

Maxwell Park Neighborhood Council
Monthly Meeting – Wednesday, November 9, 2005
Location: Maxwell Park Elementary School, Multi-Purpose Room Stage
Meeting Minutes

Attendees

Present: Jose Dorado (Chair), Robert McGillis (Vice Chair), Jan Hetherington (Membership Secretary), Jeremy Gluskin (Treasurer), Krista Gulbransen (Minutes Secretary), Adelle Foley, Alice Ross Leon, Councilwoman Desley Brooks, Claudia Jimenez (Jean Quan's Office), Adelle Foley, Alice Ross Leon, Colleen Brown, Dave Petree, Dee Dee Rodriguez, Elmer Meredith, Gregg Brown, Jane Friedman, Joe Davis, Kate Phillips, Kathy Black, Mark McGinnis, Meredith Elliott, Nommi Alouf, Rachel Michaelson, Rebecca Carrillo, Ruben Aurelio, Samantha Allen, Susanne Perkins, Victor Flit, Mark Zabaneh (Caltrans), Otis Jackson (Caltrans), Carolyn Stewart (Caltrans), Araina Richards (Neighborhood Services Coordinator), Acting Lt. Don Williams, Officer Patterson, Officer Brown, Tre Riddle (Desley Brooks Office)

Guests: Mark Zabaneh, Division Chief, CALTRANS

Board Absent: None

Welcome Comments & Introductions

Jose Dorado (Chair) welcomed us to the meeting and conducted brief intros of all present. Minor change to October meeting minutes. There was a typo in a date and it should have read October 12, 2005. Minutes for October meeting were approved with firsts and seconds from attendees in the audience.

Neighborhood Actions Teams (NATs)

- *NAT (Neighborhood Action Team) Program Update*
Sarah Hipolito, NAT Coordinator, reported on her column in the MacArthur Metro about Maxwell Park. She wrote of the Community Outreach Summit presented by the Community Building NAT.
- *Traffic NAT – Adelle Foley reporting*
They met recently to discuss the results of the traffic survey. They will be having their next meeting on December 8 @ 7pm at Jean Quan's local office on MacArthur Blvd. Contact the Traffic NAT Chair should you have any questions: trafficonat@maxwellparknc.com
- *Drugs & Crime NAT – Sarah Hipolito reporting*
Sarah begin to report on the crime statistics project that the Crime NAT was planning on working on with Deputy Holland until someone from OPD spoke up and said that Deputy Holland had retired. So Sarah stated, "Well, I guess that's the end of that." Project has now been thrown to the wayside and may be taken up again once Deputy Holland's replacement comes in and gets settled. Crime NAT has had no specific meetings although there have been some one-off meetings related to recent crime activity in the Maxwell Park neighborhood.

- *Blight & Beautification NAT – Nommi Alouf reporting*
 1. They had a meeting on October 27. They had a meeting with Caltrans in September to talk about a number of issues of concern. Councilwoman Desley Brooks has been helping to facilitate issues of concern with Caltrans.
 2. Tree applications were sent in (65 from our neighborhood). Those who have open ground will get first plantings. Those who have concrete that needs to get cut will get theirs at a later date.
 3. There is a the big daffodil planting going on. First one with be at the Courtland & Redding space near Walgreen’s this Sunday, November 13. The Pierson & MacArthur planting will be at a different date.
 4. There are blight issues at the bottom of Pierson. B&B is requesting landscape improvement. They are trying to work with the owner of the 76 station to do his share.
 5. The next meeting with be December 1 at a location TBD. Next meeting after that will be Jan. 26 and location also TBD.

- *Community Building NAT – Krista Gulbransen reporting*
 Not much has been done since the Community Building Outreach Summit in September. We will be regrouping in the next couple of weeks and working towards the next Outreach Summit, which will be generously hosted by the Redwood Heights Improvement Association. Invitations to city agencies will be extended this time around.

- *Art & Cultural NAT – No one present to report*

- *Education NAT – Lee Tomsack reporting*
 They last met about three weeks ago. They decided that they will hold meetings once every two months inside once a month like most NATs. They do not have a new Chairperson yet but they are working on it. They have no next meeting date set yet.

Committee Reports

- *CORE/MPERT – Alice Ross Leon reporting*
 A mock disaster is being staged in various parts of Oakland to get emergency personnel practicing. The drill will occur Nov. 19 as though an earthquake on the Hayward fault had occurred. There is a meeting at Nick Scolnik’s house on November 14 @ 7pm to discuss getting prepared for the citywide earthquake drill. Alice is working to get together a connection to places in which the neighborhood can buy disaster supplies, either at a discounted rate or a place where 10% of the proceeds go back to the Neighborhood Council.

- *Neighborhood Walks*
 Walks have slowed down for the moment. There will be a walk next Thursday, November 17 but other than that Walter has been too busy to organize the walks. Some people spoke of still wanting to do them as long as the weather is good. Jan said that they will do the best they can until we get rained out. The Halloween walk organized by Walter was a success.

- *Maxwell Park Elementary – Reuben Aurelio reporting*
There will be a Kinders Night for those parents who have future kindergartners. It will be December 7 from 6pm to 7pm at the school. The school has been working hard on land improvements including adding steel gates at driveways where problems were occurring with access onto school grounds. Reuben is working with the facilities department to address other issues of concern. They do need volunteers for daffodil planting. If someone has time between the hours of 3pm and 5:40 in the afternoon, they have students ready and willing to help with planting. The volunteers and tools are needed to make it happen. Contact Reuben at the school if interested in helping out.

- *Elizabeth Sherman School – no one reporting*

Guest Speaker – Mark Zabaneh, Division Chief, Caltrans with Carolyn Stewart and Otis Jackson

- They have been working with the Blight & Beautification NAT to answer questions of concern by the community and about blight in the neighborhood. How can we work with Caltrans to improve the on and off ramps of 580? The issues of litter were addressed more completely in a memo. If there are any further issues of concern by the community, people are instructed to send an email to Jose Dorado (jdorado@sbcglobal.net) or Nommi Alouf (bandbnat@maxwellparknc.com). It was mentioned that the way in which litter gets picked up and issues of blight are taken care of is ONLY when someone calls to complain. That's all Caltrans is able to handle. They are hiring additional private vendors to do some of the litter pickup.

City & County Representatives

- *Councilmember Desley Brooks – Tre Riddle*
Tre introduced himself as a new member of Desley's office. Her office has a new piece of legislation that they would like to introduce but it has been agreed that they will save it for the next meeting. In the meantime, if you have any questions you can email sriddle@oaklandnet.com or call Tre at (510) 777-8427. **Not sure if that's sriddle or triddle???**

- *Councilmember Jean Quan – Claudia Jimenez reporting*
 1. Claudia's been on vacation and has not caught up on all emails yet. Is working through it.
 2. The Envisioning MacArthur event went very well.
 3. Jean has met with the Lt. For PSA 4 and has emphasized that we really need to gather forces on the High Street corridor. Although it's broken up by Beats and Policing areas, we need to treat it as one because of all the problems. Jean would like an additional focus on High St. Traffic NAT rep Adelle Foley broke in to say that the Traffic NAT wants to create a greater High Street traffic plan. Jean has applied for a new traffic light in front of the Boys & Girls Club on High Street.
 4. Claudia encouraged us all to write letters in regards to M&W Liquors on the corner of High St. and Fairfax. The owner has applied for a transfer of the liquor license and this

is the opportunity for the neighborhood to speak out about the activities in front of the store so that some restrictions can be put on the store. They should be sent to Claudia ASAP at cjimenez@oaklandnet.com

- *Supervisor Nate Miley – No representative to report*
- *Community Policing Reports*
- *NSC – Araina Richards reporting*
 1. We have \$700 to spend (minus the receipts that are currently in Jose's hands). There are larger funds available for mailing costs of up to 40% if we want to do a mailing to our neighborhood.
 2. Lt. Gibson is on light duty due to hand surgery. Sgt. Don Williams is acting Lt. At least until mid-December.
 3. The Community Policing Advisory Board has asked that our NCPC become recertified this year. There will be a meeting on Dec. 7 @ 6pm in Hearing Room 2 at City Hall where it is requested that Walter and Sarah come to speak about their activities in an effort to support our recertification.
 4. We will be giving out Thanksgiving baskets again to the needy and if you know of anyone, please submit the information to Ariana so that she can get it to the family. She can be reached at arichards@oaklandnet.com.

- *Problem Solving – Officer Greg Patterson reporting*

There have been a rash of burglaries/attempted burglaries by two teens. They are 2 young African American male teens. One is heavysset; the other is thin build with dreads. Their MO is to push the owner's garbage cans up to the window while one of them watches out on the street. They are getting in through unlocked kitchen windows. Make sure to lock all windows and doors when you're not at home!!!!

- *Crime Statistics – Sgt. Don Williams*

1. It's been noted that in some recent burglary attempts homeowners have been approaching the suspects. This is not recommended, as it could be very dangerous if one of them has a gun. Please call 911 and do not attempt to approach.
2. In regards to fingerprinting at a scene, it is very difficult for OPD to try to take fingerprints because usually, there are no fingerprints on file to match it against. Someone would have had to have committed a crime before and many times, the people perpetrating the crime are teens and their fingerprints are definitely not in the system. It really is best to try to prevent the crime in the first place (through your own safe actions) and to call in help.
3. Earlier in the day there was a home invasion where a male posed as a Comcast employee and forced his way into a home where a woman and young child were. It was mentioned that the timing was around 3pm but in follow up emails on the Yahoo! Group, Sgt. Williams confirmed that the time was more in the mid-morning.
4. There are a team of burglars out there that fit the following description: two African American males, driving a red Mercury Sable or Japanese model car, the partial plate is

4TM, the car has backend damage, and one of the suspects has a significant limp. They are suspects in a crime so please call 911 if you spot them or the car.

5. OPD departmental change occurred within the past 7 days. The homicide rate is up in neighboring beats. Hispanic gangs have been waging serious battles against one another, specifically in District 6 and at hot spots such as 55th & Seminary. As a result, they will be pulling Crime Reduction Teams from other PSAs and putting them into the neighboring PSA to combat issues. There will be mandatory overtime and the teams will work until 2am on Saturday nights. Their primary focus right now is to reduce guns and gun crime.

Neighborhood Hot Spots

- *High Street (Virginia to Walgreen's) – Krista Gulbransen reporting*
We were able to get the pathway between Courtland Ave. and High Street closed off by Alameda County. We are hoping this will decrease the foot traffic, trash and illegal activities that have been occurring over the years. There are still significant problems with 3100 High Street, which is the old pizza restaurant. There appears to be drug dealing above the shop and outside it as well. Calling it in to the cops as much as possible. The Rev. from the Virginia St. church (Miracles of Faith) got up to say that he has approached some of the dealers on High Street and gotten them to move further down. He wants to get together a meeting at the church with neighbors to try to improve things on Virginia. They need more lighting and are requesting ideas of ways in which they could get that lighting.
- *Monticello Avenue – Nobody to report*
Neighbor on Monticello spoke up to report her experience with getting robbed recently and how it took OPD two days to get out to take a report of the crime.
 - Additionally, the positive loitering program started where about 15 neighbors positively loitered on High Street and Fairfax. They witnessed a few illegal activities but mostly just made their presence known. They feel like it had a positive impact. Araina wants to get us MPNCPC shirts to wear at events like this. We could use part of the \$700 we have to do so.

Old Business – Allocation of City Funds to NCPCs – reported earlier by Araina Richards

Announcements

1. Colleen Brown, Representative-At-Large for the Community Policing Advisory Board requested everyone fill out a survey she brought along. They will help to determine how Measure Y funds are allocated.

Broke for networking, 8:50pm and Q&A session with Caltrans

Next meeting – Wednesday, December 14, 2005 at Maxwell Park Elementary School, 7:00-8:30pm.

Krista Gulbransen reporting
Minutes Secretary
510-436-7127 or Krista_gulbransen@yahoo.com

Contact Info <http://www.maxwellparknc.com>

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

To join the Yahoo! Email group go to: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MPNCPC/>