

Citizens for a Loring Park Community (CLPC)

Livability Committee Meeting

Wednesday, April 21, 2004

6:30-8:00 p.m.

@ Loring Park Shelter

Attendance: Jana Metge (CLPC), Luther Krueger (1st Precinct SAFE), Dick Sandberg (CLPC board), Jan Sandberg (local resident), Mary Turner (CLPC board), Tiffany Vickaryous (property manager for 316 Oak Grove), Joshua Cassleton (CLPC board member, acting for the Stop Abuse Campaign), Joe Finley (area resident), Mike Rollins (Restorative Justice), Bob Hanson (area resident), Lt. Diaz (Sector Lieutenant), John van Heel (CLPC Board), Craig Williams (1st Precinct SAFE), Rodney (316 Oak Grove), Neil Carlson (CLPC Board), Ed Smith (Basilica of St. Mary, CLPC Board), Officer Joseph McGinness (Park Police), Lois Conroy (Minneapolis City Attorney office)

Agenda

I. 6:30 Welcome & Introductions Richard Sandberg

Minutes from February 18, 2004 and from March 17, 2004. Motion to accept the minutes by John van Heel, seconded by Mary Turner.

Passed unanimously.

II. 6:45-7:00 316 Oak Grove

Tiffany Vickaryous is the new property manager for 316 Oak Grove—she will be there full time. She previously worked as a property manager in the northern suburbs. She met with Joshua, Luther, and Craig and held a building meeting April 7 (there were about 13 residents in attendance). On April 12, Craig walked through the building with Tiffany to review possible safety concerns. One of the safety projects is improved underground lighting in the garage (completed Friday). Other projects are in process—garbage clean up and a new security system. There have been some maintenance issues—a maintenance person will be on site Tuesdays and Thursdays and he is currently caught up with the workorders. One problem is the freight elevator—it is old and needs a new motor—and they are getting bids to fix it. The roof is being redone, including new railings. There is also new lighting in the outside parking lot, including additional lights. Tiffany is encouraging the residents to talk to her so that she is aware of problems. She is starting a monthly newsletter that will include her hours and how to reach her.

Joshua asked if things would change if the owner has not changed—Tiffany responded that she is not aware of the previous managers' work. She is getting things done and cannot speak about efforts with other property owned by this owner. Joshua asked if this was just a smokescreen—Tiffany responded that her requests have been responded to positively and it is not her intention to put things over on tenants.

Craig reported on the resident meeting—the residents' biggest need was for a full-time manager. As a SAFE officer, the building is getting off their radar (although it was never a crime focus). Craig hopes that Tiffany will be able to get to the area property managers meetings. Neil reported that the undesirable activity outside the building has ceased.

A resident (Rodney) spoke positively about Tiffany's efforts. One concern is with maintenance issues and a difficult-to-repair hot water heater.

III. 7:00-7:20 Mpls. Park Police & City Attorney Lois Conroy

Strategizing on how to go about getting more referrals to Loring Park Restorative Justice: there have been few referrals from Loring Park although there are arrests. Lois has found that to get offenders to Restorative Justice they have to get them to court, and then a high percentage will go to Restorative Justice. Lois discussed this with Judge Hopper and found out that the court has a standard policy that for a non-victim crime—the accused are released without bail. There is a request to modify the policy to institute a small level of bail or to see judge the next morning. Lois is also looking at how to increase internal referrals. She is also looking at the Violations Bureau—the Bureau allows some to pay a fine rather than appear in court. Her suggestions for the community group is to continue to contact the bench and request policy changes and to contact the public defender's office to encourage them to refer their clients to Restorative Justice.

Discussion on the judicial ruling on the "Begging Ordinance": the Minneapolis office will be revising the current ordinance (the original ruling was likely to be upheld and an appeal would take 6-9 months). When there is a final ordinance it will go to Jana, then it will be scheduled for a public hearing, and hopefully it will be in place in June. There are strong opinions on this issue and it would be important for the City Council to hear about the impact on the community. There is also a move to amend the state trespassing law. The city's trespassing laws are more narrowly crafted than the begging ordinance. If someone uses "fighting words" in asking for money, then he or she can be arrested for disorderly conduct or if he goes beyond "words only" to touch you, then the standard is disturbing your peace and quiet. Jana showed the committee the resource cards listing service locations that they use in the Phillips neighborhood.

Park Police: Joe McGinness from the Park Police commented that consuming and narcotics are the top offenses and he is not sure how well that will work with Restorative Justice. Park Police staffing levels are low with retirements and leaves—the numbers will increase at the end of the school year. He believes that the Park Police want to do more directed patrols. He recommends that citizens call the Park Commissioners and Park Police stations with any problems. Jana related that we would like to have the Emerson Police liaison full time in the park as well as work with restorative justice.

IV. 7:20 7:30 SuperAmerica *Craig Williams, 1st Precinct SAFE*

Craig reported discussions with the new manager Craig Pike who was expected to attend but did not appear. There is history with SAFE and the behavior of some customers of the store. Craig suggested a stanchion sign to discourage loitering.

Lt. Diaz reported that the store has stopped using off-duty officers at this and several other stores Friday and Saturday nights. The store has gone to a bullet-proof booth that helps the safety of employees but not behavior in the store. The new manager may have been unaware of previous problems and it would be good to have the district manager attend a meeting. The store is very profitable for a store of its size and is often crowded very late at night. The committee has concerns that this situation will develop into a reputation for drug sales. Neil expressed concerns that things have not changed substantially in the last few years.

Dick asked if there were any statistics that would support the community's concerns. It seems that calls are seldom made but Craig wants to work with the employees so that they will make calls to the police as needed. We should try to determine if Lisa Goodman's office is getting

complaints—Jana reported that she was copied on some communications indicating that there have been problems. The SuperAmerica store owns its own building and part of the parking lot—there was a question about whether there were any code violations (we would need to ask Inspections). We should check on when the business license is up and check with the business neighbors to gather evidence for any hearings. Jana mentioned that several other SuperAmerica stores (Phillips) are currently under pressure from neighborhood groups and councilpersons with many of the same issues.

Motion by Mary Turner, seconded by Joe Finley, to contact Councilwoman Lisa Goodman to request that the SuperAmerica area and district managers attend the May 18th Livability meeting.

Motion passed.

V. 7:30-7:45 NRP Policing Hours *Luther Krueger, 1st Precinct SAFE*

Two months ago, this committee gave feedback on neighborhood policing needs. The City Council agreed to use some NRP funds to help preserve the number of officers in the department. The “pot” of \$100,000 is called the “Community Oriented Public Safety Initiatives Reserve Fund.” The dollars are divided among the six neighborhoods: some such as Downtown and Cedar-Riverside will get more hours. The Loring proposal requests 256 hours for policing activities for Loring Park, about 10 percent of the total or \$10,000: 200 hours would go to directed patrol for livability crimes in certain areas and 56 hours are directed to problem solving tactics for specific problems. These are not additional hours above and beyond the usual policing hours.

Motion by Jan Sandberg, seconded by Mary Turner, to approve the Community Oriented Public Safety Initiatives Reserve Fund application for Loring Park, as amended to reflect \$7,822(200 hours) for Directed Patrol and \$2,178 (56) hours for Problem Solving Tactics.

Passed unanimously

VI. 7:45 8:00 CERT Community Emergency Response Training *Michael Medaris*

Response Training in Loring Park Neighborhood — Mike would like to have someone attend the training with him.

Announcements:

Mike Rollin will be leaving Restorative Justice next month to pursue professional development. The committee expressed its appreciation for his work.

Adjourned at 8 15 pm.

Items For Future Agendas:

- Invite representatives of Public Defenders Office (Lynn Castro) to discuss Restorative Justice.
- Invite Judge Burke to a meeting to discuss bail policy
- Expand downtown fare zone for buses.
- Truancy and livability crimes
- Invite the 1st precinct community prosecutor Lois Conroy future meetings including the revised begging ordinance.
- Jana suggested inviting Hillary Freeman to speak at a future meeting about working with offenders.
- Police reserves program information
- Quarterly report on hours used for Reserve Fund (end of June) for June/July meeting

Respectfully submitted, Jan Sandberg/JLM