Greater Rockridge
Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (12Y/13X) and Rockridge Community Planning Council Annual Joint Meeting – Minutes
Thursday, October 10, 2024
Rockridge Library and
Virtual Meeting via Zoom
General Public: 7:00-8:30 PM

Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council (NCPC):
Michael Ubell – Chair
Vice Chair – position is empty
Eric Neville - Treasurer
Karen Ivy – Secretary & Information Officer
Officer Meeran Gichki – Community Resource Officer, beat 12Y
Officer Aaron Johnson - Community Resource Officer, beat 13X

Introductions and Rockridge Community Planning Council, upcoming events and initiatives

Shortly after 7:00 PM, Casey Farmer introduced herself as the Rockridge Community Planning Council (RCPC) chair, announced that this is the annual joint meeting with the Greater Rockridge NCPC, and told people there were refreshments in the back of the room. She explained that RCPC produces the *Rockridge News* and invited people to submit articles. She mentioned that sites on College won awards in the recent *Best of the East Bay* in *East Bay Times*. The Rockridge Kitchen Tour is this Sunday afternoon, it's a major RCPC fundraiser; she asked people help them raise money and meet your neighbors; tickets are available on line and at Market Hall starting 11:00 AM Sunday. We also sponsor the Rockridge Halloween Parade on 10/27 from 11-2, with the Rockridge District Association, the Library, and the Friends of the Library. Our big initiative is the Community Vision Plan, you can ask me about that or read the *Rockridge News.*

Mike Ubell introduced himself as the chair of the NCPC, Karen Ivy as the secretary of the NCPC, and Eric Neville (online) as the NCPC treasurer. He announced that the NCPC currently has no vice chair and invited people to help us organize and run these meetings. 16 people signed in to the meeting and there were 8 people online on Zoom.

Oakland Police Dept. (OPD) Status Reports, beats 12Y and 13X

No police officers were present so there was no status report from OPD. Mike Ubell said we could answer questions.

Karen Ivy: On the subject of the police report, officers usually give us a brief status on reported crimes over the last few weeks. I publish a monthly report on crime in our 2 beats. I published the latest one about the 7th of this month on our web site, *Rockridgencpc.com.* You can look at it there if you're interested.

Resident: What are the boundaries of that reporting?

IMPORTANT RESOURCES:

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RockridgeNCPC/
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RockridgeNeighborhoodWatchNetwork/

Karen Ivy: 12Y starts at Telegraph and goes east to Broadway, the north boundary is Berkeley and the south is 51st Street. For 13X, on the east side of Broadway, the top and bottom boundaries are the same and the east boundary of 13X is highway 13.

Mike Ubell: There are 2 beats in this NCPC and we get 2 CROs, when they're available.

Resident: Can we get the trends of what's been happening?

Karen Ivy: Give me a second to find things.

Mike Ubell: While she's doing that, are there any other questions?

Karen Ivy: Let me give you September. The biggest crimes in these 2 beats are property crimes. The biggest single category is auto related crimes: auto thefts, auto burglaries. Property crimes came down a little bit in September. Property crimes in August were 23 in 12Y and 17 in 13X; in September those numbers came down to 20 and 6. Auto property crimes are always bigger than general property crimes, and always bigger in 12Y than in 13X. They went down from August to September. Crimes against the person (robberies, assaults) aren't very important in this area, over the last 2 months we've had less than 5 per month.

Resident: Do you have numbers for catalytic converter thefts?

Karen Ivy: No, I don't – the database entries aren't that specific. They just say auto theft or auto burglary.

Resident: A lot of people don't even report those.

Mike Ubell: The delay happens because when a citizen reports a crime, someone has to review it. There's a lag.

Resident: I've heard somewhere the lag is 3 months. When they say crime is down 20% from last year, does that include the lag?

Karen Ivy: Let me explain this. I get my data from an open data site on the city website. At any time, I get a file with 90 days of crime reports for the whole city, indexed by police beat (among other things). When I review a month the second time, there is always an increase in data. I tried once doing a third check, 2 months out, and it didn't make a visible difference. But reviewing the data a second time always gives about 30% more reports.

Mike Ubell: Speak up if you have questions.

Resident: I had an email about this meeting but it didn't mention the discussion of crime reports.

Karen Ivy: If you were on our mailing list you'd have gotten a note that said the crime report was up. I'd be happy to show you how to sign up for our mailing list.

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Resident: When will Anne get here?

Mike Ubell: She's scheduled for 7:30.

Karen Ivy: She emailed me today and said she was coming.

Resident: Does it separate out crimes on merchants?

Karen Ivy: Not specifically unless it happens to be something like shoplifting. My data only has what the police put in the database; theft is theft.

Resident: it's reassuring to me that the biggest category is property crime, and that it's down at the moment. I'm afraid of personal crime. I spend a lot of time alone in the house.

Mike Ubell: Please speak up, or just stand up; the online people are saying you're not loud enough.

Resident: All I said was, it relieves me that crime is down, and that the biggest crimes are property, not personal.

Resident: How long have you lived here?

Resident: Many years.

Karen Ivy: I said the numbers I have went down over the last 2 months. I also said that trend may not last.

Resident: How was it from July to August?

Karen Ivy: Property crime went up from July to August, then down from August to September. Auto property crime was higher in July and came down in August.

Resident: You said numbers came down in 2 beats.

Karen Ivy: I only look at those 2 beats. If you want to play with the data, I'll tell you how to find it.

Resident: Can we find out about crime in the BART parking lot?

Mike Ubell: Not that we know of. We don't know where the data is.

Resident: Is Whole Foods in this beat?

Karen Ivy: It has to be east of Telegraph and north of 51st. If it is, it's in 12Y.

Resident: Yes, it is.

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Resident: One more question about data: year over year, August to August, what's the change?

Karen Ivy: If you come up here, I can show you a graph. It's not very easy to read. This is not online, it's a private file I use. I'd say the 2 types of property crime bounce up and down over a year.

Resident: It looks like the average is about 30 per month.

Karen Ivy: The average is 35. [Ed. Note: That's for auto related property crimes in 12Y; general property crimes average about 27 per month in 12Y.]

Mike Ubell: Our speaker is here.

Presentation on the new public safety measure, NN, by Anne Marks, a volunteer Steering Committee member for the Measure NN campaign.

Mike Ubell introduced Anne Marks, who works for the city of Oakland, and for nonprofits providing services to citizens. She's here to speak about Proposition NN on the November ballot.

Anne Marks: I'm also an Oakland resident and very happy to come and do this. Measure NN would continue, expand and enhance Measure Z, an existing measure. Go back a little over 20 years – there were 2 public safety measures on the ballot to solve issues of crime, one of which was focused on community-based violence prevention. Both those measures failed. In 2004 there was a proposition for a parking and parcel tax that funded a comprehensive approach including police, violence prevention, and fire services; it passed. That was Measure Y, replaced in 2014 by measure Z, which is about to expire. Our public safety problems aren't solved by any means.

Measure NN is an attempt to continue those efforts and enhance them. Measure NN was put on the ballot by citizens, not by the city council, through a qualified initiative process. It's a slight increase in the property taxes and parking taxes, and supports emergency response including 911 response times, improving policing services, and violence prevention, with a portion for administration. Fire services are funded off the top, then funding is allocated to policing services, including improved emergency 911 response times, and reducing incidence of human trafficking. It includes a citywide oversight commission [*Ed. Note:* this will replace the existing Public Safety and Services Violence Prevention Commission] to make sure we can maintain the level of services we now have. If it fails we'll lose dozens of officers, and we'll lose several programs and services. It's a thoughtful and appropriate enhancement with improved oversight, including a budget auditor to make sure we're getting more people on the street and not just more hours. I left some literature on the table. Does anyone have questions?

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7:50 – 8:00 PM – Q and A on measure NN

Resident: Sounds as though it's doubling the old measure.

Anne Marks: No, property tax will go from $133 to $198.

Resident: How much of the new measure will go to new administrative processes for this new measure?? Is the commission paid? Is the auditor paid?

Anne Marks: The commission is not paid. The auditor is paid out of the administrative portion of the funding.

Resident: How many police officers were funded by Measure Z and how many by this new measure?

Anne Marks: Measure Z funded 687 officers. This one pays for more officers.

Resident: Is there anything to prevent the city from removing, say, 50 officers paid for by the parcel tax and leaving us with the new parcel tax and 7 more officers?

Anne Marks: The existing measure Z has a minimum of 687 officers [*Ed. Note:* 678, from the NN ballot summary]. We hope to get really close to that. The new measure NN says at least 700 officers. The minimum number of sworn personnel has to be allocated in the budget, or they can't collect the tax.

Resident: The minimum goes from 678 officers to 700 officers. Trouble is, if we don't pass this, we lose the money from Measure Z, and then we lose 58 officers.

Anne Marks: The tax is collected by the city. The parcel tax is $198/year, the parking tax is a surcharge on downtown lots. The new commission accounts for the money – fire allocation increases by 50% from Measure Z (it was 2 million and is now about 3 million). We only have estimates now. 60% of the money will go to police services, 10% to dispatch technology, 911 etc., and the remainder to violence prevention and community programs.

Resident: Who are the services providers?

Anne Marks: Some are inhouse, in the city; some will be done by local organizations which are not in the measure and are chosen by the city. There's a database system of all the service providers. The commission will evaluate all that via the internal audit program. The commission oversees the process and the evaluations.

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Paula Hawthorn: I'm on the commission for Measure Z now, and we mainly decide that the money is spent properly. The new one has a much stronger commission than Measure Z. They will have authority to make changes. Measure Z ends in December. If it ends, it halves the amount of money devoted to the dept. of violence prevention. There's wonderful work going on in that area, like helping find housing for people leaving jail.

Resident: Will this pay for new police academies? Is that how they make the numbers? That's always a big problem. And what about the Ceasefire program? Will that be paid for by the new proposition?

Anne Marks: Yes to both, but exact details will be up to the commission. Ceasefire is funded through Measure Z to identify possible shooters and try to change their lives. Ceasefire had to stop during the pandemic; it wasn't formally suspended. They're trying to revitalize Ceasefire. I don't want to say that Ceasefire will definitely be funded, or what the commission will decide. I just don't know.

Resident: Is the percentage spent set in advance? Can they decide in an emergency that we just don't have enough police officers per capita and then just spend it all on police?

Anne Marks: I don't know what they could do in an emergency. In the statute it's set at 64. There's flexibility around certain rules. It doesn't specify exact dollars. If it doesn't pass we'll have 57 fewer officers.

[*Ed. Note:* I found the funding section for the police in Measure NN online, it's section 5-B-3. The police department gets *60%* of what's left after the fire department allocation, and 10% of that goes to 911 and emergency response.]

Resident: This is money for all these programs, the police department decides how to use it. If they don't have the money, they can do less. Right now they're right near the minimum, it depends on who's hired.

Resident: So the minimum number is now 678?

Anne Marks: This is the exact issue this proposition is trying to fix: we don't have enough money invested in public safety in this town. We don't have enough money invested in our government in this town.

Zac Unger: The money comes in. 3% goes to administrative costs. Then $3 million goes to fire. Say there's $10 left. $6 goes to the police department, $1 of which has to be used by 911. Then there's $4 left for violence prevention.

Resident: The only performance measure I've heard is that they can't collect the tax unless they have 700 officers.

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Anne Marks: The commissioners have to be experts in police procedures, among other things. The City Council has to approve the slate of commissioners, but the mayor has to appoint all of them for approval.

Resident: Does this need 50% plus 1 to pass?

Anne Marks: Yes, it does. I think it'll make a difference.

Paula Hawthorn: How can we help?

Anne Marks: I have literature; you could get a sign.

Resident: Who paid for the signatures?

Anne Marks: It was a combination of businesses, residents, and community organizations. But we all agreed we needed this. I've never seen some of these people agree before.

Resident: I came here because I didn't know anything about NN, but you need to make clear what we'll lose if this doesn't happen.

Zac Unger: If it passes, it'll increase services. If it fails, services will be worse.

Resident: We're doing this because we don't have the money. How will the city spend the money?

Anne Marks: That's what the commission is for. We've published detailed evaluations of how this will work. Policing and violence prevention are not single things. This commission will be responsible for 3 specific measures, which we want to decrease: reducing violent crime, improving 911 response times and quality of response, reduce human trafficking including sexual exploitation of minors, and administrative expenses. [*Ed. Note*: the 3 items are taken from the Measure NN summary on the county registrar of voters site.] Roughly 10% is for improving 911 dispatch.

Mike Ubell: Evaluations are done by outside groups paid for by the 3% admin.

Paula Hawthorn: The current commission is the Public Safety and Services Oversight Commission (SSOC). Their web site has good detail on the plans.

Resident: Is it guaranteed that the money will be spent on what you're saying? It can't be spent on pensions or whatever. And how long is it good for?

Anne Marks: That's what the commission is for, and it's good for 10 years. And they can't spend these monies on anything but what's in the proposition. That's why we're doing this.

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Resident: Does it require that we get 57 new officers on the street? What happens if it takes years to add 57 officers?

Mike Ubell: The minimum number of officers is to keep the city from putting the Measure NN money into the general fund and spending less money on police etc.

Paula Hawthorn: The police department spends, and needs, every penny they get. I've seen that the department of violence prevention didn't get its contracts out, because of city incompetence, and the money carried over to them the next year.

Resident: We want more officers so fewer will be working overtime.

Resident: What community organizations are funded by this?

Anne Marks: 40% of the money is to support, say, kids coming out of juvenile hall, to get them to school. That money can't be spent administratively on city staff. The city won't be hiring these people directly.

Resident: How much money is this expected to raise?

Anne Marks: $42 million to $46 million. There's a lot of suspicion about the election, and people like me are volunteering to get this on the ballot. There's no "outside money" in this proposal. It won't do everything, but it will make things better.

Resident: Is there another property tax on the ballot?

Zac Unger: Only for the 25,000 homes in the wildfire assessment district.

Mike Ubell closed the meeting at 8:25 PM.

Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council Priorities for August 2024

Beat 12Y:

1. *Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council Priority:* Car break-ins on College Ave., especially in the library parking lot.

Beat 13X:

1. *Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council Priority*: No current priority.

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Neighborhood Crime Prevention Council meetings
are normally the SECOND Thursday of even-numbered months.
*Next meeting **Thursday, December 12, 2024** at 7:00 PM*
Rockridge Library and virtual meeting
Zoom link is available at https://rockridgencpc.com, NEXT NCPC MEETING

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