

Maxwell Park Neighborhood Council
Monthly Meeting—Wednesday, February 11, 2009
Location: Maxwell Park International Academy
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 “Feb09-Attendance”.

Welcome Comments & Introductions

Krista Gulbransen (Chair) welcomed us, and called the meeting to order at 7.04 p.m. Introductions made. November minutes approved by unanimous approval. January minutes minor amendment for Barbara Taylor's report on behalf of Desley Brooks. Approved as amended by unanimous consent.

Krista announced that during this meeting we will elect the final board position: Shirley Burton has been nominated for the unfilled at-large position. Nick asked if there was objection to an election by show of hands. No objection. Election held; elected unopposed 20-0-0.

Housekeeping

This is the first meeting with the new board, and with an updated agenda. The purpose of the Networking element of the agenda was explained, and attendees encouraged to use that forum rather than asking open ended questions during the formal part of the agenda.

Community Policing Reports

Araina Richards reported that Lt Williams has now moved to the Youth Services department. The new Lt is Ron Lighten.

Crime stats circulated. Keith Clement went over them. Vehicle theft and burglary is up. Last night at the city council meeting, the proposed curfew ordinance was defeated. Only youth were present, very few older people.

There are 2 half time truancy officers for the entire city. It is possible that the truancy center may need to close due to budget problems. The loss of the curfew is a major blow.

Krista announced that one of the top three priorities set by the board is truancy (along with dangerous/loose dogs, and a focus on the actual Maxwell Park park).

Officer Clement suggested that MPNC send a letter to Larry Reid (Oakland City Council) in support of the curfew to see if the proposal can be brought back.

Lt Ron Lighten introduced himself. Long time patrol officer and supervisor of community policing unit. Very excited to be here. Worked with Araina for a very long time. Contact is 777 8521, rlighten@oaklandnet.com.

Araina also noted that there will be another citizens police academy shortly ... February 24 – June 2 on Tuesday evenings (6.00-9.00). Please see Araina if you are interested.

City & County Representatives

Desley Brooks (District 6). Barabara Taylor off sick tonight. (Desley arrived 7.52) : Congratulate new board. Happy to hear about truancy as a priority – links well with things life enrichment committee is working on. Any day there are about 3.000 truant kids in Oakland ... particularly amongst AA and Latino children. Drop-out rate is also critical to discuss. Emphasis is wrong on why kids don't go to school. Host of reasons why kids don't go to school.

Also working to link youth and older people at rec centers during the day.

First week in March will be talking about death by unnatural causes in place of normal life enrichment committee meeting.

\$100,000 grant for art projects just been given to Oakland. Apply for awards from this for local projects.

Budget deficit in excess of \$50M. Layoffs happened today. Often have to balance between paying law enforcement or filling potholes.

Jean Quan (District 4). Michael Johnson is her official representative.

- Jaquin Miller celebration; contact Sue Piper.
- Casual carpool has now moved to 4247 Macarthur (Foot Doctor). Looking at signage.
- Curfew failed as reported earlier. Please keep up the pressure for this. It was unfunded, which is another reason for its failure.
- Truancy walk at Brett Hart school Feb 26 (8-11). Truancy center is almost certain to close. Focus on achieving part (more than attending).
- Updates on all of Jean Quan's activities on www.jeanquan.org

Alameda County Supervisor: Nate Miley – no representative.

Neighborhood Action Teams (NATs)

- *NAT (Neighborhood Action Team) Program. Sarah Hippolito* A NAT is a subcommittee of concerned neighbors who want to work on a specific project.
- *Traffic NAT – Adele Foley reporting* Keep Redding and Storer for next month as little done this last month.
- *Drugs and Crime – Jose Dorado reporting.* Met with Nola Brantly about sexually abused minors. Will be providing information to the local group home on this subject. Also looking at the process for setting and monitoring priorities. Bob Fosberg also provided additional background on this.
- *Blight and Beautification – Jan Hetherington Reporting.* Third Sunday cleanup is this coming Sunday. Lots to do. We planted over 100 plants last month. 9.00-12.00 at Walgreens every 3rd Sunday. Jose noted that he had seen someone

spontaneously planting there now we have done so much.

- *Community Building – Krista Gulbransen reporting.* Meeting shortly – please contact Krista for info.
- *Maxwell Park schools Together-Ashley Thomsak reporting* MPIA still looking for people to read to students. Melrose Leadership Academy (Moyra) had an expo in January – well attended. 185 out of 200 families involved. 2nd Garden day on MLK day was successful. Third one coming up shortly. Kindergarten opening this fall (dual immersion). Working with OPD on “Our Kids” program. Community building working well.
- *Maxwell Park - Nancy Karigaca reporting.* 15 people at last workday. Another one March 21 (probably). Mosaic group meeting, lots of entries and interest. Applied for 2 grants. Met with city project manager and architect. Ongoing work (ADA regulations is biggest hurdle). Won a Local Hero award (\$1000).
- *Neighborhood Watch Coordinator. Jan Hetherington.* Neighborhood Services Division going through major changes at present, with best people being removed. Jan looking for people to work with her to reinvigorate the program.
- *CORE/MPERT – Nick Stoughton reporting:* Annual citywide exercise to be held at the end of April. MPERT will meet shortly to discuss our participation.

Announcements

Moyra Contreras thanked the board for making Truancy one of the top priorities. Claire suggested that we try to reconnect with Boys and Girls club. New director should be invited as a guest speaker to kick-start this.

Also with a lot of shifting and refocusing, Claire did not feel that missing the council meeting was anyone's fault. Scott Fuller commented on the outpouring of support for Claudia Albano, which had some success. Shirley talked about setting up phone calls/phone tree to activate neighbors about specific issues (such as the curfew).

Bob Fosberg spoke about a \$35,000 grant given to a number of churches to help with violence problems. Any young people needing a summer job should talk to Bob.

Nancy talked about why Burglary was not a priority. Asking the police to do their job. New charter school, Oakland Collegiate, opening in 2010, currently in design.

Central/East Oakland is target area. Send support to info@oaklandcollegiate.org.

Broke for networking at 8:19pm