

**Greater West Portal Neighborhood Association
Steering Committee Meeting
February 3, 2009**

Call to Order: **President Avrum Shepard** called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

President Report: Re a permanent GWPNA meeting place, **Avrum Shepard** suggested that the SC explore options for future meeting place and discuss them through e-mail.

Terry Roach suggested we change meeting dates, and **Avrum** said that the SC will be polled regarding changing the date and also suggested that a committee be formed. He said that ultimately we will have to pay for a meeting place. **Avrum** concluded the discussion by saying we can't come to a decision about the problem at this evening's meeting. Regarding the coming year, he has scheduled Phil Ting, Assessor/Recorder to speak in March. At the May meeting, Carlos Garcia, Superintendent of SF Schools and Jill Wynns, board of education member, will talk about the school assignment process and how they are reformulating the process. **Avrum** said he is also trying to contact Jose Cisneros, City Treasurer, to speak at a GWPNA meeting.

Minutes: **Avrum** made a correction to the January 6, 2009 minutes. It was reported that R&P cannot afford to pay a staff member to stay at West Portal Clubhouse during GWPNA meetings. Actually, R&P wants revenue from rental of the WP Clubhouse.

Police Report: **Officer Renee Pagano** said that Officer Steve Quon is monitoring graffiti and owners are obliged to clean up graffiti on their shops.

Featured Speakers: **Beate Boultinghouse** and **Steve Halpern** discussed the Civil Grand Jury service that meets on Monday nights and requires about 20 hours a week. **Assemblywoman Fiona Ma** discussed the State budget deficit. Proposed sources of revenue to the State are increasing sales tax, putting tax on gasoline, and increasing individual income tax. Republicans, excepting one, have agreed not to vote for any tax increases and are holding up the budget because it takes a 2/3 vote to pass. This means that they need 3 republicans in assembly and 3 republicans in the senate to agree to the budget. Effective 1/1/09, the State is out of cash. Taxpayers won't get tax refund checks; schools are being closed – very dire situation. The Democrats tried to pass an 18 billion dollar package in December and the Governor vetoed it. **Assembly Ma** suggested what people can do is to contact the Governor and encourage him to come to the table and negotiate with Democrats on reasonable issues that are budget related instead of policy related. When asked if the 2/3 vote rule on the budget can be changed, **Ma** said it would have to go the ballot and would probably not succeed because polls indicate that voters like the 2/3 vote rule. **Sean Elsbernd** reported the BOS voted to hold a special election re taxes. It will go to the Mayor and he will likely veto it and it will come back to BOS. If there is a special election, what will be on the ballot will be an increase in sales tax, County vehicle license fee, and increased tax to merchants on gross receipts. According to **Sean Elsbernd**, even if these taxes were approved by the voters, it will not have a significant effect on the budget. Also what the City gets from Sacramento will be cut. Places where there will be cuts, The Police Academy, Street Cleaning, and possibly closing Sava Pool on Saturday. (It is now closed on Sunday).

Housing Element (HE) Report: **Matt Chamberlain** reported that the Plg Dept. has concluded the Citizen Advisory Body (CAB) meetings on the 2009 HE. The HE is a policy document to guide the Planning Dept when they look at housing projects to be approved, at permit requests, and at zoning requests in particular to comply with the State

mandate of 31,000 new housing units to be built in SF by 2014. The Planning Department will continue meetings organized by neighborhood organizations to get community input that will be an extension of the CAB meetings. Then the HE Draft, with community input, will be ready by April or May. After completion of the Draft, there will be a period of 30 days in which the public will be able to look at it. The document is about 400 pages, organized into eight sections. It will be put before the Planning Commission, then it will go to the BOS, but more as a courtesy because it is the Planning Commission's responsibility to approve. Regarding the Discretionary Reform, **Matt Chamberlain** reported that there has been initiated a movement by the Planning Dept, encouraged by SPUR, to reform the DR process and get rid of public hearings of DR's before the Planning Commission. The reason is that the DR's requests are costing the Planning Dept. about 3 to 4 times as much as the DR request fee, even though the number of DR requests are down. The way the Planning. Dept. intends to reign in costs is to hire more people. And streamline the DR process so that developers costs will be reduced.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm

Steering Committee Members in Attendance:

Marilyn Amini
Sheila Bost
Eric Castongia
Matt Chamberlain
Rae Doyle
Bruce Engle
Don Enochson
Fred Martin
Terry Roach
Pat Shanahan
Avrum Shepard
Steve Suacci
Karen Tarantola
Bud Wilson

Guests

Beate Boultinghouse, Civil Grand Jury
Steve Halpern, Civil Grand Jury
Nick Tarantola, GWPNA member
Melissa Apuya, Senator Leland Yee's Office
Miike Tebulsky, GWPNA member
John Gavin, Park Merced
Agt Renee Pagano, SFPD
Robert Twomey, Assemblywoman Fiona Ma's Office
Assemblywoman Fiona Ma
District 7 Supervisor Sean Elsbernd