

**Greater West Portal Neighborhood Association
Steering Committee Meeting
April 7, 2009**

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

President Report: Avrum Shepard reported that the Planning Department had arranged to conduct a community outreach regarding the 2009 EIR Housing Element at the regular meeting of the West of Twin Peaks Central Council. The WTPCC board declined to host the meeting and the Planning Department rescinded the meeting. Before the Planning Department is the request for a cell antenna at 68 West Portal Ave – the Barbagelata Company. The hearing will be held on April 23, 2009. *A motion was raised by Steve Suacci to support the permit for a liquor permit at __ West Portal Avenue. Ken Kruszka seconded the motion and it was passed with one dissent.*

Police Report: Police Officers Lydia Faidiga and Darren Wong reported that there have been 1500 traffic stops. **Joe Basiuno** commended Captain Chignell on the job he is doing. **Bud Wilson** reported that an apparently drunken driver careened out of the street into his house. **Bruce Engle** complained about junk cars parked on the street and there was a complaint about garbage cans left out on the sidewalk.

Superintendent Sean Elsbernd reported that Federal stimulus dollars were expected for repairing of Laguna Honda Blvd and 7th Avenue to Forest Hill Station. He reported that St. Francis Circle will be renovated with a lot of disruption of traffic. There will be a Town Hall meeting this Fall about the plans to mitigate the disruption of traffic and possible MUNI shutdown. Following the Transit Effectiveness Project (TEP) study, there will be changes in MUNI schedules, but West Portal won't feel the impact of the reductions. Bus lines #36, 17, 88, & 89 will be reduced. The BOS cannot do anything about the MUNI service reductions that were implemented because of the TEP study. On May 19 there will be a California special election in which six State ballot measures will be voted on. By the end of Summer, there will be new newsracks on West Portal Avenue. In the November election, there will be a General Obligation Bond before the voters for street improvement. **Sean Elsbernd** reported that he opposes the measure because it will incur a 30 year debt and street repairs last about 15 years; therefore taxpayers will be paying the Bond debt for 15 years after the work needs to be redone. He reported he is in favor of reform of Civil Service Reform. At present City Employees are entitled to medical coverage for 5 years after being laid off. He advocates using COBRA instead. He anticipates there will be furloughs of City Employees and about 1000 City Employees will be laid off because of City budget problems. The City is negotiating with 55 unions for wage concessions. SEIU will be in the forefront of wage concession negotiations and all other unions are waiting to see how the negotiations turn out. **Sean** urged support of the Commercial Benefit District (CBD) currently being discussed by the West Portal Avenue Association. He said the CBD has been successful on 24th Street, The Castro District and Union Square

Community Benefit District: The issue of GWPNA contributing to the fund to hire a consultant for West Portal Avenue CBD project was discussed. **Don Enochson** moved to approve GWPNA contribution of \$3000, **Steve Suacci** seconded. *In the discussion Howard Strassner suggested that there should be a stipulation that the money be returned if WPAA is unsuccessful in raising the rest of the consultant fee. The motion*

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was passed unanimously with stipulation, with Karen Tarantola abstaining because of conflict of interest..

Parkmerced: John Gavin reported that there would be public scoping meetings at the end of May. The Farmers Market will reopen on May 16.

Future Business: Future business include the formation of Committees for planning the June General meeting, a nominating committee, appeal of the conditional use permit of 99 West Portal Avenue, and convening a budget committee that at present includes Karen Tarantola and Steve Suacci.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm

**April 7, 2009 Greater West Portal Neighborhood Association
Steering Committee Members Present:**

Joe Basiuno

Sheila Bost

Eric Castongia

Rae Doyle

Bruce Engle

Don Enochson

Carolyn Klemeyer

Ken Kruszka

Pat Shanahan

Avrum Shepard

Howard Strassner

Steve Suacci

Karen Tarantola

Bud Wilson

Guest Present:

Anthona Cuadro, CitiBank

John Gavin, Parkmerced

V. Russo

George Pagni

Brett Stein

Mel Lyman