

Maxwell Park Neighborhood Council Meeting
Wednesday, June 08, 2011
Location: Melrose Leadership Academy
Brann Street, Oakland
Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Adelle Foley, Becky Wiegand, Claire Antonetti, Gus Argyropoulos, Helen Argyropoulos, Larry Foster, Malia Saulala, Michael Haworth, Nancy Karigaca, Sarah Hipolito, Louis Duvernay, Tina Borrell, Moyra Contreras, Helen da Silva, Jose Dorado

Policy Analyst (Dist. 4) -- Shereda Nosakhare
District 4 Councilperson - Libby Schaaf

Welcome Comments & Introductions:

Jose Dorado (Chair) welcomed us and called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m. He then explained and read the meeting ground rules for speaking from the floor.

Minutes:

Michael Haworth – Recording Secretary: The minutes of the May 11, 2011 meeting were approved.

NATS:

BLIGHT & BEAUTIFICATION - Claire Antonetti: The LAAMPS Plan is complete and can be viewed from the link on our website: www.maxwellparknc.com.

No date has been set for the Courtland cleanup.

COMMUNITY BUILDING & DIVERSITY OUTREACH – Helen da Silva: The 6th annual Day in the Park will be on September 10, 2011 from noon – 5 p.m. We need volunteers, donations, raffle prizes, etc. We have a sound system, our sound person, Drew, and a couple of musical acts. Mi Pueblo will sell food. Libby’s office is helping to get the permits. Info booths are available. Vendor booths are \$25.00 per vendor, and we need more vendors. We are trying to get the Black Cowboys, and Figueroa the miniature horse and Buba the ball-python will be there. Sarah Hipolito will conduct face-painting for the children, but we need more activities for the children.

DRUGS & CRIME - Jose Dorado: Jose spoke to Joyce about the trash from the gas-station’s restaurant at MacArthur and Pierson. The NAT will propose to our PSO that the gas-station/restaurant be a formal SARA project and that all regulatory resources city, county, state

be brought into play. The station also serves as a freeway crippled-car drop-off, and several buildings across the street are serious problems. The proposal will be to focus on the restaurant and then expand the focus. The NAT needs more volunteers.

Guest Speaker:

Libby Schaaf – District 4 City Councilperson: Oakland has, with some on-going adjustments, a 2-year budget. The mayor proposes the budget, and the City Council passes it. At this time, the mayor has presented 3 budget proposals, and the Council has a July 1st deadline to pass one of them. On June 21st, the Council will have a general budget discussion, and on June 28th, a special budget meeting will be held. Libby explained all 3 budget proposals. Only plan “A” would shutdown 14 of the 17 Oakland libraries. The Council must pass a balanced budget, so a budget cannot be passed that assumes that tax ballot measures will pass.

All of the City’s non-public employee contracts and the 2012 – 2013 police and fire-fighter contracts are up for negotiation, and both the police and fire unions have agreed to open negotiations now.

Henry Kaiser Arena, which is owned by the City of Oakland, has been closed for cost savings. The City could sell the arena to itself for \$28.3M to raise money. The strategy would be like a homeowner taking out a second mortgage to finance the kids’ college.

Libby explained the repercussions of Gov. Brown’s plan to stop city redevelopment funds. Regarding refinancing the Arena, Libby explained that to the extent that our redevelopment funds are encumbered, the funds cannot be taken away.

A Q/A followed regarding budget complexities, taxes, the State budget, and intricacies of municipal budgets.

The underground channel from Lake Merritt to the estuary will be uncovered so that people can kayak from the lake to the estuary.

The proposed senior housing at High and MacArthur will have ground-level retail, and no windows or doors will face the freeway. We are encouraged to learn about the development and attend the Planning Commission meetings to hear the developer’s presentations and give our feedback. Shereda will send us a link to the meeting schedules to give feedback.

Libby gave us her area office hours.

NATS Continued:

EDUCATION - Moyra Contreras: The Kindergarten and 1st grade Students’ Expo is tonight. The middle school Expo will be tomorrow night. The 8th graders will give portfolio presentations to talk about their future, college, etc. 80% of them will give PowerPoint presentations.

MLA had a \$230K budget cut. This year, the school has had 2 tamale sales to raise money, and the Dance-A-Thon raised \$8K.

The school is working on the schoolyard redesign and writing grants for the project. More shade, greenery, and an orchard are planned. The kitchen redesign project now has an architect.

An art-chair auction is planned for the fall. The event will be held for a month in a gallery. Wine and cheese will be served.

The school is looking to expand the farmer's market and build a greenhouse. 6th graders will learn and be responsible for composting.

MAXWELL PARK - Nancy Karigaca: The mosaic tiling was finished today, and the grouting was started. Volunteers are needed for this Friday, Saturday, Sunday and all of next weekend to finish the project. Work will start at around 9:30 or 10:00 a.m. and end about 4:30 p.m. Wear old clothing especially for the grouting. A celebration will be held on 6/25 from 11 – 1. Jean Quan will attend, and cake and ice cream will be served. Attendees can bring other food if they like. Bottles, bags, and other merchandise featuring student designs may be available and for sale during Day in the Park. Helen will help Nancy setup a Facebook group.

TRAFFIC – Adelle Foley: The new traffic signs at Redding and High appear to make no difference. The police were there writing citations only once, but they will have to be there several times to change drivers' behavior. We cannot get a three-way traffic light because of potential traffic backup problems. Shereda will try to get more traffic enforcement at the intersection.

City and County Representatives:

LIBBY SCHAAF - Policy Analyst - Shereda Noskhare: The doctor's office at 4138 MacArthur is still an ongoing project.

The Park Theater is hunting for a new space and may consider the old Hollywood Video store.

Shereda spoke to the Subway Sandwich shop owner about the graffiti. He is going to paint it over and install a higher fence so that people can't tag the roof. Maybe we should consider painting a mural.

The pop-up businesses proposed for the vacant lot on High/MacArthur need temporary business permits, but the City currently has no process for obtaining one, so a process will have to be created.

A general discussion followed about the teenage girls who were robbed at the bus stop in front of the bookstore.

Community Policing:

NSC - Araina Richards: Araina could not attend our meeting, so she submitted a written report.

Officer Rutten, our PSO, is on military leave.

In regard to the question asked at the last MPNC meeting about successful graffiti prosecutions, in the early 90's, Councilmember Dick Spees was successful in supporting the prosecution of individuals for graffiti violations. In 2009 - 2010, 3 cases were prosecuted: 2 misdemeanors and 1 felony. All three individuals were assigned community service through the Keep Oakland Beautiful program.

The shooting at 2906 High Street is still being investigated. It appears that the shooting was not retaliation, and the victim did not live at this location.

Ariana is still working with Krista on the Courtland property. The Building Services Supervisor spoke to the property owner today, and the vegetation has to be cleared no later than 06/13/2011. Ariana will meet with the Building Services Inspector and the alleged property owner next week.

National Night Out is on 08/02/2011. Register parties at www2.oaklandnet.com/nno.

Announcements: Claire Antonetti: Claire was contacted by the Mills College VP of Operations about the new college president. The new president wants community leaders to attend the inauguration, and she wants more community outreach.

Sarah Hipolito: Thank you Louis Duvernay for writing the NAT descriptions. We got some volunteers as a result.

Jose Dorado: If you are interested in the subject of the civilianization of OPD, talk to Jose after the meeting.

The next MPNC meeting will be at MLA, but we need a place to meet in August.

The meeting adjourned at 9:37 p.m.