

Greater Rockridge NCPC Minutes (12Y/13X)
Thursday, March 27, 2008
Rockridge Library 5366 College Avenue
General Public: 7:00-8:30PM

20 people attended the meeting at the Rockridge Library community room, including all 3 members of the steering committee and 5 officers from OPD. Karen Ivy has agreed to act as secretary.

Chris Jackson, co-chair, reported that the required meetings to form a Neighborhood Watch group have been streamlined down to 1 hour and 45 minutes and the meetings can be held back to back. He suggested the NCPC consider organizing a Neighborhood Watch presentation in a central site, possibly the library, which multiple groups could attend.

Denise Boisvert reported that her neighbor is very interested in the NCPC but couldn't attend the meeting.

Someone noted that Jane Brunner's web site has old information for the Greater Rockridge NCPC meeting. Karen Ivy agreed to follow up and correct that.

Agenda Discussions:

Rather than a formal report from the OPD and a formal review of trends and crime statistics, we included both of those in the general discussion of neighborhood and merchant issues.

Under Neighborhood Issues:

- The pedestrian walkway between Oak Grove and Claremont is becoming a problem again: broken windows, graffiti. Officer Chimpky reported that installing cameras had reduced the vandalism but it seems to be coming back. He thinks the assault by 3 school age children on a 61-year-old woman in front of Zachary's is related to the problems on the walkway; following up with parents, he found that they believed their children were in after-school activities. He suggested better communication between schools and parents about children's locations.
- A window was broken around 5 AM at 57th and Ayala.
- Groups of 4-8 children are hanging out around Colby and 60th.
- The issues with drug dealing around 59th and Canning continue; Officer Mack is working on this. This complex includes the liquor store, laundromat, and adult bookstore at 59th and Telegraph. Officer Mack feels that the drug activity is pretty localized around the 59th and Canning intersection. A new resident has just bought a house in the neighborhood and is concerned about the activity. There is an OHA facility at this location in which none of the locks work; Chris Jackson says the place is supposed to have an onsite manager but the OHA is short of enforcement staff. The team considered that this NCPC needs to reestablish communication with OHA and perhaps get a representative at the meetings. Chris Jackson agreed to follow this up.
- Vivek Bhatia reported major speeding on Taft, *over* the existing speed bumps, and asked if the neighborhood could put up "Kids at Play" signs, as there are lots of children in the neighborhood. Apparently people come off the hill down from the Broadway exit without slowing down. Officer Mack said she saw no issues with people putting up "Watch for Kids" signs. Officer Chimpky asked if the city could make the bumps bigger. The group agreed this might be a traffic priority.
- One resident commented that she walks home from Rockridge BART to 62nd Street at 10 PM and feels very safe. However, other people have reported robberies of women walking from Rockridge BART via Forest and Ayala.
- The number of homeless in the area seems to have increased. Officer Chimpky doesn't let them push shopping carts around but doesn't push them unless they are hassling people. The homeless encampment on Patton under the Hwy. 24 overpass seems to have returned.

IMPORTANT RESOURCES:

- RockridgeNCPC.com & OaklandPolice.com
- <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RockridgeNCPC/> &
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- The question arose of moving the AC Transit bus stop from in front of the library. Officer Chimpky said it is no longer a magnet for kids hanging out; but the 5 way intersection and the light makes that stop very dangerous for pedestrians. Chris Jackson said that everyone knows about the issues, but no one has done anything. We need to put pressure on AC Transit. The intersection isn't as bad, but the bus stop in front of Trader Joe's has some of the same issues, maybe we need to discuss that with AC Transit as well.
- Residents are asking that bicyclists riding on sidewalks be *ticketed*, and that the city stencil "No bikes on sidewalk" on the sidewalks.

Under Merchant Issues:

- The RDA representative reported that graffiti along College Avenue is increasing again.
- The RDA representative reported instances of school age children scamming pedestrians for cash for "good causes" (wrestling team, etc.). Officer Chimpky stated that no school function ever sends children out on the street to solicit cash.
- All the issues related under "Neighborhood Issues" also relate to the merchants. The merchant association had good success taking the 8th graders from Claremont Middle School to meet and talk to the merchants in their stores, and will take the 6th graders around on May 23.

OPD Priorities, beat 12Y:

1. The drug activity centered on 59th and Canning continues to be first on the list.
2. Students truant from Claremont Middle School continues on the list, related to the activity on the pedestrian walkway.
3. The reported homeless encampment under Hwy. 24 on Patton is added to the list. (Last month we only had 2 priorities.) Nila Kim of Jane Brunner's office suggested we should alert Operation Dignity to this encampment, since they go out to find homeless people and offer them services.

OPD Priorities, beat 13X:

1. People cruising the Rockridge / Margarido area, possibly casing houses; there have been 2 major tool robberies. The street is very dark (someone estimated around 15 street lights are out) and right by the freeway for easy getaway. Citizens may not be reporting dead street lights; we need to encourage them to do so.
2. The Clarewood area has had armed robberies; this *may* have been mitigated by the suspect who was caught in Orinda the other week, but people have been reported prowling yards and peering into houses after midnight.

Traffic priority, both beats:

- The group agreed it would like to see a speed trap with a traffic "your speed is" trailer set up at the foot of the Broadway hill just short of the Shell station, not down Broadway at Manila (where everyone is slowing for the light anyhow). Particular times of interest are the morning and evening commutes, and Saturdays. Nila Kim stated that Jane Brunner's office has its own traffic trailer.

Representatives from two Measure Y groups attended: Matt Price from Bay Area Video Coalition, which provides job training to youth, and Robin Morales of the Youth Justice Institute (formerly the Girls' Justice Institute), which provides gender responsive services to girls and now also to boys who are in cus-

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today. Robin Morales was very interested in the RDA's plan for student internships and suggested that they could help with stipended programs.

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