

Maxwell Park Neighborhood Council
Monthly Meeting—Wednesday, May 14, 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 “May08-Attendance”.

Welcome Comments & Introductions

Jose Dorado (Chair) welcomed us, and called the meeting to order at 7.04 p.m. Introductions made. Adele Foley acted as a door-welcoming committee. April Minutes are not yet complete (Jan Hetherington).

Community Policing Reports

NSC: Araina Richards: Just back from a vacation. Neighborhood summit is happening on May 31. Several workshops planned, YU, gang violence, disaster preparedness, PLUS entertainment, etc. RSVP by May 16, or as soon as possible. Intended to help bridge the gap between youth and adults. There will be child care available. Looking for 500 attendees if possible!

Funds are running low for the NCPCs, and we should ensure that all official receipts are in ASAP.

Helen Da Silva (CB NAT) added that MPNC will be presenting at the summit, on how to build a strong, cohesive neighborhood group.

Officer Keith Clement: 5309 El Camile – Marijuana grow busted this month, while responding to a burglary report at property. Smell is give-away ... if you smell it, call it in. 382 plants! Also lots of power consumption ... often with generators etc.

Owner of any property where drugs are seized will get a drug abatement letter, followed by prosecution.

Also been looking at 4417 Virginia.

Shooting close to Peter Pan on Allendale: domestic violence escalation. Five witnesses, but uncooperative victim.

Crime stats: figures have dropped in all categories except shootings (up from 0 – 3).

Officer Eddie Simlin spoke about burglary prevention. Service to visit homes to provide verbal or written suggestions on how to make your home more secure. Fliers available- call 238-6200 to schedule a visit. Survey is typically very detailed, and is free.

Jose Dorado spoke about setting up priorities for OPD. The board has selected three for this month:

1. 3112 Monticello has a lot of suspicious activities between 1.00am and 5.00am. Armed individuals have been seen. Many vehicles without license plates. Suspected drug dealing.
2. Loose dogs. Several incidents in recent months. Jose to provide an address.
3. Communications. We often don't hear anything from OPD with respect to crimes being discussed on the listserv.

City & County Representatives

Councilwoman Desley Brooks: no representative.

Councilmember Jean Quan—Michael Johnson reporting:

- Please feel free to contact Michael at mljohnson@okalandnet.com 510 238 4738
- Try to reduce your carbon footprint! 350.org helps with advice
- Radar training. Previous training was very successful. New training being set up. Call Michael for details.
- Keeping track of blighted repossessed houses.

- Walk to end Poverty and Violence this Saturday (May 17). Please join in. At Lake Merritt. Become a mentor ... get involved in young peoples lives and help them in a real way.

Supervisor Nate Miley's Office—no representative.

Neighborhood Action Teams (NATs)

- *NAT (Neighborhood Action Team) Program – Sarah Hippolito reporting:* Metro article on page 5..
- *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. Araina noted that 57 citations in the last month for speeding and stop-sign violations. Next month will be Birdsall and Monticello, and Virginia and Monticello.
- *Drugs and Crime:* still a vacancy here. Anyone interested in helping to reform this NAT should contact Jose.
- *Blight & Beautification—Jan Hetherington.* Successful earth day project. Third Sunday cleanup this coming Sunday. Nancy Karigasha will be heading up a new NAT to rejuvenate Maxwell Park (the park itself). Survey, followed by design, followed by fund raising. There is a new Yahoo Group for this NAT.
- *Community Building NAT – Neighborhood Summit* this weekend. Planning the third annual day in the park – September 13. Will be doing a survey on what people want for this. Also planning a group work day with Habitat for Humanity East Bay in July 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– Ashley Thomsak reporting:* .MPE is about to choose a new name – should still contain “Maxwell Park”. Literacy night last week ... went very well. Schools has Open House for current and new families 5/20. Living History 5/22. 6/6 Year End celebration. All welcome. School should be modernized over the summer. *Maria Contreras* good earth day project. Expo on 6/5.
- *Diversity & Outreach Committee (NAT) – Shirley Burton reporting:* Group will be meeting shortly. Party previously scheduled for 5/1 will move to June.
- *CORE & MPERT Report—Nick Stoughton reporting:* Nothing to report.

Guest Speaker: Ed Labayog

Recent housing market meltdown has led to a number of houses becoming empty, and as a result have become targets for crime.

Code enforcement around the entire Bay Area is involved in cleaning up the mess caused by the foreclosure crisis. There is a period between the previous owner moving out and the bank selling the property. The Government is working on various relief programs. Oakland also is running various helplines and relief programs.

Once the property is vacant, it is an opportunity for crime. Some houses are stripped (copper removed, fixtures and fitting etc). Look out for overgrown lots, mail piling up, newspapers uncollected. Call 238 3381 and code enforcement will look for violations, check meters, etc. Due process has to be followed. Notice must be sent to owner etc.

After appropriate time, property can be boarded up etc. Illegal additions, etc can be handled at this time. If property is dilapidated, \$5000 administrative penalty. Ultimate end is demolition of the property. Goal is really about trying to bring the property back to good use and condition. Please call in cases as you see them.

Sometimes (in properties down by E14) a building can be vacated on Friday and totally trashed by Monday.

Desley Brooks and Jean Quan are starting registries of vacant properties. Banks must notify the city as a property becomes vacant. Currently being reviewed by City Attorney.

Often the problem house can become the center of a mini crime wave, as squatters move in with drugs etc.

Another problem is fake 'agents' take deposits from multiple potential buyers ... but this is just a scam, and the agent then takes off with the money.

Ed can be reached at 238 4793.

Announcements

- There will be a “NAT Focus” meeting coming soon. Not yet sure which month
- Fremont School is having a Dance Concert 6/3 7.00-8.30pm

- 5/22 “Save Lives Now” youth violence and guns
- Stop the Violence and Outreach Fair 7/12

Broke for networking at 8:48 pm.

Next meeting – 4/0/2008

Nick Stoughton, Minutes Secretary.

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

Board

Jose Dorado	Chair
Robert McGillis	Vice Chair
Jan Hetherington	Membership Secretary
Barbara Taylor	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
Ashley Thomsak	Education NAT
Nick Stoughton	CORE/MPERT
Nancy Karigasha	Park NAT
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/>