

Maxwell Park Neighborhood Council

Monthly Meeting—Wednesday, August 8, 2007

Location: Maxwell Park Elementary School, Fleming Ave
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

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

Jose Dorado (Chair)	Nafeesa Ahmed-Bey	Mary-Louise Newling
Krista Gulbranson (Treasurer)	Kim Whi	James Anders
Jan Hetherington (Membership)	Helen Da Silva	Gus Argyropoulos
Nick Stoughton (Minutes)	Florence Blackburn (OPD)	Helen Argyropoulos
Mireille Edwards	Lt Sharon Williams (OPD)	Nancy Karigaca
Adelle Foley	Carlos Arriaga	Steve Eckert
Joe Davis	Daria Schwarzschild	Shirley Burton
Luan Strauss	Carol Davis	Susan Scolnick
Jennifer Crawford	Malia Saulala	Sisila Tauaho
Emily Rogers	Claire Antonetti	Sarah Hippolito
Araina Richards	Olis Simmons (YU Speaker)	Demetria Huntsman (YU Speaker)

Welcome and Introductions

Jose Dorado (Chair) welcomed us and called the meeting to order at 7.12pm. Introductions made. Guest speaker is Youth Uprising.

July minutes were available only on the website, not printed at the meeting. No motion to approve.

Neighborhood Action Teams (NATs)

- NAT (Neighborhood Action Team) Program – Sarah Hipolito reported. Metro report includes Maxwell Park section, talking about party in the park.
- Traffic NAT—Adelle Foley reported: Met with Mr Ho about the Redding/High Street problems (facilitated by Araina Richards). There has been a response, but it has not yet been digested by the NAT. Will report next month on this.
- Crime NAT –Jose Dorado reported: There is still no current chair, and this NAT is currently in abeyance. However, we discussed the dangerous dog problem. The dog that attacked and killed another is currently on a 10 day hold for behavior (and health) observation. There have been several other dog problems recently. It is important to report problems if there is to be any follow-up. If a dog is found to be dangerous, it does not automatically lead to euthanasia.

It is important that victims always write up and report all issues as input to any hearing. Once the determination has been made, new reports will only affect any following complaint. Araina suggested that the council write a letter in support of this particular case. ACTION: board to write a letter to animal control indicating that the dog in question has threatened others.

Jennifer Crawford reported that the municipal code is being considered for revision in this area. There will be a meeting August 29 on what the Municipal code should say about dogs. Meeting at Dimond Library at 7.00pm.

Claire Antonetti reported about a dog that got into her house, injured her cat, defecated in the house, and caused considerable damage. Despite several attempts to make a report, Animal Control made it very hard to file anything, requiring intervention from Desley Brooks, OPD and others.

Animal Control have indicated a willingness to come to an MPNC meeting and speak. ACTION: Board to arrange this.

7.30pm BREAK for police reports: see below.

- Blight & Beautification—Claire Antonetti reported: will start the steering committee for the gateway project in the fall. Will start work on Maxwell Park itself shortly. Moving the regular cleanup at Walgreens to 3rd Sunday every month. Jan Hetherington reported that she had had some response from Walgreens regarding several questions discussed last month. More information next month.
- 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. Volunteers needed for handing out flyers.
- Maxwell Park Schools Together– welcome to Dr Newling, the new principal of Maxwell Park Elementary School. Thanks for allowing us to use the school. The following report was submitted:
MaxParkFamilies would like to continue to encourage MaxwellPark Residents with children to join our listserve they may contact me the moderator of MaxParkFamilies(Ashley) at maxparkfamilies@yahoo.com.
Representatives from Maxwell Park School Together and the Maxwell Park Community attended a reception on July 18th to welcome the new Principal of Maxwell Park School, Dr. Mary-Louise Newling.
Dr. Newling lives in the Laurel neighborhood and stated that she is very enthusiastic about being involved with the Maxwell Park School Community during the INCUBATION/New School Design process that will take place during the 2007-2008 school year and after the completion of the Design Process the Newly designed school will begin in the fall of 2008. She stated that she welcomes the communities' ongoing participation.
Again all those interested in becoming involved with the efforts to support Maxwell Park Elementary School may contact us at SupportMaxwellParkSchool@yahoo.com .
We should have more to report regarding the Maxwell Park School Design Process once the new school year has begun at the next MPNCP meeting.
If you have any questions please feel free to contact Ashley Thomask at kellerthomsak@yahoo.com or 532-2070.
- Neighborhood Watch Coordinator – Jan Hetherington reported: National Night Out was great success, with 14 parties. 3 groups walked around all the parties.
- CORE/MPERT: Nick Stoughton handed out homework - a quick quiz on emergency preparedness.
Monthly radio test before the MPNC meeting .. radios are available for loan if needed.

Treasurers Report

Tabled in the interest of time.

City and County Representatives

Emily Rogers reported for Desley Brooks:

- New “Shop and Save in Oakland” directory being prepared. Concert series information handed out.
- Response on Pierson street paving situation. Nobody had heard any response prior to the meeting. Emily reported that not all of the new paving would need to be ripped out in order to install the new traffic circle.
- NNO has 36 parties in district 6. Several Maxwell Park parties received official commendations from Desley. Nancy Karigaca (Wyman) received hers tonight.

Jennifer Crawford reported for Jean Quan

- Brookdale Parks “Parks for Peace” event coming up August 11, same day as Laurel Street fair. Jan Hetherington asked for volunteers to help with the Laurel Street fair MPNC booth.
- Thank you for NNO – district 4 had 80 parties. Thanks to Jean for the ice Cream!

Darryl Stewart/Nate Miley not present.

Community Policing Reports

Araina Richards reported.

Annual total of arrests in PSA5 now up to 849 since February (approximately another 100 since last month). There will be a meeting August 20 at 6.30 with the DA at Eastmont substation about prosecuting the arrests. Many people simply released without any charge after arrest; frequently re-arrested. This is very bad for both police and citizen morale. Several NCPCs will be present. We should co-ordinate our speakers to ensure everyone gets a chance to be heard.

James Anders from code enforcement followed up on last months reports. The High/Fairfax and High/Virginia blight issues are both being prosecuted.

Trash cans must not be visible from the street. The relevant sections of the Oakland Municipal Code were distributed.

Police Reports

(7.30pm break for police reports): Lt Williams handed out the crime stats and gave a tutorial on how to read them. Typically they are for the last month. Bottom right box on front page shows a comparison of how many crimes of different categories there were in the month of the report, and in the preceding month. Second page lists the locations (not for domestic violence or rape). On front page the left column shows when during the day crimes happen. For example, 32.65% of the crime in our area occurs between 3.00am and 4.00am

Top right box is of little interest outside OPD (shows how may staff hours used on different crimes). Top middle box shows which day of the week crimes occur on. 36.73% occur on Saturday (last month). Ignore the “count” and “index” columns.

Last month there was a ride-along which went well. Araina will try to arrange other ride-alongs, staggering the times from 7.00pm till early hours.

Thanks to NNO bock-party captains for a good night out.

Guest Speakers

Four leaders from Youth Uprising gave presentation on Measure Y funding, and the Violence Prevention program. The City has invested in YU, what have they done? Youth Leadership and community transformation. This last point is not necessarily just Youth. Provide counseling services, medical, stress/anger management. Peace Making program. Building the next generation of civic activists and NCPC leaders. Building relationships with OPD. This is particularly important, since many youth feel the police are the enemy. Police co-sponsor some YU events.

About \$2M has been invested in YU by the city, Alameda county about \$11M. There is a large return on investment in terms of violence prevention, job creation, etc.

Peace Making program; often we have mediation opportunities to resolve problems (e.g. WMAC lockout). But mediation harder in crime situations. YU able to step in and work to prevent issues from spiralling out of control, even in criminal situations. Prevent the violence, and particularly prevent it from escalating (e.g. revenge murders). YU have helped in at least 17 cases. 48 PeaceMaking agreements signed. For example in the Fairfax Ave problems a month or two ago.

Video (made entirely by YU) gave background on how the Peace Making program helps. Homicide rate clearly tied to unemployment rate (which is at a high at the moment).

Youth often feel disenfranchised, YU empowers such people to feel they are as important as anyone. Make referrals to the peacemaking team if you aren't sure if a situation needs to go to the police. If you have an opportunity to create internships etc at your place of work, please let YU know. Give money! Not just to YU ... any non-profit that helps the poor.

There has been criticism of YU because they promote "gutter rappers". They meet youth where the youth are: they don't have dress code, don't have musical taste requirements, etc. Older people have for time immemorial found the taste of the younger generation to be unacceptable to them. YU makes no apology for accepting youth culture.

Not about "us and them", just "us". YU is training city and county officials about youth culture. We need to help YU with working in the NCPCs to get the message out. Invite all the NCPCs to a summit at YU. MPNC weakness is lack of youth.

Old Business and Announcements

Increasing diversity in the MPNC... Jose Dorado and Shirley Burton are spearheading an effort to ensure that the neighborhood council properly represents all of the ethnicities in the neighborhood. All interested should contact them.

Meeting adjourned 8.57 pm.