

Maxwell Park Neighborhood Council
Monthly Meeting—Wednesday, February 8, 2006
Location: Maxwell Park Elementary School, Classroom 6
Meeting Minutes

Attendees

Present: Jose Dorado (Chair), Jan Hetherington (Membership Secretary), Jeremy Gluskin (Treasurer), Krista Gulbransen (Minutes Secretary). Due to the large turnout for this meeting, all names are on electronic file with Membership Secretary, Jan Hetherington.

Board Absent: None

City & County Representatives: Lt. Sharon Williams, Sgt. Basa, Sgt. Garrett Smit, Sgt. Donnie Williams, Chief of Police Tucker, Councilwoman Jean Quan, Claudia Albano, Claudia Jimenez; Policy Analyst for Jean Quan's office, NSC Araina Richards.

Welcome Comments & Introductions

Jose Dorado (Chair) welcomed us to the meeting and explained that we were suspending our regular agenda to have a special meeting on the recent armed robberies in the Maxwell Park neighborhood.

Previous month's minutes were not presented or approved.

Neighborhood Action Teams (NATs) did not make any presentations.

City and County representative reports were suspended.

Discussion of current information known about armed robberies:

The facts of the various incidents so far were reported by Jose Dorado. This information had been given to various members of OPD and City Council people Jean Quan and Desley Brooks prior to the meeting. Reported incidents were as follows:

Armed Robbery #1

January 13, Friday at 5:15pm (approx)

Upper Rawson

- Female victim was approached by an African American, "young looking" male, brandished a gun, and demanded her purse. Assailant took purse but subsequently dropped it when female began to scream.

Armed Robbery #2

January 18, Wednesday at 8:00pm

2448 Monticello Ave.

- Two victims (husband and wife)
- Assailant #1: early 20s, African American male, tall (approx 6' 2"), thin, dark clothes
- Assailant #2: early 20s, African American male, "shorter", dark clothes

- Man with gun had hat or beanie (skull cap) on
- One without gun had knit gloves
- **Details:** Victims were attacked in their front yard as they returned home from work. One assailant pulled a gun on the husband and asked for his wallet. The other assailant put his hand over the woman's mouth and demanded her to "give it up." They took the female victim's briefcase and the male victim's wallet. They were told to run or they "would be shot." The assailants were witnessed prior to attack walking on Monticello.

Armed Robbery #2

January 23, Monday at 11:25am

Wyman Street

- One victim (female)
- Assailant: African American male, slender, clean-shaven, wearing a clean white t-shirt, carrying a semi automatic pistol, "young looking."
- **Details:** Husband had exited car and went into house to unlock. Female was waiting in car when the assailant stuck his head in the car window, pointed the gun at her, and demanded her purse. Upon further evaluation, a neighbor had heard her doorbell ring at 11am morning. Possibly the assailant scoping the neighborhood out.

Additional Gun Incident

January 23, Monday Approximately 6:05pm

Cole & Brookdale Ave.

- Dog shot and killed in its backyard.

Armed Robbery #4

January 28, Saturday at 6:45pm

- Three victims (female)
- Assailant #1: Black and white camouflage jacket, dark pants, beanie (skull cap)
- Assailant #2: Green army jacket, dark pants, beanie (skull cap)
- **Details:** They were seen walking on the street (one on the sidewalk the other in the middle of the street) prior to the attack. They attacked the women on the pathway into their house. Both assailants had guns. They demanded and took the victims bags and keys and then ordered them to lie on the ground. They attempted to take the car but one of the victims screamed and the assailants then took off. A neighbor reported that they had seen the men walking on Best Ave (between Fleming and Brookdale) at some point that evening. They were not sure if it was before or after the reported attack.

Reported Incident #1

January 28, Saturday at 12:25pm

Fleming Ave. at Maxwell Park (park)

- **Details:** African American male, mid 20s to early 30s, short hair, 5'10", slender, wearing oval black rimmed glasses, jeans, brown leather jacket. Got into older

model brown Lexus with license plate 4SDJ803. Reported to neighbor that he was “looking for a friend that used to live here.” Called into OPD.

Reported Incident #2a (OPD #1036)

January 31, Tuesday at 7:00pm

Fleming Ave. (at Best Ave)

- Men matching the description of recent armed robbery assailants were seen walking up and down Fleming Avenue and occasionally returning to parked car. Car was light blue/silver 4 door sedan with no license plates, approximately 1985-1990, scratches on left side, trunk lock missing leaving a hole.
- Suspect #1 & #2: Both African American males, late teens/early 20s, 5’10” to 6’0”, 160-180lbs., one wearing black and white camouflage jacket and one wearing white t-shirt with black jacket with hoodie pulled up and over head.
- Suspect #2: African American male, late teens/early 20s, remained in driver’s seat.
- Incident (#1036) called in by neighborhood witness.

Reported Incident #2b

January 31, Tuesday at 7:30pm

- Neighbor witnesses the men walking down the street
- Calls OPD to report

Reported Incident #2c

January 31, Tuesday at 9:30pm

- Neighbor calls to request update on Incident #1036. Dispatcher reports that “officers assigned to drive through were reassigned because there were two more armed robberies around the same time.” Neighbor reports that he never did see police show up.

OPD response to known facts:

- New Lt. Sharon Williams for PSA 5 got up to address some of the issues at hand. She talked about her experience with OPD and the various divisions that she worked for. She explained the area she covers and the things that she is responsible. She brought Sgt. Basa who was the investigator assigned to this particular set of crimes, who would further report to us on the crimes. She also presented Sgt. Garret Smit who is the Problem Solving Officer for Beat 28X.
- Sgt. Basa reported that they have one guy that they are looking at as a possibility for the responsibility of the shooting of Molly the dog. They have not made contact with him yet. As for the other crimes (armed robberies) he was not unable to make a connection between all of him nor was he able to say anything further due to the fact that he didn’t want to compromise the investigation.

- Sgt. Donnie Williams spoke about the importance of keeping our property and vehicles secured and the need to form Neighborhood Watch groups amongst ourselves for better protection.
- Many residents got up to ask why there hadn't been more involvement by the police, why response times to some of our call-ins have been slow, etc.
- Chief of Police Tucker was called to the meeting, most likely due to the big turnout. He got up and spoke about the new plan that was supposed to go in effect to redistribute police across the city based on what areas need the most help at any given time. He admitted that the citizens are not happy with the response from OPD and that they are trying to come up with solutions to that problem. He explained the level of service (response times) that they are trying to get to. He did some further (and usual) explaining about why there aren't the 802 cops on the force that are supposed to be in place as a result of Measure Y.

Neighborhood Watch Lesson & Discussion

- A. Presentation by Claudia Albano, Oakland City Neighborhood Watch Coordinator & Neighborhood Services Coordinator Manager
- B. Presentation by Pat Patterson, Maxwell Park Neighborhood Watch Block Captain
- C. Presentation by Grace Neufeld, Neighborhood Solutions

55 people signed up on site to be block captains throughout Maxwell Park. Follow up would happen with Felicia Verdin's office.

Broke for networking at 8:50 pm

Next meeting – Wednesday, March 8, 2006 at Maxwell Park Elementary School

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Each person can be contacted via his or her 'maxwellparknc.com' email address (unless otherwise noted)

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