

Maxwell Park Neighborhood Council
Monthly Meeting—Wednesday, May 9, 2007
Location: Maxwell Park Elementary School, Room 16
Meeting Minutes

All meetings are recorded. If you do not want to be recorded please raise your hand so that when you speak, we can turn off our recording device. All recordings are posted on www.maxwellparknc.com.

Attendees

Present: Jose Dorado (Chair), Robert McGillis (Vice Chair), Jan Hetherington (Membership Secretary), Krista Gulbransen (Minutes Secretary), Adelle Foley, Alice Ross Leon, Ashley Thomsak, Bob Forsberg, Giovanna Otfinowski, Gus Argyropoulos, Helen Argyropoulos, Helen da Silva, Ilana Kohn, Joe Davis, Jon Ward, Lazanne Jobe, Lori Fuller, Michael Wilder, Nancy Karigaca, Nick Stoughton, Sarah Hipolito, Saun Toy Trotter, Scott Fuller, Emily Rogers, Lt. Sharon Williams, NSC Araina Richards, Officer M. Contreras, Officer B. Ko, Officer M. Neff, Officer D. Passalalqua, Officer B. Kline, Policy Analyst Jennifer Crawford, PSO Ron Johnson

Guests: Michael Foster, Allendale Recreation Center and Brookdale Recreation Center

Board Absent: Jeremy Gluskin (Treasurer)

Welcome Comments & Introductions

Jose Dorado (Chair) welcomed us to the meeting. Introductions made. Minutes for April put up for approval and approved with no changes.

Neighborhood Action Teams (NATs)

- *NAT (Neighborhood Action Team) Program – Sarah Hipolito reporting:* Sarah wrote an article on the newly formed Maxwell Park Schools Together.
- *Traffic NAT—Adelle Foley reporting:* Fleming & Monticello were chosen at the last meeting but they have not been put up yet for review. Suggesting that we put that up for opportunity for next month. Someone in the audience is offering his driveway to help catch speeders on Fleming (coming from Monticello) because it's hidden and they could catch more people that way. Araina said that the officers can just roam Fleming.
- *Crime NAT—Jose Dorado reporting:* There is no current chair. Jose Dorado is going to take up the effort to get it restarted. If anyone is interested in joining him in the cause please contact him at jdorado@sbcglobal.net.
- *Blight & Beautification—Robert McGillis reporting:* Encouragement to fill out the survey if you haven't already done so. The MacArthur/Pierson project is moving along. There was a successful Earth Day cleanup. Not nearly as many people as before but still very good.
- *TREE PROJECT:* Looks like the last of the trees were put in,.
- *Community Building NAT – Helen Da Silva reporting:* We have chosen the date for our Second Annual Day in the Park – Maxwell Park Event. It will be on Saturday, September 15

and we need as many volunteers as we can get in order to pull this off. Please contact Helen Da Silva if you're interested hds2288@aol.com.

- *Maxwell Park Schools Together– Ashley Thomsak reporting:* We used to be the Education NAT and now we are a newly developed group. There is a new petition out there that they need people to sign. They recently found out that the Maxwell Park neighbors are not considered part of the Oakland City School “community” which was a big shock for the group. They have set up a petition to demand that the community of Maxwell Park be considered part of the community that would weigh in on the actions happening to Maxwell Park Elementary. They are demanding representation for whatever takes place at the school including the interviews for the new administration which are about to start up. The online petition will be sent around together. There is a separate committee being formed to interview the new principal for Maxwell Park. Right now they are working on appropriately recording and making demands of the State Administrator. Report from Ilana Kohn on AB 45: team went to support the bill that helps to bring control back to the School Board of Oakland as opposed to the State Administrator. It passed in the Committee and next it goes to the Assembly Floor and then to the Senate. We urge you to call Don Perata to support this bill. We want local control back. See Ilana if you want to know who in the government you should contact including Jack O’Connell. The current principal of Maxwell Park Elementary will be leaving. He was basically told to look for another position and has found another principal position outside of the OUSD.
- *The Max Park Neighborhood Council and its members want to state that: “ we find this process to be absolutely undemocratic and liken it to earlier times in history in other countries in which people suffered under a dictatorship, and where education was dictated by one individual and one individual only. We are trying to build unity in our community and demand that we have the opportunity to do so regardless of whether we have a child currently in the OUSD or not.”*
- *Neighborhood Watch Coordinator – Jan Hetherington reporting:* There is still a lot of disconnect between all the neighborhood groups and Jan is trying to make connections amongst all of them so not only should you make sure your group is active, you need to make sure that they Capitan is staying in contact with Jan so that it is connected on a larger level. If you aren’t sure whether your block has a Neighborhood Watch Program in place please contact Jan Hetherington at jan@moves-to-improve.com to find out more.
- *CORE & MPERT Report—Nick Stoughton reporting:* Thanks to those that participated in the emergency exercise. Every month before this meeting we get our radios out and practice using them. If you’ve got a walkie talkie and want to take part in it, please contact Nick. Right now we have about 6 and we’d like to get 10 or 15 involved.

City & County Representatives

Councilwoman Desley Brooks – Emily Rogers reporting:

- Emily finally moving to fulltime next month.
- The Blue Ribbon Housing Committee meeting. Talked about inclusionary housing and issues of concern around housing issues. If you want more information, contact Brooks’ office.
- The Town Hall Meeting that Brooks’ held was very well attended. It ended on a high note.

- Concert series is starting up again. More information to follow.
- Question to Emily re: letter sent by MPNC Board in regards to the paving done on Redding Street and requesting a response as to why it was repaved when it's slated to receive a new traffic circle. Emily had no knowledge of the letter.

Councilmember Jennifer Crawford—reporting:

- Introducing , the latest new Policy Analyst Jennifer Crawford.
- Upcoming budget meeting. May 23 at 7pm at the Dimond Library Branch.
- Question: are the Councilmembers involved in the Mayor's Task Forces? Answer: not certain. Question: are there a list of the committees, member and goals? Answer: not sure.

Community Policing Reports--Araina Richards reporting:

- Discussion about time spent by officers at meeting. What is the best use of their time? Agreed that we will put them on the agenda no matter what at 7:30pm.
- Reminder about receipts for reimbursement.
- Mayor employing youth for the summer through a special program. Contact Youth Uprising if you have a youth that is interested.
- Traffic analysis for High and 580 East exit ramp. Analysis was supposed to be done last Feb. and it still has not been done so Araina is following up on.
- Concrete curb cuts not completed for wheelchair access on Monticello. Finding out what the exact story is what the plan is. It will be repaired.

Police Report – Lt. Sharon Williams reporting:

- Updating on the marijuana busts. At least one house is claiming medical marijuana. Information passed around about medical marijuana laws.
- Question about robbery that occurred using a U-Haul truck and collision with neighbor's car. Didn't have information.

Guest Speaker: Michael Foster from Allendale Rec Center & Brookdale Rec Center

- Currently working both the Allendale Rec Center and the Brookdale Rec Center.
- How do we as a community support and lead along those that might be getting lost along the way?
- He talked to Krista about how we can get good people in the community to connect with these youth?
- Reminder that it takes time and everyone does it differently so how do we converge and interact? Young people learn from their elders. When you start to feel respected as a young person then you start to respect other people.
- There is a dynamic that is being worked at the Rec Centers across the city to serve this purpose. Starting an international peace campaign.

Announcements

- MPNC Board Elections, flyer at back of the room. We're taking nominations for the two positions that are up and we'll have elections at the next meeting.

Broke for networking at 8:50 pm.

Next meeting – Wednesday, June 13, 2007 at 7pm at Maxwell Park Elementary School

Krista Gulbransen reporting, Minutes Secretary, 510-436-7177 or krista_gulbransen@yahoo.com

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

Jose Dorado Chair; Robert McGillis Vice Chair; Jan Hetherington Membership Secretary; Jeremy Gluskin Treasurer; Krista Gulbransen Minutes Secretary; Sarah Hipolito NAT Coordinator; Claire Antonetti Blight & Beautification NAT; Helen da Silva Co-Chair Community Building NAT; Krista Gulbransen Co-Chair Community Building NAT; Susan Scolnick Crime & Drugs NAT; Adelle Foley Traffic NAT; Lisa Cartolano Education NAT; Nick Stoughton CORE/MPERT; Araina Richards NSC-Beat 28X.

Each person can be contacted by going to the www.maxwellparknc.com website.

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