

WEST END NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES  
1 MARCH 2018

**Call to Order:** President Chris Leinbach called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm in the Fireside room in Wesley Hall at the First United Methodist Church. In his introduction, he listed the projects we have started and/or completed in the last year. Board members were introduced, and Chris gave his reasons for becoming involved in the Association.

**Minutes:** Last meetings minutes were not approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Ben's report: To date, we have \$1423.00 in our account. There were many questions re what last years' expenses were. Ben explained them all. Please refer to the report for details.

**Election of Board and Officers:** There was no one in the crowd interested in joining the Board at this time. Motion was made to reelect the current Board, and all were voted in for another term.

**Program Speaker: Vice-Mayor of San Rafael, John Gamblin,** spoke regarding many issues. Included:

**The difference between At Large and District elections:** There are many who believe that At Large elections do not represent the population of every district, where District elections, due to individuals elected from, and for, each district might do a better job. San Rafael is changing to District elections due to a recent judgment that gives the City 90 days to comply. Districts are being redrawn, based on the 2010 census, to better represent their populations and 4 Councilmembers will be voted in. They only campaign in their own district, saving them time and money, as well as having better exposure to the population. Several maps have been suggested, but a decision has not been made. A meeting on Mon, 12 March at City Hall during which residents may give their input on these maps. They are also available to view on the City's website.

**Streetlights:** PG&E has given a grant to the City to replace current streetlights with LED lights to save energy. They are also easier to maintain. There have been some complaints that the lights are too bright. Direct any comments/concerns to the City.

**The Bettini Transit Center:** Nine thousand people travel through the center each day. The SMART train must pass through the center and so will decrease the amount of room for bus and taxi access. Golden Gate Transit owns the center. There are temporary fixes suggested, but no plan has been agreed to yet. A new center site will be paid for, partially, by the increase in bridge tolls.

**Old PG&E site:** There will be two buildings erected, one BioMarin site, and a building for Whistlestop with housing and offices. The plans are still in progress and none of the plans have been finalized.

**Whistlestop Depot:** This building will be sold, kept as is on the outside, and converted to shops similar to the Ferry Building in SF.

**Sanctuary County:** Marin is not a sanctuary county, but the City's PD does not participate in immigration cases.

**Homeless issues:** The Ritter Center has a new director. Many of the services have been moved off site, and will continue to be, until the center is relocated. St Vincent's

dining hall remains on B St., but a new site is still being sought. The City believes in the “Housing First” model as the best approach to chronic homelessness.

**Miscellaneous Issues: The Canal** is due to be dredged soon. There are **community gardens** in the Canal and in Terra Linda. **The City** is on track for total pension funding. **Emergency Services buildings:** The Civic Center site will be finished first, and the Public Safety Center on 5<sup>th</sup> and D will be finished by 2020. Municipal Bonds will be available soon to help fund the construction. **Downtown Building:** There must be high-density buildings near SMART but the City will keep the look and feel of San Rafael with buildings elsewhere limited to 2-3 floors. The “downtown corridor” may have higher structures.

Respectfully submitted,  
Vicki Fernandez