



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

Thursday, January 5, 2017, 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), and Jason Purdy (Community Representative – temporary appointment).

Steering Committee Members Absent: Daniel Swafford (Community Representative), Josh Shaw (Community Representative), Jeff Diamond (Community Appointed Representative), and Roberto Stinga (Community Representative – temporary appointment).

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: Oakland City Councilmember Ms. Annie Campbell-Washington; and Ms. Carolyn Burgess, Chairperson of the North Hills Community Council Safety Committee (North Hills is the neighboring Community Council similar to MSIC covering the Oakland residential area north of Thornhill Drive up to the City of Berkeley border).

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

1. Announcement Regarding Hiring Of New Oakland Police Chief:

This item was added to the agenda by the Steering Committee because Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf announced on or about January 2, 2017 that Ms. Anne Kirkpatrick, currently an Assistant Police Chief with the Chicago Police Department, would be hired as the new Police Chief for the City of Oakland.

The agenda item regarding February Community Meeting Planning is also included in this section of the minutes.

NSC Rose stated that it was announced at OPD that Chief Kirkpatrick would report for duty sometime during the last week of February 2017.

Several SCMs recommended that MSIC hold a community meeting in either February or March to introduce Chief Kirkpatrick to the community, and to give Chief Kirkpatrick an opportunity to hear from residents about their concerns regarding crime and crime prevention.

North Hills Community Council (NHCC) Safety Chairperson Burgess indicated that the NHCC would be interested in co-sponsoring this community meeting with MSIC.

Secretary Vigilante noted that MSIC had co-sponsored a similar community meeting in the fall of 2009 with NHCC, the Piedmont Pines Neighborhood Association (PPNA), and then Councilmember Jean Quan's office when Anthony Batts came to Oakland to serve as Police Chief. The meeting was held at the Montera Middle School Auditorium, and over 200 residents attended the meeting. The meeting was covered on TV and radio media.

Secretary Vigilante submitted a motion to co-sponsor a similar community meeting for Chief Kirkpatrick in either February or March as a substitute for the MSIC community meeting previously scheduled for February 2, 2017. The motion was seconded. The Steering Committee voted unanimously to accept the motion.

SCM Mosher offered to communicate with PPNA to see if they would be interested in also being a co-sponsor for the meeting.

There was then discussion about when (the date) the community meeting would be held in February or March 2017. The dates of Thursday, February 23 and Thursday, March 23 were identified as possibilities. There was consensus among SCMs, NHCC Safety Chairperson Burgess and Councilmember Campbell-Washington that these dates would be acceptable assuming Chief Kirkpatrick is available to attend the meeting on the above noted dates.

Councilmember Campbell-Washington stated that she would contact Chief Kirkpatrick to arrange a date for the community meeting. If the new Police Chief is not available on February 23 and March 23, 2017, she will attempt to arrange another suitable date in either February or March. Her office will also attempt to secure the Montera Middle School Auditorium, or another suitable location, for the meeting.

Chairperson Winters stated that if a community meeting date in either February or March is confirmed by the end of January 2017, there would be no MSIC community meeting on Thursday, February 2, as previously scheduled. Instead, that meeting might become a Steering Committee if there is a need for MSIC business.

Secretary Vigilante stated that at the November 30, 2016 MSIC meeting, the Steering Committee decided to present the proposed bylaws changes at the February 2, 2017 community meeting and have the community review and vote on them. If the February 2, 2017 community meeting is not held, community review and voting on the proposed bylaws would have to be a part of the community meeting in February or March to introduce Chief Kirkpatrick. Community review and voting on the proposed bylaws changes could be accomplished either before, or after, Chief Kirkpatrick's segment at the meeting.

Secretary Vigilante stated that once a date is confirmed for the community meeting to introduce Chief Kirkpatrick, he will send a draft of the bylaws out to the community via Nextdoor and the MSIC Yahoo! Groups for review and feedback and to let the community know that the proposed bylaws changes will be reviewed and voted on at the community meeting. There was a consensus of agreement among SCMs that this was an acceptable course of action.

Secretary Vigilante stated that he noted one problem in the current proposed bylaws which the Steering Committee needed to address. The current bylaws allow up to 15 SCMs. The Steering Committee adjusted the proposed bylaws to allow up to ten SCMs based upon an average number of SCMs which have served on the Steering Committee since MSIC's founding in 2003. In August 2016 when the Steering Committee made the proposed adjustment from 15 SCMs to ten SCMs, it only had nine SCMs. There are now 11 SCMs. This means that one SCM would be eliminated if elections were held under the proposed new bylaws (assuming all current incumbents want to continue on the Steering Committee).

There was then a discussion among SCMs about how many SCMs should MSIC have?

Chairperson Winters submitted a motion to retain the current number of up to 15 SCMs because MSIC is beginning to get more residents interested in serving on the Steering Committee. The motion was seconded. The Steering Committee voted unanimously to accept the motion.

Secretary Vigilante stated that he would make that revision to the proposed bylaws before sending them out to the community and prior to the next community meeting.

2. Approval of Minutes from the November 30, 2016 Meeting:

Secretary Vigilante stated that he had distributed the draft minutes to the Steering Committee via e-mail on December 3 and had received feedback from Chairperson Winters about some spelling errors which he has corrected.

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

3. Montclair Railroad Mural Project:

Chairperson Winters and Treasurer Clardy noted that there was nothing new to report on Montclair Railroad Mural since the report at the last Steering Committee meeting on November 30, 2016.

4. Update on “Parking In the Hills” Safety Awareness Project:

Councilmember Campbell-Washington provided an update regarding the status of the “Parking in the Hills” safety awareness project.

Councilmember Campbell-Washington stated that she and her staff, along with District 1 Councilmember Dan Kalb’s office, have been working with the City of Oakland’s Transportation Department on this project. The following four streets have been identified as proposed test areas based upon current parking challenges at those locations:

Capricorn Avenue
Merriewood Drive
Butters Drive
Westover Drive

The Transportation Department is currently reviewing each test area to determine what type of parking restrictions should be imposed at each location. In the next two or three weeks, the Transportation Department will send letters to residents in the test areas to notify them about the project, the proposed parking restrictions, and to solicit their feedback which will be considered in project implementation.

Several SCM felt that this topic might be a good one to add to the meeting agenda for the upcoming community meeting to be held in either February or March 2017.

Chairperson Winters made a motion to add this topic to the upcoming community meeting agenda. The motion was seconded. The Steering Committee voted unanimously to accept the motion.

Several SCMs mentioned that buses parking at the bus stop near the corner of Moraga and Mountain Boulevards (next to the Exxon Gas Station and Safeway Grocery Store) obstruct vehicle traffic entering and leaving Montclair Village at that corner.

Secretary Vigilante stated that the sidewalk at that location is large enough to accommodate more space for buses to park there without obstructing traffic.

Chairperson Winters stated that work might soon begin on the new building to be constructed between the Safeway Grocery Store and Antioch Court. The first step is to

demolish the old building at that location. The Antioch Court project will also commence soon. Maybe changes at the bus stop could be coordinated in connection with the other two projects?

Councilmember Campbell-Washington stated that her office would contact AC Transit to discuss the problem and look for solutions.

5. Website and Communications Improvement Proposals:

Background: At the MSIC Steering Committee meeting on August 4, 2016, SCM Purdy volunteered to review the MSIC website and MSIC's use of social media for communication with the community, and then present proposals for improvements in those areas. At November 30, 2016 Steering Committee meeting, SCM Purdy stated that he would be ready to present proposals at the January 5, 2017 Steering Committee meeting.

SCM Purdy provided the Steering Committee with a presentation which included a review of the current MSIC website and MSIC's use of social media for communication with the community, along with his proposals for improvements in those areas.

SCM Purdy stated that when searching for MSIC on the internet, unless you know and correctly type the MSIC name into an internet browser, the MSIC name and website do not immediately show up on the first several pages of browser findings, unlike the Montclair Village Association website which usually shows up on the first page. Some residents are unaware of the MSIC and/or confused about what the MSIC does versus what the MVA does.

SCM Purdy stated that he reviewed the MSIC website, and he felt it needed to be made easier to use and in a format more familiar to the current generation of computer users.

SCM Purdy stated that there are several Yahoo! Groups and many Nextdoor Groups in the Montclair area which are not being effectively linked and used by MSIC to communicate with the community.

SCM Purdy presented the following six (6) change proposals:

Proposal #1 - Rebrand/re-name the MSIC to make it easier to understand and find on the internet, and so it will not be confused with the MVA. Also, re-name the titles of "Community Representative" and "Community Organization Representative" to "Council Member."

Proposal #2 - Redesign the current website, with an emphasis on streamlining and simplifying it, with focus areas such as crime prevention, emergency preparedness, calendar, news and events, about, and donate.

Proposal #3 - Enhance the use of social media outlets, such as Facebook, Twitter, Nextdoor, Yahoo! Groups, etc...

Proposal #4 - Target outreach with new residents about what MSIC is, what it does, how residents can participate, and provide links to social media outlets where they can receive regular information and updates.

Proposal #5 - Merge/unify the social media postings using "Auto Post" processes so information shows up in each media source in a timely and standardized manner.

Proposal #6 - Define the Montclair Organized Neighborhoods (MONS) units/areas in a geographic manner similar to that used by Nextdoor. Each unit/area could have a Captain who attends MSIC meetings and represents their respective unit/area. MSIC could also sponsor or advocate for quarterly MONS meetings.

There was discussion about re-naming MSIC, and there was no objection voiced by any SCMs present about re-naming MSIC. Treasurer Clardy stated that if a name change occurs, the Steering Committee would have to change the name on the Pocket Park signs.

SCM Purdy offered to send out a link in the next few days for Steering Committee Members to select and vote on the following names: MSIC (for those who might decide to keep the current name), Montclair Community Council, Montclair Neighborhood Council, Montclair Village Council, or some other name (a write in name). There was a consensus of agreement among SCMs that this was an acceptable process to select a new name for MSIC.

Secretary Vigilante stated that if a new name for MSIC is decided by the Steering Committee, he will add the new name to the proposed bylaws that will be reviewed and voted on by the community at the next MSIC community meeting in either February or March. There was a consensus of agreement among SCMs that this was an acceptable change to the proposed bylaws.

SCMs Purdy and Mosher agreed to work together over the next several month to come up with a proposed new MSIC website format for the Steering Committee to review at a future meeting.

6. Community Survey:

Background: At the MSIC Steering Committee meeting on November 30, 2016, 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 to the community for their feedback. The results of the survey would be discussed at a community meeting to be held on February 2, 2017 (now February or March 2017 as revised herein, see Agenda Item 1 above), and it would then be used by MSIC to select

projects to work on.

Chairperson Winters and SCM Mosher stated that they had developed a proposed survey for issuance on the MSIC Yahoo! Groups and on Nextdoor. Chairperson Winters read the proposed survey to the Steering Committee. If the survey format was acceptable, she and SCM Mosher would issue it on the MSIC Yahoo! Group and on Nextdoor within a week to solicit community feedback.

There was a consensus of agreement among SCMs that the survey was acceptable and ready for issuance as proposed.

7. OPD Priorities:

Chairperson Winters asked for Steering Committee feedback in this area. No one had feedback to provide. Several SCMs stated that the holiday period was quiet.

Secretary Vigilante stated that with the upcoming community meeting to introduce the new Oakland Police Chief (Anne Kirkpatrick), the community will have an excellent venue to provide feedback which will certainly impact future police services that Montclair receives from OPD.

Inasmuch as all agenda items, including new business items, were now completed, Chairperson Winters adjourned the meeting at approximately 8:15 p.m.

Nick Vigilante

Nick Vigilante
MSIC Recording Secretary