

**WEST OF TWIN PEAKS CENTRAL COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**January 28, 2013 – DRAFT**

**15 Associations Present:**

Balboa Terrace, Roger Ritter  
Forest Hill, Walt Farrell  
Forest Knolls, Walter Caplan  
Golden Gate Heights, Sally Stephens  
Greater West Portal, Avrum Shepard  
Lakeshore Acres, Bill Chionsini  
Lakeshore Property Owners, Joyce Richardson  
Midtown Terrace, George Wooding  
Miraloma Park, Karen Breslin  
Monterey Heights, Copley Crosby  
Mount Sutro Homeowners, Jeffrey Eade  
Pine Lake Park, Don Dutil  
Saint Francis Homes, Carolyn Squeri  
Westwood Highlands, Dave Bisho  
The Woods, Judith Clarke

**5 Associations Absent:**

Ingleside Terraces, Merced Manor, Sherwood Forest,  
Sunnyside, Twin Peaks Improvement,

**Officers Present:**

Matt Chamberlain, President  
Roger Ritter, Vice President  
Carolyn Squeri, Treasurer  
Sally Stephens, Secretary  
Avrum Shepard, Parliamentarian

**Guests Present:**

Dick Allen, Golden Gate Heights  
John and Doreen Sinclair, Westwood Highlands  
Gus Guibert, Forest Hill  
Mitch Bull, Westside Observer  
Rosemary and Charles Leach, Westwood Highl.  
Barbara Chionsini, Lakeshore Acres  
Doug Comstock, Westside Observer  
Matthias Mormino, Sup. Yee's Office  
F.X. Crowley  
The Ritters, Balboa Terrace  
Joe Contri, ARHS  
Chester Fung, SF CTA  
Tilly Chang, SF CTA  
Kathy Montague, Pine Lake Park  
Lee Hsu, Greater West Portal  
Herbert Dunmeyer, Forest Knolls  
Robert Chua, Asm. Phil Ting's Office  
Annie Chou, Sen. Leland Yee's Office

**Meeting called to order:** 7:35 pm, there was a quorum (15 of 20)

**Minutes:** The drafts of the Sept. 24, 2012 and the November 26, 2012 minutes were approved – Avrum Shepard moved, Walt Farrell seconded. NOTE: We had to approve the minutes for the September 2012 meeting at the January 2013 meeting. We did not have a quorum in October, so the Sept minutes could not be approved at that meeting.

**President's Report:** Matt Chamberlain noted that WTPCC has done two large forums in the past two years (Mayoral and Supervisorial Candidates). We lost \$600 on the Supervisorial Forum. We cannot do more events like these unless we have contributions from member organizations to cover costs beforehand. Generally, dues cover operating expenses, although those expenses may be higher this year if we have to pay for another location for our meetings while the Forest Hill Clubhouse is being renovated. Tonight's meeting is the last meeting until mid-Fall 2013 in the Forest Hill Clubhouse. We are looking for other places to hold meetings, including St. Brendan's (no parking but ADA accessible),

and the Miraloma Park Clubhouse (good parking, reasonably ADA accessible). We will decide in the next week or so where we will be meeting for the foreseeable future until the Forest Hill Clubhouse renovation is completed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Carolyn Squeri showed a budget for recently concluded 2012 and a proposed budget for 2013. Member dues in 2012 were lower than usual because organizations that had contributed to the Mayoral Forum were given rebates for their contributions. The proposed budget is a simple estimate, and does not include any forum. Estimated costs for future forum is about \$2500. For the 2013 budget, estimated revenue is \$3000, and estimated expenses are \$2984. That's only a \$16 leeway, so we need to be fiscally responsible. Dave Bisho commented that he thought the expense for the forums was some of the best money we have ever spent and recommended supporting forums in the future despite cost.

**Parliamentarian's Report:** Avrum Shepard noted that there was some confusion about how WTPCC would handle its roster. He thought we had agreed that if a member organization did not want to share their contact info, those organizations would be left off of the roster and they would not receive a copy of the roster. The only people who would get a complete roster (including those who did not want their contact information included) would be the Executive Committee. Matt Chamberlain added that the purpose of the roster was to allow delegates to contact one another to exchange information. The idea of not giving rosters to delegates who did not provide contact information may not have been entirely serious. Dave Bisho noted that in the past, all delegates had contact information for all other delegates. People can always be reached through Executive Committee members. Avrum said he had sent out an email asking for contact information for both organization officers, and delegates' names and addresses. Maybe 6 out of 20 organizations had responded. He will distribute a roster in February or March.

#### **Committee Reports:**

**Public Health Committee:** George Wooding noted that Laguna Honda had received a Five Star rating on employees/patient. They are still at a Three Star rating level for health of patients. The Laguna Honda Foundation, run by Louise Rennie, will no longer exist. A big story downtown has been restaurants who charge money for employee health care but don't spend it on the employees' health care.

#### **New Business:**

**1) Norman Yee:** Supervisor Norman Yee spoke, noting he is glad to represent District 7 where he has lived for 27 years. His aides are: Olivia Scanlon, who worked for Sean Elsbernd, Matthias Mormino, who worked with Supervisor Jane Kim, and Esther Lee, who worked for John Burton. He said, "I'm starting from scratch, but they're not." He thinks his office can be especially helpful as a vehicle to connect constituents with those in City Hall who can help them. He wants people to have a variety of ways to get in touch with him. He plans to have Open Office Meetings at different places in the district, and to keep Friday mornings open for meetings with constituents, sometimes out in the district. He says as he learns about and focuses on issues, he will also ask how things will be funded, and how will the funding be allocated, to ensure District 7 gets its fair share of city funding. The two issues he is focusing on now are: A) Pedestrian Safety – he has already asked for a hearing on pedestrian safety in District 7 and wants to ensure we get our fair share of funding for pedestrian safety; 2) Neighborhood Small Businesses – small businesses are important to him since they are the job generators and drive the economy. He pledged to stay on top of the rebuilding from fires on West Portal and Ocean Avenue. Supervisor Yee said he plans to focus on these two topics for the next six months, then will branch out

to other issues. He said he is still talking with Sean Elsbernd about neighborhood issues. Yee feels it is important to understand how we got to the issues we see today, many of which have been around for years, and Sean has a lot of history with these issues that he is sharing with Yee. He said he is better at holding group discussions, to draw people out to get best solutions. If you have an idea, let him know. The more people who explore an issue, the more he can help. He admitted that, at this time, he didn't know much about the issue of health benefits for city workers, but said he would learn. Matt Chamberlain noted that the topics Supervisor Yee mentioned being interested in are also our issues – 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Sloat Avenue, Transit Effectiveness Plan, rebuilding of fire damaged buildings and businesses, food trucks. Matt noted that we can give Yee a lot of feedback about these and other issues. When asked about legalizing in-laws if brought up to code, Supervisor Yee said that if a neighborhood has CC&Rs, people should abide by that. Matt added that the Planning Dept has said that CC&Rs don't mean anything to Planning. Supervisor Yee said that he rides MUNI maybe once or twice a week, but that generally he drives. If he didn't have so many meetings to attend all over the city, he would take MUNI more. When asked about legislation to increase Tenancy-in-Common conversion to condos, Yee said he is listening to both sides of that argument and wants to find a better solution. When asked if he would support a Community Benefits District (CBD) for West Portal as some merchants want, Yee noted there is a CBD on Ocean Ave and he has seen benefits from it on that corridor, but that not every commercial district needs one. He said he is happy to meet with West Portal merchants about this, but that it isn't his place to tell them what they need or what they should do.

**2) San Francisco County Transit Authority:** Tilly Chang, Dep. Director for the SF County Transit Authority (CTA) discussed what her agency is and what it does. Half of every penny of sales tax goes to the CTA to improve transit in the city. They give money to the MTA, BART, DPW, Caltrain, and provide funding, prioritization, technical advice, and oversight for transit projects in SF, e.g., 3<sup>rd</sup> St Project, Doyle Drive rebuild. They leverage local money to get additional money from state and federal agencies. CTA gets about \$75 million/year from the sales tax, but they leverage that to over \$1 billion each year when state and federal monies are added in. CTA is also involved in developing the Long-Range Transportation Plan, last done in 2003. When asked if they use level of service when conducting CEQA analyses, Chang said that they are now shifting from a consideration of how a project will impact cars and intersections, to one that looks at how a project will impact transit. Chester Fung, from CTA, gave a presentation on the 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue Transit Study. They are looking at changing the M MUNI train from the middle of the street to moving only on the western side, and pedestrian crossings either over or under the street. They are also considering whether to bring the M train into Parkmerced or not. He said the CTA has been pushing for bulbouts on 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue to improve pedestrian crossing safety. Caltrans is not used to improving roads in that way, but he thinks they will approve bulbouts within the next few years.

**3) Just One Tree:** Isabel Wade presented a project to encourage people to plant lemon trees in their yards. The project is designed to show that cities can become self-sufficient in some food crops. Once established, lemon trees fruit most of the year. There are currently about 3000-4000 lemon trees in San Francisco. We would need about 12,000 more to be self-sufficient, to produce as many lemons in the city as people here currently consume each year. You can register your own lemon tree, or a neighbor's tree at [JustOneTree.org](http://JustOneTree.org). Cole Hardware will give you a discount for every lemon tree you buy through them.

**Old Business:** Jeffrey Eade, from Mount Sutro Woods, noted that they had gotten WTPCC support to

oppose the Crestmont development project on Mount Sutro. The project, now known as Overlook, would build 24 housing units, and is considered out of character with the surrounding neighborhoods by many who live there now, amid concerns about hillside destabilization, access by emergency vehicles, and parking on a narrow road. The Planning Department released a Draft EIR for the Overlook Project in November. The Planning Commission will vote on the Final EIR at its March 7 meeting. Interested people are encouraged to attend and speak.

**Committee Reports (continued):**

**Open Space:** Sally Stephens reported that the Recreation and Park Dept is currently giving presentations to the public about the next fiscal year's budget (2013-2014).

**Transportation Committee:** Avrum Shepard reported on the MUNI Transit Effectiveness Plan (TEP), which studied every MUNI route in the system and suggested changes to nearly all of them. He said there is nothing negative to District 7 in the TEP. The Initial Study for the TEP, a precursor to an Environmental Impact Review, is taking public comments. The TEP wants more dedicated transit lanes, to speed service, to reduce the distance between one train and the next, more bulbouts, and to increase the size of bus zones. Avrum said that the TEP is a serious attempt to make transit run better. There remain concerns that there may be unintended consequences of it, e.g., decrease in air quality if cars are forced to idle more because of fewer lanes available to them. There will be additional opportunities for people to comment on the TEP as it moves through the EIR process.

**Meeting Adjourned** at 9:14pm

Minutes submitted by Sally Stephens, Secretary

**2013 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS:**

Fourth Monday of every month – January 28, February 25 (location TBD), March 25, April 22, May 20 (note the date change for May due to the Memorial Day holiday), June 24 (annual meeting), September 23, October 28, November 25. No meetings in July, August, and December. *All meetings are at 7:30 pm. Location at Miraloma Park Clubhouse, 350 O'Shaughnessy Blvd at least through the summer, as the Forest Hill Clubhouse is renovated.*

**MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS:** Balboa Terrace – Forest Hill – Forest Knolls – Golden Gate Heights – Greater West Portal – Ingleside Terraces – Lakeshore Acres – Lakeside Property Owners – Merced Manor – Midtown Terrace – Miraloma Park Improvement Club – Monterey Heights – Mount Sutro Homeowners – Pine Lake Park – St. Francis Homes – Sherwood Forest – Sunnyside – Twin Peaks Improvement Association – Westwood Highlands – The Woods