

Citizens for a Loring Park Community (CLPC)

Livability Committee Meeting
Wednesday, October 17th, 2007
6:30-8:30 pm
Loring Park Community Center

I. 6:30-6:45 pm. Welcome, Introductions, Agenda Approval, Approval of September 19th, 2007 Minutes, Announcements—Robert Hansen

Robert Hansen (1355 Nicollet), Tommi Stevens (AccessWorks), Sue Purchase (AccessWorks), Eric Sandberg (1501 LaSalle), Rose Cotton (1501 LaSalle), Carol Sjogren (1350 Nicollet), Jana Metge (CLPC Coordinator), Edith Nicole Cameron (Restorative Justice), Dick Sandberg (1201 Yale Place), Dan Gibson (19 Bar), Becky Gullickson (301 Clifton), Luther Krueger (Minneapolis Police), Terry Thompson (1201 Yale Place), John van Heel (110 West Grant), Judy Ericson (Loring Way), Jan Sandberg (1201 Yale Place), Judy Schuck (MCTC)

Motion by Dick Sandberg, seconded by Becky Gullickson, to approve the minutes from Sept 19th, 2007.

Motion passed.

Announcements:

- **November meeting:** The November meeting will be moved to November 14, 2007 to avoid the Thanksgiving holiday.
- **The Loring Greenway opened October 17, 2007.**
- **Dog Park Event:** a big success judging by the number of people and dogs.
- **Meeting conduct rules:** Jana explained that there are meeting guidelines to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to participate. These include one person talks at time, everyone gets chance before speaking a second time, be respectful, help the chair move the agenda along. Committee members suggested posting these on the CLPC Web site and possibly including them on the agenda.
- **AccessWorks:** After discussion at the September meeting, Rae Frank, AccessWorks Executive Director, forwarded a copy of their rules and regulations which was forwarded to the committee. Tommi Stevens who works at AccessWorks, and Sue Purchase, co-founder of AccessWorks and the interim executive director, told the Committee that AccessWorks is seeking a new executive director. Because of considerable interest in this topic, the Committee decided to make AccessWorks an agenda item for the November 14, 2007 Livability Committee meeting. The item will include background, explanation of AccessWorks rules, and discussion of community concerns. AccessWorks will host the meeting in their facility.
- **Restorative Justice** Edith Nicole Cameron announced that she is leaving Restorative Justice. Her successor is Reggie Prim who lives in Loring Park. She plans to take the bar exam in January. Phyllis Saltzman has been hired as the new executive director starting in early November.

II. 6:45-7:00 p.m. Update on policing issues in the Loring Park neighborhood – Luther Krueger, First Precinct Crime Prevention Specialist

Luther announced that the 1st Precinct will get five “new” officers, net of any attrition and reorganization. They will need some time to get up to speed about the precinct and neighborhoods, sort of acculturation. Luther reminded the committee that the buyback dollars were for a limited period of time. The 1st Precinct has no probation officers unlike several other precincts. This may make some sense because many offenders in the 1st Precinct do not live here even though they “work” here. However, Luther later clarified that the 1st Precinct is hoping to get a probation officer in the future. Lt. Glampe and bike patrol

have come into the neighborhood into the vicinity of AccessWorks but the weather has been rainy which has inhibited activity. Reviewing the most recent crime maps, Luther described several recent incidents in the neighborhood.

Question about recent article in City Pages and **understaffing in the sex crimes unit**. Luther said that there are some issues about what closed means. There are resource issues -- the community wants to see cops on the beat. The article also does not go into any detail on whether these are stranger rapes or not -- the community fears stranger rapes the most. Before the LGA cuts the 1st precinct had its own robbery investigator.

Question about whether Luther had heard of the sale of counterfeit bus passes – Luther suggested that anyone seeing this activity should contact 911.

III. 7:00-7:30 p.m. Updating the Loring Park Community Policing Plan – Luther Krueger

The current plan (2007) is available from

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/outreach/docs/LoringParkPolicingPlan2007.pdf>

Luther suggested looking at the presentation “Making Community Policing Real: Taking Minneapolis Policing to the Next Level” at <http://www.ci.mpls.mn.us/police/news/docs/CommPolicing.pdf>.

Slides 3, 11, 13, 23, 27 and 30 all have bullet points talking about community involvement, and overall both community and police surveyed agreed we need better partnerships with the community pitching in.

The department needs to be more directive about what the community can do that police cannot do. As an example, the police can't outright require landlords to do background check unless there is extensive criminal activity. Committee members asked if this could be built into licensing and then talked about whether buildings or owners are licensed. Luther noted that owners can charge renters for the background checks.

There are big issues with renters and condo owners – six units in one building were raided for drugs. MPD is planning to work with condos to address some of these issues. Jana will forward information about a November 1, 2007 meeting from Luther to condo associations.

Another short survey that will be included in the 2008 policing plan will be coming out imminently to residents. Questions will address such topics as how are things going, what could be done, what would you like to do to help your neighborhood.

Question whether Luther meets with condo associations. Luther said that meetings usually revolve around specific issues (e.g. theft from garages) or general safety meetings. The MPD would like to set up regular meetings similar to those with property owners. As an aside, Luther mentioned that the Loring Park Neighborhood is fortunate to have a property owners group.

Suggestion that CLPC coordinate several condos such as 301 Clifton and The Groveland to discuss some of these issues.

IV. 7:30-7:45 p.m. MCTC Volunteering Opportunities – Judy Schuck

A kick-off event launching the MCTC Volunteer Network is planned for Thursday, November 8, 5:00 p.m. at the college. Many types of opportunities are available: long-term (e.g. tutoring), episodic (e.g. assisting students in financial aid lines) and occasional (e.g. ushering and taking tickets at events). MCTC has over 10,000 students and is very ethnically diverse. Because there is open enrollment, some tests are required to take some classes. Judy is asking for input on how to get this message out. The college will mail information to Loring Park residents.

Committee members suggested several options for spreading the word – post at the Senior Center, request to be included in condo management letters, link from the CLPC Web site to the larger document, ask condo owners to post items on their bulletin boards, request inclusion in the Dunn Brothers newsletter, explore church bulletins, ask to post on other retail bulletin boards.

V. 7:45-8:10 p.m. Pedestrian Initiative Survey – Jan Sandberg

Minneapolis is developing a citywide pedestrian master plan to increase and improve walking in the city. As a first step, neighborhood organizations, among others, are being asked to provide a contact name and preliminary information on the organization's pedestrian initiatives to City staff by November 26, 2007.

The committee identified the following pedestrian issues that could be the basis for CLPC initiatives:

Pedestrian traffic safety

Crossing at 15th and Oak Grove: Some common fixes may not be feasible but also felt that the issue should be further explored. The problem is exacerbated by the location of the park path and steep hill up Oak Grove that limits access in general to the park. This item is included in the 2006 Loring Hill Guidelines as an access issue.

Crossing at 15th/Oak Grove across Hennepin/Lyndale: The double street configuration poses significant challenges to all pedestrians. This item is included in the 2006 Loring Hill Guidelines.

Traffic calming: For 15th Street and along the primary pedestrian routes to Loring Park including Oak Grove Street, Clifton Place and Clifton Avenue at key intersections such as Oak Grove Street, Clifton Place at Oak Grove, Clifton Avenue and Groveland, as well as at Clifton Avenue and Clifton Place.

Sidewalk gaps and location

The Nicollet Avenue bridge crossing I-94: The unfriendly bridge crossing serves as a visual barrier to Nicollet Avenue to the south

Access from Loring Hill to 15th Street and Loring Park: due to the configuration of streets, there are few direct ways for Loring Hill residents to access the Park and 15th Street. This item is included in the 2006 Loring Hill Guidelines.

Groveland Bridge over I-94: there are no pedestrian amenities and the bridge has become a garbage dump

Sidewalk width & construction

Sidewalk on east side of Hennepin from Oak Grove to Groveland: clarify signage to indicate that this is a shared path for bikes and pedestrians. Current marking is unclear. NOTE: the committee felt that the entire stretch of Hennepin/Lyndale has problems.

Sidewalk clearing (e.g., snow removal)

Identified snow removal, particularly at transit stops, as an issue. The committee felt that CLPC could work more aggressively with property owners to clear sidewalks.

Sidewalk obstructions

Bicyclists: Promote restrictions banning bicyclists from sidewalks

Cafés: Not identified as a problem in the neighborhood

Crosswalk conditions/design

The crossing Hennepin/Lyndale from Oak Grove to the Walker. This is also a safety issue.

Lighting

Public space lighting (parks, plazas)

Park lighting – the interior of the park seems remote and unsafe at night.

Sidewalk lighting

Assess current requirements: identify current lighting requirements and determine if neighborhood lighting meets those requirements. There is a thought that lighting could be brighter.

Greening & enhancements

General enhancements (all from the 2006 Loring Hill Guidelines):

- The **Lyndale/Hennepin Avenue corridor** on the west edge of the neighborhood must be treated in an attractive and appealing way to improve pedestrian crossings. Special consideration should be given to the Groveland Avenue and 15th Street/Oak Grove intersections.
- **Along the south side at the freeway cut** should be improved including decorative fencing along the MnDOT ROW and decorative fence on Groveland Avenue across I-94
- **Incorporate pocket parks and plazas** at key locations such as the NE corner of Spruce Place and Oak Grove Street and the SE corner of Oak Grove Street and Clifton Place

Street furniture

Transit shelters: Eliminate obstructions near Hennepin Avenue bus stops

Public washrooms: While outside the neighborhood, several committee member (some o participate in Restorative Justice conferences as a community member) believe that there is a need for public restrooms in the entertainment areas, particularly the Warehouse District. Some members thought that bar owners should take additional responsibility for construction and maintenance.

Motion by John van Heel, seconded by Dick Sandberg, to forward the list developed by the committee to the CLPC Board for submission to the Pedestrian Advisory Committee and for consideration for inclusion in the Phase II plan.

Motion passed

VI. 8:10-8:30 p.m. NRP Phase II Plan – Jana Metge

Suggestions so far for Phase II items/sources:

Ideas from September suggested for the CLPC plan:

1. continue and increase Community Impact Statements;
2. property owners initiatives;
3. cameras on Nicollet and in Loring Park (possibly mobile to address hotspots);
4. expand “SafeZone” and security officer Website into the Loring Park neighborhood;
5. encourage a strong relationship between the police and condo associations;
6. outreach to condos;
7. growth of the Virtual Block Club;
8. more safety meetings;
9. support for community prosecutors;
10. access to information systems with GIS;
11. add a 1st Precinct probation officer (unlike other precincts, the 1st has no probation officer-- some precincts have probation officers dedicated to specific offenses).

Suggestions from the committee:

1. night court;
2. community paralegal;
3. bike cops;
4. more emphasis on Part II crimes such as loitering/selling drugs and aggressive panhandling-- this could be targeted geographically, such as focusing on Nicollet Avenue or a section thereof;
5. The committee has heard from businesses concerned about problems with drug sales, litter, and poor behavior along 15th Street between LaSalle and Nicollet;

6. TAC (technical advisory committee) – to be more inclusive of community concerns with license renewal;
7. reduce sense of isolation in the park;
8. encourage security officers on street;
9. cameras on the Greenway (possibly work with condos for placement, focus on back door);
and
10. continue direct referrals from police to restorative justice as well as referrals in general.

Livability Goals:

Jana distributed a set of Livability Committee Goals. While goals are broad, they could be tied to the development of a toolkit. [Jana I did not get everything you said here. Please send detail via email.]

Goal 1: To build a network between residential properties, businesses, MPD, and the neighborhood to share and communicate information on a monthly basis.

Goal 2: To provide a forum where residents and businesses can discuss public safety issues and brainstorm innovative approaches and solutions to identified obstacles within the Criminal Justice System to include the MPD, City Attorney, County Attorney, and Judges.

Goal 3: To support a joint-neighborhood Restorative Justice Program and promote its activities and our partnership.

Goal 4: To work with the CCNP/Safety Collaborative and support a mission of addressing the root causes of crime versus a policy of displacement from one neighborhood to the next.

Goal 5: To promote, support, and/or initiate Community Celebrations and Events which bring together community stakeholders to celebrate our neighborhood, share information, and conduct outreach.

Goal 6: To promote, support, and/or initiate "greening" efforts in the community which enhances our neighborhood's livability.

Suggestions for strategies to develop lists:

- Bob Hansen will hold meetings in his buildings to ask about current concerns. Residents of his building are not likely to attend our meetings.
- Jana and John will attend the property owner meetings to collect ideas.
- Jana said that getting feedback for Phase II would be part of the fund raising presentations but there seemed to be some question about this.

Meeting adjourned 8:30 p.m.

Action items for the Committee

- Committee members will continue to forward Phase II ideas to Jana.
- Include copies of meeting guidelines at future meetings or as part of the agenda
- CLPC coordinate several condos such as 301 Clifton and The Groveland to discuss issues for the community policing plan.
- Continue to include crime safety maps or statistics in materials for Livability meetings

Items for the CLPC Board

Motion by John van Heel, seconded by Dick Sandberg, to forward the list developed by the committee to the CLPC Board for submission to the Pedestrian Advisory Committee and for consideration for inclusion in the Phase II plan.

Motion passed