



## WISPPA In-Person Meeting Minutes

**Date/Location:** Saturday, November 5, 2021 at 9:30 am, South Pasadena Senior Center

### **Present:**

#### WISPPA Board:

Mary Urquhart, President, Ellen Daigle, Vice President, Janet Braun, Treasurer, Sherry Plotkin, Member at Large, Dollie Chapman, Membership Chair, and Shelley Stephens, Secretary

#### Others:

South Pasadena Mayor Michael Cacciotti, WISPPA members, and other interested South Pasadena citizens

1. President Mary Urquhart called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone at 10:03 am.

- Approval of Minutes

Mary asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the following dates: 11-6-21, 2-7-21, 6-21-22, 9-12-22. There was a motion and a second.

- Election of Board Officers

Mary reminded everyone that there were ballots available at the front desk and, if you were a member of WISPPA, please fill out a ballot and vote for those running for WISPPA Executive Board positions. The slate is listed here:

Co-Presidents:	Mary Urquhart and Gretchen Robinette
Vice President:	Ellen Daigle
Secretary:	Shelley Stephens
Treasurer:	Lisa Padilla
Membership:	Dollie Chapman
Member at Large:	Diane Lasell

- WISPPA Name Change

- Mary explained that we would like to change the name of the organization from “Women Involved in South Pasadena Political Activism” to “**Women Involved in South Pasadena Political Advocacy.**”
  - Advocacy is less political than activism. It is a small but significant change. Advocacy is much more fitting to what WISPPA actually does, which is provide forums on important City issues.
  - Mary asked for a motion to approve the name change and it was moved and seconded.
- Treasurer’s Report
    - WISPPA has \$1,888.00 in its bank account.
    - WISPPA tries not to raise more than \$5,000 because this makes things easier with filing taxes and maintaining our non-profit status.
    - Some of the regular annual WISPPA expenses include:
      - Deposit for Senior Center use for November meetings
      - Subscription to magazine, “Wired Women.”
      - Membership in League of Women Voters.
  - Membership Report
    - There are 90 paid WISPPA members.
    - We are working on getting PayPal to be functional again so the people can pay their membership fee more easily. At present it is cash or check only for payment.
  - Announcement of New Board
    - The ballots were counted and Mary announced that the proposed slate of officers had been elected.
  - General Discussion
    - Hybrid (zoom and in-person) meetings were discussed, but Mary indicated that this format was too expensive and technically demanding.
    - There was a question about why the State rejected the last Housing Element. The answer was that the City did not show enough new and low-income housing.
    - Diana Mahmud, past Mayor, commented that it is a very difficult and complicated issue because the HCD (California Department of Housing and Community Development) has been inconsistent in its dealings.
2. The featured speaker, State Senator Anthony Portantino, was introduced by President Mary Urquhart.

The highlights of Mr. Portantino's talk were as follows:

- Suicide Prevention  
Anthony Portantino mentioned that he had just come from a suicide prevention walk taking place in Pasadena. This is a subject that has special meaning for him because his older brother committed suicide. He feels strongly that school personnel should be trained carefully in this regard so they can recognize what is going on and be ready to help. We need to do better because 3 out of 5 teenagers think about suicide.
  
- Affordable Housing  
The State is spending substantial time, effort, and dollars trying to solve the problem of insufficient affordable housing. South Pasadena is a fully built out city of only three-square miles, perhaps the expectation of 2,067 new housing units is placing the bar too high. Our city is currently unable to apply for state grants because we have no approved housing element. Perhaps the State should recognize good faith efforts on the part of smaller cities, like South Pasadena.
  
- The Arts  
The Arts enrich everyone's lives. We should support all of the arts, bring art into the schools, and attend and support performing arts venues.
  
- Gun Handling  
Mr. Portantino noted that 60% of young shooters get their guns from home. Parents need to be held liable. Mr. Portantino made a point that we are not taking away guns, but asking that they be stored in locked, safe spaces where young people do not have access. He also felt that school districts must investigate credible threats and inform parents about what constitutes safe storage.
  
- Dyslexia  
Mr. Portantino felt that all first-grade students should be screened for dyslexia so that they can get the help they need early on. (California is one of the few states that does not do this.) Attendee Judith Harris made note that she feels the screening should be ongoing and broadened to include ADHD, addiction, speech problems, fetal alcohol syndrome, depression, etc.

3. Adjournment: President Mary Urquhart adjourned the meeting at 11:01 am.