

## Maxwell Park Neighborhood Council

Monthly Meeting—Wednesday, September 12, 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](http://www.maxwellparknc.com).

### Attendees

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

|                                      |                          |                                  |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>Jose Dorado</b> (Chair)           | Gregg Brown              | Mary-Louise Newling              |
| <b>Robert McGillis</b> (Vice Chair)  |                          | James Anders (Building Services) |
| <b>Jan Hetherington</b> (Membership) | Helen Da Silva           | Dave White (OPD)                 |
| <b>Nick Stoughton</b> (Minutes)      | Florence Blackburn (OPD) | Wilbert Fleming (OPD)            |
| Helen Da Silva                       | Lt Sharon Williams (OPD) | Nancy Karigaca                   |
| Adelle Foley                         | Moyra Contreras          | Ted Jew (OPD)                    |
| Joe Davis                            | Robert Tanaka            | Shirley Burton                   |
| Angela Gums                          | Keith Gums               | Darryl Stewart (Alameda County)  |
| Ashley Thomsak                       | Roberto Costa            | John Russo (City Attorney)       |
| Giovanna Otfinowski                  | Claire Antonetti         |                                  |
| Araina Richards (NSC/OPD)            | Willie Griffin           |                                  |

### Welcome and Introductions

Jose Dorado (Chair) welcomed us and called the meeting to order at 7.10pm. Introductions made. Guest speaker is John Russo (Oakland City Attorney).

July minutes: motion to approve. Approved unanimously.

August minutes: motion to approve. Approved unanimously.

### Neighborhood Action Teams (NATs)

- NAT (Neighborhood Action Team) Program – Sarah Hipolito sick.
- Traffic NAT—Adelle Foley reported: will meet 9/18 at Nancy Karigaca's house, to discuss Mr Ho's response to the Redding/High junction. New enforcement spot is Macarthur/Pierson area.
- Crime NAT –Jose Dorado reported: There is still no current chair, and this NAT is currently in abeyance. Anyone interested in a leadership or other role in this NAT should contact Jose.
- Blight & Beautification—Claire Antonetti reported: will start the steering committee for the gateway project at Mills last Thursday of the month. Will start work on Maxwell Park itself shortly. Hope to involve more than one NAT for this. The regular cleanup at Walgreens is 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday every month – this coming Sunday, following the Day in The Park (Saturday). Jan Hetherington reported that she had had some response from Walgreens regarding several

questions discussed last month. Cleanups last only a few days ... Walgreens do not seem to take responsibility. Pigeon spikes have been installed. Meeting Walgreens management at the end of the month or thereabouts.

- Community Building NAT – Helen Da Silva reported: Second Annual Day in the Park – Maxwell Park Event will be this Saturday, September 15. Sound system problem solved. Lots of activities planned. All welcome.
- Maxwell Park Schools Together– Ashley Thomsak reported. First design team meeting next week (9/19) for Maxwell Park Elementary School. Weekly commitment for those involved. Membership is open. Maxwell Park families has playgroups etc ... link from website with details. MaxPark Families will be working with B&B for the Maxwell Park project.  
*7.30pm BREAK for police reports: see below.*
- Neighborhood Watch Coordinator – Jan Hetherington reported: email discussion around having block parties to paint house numbers on sidewalks, and the "Lawn Parties" are starting to erupt. 30-40 volunteers helped to distribute flyers & brochures.
- CORE/MPERT: Nick Stoughton did a quick quiz on emergency preparedness. Monthly radio test before the MPNC meeting .. radios are available for loan if needed.

## Treasurers Report

Krista not present. She will be leaving the board at the end of January. Open for nominations.

## City and County Representatives

Emily Rogers/Desley Brooks: not present.

Jennifer Crawford/Jean Quan: not present.

Darryl Stewart/Nate Miley:

- Budget was passed in July. Cleared a \$54M deficit without cutting jobs or services. Much better than usual!
- Both Darryl and Nate plan to be at the Day in the Park

## Community Policing Reports

Araina Richards reported.

2007-8 budget approved (\$700). Mayor is having second town hall meeting next Monday. There will also be a second party at Defermery Park on Saturday, following the Day in the Park. All NNO hosts are invited to a Thank You party on 9/26 (6.30 pm) at City Hall.

Volunteers to patrol Oakland parks are being sought.

## Police Reports

(7.30pm break for police reports): Officer Bruce White introduced himself. Has been working sat the airport, but now redeployed to regular beat. Will be patrolling the area. If neighbors are stopped for speeding etc, they won't get breaks! In the next few months he will be trying to get to know us better.

Officer Fleming ... new academy graduate (Feb 07). Was on Beat 28 for first 6 months. Now at Eastmont.

Officer Ted Jew beat 21, Was PSO for PSA5 for a time. Works other side of High Street. Often involved with same the offenders from Maxwell Park. Enforcement along High Street ... Fairfax area, and by the Fire Station.

Lt Williams: Ron Johnso will be moving to another beat. New PSO will be C Stone. Will be coming to Day in the Park, and to next meeting. Was PSO for 26Y.

Araina handed out the crime stats. Auto theft remains our highest problem.

Beat 28X is one of the lowest on the "stressor" list.

If you see a crime in progress, or suspicious activity, most important thing is to be a good witness. Get details clear

## Guest Speakers

John Russo, Oakland City Attorney.

Today is the seventh anniversary of his taking office as the first elected city attorney for Oakland. People have said that "if you make a claim against Oakland, they'll just settle and write you a check". In fact 93% of claims get 0. City is self-insured (means we have no insurance!) Money paid out is directly from the general fund. So any lawsuit etc is taking money from crime fighting, and te like. Unless the lawsuit results in money paid to Oakland. Average cost is actually \$2-3 million less than it was 7 years ago. Number of claims is dramatically lower now than it was. Only if the claim is good and legitimate, CA will settle it as fast as possible to save legal costs. Half the number of claims against OPD than 5 years ago.

This summer's garbage lockout ... not over yet from a legal perspective. CA defaulted the contract with WM on the 5<sup>th</sup> business day of the lockout. Got injunction ... kept up the pressure all the way. City believes it is owed \$3-4 million by WM ... as well as what the public are owed.

Neighborhood law court. Sued Oakland Housing Authority, and Caltrans. In the sub-prime mortgage fiasco several cases where landlords are defaulting, and failing to pay the utilities. But tenant has paid all bills. City Attorney working to sort this out. Blight problems also following from property defaults. Hotline being setup. Will be suing banks etc. if they evict tenants who have paid all bills.

Questions submitted from residents: Military leave pay.

Relationship between Bey family members / Your Black Muslim Bakery. City Attorney is not District Attorney. Lawyer for the city only. Main loan was made in 1996 for 1,4 million defaulted 1998. Filed for breach of contract in 2000, got judgment ... got interest, but company bankrupt. Take better care now to ensure better collateral for loans. Better due diligence would not have prevented the criminal acts.

GMRS ... no answer, but handed out copy of CFR 95.

Video recording: is admissible evidence. Cameras watching an intersection are legal. What is not permissible is warrantless searches of private property.

What has happened with the Caltrans lawsuit? Many fewer dumpings. Better responsiveness. The conditions were abysmal, now much better, Got a lot of pushback from Sacramento, but that's OK. Got a decent settlement, everyone doing a better job etc.

Roberta Costa from 24Y on getting more police officers ... want more than 800, currently only at 720. Measure Y was an attempt to give everyone everything. There is a surplus of funds; problem is in recruitment, not in financing. Hard to get into the academy. Even harder to graduate. Problem is actually nationwide.

## Old Business and Announcements

Moyra Contreras reported about the Melrose Leadership Academy, who have taken over the Elizabeth Sherman site. Dual immersion process for K-8, so anyone speaking either English or Spanish on entry will leave speaking both. Delighted to be working with MPNC. \$10,000 grant to expand the garden there to grow all of their own vegetables etc. Great tool for teaching about nutrition.

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. Kickoff meeting next Tuesday 7.00pm Open to all. 3006 Monticello.

Two workers from Farmer Joe's asked to make a statement. One ex-employee, who spoke at an earlier meeting, was observed stealing meat, and was terminated for that. He claimed that he was fired for Union organizing activity. The current employees feel they have no voice in this dispute, only the union spreading slander. Current employees are happy with their employers. Union will not allow a private vote. Instead they are harassing and hassling employees until they sign something in the union's favor.

Response: Useful to hear direct from the employees, and not just the principals.

James Anders ... code enforcement. 3100 High (@Virginia). Case against property ongoing ... partial compliance. Boxes are potential fire-hazard ... Fire Dept to investigate.

Meeting adjourned 9.01 pm.