

**Maxwell Park Neighborhood Council**  
**Monthly Meeting—Wednesday, June 14, 2006**  
**Location: Maxwell Park Elementary School, Multipurpose Room**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Attendees**

Present: Jose Dorado, (Chair), Robert McGillis (Vice Chair), Jan Hetherington (Membership Secretary), Jeremy Gluskin (Treasurer), Krista Gulbransen (Minutes Secretary), Alice Ross Leon, Alinya Charron, Anne Reynolds, Barbara Taylor, Claire Antonetti, Darrell Smith, Elyse Duckett, Fred Schultz, Gloria Jones, Helen da Silva, Hermanese Sims-Cheatham, Jahn Overstreet, Jane Friedman, Jane Stallman, Jeanne Rose, Jennifer Vasquez, Joe Davis, Joel Davel, Jon Ward, Jose Ortiz, Lara Hata, Laurie Spry, Loren Routh, Lori Fuller, Martin Scolnick, Michael Scranton, Moe Hackett, Monique Moore-Racine, Nancy Karigaca, Nick Stoughton, Patty Moore, Paula Lewis, Ruben Aurelio, Sarah Hipolito, Scott Fuller, Shailen Tuli, Shirley Burton, Sterling Newberry Susan Scolnick, Tim Wilhelm, Toni Veglia

**Guests:** Lt. Sharon Williams, Sgt. Joe Seale, Araina Richards (NSC Coordinator), Claudia Jimenez (Jean Quan's Office), Emily Rogers (Desley Brooks' Office), Claudia Albano (City Administrator's Office), Felicia Verdin (City Administrator's Office)

**Board Absent:** None

**Welcome Comments & Introductions**

Jose Dorado (Chair) welcomed us to the meeting. Due to Krista forgetting the minutes, we will push approval of this month's minutes to next month. We have a special Neighborhood Watch meeting agenda which will begin at 7:30.

**Neighborhood Action Team Reports**

*Neighborhood Action Teams (Sarah Hipolito reporting)*

- Recent MacArthur Metro article talks about the recent citywide emergency drill of which took place at Maxwell Park Elementary school.

*Crime & Drug NAT (Susan Scolnik reporting)*

- Today I attended the court case of Antonio Russell who shot our neighbor Jimmy Chin. The case was again continued over to June 21 at which time he may enter a plea. There is now a co-defendant added to the case, as the getaway driver has been apprehended and is also in jail. I will be in court on June 21 and will report back at that point.
- Andrew Brandt had a group meeting about getting cameras for specific spots around the neighborhood that we could perhaps connect and people could watch what's happening in the neighborhood. There was an incident in which a guy was robbed, his talk was shot by the robber and it was all caught on tape by a neighbor's camera which resulted in prosecuting the perp.

*Traffic NAT (Sarah Hipolito reporting)*

- We were hopeful that OPD would continue with their project to identify traffic hotspots in the neighborhood. We followed the rules but unfortunately, it has all fallen apart. There continue to be changes in procedures and contacts which make it difficult to be consistent. For now we have suspended sending in hotspot reports until we see anything further that shows the city is committed to having the project continue.

*Blight & Beautification NAT (Claire Antonetti reporting)*

- Continuing to do fact finding for the beautification project at MacArthur and Pierson. Still working with the 76 owner who is sprucing up his lot. Still attempting to put in a pocket park underneath the freeway. If you want to join the project please contact Claire.

- Are we planning on doing any cleanup at the Walgreen's on Redding? Yes, possibly this coming Saturday.

*Community Building NAT (Helen Da Silva reporting)*

- Still planning the Day in the Park event which is happening on September 16. We have entertainment, children's activities, working to get donations from local businesses. We still need volunteers. If you know anyone who is a musician please contact Helen. If there is anything you can offer please contact her. Any help is appreciated.

*Neighborhood School Report (Reuben Aurelio reporting) – Maxwell Park Elementary*

- Construction happening in front of the school is a replacement of the retaining wall that wraps around the school. They will also relandscape the hillside.
- The school has had two break-ins in the past 2 weeks. A classroom and the main building where the school lost a desktop computer, laptop, digital camera, and digital projector.
- The school has become an Arts Anchor School which gives them a grant for further development in the arts.
- There is no summer school.

*CORE/MPERT Report (Nick Stoughton reporting)*

- The second Wed of every month at 6:30 we run a radio check. If you have a radio we'd like you to join in. They are testing to find out where the black spots are and where we still need to fill in with additional radios. Using Channel 2 with no privacy code.
- Two CORE classes will occur in July (possibly the 17 and the 25). A reminder will be posted to the entire MPNC group. If you are interested, please contact Nick Stoughton once the email goes out.

*Councilwoman Desley Brooks Office – (Emily Rogers reporting)*

- Thanks everyone for her re-election. She will be sending out information on what her agenda will be for her next term.
- Millsmont Farmers Market (every Saturday down at MacArthur & Seminary). Need to see more people there. Flyers are available at the front table. If you stop by the information booth at the market you will get \$1 off coupons from Emily who will be at the booth.
- Tate's Product (corner of MacArthur and 60th) is now open where the old liquor store used to be and they are selling fresh produce. We encourage you to support them so that they can stay in business.

*Councilwoman Jean Quan's Office – (no one present until later)*

*Supervisor Nate Miley (no one present)*

*Neighborhood Services Coordinator (Araïna Richards reporting)*

- Crime stats are on the table for distribution. OPD has done a fine job because they have caught about 10 burglars in the past month.
- We are approaching the fireworks season. It's illegal to buy or sell or send them off. You can call the firework activity hotline using the number passed out. Is there a problem house? Let the hotline know or email [arichards@oaklandnet.com](mailto:arichards@oaklandnet.com) so Araïna can pass the information on to them.

*Policing Report (Lt. Sharon Williams and Sgt. Joseph Seal Daywatch Supervisor reporting)*

- Question about how people get prosecuted once they get caught for the crimes? It does depend on the DA's office. The person whose house was robbed or car stolen comes out and makes a statement that they did not allow the person to take their car or come into the home. They are then charged and sent over to the D.A.'s office. The system is run by plea bargaining most of the time. Every time they make an arrest the defense attorney is going to try to get the minimal amount of time possible to be served.
- On May 19 there was a carjacking that occurred with a gun and the suspects were apprehended near Kingsland. Later, neighbors found out that the guns were never found from the crime. The neighbors took a metal detector to look for the guns. They were not found. Now, we want to know if the guns were found. No, the gun(s) were not found. OPD does not know for sure if there was an actual gun that was

used in the crime so we're not really aware of what we were looking for. It could have just been a faux gun.

- An arrest at High and Fairfax. We have four stay away orders of people who aren't supposed to be here. Pictures are on hand of those that have stay away orders so we can keep an eye out for them. While they're waiting to go to court, they have a pre-conviction stay away order. These people are for marijuana and cocaine sales.
- Lt. Williams will be asking the current D.A.'s office personnel to come in and talk to us further to give us an additional perspective.
- We don't have a Problem Solving Officer at the moment but one will be forthcoming.

## **Neighborhood Watch Block Captain Meeting**

*Claudia Albano – Neighborhood Watch Program Manager, City Administrator's Office*

- Her department is responsible for organizing citywide Neighborhood Watch program. The goal is to have it implemented on a citywide area. Introduced Felicia Verdin who is part of the department.
- An appeal was made for Maxwell Park and over 3 months we have been holding many meetings to start up the Neighborhood Watch programs.
- They showed a map that indicates where we have Block Captains (71 total who agreed to organize Neighborhood Watches). There are 350 in Oakland total.
- The purpose of the meeting is to talk about what it means to be a concentrated neighborhood watch group.
- What does it mean to be a Neighborhood Watch Captain? Refer to handout in blue packet. What it really means is that it means maintaining your group's roster and filing it with the city so that they have it on file. A roster is a map of your street with the contact information from the neighbors. You are committing to be the contact for your block so that OPD can contact you if anything comes up.
- To be certified you have to meet at least once a year. We suggest that at the least, it be National Night Out (the first Tuesday of August). There is a flyer in your packet detailing it further. If you decide to have one the city will commit to having police and fire department representatives stop by.
- You also act as a representative should there be a problem with something on your block. You commit to bringing your neighbors and representatives to the NCPC meeting to help solve larger issue problems.
- You are also an additional arm to being a part of the emergency preparedness of your block. Ultimately, we would like you to go through the training to be prepared to help your neighbors and survive as a block should a disaster occur.
- We also encourage you to do fun activities to get your block engaged and for people to meet one another

*Jan Hetherington – Neighborhood Services Coordinator*

- Communications: it's challenging and it works when people actually use it by responding to emails. First things first, please do your best to respond to emails.
- Call Brenda Ivey to coordinate the initial meeting if you haven't already done so. Please call her at 238-3091. If you don't get a call back within a day, please call Claudia at 238-6372.

### **Break-out group suggestions:**

1) Question: What would success look like for your block group?

### Suggestions/Feedback:

- To know everyone, including have phone numbers, special needs etc.
- Have a *phone-tree* on the block so everyone so information can be relayed.
- Have a list of who has what resources and skills
- Have a Co-Captain
- The majority of neighbors on the block are organized and participate
- Our NW group is connected to the group on the next block and to the NCPC
- Regular meetings
- Picture of house on name tag
- We are organized on our block, and we are connected to our NCPC
- Friendly atmosphere

## What is success?

- Good communication among the neighbors
- We can mobilize for change or improvement!
- We are inspired
- We have full involvement
- We are helping to beautify High Street
- We have determined the best process for reporting crime and for sharing it with neighbors

2) Question: Are you interested in working as a sector and what would that look like?

## Suggestions/Feedback:

- Maybe do something at NCPC meetings together. IE break out groups to organize around issues, events, etc.
- On 28x NCPC website:
  - i. Have a Neighborhood Watch page on NCPC website
  - ii. Have a Block Captain page
- Identify special needs neighbors, non-internet neighbors in the sector, or people with special skills in case of a disaster (nurses/ tools)
- Group BBQ/Event
- Interconnect Block Captains/Zones
- Keep it simple. Don't have too many meetings and layers of organization
- Try informal connections among the groups within a sector
- Ability to focus on specific topics

## Announcements

Next meeting – Wednesday, July 12, 2006 at Maxwell Park Elementary School

Krista Gulbransen reporting

Minutes Secretary

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

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