

**WEST OF TWIN PEAKS CENTRAL COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**January 27, 2014**

**11 Associations Present:**

Balboa Terrace, Roger Ritter  
Forest Hill, Walt Farrell  
Forest Knolls, Kristine Zaback  
Golden Gate Heights, Sally Stephens  
Greater West Portal, Avrum Shepard  
Ingleside Terraces, Paul Conroy  
Midtown Terrace, George Wooding  
Miraloma Park, Karen Breslin  
Pine Lake, David Golden  
Saint Francis Homes, Carolyn Squeri  
Sunnyside, Estelle Smith

**Guests Present:**

Mitch Bull, Westside Observer  
Jacquie Proctor, Miraloma Park  
John Farrell, Forest Hill  
Hyun Shun, Coalition for an Affordable City  
Tim White, GWPNA  
Gus Guibert, Forest Hill  
Matthias Mormino, Sup. Yee's Office

**9 Associations Absent:**

Lakeshore Acres, Lakeside Property Owners, Merced  
Manor, Monterey Heights, Mount Sutro  
Homeowners, Sherwood Forest, Twin Peaks,  
Westwood Highlands, The Woods

**Officers Present:**

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

**Meeting called to order:** 7:31 pm, there was a quorum (11 of 20).

**Minutes:** The draft minutes for the November 25, 2013 meeting were approved.

**President's Report:** Matt Chamberlain announced that the date for the May 2014 meeting is still to be determined (regular meeting date is Memorial Day). Let him know if you have a preference for an alternate meeting date for May 2014 only of either the 3<sup>rd</sup> Mon of May (May 19) or the 4<sup>th</sup> Tues of May (May 27). He's leaning toward May 27, but wants to hear from delegates which of the two proposed alternate dates they prefer. He also noted some of the issues WTPCC expects to consider in the coming year: PUC rate increases; traffic calming; transit changes; significant parking changes; bicycles; housing – density, new construction, construction surrounding parks and open space; taxes – parcel tax to maintain trees, soda pop tax; City budget; Uber and Airbnb; City College; 19<sup>th</sup> Ave Transit Corridor. If you have another issue you would like to see discussed, send Matt at email to let him know.

**Treasurer's Report:** Carolyn Squeri reported that WTPCC has \$3445.56 in the bank. Dues reminders will go out in February. She will present a year-end report next month. She reminded delegates of the importance of getting 990N forms to the IRS, if your organization is a 501(c)(3) or a 501(c)4. If you're having problems, we can help you.

There was no Vice-President's, Secretary's or Parliamentarian's Report.

**Sup. Norman Yee Update:** Supervisor Norman Yee provided an update on several issues. His office is continuing to focus on Open Space Issues. Money from the 2012 Parks Bond will improve two parks – Golden Gate Heights and Miraloma. He's trying to see if he can get money for West Portal Playground too. He has set aside \$100,000 for West Portal Playground, and is hoping that that seed money can help them get a Community Challenge Grant (up to \$500,000) to make improvements. Yee noted that he is confident a garden will be built on PUC land next to the Ingleside Library. He pointed out there are no parks in that neighborhood, and has spent the past year trying to get people together to get the project done. He described his Participatory Budgeting process. As part of the current City budget, Yee and other Supervisors each received \$100,000 to be spent as they saw fit in their district. Yee also secured an additional \$250,000 for Pedestrian Safety Projects in District 7. He wants people from District 7 to submit proposals for projects to be funded by the \$350,000. The public will then have a chance to vote on which projects should actually be funded. There will be a community meeting on February 22 at the West Portal Clubhouse to explain more about the process. Yee said that he would introduce legislation next week that you cannot have marijuana dispensaries within 500 feet of one another. He is concerned that the dispensaries are being opened only on certain corridors, including six blocks of Ocean Avenue. Neighbors were upset when a third dispensary wanted to open within a few blocks of other ones. He would like WTPCC support for this resolution. Yee said that he like the new emphasis on pedestrian safety, with the Vision Zero plan for no pedestrian deaths in 10 to 20 years, and the Pedestrian Safety Task Force focus on education not just for pedestrians, but for bikes and cars too. When asked about the status of Supervisor Chiu's secondary unit legislation, Matthias Mormino, Yee's aide, responded that it will not go to the Planning Commission before the end of March and that there still a chance for changes in it before then. Supervisor Yee said it was not a priority for him to take a role in this issue, and that he was waiting to see the final version first. When asked if he respected CC&Rs, as he had said he did during his election campaign, Yee responded, "Yes."

#### **Committee Reports:**

**Planning and Land Use Committee:** Estelle Smith noted the issues they expect to consider in the coming year include: legalization of secondary units; defining the housing crisis; Housing Element; Redevelopment money - subsidizing market-rate homes; Density of San Francisco – how many people can we sustain and determining growth potential from that; Promoting Home Ownership – people who invest in home ownership are also invested in the city and their neighborhoods. The Committee is exploring ways to communicate that message. They are putting together speaking points. If you are interested in working with them on these issues, contact Avrum Shepard. The next Committee meeting will likely be in a few weeks. They will send notice of it out to delegates.

**Public Health Committee:** George Wooding reported that at a recent Planning Commission meeting, Commissioner Antonini said that areas tangential to existing parks, e.g., Laguna Honda and Twin Peaks, could be used for more housing. Wooding expressed concerns that a number of condos could be built near Laguna Honda. He also reported that Supervisors Mar and Wiener have proposed a 2 cents/ounce tax on soda consumption, because sodas lead to obesity, but what they really are interested in is \$32 million in new revenue from the tax. IF they do this with sodas, what's to stop them from also taxing candy, ice cream. The soda tax issue will likely be on the November ballot.

**Transportation Committee:** Avrum Shepard noted MUNI wants to build ten bathrooms around the city for their drivers to use. Currently, drivers rely on businesses volunteering their bathrooms for use by drivers. Two may be approved by the end of the month. He said MTA has raised \$75 million through bond issuance. CTA will consider tomorrow whether to allocate \$13.1 million in Prop K funds to the Transit Effectiveness Project. MUNI also has announced they want to redesign the MUNI logo, and has raised prices for the 1,3, and 7 day passes. BART fares are also up. Tech buses will be charged to use MUNI bus stops, every time they use a stop, and they will only be

allowed to use some MUNI stops. Shepard noted that Mayor Lee is talking about removing Sunday parking meter hours.

There was no Public Safety, Technology, or Open Space Committee Report.

**New Business:**

**Recreation and Open Space Element (ROSE):** Sally Stephens, a member of the ROSE Comment Group, described the Group's work on the Recreation and Open Space Element, part of the City's General Plan. Representatives from the Planning Department were invited to speak, but were unable to attend. The ROSE has not been updated since 1986. Planning released a new Draft ROSE in 2009, and received many comments critical of it. Planning asked the Park and Recreation Open Space Advisory Committee (part of the Rec and Park Dept) to form a stakeholders group to read through the comments and try to find consensus on as many issues as possible. The ROSE Comment Group met weekly for four months and found a remarkable amount of consensus, giving Planning a completely rewritten version of the ROSE. The Group heard nothing for two years, until November 2013, when Planning announced a new Draft ROSE. Planning said they considered this to be essentially a Final version, and were looking primarily for corrections or typos in the public comments. The 2013 Draft ROSE did include many of the changes the ROSE Comment Group suggested. But the Group feels there are still significant changes that need to be made. The primary concerns are: 1) Open Space and Parkland Protection – The 2013 Draft ROSE does not provide enough protections against buildings being built in park and open space; 2) Recreation – The 2013 Draft ROSE does not provide enough protections for recreation and especially not enough about preserving public and private recreational facilities (playing fields, tennis courts, etc.); 4) Biodiversity and Natural Areas – The 2013 Draft ROSE does not provide enough balance between native and non-native plants and between restoring native plant areas and destroying existing healthy non-native ecosystems; 5) High Needs and Inequities in Open Space – The 2013 Draft ROSE seems to favor acquisitions of new open space in areas where future population growth is predicted (e.g., Mission Bay), rather than areas where current residents do not have enough open space.; 6) Public-Private Partnerships – The 2013 Draft ROSE seems to encourage public-private partnerships without insisting on retaining public access to open space and ensuring third-party accountability and transparency. Public comment on the 2013 Draft ROSE just ended. The ROSE Comment Group submitted a letter detailing their concerns and asking Planning to make more changes in the Draft ROSE before finalizing it.

Avrum Shepard moved that the WTPCC Open Space Committee write a letter to Planning saying that we share the ROSE Comment Group's concerns with the 2013 Draft ROSE, urging Planning to not view it as a Final version, and asking them to take the Comment Group's concerns into account. Karen Breslin seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Mount Sutro Update:** Rupa Bose reported that UCSF recently announced that they were revising their plans to cut down 30,000 trees on Mount Sutro. They will now focus on safety issues only, not habitat restoration, and plan to remove only 4,000 trees, mostly above Forest Knolls. UCSF has also committed to not use herbicides anywhere on Mount Sutro (they have not used any since 2008, but the original plan called for many applications of herbicides). Bose noted that one-quarter of the Sutro Forest is owned by SF Recreation and Park Dept (RPD), and that they are now using herbicides in the RPD Interior Greenbelt.

**Designation of Private Land as Critical Habitat for Franciscan Manzanita:** Matt Chamberlain noted that at the November 2013 WTPCC meeting, we discussed sending a letter to the Mayor opposing the recent designation of 3.2 acres of private land as "Critical Habitat" for the Franciscan Manzanita. He proposed sending a letter that explained our opposition for the following reasons: 1) Franciscan Manzanita does not currently grow on this land; 2) No notice was made to the neighbors whose lands were being considered; 3) This designation amounts to a public "taking" of private property without due process.

Avrum Shepard moved that WTPCC send the letter, and Carolyn Squeri seconded. The motion passed on a voice vote.

**Mount Davidson and the Natural Areas Program:** Jacquie Proctor noted that Mount Davidson now has 30 acres of forest and 10 acres of grassland. The Rec and Park Dept's Natural Areas Program (NAP) controls the entire mountain and wants to remove 90% of the trees in some sections of the forested part of Mount Davidson. Two years ago, both RPD and the San Francisco Forest Alliance gave a presentation to WTPCC about NAP, and after hearing both sides, WTPCC voted to send a letter opposing NAP as part of public comment on the NAP EIR. A Final NAP EIR is expected to come out in July 2014. Miraloma Park Improvement Club asked Joe McBride, a forestry expert at UC Berkeley, to look at the forest on Mount Davidson. His conclusion was that to cut down large parts of the forest in some sections would open up the rest of the forest to damage, primarily from increased wind through the thinned forest. He suggested there was no need to thin the forest on Mount Davidson, as NAP wants to do. MPIC is writing a letter to the Mayor, based on McBride's analysis, asking that the 30-acre forested side of Mount Davidson be removed from NAP, with the 10-acre grassland remaining in NAP. Other parks have only part of the park included in NAP.

Sally Stephens moved that WTPCC support the MPIC proposal that the 30 acres of forest on Mount Davidson be removed from NAP. Avrum Shepard seconded. The motion passed 8 – 0, with 2 abstentions.

**Other Business:**

Matt Chamberlain noted that he had intended to discuss a new proposal for a Parcel Tax to pay for maintenance of Street Trees, but since it is not time critical, and due to the lateness of the hour, he proposed discussing it at another meeting.

**Meeting adjourned** at 9:05 pm.

Minutes submitted by Sally Stephens, Secretary

**2014 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS:**

Fourth Monday of every month – January 27, February 24, March 24, April 28, May (TBD because the normal meeting day falls on Memorial Day), June 23 (annual meeting), September 22, October 27, November 24. No meetings in July, August, and December. *All meetings are at 7:30 pm. Location is the Forest Hill Clubhouse.*

**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