

MAXWELL PARK NC – Meeting on Wednesday, May 11th, 2005

Held at Mills College, Lucie Stern Hall, Room 107

Minutes

Present: Jose Dorado (Chair), Robert McGillis (Vice Chair), Jan Hetherington (Secretary), Jeremy Gluskin (Treasurer), Adelle Foley, Alice Ross Leon, Anna Saulala, Cheryl Wilson, Claire Antonetti, Claudia Baldwin, Connie Sutton, Isaac Lassiter, Jamet Pierson, Joe Davis, Karen Livingstone, Kate Phillips, Kevin Sutton, Krista Gulbransen, Malia Saulala, Melissa Johnson, Michael Scranton, Pat Kelly, Pat Patterson, Princess Ayers, Ricardo Cortes, Shannon Evans, Stephan Dimitroff, Araina Richards (NSC –OPD), Sgts. O’Rourke & Williams, PSOs Johnson & Wingate, (apologies for any misspellings)

Guests: Oakland Police Chief Wayne Tucker

Board Absent: None

- **Jose Dorado (Chair)** welcomed us to the meeting
- Minutes for April were approved
- **N.A.T. (Neighborhood Action Team) REPORTS (See end)**

NAT1 – Traffic – Pat Kelly

NAT2 – Drugs/Crime - Susan Scolnick

NAT3 – B ‘n’ B - Nommi Alouf

NAT4 – Community Outreach - Helen da Silva

NAT5 – Education – Lisa Cartolano

- **COMMITTEES**

CORE/MPERT – There will be a meeting on May 19th to kick start MPERT again.

WALKS – No further report – Thursday & Saturday WALKs are happening.

NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOLS – No report.

- **GUEST SPEAKER -- Oakland Police Chief Wayne Tucker**

(Note; we were not expecting the Chief – otherwise notification to the neighborhood would definitely have been made. We hope he will come back)

Goals are to improve communications between OPD & the neighborhoods. A traditional model for policing has been for the police to decide what’s needed. Community Policing (which is the current preferred direction) is to find out what the communities want. This means that WE need to stay involved & engaged. City Ordinance 72727 (Community Policing) is being reorganized.

He suggested that we invite Claudia Albano to speak at our meetings (she is supervisor of NSCs & working on bringing together Home Alert & NCPCs). Quality of Life issues are getting more important, so OPD may become more of a ‘Community Services’-driven department.

OPD’s plans on closing budget deficits by closing the City Jail, & putting Fire & Police Dispatches together. Currently gets 43% of the general fund of Oakland – currently \$143m. Animal Welfare has also been discussed – this agency may be taken away from the Police.

Numbers of Officers ... we currently have 739 officers with 63 more to come from Measure 'Y'. 55-57 are currently out on long term disability (problems with doctors not releasing people back to work). After 9/11 20 officers went to the airport, and after the 'Riders' incident Internal Affairs now has 25 officers (instead of 5 prior).

Questions

- 1) Number of staff in Crime Analysis – the current 3 should be enough, especially when new system in cars is fully operational.
- 2) The work schedule Currently officers work 10 hour shifts. Chief Tucker is more in favor of 12 hour shifts.
- 3) Percentage of officers who live in Oakland -- <25%. They must live within 45mins from a boundary of the City.
- 4) Staffing in Crime Lab? 23 – 4 work on 'latent prints', 4 on DNA.
- 5) Using County Jail instead of City jail – costs saved today, costs avoided tomorrow.
- 6) Sideshow – Using CHP, getting 40 extra staff out there, a 'spectator ordinance' is in the works, should be in by 7/7, other things in the pipeline.
- 7) Drugs on High – they want to target the violent dealers, using specialized units, 'Buy/Bust' deals happen weekly.
- 8) Another question about taking photos – basically, we need to be careful with juveniles (i.e. under 18). Civil Rights guidelines – we have an expectation of privacy.
- 9) How can we best help ??? More discussions needed, especially around cultural barriers to police.

Sgt Williams briefly addressed the kids that had been picked up on suspicion of committing the recent rash of burglaries. N'hood information was important in solving this.

- **COUNCIL MEMBERS/COUNTY SUPERVISOR**

Jean Quan's Office – No representative

Desley Brooks' Office – No representative.

Supvr Nate Miley's Office – No representative

- **COMMUNITY POLICING – Araina Richards, NSC**

1. May 21st – there will be a LEADERSHIP SUMMIT – CPAB, NCPCs, Police, Community. A GREAT opportunity to meet more neighborhoods & see what's happening elsewhere. There will be presentations, then breakout workshops. At St. Martin de Porres School, Sacred Heart Campus, 675 41st Street.

2. Some phone numbers to keep handy

Problem Solving Officers:

Officer Ron Johnson 750-4584, Mo – Th, 2pm – 12M

Officer Randy Wingate 750-4585, same hours

Sgt O'Rourke – 750-4544 – 3p – 1am ---- but you can call anytime & leave a msg if no answer.

3. Reminders about spending our money (we did)

- **OLD Business**

Bylaws were emailed out & and some comments were handed in for further updates. They will be reviewed again at the next meeting,

Next Meeting - Wed, Jun 8th, 2005, at MILLS COLLEGE, 7 – 8:30pm

- **Jan Hetherington, Secretary**
- 510-534-4978 : jan@moves-to-improve.com

CONTACT INFO

<http://www.maxwellparknc.com>

Jose Dorado	Chair	chair@...
Robert McGillis	Vice Chair	vicechair@...
Jan Hetherington	Secretary	secretary@...
Jeremy Gluskin	Treasurer	treasurer@...
Sarah Hipolito	NAT coordinator	natcoordinattor@...
Nommi Alouf	B 'n' B NAT	bnbnat@...
Helen da Silva	Community NAT	communitynat@...
Susan Scolnick	Crime NAT	crimenat@...
Jim Gilsean	Traffic NAT	trafficnat@...
Lisa Cartolano	Education NAT	mpncpc_ednat@yahoo.com
Araina Richards	NSC – Beat 28X	nsc@....

Each person can be contacted via their 'maxwellparknc.com' email address

To join yahoo email group - **<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MPNCPC/>**

NAT REPORTS

TRAFFIC – NAT report

Location: Boys & Girls Club, Oakland, April 27th
Moderator: Jim Gilsean, TrafficNAT@yahoo.com

Purpose: Maxwell and Melrose residents uniting to identify traffic problems and develop an action plan for solutions across both neighborhoods.

Mission Statement (draft version):

Neighbors joining together to “take back the streets” to make Maxwell and Melrose a safer, more enjoyable place to live. By putting words into action, we will bring about positive change as a unit – by all means necessary.

Problems Identified:

- Speeding
- Blowing Through Stop-Signs
 - Not limited to: Various Monticello intersections, 48th @ Vicksburg, Ygnacio, Fairfax, Virginia @ Monticello
- Donuts (360-degree vehicular spins)
- Endangers the lives of children, and all neighbors
- Prayer Tower – Parking Issues
- Fremont High / Foothill @47th
- Loitering / Double Parked Vehicles (criminal element) outside M&W Liquors on Fairfax (@ High)
- Mini-Vehicles
- Loud Music
- Whistle Pipes
- Trash
- Nighttime is primetime for violations (most are after 8pm, notably on weekends)

- Traffic engineers need to monitor/document situation as it occurs (vs. 8a-5p M-F, when streets are relatively quiet)

Solutions Proposed:

- Fines and Vehicle Towing / Impoundment
- Speed deterrent: OPD Radar Trailer to Clock Speed
- Traffic Calming Devices
 - Planters
 - Traffic Circles
 - More effective Speed Bumps (as in Alameda)
- One Way Streets
 - ID problem areas and create one-way segments to minimize criminal activity in/out of neighborhood
- Document Violations
 - Video Footage / Digital Photos
 - Series of webcams to track multiple violations; capture license plates (if plates exist – often not the case)
 - Traffic Engineer Monitoring (notably during nighttime hours)
- Motion Sensors (series of neighbors lights going off, house to house)
- Noise Enforcement
 - Decibel Reader (similar to Berkeley program)
 - Police seize audio equipment (San Diego’s solution)

Next Steps

- Jean Quan’s office to help fund Traffic Calming Devices (Planters/Circles)
 - TrafficNAT to first compile problem areas - All neighbors to identify/prioritize
 - Traffic Engineers will evaluate neighborhood as a whole, in developing solutions
- Map Project
 - Residents to identify problem spots (each marks Top 3 on map)
 - Flyer with Letter + Map to be distributed, two ways to respond
 - In person at next NCPC meeting & Mail to TrafficNAT Survey c/o Jean Quan’s office
- Next TrafficNAT meeting, Wednesday May 25 at 7pm
 - Traffic Engineer will be invited to May and/or June meeting

CRIME – NAT report

Crime Prevention NAT, Susan & Marty Scolnick, co-chairs – No Report, though discussion about the use of cameras, Araiana Richards suggested that a workshop on this topic be held.

B ‘n’ B– NAT report

B ‘n’ B NAT, Nommi Alouf, Chair, no meeting this month, Jan reported

Tree project is wrapping up, & Earth Day on April 23rd was very successful – 46 volunteers, including 12 kids, showed up to help.

COMMUNITY NAT report

Community Outreach NAT, Helen da Silva, Chair, Krista reported

The Mega Block Party will probably now be held at Maxwell School on October 8th. Volunteers will be needed for many aspects

EDUCATION NAT report

Education NAT, Lisa Cartolano, Chair. No one present to report, report available on ED Nat Yahoo site

Decision-making Process

- Review of Decision Making Process Document
- Group agreed that different issues may require different types of decision making process. Some issues may only require a majority rule, while other issues may be more important and require a consensus.
- Agreed by group that a blend of the majority rule and consensus would be the most effective. Even with the majority rule, everyone should be able to make their concerns/ideas heard and valued from the group.
- Agreed by group that those involved in formulating the Agenda for the meetings can suggest the type of decision making process will be used for various items. Anyone in the group has the ability to air any opposition, concerns, etc. at any point.
- **Action Item to attendees:** All attendees should take the time to review and documents, and the Agenda before the meeting. This will help to move the meeting along and everyone will have a chance to think about any issues or comments they have before the meeting.

Mission Statement Discussion

- The first rough draft was written by Lisa. This is a very rough draft (!).
- **AI:** Jane and Bryan offered to make their edits to the document and have it ready for review by the next meeting.
- Agreed by group that this may be a work in progress and does not require us to have a defined statement immediately.

Parent/School Participation

- The group agreed that is very important to have the staff, teachers and parents of the schools involved in the group if the group is to be effective
- Talked about how we can engage the schools and teachers
- Amy mentioned contacting the Principal of each school and asking if members from the group could attend a faculty meeting so we can ask what their hopes and needs for the school and the children. Amy mentioned that August would be a good time frame. This gives the school staff a chance to finish the school year, and have the summer to have some time off.
- The idea is we can meet with the Principals to ask if there are any PTA or PTO groups at the schools and go over the needs of the schools.
- **AI:** Lisa will contact Mary Tutass of Maxwell Park Elementary
- **AI:** Rachel will contact Cynthia Smith of Elizabeth Sherman Elementary

Guest Speaker

- Last meeting it was brought up that having Gary Yee, a member of the school board, to come and talk to our group about OSUD and the schools.
- **AI:** Bryan is going to contact Gary to see if we can have him come to the next meeting.

What path are we taking? How do we get to our goal?

- Discussion regarding the group and how we will attain our goals. There is some frustration that it seems like we are not really doing much at this point. How to we get to the point where we have a list of things that will actively get us involved in the schools.
- Jane suggested that we look at this in phases and the first phase of this project is the learning phase. There is not as much active hands on work to be done, but we are learning about the schools, creating relationships with the schools so we can more effectively and cooperatively implement any of the ideas the group has.
- Was suggested that one concrete and immediate thing we can do is to hold a fundraiser to help the teachers buy back to school items. All the teachers in the room agreed that this would be extremely helpful for the teachers.
- Several people mentioned that we need to get the school staff and parents involved. This is critical if we are to be effective. If the Principals, staff and parents of the schools do not feel like they are part of the process, this group will probably not be effective.
- We need to get members with small children active in the group. These are the potential future parents of the schools and we are to see change at the schools, these parents need to send their children to the local schools.
- **AI:** Amy will contact Jim Gilisen, to see about getting more parents in the neighborhood involved.

Organization of the Group

- Discussed that we will need to eventually look at the organization of the group.
- There are two schools in the area and they could potentially have very different needs.
- There will still be a lot of overlap and a lot of what is discussed will apply to both schools.

- When we start looking at more specific goals and activities, we will probably need to have separate committees for each school.