

**Rockridge RCPC - NCPC Joint Town Hall
Minutes
Thursday, July 16, 2009
Rockridge Library 5366 College Avenue
General Public: 7:30-9:00PM**

RCPC:

Stuart Flashman – Chairman, RCPC

NCPC:

Chris Jackson – Co-chair & Moderator
Denise Boisvert Jorgensen – Co-Chair & Treasurer (not present)
Karen Ivy – Secretary & Information Officer

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

NSC: Paul Brekke-Miesner

About 10 people attended the joint meeting.

Stuart Flashman opened the meeting at 7:38PM to discuss RCPC issues:

Election

The current city election is very important, and it's a mail-in election due 7/21, the ballot really has to go out by Friday 7/17. The county registrar is handling the details. If the measures don't pass there will be more budget cuts. So far Rockridge has been largely spared; FROG Park and the Library are down to routine maintenance but they'll continue to have that.

Land use issues

Red Oak Realty wanted to move into Dreyer's building where Cotton & Co. moved out (corner of College and Chabot). Complaints from the neighborhood led Dreyer's to refuse the rental, the space is still open – Dreyer's is soliciting potential retail tenants for 4,000 SQ ft. Send an email to chair@rockridge.org if you know a candidate. RCPC strongly wants to keep ground floor rental space on College for retail establishments.

The College Preparatory School

The College Preparatory School has released a master plan of capital improvements, and had a community meeting on 7/16 with the neighbors. Many issues have been addressed.

College Ave. Safeway –The application to the city is complete, managers are waiting to see if the city will require an Environmental Impact Report. Pete Bowman is the city staffer who is deciding whether to ask for a small focused EIR or a comprehensive report.

Rockridge Safeway

The proposal is to add 110,000 square feet of retail to the shopping center in a 2 story building. The Safeway will move to the current Long's site, the Long's/CVS building will be demolished, the store will be replaced by a smaller CVS elsewhere in the development. The community wants to replace the retail functions that the old Long's provides, much broader than a mere drugstore. Neighbors are also trying to persuade Safeway to make the development more urban and transit oriented by having a mix of retail and residential, with parking in the middle and storefronts facing onto the street. The Planning Commission was very receptive to community comments and has told Safeway, back to the drawing board. RCPC, STAND, and ULTRA all agreed on the requirements.

IMPORTANT RESOURCES:

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At 7:47 PM Chris Jackson opened the NCPC meeting.

Vivek Bhatia - crime statistics

Vivek explained the three crime types he tracks: crimes against the person, crimes against property, and person/property/drug crimes. All these statistics are available at any time to registered members of <http://RockridgeResidents.org>.

Property crime is still well under the 2008 level, down about 18%, but has increased in June (June is much higher than the 2009 median to date). During the second quarter of 2009 we show a 70% uptick in property crime over the first quarter numbers. But Area 1 as a whole is down for the period. About 35% of property crime is car related (auto burglary, car theft), about 30% is burglary and/or forcible entry, remaining 30% is everything else. Citizens are advised to lock cars, don't leave stuff lying on the seat – these look like opportunistic crimes. And this is happening all over beat 12Y, it isn't focused in one area.

Officer Gerrans confirmed this, recommending not to leave anything visible in a parked car, even loose change. People break into cars for loose change.

Crimes against person are basically flat against 2008, there's a 10% decline from 2008 levels. Area 1 generally is almost flat, only a 1% increase over 2008. Robbery and assault are also spread generally through the beats. But it's worse in Temescal (beat 12X).

Person/property/drug crime is down about 14% from last year, still not good but better than 2006.

Merchant Issues

Chris Jackson, speaking as operations manager for the Rockridge District Association, reported a big uptick in crime on College Ave. They've had a flasher, a purse snatching, and a \$3000 business door smashed. This is all *since* Vivek's statistics cutoff, so next period's statistics will be worse. A man in Berkeley (on Hillegass) broke into a house through an unlocked 1st floor window, and sexually assaulted a woman. Advice to residents: lock those doors and windows.

OPD - Last month's priorities:

Canning and 58th area: the police have seen small groups hanging out, who may or may not live there. They've made no narcotic sales arrests this month. The problem centers on 2 Oakland Housing Authority (OHA) properties side by side; one was recently renovated, the other (5805) is a dump. A couple of private houses in the area are also part of the pattern. A resident reported that he called in a dice game to OHA on Friday, and they turned up in force and made an arrest. Gambling in public is a misdemeanor but a quality-of-life crime.

Enforce pedestrian right-of-way: Chris Jackson said he hasn't seen any action on this traffic priority; a woman was hit on College about 2 weeks ago. She wasn't seriously hurt, but it's a bad idea. Officer Gerrans said OPD is very short staffed. An RCPC member said their traffic committee would like to know about this, they focus on pedestrian and bicycle issues. A resident asked what he can do to harass the city about bicycle enforcement, especially people riding bicycles on sidewalks. Chris Jackson noted that our walking officer is out on disability, which affects enforcement. Our PSO and some other officers (including the sergeant) have been walking the beat when they can, sometimes patrolling on a bike. The RCPC member asked if someone could write something for the *Rockridge News*.

A resident noted that Jane Brunner's office says the city is expecting mitigation funds from the Caldecott 4th bore project, to use for bicycle enforcement. The 4th Bore Coalition is monitoring this but a lot of the mitigations won't happen for a while. Construction this year will be preparatory: lights to control truck entrances, etc. Bore construction doesn't start till next year (2010), and

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CalTrans doesn't think mitigations have to be in place until bore is open, so we may wait for those funds another 4 years.

Chris Jackson complained that the city bureaucracy is getting harder to navigate. College Avenue needs more bicycle racks; if the city does it, they charge \$200 per rack, plus \$120 to install, and \$100 for the permit. But, the city says, if citizens purchase the racks and donate them, the city will install them with no fee and no permit! Chris asked for collaborators to help identify places for new racks, and asked if anyone would help to organize a fundraiser for them.

Paul Brekke-Miesner, Neighborhood Service Coordinator: National Night Out is coming up on August 4 (1st Tuesday of August). Oakland has over 200 block parties registered as of today, and would like to get 400 registered. Blocks can register their parties online. This is a good way to get neighbors together, since it's not a "meeting." There's a new "helpful phone numbers" brochure. There are brochures on preventing residential burglaries on the sign-in table. On June 29-30, OPD held 2 Block Captain Training sessions, and handed out the new Block Captain Manual, which is much improved. A resident asked if the NCPC will get a list of the block captains for the National Night Out?

No one seemed to be present from beat 13X. 13X has had a rash of car thefts from driveways on Estates, but no more home invasions.

Priorities

Beat 12Y

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

Beat 13X

1. No priority for 13X at this time.

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 NCPC meeting is Thursday, August 27, 2009 at 7:00 PM, in the Rockridge Library Community Room, College and Manila. See you there and stay safe!

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