

MAXWELL PARK NCPC – Meeting on Wednesday, August 13th, 2003

Minutes

Present: Jose Dorado (Chair)-briefly, Robert McGillis (Vice Chair), Jan Hetherington (Secretary), Steven King, Araina Richards, (NSC-OPD), Darryl Stewart (Nate Miley’s Office), Arturo Sanchez (Jean Quan’s Office), Helen da Silva, Joe Davis, Drew Pearson, Don Dever, Jim Curtis, Alecto Caldwell, Kirk Prentiss, Nick Stoughton, Tom Van Demark, Julian & Denise Heard, Khoa Phan, Alan Hollie, Gary Busboom, Myra Alvarado, Pat Patterson, (with apologies for any misspellings)

Guest: Tayneesha Knox – YMCA Teen Center

Board Absent: Sarah Hipolito (Treasurer)

- **Jose Dorado (Chair) welcomed us to the meeting,** & apologized for needing to leave immediately for family reasons. Robert McGillis took over the meeting.
- **The Minutes** of the previous meeting were approved, with the proviso of adding ‘None’ after absent, if all board members are present.

- **COMMITTEES**

- **‘Clean Up’**

- ‘Adopt A Highway’ project, cleaning up Redding Street from High to Birdsall, had another successful clean up on Sunday, July 20th. Trash built up again quickly, though it appears that other neighbors may be doing some pick up. This still true: “A Neighbor works for UC Botanical Gardens & is interested in being involved in the planting planning, along with our resident landscape designer, Suzanne”. Looking at planning in August, planting in the Fall. I have contacted Cal Trans to see if there’s more that can be done with the High Street off ramp. Also Arturo, of Jean Quan’s office, is looking into the ownership of land between Courtland & Walgreen’s. Jan is also going to be on a new Board called ‘Keep Oakland Beautiful’. First meeting is in September.

- We’ll have a clean up the weekend of Sep 20/21 for sure - Clean California day. Watch this space!!

- **NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES**

- This is a newer item on our agenda, where we will meet with police, council members or aides, or committee heads to pursue items of interest, & share activism ideas that have worked for particular projects. We will discuss plans to distribute our new brochures around Maxwell Park.

- **GUEST SPEAKER**

- Taynesha Knox of YMCA Teen Center on Foothill/Seminary. Nice presentation of programs that the center offers to teens from 11 – 18. Opened May 8th, 2003. Currently serving 35-60 kids each day. They will be open during the school year. Programs/classes include:- drama, arts & crafts, cooking, ‘Body Options – physical workouts, Yoga, “Girls, Inc.”, creative writing, technology, African dance etc etc. Volunteers & mentors are ALWAYS WELCOME!! They do need some more techie people for classes. Also do field trips – such as dance camp at UC Berkeley. Students come from all over Oakland.

- **DESLEY BROOKS’S OFFICE**

- No representative today.

- **JEAN QUAN'S OFFICE**

- a) Walgreen's is being a little 'obtuse' regarding the 'No Left Turn' entrance. Arturo will be contacting management at Head Office.
- b) The new Boys & Girls Club on High Street (next to Fire station) is slated to open in January 2004. They will be taking applications 1 month before opening, Serve kids from 6 – 18. Same fee as 'Y' - \$25 per year. It will be a huge facility
- c) The plot of land by Walgreen's can be adopted through City's 'Adopt A Block – or Spot' program. This is part of 'Keep Oakland Beautiful'

Ed. Note : Application submitted Friday, August 15th to adopt this plot

- **COMMUNITY POLICING:**

Both Jan & Jose went on (separate) 'Ride-Alongs' on Friday evenings. Jose rode in a van & Jan went in a Sgt's car for a 9 hour shift. Jan wrote up a report of her impressions, & spoke briefly about incidents seen & impressions received. Incidents ranged from running a 4-way stop, to a high speed drive to a police blockade where a shooting had occurred - & also covered a robbery suspect intercepted by citizens, a 'pill' overdose, a 'natural causes' death, a shooting & crash, calls coming in about gunshots, drug dealing, prostitution etc etc. Also visited dispatch center, downtown & Eastmont Offices, police car graveyard. Jan's full report is available upon request.

Araina Richards (NSC) distributed crime stats – crime was up last month. Also more house burglaries – windows left open. If you are going on vacation you can call the Patrol Desk – 238-3455 - & there may be some extra patrols. Tell your neighbors – ask them to look out for papers, mail etc that might be left. Another good reason to have a 'Home Alert'. Tom from Normandie Street mentioned they had had a block party recently & they have had a block association for many years, & know all neighbors.

There were 780 calls for service from Maxwell Park from 7/1- 8/8.

A neighbor of the burnt house on Camden expressed concern about the condition of it. Contact had already been made to Councilmember Desley Brook's Office & Code Compliance is involved. Araina will give all the information to the neighbor.

There was much discussion about the rights of parolees vs rights of the communities that they come back into. Can we find out who they are ?????? Ongoing questions. It was suggested to invite someone from the Parole Board to speak at our meeting.

- **HOTSPOTS**

- a) El Camile – Several members of the block, Araina Richards & police officers were present at a probation hearing for a neighbor who has been suspected of causing problems. Unfortunately the probation officer forgot to put their names down as potential witnesses, & they were denied access. Much concern for safety of the community. Letters were written from the block & NCPC to various officials – City, County & State. Thanks to NCPC Board for their help.
- b) Modesto Str – no further info
- c) Sideshows – no report, though CRT's from areas 5, 6 & possibly 4 are working sideshow detail.
- d) New potential 'hotspot' – resurgence of condos on Simmons & Pierson. Alecto Caldwell is the person to contact for further info & meetings (535-2024). These were delayed a couple of years ago – environmental reports, safety etc

- **OTHER BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

1) Brochure distribution – big project/push to get them distributed. We have divided 28X into 9 ‘sectors’ with the hopes that we can get people from each sector to come to our meetings - & get 2-way communication going. Looking for volunteers to distribute in their blocks or neighborhoods.

VOLUNTEERS SO FAR –

Board Members

Don from Brookdale

Tom from Normandie

Alan from Redding area

Nick from Birdsall/Morcom

Pat from Allendale

- 2) Gary reported that a broken light on El Camile was fixed immediately – problem reported by email/website – www.oaklandnet.com
- 3) Pat Patterson from Allendale Street invited us to their annual Block Party on Saturday 16th. She has been captain of their Home Alert for many years. 80 Neighbors involved.
- 4) **FARMER’S MARKET** Use it or lose it!!!! Tom encouraged us to keep using the Market! Steven King of Mills announced plans to encourage their students to use it – Sep 6 is the first Saturday that they will be back.
- 5) **IMPORTANT.** Police Chief Word will be our guest speaker in September. Please email your questions to Araina in advance, or write on cards that will be available at the meeting.

Araina arichards@oaklandnet.com

- 6) Tom Van Demark of Pedestrian Safety project announced that there would be pedestrian enforcement on MacArthur at ‘World Grounds’ coffee shop on Wednesday, August 20th

- **NETWORKING BREAKOUT**

We continued discussions.

- **Next Meeting - Wed, August 13th, 2003, at MILLS COLLEGE, Alderwood Hall, 7 – 8:30pm**

- **Jan Hetherington, Secretary**
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