

Maxwell Park Neighborhood Council Meeting
Wednesday, October 14, 2009
Location: Melrose Leadership Academy
Brann Street, Oakland
Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Adelle Foley, Bill Urban, Brenda Hansen, Claire Antonetti, Claudette Jaime, Gus Argyropoulos, Helen Argyropoulos, Jan Hetherington, Joe Davis, Jose Dorado, Kate Raymond, Kelly Felkins, Krista Gulbransen, Kristi Johansen, Malia Saulala, Marcella Thomas, Melissa Johnson Scranton, Michael Haworth, Michael Scranton, Moyra Contreras, Nick Stoughton, Scott Fuller, Stephen Weitz, Tina Fleming

Policy Analyst Terrie Gillen

As attendees arrived, they signed in, made a name tag, and placed a dot on a beat 28X map to indicate where they live

Welcome Comments & Introductions:

Krista Gulbransen (Chairperson) welcomed us and called the meeting to order at 7:20 pm.

Everybody introduced themselves, and Terry Gillen was introduced as Jean Quan's policy analyst.

Purpose of Meeting & Agenda Review:

Krista Gulbransen: This meeting will focus on forming Neighborhood Watches whose purpose is not only to help prevent crime but also to deal with other emergencies and neighbors who need special help.

Role of NW Captains & How NW's Function:

Felica Verdin of the Neighborhood Services Division of Oakland introduced herself. She presented a process for forming NW's and distributed and reviewed an NW flyer. On Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, Neighborhood Services if invited will attend local NW meetings and give a presentation. Ideally the meeting should have at least 5 attendees.

Felica answered questions from the audience concerning NW groups.

Overview of NW Effort in Maxwell Park:

Jan Hetherington: Jan presented a brief history of Maxwell Park NW groups. Three-years ago, we had a big NW push, but we lost track of the Block Captains, so we do not know how many NW groups are still functioning. Going forward, the MPNC should coordinate all of the NW groups. All of the NW groups will be under the MPNC umbrella in order to keep the groups viable, utilized, and on track. During the drive 3-years ago, we had no central coordination.

CORE & Neighborhood Command Center:

Nick Stoughton: Nick gave a CORE presentation. CORE groups are organized by block, and training is available. As an example of CORE functions, the inevitable big earthquake was used as an example. After the 'big one' the fire department and emergency services may take several days to reach the neighborhoods. CORE trains people to deal with emergencies until official services can be restored. Before every MPNC monthly meeting, a walkie-talkie communication check is conducted so that we are prepared if the phone service is out.

Breakout Groups:

Based on the map, which all attendees marked upon arriving, the meeting broke into several neighborhood groups to discuss how to form NW groups. The outline of the discussion was provided by a flyer that was distributed to the meeting attendees.

Group Reports:

The meeting reassembled to present the findings of the groups. Jan And Krista will list and distribute the findings on our WEB site and at future meetings.

A sampling of ideas and questions follow:

Build neighborhood call trees. How much information do we request from our neighbors? Who will have this information? To whom and how should it be distributed? The first NW meeting should probably be simply to build trust. Division between NW groups will be arbitrary. Block Captains of adjoining NW groups should know each other.

The importance of calling the police even for non-emergencies was reiterated. Get an incident number. Just posting an incident on our Listserv is not sufficient. The police count the actual service calls in order to determine an area's police coverage.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.