

Maxwell Park Neighborhood Council

Monthly Meeting—Wednesday, February 13, 2008

Location: Maxwell Park Elementary School, Room 16

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

The Attendance List has moved to a separate document. Please see "Feb08-Attendance".

Welcome Comments & Introductions

Jose Dorado (Chair) welcomed us, and called the meeting to order at 7.07 p.m. Introductions made. Sarah Hippolito acted as a door-welcomer; we will be doing this from now on. January Minutes amended by correction of spelling errors, Approved by unanimous consent.

Board Reports

Jose announced that the board elections will be held during this meeting for Chair, Membership Secretary, and Treasurer.

Currently have 768 members on the listserv. We currently have 10-22 sponsors of the website, who get advertising on our website (\$25). Any MP business, or business owner, is welcome to use this service.

We now have a community noticeboard at Walgreen's. See Jan if you have something to post.

Police Reports

Capt Rachal was present, and gave us some of his background; he has worked in Oakland for his entire career. This neighborhood is where he grew up (Monticello). Fortunate to have a good balance between experience and youth in this command area. Looking to involve the NCPCs etc to help build success. Question on traffic enforcement. Traffic engineering can't do much. Traffic NAT to work with the issue at 55th and Walnut for enforcement. There is an issue with capacity, and OPD has to get the most it can out of the officers it has. Often each officer has to do 2 or 3 jobs. Another question (Claire Antonnetti) suggested that crime was pretty low in Maxwell Park at present, and is this by design? Things have not been too bad recently. This is a result of a collective effort from everyone, not just OPD. Some luck involved. There is an increase in graffiti and other minor things like that. In general, it is better to call dispatch to get someone out rather than direct to the PSO. Call Araina if direct calls don't work. Araina will work with officer Clement (PSO) to address the graffiti issue.

Jose asked Capt Rachal if he could present in June, and how to best coordinate with him over issues. Capt Rachal will be closely involved with MPNC, and will work closely with the NSC (Araina). Knows he can't be everywhere at once. Problems should be solved before they get to his attention! Araina can also arrange ride-alongs with officers to show how the dept works.

There are now three areas, and Capt Rachal runs one of them. So far, things have been settling down after the re-organization. Only just really getting to grips with how the new setup works.

Lt Williams presented the January Crime Stats. Crime Reduction Team arrested person for the double homicide at High and Fairfax last year. Several other prominent arrests in recent weeks. Often citizen input is the key thing that tips an investigation into a success.

Strategic plan for 2008 is being put together.

Police Report – Araina Richards reporting:

- Speed bump applications available. 70% of the neighbors on a street need to say they want one. Not a quick process. Most people generally appreciate them, and do not feel they depreciate values.
- Handed out form for showing how to take descriptions of people / cars. ACTION Nick to post this on the website.
- Need to gather top three priorities for the police on this beat for this year. This will be a major agenda item for next month.

City & County Representatives

Councilwoman Desley Brooks: no representative.

Councilmember Jean Quan—Michael Johnson reporting:

- Presentation on sexually-exploited minors to NCPCs is available. We had a presentation on Human Trafficking recently. Jose will work with Michael on this.
- Has been following up on traffic issues following the recent emails about speed bumps
- Graffiti issues; please report this whenever you see it. Also cc Michael on such issues.
- Various literature handed out.
- There has been a rumor about Jean Quan running for the At Large position. However, this is merely a rumor!

Supervisor Nate Miley's Office—no representative.

Ed Labayog from building services code enforcement:

- o deals with code enforcement for all private property, both residential and commercial
- o trash and debris
- o GRAFFITI! Since this seems to be a hot issue tonight; code enforcement principally handle graffiti around public property
- o Illegal dumping
- o If you see a vacant property that is looking obviously vacant (mail piling up, weeds, broken windows, etc), call it in!
- o Seismic safety ordinance. Helps people to get through the bureaucracy around retrofitting. Single \$250 fee instead of a percentage. Also reimbursement of costs up to \$5000 for new homeowners (less than 1 year).
- o 238-4793 if you have problems with the permit process.
- o Call Graffiti abatement hotline for new taggings.

Neighborhood Action Teams (NATs)

- *NAT (Neighborhood Action Team) Program – Sarah Hippolito reporting:* No Metro article this month.
- *Traffic NAT—Adelle Foley reporting:* Still trying to recontact Mr Ho from traffic engineering about High and Redding following recent accident. Also trying to find out why there is another new traffic light on High. New hot-spot at Walnut and 55th. Issue is speeding on 55th. Commercial vehicles parked on 55th.
- *Drugs and Crime:* still a vacancy here. Anyone interested in helping to reform this NAT should contact Jose.
- *Blight & Beautification—JRobert McGillis reporting:* Third Sunday cleanup this coming Sunday. MacArthur and Pierson project grant application completed. Traffic Circle at Pierson / Macarthur being tried out at present. Earth day April 19. A project to beautify Maxwell Park (the park) has started.
- *Community Building NAT – no report.*
- *Neighborhood Watch Coordinator – Jan Hetherington reporting:* There are still many people who are not part of a Neighborhood Watch on their block and need to sign up. You can contact Jan for more information.
- *Maxwell Park Schools Together– Ashley Thomsak reporting:* New Maxwell Park Elementary school will open next September. Various handouts available.
- *Diversity & Outreach Committee (NAT) – Shirley reporting:* Clipboard has been circulated asking for volunteers and projects for us to work on. Looking at a May Day (May 1) celebration at MPE, 6.00pm-9.00pm. Barbecue.
- *CORE & MPERT Report—Nick Stoughton reporting:* CORE Annual Citywide Exercise is scheduled for April 26 2008. We need to decide shortly on MPERT involvement. This year the focus will be on First Aid, as well as establishing the Incident Command Post. If you are interested in participating in the exercise (especially in the planning part of it), please contact Nick.

Guest Speaker: Adam Parascandola (Oakland Animal Services)

- Previously worked in humane law enforcement in Washington DC.
- Ran a spay/neuter program
- Now runs the Oakland Animal Shelter on 29th Ave. Facility is modern, clean and well provided for. Started last July. Has presented at a citywide meeting, now trying to get around the various districts.
- Number one problem right now is the call and dispatch system, which does not work well at all. Do not have the personnel. Looking at how to improve this right now. Have been very short staffed. Only had 8 animal control officers for whole city, including those behind the desk at the shelter. This means that only a couple of people out on the street. Hiring new officers, so situation there is improving. Have managed to get two part time new-hires to exclusively handle dead animals. This frees up officers to handle dangerous and other live-animal situations.
- History of Oakland Animal Services has been chaotic, with high turnover of staff, little leadership etc. Trying to create a plan and vision for the department, changing the way they do business, etc.
- New officers have joined because they want a career in animal services, not as a stepping stone to somewhere else, or because their previous job was closed etc.
- There are many people who really don't know how to care for their animals; animal services needs to be able to educate and not just enforce.
- Late last year we had an issue where a dog mauled and killed another neighbor's dog. The dog was held by animal services, and then returned because it had only killed once. The law has two levels of dangerous:
 - potentially dangerous (has attacked once)
 - vicious (attacks on humans, multiple attacks on other dogs)
- Potentially dangerous dogs have restrictions, including spay/neuter, strict leash laws, muzzling, notices etc
- Important to have a full history of bad behavior. Often “minor” issues are not reported, so when a dog is picked up for the first time it may get returned since animal control have no history.
- It is not illegal to own a dog that is somewhat dog aggressive. But as an owner, you must take responsibility and take appropriate steps to prevent problems.
- If a potentially dangerous dog is surrendered to animal control, it will be euthanized, not adopted out.
- If you have an issue with barking dogs (report via internet or phone), the owner will be contacted to tell them about the problem, with advice. If there appears to be an abuse problem, an officer will be dispatched. The caller will also be sent a letter with next steps. If two neighbors complain about a dog, it is escalated to Arturo Sanchez as a nuisance issue.
- Roaming dogs: who should be called? Best thing is to call Police non-emergency. Animal Control officers will be dispatched if available, otherwise regular officers.

Announcements

- Elections for Chair, Treasurer and Membership Secretary. In accordance with the bylaws, the elections have been advertised appropriately for three months, calling for nominations. Unfortunately, we do not have a quorum present at this meeting to hold the election (minimum 20 neighbors required).

Broke for networking at 8:50 pm.

Next meeting – Thursday, December 13, 2007 at 5.30 pm at Melrose Leadership Academy School. January meeting will be Jan 9th at Maxwell Park Elementary school, 7.00-9.00pm.

Nick Stoughton, Minutes Secretary.

510-388-1413: nick@maxwellparknc.com

Contact info: <http://www.maxwellparknc.com>

Board

Jose Dorado	Chair
Robert McGillis	Vice Chair
Jan Hetherington	Membership Secretary

Krista Gulbransen Treasurer
Nick Stoughton Minutes Secretary

Neighborhood Action Teams

Sarah Hipolito NAT Coordinator
Claire Antonetti Blight & Beautification NAT
Helen da Silva Co-Chair Community Building NAT
Krista Gulbransen Co-Chair Community Building NAT
Susan Scolnick Crime & Drugs NAT
Adelle Foley Traffic NAT
Lisa Cartolano Education NAT
Nick Stoughton CORE/MPERT
Araïna Richards NSC-Beat 28X
Barbara Taylor Diversity and Outreach NAT

Each person can be contacted by going to the www.maxwellparknc.com website.

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