



Montclair Safety and Improvement Council (MSIC) Community Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 1, 2016, Montclair Presbyterian Church, 5701 Thornhill Drive

Steering Committee Members Present: Carolyn Winters (Chairperson), Michael Tigges (Vice Chairperson), Jim Clardy (Treasurer), Stan Weisner (Community Organization Representative), Daniel Swafford (Community Representative), Josh Shaw (Community Representative), and Jason Purdy (Community Representative – temporary appointment).

Steering Committee Members Absent: Nick Vigilante (Secretary), Jeff Diamond (Community Organization Representative), and Doug Mosher (Community Representative).

Advisory Members Present: Ms. Patricia Rose, Oakland Police Department (OPD) Neighborhood Services Coordinator (NSC), and Ms. Iowayna Pena of Councilmember Annie Campbell-Washington's Office, City of Oakland.

Other Attendees Present: 30

Chairperson Winters called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. after a quorum of Steering Committee Members (SCMs) was achieved.

1. Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Clardy provided a comprehensive Treasurer's Report. MSIC currently has \$13,082.00 in its funds accounts with the U.S. Bank and PayPal. Of that amount, \$8,182.00 is earmarked for the Railroad Mural Project and \$86.00 is earmarked for the Pocket Park.

The Steering Committee also approved minor expenses for the MSIC Yahoo! Alert Group and MSIC website in the amount of \$60.00.

2. Approval of Minutes from the May 2016 Community Meeting:

After asking the community for feedback and there was none offered, the Steering Committee unanimously approved the draft minutes from the May 4, 2016 MSIC Community and Annual Election meeting.

3. Montclair Crime Reports and Priority Updates:

OPD Community Resource Officer (CRO) Kristine Jurgens-Duenas, who was not available to attend the meeting, had prepared crime statistics for Beat 13Z (Montclair Area) for the period from May to September 2016 versus the same period in 2015. Chairperson Winters presented the crime statistics as follows:

- Auto Burglaries: 22 versus 77 during the same period in 2015.
- Residential Burglaries: 25 versus 36 during the same period in 2015.
- Auto Thefts: 23 versus 30 during the same period in 2015.
- Robberies: 1 versus 3 during the same period in 2015.

Chairperson Winters stated that the peak days for burglaries were on Tuesdays and Sundays between 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. About 50 percent of the auto burglaries occurred in Montclair Village. In August, there was an incident of strong arm shop lifting at the Rite Aid Store in Montclair Village.

Chairperson Winters stated that there were reports on the MSIC Alert Yahoo! Group this summer about casing of neighborhoods. Residents provided vehicle descriptions, photographs, and other identifying information which was forwarded to OPD. OPD is investigating.

Chairperson Winters stated that mail theft continues to be a problem. Reports are submitted to OPD and the United States Postal Service (USPS). They work together when necessary, but there are only three Postal Inspectors for all of Northern California. One arrest had been made. Identity theft often results from mail theft. It can create serious financial problems for the victims. Consider a protection service, for example Life Lock.

Chairperson Winters stated that citywide crime is down about 12 percent this year.

Chairperson Winters advised everyone to alert the Montclair Village Association (MVA) if they see panhandlers in the Village.

4. Communities of Oakland Responding to Emergencies (CORE) Presentation by Mr. Josh Kaplan:

He briefly related the history of CORE after the Loma Prieta earthquake 1989 and the Oakland Hills firestorm in 1991. These disasters revealed the need for citizen training. Disaster victims can expect to be on their own for at least 72 hours if they don't evacuate. Most first responders live in the cities of Oakley or Livermore. CORE I provides personal training, and CORE II is for neighborhood preparedness. These trainings can be scheduled in neighborhoods and are taught by volunteers.

For full CORE certification, one needs to successfully pass CORE III A, B and C training segments, and pass an all-day hands-on exercise taught by Firefighters. The hands-on exercise is held at the Oakland Firefighter Training Center.

5. Oakland Firesafe Council (OFC) presentation by Mr. Ken Benson:

This was a community outreach and vegetation management talk. Much of the presentation reviewed lessons learned from the Oakland Hills firestorm where 1,520 acres and 2,500 houses were burned and 25 residents were killed.

“Park Like Your Life Depends On It.” By CA law, Firefighters can damage or destroy your vehicle if it is blocking firefighting equipment. Because of improved code enforcement and vegetation management, most Firefighters are called to medical emergencies. Neighbors need to carefully park cars on streets so that emergency vehicle access is not restricted – lives may depend on it.

Sixty percent of the Serra foothill forests in Northern California are dead or dying. The US Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has established a unified incident command structure to fight the fires in this area.

Several new organizations were formed in the wake of the Oakland Hills firestorm disaster, including:

* United Policy Holders * Wildfire Assessment District (<http://oaklandnet.com/wildfireprevention>) * Oakland Firesafe Council (<http://oaklandfiresafecouncil.org>) * Oakland Wildland Stewards (<http://www.wildfireprevention.info>)

* Diablo Firesafe Council (<http://diablofiresafe.org>) The Council has a process to obtain up to a \$5,000 grant to mitigate the cost by homeowners for tree removal.

Consider the above resources when modifying or replacing your residential vegetation (both trees and other plantings) to choose materials that are safer.

6. Announcements:

* The Montclair Women's Club is being sold without contingency. An application for a Spanish Immersion Elementary School was submitted in August. Nearby neighbors, who were consulted by the buyers, are in cautious agreement with the proposal. The plan is to have 45 students in the first year, with a maximum enrollment of between 60-70 students.

The meeting concluded after all agenda items were completed.

Meeting Notes Taken By Vice Chairperson Michael Tigges

Notes Placed Into Minutes Format By MSIC Secretary Nick Vigilante