

Maxwell Park Neighborhood Council
Monthly Meeting – Wednesday, December 14, 2005
Location: Maxwell Park Elementary School, Classroom 6
Meeting Minutes

Attendees

Present: Jose Dorado (Chair), Robert McGillis (Vice Chair), Jan Hetherington (Membership Secretary), Jeremy Gluskin (Treasurer), Krista Gulbransen (Minutes Secretary), Claire Antonetti, Joe Davis, Sarah Hipolito, Tre Riddle, Andres Elenes, Vee Thomsak, Jon Ward, Darrell Smith, Helen da Silva, Brenda Hansen, Adelle Foley, Malia Saulala, Claudia Jimenez, Pat Mashhoon, Sgt. Don Williams, Helen Thompson, Jimmy Thompson, Anna Saulala, Araina Richards, Alice Leon, Jose Ortiz, Lt. Charles Gibson, Kathy Hester, Victor Flint, Elmer Meredith, Ondrietta Johnson, Jean Quan

Guests: Jose Ortiz, Owner 3100 High Street

Board Absent: None

Welcome Comments & Introductions

Jose Dorado (Chair) welcomed us to the meeting and conducted brief intros of all present. November minutes put up for approval. Minutes for November 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 trash pickup occurring at Walgreen's.
- *Traffic NAT – Adelle Foley reporting*
High & Brookdale is of concern. They really want a traffic light put in front of the Boys & Girls Club for safer crossing. They will be meeting the fourth Thursday of January at 7pm (Jan. 26th). Jose Dorado announced the Mayoral Town Hall Meeting to occur on December 17.
- *Drugs & Crime NAT – Susan Scolnick reporting*
There are 12 people who have expressed an interest via email in participating in the Drugs & Crime NAT but they do not want to come to meetings. Susan is currently reviewing notes/request/issues raised in the past six months on the email listserv.
- *Blight & Beautification NAT – Claire Antonetti reporting*
 1. The MacArthur/Pierson corridor will be presented at the Mayoral Town Hall Meeting.
 2. They are aiming for a pocket park under the overpass at MacArthur & Pierson.
 3. They are working with Caltrans for regular upkeep of this area.
 4. They are working with the new owner of the 76 station to make some improvements to his property.
 5. They planted many, many daffodil bulbs in Maxwell Park.

6. 65 trees will be planted in Maxwell Park through the city's program.
7. Their next meeting is the fourth Thursday of the month (Jan 26) at 7pm.

▪ *Community Building NAT – Helen da Silva reporting*

1. A new member has joined the group. We had a successful meeting on December 1.
2. We have the next Community Outreach Summit planned for January in conjunction with the 3. Redwood Heights Improvement Association.
4. We discussed community relations and ways in which to foster closing the gap and divide within the community.
5. We want to reach out to members without access to the Internet or to our email listserv.
6. We are looking to write and obtain a grant for postage costs.
7. We would like to be able to do an insert into the MacArthur Metro.
8. We will have a picnic next Spring for the whole neighborhood.

▪ *Art & Cultural NAT – Possibly resting for the moment...*

▪ *Education NAT – Vee Thomsack reporting*

There was a Kinder orientation at Maxwell Park Elementary and there will be another one next semester. Their next meeting is the fourth Thursday of the month (Jan. 26) at 7pm but they would consider changing it as there are so many other NAT meetings that night.

Committee Reports

▪ *CORE/MPERT – Alice Ross Leon reporting*

1. November 19 exercise with the city went very well. Thanks to Maxwell Park neighbors who participated. There will be another one at a later date to be announced.
2. Alice is still working with an emergency supply care company to get discounts for the neighborhood.
3. Here is another little exercise for you, “You’re out Christmas shopping. The in-laws are in from out of town. An earthquake hits, what are you going to do?” Go to a pay phone and call your out-of-state contact.
4. There is encouragement to start your own neighborhood alert group, block alert group. Look for emails telling you how to do so.

▪ *Neighborhood Walks*

Adelle Foley and Jim Gilsenan are now organizing. There will possibly be one on December 24. The holiday Picardy walk is coming up. Look for further information.

- Maxwell Park Elementary – No one reporting
- Elizabeth Sherman School – no one reporting

Guest Speaker – Jose Ortiz, Owner of 3100 High Street Commercial/Residential Property

- It's the old Pizza Parlor located on the corner of Virginia Avenue and High Street. He has worked for the city of Oakland for 7 years and is now the Director at the Brookdale Rec Center. He has bought a house on Brookdale. He recognizes youth at risk and crime and knows the problem at that corner. The corner is screaming for help. He wants to move the drug dealers out with the help of the community. He'd like to make it part coffee shop/part cell phone shop for his son Gabriel to run. He will have a security guard there during the hours that the business is open. He might have a security camera as well. He would like to market the products and services of the shop to the Maxwell Park community. He is here to have access to and assess what the community wants.

Q: What about the people across the street who hang out next to the Excel Health Care place? Won't the drug dealers just move over there?

A: Jose knows the leader of that group of people and feels he can influence them.

Q: How will you do this? How will you get rid of crime?

A: Primarily by connecting with people. He is not afraid to communicate with people to tell them to move their business elsewhere. He is not afraid to approach them.

City & County Representatives

- *Councilmember Desley Brooks – Tre Riddle*

He passed out the business listing directory for District 6. The point is to highlight small businesses in the community. Spoke a little about the Alameda County Detox and Sober Center proposed to be placed at the Eastmont Mall. There is proposed legislation being put forward by Desley Brooks about the food vending vehicles. She wants effective coordination between Alameda County and the City of Oakland for food safety. If interested you can get a copy of the legislation from Tre at triddle@oaklandnet.com or call Tre at (510) 777-8427.

- *Councilmember Jean Quan – Claudia Jimenez reporting*
 1. There is a holiday part on Friday, December 9 from 6:30-9:30pm at Chabot Space Center. People who are interested in attending should let Claudia know.
 2. They are working on the problematic retaining wall at Maxwell Park Elementary School.
 3. They are working on the abandoned/standing RVs and trucks on Fleming Avenue.
- *Supervisor Nate Miley – No representative to report*
- *Community Policing Reports*
- *NSC – Araina Richards reporting*
 1. Just a note that OPD may not eat or drink for free as suggested by a neighbor to Jose Ortiz once his coffee shop opens. However, they may receive a discount.
 2. We still have funds left and money is to be reimbursed.

3. There was a problem with our recertification because at the meeting a Quorum was not present. They will go ahead and vote on it at the next meeting. It is possible that we will need to be recertified every three years.

- *Problem Solving – Lt. Gibson reporting*

He wanted to meet with us because he hasn't seen us in awhile due to hand surgery. He wanted to thank Sgt. Williams for taking over while he was gone. He will not be around much longer though as he is leaving the police force and moving to another job.

Q: We hear there are 50 police officers in Internal Affairs. Why aren't there more officers on the street and less in Internal Affairs?

A: That is an exaggerated number. We are under magistrate and we have to do what is demanded of us.

Q: The response time to crimes is of concern. People are concerned that crimes aren't being responded to in a timely manner. What do we have to do as citizens?

A: We've been explaining for years that we've put people on dispatch [note: he was cutoff by someone and didn't really answer the questions]

Q: After 30 years on the force, what do you feel your legacy and greatest accomplishment has been?

A: Helping the youth of the community.

Q: What can we do about the surge of activity around certain incidents that don't seem to need that much police force?

A: It's up to the supervisors to determine how much police force needs to be put on a particular call/crime. Behind the scenes you don't really know why they might need a lot of officers on the scene or why they require additional officers. It may look like a lot of officers but they very well may be needed.

Q: Will you comment on Measure Y?

A: No.

Q: Can you confirm there was a sexual assault at the Courtland incident last month?

A: Yes and DNA evidence has been retrieved from the scene of the crime.

Last words: If you want to show control to people out there and keep yourself safe, create a Home Alert program! People who have taken control of their neighborhood in this manner have made a difference. It's not about after-the-fact work. It's about prevention and you need to focus on that.

Neighborhood Hot Spots

- *High Street (Virginia to Walgreen's) – Krista Gulbransen reporting*
Nothing to report.

- *Monticello Avenue – Nobody to report*

Announcements

1. No announcements.

Broke for networking, 8:40pm

Next meeting – Wednesday, January 11, 2006 at Maxwell Park Elementary School

Krista Gulbransen reporting

Minutes Secretary

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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/>