



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

Wednesday, November 30, Montclair Presbyterian Church, 5701 Thornhill Drive

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

Steering Committee Members Absent: Josh Shaw (Community Representative) and Jeff Diamond (Community Appointed 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: Jill Broadhurst (MSIC Mural Committee Member), and Margaret Clardy and Roberto Stinga (Montclair residents)

Although not an Agenda item, it is noted here that Treasurer Clardy provided a comprehensive Treasurer's Report and P & L statement to the Steering Committee. MSIC currently has \$10,142.25 in its bank account at the U.S. Bank account of which \$8,116.00 is earmarked for the Railroad Mural Project and \$1,000.00 is earmarked for the Pocket Park.

A quorum of Steering Committee Members (SCMs) was achieved and Chairperson Winters called the meeting to order at approximately 7:10 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes from the November 3, 2016 Meeting:

Secretary Vigilante stated that he had distributed the draft minutes to the Steering Committee via e-mail on November 6 and had received feedback from SCM Purdy which he had incorporated in the November 3 minutes submitted for approval.

Treasurer Clardy made a motion to accept the minutes as revised. SCM Purdy seconded the motion. The draft minutes, as revised, were accepted as complete and accurate by all SCMs.

2. Montclair Railroad Mural Project:

Treasurer Clardy and Jill Broadhurst, members of the Montclair Railroad Mural Committee, provided an update on the Mural Project.

Treasurer Clardy stated that the Montclair Railroad Mural Committee held a planning meeting on October 28, 2016. The artist, Andrew Johnstone, has identified three different scenarios for completing the mural based on cost ranges (15K, 25K, and 40K and above). About 15.5K in funds have been donated or committed to the Project to date.

Ms. Broadhurst stated that the Committee is waiting for decisions on pending large grants requested from two foundations. Those grants could amount to about 35K. The Committee hopes to hear something on the two large grants by March 2017.

Secretary Vigilante asked if the artist had prepared a rendering for the mural at the 25K range for the Steering Committee to review, per a discussion that occurred at the November 3, 2016 MSIC Steering Committee meeting.

Ms. Broadhurst stated that preparing specific renderings at each cost range would be a lot of work for the artist, especially given that some of the renderings would not be used once fundraising is completed. She recommended waiting until after word is received back on the two large grant requests before asking the artist to prepare specific renderings.

There was a consensus of agreement among SCMs that it was better to wait until word is received on the pending large grant requests before asking the artist to prepare any specific renderings.

Secretary Vigilante asked about the likelihood of approval of the large grant requests.

Ms. Broadhurst stated that she was cautiously optimistic about approval of the large grant requests.

Treasurer Clardy stated that raising more money for the Mural will improve the quality and durability of it, and help better maintain it over time. Some pre-existing issues (e.g., ground moisture permeation through some areas on the wall) will need to be addressed.

Treasurer Clardy stated that the Committee had posted a solicitation on Nextdoor asking for community volunteers to help the Railroad Mural Committee with various tasks including fundraising.

Secretary Vigilante stated that the announcement was posted on Nextdoor yesterday. It was posted to a large area in and around Montclair. There was already discussion and feedback from residents on Nextdoor in regards to the announcement.

Several SCMs stated that they had not seen the announcement. Secretary Vigilante recommended they begin receiving and viewing the daily Nextdoor Digests which contains a list of active posts including this one.

Chairperson Winters stated that there will be MSIC Steering Committee meetings in January and March 2017. The Montclair Railroad Mural will be an agenda item at both meetings for updates and for further discussion.

3. Updates From Councilmember Annie Campbell-Washington's Office:

This was a new business item added to the agenda at this point. Ms. Pena was present on behalf of Councilmember Campbell-Washington.

Chairperson Winters asked Ms. Pena if she had any items she wanted to present to the Steering Committee.

Ms. Pena stated that on December 6, 2016, the City of Oakland Parks and Recreation and Public Works Agencies will host a community meeting at the Montclair Park Recreation Center, from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm, to present a proposed conceptual master plan for improvements at the Montclair Park and solicit community participation and input in finalizing the master plan.

Secretary Vigilante stated that he had just posted a notice of this meeting on Nextdoor to a large area in and around Montclair.

Chairperson Winters stated that she had just posted the announcement on the MSIC Alert Yahoo! Group.

Vice Chairperson Tigges asked about the status of the "Parking in the Hills" education and safety awareness project. Had the project started in the proposed focus test areas?

Ms. Pena stated that the project has not yet started in the proposed focus test areas. That is expected in 2017. She will follow-up on this subject and have additional information to present at the January 2017 Steering Committee meeting.

Chairperson Winters and Treasurer Clardy asked about continued progress in addressing traffic and pedestrian safety issues and concerns at the Mountain Boulevard and Thornhill Drive intersection. Some improvements have already been made but additional changes, specifically engineering changes, were needed to address the congestion and safety issues at that location, including evacuation during a disaster.

Ms. Pena stated that Councilmember Campbell-Washington routinely receives a lot of e-mail and letters from residents about issues and problems at that location. Councilmember Campbell-Washington will continue to support and advocate for additional improvements as funding and other resources become available. Ms. Pena

will follow-up on this subject for future Steering Committee meetings.

Treasurer Clardy stated that he was happy to see that CalTrans finally put up concrete safety barriers along the entry ramp from Moraga Boulevard to SR 13. It will probably take about six months to complete the on-going engineering work to stabilize the entry ramp and hillside below the ramp.

4. Alert Decals For Auto Burglaries (“smash and grabs”) In Montclair Village:

Chairperson Winters stated that on November 5, 2016, both she and Secretary Vigilante installed safety alert decals on all City of Oakland parking meter poles and kiosks in Montclair Village. Most poles have two decals, one facing inward towards the front of the meter and one facing outward towards the parking space. The kiosks have one decal on the front of the meters.

Secretary Vigilante stated that there are two private parking lots in Montclair; one next to Camber Restaurant and the other next to Red Oak Realty. No safety alert decals were placed on meter poles at those locations because they are private property. Permission from the property owners is needed before decals can be placed there.

SCM Swafford, also Executive Director of the Montclair Village Association (MVA), suggested checking with the Red Oak Realty Office to locate contact information for the owners. Both parking areas are owned by the same individuals.

Secretary Vigilante stated that he would follow up with Red Oak Realty to locate the contact information for the owners and, thereafter, make contact with them.

SCM Swafford states that he has noticed that many auto burglaries occur in the morning and afternoon commute hours. People visiting the Village are often in a hurry during commute hours and leave items of value in their autos. The OPD does have a walking Officer in Montclair from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm but the Officer is often redirected outside of Montclair after about 2:00 pm.

SCM Swafford stated that having more cameras in Montclair Village might help identify and apprehend some of the people committing the auto burglaries, especially cameras at Village entry and exit points. He continues to discuss and advocate the need for more cameras with the Village businesses. Rite Aid recently installed a camera system at the corner of its location at Mountain Boulevard and Medau Place.

5. Nomination of Roberto Stinga as a MSIC Community Representative:

SCM Weisner stated that Mr. Stinga was interested in serving temporarily on the MSIC Steering Committee as a Community Representative until the annual election in May 2017. At that time, Mr. Stinga might succeed him as the Piedmont Pines Neighborhood Association (PPNA) representative on the MSIC Steering Committee.

Mr. Stinga confirmed his interest in serving as a Community Representative on the MSIC Steering Committee.

MSIC's current bylaws allow the MSIC Steering Committee to make temporary appointments – See Section IX (Interim Appointments).

SCM Weisner made a motion to appoint Mr. Stinga as a temporary Community Representative on the MSIC Steering Committee. Chairperson Winters seconded the nomination. The Steering Committee voted unanimously to accept the motion. Chairperson Winters welcomed Mr. Stinga to the Steering Committee.

6. Agenda for February and April Community Meetings:

7. 2017 MSIC Strategic Planning:

These items were combined because they overlap with respect to subject-matter and MSIC event planning.

Chairperson Winters stated that in 2011 she spearheaded a Montclair Surveillance Camera Project for MSIC to educate Montclair residents about the cost, installation, and usage of both business and residential camera systems. It also offered residents the opportunity to purchase and install camera systems at a discounted price through a special arrangement with Logitech Inc.

Secretary Vigilante stated that the City of Oakland recently instituted a project to link residential camera systems to create an information platform to help investigate crimes.

NSC Rose stated that the above project is being managed by Bruce Stoffmacher of the OPD Research, Planning, and Crime Analysis Unit. Residents with camera systems can contact Mr. Stoffmacher to participate (bstoffmacher@oaklandnet.com).

Chairperson Winters recommended that MSIC update and re-offer the Montclair Surveillance Camera Program because residents continue to be interested in installing camera systems in their homes, because the quality of camera systems has increased and the cost has come down since 2011, and because it would make sense to link our neighborhood camera systems through the project being managed by OPD.

There was a consensus of agreement among SCMs that Chairperson Winters' idea was a good one that MSIC should pursue developing a Program proposal (a strawman) for review and consideration at the January 2017 Steering Committee meeting.

Chairperson Winters and SCM Stinga offered to work together on a Program proposal for Steering Committee consideration.

SCM Purdy stated that he has been working hard to form a Montclair Organized Neighborhoods (MONS) Group for most of upper Shepherd Canyon. It currently includes over 40 homes, and they have had several meetings and already completed

some of the CORE training classes.

SCM Purdy stated that he will begin to work on proposals for MSIC website changes in December and will have some change proposals for Steering Committee consideration at the January 2017 Steering Committee meeting.

SCM Mosher recommended that MSIC conduct a survey among Montclair residents to find out what issues and problems residents want MSIC to focus on. The survey could be developed and then circulated via Nextdoor and the MSIC Yahoo! Groups for residents to review and complete, and it could be made available on the MSIC website as well.

There was a consensus of agreement among SCMs that SCM Mosher's recommendation was a good one and should be implemented.

Chairperson Winters, Vice Chairperson Tigges, and SCM Mosher (members of the MSIC Communication Committee) offered to develop a proposed survey for review and consideration at the January 2017 Steering Committee meeting, and then issuance thereafter.

Chairperson Winters initiated a discussion regarding agenda planning for the February 2017 Community Meeting.

Secretary Vigilante recommended that a portion of the February Community meeting needs to be devoted to community review and approval of the proposed new bylaws which the Steering Committee tentatively approved in August 2016. In August 2016, the tentative draft was issued on Nextdoor and the MSIC Alert Yahoo! Group for residents to review and provide comments. One comment was received from a resident who felt that MSIC should explain why the bylaws are being revised. As a result of the comment, Secretary Vigilante issued on Nextdoor a brief one-page document explaining the reasons for revision of the bylaws.

There was a consensus of agreement among SCMs that the bylaws should be an agenda topic for the February 2017 Community Meeting, and that the one page briefing document prepared by Secretary Vigilante be duplicated and provided to residents at the meeting.

Secretary Vigilante offered to reissue on Nextdoor the tentative revised bylaws and his brief one page document several weeks before the February 2017 Community Meeting.

Chairperson Winters stated that the survey results can be presented and discussed at the February 2017 Community Meeting to obtain additional input from residents. There was a consensus of agreement among SCMs that the survey results and discussion should also be an agenda.

Chairperson Winters initiated a discussion about possible agenda items for the April 2017 Community Meeting.

Secretary Vigilante recommended that a portion of the meeting could be a presentation by PG&E about electric and gas safety, including a segment about automatic gas shutoff valves. He noted that most fires are caused by electrical problems.

SCM Mosher indicated that he could also make a presentation about the Piedmont Pines Neighborhood Association (PPNA) Program offering special pricing and installation of automatic gas shutoff valves through an arrangement they have with a local plumbing contractor. In addition, there could be a MONS general discussion and information sharing segment.

There was discussion among SCMs about the length of the PG&E electric and gas safety segment. Several SCMs felt that the length should not exceed 60 minutes because of other topics that will be on the agenda.

There was a consensus of agreement among SCMs that the above three topics would be good agenda items for the April 2017 Community Meeting, including the 60 minute length for the PG&E electric and gas safety segment.

Secretary Vigilante stated that he would contact PG&E in December to schedule the PG&E segment of the April meeting.

Inasmuch as all agenda items, including new business items, were now completed, Chairperson Winters adjourned the business meeting at approximately 8:45 p.m.

After the business meeting, SCMs enjoyed some good food, drink, and conversation together to celebrate the beginning of the Holiday Season and New Year.

Nick Vigilante

Nick Vigilante
MSIC Recording Secretary