

Greater West Portal Neighborhood Association Minutes September 8, 2009

President Avrum Shepard called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm

President's Message: President Shepard announced that there was a quorum with 14 SC members present. The slate of officers as follows was approved: President, Avrum Shepard; Vice President, Matt Chamberlain; Treasurer, Karen Tarantola; Co-secretaries, Sheila Bost and Rae Doyle. Steering Committee members voted in were as follows: Marilyn Amini, Joe Basuino, Sheila Bost, Eric Castongia, Matt Chamberlain, Tim Colen, Anthony Cuadro, Rae Doyle, Bruce Engle, Don Enochson, Eileen Fanelli, Bert Hill, Carolyn Klemeyer, Ken Kruszka, Fred Martin, Cecile Michael, Helen Naish, Richard Reinholdt, Terry Roach, Patricia Shanahan, Avrum Shepard, Howard Strassner, Steve Suacci, Karen Tarantola.

Avrum Shepard reported that after negotiations with Recreation and Park (R&P), it was agreed that GWPNA will meet at West Portal Playground on the first Tuesday of the month, except for July and August. R&P will require that GWPNA pay \$81 per meeting to pay for a R&P staff person to stay during the meeting. Because of this new extra expense, Steve Suacci suggested that the dues be raised. Rae Doyle countered that new members tend to pay \$10 and sometimes pay more in subsequent years. She asserted that it is more important to recruit members than to increase the treasury.

The Community Benefit District funding was discussed. WPAA has not reported the progress of the CBD project. The result of the advisor's report, to which GWPNA contributed \$3000, has not been made available. The \$3000 is not refundable. Joe Basuino, who owns property on West Portal Avenue, is concerned about being assessed \$1500 per year, with no progress reports from WPAA. He added that it appears that what WPAA intends to accomplish should be done by the city, such as cleaning streets and graffiti removal. Avrum Shepard suggested that Cynthia Pagan be invited to the next GWPNA SC meeting

The Lake Merced Task Force has now been disbanded.

Rae Doyle suggested that a committee be formed to study making contributions to community projects and institutions during the 2009-2010 year. She volunteered as chair and no one else volunteered. She also suggested GWPNA become involved in the SF Community Challenge Grant in which SF will match dollar for dollar what community members contribute to local projects. Howard Strassner suggested placing benches in the triangles created on streets where there is parallel parking. The deadline for applications is September 30 at 4:00 pm

Guest Speaker: Sean Elsbernd said that the city now has a balanced budget. The problems of the state budget have affected the city budget. On November 1, 2009, the first of four reports for the current fiscal year will be presented. The BOS will be able to know better about revenue, taxes, etc by middle November. San Francisco will host the President's Cup Golf Tournament at Harding Park on October 6 through Sunday 11.

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President Obama has been invited as well as ex-Presidents Clinton and George W. Bush. Thursday, Friday and Saturday will be the Tournament days. PGA will pay for security. ARDENWOOD: the original developer has fallen onto hard times and has submitted an application to divide the parcel into 3 sections. The new developers will have to start from the beginning. On September 17, there will be a Town Hall meeting at Waldorf School re the St. Francis Circle Rail Replacement Project that will start in Summer 2010. Sean Elsbernd reported that he has been asked by WP merchants to introduce legislation to require any new nail salon to have a Cu. He wanted to know the opinions of GWPNA member. Steve Suacci remarked that GWPNA should not interfere and let the law of supply and demand take care of the proliferation of nail salons. Joey Valenciano, who owns the house on 935 Ulloa Street complained that MUNI buses park in front of his driveways. He sought support of GWPNA to get MUNI to cease violating his rights. It was pointed out that the previous owner of the property had converted the space occupied by garages into living quarters and built an automobile stall that enters and exits onto Wawona Street, and the driveways on Ulloa are obsolete. Since the issue was complicated, it was decided not to vote on support for Mr. Valenciano until GWPNA SC has more information

Police Report: Officer Mike OBrien gave a report on local police activity. He stated that car robberies are the most prevalent crime locally. His advice: don't leave stuff in your car. There have been raids of pot houses. The people who grow pot in houses are usually renters, and their growing practices present a danger of fire. There is also a problem of houses of prostitution in the Taraval Station district.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05

Steering Committee Members Present:

Eric Castongia Pat
Shanahan Joseph
Basuino Cecile
Michael Bruce
Engle Howard
Strassner Steve
Suacci
Ken Kruszka
Anthony Cuadro
Marilyn Amini
Sheila Bost
Matt Camberlain
Rae Doyle
Avrum Shepard

Guests Present:

Sgt Mike O'Brien, Taraval Police Station
Alex Randolph, Office of the Mayor John
Gavin, Parkmerced
Claudia Chamberlain, NOA
Brett Stein, NOA