

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

Attendees:

Adelle Foley, Becky Wiegand, Claire Antonetti, Gwen Blackwell, Jose Dorado, Juliet Christian-Smith, Malia Saulala, Michael Haworth, Nancy Karigaca, Shirley Burton, Angela D. Gums, Tabe Gipson, Barbara Taylor

NSC - Araina Richards

PSO - Ron Johnson

Guest – The Reverend Gregg Brown – Miracles of Faith Church

As attendees were settling in, a discussion about Walgreens at High and Redding started. This week, a crane was parked dangerously in the parking lot. Pastor Brown brought this to management's attention, and the crane was properly parked. Several complaints against Walgreens were presented:

The lack of lighting in the parking lot.

The lack of a security camera.

Walgreen's employees' bad attitudes toward customers.

The cleanliness of the parking lot.

General security of the store and parking lot.

We have met with Walgreen's store manager and regional management about the blight in the area, but local and regional management keep telling us that Walgreen's corporate won't let the local store help us. Officer Johnson suggested that we take photographs and mail them to Walgreen's CEO. Jose read the email that Krista sent to our Listserv that addressed these issues.

The url follows: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MPNCPC/message/20236>

Welcome Comments & Introductions:

Jose Dorado (Chairperson) stopped the discussion, welcomed us, and called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the 02-10-2010 meeting were approved with the following correction: Officer Johnson is the PSO for beat 29X not 27X.

Community Policing Issues:

Araina Richards – Neighborhood Services Coordinator:

No more crimes stats will be printed, so we must go to the Oakland website:

www.oaklandnet.com

A comprehensive sideshow action plan has been developed. If Captain Figueroa approves the plan, it will be sent to Chief Batts for approval.

We have to present our three priorities for 2010. The priorities have to be voted on by the community not just the Board. We will vote on our three priorities during our April meeting, and an email will be sent to our Listserv to inform the community that April will be our priority selection meeting.

A discussion followed on how the NSCs, PSOs, and NCPCs can form a partnership for dealing with the priorities. The NSCs and NCPCs need to develop a written protocol for defining and advancing priorities. Araina will try to find a protocol for determining priorities.

April 17th is Earth Day, and we should probably focus on Cortland Creek.

On 3/24 from 6:30 – 8:30 the Neighborhood Watch Steering Committee will meet.

Araina, Nancy Karigaca, and others walked Maxwell Park. The ‘Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design’ report will be out on Friday. The daycare school lights will be kept on all night. The park lights are controlled by the Park and Recreation Department.

Officer Johnson – Problem Solving Officer:

Nothing new to report. Our PSO, Officer Clement, is out for a few months due to an injury. Jose will talk to Captain Figueroa about not having a fulltime PSO for those months.

City and County Representative Reports and Actions:

Barbara Taylor – Reporting for Desley Brooks:

Demolition of the old Eastmont Mall police substation and the Seminary and Foothill buildings has begun, and the sites are being prepared for development.

Construction drawings for the Foothill streetscape are complete. The project goes from Avenal to 62nd Avenue, is fully funded for \$3M, and is projected for completion by 2011.

Desley is working with the police and owners of the 2701 64th Street property to correct the crime and blight problems associated with the property.

Recommendations for the Foothill/Seminary, Eastmont, and 66th/San Leandro Blvd. Opportunity sites should be released next week.

Chief Batts is so impressed with the District 6 mapping and crime analysis project that he wants to attempt to implement it citywide.

People who received parking tickets in late July through August for parking in the wrong direction should appeal them to the City. Desley has asked the City Administrator to void the tickets as a demonstration of fairness.

Be aware that the misuse of a disabled placard now results in a \$500 fine.

Terrie Gillen – Reporting for Jean Quan:

On 3/17, at the Greek Orthodox Church, a meeting will be held as follow-up to Chief Batts' community meetings. Please RSVP.

On 4/17, Earth Day, the Cortland Creek Committee will renovate the creek area. Jean Quan acquired \$10K for the project.

Each City Council member must pick 60 places per district for the installation of new parking meters.

The High Street strip mall, Walgreens, and the Allendale NCPC will meet to discuss upgrading that area to make it safer and more desirable. The City will provide resources for dealing with safety, blight, etc.

NATS:

Adele Foley – Traffic NAT:

Allendale NCPC and the 27X NCPC also have an interest in the problems on High Street. We will have a meeting to coordinate our efforts and bring more pressure on the police, traffic engineers, etc.

Jose Dorado - Drugs and Crime NAT:

Nothing new to report.

Claire Antonetti – Beautification and Blight NAT:

The first of 4 community LAMMPS meetings will be held on 3/25 at Mills College. Claire explained what LAMMPS means and gave a brief explanation of the project. At the meeting the consultants' first report will be read, and the consultants will create handouts for our MPNC meeting distribution.

Nancy Karigaca – Maxwell Park NAT:

We have approval for the design of the Fleming and back-wall mosaic design. Work will begin in April and continue through May.

Speakers:

Pastor Brown read an email sent by Terrie Gillen to several members of the MPNC Board. Pastor Brown was not cc'ed, and he acquired the email from an MPNC member. The email was purported to be the summary of a conversation between Pastor Brown and Walgreen's manager, Duane Burnes.

The letter alleged that Pastor Brown was opposed to several solutions to neighborhood complaints about Walgreens. According to the letter, Pastor Brown said that surveillance cameras in the parking lot would ghettoize the neighborhood and that he would organize pickets of the store if certain issues were not satisfactorily addressed.

Pastor Brown denied the allegations, endorsed the installation of cameras in the store parking lot, and took exception to the claim that he ever used the word ghettoize or picketing. The manager has since apologized for saying that Pastor Brown used the word ghettoize and had threatened to picket the store.

Pastor Brown said that the church was concerned as the MPNC is about the store parking lot conditions, treatment of customers, store security, etc. He suggested that we should have a community meeting with Walgreens manager concerning these issues because when we meet with Walgreens management one-on-one we are all simply put-off. If we receive no results, we should pull in Walgreen's regional and corporate management, and we as a community including the church and neighboring NCPCs whose members shop at Walgreens should let Walgreens regional and corporate know that we represent a lot of angry potential customers.

In addition, many of the local stores support local events, but Walgreens has so far contributed nothing.

Ms. Gillen apologized for sending the email without getting Pastor Brown's input. Ms. Gillen and Pastor Brown shook hands and parted amicably.

Final Comments:

Getting a water hookup for the area and dumping in the store parking lot were added to the list of problems with Walgreens

Meeting Adjourned: 8:55 p.m.