

Greater Rockridge NCPC (Beats 12Y/13X)- Minutes
Thursday, June 25, 2009
Rockridge Library 5366 College Avenue
General Public: 7:00-9:00PM

NCPC:

Chris Jackson – Co-chair & Moderator
Denise Boisvert Jorgensen – Co-Chair & Treasurer
Karen Ivy – Secretary & Information Officer

PSOs: Beat 12Y, Officer Patrick Gerrans; Beat 13X, Officer Randall Chew (not present)

NSC: Paul Brekke-Miesner

Chris Jackson called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M.

Eleven people signed the attendance sheet. Attendees introduced themselves.

Vivek Bhatia presented crime statistics:

Vivek is now getting his numbers from the *CrimeSpotting.org* site instead of from OPD's weekly spreadsheet, which is now issued very irregularly. He has figured out how to put 3 data lines on 1 graph. The issue is whether trend lines for areas 1, 2, and 3 are moving in opposite directions, which could mean crime is moving to Rockridge from other areas. Trends are about the same in all 3 areas, crime is down in 2009 about 25% compared to 2008. Year to date (Jan-May) totals are down 30% from 2008 year-to-date at this time (June 25). Crimes against property are down overall versus 2008, with a couple of exceptions; in 12Y/13X they are down about 17%. Crimes against the person are low compared to some other beats. Violent crime is roughly flat against last year. Chris Jackson commented that city-wide, we're down about 13-15% from last year; Vivek thinks it isn't that much, down 5-7% on median per month. There are questions about what constitutes "violent crime" but in general it's all down.

A resident asked what are total murders in Oakland this year vs last year? Last year it was around 140. Neither Vivek nor Officer Gerrans knew the status exactly. Everyone thinks numbers are down.

Note From The Secretary: I checked Google while doing the minutes. According to the *San Francisco Chronicle's* homicide map, Oakland has recorded 45 murders as of June 15. In 2008 the total was 124 homicides. Numbers of homicides are indeed down this year.

OPD Report

House on Kales: Officer Gerrans reported that Arturo M. Sanchez, of the City Administrator's office, has filed a nuisance action against property owner. The owner is cooperating right now; the process ongoing. The neighbors hope it will be possible to evict the tenant and her boyfriend (who is not on the lease). Problem has been going on for about 8 months since first report to Mr. Sanchez. A resident noted that 4 neighbors wrote letters after one very bad night; the next day the nuisance action was filed. The day after that, the owner cooperated by issuing a 30 day notice. Since then there has been zero noise from tenants.

Breakins and vandalism: Officer Gerrans reports 9 break-ins on College Ave. in last 2.5 months, all businesses. Some windows were smashed which aren't near doors, some of this may be just vandalism. OPD's attention moved off the Canning St. area for awhile, but the situation may be heating up again – this was the area with drug dealing in 2008. The NCPC will add it back as a priority.

Budgetary issues: A resident asked how budget issues are affecting OPD? Officer Gerrans said the helicopter is grounded indefinitely, but that's all anybody knows for sure.

Paul Brekke-Meisner, the NSC, noted that October is the real deadline ("doomsday") when city will know what federal grants, stimulus dollars, etc. may be available. By October we'll know how bad

IMPORTANT RESOURCES:

- RockridgeNCPC.com & OaklandPolice.com
- <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RockridgeNCPC/> &
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RockridgeNeighborhoodWatchNetwork/>

Greater Rockridge NCPC (Beats 12Y/13X)- Minutes
Thursday, June 25, 2009
Rockridge Library 5366 College Avenue
General Public: 7:00-9:00PM

the cuts will be. Chris Jackson said that 12 of 27 tree-trimming staff have been laid off already. We don't know yet whether NCPCs will be funded or not.

Neighborhood Issues

Paul Brekke-Meisner reported:

- Oakland Tech is holding summer school, which will include kids from all over area 1.
- On 6/29 (City Hall) and 6/30 (Eastmont) OPD will have block captain training and hand out new block captain guide.
- Neighborhood National Night Out, August 4, city is mobilizing now for this. Flyers are on the table.

A resident noted that last year Neighborhood National Night Out was a major blast; it drives neighborhood engagement up, and gets people acquainted, if block is amenable.

Chris Jackson reported on *Shane Powell*, the local 5150 – sometimes called the “screaming man.” OPD has gotten him a case manager out of Berkeley; they’ve moved his residence to a hotel in downtown Oakland. The case manager seems to be taking care of him, keeping him in the hotel, getting his checks cashed. He’s a suspected schizophrenic; we hope the case manager is keeping him on his meds. Officer Gerrans noted that the walking officers did a lot of work on his case.

Homeless people: A resident reported some people sleeping on median across from fire dept. on 51st St. They sleep late. Nila Kim (Jane Brunner’s office) said that the homeless outreach people are still going around daily (their budget may be at risk), and asked for details so she can have them go by and check. Paul Brekke-Meisner said that if they’re 55 or older there’s an excellent senior outreach program, which will send someone out to them. Other residents reported homeless people on the freeway ramp at Telegraph, and in the bushes on Manila.

Problem property on Canning: The neighbors around Canning and 58th have told Oakland Housing Authority about a dice game going on at the Canning unit, but never see an OHA officer. The OHA officers sit in a parking lot down the road (having lunch?) but never come by the unit on Canning. Maybe they can have lunch outside the Canning unit. There was a fist fight the other day (Saturday) in the blue house, there’s a dice table there. There’s been no trouble since the fight.

Chris Jackson suggested the people in 58th area should call Alta Bates and urge the facilities manager to clean the graffiti off the cinder block wall in the parking lot at 58th and Telegraph.

Break-ins and burglaries: There seem to be lots of burglaries. Chris Jackson reported a rash of break-ins in Colby Park neighborhood. A recently sold house was broken into a couple of weeks ago; someone went in through a window. Denise Boisvert-Jorgensen noted that the same thing happened on Miles, 5300 block – the house just sold, the new owners weren’t around, the house was broken into. Chris Jackson’s 92 yr old neighbor left the house door open, French door on the porch was closed; the burglars popped the glass in the French door. One burglar seems to have entered through a dog door.

OPD’s response to at least one break-in was delayed nearly 10 min because a neighbor called 911 on a cell phone and was routed to CHP first. We need to publicize this issue, maybe in the *Rockridge News*? Also – keep in mind that other cities have *different* direct emergency numbers, get the emergency numbers for cities you’re in a lot and put them on your cell speed-dial.

A resident requested a traffic priority at Oakland Tech. During summer school drop-off between 8:30 – 9:00 AM, people are stopping in the middle of the road to drop kids off, blocking traffic and preventing the right turn onto 42nd from Broadway. In one case a following driver honked, and the stopped driver got out and made threatening gestures. The resident’s wife won’t go that way any

IMPORTANT RESOURCES:

- RockridgeNCPC.com & OaklandPolice.com
- <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RockridgeNCPC/> & <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RockridgeNeighborhoodWatchNetwork/>

Greater Rockridge NCPC (Beats 12Y/13X)- Minutes
Thursday, June 25, 2009
Rockridge Library 5366 College Avenue
General Public: 7:00-9:00PM

more. Officer Gerrans noted that area is beat 12X, but he'll pass the word to Officer Cunnie, the 12X PSO, and to OUSD police.

Merchants Issues

Chris Jackson put on his other hat as Operations Manager of the Rockridge District Association, and reported. The merchants are seeing a lot of shoplifting, as well as the break-ins already mentioned. Someone broke into Barclays with tin-snips and a crowbar, and cut the phone and cable lines; the upstairs insurance agent had no communication for several hours. It's been fairly quiet, but more transients are coming through, including more shopping cart people; a walking officer would be helpful, but Officer Chimpky is out on disability – various officers are doing part-time walking coverage on College Ave.

The old meter poles are now gone from College Ave. Make sure you're inside the white parking markers and within no more than 17 inches of the curb; otherwise you'll be ticketed.

There's a plan to add a street light at the corner of Birch Court and College – RDA will cover part of cost. This means pre-paying for 10 years of utility charges! It may be possible to re-electrify the globes on the old gateposts – apparently the wiring was refitted by a resident. The gateposts are a registered national historic monument.

The new tree wells are 4' x 8' and intrude on the sidewalk – RDA is trying to fill in some space with pavers. Also some benches intrude on sidewalk; they want to move the benches closer to the curb. RDA's purpose is to keep the street commercially viable - College Avenue is the #2 tax revenue producer in Oakland, after Chinatown. If we let it go downhill it's much harder to bring it back up, we need to keep it viable.

A resident asked whether OPD does any work on that? Officer Gerrans said that OPD sends officers where the crime is, that's all they can do.

A representative from the U.C. Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism identified herself and said she would write up the meeting for the Oakland North web site (<http://oaklandnorth.net>).

NCPC Elections

Interested in getting involved in your local community policing team? The Greater Rockridge NCPC annual elections for officers are coming up on September 24. The officer positions are:

Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer

(OK, we actually have 2 "Co-chairs," one of whom is also the Treasurer, but those elected last time preferred to share the responsibility of the Chair position.) We've all been in office more than the "annual term" stated in the bylaws, and before the NCPC can continue much longer, those in office now need to be officially re-elected, but we think it would invigorate the NCPC if other people with new ideas would run for office.

If you don't want to run for the above offices, the NCPC also really needs people to take on the titles of:

- Director of Public Relations & Promotion
- Director of Special Projects
- Director of Membership
- Director of Information Technology

The NCPC meets monthly, on the fourth Thursday evening. Learn about community policing; meet and work with your local Problem Solving Officers. Get involved! If you have technical interests, we maintain a web site (currently managed by the Secretary) and a Yahoo list.

IMPORTANT RESOURCES:

- RockridgeNCPC.com & OaklandPolice.com
- <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RockridgeNCPC/> & <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RockridgeNeighborhoodWatchNetwork/>

Greater Rockridge NCPC (Beats 12Y/13X)- Minutes
Thursday, June 25, 2009
Rockridge Library 5366 College Avenue
General Public: 7:00-9:00PM

The request for volunteers to be new officers got very little response. The election will be at the September meeting; we'll need at least 20 people to hold an election. We couldn't have had an election at the June meeting.

Chris Jackson commented that, based on what he hears at PSA2 leadership meetings, we do an extraordinarily good job. We get stuff done.

A resident said he never got formally involved because the group was so conservative, "are we allowed?" "can we do that?" The officers agreed that we allow all sorts of things. Assured of this, Vivek Bhatia volunteered to take on public relations and promotion.

We need to advertise these meetings more, somehow. Chris Jackson asked if we still have access to the city fund for mailing postcards to the zip codes. A resident mentioned that the city has an automated phone tree, paid for. How can we get the block captains to show up? At least some of them, at least some meetings. For that matter, how do we find out who the block captains are? The secretary's lists are very old.

Priorities

The Kales house is ongoing but not very active; did Officer Gerrans get the number of calls made on the house? We don't know if all calls are still recorded.

A resident asked about the Broadway frontage road by Lake Temescal. People take that road to bypass the freeway, and they speed, it's dangerous for bicycles. Nila Kim offered to request the speed trailer, or see if a solar speed sign was possible.

How about priorities in beat 13X? There was a home invasion there, 4 guys in ski masks, where somebody shot a pellet gun and ran the home invaders off. The invaders followed the residents home from Crogan's (they drive a Maserati). The invaders are still at large. Some groups are forming neighborhood watches on Moraga after the invasion; they feel closer to Montclair than Rockridge. No one from 13X was present at the meeting.

Priorities

Beat 12Y

1. Problem house at 5552 Kales – the situation is ongoing, awaiting action.
2. OHA property on 5800 block Canning – drug activity seems to be acting up again.

Beat 13X

1. None requested.

Traffic Priority - 12Y

Drivers on College still not yielding to pedestrians – enforcement on College.

Traffic Priority – 13X

Speeders on Broadway frontage road, up by lake Temescal.

Next meeting is Thursday, July 23, 2009 at 7:00 PM, in the Rockridge Library Community Room, College and Manila. See you there and stay safe!

IMPORTANT RESOURCES:

- RockridgeNCPC.com & OaklandPolice.com
- <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RockridgeNCPC/> & <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RockridgeNeighborhoodWatchNetwork/>