

MAXWELL PARK NCPC – Meeting on Wednesday, August 11th, 2004

Minutes

Present: Jose Dorado (Chair), Jan Hetherington (Secretary), Jeremy Gluskin (Treasurer), Sarah Hipolito, Joe Davis, Teresa Feliciano, Montia Chiles, Adrian Kirk, Susan Scolnick, Martin Scolnick, Jim Curtis, Helen da Silva, Nommi Alouf, Jennifer Vasquez, Dee Dee Rodriguez, Ada Washington, Clara Kamunde, Walter Williams, Kate Phillips, Amy Symons, Maribel Corral, Miki Morimoto, Julie Duff, Johnny Russell, Alice Leon, Mona Thaler, Isaac Lassiter, Bonnie Henriquez (with apologies for any misspellings)

Guests: None

Board Absent: Robert McGillis (Vice Chair)

- **Jose Dorado (Chair) welcomed us to the meeting.**
- Minutes for July were approved.
- **Special Presentation by Sarah Hipolito, & brainstorming session**

It was decided, after the presentation, to suspend the regular agenda, & proceed with the ‘brainstorming’. The board had previously decided that if the consensus of the meeting was to do this, we would move into this new item

PRESENTATION

The NATs are coming . . .

By Sarah Hipolito

Last night at our Maxwell Park Neighborhood Council, a longtime dream was realized. For years we have struggled to form working committees to carry out the Mission of the group— community improvement. Well, we finally made it! After brainstorming critical issues in our neighborhood, 7 were selected for consideration: Traffic/Speeding/Pedestrian Safety, Drugs/Crime, Beautification/Litter/Blight, Business Improvement, Community building/ Education/Advocacy, and Youth Involvement.

Tables were identified for each of the 7 issues, and the group voted with its feet! Everyone got up and took a seat at the table that most drew their interest. Since a person couldn’t sit at more than one table, participants had to decide which issue was the most important for them. When the dust settled, four teams were formed:

- Traffic~Speeding~Pedestrian Safety
- Drugs~Crime
- Beautification~Litter~Blight
- Community Building~Education~Advocacy

The new Neighborhood Action Teams sat at their tables to discuss their goals and ideas, exchange contact information, and plan their next meeting. They will come up with further definition of their team name, choose goals, and plan their next task.

We will be getting reports from the Team chairs at the monthly meetings. They will tell us about their progress, achievements, and request guidance or information that can be shared during the Networking portion of our monthly meetings.

Jan Hetherington, our Secretary, will enter the group participants and contact information in a database she is creating for our Council.

For those who were not present, we encourage you to select a N.A.T. with which you wish to work. If you can't find the NAT you want, create one of your own and recruit neighbors to lend a hand with your project. Our Council works on issues that affect our community. Organized into NATs, we can work together in small, compatible groups according to our interests and expertise. We can share our successes with the Council, and look to the Council for suggestions and support.

It was very exciting and rewarding to be a part of this process, which reflected the individuality of each member and the energy of the group. "Together we make a difference in the life of our community by utilizing our diversity to create success."

Thanks to all of you for your participation. We look forward to hearing about each NAT's progress next month!

- **Next Meeting - Wed, September 8th, 2004, at MILLS COLLEGE, 7 – 8:30pm**
- **Jan Hetherington, Secretary**
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