



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

Thursday, January 7, 2016, Montclair Presbyterian Church

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), Daniel Swafford (Community Representative), Jeff Diamond (Community Appointed Representative), Josh Shaw (Community Representative), Barry Klezmer (Community Appointed Representative), and Stan Weisner (Community Appointed Representative).

Steering Committee Members Absent: Nancy Havassy (Community Appointed Representative).

Advisory Members Present: Patricia Rose, Oakland Police Department (OPD) Neighborhood Services Coordinator (NSC).

Other Attendees Present: None.

A quorum of Steering Committee Members (SCMs) was achieved and Chairperson Winters called the meeting to order at approximately 6:50 p.m.

1. Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Clardy provided a comprehensive Treasurer's Report. MSIC currently has \$10,208.34 in its bank account at the U.S. Bank of which \$8,182.09 is earmarked for the Railroad Mural Project.

An invoice for the Pocket Park irrigation repair work, an expenditure which was approved by the Steering Committee on October 1, 2015, has not yet been received because not all of the repair work has been completed.

Treasurer Clardy also submitted a sample of a P and L Statement that could be used by MSIC to establish an annual budget.

2. Approval of Minutes from the December 10, 2015 Steering Committee Meeting:

Secretary Vigilante stated that he had distributed the draft minutes to the Steering Committee via e-mail and had received a few comments. All comments received were incorporated in the December 10 minutes submitted for approval.

Chairperson Winters made a motion to accept the minutes. The motion was seconded. The draft minutes, as revised, were accepted as complete and accurate by all SCMs present at the December 10, 2015 Meeting.

3. OPD Priorities To Present to Community Resources Officer (CRO), Kristine Jurgens-Duenas:

Chairperson Winters opened the discussion on this agenda item by noting that there has been no improvement by OPD on follow-up to information and images of Montclair Village crime to aid in apprehending the violators. There was a consensus of agreement among SCMs without any objections that Chairperson Winters escalate this concern to CRO Jurgens-Duenas for discussion and problem-solving.

Chairperson Winters asked everyone for their thoughts on what should be the priorities for OPD in Beat 13Z. There was much discussion. After the discussion concluded, there was a general consensus of agreement among SCMs without any objections that the following items should be OPD priorities for Beat 13Z:

Priority 1 = *Consistent and timely follow-up on incidents in the Village and Hills (auto theft/burglaries/images/information).*

Priority 2 = *Traffic/speed enforcement at the following locations:*

- a. Shepherd Canyon Road in the 25 mile per hour zone beginning at the dip.*
- b. Mountain Gate and Ascot in the school zone area.*
- c. Traffic signal "blow-off" at the Mountain Boulevard on-ramp to northbound State Road 13.*

Priority 3 = *Monthly OPD reports on priorities based on a standard of measurement.*

SCM Swafford, also Executive Director of the Montclair Village Association (MVA), stated that he is continuing to work with Safeway and Lucky grocery corporate officials to improve security and safety in the grocery store parking lots.

SCM Weisner shared a draft notice that the Piedmont Pines Neighborhood Association (PPNA) developed to place on windshields of cars which are impeding street access and egress. The notice encourages car owners' to park in a way that does not restrict vehicle movement on the street, and it reminds them that a blocked street can seriously

impede emergency vehicles and evacuation of residents during an emergency. SCM Weisner recommended that MSIC partner with PPNA on this project to broaden its application Montclair-wide. There was a consensus of agreement among SCMs without any objections that this was a good project to undertake under the new MSIC committee structure.

4. MSIC Committee Structure and Meeting Schedule:

Chairperson Winters facilitated a discussion on this agenda item.

Chairperson Winters noted that the Communications Committee had its first meeting earlier this week. They discussed website rebranding, as well as list serv rebranding and integration with Next Door and Nixle communication providers.

Chairperson Winters encouraged other committees to meet soon, set-up a meeting schedule, explore ideas for projects and activities, and decide on ways to include public participation in committee operations. Once a meeting schedule has been set-up, please let Chairperson Winters know so that the information can be added to the website. Also, please provide Chairperson Winters with committee updates in advance of MSIC Meetings to facilitate committee presentations at the meetings.

Chairperson Winters also stressed the importance for each committee to determine funding needs and explore fundraising ideas.

Chairperson Winters noted the titles of each committee (Crime Prevention and Traffic Safety, Emergency Preparedness and Vegetation Management, MONS, Communications, Special Projects, and Council Operations) and the names of SCMs that had volunteered to serve on each committee.

SCM Swafford stated that it was important to get Montclair residents involved in committee operations, determining topics and problem areas to focus on, and on how residents can contribute. There was a general consensus of opinion among SCMs that public participation is an important aspect of committee operations.

There was discussion about whether there should be public participants serving on the Council Operations committee. There was a general consensus of opinion among SCMs that this committee is inherently different than the other committees because it will deal with internal MSIC matters. Therefore, public participants serving on this committee would probably not enhance committee operations and there might be privacy issues if the committee is dealing with complaints and/or performance or conduct problems.

5. February 4 Public Meeting Agenda:

Chairperson Winters stated that there are two topics, one of which could be the

centerpiece for the February 4 MSIC Public Meeting.

---“Park Like Your Life Depends On It” or Oakland Hills Emergency Access Project (the topic has been styled both ways).

---Traffic and Pedestrian Safety at the Mountain and Thornhill Intersection.

Both topics are hot topics among Montclair residents and will require participation by Councilmember Annie Campbell-Washington’s Office at the February 4 Meeting.

There was a general consensus of agreement among SCMs without any objections that either topic would be a good one as a centerpiece for the February 4 Meeting, and that the choice should be based on the Councilmember’s readiness to contribute on the topic.

Chairperson Winters stated that she would check with Councilmember Campbell-Washington’s Office to see which topic was best, and that she would prepare and issue the customary meeting agenda and notice (draft and final) in advance of the meeting. OPD priorities and recurring items will also be on the agenda.

Secretary Vigilante submitted a motion to proceed as Chairperson Winters had outlined above. SCM Diamond seconded the motion. There was a consensus of agreement among SCMs without any objections that this plan of action was acceptable for the February 4 Meeting.

6. MSIC Project Updates:

Railroad Mural Project: SCM Shaw provided an extensive briefing and update on the Railroad Mural Project. He also circulated a Project briefing document with lots of the information about the Project. Information about the Project is available for review on the MSIC website.

SCM Shaw stated that the overall cost of the mural has dropped from 60K to nearly 40K due to a reassessment by the artist (Andrew Johnstone) of the cost for the mural.

SCM Shaw stated that although the nearly 40K may be a large amount of money for a mural, that amount is consistent with the cost of similarly situated murals, for example a mural in Rockridge of similar size and cost.

There was discussion about whether painting of a mural on the subject retaining wall had been approved by the City of Oakland. SCM Shaw stated that, in fact, the Project had been approved by the City of Oakland. To the best of his knowledge, the only thing needed before the mural can move forward is for the Oakland Public Works Agency (PWA) to assign a staff person to oversee the Project. Councilmember Campbell-Washington’s Office is currently looking into this to see what may still be needed.

There was discussion about the integrity of the retaining wall on which the mural will be painted. Were there any problems here? SCM Shaw stated that he was unaware of any problems of this sort which would impact the mural. This is an area which could be reviewed after PWA assigns a staff person, as this would be an issue only PWA would be aware of because they are responsible for maintaining the subject retaining wall.

There was discussion about what the cost would be for maintaining the mural after it was completed. SCM Shaw stated that the artist has agreed to maintain the mural after it is painted. There would also be graffiti abatement assistance from PWA if needed. SCM Shaw stated that as a result, maintenance costs should be minimal, if any.

SCM Shaw stated that the initial design of the mural was reviewed by historical groups and there were concerns about the historical accuracy of the design. The artist is aware of the concerns and will make a concerted effort to revise the mural design so that it is as historically accurate as possible.

Chairperson Winters stated that a copy of the artist agreement should be reviewed to see what the artist is accepting, and what MSIC might be responsible for. There was a consensus of agreement among SCMs without any objections that the artist agreement should be reviewed. SCM Shaw stated he would provide a copy of it to Chairperson Winters and the Steering Committee for review before it is finalized.

SCM Shaw stated that approximately \$13,900.00 has been raised through donations and pledges. Thank you letters are issued to contributors. To date, most of the fundraising efforts have been focused on donations from individuals. To reach the 40K figure needed to complete the mural, it is necessary to focus fundraising efforts on corporate donations and grants, which are generally larger than donations from individuals.

There was discussion among SCM that it was necessary to develop a fundraising plan to reach the goal of 40K needed for the mural via corporate fundraising and grants. Locating fundraising and grants writing expertise is needed. Outreach via improved website coverage, the Yahoo! Group, Next Door, and a regular presence at the Montclair Farmers' Market will also help with project education, outreach, and fundraising efforts.

Chairperson Winters stated that access to fundraising and grants writing expertise would be good not only for the Mural Project but also for the Antioch Court Project and other MSIC efforts (present and future). We may have fundraising and grants writing expertise among our Montclair residents which might be available pro bono. She stated that the Communications Committee could prepare and issue a solicitation via the Yahoo! Group and/or Next Door. We can also ask at our February 4 Public Meeting.

SCM Kaiser stated that a mural alliance resource in San Francisco (San Francisco Mural Arts – www.sfmuralarts.com) may be able to provide MSIC some guidance and assistance with the Mural Project fundraising and implementation.

There was consensus among SCMs without any objections that the above four things should be done to help move the Mural Project forward.

The Steering Committee thanked SCM Shaw for his thorough presentation and for his work on the Railroad Mural Project.

Antioch Court Project: Chairperson Winters noted that the Antioch Court Project Committee will meet on January 11. They will review light fixture possibilities, plans to survey business entry areas in an effort to make them ADA compliant, and other aspects of the Project. The current method of funding will be continued into the third year of the Project. The City of Oakland will fund the bulb-out and cross walk improvements. Current trees will remain. One tree will be relocated and there will be one new tree added. A full construction plan will be completed in the next few months, and construction is projected to be completed in spring 2017.

Montclair Park MLK Day Clean-Up on January 17: SCM Swafford that there will be a MLK Day clean-up event at the Montclair Park on January 17, 2016 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Currently, the MVA, Montclair Community Corps, and the City of Oakland Parks and Recreation Department are co-sponsoring this event. SCM Swafford asked if MSIC would like to be a co-sponsor and participate in the event? There was a consensus of agreement among SCMs without any objections that MSIC co-sponsor and participate in the event.

There will also be the annual Earth Day clean-up at Montclair Park in April.

Pocket Park: Treasurer Clardy noted that there was a restoration and clean-up event at the Pocket Park on December 5, 2015 sponsored by The Hillside Gardeners. Both he and Secretary Vigilante participated in the event.

The irrigation system is in the process of being repaired and once the work is completed, MSIC will receive an invoice. The repair cost may be less than what was projected several months ago.

Inasmuch as all agenda items were now completed, Chairperson Winters adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:59 p.m.

Nick Vigilante

Nick Vigilante
MSIC Recording Secretary