

**Maxwell Park Neighborhood Council Meeting**  
**Wednesday, February 10, 2010**  
**Location: Melrose Leadership Academy**  
**Brann Street, Oakland**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**Attendees:**

Adelle Foley, Ashley Thomsak, Becky Wiegand, Claire Antonetti, Colleen O'Brien, Gus Argyropoulos, Gwen Blackwell, Helen Argyropoulos, Jan Hetherington, Joe Davis, John Fonseca, Jon Ward, Jose Dorado, Juliet Christensen-Smith, Lucille Jackson, Malia Saulala, Michael Haworth, Moyra Contreras, Nancy Connolly, Nancy Karigaca, Samuel, Scott Fuller, Shirley Burton, Timmy Stewart, Tom Van Demark

NSC - Araina Richards

PSO - Ron Johnson

Policy Analyst - Terrie Gillen

Council Member - Jean Quan

Guest - Jean Johnson-Fields

**Welcome Comments & Introductions:**

Krista Gulbransen (Immediate Past Chairperson) welcomed us and called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

The minutes of the 01-13-2010 meeting were approved with an attendee name correction.

**Council Business:**

Becky Wiegand was elected as a Member At Large.

The Vice Chair is still open.

**Guest Speaker:**

Jean Johnson-Fields spoke about The Center for Elders Independence after passing out flyers and enrollment information. The Center's mission is allow seniors to live in their home for as long as possible, and their program is designed for the most frail and isolated people who have no family to help or monitor them. The Center has several East Bay locations, and all facilities are bilingual in all of the primary languages. Medical care is provided including dental services, which are not

covered by Medicare. The Center needs help identifying eligible seniors, and will send speakers to groups if requested.

### **Crime Prevention Workshop Meeting Format:**

Krista Gulbransen: Krista presented the agenda for this meeting's workshop.

### **Current Landscape, Recent Incidents & Issues of Concern:**

Increases in burglary and car break-in reports are of special concern. Several attendees reported crimes especially problems with a young man on Renwick who has threatened neighbors.

### **Community Policing Learning:**

Araina Richards: Araina passed out flyers on how to secure our homes and how to get and give a good description of suspects and perpetrators. She explained the difference between a police emergency and non-emergency: 911 vs. 777-3333, and she recommended organizing neighborhood watches by block and keeping the NW meeting and active.

Officer R. Johnson – Beat 27X PSO: Officer Johnson made the following observations:  
Call 911 if we see persons casing houses or ringing doorbells.

Call 777-3333 for people checking car doors or peering into cars.

Call the drug hotline if we observe people hanging around a specific spot or dwelling or people flashing lights into passing cars. Get the car's description and license number.

Oakland has a big problem with youth casing houses and posting lookouts. 60% - 80% of burglaries are committed by youth.

Descriptions: Try to get a head-to-toe description including clothing that stands out, trouser type, writing or designs on clothing, and shoe type.

Did anyone arrive by car?

In what direction are the suspects going?

**Whenever we call law enforcement, write down the date and time and get an incident number.**

Other advice for securing our property: Don't leave the door unlocked for the cleaning person. If we trust them enough to be in our houses alone, then we can trust them with a key. Get an alarm code that is good during only a specific time of day. Give that code to the cleaning person.

Don't leave windows open when we are out. Don't place electronics close to windows. Don't leave purses, expansive clothing, or electronics in cars.

Don't place garbage cans or ladders near windows. Cut back shrubs so that neighbors can see our houses. Increase lighting around the house. If we like dogs, get one, but don't get a dog for protection only. Dogs require time, care, and attention.

Photograph all valuables. Write down all serial numbers. This will help convict the thief and aid in getting our stolen property returned.

Attendees asked various questions about security.

### **Workshop Breakout & Brainstorming:**

For twenty minutes, the meeting broke into small groups to brainstorm security ideas.

### **Brainstorming Reports & Ideas:**

Some suggestions from the sessions: Put house lights on a random timer. Leave out decoy items for the burglars. Keep yard gates locked. Put a timer on a radio tuned to a talk station. Install bullet-proof glass in door windows. Get alarms that sound loudly into the street. Get a newer alarm that is not tied to the phone line and has a cell phone backup. Newer alarms are better with animals under 70 lbs. Take neighborhood walks to make our presence known. Conduct description drills and role playing.

Many people are not on the MPNC listserv, so figure out ways to distribute information to those people.

We need a way to deal with long-term and repeat problems in the neighborhoods.

Neighbors should the phone number of everyone in the neighborhood.

Don't post pictures of suspects or suspicious license plate numbers on the listserv. Give them to the police.

### **NATS & Announcements:**

Terri Gilliam: The funding for restoring Cortland Creek has been restored. Jean Quan's office arranged the funding. See Terri Gilliam for more details.

Jean Quan: The City Council is in round two of the budget adjustments. \$10M – \$15M must be cut from the budget. Funding for the NSCs is a target. If we want to keep the NSCs, we have to let the council know.

Jean is a member of The League of Cities.

The State has taken back \$41M from the city's redevelopment fund. The matter is in court, but a better way to stop the take-back is to get a petition to put the matter on the ballot.

Barbara Taylor: Over the last several years, Desley Brooks has had the city purchase a number of sites for development: Foothill & Seminary, 73<sup>rd</sup> & Foothill (at Eastmont), and 66<sup>th</sup> & San Leandro Blvd. Multiple developers have responded to first two sites, and one developer has responded to the 3<sup>rd</sup> site. Desley announced that for the first time in 20-years, we will have a national grocery chain at one of the sites.

Desley secured funding for a traffic signal at 64<sup>th</sup> and Foothill where Alana Richards was killed on her way to school. \$150,000 has been secured from the School District to help address traffic issues around the school.

Desley has hired someone to perform crime analysis in District 6. This person will work with Captain Figueroa to create maps every three days for the Area 3 officers.

The City Council voted to implement Ranked Choice Voting. An education and information program will be conducted to educate people about the new process.

Jan Hetherington: The daffodils are coming up in the Cortland triangle.

The Melrose Leadership Academy was going to move to a larger school: Burbank School on Outlook, but MLA will remain where it is for a few more years.

On 4/4/2010, CORE will conduct an earthquake exercise from 9 a.m. to noon.

Krista Gulbransen: Regarding the Renwick incident: Someone was supposed to be here tonight. Social Services and mediation may be required in addition to the police.

Jose Dorado: The 27X steering committee suggested that 27X and 28X have an on-going relationship. If anyone is interested in getting involved, see Jose.

Jean Quan: Pictures of suspects cannot be posted on the internet, nor can the police post case updates. Doing so may risk the case. The police can communicate some information or progress privately.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:55 p.m.