



Montclair Safety and Improvement Council (MSIC) Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 27, 2015, Montclair Recreation Center

Steering Committee Members Present: Carolyn Winters (Chairperson), Michael Tigges (Vice Chairperson), Jim Clardy (Treasurer), Nick Vigilante (Secretary), Mimi Rohr (Community Representative), Doug Mosher (Community Representative), Nicki Kaiser (Community Representative), Jeff Diamond (Community Appointed Representative), Barry Klezmer (Community Appointed Representative), Dan Swafford (Community Representative), Nancy Havassy (Community Appointed Representative), and Josh Shaw (Community Representative).

Steering Committee Members Absent: Stan Weisner (Community Appointed Representative) - excused.

Advisory Members Present: Patricia Rose, OPD Neighborhood Services Coordinator, and Nayeli Maxson, Representative from the Office of Oakland Councilmember Annie Campbell-Washington.

Montclair Residents Present: 2 (from meeting attendance sign-in sheet).

A quorum of Steering Committee Members was achieved and the meeting commenced at approximately 6:45 p.m.

1. Update and Distribute Administrative Material:

Chairperson Winters distributed a list of current Steering Committee and Advisory Members which included addresses, telephone numbers, and e-mail contact information. She asked everyone to review the information and provide her with any updates and corrections in the next few days. After updates and corrections are received, she will issue an updated list to all current Steering Committee and Advisory Members. The list should not be distributed publicly because it contains personal information about Steering Committee Members.

Steering Committee Member (SCM) Mosher noted that he has updated the names of the current Steering Committee Members and Advisory Members on the MSIC website. He encouraged everyone to routinely review the website and provide him with feedback on content and accuracy of the information. This is necessary to maintain the accuracy

of the information.

Chairperson Winters and SCM Mosher noted that contact information for Committee leaders will need to be updated as soon as those assignments are determined. In the interim, Chairperson Winters will receive e-mails addressed to former Committee leaders who are no longer with the MSIC.

Chairperson Winters suggested that at a future Steering Committee meeting there be an agenda item for a discussion about adjustments and changes to the methods and media used by MSIC to distribute information to the public.

2. Community and Steering Committee Meeting Schedule:

Chairperson Winters led a discussion to calendar all Steering Committee and Community Meetings from June 2015 through May 2016. There was discussion about how many Steering Committee and Community Meetings were needed, and the general consensus of opinion expressed by SCMs was that MSIC should attempt to have eight Steering Committee Meetings and four Community meetings during the period from June 2015 through May 2016. A calendar was used during the discussion to identify the following dates for remaining meetings during that period:

Steering Committee Meetings - August 6, October 1, and December 2015 (Holiday Party – tentative date December 10); and January 7, March 3, and April 7, 2016. Meetings to begin at 7:00 p.m.

Community/Public Meetings: September 3 and November 5, 2015; and February 4 and May 5, 2016. Meetings to begin at 7:00 p.m. Meeting room doors to open to the public at 6:45 p.m.

Treasurer Clardy made a motion to adopt the proposed Steering Committee and Community Meeting schedules, and the motion was seconded. The motion was then voted on by the Steering Committee. The vote was unanimous to adopt this schedule of meetings.

Chairperson Winters noted that she will make arrangements for suitable meeting locations well in advance before each meeting.

There was discussion about announcing Community Meetings in the Montclarion newspaper. Secretary Vigilante made a motion to announce Community Meetings in The Montclarion newspaper, and the motion was seconded. The motion was then voted on by the Steering Committee. The vote was unanimous to announce the Community/Public Meetings in The Montclarion newspaper.

The Yahoo! Groups will also be used to disseminate information about meetings, as it has been used in the past for this purpose.

3. First Community Meeting Agenda:

Chairperson Winters encouraged SCMs and Advisory Members to provide future meeting agenda items and ideas (agenda building) as meeting dates approach, and she will solicit such items in advance of each meeting as well.

4. Bylaws:

Chairperson Winters encouraged all SCMs to review the bylaws to become familiar with them. Some SCMs are new and were not involved in the re-drafting effort which occurred in March 2015. If anyone has suggestions for changes or additions, please submit them as an agenda item for discussion at Steering Committee meetings, the next Steering Committee Meeting being on August 6.

5. Proposed LaPort Montessori School MSIC Involvement:

Chairperson Winters led a discussion regarding the sale of the Montclair Women's Club and the proposed conversion of the building into a LaPort Montessori School.

Several SCMs stated that they were unaware of the proposed Montessori school until the last several weeks, and some were concerned that the public-at-large may not be aware of the proposed school either.

SCM Swafford noted that the City of Oakland might be required to address and mitigate long-time commuter congestion and traffic and pedestrian problems that have plagued the area because of substantial public input and concerns that will undoubtedly be expressed about the impact of the proposed new school on the area.

Treasurer Clardy noted that a group from his neighborhood attended a briefing about the proposed Montessori School, and he highlighted many of the proposed changes which are currently pending review and approval by City of Oakland Planning Officials. Treasurer Clardy noted that the neighborhood group was overwhelmingly opposed to the proposed conversion of the Montclair Women's Club to a school. Nearby neighbors feel that the new school will bring more congestion and traffic and pedestrian safety problems to a residential corridor already heavily overused by commuters, as well as by parents dropping off and picking up their children at several schools in close proximity to the proposed Montessori School.

SCM Diamond highlighted the planning review, approval, and appeal process which is relevant to the proposed project.

SCMs Kaiser and Diamond expressed viewpoints that the MSIC should not immediately take a position (for or against) on the proposed Montessori School. Rather, MSIC should first attempt to educate the public-at-large and encourage them to weigh in on the proposed Montessori School.

SCM Havassy felt that MSIC should write a letter to City of Oakland Planning Officials expressing its concerns about the proposed Montessori School. She felt the letter should be written and issued immediately because of her experience with the major expansion of the nearby St. John's Episcopal Church (1707 Gouldin Rd) impacted her neighborhood and has been an on-going matter of concern for many years.

Secretary Vigilante wanted to know when City of Oakland Planning Officials were going to make a decision (approval or disapproval) on the proposed school. He felt that information was important to decision-making by MSIC on what course of action it should take, and when.

SCMs Diamond and Rohr expressed that a decision would likely be forthcoming soon in several weeks

SCM Diamond, also Chair of the Montclair Village Association (MVA), suggested that a joint MSIC and MVA public Community Meeting be held on the matter soon.

SCM Kaiser agreed with SCM Diamond's suggestion. In addition to inviting the public, SCM Kaiser suggested inviting officials from the LaPort Montessori School and key Oakland City officials to provide the public with: (1) information about the proposed project, and (2) an opportunity to provide those officials with feedback on the proposed project.

SCM Kaiser offered her suggestion, along with Board Member Diamond's suggestion for a joint MVA and MSIC Community Meeting, as a motion, and that the Meeting be held the second or third week of June 2015 with sufficient advance notice to the public. The motion was seconded. The motion was then voted on by the Steering Committee. Ten SCMs voted to approve the motion. SCM Havassy abstained from voting. SCM Swafford was no longer present at the meeting to vote.

Chairperson Winters stated that she would contact the Presbyterian Church on Thornhill Drive to see if she can secure that facility for the meeting, and she will coordinate with the MVA on meeting details and logistics.

Thereafter, SCM Havassy made a motion to adjourn the meeting because all agenda items were completed, the motion was seconded, and the Steering Committee unanimously agreed to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:20 p.m.

Nick Vigilante

Nick Vigilante
MSIC Recording Secretary