

## Maxwell Park Neighborhood Council

Monthly Meeting—Wednesday, July 11, 2007

Location: Boys and Girls Club, High Street

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](http://www.maxwellparknc.com).

### **Attendees**

(Board members are indicated in **bold**).

<b>Jose Dorado</b> (Chair)	Kitty Kelly Epstein(Guest Speaker)	Jane Stallman
<b>Robert McGillis</b> (Vice chair)	Andrew Lemen	James Anders
<b>Jan Heatherington</b> (Membership)	Helen Da Silva	Kathy Burne
<b>Nick Stoughton</b> (Minutes)	Sgt P Egan	Mary Berron
<b>Krista Gulbranson</b> (Treasurer)	Lt Sharon Williams	Bob Forsberg
Adelle Foley	Frank Rojas	Jeff Baker
Joe Davis	Jerry Longoria	Shirley Burton
Lucille Jackson	Patricia S Murphy	Lisa de Geneste
Jennifer Crawford	Cristina Diaz	Barbara Taylor
Lamonte Parker	Claire Antonetti	Brian Darrow
Araina Richards	Karen Bridges	Bridget Hensley
Darryl Stewart	Nancy Karigaca	Carol Draizen
Jean Quan	Joel Young	Margo Iserson
Sarah Hippolito		

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Jose Dorado (Chair) welcomed us and called the meeting to order at 7.06pm. Introductions made. Guest speakers are Kitty Kelley Epstein (Dellums Task Forces) and the Guardian Angels.

Motion to approve Minutes for May. Approved unanimously

Motion to approve Minutes for June. Approved as amended (change "Traffic and Crime becomes just "Crime") unanimously.

Corrections to agenda: Updated contact information for Jean Quan's assistant.

## Neighborhood Action Teams (NATs)

- NAT (Neighborhood Action Team) Program – Sarah Hipolito reported. No news in last month's Metro (2 month issue). Will be an article on the Party in the Park in next months.
- Traffic NAT—Adelle Foley reported: Fleming & Monticello have been the recent focus. Last meeting we decided to meet about the Redding/High Street issue. This meeting is set for this Friday with the City engineers.
- Crime NAT –Jose Dorado reported: There is still no current chair. Last night Public Safety subcommittee where a number of Maxwell Park residents (led by Kurt Schumacher) asked questions on the measure Y report. The meeting was effective in that the concerns were heard and accepted by the council members, and by the police representatives, including the homicide chief. Arrests have been made in the recent case (3 in total, including 2 today). There has been a high focus on the Fairfax Ave area by OPD. Residents have had to endure a lot in recent months (drug dealing, murders, etc) Jennifer Crawford (Jean Quan's office) added that she felt that peoples questions were answered, and that they had a good opportunity to voice their feelings. Jean Quan added that talking face-to-face with people at NCPC meetings is usually more effective than complaining on-line. Melrose High Hopes had previously tried to form a group to deal with the Fairfax Ave problems, but nobody attended the meetings. Drug dealing reports are way down, and many of the reports of such are really historic (reporting crimes that happened a year ago). Dismantling shrines needs sensitivity ... can lead to more crime in itself. We need to balance spending between prevention and policing. A lot of hard work went into this year's budget. There is an additional \$500,000 for teen prevention program. Jose Dorado added that we are more than willing to join forces with 27X representatives to help prevention in this area (e.g. positive loitering). Lt Williams handed out a report on how OPD work with Public Works to deal with shrines. Often a shrine is removed and promptly rebuilt. Where a shrine is on private property, it is the property owner's responsibility to remove.  
*7.30pm BREAK for police reports: see below.*
- Blight & Beautification—Claire Antonetti reported: over 500 respondents to the survey. Mills very interested in following up on results. Jean Quan's office has been very active and helpful (nothing from Desley Brook's office). Steering committees are expected to start this fall with all interested parties in order to help generate the design, and to secure grant money for the

project.

Jan Hetherington also had a meeting with Walgreens today, focusing on beautification and trash issues. Very responsive new management. Regular monthly cleanup by MPNC every 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday here. Walgreens will help us with irrigation in the adopt-a-spot area. Corporate style trash-cans to be added. We will be looking at a Community bulletin board in the store. Also considering adding planters to help beautify the external appearance of the store. Additional drainage being added to the parking lot.

- Community Building NAT – Helen Da Silva reported: Second Annual Day in the Park – Maxwell Park Event will be September 15. More help needed ... especially donations (both money and time). Youth Uprising will be catering. Special thanks to Jennifer Crawford for all her help in getting parks and rec to approve the project, and also to Desley Brooks. They have waived the fee for the park use. Goal is to raise \$1200. We have about \$400 so far. Checks payable to Krista Gulbranson (treasurer). Nancy also asked for musicians to come forward. Kids activities also needed. There will be weekly emails on this subject.

Robert McGillis reported on the traffic circle on Pierson ... the city is moving forward with a pre-bid meeting on the larger, city-wide traffic circle construction project of which this is a part. The repaving issue has not helped. Project will move ahead, with fine-tuning to follow. Claire also invited any new members interested in joining B&B to contact her.

- Maxwell Park Schools Together– Ashley Thomsak not present. New principal has been named. There will be a welcome for her on July 18.
- Neighborhood Watch Coordinator – Jan Hetherington reported: National Night Out is coming up – August 7. At least 2 official parties registered so far. Last year we had 12. There will be a walk around the parties for those who want to visit lots! Deadline is July 27 to register. Jean Quan is offering free ice-cream to the first 20 parties in District 4 (on a first come, first served basis).
- CORE/MPERT: Nick Stoughton reported that the annual Task Force retreat has just concluded, and in the coming months there is a promise to spend more time and effort on Marketing and a Media campaign for CORE. Any ideas to help sell the program would be gratefully received. Please contact [nick@maxwellparknc.com](mailto:nick@maxwellparknc.com) if you have any ideas.

Monthly radio test before the MPNC meeting .. radios are available for loan if needed.

### **City and County Representatives**

Emily Rogers/Desley Brooks were not represented this month, and have still not provided answers to our several formal questions. Constituents of district 6 are invited to ask Ms Brooks for feedback directly, and Jose Dorado will be writing her another formal letter.

Jean Quan was present, as was Jennifer Crawford.

- Plastic bag ordinance will probably go into force in January next year. City is expecting lawsuits from the plastics industry to try to thwart this.
- Pamphlets on the litter enforcement program (includes abandoned vehicles and illegal dumping on public property) made available.
- Sunday's in the Redwood concert series starting shortly. Waste Management problems: handouts available on how to report problems.
- Brookdale Parks "Parks for Peace" event coming up August 11, same day as Laurel Street fair.
- Also the retrofit funds available – see the newsletter. Only about 15% of Oakland homes are adequately retrofitted.
- State assembly member Sandre Swanson's bill to give local control back to the Oakland Unified School Board is awaiting senate approval, and looks likely to pass if given Don Perata's blessing.

Darryl Stewart reported for Nate Miley.

- Yesterday board of supervisors approved a letter requiring Waste Management to end the lockout. It is not yet deemed an environmental/health hazard, but this may happen.
- Managed to clear up budget deficit without cuts to services
- Third annual "healthy living for seniors and those who love them" on Friday July 20 at Lake Merritt. 9.00am onwards.
- Supervisor Miley lives on Fairfax, so knows in detail about the crime issues there.

## **Community Policing Reports**

Araina Richards reported.

James Enders from code enforcement reported he is looking into the problem at High and Fairfax (property with broken windows). Owner wants to use bullet-proof glass. Trash cans must not be visible from the street. Current dispute will cause this rule to be suspended until the lock-out is over. There is also a problem at High and Virginia. Krista is looking into this, but code enforcement will also look at it. James will be back at a subsequent meeting (after the Waste Management lockout dispute is ended) to go over in detail the code requirements to screen trash cans from view from the street.

Araina handed out the crime stats. Anti-Smoking ordinance currently under discussion; follow up on this next month.

## Police Reports

(7.30pm break for police reports): Lt Williams and officer Frank Rojas. PSO Egan introduced. Welcomed by all. Burglaries and robberies continue to be a major focus. If people report a crime but cannot commit to follow up with help in prosecuting the case this can cause the case to fail. Several stolen cars from the Pierson/Redding area. Officers on patrol should be contacted via dispatch. Email not read while on patrol, but will reach officers eventually. PSO Egan cell 773 0739, email [pegan@oaklandnet.com](mailto:pegan@oaklandnet.com) Tues-Fri. Urgent calls should go through dispatch (777-3211 for emergency, and 777-3333 non-emergency).

Also working on recyclers entering your property.

Lt Williams spoke about the homicides on Fairfax and near Brookdale park. She is concerned that there is a perception that the police are doing little to combat the crime. She finds this to be especially apparent on the Maxwell Park email listserv since it's so large. Statistics were presented to show that overall, crime is down in her area (PSA 5). Three arrests were recently made in regards to the retaliation shooting fest that occurred near Fairfax and which had many neighbors concerned enough to go to the City Hall meeting on Tuesday night. She wanted to continue to inform the community that there has been much activity and work from OPD on this. Additional patrols are working the area. Officers stop there to write up case notes/reports. Jean Quan noted that her staff members often drive through areas of concern called out on the listserv and that she is working to turn Brookdale Rec Center into a teen center. Other examples of action by OPD include: frequent City staff drive-throughs; graffiti removal; shrine removal policy for crime sites; Youth Uprising sending over counseling; area neighbors looking to regroup and build a better neighborhood spirit there.

The lieutenant is extremely concerned about the potential negative twist that regularly occurs on the Maxwell Park listserv. Many times residents ask why OPD isn't doing enough but she wants to express that OPD's job is only half the job needed to get things done. There is a lot of breakdown in the legal system that allows offenders to go back on the streets again and again. She's not sure those on the listserv that are expressing negative attitudes understand what OPD is working against when it comes to the legal part of the process. The OPD's job is to get the criminal to jail. There was a small discussion on what it means to respond to someone on the list serv that is spewing negativity. Many mentioned that answering the emails directly stirs up so much more that they feel it has become counter productive. The Lt. stressed that she does read most messages every day, even if she does not reply directly. She is concerned that the morale of her police officers could be affected with continued negative perspectives blasted out on the email. She doesn't want to get to a point where she is denying access to her team members of the listserv because there is too much negativity. She also notes that the email listserv is not a way to get an answer to a particular issue

related to crime. Many people post thinking that Lt. Williams and others are reading their emails and will act accordingly.

We were shown a list of arrests for our PSA ... 750 people in the last 2 months. Some people arrested multiple times on the same charges. Very frustrating for police. There have been appeals to the DA to help resolve the apparent revolving door justice system. Small discussion/question on the legalization of drugs. Lt. Williams made the point that even if you made drugs legal, people need money to purchase drugs and that money will continue to come from crime. Drugs themselves are only a small part of the problem, but are the root of many of the other crimes.

Enforcement is working (and the statistics prove it). However, the justice system is failing. It was mentioned that those in the room are supportive of the police and appreciative for what has been given to us by Lt. Williams and her staff and that we wish others would be more thoughtful when apportioning blame. Lt. Williams expressed some of her frustrations on the job and gave the example of how a juvenile was recently arrested with assault rifle. She asked, "Why should a youth even be carrying such a weapon and how did he get it?" Another juvenile was arrested on four separate occasions for the same offenses. Where are the parents and families supporting these people? It is very frustrating for the officers to arrest someone one day only to arrest the same person again a few days later committing the same crime over again. Although we had to break the meeting to close the venue, there was much agreement that we need to try to look beyond that which is not happening and focus on that which is. The group in the room unanimously supported the efforts of Lt. Williams and her team.

## **Guest Speakers**

Kitty Kelly Epstein reported on the "Dellums Task Forces".

In particular the community policing task force. Maxwell Park is high on the list of groups that show how community organizing works.

Mayor condemns the Waste Management lockout.

Mayor is meeting all the OPD shifts and officers.

800 people got involved in the task forces when they first formed, and another 200 joined subsequently. They have found consensus (66%) on a wide variety of topics, and made recommendations (now available on [www.mayorrondellums.org](http://www.mayorrondellums.org)) which are now being implemented.

Often schools do not have full quota for teachers ... lots of change. Need to recruit teachers in Oakland itself. Now implementing a recruitment fair to help people through the process of applying.

Jeff Baker reported directly from the Community Policing TF (co-convenor). About

17-18 people from all over the city. Interested in Community Policing. All with different definitions of the term. Have come to consensus on what the term means. PSOs are not the only community police officers ... every officer is. Mayor is placing focus and attention on this subject. Gaps in coverage, lack of coordination between different service providers. Need a single director to coordinate. At least 4 out of 6 major recommendations already in place. The single director is one of the 2 yet to be addressed. Still more work ... anyone who wants to join TF can; new "term" start in the fall.

Some new TFs will start in the fall (bi-lingual education, homelessness, public works). The point is to make Oakland a model city. Not a problem, a challenge.

There are about 225 recommendations; implementation may take time.

Two representatives from the Guardian Angels were present to take questions. GA are a safety street patrol, worldwide. Foot Patrols, trained in citizens arrest procedures, self defense etc. What happened in Grand Lake area? Drive at present is to recruit a local force. This is an unpaid job; if people want a patrol, they must volunteer to provide it. Grand Lake is taking time to gather numbers. GA is a way to get involved if you want to make a difference. Currently there are 5 people covering the entire city. Need 10-20 before it is viable.

### **Old Business and Announcements**

Increasing diversity in the MPNC... we are moving forward on this. Please contact Jose Dorado

Meeting adjourned 9.04 pm.