

Maxwell Park Neighborhood Council
Monthly Meeting—Wednesday, March 12, 2008
Location: Maxwell Park Elementary School, Multi-Purpose Room
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 “Mar08-Attendance”.

Welcome Comments & Introductions

Jose Dorado (Chair) welcomed us, and called the meeting to order at 7.00 p.m. Abbreviated introductions made. Adele Foley and Krista Gulbransen acted as a door-welcoming committee. February Minutes amended by correction of spelling errors, Approved by unanimous consent.

City & County Representatives

Councilwoman Desley Brooks: no representative.

Councilmember Jean Quan—Michael Johnson reporting:

- Jean will be here shortly.
- Please feel free to contact Michael at mljohnson@okalandnet.com 510 238 4738
- Graffiti issues; please report this whenever you see it. Also cc Michael on such issues.
- There has been a rumor about Jean Quan running for the At Large position. However, this is merely a rumor!
- Speeding on Virginia issues; Jean's office has been active in getting additional patrols active here.

Supervisor Nate Miley's Office—no representative.

Board Reports

Jose announced that the board elections are running during the meeting. They were postponed last month when we failed to reach a quorum as defined by the bylaws. If you are a resident of beat 28X, Maxwell Park, you should be voting during this meeting. Ballot results will be announced during the meeting.

Currently have 768 members on the listserv. There are also 20-22 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.

Neighborhood Action Teams (NATs)

- *NAT (Neighborhood Action Team) Program – Sarah Hippolito reporting:* Metro article on new gateway project (McArthur to High) this month; front page.
- *Traffic NAT—Adelle Foley reporting:* Traffic concern log being passed around. Please feel free to give details about areas you know to be bad. Be specific .. time of day and location as well as nature of problem.
- *Drugs and Crime:* still a vacancy here. Anyone interested in helping to reform this NAT should contact Jose.
- *Blight & Beautification—Claire Antonetti reporting:* Grant for MacArthur project in the works. 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. Daffodils are coming up in all the places we planted them!
- *Community Building NAT –* Planning the third annual day in the park. Also planning a group work day with Habitat for Humanity East Bay in June or so.

- *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. Program needs a little revitalizing in Maxwell Park recently, so expect a surge of new activity soon.
- *Maxwell Park Schools Together– no report.*
- *Diversity & Outreach Committee (NAT) – Shirley Burton reporting:* May 1 celebration/Fun Day at MPE, 6.00pm-9.00pm. Barbecue.
- *CORE & MPERT Report—Nick Stoughton reporting:* CORE Annual Citywide Exercise is scheduled for April 26 2008. MPERT will not be involved this year. 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, please contact Nick, and he will put you in contact with other local groups. Victim volunteers also needed.

Police Reports

Police Report – Araina Richards/Keith Clement reporting:

Officer Clement, our PSO, described the operational plan for area 3. The ne3w plan has been in action since Feb 16. Objectives are to decrease robberies, gun crimes, and other specific goals. Traffic is a high priority in this beat Drug hotline has lead to a probation search on one local property. 238-DRUG is the drug hot line. This is anonymous tip line. Don't just call once and forget it. Having lots of fresh information helps in getting affidavits, warrants,etc.

Since the beginning of the year, the afternoon watch has issued over 500 traffic tickets for area 3. High/Virginia, the Virginia corridor has been a recent target.

Officer Clement presented the February Crime Stats. Most significant crime areas have shown significant reductions from January to February.

Information on drug hotline, neighborhood watch, helpful telephone numbers, etc handed out.

Despite budget problems, the NSCs and xxx will be holding workshops on May 31.

Guest Speaker: Mayor Ronald Dellums

Jean Quan introduced the mayor. There have been a number of long running projects that have recently come to fruition. The police contracts are finally in place. Budget for Mayor's program to recruit new officers is now approved. New patrol system now in place.

Jean wanted to bring the mayor to an NCPC that was well organized and did more than just gripe about the problems!

Dellums:

Thanks to Jean and all. Come to hear and listen, to ask questions as well as to answer them. Wants to listen. Some context: colleagues in OPD have three districts. Many will recall that mayor was sworn in Jan 07. Early March 07 announced the intent to move to geographic policing. Community policing. How do we get to the goal we want? Chief suggested the geographic approach. Took a year to implement. 12 hour shifts needed to make it work, and needed arbitration etc. Now all the pieces are in place. Convened all dept heads how to best coord all city services into these areas. Parks and recs, etc. This is now being done. Work with other agencies and non-profits to make this a reality. Important to let the chief be chief. Give him the power and tools he needs. Took arbitration to get there, but both sides are smiling. For the first time, the chief has the authority he needs. This is a sea-change.

In January, state of the city address, called for 803 officers by the end of the year. We knew that the problems with attrition would be there, but not properly planned for. 2002-2004 there was a freeze on hiring of police. This is what is caused the catch-up games. Focus the discussion on getting to 803. Concurrent academies, etc. Sat down with a task force of 15, long days, figure out budget etc on how to implement this. \$7,000,000 budget needed. This is in measure Y fund for hiring police already. City Attorney made a ruling that said this measure Y funding should be used for this purpose. General fund coverage if needed.

Crime and violence is not singularly or solely a police problem. Lets get to the police strength currently authorized. But lets also address the other issues that lead to crime. Poverty, education, jobs etc. These are issues that have been neglected, but need our passion and focus. Lets not just look at the number of 803 and whether that is enough or not. Lets get to that number first, then we can look at if it is enough. But lets not forget the other issues that cause the crime.

Geographic accountability becomes the basis for all the future directions. How are we experiencing the new accountability. Do we know our officers. etc.

Questions:

What are your thoughts on measure Y not keeping pace with OPD costs?

Mayor gave a brief overview of Measure Y, but Jean answered most. Parcel tax is one of the sources of funds. Some of the funds go to firefighters etc. No less than 40% of the funds go to policing. Several other programs also run from measure Y, sexually exploited minors etc. Didn't think it would be hard to recruit, but proved slow to start. OPD are among the highest paid in the state. Some money will still have to come from the general fund.

How will you support the good work of the new city auditor?

A new audit on Measure Y prevention program about to start. All believe in the same goals – openness and transparency. If we have problems we need to know. Need education. Effort look at public works and other agency getting audited.

Health care: when will we see the mayors proposals on universal health care?

Universal health care is really a national issue. Only two industrialized nations in the world that didn't have nationalized health care used to be apartheid South Africa and the US. South Africa has fixed the problem. US stands alone! At some point we will get there. Absent a national conversation there should be a state conversation. Absent that, then we need to figure out how to do it locally. We are all vulnerable. We are as strong as our community, and as weak as our weakest member. Important step was \$3M from Kaiser Foundation for High Schools and Middle schools should have entitlement to health care as a basic right. Bring together architects and engineers to put together a health care delivery system. Not the same as San Francisco (which is county as well as city). Oakland has to play with Alameda. Not just a question of who pays for it, but how does it work? Give us the resources to put the architecture and engineering together to make it work on the ground. Then get the money. At step 2 ... have the money for the schools. Ongoing meetings to put this together There are multi-million dollar foundations out there ... e.g. Gates foundation. Why spend money overseas when e needs it right here?

What will you be doing to encourage business to move into the neighborhood

Mayors economic summit ... public/private partnership to create 10,000 jobs and new businesses. Oakland partnership is looking at the emerging areas ... health care, green technologies, maritime activities, artists, media, other services, etc. Cluster groups focusing on these. Labor, government etc working together to make this work. Community task force groups have been working on enabler technologies for these. Chambers of commerce etc. Opens the doors to attract new businesses. CEDA – interviewing for new director. Looking to change the focus to business and economic development etc. How can you evaluate without a plan? New zoning plan being drawn up. Last zoning was in 1960's. No coherent zoning policy ... growing like topsy, not coherent. Cities need to be the economic engines of America. Lets plan for our role in this.

Why are you not more visible? If you don't like the media, give us another way to communicate with you.

Needs to learn how to work outside comfort zone with respect to the media. I'm local. Never been his style to bask in the media spotlight. Wasn't cool when he grew up. Need to get better at this. “Not a media guy” ... doesn't mean he's hostile to the press. Supposed to be a self description, saying he's a shy guy, not a kick at the press! Understands the issue. That's why he's here. He was trying to say NO the mayor run ... saw everyone crying, and that made him change his plan. Saying no was not an option. Now he has to work out how to balance his personal views with his public position. Needs to respect his family too. Children grew up without a father. Blessed with a second chance. Do the job with dignity and integrity. No-one questions his work ethic. If you think this job is easy, please stand at the next election! Will think hard, work hard, and execute. Deal with each other with respect etc.

Education and Safety: What are the plans to safeguard public education in Oakland

Chaired the Dellums commission to look at the plight of young men of color in America, through the lens of public health. During the period of get tough on crime, came up with policies such as zero tolerance that had unintended consequences. As 0 tolerance carried out in the schools caused young men to be suspended or expelled and put on the streets., Consequence of that is high likelihood of contact with the police. Prison, etc. If instead could have been referred to mental health, abuse etc clinic in first place, would have had a very different outcome. How can we do this? How can we avoid sending people from school to prison? Start bringing the agencies to bear on the schools so that schools can be a place of learning not a place of hostility and violence. Doesn't want to take over the schools. Cuts in education funding not helping.

Is there any help coming from the city on foreclosures?

Proud to say that in association with One California bank, starting a project with \$1M to establish a bridge loan. First in nation idea. Helps those who can afford the current payments, but not the new ones. Give Oakland \$25M more for this; idea has gone to DC for a national program. Federal, State and local reps, credit and loan experts, together with families on the verge of losing their home, to help devise strategies on how to save their homes. Asking all the lenders to get together to show them how One California bank has stepped up, to see if others can help. Oakland has 10th highest foreclosure rate in the country.

Infrastructure

Working with senator Barbara Boxer to help improve the city's aging infrastructure. Takes 87 years to get your street repaved.

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. Jose Dorado was elected as chair, Jan Hetherington was elected as membership secretary, and Barbara Taylor . was elected as Treasurer.

Broke for networking at 8:40 pm.

Next meeting – 4/0/2008

Nick Stoughton, Minutes Secretary.

510-388-1413: nick@maxwellparknc.com

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

Board

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|-------------------|----------------------|
| Jose Dorado | Chair |
| Robert McGillis | Vice Chair |
| Jan Hetherington | Membership Secretary |
| Krista Gulbransen | Treasurer |
| Nick Stoughton | Minutes Secretary |

Neighborhood Action Teams

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|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| 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 |
| Araina 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/>