

Maxwell Park Neighborhood Council
Monthly Meeting—Wednesday, January 11, 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), Claire Antonetti, Lisa Cartalano, Adelle Foley, Sarah Hipolito, Susan Scolnick, Martin Scolnick, Araina Richards, Jimmy Thompson, Jane Friedman, Carla Johnson, Tre Riddle, Reuben, Karen Levinston, Joe Davis, Helen da Silva, Sgt. Kevin O'Rourke, Carla Thomas, Stephan Dimitroff, Ana Saulala, Malia Saulala, Jean Quan, Shirley Burton, Karen Livingstone, Ruben Aurelio, Cynthia Allison, Al Liwanag, Nick Stoughton, Moe Hackett, Monica Munese, Rev. Gregg Brown, Larry Foster, Gus Arayrupulos

Guests: None

Board Absent: Robert McGillis

Welcome Comments & Introductions

Jose Dorado (Chair) welcomed us to the meeting and conducted brief intros of all present. December minutes put up for approval. Motion to approve the minutes by Jose Dorado. First and second from the audience. Minutes approved at 7:16pm.

Neighborhood Action Teams (NATs)

- *NAT (Neighborhood Action Team) Program Update:* Sarah Hipolito, NAT Coordinator, presented a City Council resolution that is encouraging businesses and organizations to adopt a local school. The next Mac Metro newspaper article will summarize some of the meeting and talks about the cooperation that happened to get the meeting together. If you're interested in getting more about what was covered at the meeting, go to our website (www.maxwellparknc.com) to listen to the complete Town Hall Meeting audio file.
- *Traffic NAT—Adelle Foley reporting:* Presented at the Town Hall. Have not met since then. Will be meeting at the Boys & Girls Club on Thursday, January 26 from 7:00pm-8:15pm. Let the record show the "Heather did a great job and it was a collective effort."
- *Crime NAT – Martin reporting:* Met with Rev. Brown at Miracles of Faith Church on Virginia. Discussed what ideas for what the neighborhood might get involved in. We'd like to find a venue where Rev. Brown can present his ideas to the community. The effort is more than just crime and should be integrated with other issues of the community. Would like to have a group party/block party when the weather gets better. What he is talking about his "Community Building." The Church will be having a Martin Luther King celebration on Sunday, January 15 at

3pm. Susan still needs to get in contact with the 12 people that originally expressed an interest in joining the NAT.

- *Blight & Beautification--Sarah reporting:* Didn't meet in December because they were preparing for the Town Hall Meeting. Plans for a pocket park at the underpass at MacArthur & Pierson. Developing a replanting project for denuded areas. Maintenance schedule with Caltrans. Working with Caltrans and the owner of the 76 station to fix up his property. Working with the Mayor and staff on what to do with abandoned cars. A plan to combat abandoned cars.
- *Community Building NAT Helen reporting:* Did not meet in December. Trying to reschedule January meeting. Have nothing to report other than that.
- *Education NAT Lisa reporting:* Went on a bit of a hiatus. Met with the principal of Maxwell Park to decide what projects the group could take on. Frustrated because she is having a hard time getting people involved and committed. Many people are telling her that they don't have enough time. Some ideas are raising funds to buy books for the Maxwell Park Elementary school library, making the school a point place for a disaster and a place to store items because the school has room. Thursday, January 12 is prospective Kindergarten night at the school from 6pm-7pm. Lisa wants to get more Maxwell Park families involved and get a family group going. Next meeting is January 26, Thursday at 7pm.
- *CORE Report--Nick Stoughton reporting:* Another emergency drill on Saturday, April 29, 2006. Will be doing another CORE training class ASAP. If you are interested in helping to plan the citywide emergency exercise please contact Nick. The basic scenario of the drill is that a major earthquake has occurred. 20 or 30 other CORE groups will be participating. Could possibly be the next MPNC article for the MacArthur Metro.
- *MPERT--Alice Leon reporting:* There was a recent good insert in the EBMUD bill about getting water together and dealing with water crisis during a disaster. Alice will either get the link up on our website or get a scanned PDF of it placed on the website for download. Nothing else to report at this time.
- *Neighborhood Walks--Adelle Foley reporting:* We're trying to get it together again. A lot of it is dependent on the weather.
- *Maxwell Park Elementary School--Reuben Goldberg reporting:* Two adopters—MPNC and UPS. They gave him a \$5000 check. Using the funds to help replenish the library. Wanting to get more long term projects going such as a mobile computer lab. There was a showcase for families with children this past weekend. Every elementary school was down at the Convention Center on Broadway showcasing their schools for families to look at schools. Many neighborhood families came and were sent over the Maxwell Park Elementary School's table. The school needs volunteers, even if it's just coming down and reading to a kid.

Please contact Reuben if you're interested. Jan mentioned that we've talked about sponsoring a kid at the Boys & Girls Club (there is a small cost to be a part of it on the youth's part).

City & County Representatives

Councilwoman Desley Brooks--Tre Riddle reporting

Accomplishments in December:

- Business directory highlighting the businesses in District 6. Plan on trying to get the directory out during more than just the holidays.
- Provided Christmas lights and banners for the businesses in District 6 to help make the shopping areas more appealing.
- Façade improvement on the MacArthur Blvd corridor. Trying to get businesses involved in the Business Improvement District offering of matching funds for façade improvement. Desley Brooks is focusing on businesses surrounding the YMCA at Seminary & Foothill.
- Monthly Town Hall Meeting this Saturday 10a-12pm.

Councilmember Jean Quan—Jean Quan reporting

- M&W Liquors issue. Meeting with the liquor store property owner encouraging him to evict the tenant. Think the owner of the property might also be the owner of the liquor store, we're not sure. If they don't evict them they will fine them for being a nuisance. Still encouraging people to call the Drug Hotline and report activity witnessed at the corner of High Street & Fairfax Avenue. Quan's office is still working to make a change. They are selling t-shirts in the liquor store that say, "Stop Snitching." Quan has purchased t-shirts for the hearing as evidence.
- Jean wanted to congratulate the MPNC for the handling of the Town Hall Meeting. She thought it was very effective and well-run.
- Jean has been elected Vice Mayor means that Jean will be going to more meetings on behalf of Jerry Brown. The good news is that the Vice Mayor is the one who gets called during a disaster. She will be doing a slightly wider range of meetings across the city.
- Brought a brochure about Keeping Our City Bright, Safe & Green. It lists all the parks in Oakland. Added some money to the budget this year to increase the Parks & Rec departments by 20 people to help combat the addition of Parks. Still need to figure out what to do to manage this moving forward. The money allotted was through Bond sales but is a one time fund infusion and so the city needs to figure out how to get the money for future years.
- Truancy program is still very much in effect. They reduced truancy last year by 50%. Field truancy officers are now being transferred to the field to focus on schools and hotspots in which truancy is an issue. This year will be the year they focus on the less obvious spots (i.e. the schools) and focus more on areas that have been reported where kids are hanging out during school hours. Please continue to call the Truancy Hotline to report areas in your neighborhood that seem to be a hangout.

- Q: Is it possible to get a park at the empty lot at MacArthur & High for kids to hang out at? A: No because that has been earmarked for Senior Housing. But there is ongoing discussion for cultural development for the MacArthur Blvd. strip.

Community Policing Reports--Araina Richards reporting

- Lt. Gibson's last day is January 26 who will be leaving to go to another job. Before they find a replacement Sgt. Donnie Williams will be the acting Sgt for PSA 5.
- We've spent all our funds for this year and if more comes about, Araina will let us know. The reimbursements are taking a very long time coming and they are working to streamline the process. Q: Is it possible to get other NCPC's who have not used their money to possibly be given to those NCPCs that are active? Can we submit a letter to urge the Community Policing Advisory Board to direct some of those funds to NCPCs that can use them? A: Yes. It's worth a try. The NSCs do not have handheld radios when they're out in the field. They are asking for the purchase of handheld radios to use in the field and they cost about \$5k apiece.
- Recertification issue: have not received a reply from Don Link about our recertification process which was stalled when there wasn't a Quorum at the meeting in December. We have been told that there would be no problem in the MPNC getting recertified.
- Will be moved to the City Administrators office in May. Q: How will that change things for the NSCs? A: Not sure at this point other than having to pay \$180 a month for parking. Just keep hearing that once they get down there, their roles will be defined.
- Do not have Crime Stats. They are on the website. You can now go to Crime Watch on the www.oaklandnet.com website to get stats. The site was down for about 6 months but is now up and running again.
- If you have any questions for Sgt. O'Rourke please contact him. He does not get a lot of calls from us telling him what's going on in the neighborhood. His number is 510-750-4544. There was mention that things that came up at the Town Hall meeting are not things that came up during the NCPC meetings that Sgt O'Rourke has attended. Someone mentioned that Maxwell Park has many drug dealers and drug baggies. Sgt O'Rourke mentioned that there wasn't a great response by Peter Pan when they walked through the park one day making observations. A couple of action items are for the MPNC Board to get in touch with Peter Pan to let them know what we are doing to work with OPD about the park and how we are asking them to walk through the park.
- Q: Should we report gun shots even if we don't know where it's coming from? A: Yes, just make sure to report that to the dispatcher so that they know.
- Q: Most times would you say these are gunshots or something else? A: More often than not they are gunshots.
- Q: How do we know whether or not to call 911? A: The rule is based on emergency. If something is an emergency and needs that kind of attention, then give 911 a call. If not, then just make a report through the non-emergency number so that the police have information to work with when they try to manage crime.

The more information you give as citizens, the more the police can do should something go to court or they are trying to prosecute someone.

- Q: What triggers a helicopter report? A: They patrol regularly and also help where there is lack of officers on the street. They also help in the case of foot pursuits and such where they need help.

Impromptu Guest Speaker--Rev. Brown, Miracles of Faith Church on Virginia Ave.
He recognizes from his work in Chicago that components that come together can help the whole community. He suggested to Martin Scolnick that because the MPNC is so strong and such a stab community, that working with us could be of benefit to the community as a whole. There is a divesture of multi-ethnic issues as a result of people being focused on themselves and/or they family and not reaching out to the community as a whole. He is suggesting that we come together as a "family." One of the community efforts is beautification and he is suggesting that we get people out and "beautify the family." Gather these people together to create the community family.

Announcements

- Change of use at the 76 station at MacArthur & Pierson. Will now be serving food and be some sort of a deli. The city has approved the change. B&B Chair mentioned is working with the owner to talk about why the station windows are boarded up. The CRIME NAT is also staying in touch with him. The owner plans on coming to the next B&B meeting. They are watching for crime, loitering, trash, etc. Q: Since that's a hotspot for dumping cars, what can we do? Can't an officer come by every morning to check? A: Every morning someone downloads all the calls from the previous day and processes the calls. Araina Richards mentioned that the abandoned auto detail knows this is a hotspot and they are doing their best. There is a process that people have to go through. We can't just have an officer coming out there every morning, a devoted officer of sorts.

Broke for networking at 8:50 pm

Next meeting – Wednesday, February 8, 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 (unless otherwise noted)

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