

Citizens for a Loring Park Community
Livability Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 16th, 2010

Thanks to the Loring Park Community Center for hosting

Those present: Bob Hansen(resident), John Novak(resident), Virginia Reilly(resident), Neil Carlson(resident), Laurie Spark(Park Director), Gary Gliem(resident), Shane Zahn(DID-Downtown Improvement District), Lt. Matt Clark(MPD), Michael McLaughlin (Public Works Consultant), Elizabeth Cutter(resident), Neil Reardon(resident), Renee Allen(MPD-CCP/SAFE), Jana Metge(CLPC Coordinator).

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 by Bob Hansen, Committee co-chair

Agenda – Request to add discussion on the July meeting; whether or not to hold it since it fall on our Aquatennial event. **Motion: That the agenda be approved as amended.** Gary/John M/S/C

Minutes – Neil Carlson asked that the minutes be amended to reflect that the police do not dispatch.

Motion: That the May 2010 Livability minutes be approved as amended. Gary/Neil R. M/S/C

The following announcements were made:

- **Court Watch** – 10:00-Noon @ Central Library; **July TBD**
- **Community Sing-Along** – No Community Sing in June – **Tues., July 20th; 7:00 @ Loring Park**
- **Traffic Calming Task Force Meeting is:** Monday, June 21st - 5:30-7:00 p.m. @ Loring Office building/Room 207 – 430 Oak Grove.
- **Master Plan Steering Com.** – Meeting **TBD** – **Call CLPC for more information / #874-9002**
- **PRIDE Festival** – June 26th-27th, 2010 @ Loring Park
- **National Nite Out** – 1st Tuesday in August – Tues., Aug. 3rd - Time to plan Neighborhood Parties!!
- **Loring Part Art Festival** – August 7th & 8th @ Loring Park

Jana also announced the Woman's Club Cabaret to be held on June 22nd from 7-9 p.m., cost is \$10.00 and The Woman's Club is hosting "Feet don't fail me now" on Thursday, June 24th – 8:00 p.m., cost is \$17.00.

I. Aquatennial "Associated Event" Update – John Novak

John distributed an update report including sponsorship, activities, and "to do" list. The event is set for **July 21st**. This will be billed as a Pre-Parade party held prior to the Aquatennial Torchlight parade. The hope is that this will become an annual event. The event is being coordinated by MPRB-Loring Park, CLPC, and Friends for Loring Park. Jim Daly has volunteered to take event photographs. Bob H. will confirm. John N. has lined up Media Express to print flyers at a reduced rate. John is working on flyers and T-shirts for the event. He has recruited the donation of a design firm to create the flyers. Laurie has arranged for the Park Board to fund an additional band (Kidz Dance), Inflatables, balloon artists, and they will bring in the showmobile stage. Laurie will also arrange for food sales and will barbeque and sell soda/chips. She is also creating children's games to be used. The Jeremiah Program has agreed to do Facepainting at the event. John reported that he is looking to recruit in a couple of local vendors to help with the food. They are setting their projected attendance goal at 1,000. They will need volunteers and asked for folks to contact CLPC if they'd like to volunteer at the CLPC booth or at the event. Laurie will also arrange for additional staff. John is also creating a facebook page to promote the event. The committee commended John, Laurie, and Dave Hile (Friends of Loring Park) for their work on creating this event with such short notice.

II. Loring Park Safety Update – Lt. Matt Clark & Renee Allen/CPS

Lt. Clark reported that a protest was held in May at Loring Park. Some of the protestors had permits, some did not. There were over 2,000 protestors, from many immigrant rights groups, mostly families. It worked out well. Lt. Clark asked Laurie to contact both MPD and CLPC when she hears of events like this, so we have a heads up in as much advance as possible.

Officer Steve Kingdon is on the beat. His focus is Grant-15th, LaSalle and Nicollet. Lt. Clark reported that the opening of Target Field has put a drain on MPD resources, especially traffic management issues. The committee reported low level safety issues on 15th & Nicollet, 15th St. to the Bridge (16th), and to keep an eye on Oak Grove along the Freeway. Also concerns regarding alleys between Willow & Spruce, back porches were expressed. There was expressed concern for chronic offenders hanging in the Loring Park Neighborhood and to keep an eye on this, and/or identify and refer to court watch so that we can have more information and monitor. Lt. Clark reported an increase in theft from motor vehicles, especially during Twins Games. The advice is to keep items out of sight, especially cell phones, lap tops, GIS systems and mounts, and brief cases. Lt. Clark reported that

the MPD budget is tight, but that 6 of the new cadets from the last class will be assigned to nights Downtown. 6 other officers will be assigned to directed patrol. The Traffic Law Enforcement detail is also a tool. Liz reported that last year, the felony threshold went to \$1,000 from the \$500 amount.

III. Cameras/Safety Ambassadors on Nicollet Ave.

The CLPC Livability Committee had requested information on “fee for service” for Safety Ambassadors on Nicollet Ave., as well as continued discussion on cameras along Nicollet and on 14th/15th Streets. Shane Zahn from DID and Michael McLaughlin, a consultant for Public Works were present. Shane talked about new technology to monitor crime that they were working on. They are also working on developing criteria for a fee for service for cameras, safety ambassadors, litter pick up. The Downtown Improvement District (DID) stops at Grant Street. The Committee suggested that Safety Ambassadors could be used for encouraging Convention Center attendees to utilize Eat Street, they could walk Nicollet to the Freeway and report crime, they could walk 14th Street and report crime. Committee members stated that there is a noticeable increase in low level street crime and “hanging out” south of Grant. We would like DID to monitor any crime displacement to the Loring Park area as a part of the increased Downtown 100 project and that the boundary cuts Loring Park Neighborhood in half. Michael stated that the boundary was drawn and determined legislatively and that residential properties (like the entire Loring Greenway is out of the included DID area) could not be included. They may “opt in”, but they can’t enforce an assessment like in a business district. Additionally, the Convention Center and Eat Street are their own service district, so they already are assessed and annually determined how those collected fees will be budgeted. The Committee asked for Shane to come back, once criteria for “fee for service” is set and that they will re-evaluate after the summer looking at crime trends.

Shane reported that for additional cameras, that an area needed to be assessed. There needs to be identified and approved, a sight to mount a camera and then it needs to be in the vicinity of a network hub. There also needs to be power to the poles where a camera is mounted. If you have to install cameras, there are additional issues. Cameras cannot be placed on stoplights. Shane estimated that a PTZ (camera that can be moved around and monitored by an Operator) runs about \$8,700. A fixed camera runs about \$8,200 and a single fixed camera - \$5,200. They also assess any potential vulnerabilities to ensure that power doesn’t go down and/or the system shuts down. . M & R of cameras also needs to be considered and budgeted for. They operate on a mesh network Downtown and on the West Bank. Video is stored for 15 days. Video is good for investigations and evidence in a trial. Cameras can be used to be pro-active or reactive. Any expenditure over \$5,000 has to go to City Council for approval and acceptance of funding by MPD. Shane also reported that downtown they use a shared radio link with private security business staff. That could be another tool to think about in Loring Park.

Jana distributed a map of the Loring Park businesses reflecting that they pay the 9% business tax but feel abandoned by any support, they see little for the amount of tax they pay, compared to the Downtown focus. Many businesses are surprised to learn that the Downtown business and Entertainment tax does not stop at Grant Street because this is where the priority and focus seems to stop.

Committee members suggested additional bike patrols, request for Safety Ambassadors to call 311 or 911 and report Loring Park issues. Shane suggested that for a “fee for service” Loring Park Neighborhood should determine what, where, and the frequency for Ambassadors. Committee members felt that the increase visibility of Ambassadors would be a deterrent for crime. Shane suggested that a future meeting could be on the “Give Real Change” campaign which is under development by the Downtown DID and Heading Home Hennepin.

IV. Event /Outreach Updates

Planting Project – Jana reported that tree planting occurred in partnership with the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Forestry Division on May 20th on 12th Street across from the U.S. Post Office. Thanks to Mike Addy on his pursuit of this project.

Summer Events – Bob asked for volunteers for the CLPC Information booth for the PRIDE Festival, Loring Park Art Festival, and National Night Out. They should call CLPC and we will begin plugging folks into a schedule. John encouraged anyone interested in planning National Night Out events, to also let CLPC know. We can let people know when planning meetings will be held. Two (2) meetings have been held to date regarding a neighborhood party on the Woman’s Club of Minneapolis parking lot.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Submitted x JLM