

**Citizens for a Loring Park Community (CLPC)**

Livability Committee Meeting

Wednesday, July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2004

6:30-8:00 p.m.

@ Loring Park Shelter

**Attendance:** Karen Fournier (330 Oak Grove), Jan Sandberg (Loring Green East), Dick Sandberg (Loring Green East, CLPC Board), John Van Heel (110 W. Grant St., CLPC Board), Richard Anderson (Loring Way, CLPC Board), Robert Hansen (1355 Nicollet), Sarah McKenzie (Skyway News), Robert Cook (430 Oak Grove), Neil Carlson (Summit House), Lois Conroy (Minneapolis City Attorney)

**Agenda**

**I. 6:30 Welcome & Introductions Dick Sandberg**

Added to the agenda VII. Review vision, mission, and goals for a CLPC Park Committee and VIII. Motion to recommend that CLPC adopt a Park Committee.

*Minutes from June 16, 2004. Motion to accept the minutes by Richard Anderson, seconded Jan Sandberg.*

*Passed unanimously.*

**II. 6:45 7:10 Presentation on Berger Fountain Renovation  
Robert Cook, Parker Durrant Architects**

Robert Cook has been working with the Berger Fountain Committee, first reviewing any documents that address the Berger Fountain and its relationship to Loring Park and the Greenway, such as the Master Plan. There was an engineering study done of the park that looked at renovations to the fountain. Robert presented three options. The first option would create the same appearance but with better functionality, including a subterranean basin to handle the fountain's overflow. The second option would keep the original fountain footprint but expand the plaza. The third option would keep the "dandelion" part of the fountain but redo the fountain and the plaza. Robert presented drawings for the third option, a 60' diameter circular basin with water flow to a central area and a greatly expanded plaza. The entire fountain then relates to the park with a series of benches and paths. This drawing was presented to the Park Board, which requested more information about how this fits into plans for the entire park such as the shuffleboard court area. Robert had to re-map the entire park, as there was no accurate current map of the park. He then prepared a drawing that showed how the fountain would fit into the park with some paths to be removed. A second phase of the project would focus on the park outside the plaza, including deciding between bicycle paths and pedestrian paths. Part of this effort is driven by a desire by some to discourage bike traffic on the Greenway as well as on the plaza area of the fountain. Bike traffic is increasingly an issue, especially with the upcoming Loring Bike Project that will put a bridge in the Wedge area. Another idea is to move the shuffleboard court to one of two locations, possibly along Willow (lighting would be a negative factor) or nearer to the horseshoe courts, adding lights to both facilities. One consideration is reorienting the courts to avoid "setting sun" issues.

The proposal also includes a recommendation to raise the street several inches to allow easy crossing by pedestrians and possibly have a traffic-calming effect. Ideally, the same material could be used to extend the plaza across the street. According to some in attendance, Willow

was to be closed when Greenway Gables and Loring Way were built, with Yale Place ending in a turn-around. But due to traffic concerns by some residents, Willow Street was kept open, leaving only a few feet between the street and the Loring Way building.

The Park Board staff is currently reviewing the drawings, and the proposal then goes to a committee of the Park Board, and then to the full board. Funding may come from outside sources or possibly from the new Park Board Foundation.

*Motion by John Van Heel, seconded by Richard Anderson, to support the concept for the Berger Fountain submitted by the Berger Fountain Committee.*

*Motion passed.*

### **III. 7:10-7:35 Loring Greenway Renovation**

Richard Anderson, Chair of the Loring Greenway Committee of CLPC, outlined the committee's history and ideas under discussion. The Loring Greenway Improvement Committee came together about six years ago, started by concerned residents (mostly neighboring condos and businesses such as the Hyatt) at the urging of Councilwoman Lisa Goodman. The Greenway is not park property but is under jurisdiction of city public works.

Phase I: The committee did some fundraising including some dollars from Target Corporation, and hired a firm to do a project plan for the Greenway. Councilwoman Goodman obtained \$500,000 for the Greenway, with three priority projects identified to (1) open the end of the Greenway near the park, (2) improve lighting, and (3) add an irrigation system. CLPC donated dollars to rebuild the playground. Richard noted that there have been some problems—the light bulbs first ordered did not cast enough light and had to be replaced, but those bulbs may be used in the second phase.

Phase II will require about \$1.5 million to repave the Greenway. This has been moved out to 2008 due to city budget cuts, and this is especially problematic due to increased deterioration of the paving. The committee is trying to get the city to approach this as a series of smaller projects that can be started sooner and also have the benefit of avoiding closing the entire Greenway for an extended period of time. One goal will be to use more substantial materials that will survive Minnesota weather and require less maintenance. The committee believes that, in order to speed up the project, the city needs to assess the property owners along the Greenway for those improvements, spread over twenty years. It is still a possibility to pull the Berger Fountain project into the Greenway project. There was some discussion about the fairness of assessing only those on the Greenway who already pay higher taxes due to the impact of the Greenway. The ultimate decision about doing the assessment rests with the city, possibly based on a petition of homeowners or condominium boards.

An additional update is expected in the fall, possibly October.

### **IV. 7:35-8:00 Livability Update**

Neil mentioned that SuperAmerica continues to be a problem. Calls are not being recorded that Neil has made concerning drug activities at SuperAmerica. Neil is concerned that many of his calls are not logged because the Call Center discourages certain types of calls or because the system is antiquated. Craig Williams has occasionally been able to work the site and make some stops. The committee would like to hear the perspective of some of the neighboring business owners. The committee would also like to hear from store manager Will Pike and the

Minneapolis area manager. Finally, we should find out if the SuperAmerica security person came to the Twin Cities area recently—possibly ask Luther Krueger or Jana about this.

Lois Conroy described plans to reorganize the Livability Court at Hennepin County. To help improve consistency, Judge Hopper has agreed to create a Livability Court for all in-custody and out-of-custody cases in the Public Safety facility. This has led to discussion of a new bail policy—Judge Hopper is proposing that anyone booked on a livability offense will have to pay a small bail to be released as a way of creating an incentive to appear in court. The program will hopefully start in mid-August. It is very complicated because of the number of persons involved including District Attorneys, Public Defenders, and others. We should have an update by next month. The court is open for observation by interested citizens.

#### **V. 8:00-8:15 National Nite Out Party Mary Turner**

There was a meeting recently including Mary Turner, Carol Fox, and Robert Hansen to discuss arrangements. The party will be at Loring Park, Tuesday August 3<sup>rd</sup>. John van Heel distributed a handout describing event activities—the park will provide a band. John solicited volunteers to help support the event.

*Motion by Richard Anderson, seconded by Neil Carlson, to spend \$100 for National Night Out.*

*Motion passed.*

#### **VII. Review vision, mission, and goals for the Park Committee.**

At the request of Mary Turner, Bob Hansen presented a vision, mission, and goals for the current Park subcommittee of the Livability Committee. There was some discussion that the vision/mission did not completely match up with the goals. Historically, there was an effort to reconstitute the original Park Committee that died when activities surrounding the renovation of the park building and other park-related activities ended several years ago. Friends of Loring Park formed to take on some of the park activities. There are a variety of ongoing activities, such as the fountain, that might better fit into a Park Committee. Bob will communicate these comments back to Mary Turner.

#### **VIII. Recommend that CLPC adopt a Park Committee**

The committee agreed to hold this item for a future meeting, pending discussion of the vision, mission, and goals.

#### **Announcements:**

There will be a Community Block Party sponsored by a Russian Church and local residents.

Next Monday there will be six portable toilets for the Monday Night Movies in the Park.

**Adjourned at 8:20 p.m.**

#### **Items For Future Agendas:**

- Invite Deputy Chief Sharon Lubinsky to discuss the new SAFE strategy-confirmed for August
- Charles Decker, Judge Hopper's Probation Officer
- Super America on Grant & LaSalle for Will Pike or others
- Call Center statistics

- Invite representatives of Public Defenders Office (Leonardo Castro) to discuss Restorative Justice.
- Truancy and livability crimes
- Police reserves program information
- Quarterly report on hours used for Reserve Fund (end of June) for June/July meeting

*Respectfully submitted, Jan Sandberg/JLM*