

7:40 Approval of the minutes. **Wineger:** What happened to Greg Murphy? **V. Casalaina:** Greg resigned. Until we change the bylaws, we have no way of replacing someone.

Motion Beier/Wineger: Approve the minutes. Passed unanimously.

Treasurer's report: \$71 of new dues and memberships. We now have a total in cash of \$589. We will do another electronic newsletter in December and mention that we are looking for people to become steering committee members. The January newsletter will be hard copy. There will be a dues form for people to return to us. There will also be some articles and the announcement of the general meeting. We will mail this to the people that we have addresses for and we'll also do a flyering of the neighborhood.

The General Membership meeting will be in February 21st. Crime will be one of the big meeting. The Chief of Police agreed to appear.

Changes to the Agenda: **V. Casalaina:** Holdover the issues where there was no agreement. Let's move forward on the ones there is agreement.

Public Works Recap: **V. Casalaina:** There were 35 students volunteering. Greg Murphy had a great game plan. David Cottle worked on the tennis wall. The graffiti was painted out there, and on the lamp posts and on the electrical box. Also did weeding. And work was also done on the tot lot, laid 100 SF of new sod. We'll also have a similar event in the spring. Let's keep looking for projects in the neighborhood that we want to improve. The park is a natural magnet. **Greg Wineger:** We had about 70 students working for Rebuilding Together Oakland. Berkeley campus does have a genuine desire to help out in the local community. **S. Holderness:** Has the city thought about using the park as the staging area for disaster recovery? **J. Caner:** We had to put the cache in Celia's backyard. **S. Holderness:** Could the park be used? **G. Wineger:** The COB will not allow us to put the cache in the park, reluctant to let us use it as a staging resource.

Action: Caner/Halperin: UC doing very little for disaster recovery. Perhaps we could push the City to let us use the park.

Beier/Cottle: Not using the students is a failure of imagination on our part. They also rebuilt the compost bins in People's Park. **Casalaina:** Let's keep looking for neighborhood projects.

Ruckle: The coop is energized re: EQ preparedness. One thing to think about is how would we communicate if the phones were out, etc. **Beier:** Signs in the neighborhood would be great. **Halperin:** Some neighborhoods go through a dress rehearsal. Signs in the window of the house indicating people would be OK, etc. One of the challenges is how to engage folks. **Levinson:** Can we get the plan of other neighborhoods?

Action: John willing to head up the Disaster Preparedness committee.

Wineger: We have two caches. Greg Murphy knows where most of these are. We've got to think about where we're at now, as well as going forward.

Crime: **Ruckle:** There was a mugging in front of the HiP Co-Op. And a woman jogging also interrupted a kid getting his iPod stolen on the same day. Public works is responsible for the lighting. One of the lights was burned out; public works came out and fixed the light. **Cota:** It's very dark on Dwight. Just looking from my corner, it's pitch black. You can't see anything. We need to do something about the lighting on People's Park. **Ruckle:** You can see how dark it is on Dwight. **Cota:** And a ton of brush. **Ruckle:** Public works will also thin trees. **Holderness:** The City engages PG&E which tops the trees, which causes them to grow out, not up. I was down at Willard Park with the dog people – I remarked about how many cops there are around. A lady spoke to a cop and said that your neighborhood is the

highest crime area in the city. **Beier:** 2650 also robbed, two stop lights a block. **Wineger:** Police observed the person at Willard Park. **Holderness:** On October 29th, a guy came to our property and started kicking in her door. She started yelling and he took off.

Wineger: How do we move forward? Lights? Reduced vegetation? What do we do?

Ruckle: What about neighborhood watch?

Wineger: We had 9 responses after intense notification of the citizenry. 5 were ragging about the lack of city cooperation. 3 said we're willing to help out, plus one more today. Only 2 of those 4 are within the hot spot. I was asked to coordinate, and am willing to do so. But there's a lot of apathy and not enough participation.

Holderness: It's scary to volunteer. It's scary for single women to go out.

Wineger: You shouldn't confront people. Most people will not be scared away. In fact, it may invite violence. Look at the 8 male students that we're overpowered with a gun. And the accosting of another woman was also with a gun.

Holderness: People should turn on their porch lights.

Joe: We need to have a plan. What are we planning to do about this. Many things have been mentioned. We need a list of concrete things that we can actually do. Some may be things we can do, some may be things that the city can do. We need to generate a list. Such as lighting (public and private), vegetation, cameras, neighborhood watch, etc. On Parker, we engaged neighbors with a brochure. We've got to figure out a way to engage the neighborhood – get people aware of strange people/actions in the neighborhood. I'm a little surprised that the UC Police isn't more concerned about the violence towards students. **Beier:** We need a change in policing. We are making progress in Peoples Park. **Cottle:** We have a lot of transients. **Wineger:** It makes it hard to recognize transients. **Cottle:** This is always going to be a problem for us, given the dynamics of the neighborhood. **Wineger:** It's hit and miss – police often get called to other areas. **Cottle:** There are many levels where this exists – individuals, blocks, etc. We have a survey on our block that details who's in the house, where the gas line is, etc. We collect this every year and update it every year. We need to figure out how to do this on a more local level. There needs to be some sort of breaking down into manageable sub-units. It's much easier to know what's happening in 25 houses than in 2500. **Wineger:** If we were to have some sub groups, a block captain? **Cottle:** That's a better plan, people would be more willing to respond to that. **Holderness:** That's how Martha Jones/CENA did it. There's not something new here...it's block by block organizing. We don't have to accept high crime here. Landlords are reluctant to disclose to potential buyers/renters problems in the neighborhood. We should be putting pressure on the landlords. We're giving you notice that you should improve the lighting, trim excess vegetation. **Ruckle:** I talked to officer Burcham yesterday. We know that crime is up locally. He said that for all of southside, crimes were down. But that we live in a hot spot. Our house got one of the street lights fixed. And we're also trimming vegetation. We've got a lot of motion detectors...we might be adding more. We also want to leverage whatever clout the USCA has as a body, to get our management there to be talking to the Berkeley police department and the city council. **Caner:** If we get light monitoring equipment, we could show where the dark spots are. Also, potential problem at 2601 Derby. Let's get a near term list and a long term. But who's going to head this thing?

Beier: I'll get a small group. Ruckle, Halperin, Caner, Holderness, Wineger, Cottle. We'll come up with practical things. Motion sensor lights. Maybe we could buy them in bulk.

Levenson: I think shrubbery should be trimmed. We should be leaning on property owners re: crime. We've also got a serious rodent problem. Form letters with copies to the fire department, Daily Planet,

etc. would help. I'd be happy to do a walk/watch thing. As a volunteer if someone else wants to organize it.

Wineger: Could you coordinate it?

Levenson: Here's my safety vest. I feel safer as a bicyclist and a pedestrian. I've called Tasha, the injury prevention coordinator. Currently the city has 4 vests for sale. They are \$18 bucks each. If we want some on behalf of the association, she would give them to us for free. **Casalaina:** If the subcommittee thinks is a good idea, let's go ahead and do it.

Beier: Let's pass all but 3. And add a motion for the next meeting to address the issue of an officer speaking out against a specific vote of the steering committee.

BRT: I've been reaching out to Friends of BRT re: the issue. A meeting will be this Saturday. It's at First Pres at 9:15 AM.