



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

Thursday, August 6, 2015, Montclair Presbyterian Church

Steering Committee Members Present: Jim Clardy (Treasurer), Nick Vigilante (Secretary), Mimi Rohr (Community Representative), Doug Mosher (Community Representative), Nicki Kaiser (Community Representative), Dan Swafford (Community Representative), Nancy Havassy (Community Appointed Representative), and Josh Shaw (Community Representative).

Steering Committee Members Absent: Carolyn Winters (Chairperson), Michael Tigges (Vice Chairperson), Jeff Diamond (Community Appointed Representative), Barry Klezmer (Community Appointed Representative), and Stan Weisner (Community Appointed Representative) – all excused.

Advisory Members Present: Patricia Rose, OPD Neighborhood Services Coordinator (NSC), and Kristine Jurgens-Duenas, OPD Community Resource Officer (CRO) for Montclair.

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

A quorum of Steering Committee Members (SCMs) was achieved and the meeting commenced at approximately 7:00 p.m. Treasurer Clardy served as Acting Chairperson in the absence of Chairperson Winters.

1. Approval of Minutes from the May 27 and May 5, 2015 Steering Committee Meetings:

Secretary Vigilante noted that he had sent both sets of minutes out to the Steering Committee and had received comments from Treasurer Clardy and Steering Committee Member (SCM) Havassy regarding the May 27 minutes, and he had incorporated all the comments received in the May 27 minutes.

SCM Havassy made a motion to accept both sets of minutes. SCM Rohr seconded the motion. The motion was then voted on by the Steering Committee. The vote was unanimous to accept both sets of minutes.

2. Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Clardy provided a comprehensive Treasurer's Report to the Steering Committee and provided a written copy of that report to Secretary Vigilante for inclusion in the minutes. The content of the Treasurer's Report is attached to these minutes.

SCM Shaw asked if the City of Oakland was in a position to reimburse the MSIC for various operational expenses. NSC Rose noted that in the past, up to 2008, the City of Oakland reimbursed expenses up to about \$700 a year for each Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council, including MSIC. Receipt documentation was required for reimbursement. Beginning in 2009, the reimbursement process was discontinued due to budget problems during the economic recession. This year, the City Council voted to begin reimbursing Neighborhood Crime Prevention Councils for operational expenses as they had done in the past. NSC Rose noted that the details on the reimbursement process are currently being worked out and the reimbursement process should begin sometime during calendar year 2016.

3. Project Committee Assignments:

Acting Chairperson Clardy opened the discussion on this item by asking everyone if they had thoughts and ideas regarding this topic.

Secretary Vigilante proposed that MSIC have the following six Committees: Crime and Traffic Safety, Fire Prevention and Emergency Preparedness, Block-Level Organizing, Special Projects, Communications, and Council Operations. Secretary Vigilante also recommended that each member of the Steering Committee serve on at least one Committee. He noted that he had written up his thoughts and ideas.

SCM Kaiser made a motion for Secretary Vigilante to send out to the Steering Committee via e-mail his thoughts and ideas on MSIC Committee structure for everyone to review and think about, and that discussion and decision-making regarding MSIC Committee structure occur at the next Steering Committee Meeting scheduled for October 1, 2015. SCM Havassy seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to accept this motion.

4. Oakland Police Department (OPD) Priorities:

CRO Jurgens-Duenas noted that there have been 26 auto burglaries (most of them in Montclair Village), 12 home burglaries (four in one day on June 30), and three robberies (one was an armed robbery, one was a home invasion, and the other occurred at Wells Fargo Bank and the suspect was caught in the act).

SCM Shaw asked about the status of the Huckleberry Trail murder. CRO Jurgens-Duenas stated that there has been no change in the status of the case since the last report she made at the Council Meeting on May 7.

CRO Jurgens-Duenas stated that the Montclair community is very concerned, as is OPD, about the rash of “smash and grab” auto burglaries in Montclair Village. With the help of the Montclair Village Association (MVA), reports from businesses and residents, and camera surveillance around the parking garage, several leads have emerged with possible suspects and license plate numbers. OPD Investigators are examining these leads with guidance and assistance from the Alameda County District Attorney’s Office.

CRO Jurgens-Duenas stated that it’s possible that those who are committing some of the “smash and grabs” may have an electronic device that detects the presence of cell phones and computers in cars even when they are stored in the car and not visible from outside the car. CRO Jurgens-Duenas recommended that residents not leave these items in their cars.

SCM Swafford stated that right now, the only location in Montclair Village where the MVA has cameras is in the area of the parking garage. The MVA would like to have more cameras at key spots around Montclair Village, but there are issues regarding cost and how the camera information is analyzed and utilized. Concurrently, the MVA is working with individual business that have, or are interested in having, camera surveillance, and on how to link that information with other information sources after crimes occur in Montclair Village.

SCM Swafford stated that suspicious people have been observed in the Lucky Grocery Store parking areas. These suspicious people knew they were being watched. All of this may reflect that the groups committing the “smash and grabs” are well organized.

SCM Swafford stated that it is important for OPD to make an arrest soon in the “smash and grab” auto burglaries for two reasons: (1) to show the community that action is being taken to stem the increase of this type of crime, and (2) to deter future such crimes in Montclair Village.

SCM Swafford stated that some of the parking kiosks which are now being replaced had signs on them encouraging residents not to leave belongings in their cars. The new parking kiosks being installed do not have such signs. SCM Swafford recommended that caution signs be designed and installed on the new kiosks, or on poles in key areas in Montclair Village, to remind residents not to leave belongings in their cars. He recommended that residents design a logo for a sign, and work with the MVA to have those signs made and posted in Montclair Village.

SCM Kaiser suggested that residents could place a laminated sign on the car dash informing any person thinking of committing a “smash and grab” that all belongings have been removed from the car.

SCM Kaiser stated that people soliciting for money at Safeway frequently stand in front of the carts at the entrance, blocking people from getting a cart as they enter the store.

Secretary Vigilante stated that there use to be a problem with COMCAST trucks parking in the “no parking” zones at the Safeway Grocery Store. He took a picture of the offending trucks and sent an e-mail with the pictures to the Regional Director of COMCAST. After that happened, the trucks stopped parking there. There is also a problem with people using the parking spaces to avoid paying for parking along Montclair Village streets. Secretary Vigilante stated that one of the Safeway Cashiers told him that every time the Store tries to enforce the “parking only for customers” rule, someone important complains and the Store goes back to doing nothing about the parking problem.

Several SCMs asked CRO Jurgens-Duenas about OPD staffing numbers. CRO Jurgens-Duenas stated that OPD currently is staffed with about 750 sworn Officers. There are also three training academies (two in Oakland, one in San Francisco) which will graduate about 100 additional Officer trainees over the next year. OPD currently loses 4 to 5 Officers a month due to retirements and lateral reassignments.

SCM Mosher asked whether Traffic Officers would be brought back to perform traffic enforcement work. CRO Jurgens-Duenas stated that some were back doing that work now, but most of the work is currently being done around Oakland schools.

SCM Kaiser stated that mail theft was a problem in Montclair. CRO Jurgens-Duenas stated that the United States Postal Service was the responsible entity to contact regarding this problem.

NSC Rose stated that with the increase in OPD staffing, the OPD Homicide Division has more resources to work on cold cases. She had three posters which contained information about various cold cases. The posters were designed to get the public’s attention and new leads on these cases. She asked if the posters could be placed in various spots in Montclair. SCM Swafford said he would attempt to post some of them in Montclair Village.

NSC Rose stated that there were 560 National Night Out parties throughout Oakland on August 4. There were 35 parties in police beat 13z (Montclair Area)

5. September 3 Public Meeting Agenda:

Acting Chairperson Clardy led a discussion regarding the proposed agenda for the MSIC Public Meeting to be held on September 3. The items discussed and decided upon during this discussion will be presented in the order of the revised agenda as decided by the Steering Committee.

a. Meet and Mingle With Neighbors. There was no disagreement among SCMs about this item on the agenda.

b. Montclair Service Award Presentations. Recipients - Jill Broadhurst, Sandra Pohutsky, and Peggy Esposito. The Steering Committee agreed unanimously that

awards should be presented to these former MSIC leaders, and that the awards be presented as the first order of business at the September 3 Meeting. Secretary Vigilante presented samples of awards that he had prepared in the past and agreed to prepare individual awards for each recipient. The awards will be framed in a real wood frame and include a nicely prepared award document with gold-like embossing and a gold -like seal on it under glass.

c. Open Community Forum [for subjects not on this agenda]. SCM Kaiser made a motion that this item be moved from the end of the agenda to the beginning of the agenda. She explained the importance of doing this. Secretary Vigilante seconded the motion. The Steering Committee vote was unanimous to accept this motion.

c. Approval of Council Minutes From May 7 and June 18 Public Meetings. Secretary Vigilante stated that in July, both sets of minutes were posted to the MSIC website and to the Yahoo! Group as tentative minutes pending public review and input and thereafter approval at the September 3 Public Meeting. There was no disagreement among SCMs about this item being on the agenda.

d. Montclair Crime Reports and Back To School Safety Tips. Speaker –Kristine Jurgens, OPD Community Resource Officer for Montclair. The discussion on this item started as concerns from several SCMs about having the PPS Guard Services discuss Montclair crime and neighborhood safety. SCM Havassy made a motion to remove PPS Guard Services from the agenda and instead have CRO Jurgens-Duenas make a presentation focused on crime in Montclair. Secretary Vigilante seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a majority of SCMs. There were also concerns about whether the back to school safety subject-matter should be on agenda as a separate item. The consensus of opinion was that the back to school safety subject-matter should remain on the agenda. Secretary Vigilante made a motion that the Montclair Crime subject-matter and the back to school safety subject-matter be merged and placed on the agenda as one item. SCM Kaiser seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous to accept this motion

e. Fire Safety and Prevention. Speaker – Susan Piper, Oakland Firesafe Council Chairperson. SCM Havassy suggested that Ms. Piper be allowed to address the subject-matter without being limited by the items listed on the proposed agenda. There was no disagreement among SCMs about this recommendation, and there was no disagreement about this item being on the agenda.

f. Montclair Community Updates and Announcements: Montclair Mural, Antioch Court Project, Montclair Village Association, Other Community Groups. There was no disagreement among SCMs about this item being on the agenda.

SCM Shaw stated that he was available to give a report about the status of the Mural Project. He stated that in addition to the money raised so far, there was around \$3,500.00 of pledges pending. He would also address other project aspects, such as design and future fundraising needs.

Treasurer Clardy noted that he, Chairperson Winters, and SCM Swafford could give a report about the status of the Antioch Court Project. Treasurer Clardy noted some of the recent developments which could be presented at the September 3 meeting, such as the recent project kick-off meeting with the City of Oakland Public Works Agency, all the design activities to be completed by end of 2015, grants/funds received and committed thus far and those expected in the future, additional fundraising and community involvement needs, and the expected completion date of the project.

6. MSIC Bylaws Review:

Acting Chairperson Clardy asked if anyone had issues and concerns in this area.

SCM Kaiser stated that MSIC had just undergone an extensive bylaws redesign this year, and she did not see any reason to do this again.

Secretary Vigilante stated that in his proposed MSIC Committee structure, there is a proposed Council Operations Committee. One of the functions of the Council Operations Committee would be to examine, discuss, and propose any bylaws changes. Thus, that item could be a regular item of business for that Committee, and would not need to be regularly discussed at Steering Committee Meetings unless the Committee proposes bylaw changes.

Secretary Vigilante noted that the current set of bylaws state that range voting will be used, but the bylaws do not describe the specifics of how range voting will be implemented. He felt that those specific should be included in the bylaws so the public knows how range voting will be used.

Inasmuch as all agenda items were now completed, Acting Chairperson Clardy made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and the Steering Committee unanimously agreed to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:42 p.m.

Nick Vigilante

Nick Vigilante
MSIC Recording Secretary

