DPT to put back parking meters for 25 cents for 15 minutes.
- Get rid of the 2-3 yellow zones on the Avenue, not needed.
- Get rid of parallel parking in front of Pearls and Manor Café (not too near the Muni island).
- Per the CID's – Merchants have already applied for non-profit 501 (c) 3 status to be the organizations to receive funding for a CID, the first step; we will continue to discuss this, and possibly how a CBD (Community Benefits District) might work with this as well.
- Let's try to get signage along Portola, J. Serra, 19th and Sloat indicating "West Portal Business District this way".
- Try to get some merchants to stay open later than 6 PM, which is the norm for "older" stores used to more senior citizens in the neighborhood; new demographics indicate more working people, younger people who might be likely to shop between 6 and 8 PM (e.g. Copperfield's, Walden's, frame stores, etc.).

- Try to get the four stores immediately east of the main parking lot (bakery, cleaners, hallmark, diner) to put some lights on in the windows at night so it doesn't look so deserted, and also during the holiday season.

Connecting Citywide: No report.

Mary Burns adjourned the meeting at 9:16 PM.

Attendees:

Steering Committee Member	Present	Absent
Marilyn Amini	x	
Joe Basuino	x	
Sheila Bost	x	
Charles Browne	x	
Mary Burns	x	
Tim Colen	x	
Peggy daSilva		x
Rae Doyle	x	
Eileen Fanelli		x
Bert Hill	x	
Helen Johnson	x	
Emeric Kalman	x	
Stan Kaufman	x	
Carolyn Klemeyer	x	
Ken Kruszka	x	
Fred Martin	x	
Mary McDermott	x	
Helen Naish		x
Chris Radich	x	
Avrum Shepard	x	
Howard Strassner	x	
Steve Suacci	x	
Bud Wilson	x	

Guests/GWPNA Members

John & Katie	Balestreri
Alkmene	Bandar
Raymond	Bandar
Elaine	Blair
Rich	Brown
Mary	Christian
Bill	Collins
Patrick	Cross
Carol & Steven	Dimmick
Amy	Edgerley
Gus	Garmel
Tom	Hlavenka
Kiyuka	Ishimoto
Benj	Juricisin
Laura	Kerr
Claire	McCleery

Jerry	McCleery
Chris	Nordstrum
Chris	Nunes
Karin	O'Keefe-Sack
B	Perea
J.E.	Perea
Arthur	Perkins
Jacquie	Proctor
Bob & Dorothy	Scholten
John	Scott
Bob & Dorothy	Singer
Laurie	Sullivan
Joanne	Wabon
Alan	Wilens