



# West of Twin Peaks Central Council

A Resource for Neighborhood Organizations West of Twin Peaks in San Francisco since 1936

PO Box 27112  
San Francisco, CA 94127

<http://www.westoftwinpeaks.org/>

## Meeting Minutes

**Draft**

**Date:** Monday, November 24, 2014

**Time:** 7:30pm – 9:00pm

**Location:** [Forest Hill Clubhouse](#)  
[381 Magellan Avenue](#)  
[San Francisco, CA 94127](#)

<b>Associations:</b>	Those Present shown in bold			
	<b>Balboa Terrace</b>	<b>Roger Ritter</b>	<b>Monterey Heights</b>	<b>Marco Magallon</b>
	<b>Forest Hills</b>	<b>Dena Aslanian</b> <b>William</b> <b>Gus Guibert</b>	Mount Sutro Homeowners	
	Forest Knolls	Herbert Dunmeyer	<b>Pine Lake Park</b>	<b>David Golden</b>
	<b>Ingleside Terrace</b>	<b>Paul Conroy</b> <b>Carolyn + Bob Karis</b>	<b>Saint Francis Woods</b>	<b>Carolyn Squeri</b>
	Golden Gate Heights	Sally Stephens	Sherwood Forest	
	<b>Greater West Portal</b>	<b>Avrum Shepard</b> <b>Matt Chamberlain</b>	<b>Sunnyside</b>	<b>Lisa Spinali</b>
	<b>Lakeshore Acres</b>	<b>Barbara Chionsini</b>	<b>The Woods</b>	<b>Judy Clarke</b>
	<b>Lakeside Property Owners</b>	<b>Joyce Richardson</b>	Twin Peaks	
	Merced Manor	Mike Garcia	<b>Westwood Highlands</b>	<b>Bhushan Mudbhary</b>
	<b>Midtown Terrace</b>	<b>George Wooding</b>		
	<b>Miraloma Park</b>	<b>Karen Breslin</b>		
<b>Officers Present:</b>	<b>President – Roger Ritter</b> Vice President- Sally Stephens		<b>Treasurer- Carolyn Squeri</b> <b>Secretary – David Golden</b> <b>Parliamentarian - Lee Hsu</b>	
<b>Guests Present:</b>	<b>Matthais Mormino</b> <b>Robert Karris</b> <b>Blake He</b> <b>Mike Yip</b> <b>Quan NGO</b> <b>Ronald Xie</b> <b>Tom LaLanne</b> <b>Stepano Cassoleto</b>			

**Roll Call and Minutes Review:**

**Minutes:** Avrum moves to approve minutes. Second Karen Breslin- All in favor. Minutes are approved.

## Officer Reports:

**President / Roger Ritter:** Nothing to report.

**Vice President / Sally Stephens:** Not Present

**Secretary / David Golden:** Nothing to report

**Treasurer / Carolyn Squeri:** Current Balance is \$3,582. We made one reimbursement to Matt for refreshments. Reminders sent to associations for their dues. We have sent reminders to the associations for their dues.

**Parliamentarian / Lee Hsu:** District 7 budgeting, there is meeting planned where neighbors can give input on the neighborhood budget.

## Committee Reports:

**Planning and Land Use / Estelle Smith:** No Report

**Technology / Avrum Shepard:** Sent request regarding roster information to associations. Some response are still pending. Requested updates from remaining associations, as some have not responded. The notice went to the google group.

**Public Health / George Wooding:** Voters in California Healthcare initiative 45 & 46 were on the ballot. Very expensive vote. 45 voted down. Would have given new authority to the State to regulate premiums. 46 would have required drug tests for doctors, and raised malpractice limits. Both measures failed. Larger healthcare provider called "Prime Healthcare" is looking to purchase a local provider of healthcare – Daughter's of Charity. These hospitals are no longer financially viable on their own. People are worried about the acquisition, which would include the hospital in Daly City.

**Open Space & Parks / Sally Stephens:** Nothing to report.

**Transportation / Avrum Shepard:** Nothing to report.

**Public Safety / Roger Ritter:** Nothing to report.

**Presentation by Assembly Member Phil Ting:** Notes that his term is winding down, but was very excited by the time he spent in the assembly, that they for the first time were able to make a balanced budget without draconian cuts. Much of the spending that was raised by Prop 30 was spent on Education, Social Safety Net, CalFresh. We passed a water bond this November. This impacts us only a little bit, as we have Hetch Hetchy. But throughout the state it will make a huge difference. Locally it will help with better management of the San Francisco Bay. The other ballot measure was related to a "rainy day fund". Both sides conservative and liberal, each took ownership of the measure. The ballot measure passed so that in the future, if we face budget shortfalls again, we will not be required to make the same draconian cuts. City College- Working with other Local Politicians. Working very hard to keep City College open. Assemblymen Ting studied the report, and itemized what the issues were that were identified as requiring correction. He was very concerned about the fiscal mismanagement that was outlined by the report. Did all he could to support City College in making some of the good governance policies that were identified by the report. Did not criticize the report and its finding, but rather met with City College leadership to make changes. He believes that they accomplished 95% of what they set out to do. The commission is asking for City College to make 100% of the changes. The restoration "bar" is higher than every other accreditation process across the state. Teng believes that City College is a "treasure" that provides a great service. He now is very concerned by the roll of the commission and how it functions. There is increasing concern across the state that the assessment and criteria for reinstating accreditation is unfair and the commission's function and roll may need to be revised. A lot of what Teng has focused on is related to K-12 education. Worked on a Bill to Stream line CalGrants. Worked to approve "urban agriculture program." This was a tax break that was made available to Urban land owners that are to get the same tax credits that rural land owners get. Also created a loan mechanism for solar home improvements. "Climate" is very much improved in Sacramento, and we can now get a great deal more done.

Question- Raising tuition for UC, will this get resolved in a "good way"? Assembly Teng was on the budget committee and says that the committee was "blind sided" by the announcement. He believes they may need a long term fiscal plan

that allows rates to increase with inflation. He believes they will need to restart their plans with more dialog with other state holders. He also notes additional fees on State Colleges too. Follow-up question- They haven't only increased tuition and are now revising their focus to out of state students with additional services? The Governor was working with them on alternate proposals to keep instate sppts, freeze tuition and was surprised by this counter proposal. Speculates on Neapolitano's motives for bringing up the issue in this way- to avoid scrutiny on where and how UC will spend its funding.

Where did the Bond Money go that was approved by the voters? Did it go to the projects that were approved by the voters? How does City College make themselves whole? Answer- There is a bond committee that oversees all bond expenditures. Teng notes that even though a bond was approved, the College still needs to return to the legislature to get additional approval for any funding changes. Costs need to be adjusted with escalation and changing market conditions.

Paul notes that he served on one of the Bond oversight Committees that had oversight over City College. Notes that they were advised that they only needed to spend money on one of the projects listed in the measure brought to a vote. He believes there is a lot of room for improvement on how these bond measures are packaged and presented to the public. Answer- The proposals are very specific and he too had assumed that the money would be spent roughly as represented in the measure.

Who is overseeing the City College Commission? Answer- They are a Non-profit, their power comes from the U.S. Department of Education. They made these decisions and "basically forced the city to sue them." The commission sent a notice to every college asking for funding to defend the lawsuit. How much were they asking for? A couple of thousands, per school, not sure exactly. Assemblyman Teng believes they were given millions in state funding. They are a federal regulated entity that gets its authorization from the Federal Government. The commission did look at academics, and the commission agreed that the academics were excellent. The programs are working well. There were two levels of funding management at City College, and that lead to some of the citations identified in the commissions report. City College had been warned about some of these issues long before the commission took a final action and issued the report. Teng believes that the criteria for approval keep moving. There was a question about the financial independence of the Commissions leadership, some noting that the non-profit that does the accreditation had ties to for profit colleges. Teng initially skeptical of these "rumors" learned more about the situation and began to believe some of these rumors might be true. He noted that while the State was taking new action against for profit colleges, limiting their access to CalGrants, the commission was getting "bank rolled" that was in competition with City College. Theories aside, we are focused on reforming the issues with City College and maintaining enrollment after all the bad press. Avrum notes that there are 17 other colleges that are going through these same issues. Teng notes that there was broad bipartisan support in the legislature. Teng is optimistic about the final outcome.

Question Senator Mark Leno was proposing to lower the 2/3 majority to raise property taxes, where did these measures go? Answer- There was no traction at the assembly or the senate. There was several similar measure that were presented, but none of them went anywhere. Several people in the room noted they were opposed to the legislation to change the threshold. Assemblyman Teng notes that 35% can hold the rest of the constituency hostage.

How are you handling problems with CalTran? For example, Sloat Blvd was supposed to be repaved, but they miscalculated the required funding, and have now delayed the project for a long time. Answer- Teng promises to look into the funding delay and agrees that the repair is urgent and will make contacting them a priority.

Michael Peeve the president of the utility commission? He has direct ties to the legislature. According to Teng they are very interested in getting in someone who will be more of a rate payer advocate. Asks WoTPCC for any recommendations.

### **Old Business & New Business (15 min)**

**Discussion re: proposed e-cigarette outlet at 1963 Ocean Avenue:** Planning commission approved an outlet in Ingleside. Bob is representing the neighbors who are opposed to the new e-cigarettes outlet which will also have a hookah setup in the basement. Explains how e-cigarettes heat creates gases which are inhaled by the users. One e-

cigarettes are equivalent to an entire pack of traditional cigarettes. E-Cigarettes are not regulated by the Federal Government. Cigarette use has been decreasing for the past decades. However, e-cigarettes are looking to reverse this trend and addict a new generation of youth. Bob notes that much of the advertising he finds on the internet is focused on children. Explains how a hookah works and sessions work. Planning commission ignored all these health issues. The decision was made based on filling a vacant store front. 1900 Block of Ocean Avenue. 80% of the building along that section of Ocean were built prior to 1940. The entire Ocean Avenue corridor is very diverse both ethnically, by income and age. On Ocean Avenue there are 4 grocery stores for example. There are many flourishing businesses along Ocean Avenue, which are well frequented by the neighborhood. There are also many businesses not welcome or desirable that have moved onto Ocean, such as massage parlors. They are not looking to ban e-cigarettes, but do not believe this is a good location.

Mr. Hee comes to speak to the council. He would like to clarify any misinformation. He presents the planning commission letter. The planning department's understanding the "vaping" is now regulated in a similar manner to public smoking. DPH has regulations which seem to allow for the proposed use. Mr. Hee presents the approval package from the planning department. Mr. Hee relays how he was able to quit cigarettes and eventually e-cigarettes with the benefit from e-cigarettes. He says he is opening the business so he can help people with their addiction. He presents a flyer which shows how e-cigarettes work. Steam hookahs are unique because they don't use a combustion process. All the studies are inconclusive about the health impacts of e-cigarettes, until the government has conclusive evidence they will not regulate e-cigarettes. He notes that other providers, such as 7-11 do already sell e-cigarettes. He believes that their focused business will provide a better service to population. He notes that they have already spent \$50K in rent on the property, that he grew up in the neighborhood and is committed to helping the area flourish. We have been endorsed by Ocean Avenue business association. We have reached out to our Ingleside neighbors who opposed our outdoor sampling garden, after serious consideration, in review of the

Question- Did Ingleside take a position on the issue? Paul Conroy- Ingleside took a very conservative view of Ocean Avenue, looking only at their direct impact on the houses of the neighborhood. The association took no position on the overall business, only opposing the outdoor portion of the proposal. He believes WoTPCC can take a position regarding the type of business allowed along Ocean Avenue.

What police district, and what position did they take? A consultant helps answer the question, and does not believe there are any documented adverse impacts associated with these kind of business. He does not believe the police took a position on the proposed use? The questioner follows up that there are many questionable businesses along that block. Answer- a good operator and good business will have a positive impact.

Question - Health question, isn't it in my choice if I will do this or not? Answer- We are concerned that this is an important thing, are we going to be the block that will be increasing the use of cigarettes. Notes that you have let other businesses operate. Why are you opposing this business? This is a conditional use permit issue, that gives us another option to oppose the use. We are tracking the industry across the state, and seeing how this issue is evolving. They don't have specific data that shows how this has adverse impacts, but your regulators are listening. According to Bob, what we have is an industry that is spending millions of dollars to argue that something that is obviously unsafe is safe. Avrum, it concerns me that you are offering flavored nicotine that is addictive, and that other additives that are poisonous. There are other supporters who have come to meeting in support. According to He's consultant the cigarette companies believe this product to be a threat. The CBC along Ocean Ave has supported all business along Ocean, including MCD. Per Roger, the question before us is if WoTPCC should oppose the opening of this business along Ocean Avenue. There is a motion to oppose the new vape business and support the neighbors fight against it by Barbara Chionsini, David Golden seconds. There are 5 votes in favor of the motion, 7 abstentions, one no vote. The motion is determined to have failed.

**Sunnyside NA asks for support of Safeway at 625 Monterey Boulevard-** Lisa Spenalli, president of Ingleside Terrace. 7 years of negotiation with Safeway. Safeway was very responsive to the neighbors concerns. It took many years of discussion before it was brought to the planning department for final approval. Lisa present the design, the entrances, layout of parking, availability of bicycles. Neighborhood is very excited and supportive of the proposed improvements. Going to the commission on Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>. The Neighborhood is looking to support the project and wants to make sure there the support overwhelms any opposition. At one time bicycle groups were opposed, but are now supportive after their concerns were addressed. The store will be expanded and parking provided on the roof. The neighborhood like the design's aesthetics.

A letter of support has been circulated. Avrum makes a motion that we support the letter, Dena, seconded. All in favor. Motion carries. WoTPCC will sign the letter in support of the Safeway project.

#### **Discussion:**

- Other Old & New Business TBD

**9:00pm Adjourn + Social**

Diane Motions to Adjourn, Seconded. We are adjourned.

Adjourned.

Minutes by David Golden, Secretary