

Greater Rockridge NCPC (12Y/13X) – Minutes
Thursday, November 12, 2015
Rockridge Library, College & Manila
General Public: 7:30-9:00PM

NCPC:

Michael Ubell – Chair
Barbara Minton – Vice Chair
Molly Singer - Treasurer
Karen Ivy – Secretary & Information Officer

Mike Ubell opened the meeting at 7:42 PM. He introduced the NCPC officers. Rebecca Saltzman of BART asked to go first, due to other commitments, and was allowed to do so.

Rebecca Saltzman, BART

Ms. Saltzman spoke on the challenges facing BART in the 21st century. Her first slide showed the original BART system, and the current system. The expanded system means more infrastructure to maintain. The BART board is starting to focus on what they have.

Ridership recently has gone through the roof. They now see 430,000 riders per weekday on average, sometimes more. The Bay Area depends on BART. More people go through the tube on BART than drive over the Bay Bridge.

BART needs to improve reliability. The mean time between service delays has gone up. BART has the highest percentage of return from fares in the industry; nearly 80% of their operating costs are covered through the fare box.

BART also needs to reinvest in stations, and they are doing so: Rockridge Plaza is an example, and they just put a glass canopy over the 19th Street escalator. They'll eventually cover stair entrances at all the downtown stations. Aside from making entrance more pleasant in the rain, stair canopies help agents open and close the stations. They are also redoing the paint and fireproof coatings on station columns, which are showing their age. The 19th Street station is now a bike parking station, because more people are biking to BART. The 17th Street entrance to the 19th Street station has a new, lighted art piece. They plan to redo downtown Berkeley station, and build a plaza. Most stations have had no major work for 40 years.

BART opened the BART-to-OAK extension a year ago, and are now increasing the frequency of trains on it. The extension has a separate fare charge, which is higher than the former BART-to-airport fare (the bus was \$3, the connector is \$6); the extra charge will pay down the debt to build it. Airport employees get a discount and still pay \$3 per day. They are developing a plan for the West Oakland station. Macarthur Station will have 94 units of affordable housing in the first unit; they've had 5,000 applications!

Old train systems, like old cars, need investment. Most of the infrastructure is over 40 years old, even though some trains have been rehabbed. Most tracks are over 40 years old. BART has the oldest train car fleet in the

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country, with an escalating number of riders. More money put into maintenance shifts gets more cars on the tracks.

In the works:

1. *Increase fleet size:* 775 cars are on order, and BART is looking for funding for 1,000 cars. New cars will have 3 doors per side, for faster entrance and exit. The new cars will be very modular, allowing BART to move features around easily.
2. *New train control system:* BART tried to build this before without success, but they believe the technology *now* exists to run trains closer together in safety. Right now they can run 24 trains per hour through the tube. A new train control system will allow 30 per hour.
3. *Maintenance shops:* They plan to improve and expand the maintenance shops, especially in Hayward.
4. *Infrastructure:* Everything else.

BART has \$9.6 billion in identified needs to reinvest in the current system. They've identified \$4.8 billion available for these needs. They need another \$4.8 billion. Without improvements, ridership will drop, road traffic will go up. Road traffic without BART would have massive delays. Brett Badelle passed out cards to the audience, and asked people to send in suggestions for improvements.

Q: There's a lot of personal crime around BART stations, but BART officers seem to stop at edge of station. Why doesn't BART PD take a more active role in neighborhoods?

A: BART PD works closely with communities and they do go beyond the stations. They patrol 3 stations per shift. There's now a smartphone app called [BARTWatch](#), to contact BART in a hurry without obviously making a phone call, sort of like SeeClickFix.

Q: What about BART employees striking? Did the law pass prohibiting BART employee strikes?

A: There were several bills to prohibit transit employee strikes, but none of them got out of committee. BART needs a better relationship with its employees. There's now a board committee to look at labor negotiations, work with unions, and figure out how to negotiate better. BART just had a summit meeting with union leaders, management, and facilitators and outside experts, to discuss the issues.

Q: Who is the BART contact on crime and safety issues? The NCPC had one at one time but have lost track.

A: Rebecca will follow up with a contact if the NCPC emails her.

Neighborhood Issues

Officer Hutzol responded to questions.

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Q: What about that guy who ran up and down Manila smashing windows?

A: Oh, yes, Michael S. He was having personal problems, his life fell apart and he started to drink, he's been in and out of the hospital. BART arrested him when he swung at someone on a train. He's vanished but he now has a warrant out, so if he shows up again he'll be arrested. He lives in Adams Point, and had no record until this incident.

Q: He's had several episodes; can we get his photo out to warn people?

A: Private citizens can put up photos like that if they have them. Police officers can't do that, the Chief would have to approve the post.

Chris Jackson said he has distributed the man's photo to the Rockridge District Association, and he can send it around to post on NextDoor. Officer Hutzol doesn't think the man will be back but who knows?

Q: What about crime? We've had more residential burglaries in our beat. Are homicides up?

A: Yes, homicides are up, but nothing compared to 2013, and only marginally up over 2014.

There were no changes to NCPC priorities from last month.

OPD Status Reports, 12Y and 13X

Officer Hutzol showed a slide of a "heat map" for the period 8 October through 8 November. The yellow hot spots represent areas with a lot of crimes. One of them was 5366 College, or right outside the library.

<i>Crimes</i>	<i>Beat 12Y, Oct. 8 – November 8</i>	<i>Beat 12Y, same period 2014</i>
Robberies	0	2
Residential burglaries	5	6
Auto burglaries	14	19
Auto thefts	9	12

Area 2 as a whole had 50 robberies, and 36 residential burglaries. The robberies mostly happened in beats 8 (lower Telegraph) and 10 (Market, West, Martin Luther King Jr. Way).

13X Statistics

There was no one at the meeting from beat 13. Officer Hutzol summarized the statistics.

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Robberies	0
Residential Burglaries	3
Auto Burglaries	7
Auto Theft	4

Officer Hutzol described his new approach to preventing auto burglaries: he's been going around peering into cars parked near popular restaurants, and listing the description and license number of the ones with visible items on the seats. He then goes into the restaurants and asks the management to describe the cars, and find the owners. He then discusses the issues with them personally (not only stolen belongings but smashed windows). He thinks auto burglary numbers are low because people don't report them, but he does think they're down because he's seeing less broken glass than formerly.

Auto theft numbers include recoveries, i.e., if a car stolen in Adams Point is dumped in Rockridge, and found in Rockridge, it is logged as stolen in Rockridge. We haven't had a home invasion in these beats in recent memory, they are very rare. If burglars encounter someone, they usually turn and run instead of accosting them and trying to steal anyway.

Q: Were there rapes here? Someone mentioned rapes.

A: The only ones he hears about are associated with California College of the Arts, and are mostly students on students – date rape or spousal rape. They aren't usually reported on the DNR (Daily Notification Report, the police department's report of major crimes).

Officer Hutzol asked if everyone knows the difference between robbery and burglary. One person said no, so he explained, "robbery" is people on people, with force or fear used. It's considered a "hot" crime. Burglary is a "cold" crime, burglars break into an empty house to steal property.

Officer Hutzol's priorities:

Robbery prevention – be situationally aware at all times. Robberies often happen around Macarthur BART [Ed. Note: or also around Rockridge BART.]

Burglary prevention – don't leave belongings in the car. Auto burglaries in SF are astronomically worse than here.

Homeless encampment abatement – this is about 80% of his work in beat 12X. He's having good success getting some people into assistance, but a lot of them just like to be drifters. He talks to all of them and knows them. It's very hard to convince some of them to get help, or get into housing.

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Q: There seem to be fewer people in Hardy Park during the rain, are they somewhere else? One guy has built a housing structure of tarps in a corner, and seems to be collecting Waste Management garbage cans.

A: The guy with the garbage cans is new, he'll look into it.

Q: What about that stuff where you get off the freeway at Telegraph and Alcatraz?

A: That's CalTrans property, and they do their own enforcement, but mostly just write tickets. There was a domestic violence incident there and somebody went to jail. You have to get Oakland permission to enforce on CalTrans property but he got it. There's no permanent fix for this. The long term solution is transitional housing, but that takes time.

Chris Jackson recommended opening a SeeClickFix incident on a homeless encampment and Public Works will take action.

Officer Hutzol reported that the Ceasefire and intelligence units are doing very good work trying to stop the shootings in Oakland. Ceasefire began in East Oakland but now operates in West Oakland too.

Q: Are those shootings by gangs? What about the shootings on Interstate 80?

A: Shootings in Oakland are almost completely gang related; mostly the Acorn Gang (from the projects down on 7th) and the Ghost Town gang (23rd - 40th on Martin Luther King, Jr. Way, and west from there). It's turf wars. He has no idea about the shootings on Interstate 80.

Q: When you catch burglars etc., are they local? Are they Oaklanders?

A: Almost always they are Oaklanders. And when they're here (in beat 12), they're almost always from Ghost Town.

Karen Ivy announced that, starting in 2016, Greater Rockridge NCPC will meet in alternate months, on the 2nd Thursday. Since 12X meets in odd numbered months, we'll meet in even numbered months, beginning February 2016. We'll take information in off months via email, and email directly to the CROs.

Q: Is there a list of beat officers online? Not Community Resource Officers, but the beat officers?

A: It changes regularly, and will change again in January with Watch Change. He can send a list to Karen Ivy to put on the web site.

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NCPC Priorities for November 2015

Under new OPD rules, each beat is allowed a single priority, instead of the previous 3; and new priorities must be *identifiable* and *measurable*. CROs will also work on a *Crime project* and *from time to time* (?) a *Call reduction project* for the beat. Remember that 12Y and 13X are only part of beats 12 and 13.

12Y:

1. *NCPC Priority*: No current priority.
2. *Crime Project*: High visibility vehicle patrols on College Avenue between Broadway and Claremont
3. *Call Reduction Project*: to be announced

13X:

1. *NCPC Priority*: No current priority.
2. *Crime Project*: none at present.
3. *Call Reduction Project*: to be announced

NCPC meetings are normally the SECOND Thursday of the month.

*Next NCPC meeting is **Thursday, December 10, 2015** at 7:30 PM
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See you there and stay safe!

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