

**Greater West Portal Neighborhood Association  
Steering Committee Meeting Minutes - Draft  
December 2, 2009**

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

**President's Message:** **President Avrum Shepard** announced that the Coalition of San Francisco Neighborhoods will have their annual fundraising dinner on December 15.

*Rae Doyle moved that GWPNA contribute \$100 to the event, **Don Enochson** seconded and the motion was carried unanimously.*

**Approval of the minutes:** *The November 3, 2009 minutes were approved unanimously after a motion to approve by **Fred Martin** and a second by **Don Enochson**.*

**Treasurer's Report:** **Karen Tarantola** reported that there is \$35,646.19 in the treasury.

**Fogcutter Committee:** **Eric Castongia** reported that the committee met and is recommending that merchants place ads in the Fogcutter and that the Fogcutter be sent to all residences in the GWPNA area 4 times a year. It is suggested that the Fogcutter be more concise with only three articles. No action by the SC on any item.

**Membership Committee:** **Eric Castongia** reported that there should be more community outreach, and the dues should be raised to \$30. The SC did not take action on the recommendation. It was decided that the membership solicitation should be sent out in January because members forget that they haven't renewed their membership.

**Kensington Triangle Project:** The proposal to donate money to the Kensington Triangle project was discussed and it was decided not to take action on this issue until there are more facts available and a detailed plan is submitted to the SC. A discussion followed regarding GWPNA contributions to community institutions and projects and the proposed dues increases. It was decided to establish a budget and a Budget Committee be formed. Cecile Michael, Matt Chamberlain, and Avrum Shepard volunteered to serve on the Budget Committee.

**Land Use Committee:** **Matt Chamberlain** reported that the Planning Department is continuing in efforts to streamline the Discretionary Review process. The Coalition of San Francisco Neighborhoods has announced opposition to the Planning Department proposal to have one officer make the decisions regarding neighborhood opposition to projects that meet the standards of city code but are opposed by surrounding neighbors. Also the Planning Department staff acknowledges that there is mistrust of them in the community.

**Featured Speaker:** **Sean Elsbernd** announced that the City is \$550,000,000 in the hole. By the time the budget will be before the BOS in July, it is hoped that the figure will be \$500,000,000. The BOS is considering a city income tax to remedy the budget crisis. He also announced that Taraval has a new police chief: Denise Schmitt. He said he has worked with her in the past and is impressed with her.

**A Christmas party followed the meeting after the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm**

**December 1, 2009 Greater West Portal Neighborhood Association  
Steering Committee Members Present:**

**Joe Basiuno**

**Sheila Bost**

**Eric Castongia**

**Rae Doyle**

**Bruce Engle**

**Don Enochson**

**Fred Martin**

**Pat Shanahan**

**Avrum Shepard**

**Howard Strassner**

**Steve Suacci**

**Karen Tarantola**

**Guest Present:**

**Joey Valenciano**

**Mel Lyman**

**John Gavin, Parkmerced**

**Brett Stein**