

Citizens for a Loring Park Community
Livability Committee Meeting Minutes – draft
Wednesday, Nov. 17th, 2010
Thanks to our meeting host!! – Wesley Church

I. The meeting was called to order at 6:54 p.m. by Bob Hansen/co-chair.

Introductions were conducted.

Those present: Bob Hansen/Co-Chair, John Novak/Co-Chair, Lt. Matt Clark, Renee Allen/CCP-SAFE, Brad Conley/MCTC, Abby Rouster/MCTC, Dennis Boe/Resident, Lawrence Phillips/Resident, Hazel Erickson/Resident, Jean Innes/Resident, David Neller/Resident, Joseph Finley/Resident, Maria Timofeyeva/Resident, and Jana Metge/CLPC Coordinator

John Novak asked to add to the agenda discussion of CLPC donating to the National Conference on LGBT Equality. The conference will be the 1st week of February 2011 and will bring 2,500 attendees from around the world together for five days of organizing, training, and skill-building. It is an estimated \$4,000,000 boom to the local business community.

II. Agenda was approved as amended by consensus.

October 2010 Livability minutes were approved. David/Judy M/S/Consensus

The following announcements were made:

- **CLPC Holiday Party & Curry Dinner** - Thursday, Dec. 2nd -World Mission Prayer League/228 Clifton Ave. So. from 5:30-8:30 p.m. - Come anytime and stay as long as you'd like!
- **“Light Up Loring”** – Thursday, Dec. 9th from 6:00-8:00 p.m. @ Loring Park Com. Center
- **Wesley Wednesdays begin on Wed., Dec. 1st** – Worlds Aids Day Tribute – social time from 5:30-7:00 with a service from 7-8:45 p.m.
- **Wesley Wednesday – Wed., Dec. 8th** – 90th Anniversary of Women’s right to vote! Speaker will be Sharon Sayles Belton – 5:30-7:00 social time and service from 7-8:45 p.m
- **Wesley Gospel Brunch – Sunday, Dec. 12th** featuring Chef “Big E” and live music; 11:00-2:00 p.m.

Participants were referred to the agenda for the below announcements:

- **Community Sing-Along** – Tuesday, Nov. 16th @ 7:00 p.m. @ Loring Park Community Center
- **Traffic Calming Task Force** - Mon., Nov. 15th from 5:30-7:00 at Loring Park Office Building/Room 207
- **Land Use Committee** - Monday, Nov. 15th - 7:00-8:30 p.m. - Loring Park Office Building/Room 207
- **Master Plan Steering Committee** – Mon., Nov. 15th & Wed., Dec. 8th – 7:00-8:30 p.m. – Loring Park Office Building/Rm 207 – TOPIC: Synthesis of Discovery Phase-past document review-Focus Groups-Interviews
- **Historic Resource Action Team** – Dec. 1st; 7:00-8:30 p.m. – MCTC/Wells Building
- **Downtown Court Watch** – Friday, Dec, 3rd - 10:00 am-Noon – Downtown Central Library - 2nd floor
- **Project Homeless Connect** – Dec. 13th @ Minneapolis Convention Center from 10:30 – 4:00 p.m. 1.5 hour training required to volunteer. Closest training site is 3400 Dupont/Universalist Church on 11.30.2010. Pull up www.homelessconnectminneapolis.org to register as a volunteer and sign up for training.
- **Master Plan EVENT!** – Thursday, Jan. 20th – 6:00-8:30 p.m. – Basilica of St. Mary – *Panel on Transportation & Public Realm featuring: Sen. Scott Dibble, HN Co. Commissioner Peter McLaughlin, Ray Harris, and Councilmember Robert Lilligren – Featuring local music and refreshments - Social Time 6-6:30*
- **Master Plan Community Design Workshop / “Transportation & Public Realm”** – Sat., Jan. 22nd 9:00 / Social time, coffee, muffins; 9:30–Noon–Community Workshop. This workshop will be hosted by Hennepin Ave. United Methodist Church
- **“LOVE LORING”** – CLPC Annual Fundraiser and Silent Auction – Friday, Feb. 11th – Hosted by The Woman’s Club of Minneapolis/410 Oak Grove. Tickets Available!! Call CLPC to purchase at 612-874-9002
- **CLPC Annual Meeting** – Tues., March 22nd – 5:30-6:45/Information & Resource Fair – 7:00-8:30 p.m. PROGRAM – CLPC Master Plan – Review of progress to date – Hosted by The Woman’s Club of Minneapolis/410 Oak Grove – parking available adjacent to and across the street.
- **MCTC Health Fair – WELLFEST** – April 6th from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. @ MCTC Cafeteria

III. Neighborhood Community Policing Plans – Renee Allen/CCP-SAFE & Lt. Matt Clark

Renee Allen reported that she, Jana, and Bob Hansen had met yesterday to review last month’s minutes, Nicollet Ave. Business and Olson area safety issues and develop a draft Neighborhood Policing plan, based on those individual meetings and input to date for review tonight. Renee distributed copies of the draft plan. The final Policing plan will include an overview of the 2010 Policing Plan and describe what we did to accomplish the goals set last year, as well as 2010 crime stats. Tonight, we will look at the 2011 Policing Plan Goals.

Neighborhood Concerns:

Concerns have been expressed in numerous meetings throughout the year in the Loring Park Neighborhood. Meetings have included, but not limited to, monthly CLPC Livability meetings (Citizens for a Loring Park Community), monthly Loring LaSalle Property Owners Group meetings, monthly Business Safety Meetings, Monthly Court Watch meetings, Master Plan Design Workshops, and individual/business contacts.

Area concerns continue to encompass livability crimes in Loring Park Community and the overall perception of safety. These concerns are mainly issues of panhandling, loitering, public intoxication, cleanliness (littering), street level narcotics, and homelessness. Residents and business owners have expressed a need for continued police presence especially during the evening and overnight need for continued police presence, especially during the evening and overnight hours.

Committee members asked to add the following to the neighborhood concerns list:

- *Noise*
- *Escalation of low-level crime and perception of crime in the past 9 months*
- *Calling 911 and 311; education on how to and education on what to do if you feel you are treated inappropriately by a 911 dispatcher.*
- *Theft and Robbery has escalated in the area*
- *Robbery – example was given of a car put on blocks and tires stolen during late night*
- *Hanging out; loitering – especially around 15th Street and Oak Grove by Freeway Bridge*
- *Street fights and drunkenness/intoxication particularly along Nicollet Ave.*
- *Prostitution along Nicollet Ave. and top of “The Hill”*
- *Bus Stops feel unsafe and lots of folks hanging there that are not catching the bus*

Proposed Police Strategy:

Feedback at Loring Park Community meetings continue to affirm existing policing strategies while building a stronger communication network between its community members and MPD by using the established citywide goals to reduce crime and improve the relationships. These include:

Continued opportunities for community input through written impact statements, active involvement in CourtWatch, and continued participation in CLPC Livability Committee meetings, Loring LaSalle Property Owners meeting, and other community sponsored meetings or gatherings as schedules allow.

Monitor crime patterns/displacement and its relationship to initiatives downtown.

Maintain officer visibility in the neighborhood with T3's, bikes, mounted, beat, and directed patrol along with the proactive use of emerging camera technology as deemed appropriate.

Continued communication and training with community members to improve the perception of safety through regular attendance at community meetings, the use of Gov. Delivery information alerts, and proactive initiatives to address concerns of crime or emerging trends.

Facilitate collaborative communication between MPD, Minneapolis Park Police, Transit, and departments in the City of Minneapolis to address issues of crime and safety.

2011 Performance Measures

Increase participation in Gov Delivery by 20%

Continue active recruitment for Action Alert subscribers with rental property owners along with increased involvement in established Rental Property Owners meetings.

Increase trained and active block clubs by 10%.

Maintain requests for Geo Restrictions on Chronic Offenders.

Maintain volume of Community Impact Statements and increase active community participation in CourtWatch

Neighborhood Engagement

CLPC continues to focus on meaningful improvements for livability in the Loring Park Community.

The Livability Committee strives to engage community residents, business owners, and members of the entire Criminal justice system in an effort to proactively collaborate and address issues as they arise.

CLPC will work to increase communication and community action through its scheduled meetings and
By increasing Gov Delivery subscriptions, communication networks, and Block Club recruitment.

CLPC supports the First Precinct's strategies by recruiting additional community member involvement and the distribution of crime prevention or police alerts to Loring neighbors and stakeholders.

Loring community members will continue participation in Courtwatch, by distributing chronic offender Information and soliciting for written Impact Statements.

The following were suggestions to include in the above Loring Park Policing Plan:

- *Insert an element regarding increasing the lighting in Loring*
- *Concern expressed about safety and maintenance at bus shelters (It was noted that Safety issues would go to Transit Police and M & R issues to Metro Transit or TranStop)*

Renee talked about how the definition of a "block club" traditionally had been single family homes organizing, 1 leader, and a focus on crime. Community members have moved that traditional definition to be one more about organizing, creating a social atmosphere developing projects above and beyond discussions on crime and safety, with members sharing leadership roles, not just putting all the responsibility on one person. She reported that the MPD Block Leader training was very good and that several folks from a "Block Club" should take advantage of that training. In areas like Loring Park, with more vertical buildings, you can still build a "Block Club" maybe floor by floor. The purpose of a "Block Club" is to share information, so for example, if one person goes to a training or gets the Action Alerts, they share that information with other folks on their floor or in their building. Our goal in Loring, should be to expand our information sharing, enhance communications within in a building, then between buildings, and then in the larger community. We should work on forming Information Networks.

Renee explained that Gov Delivery was a city system, where via internet, you can sign up for MPD Action Alerts, Requests for Impact Statements, Snow Emergency notices, etc. She will forward the link for Jana to distribute and folks can choose what they would like to sign up for.

Renee talked about Crime Prevention through Environmental Design, which is a technique utilized in building premise surveys on environmental improvements that can be done to prevent crime. This could be enhancing the lighting, trimming bushes, better locks on doors, blocked views of building entrances, etc. Committee members talked about skateboarding ruining the new public realm area created around the Loring Parking ramp. Renee said that cleats on benches and other areas would prevent skateboarding on those items. That would be a CEPTED improvement.

Motion: That the draft 2011 Loring Park Neighborhood Policing Goals be approved.

David/Hazel M/S/Consensus The approval would include above mentioned additions/changes.

*The complete 2011 Policing Plan will be on the January Livability agenda. Lt. Clark will also invite Transit Police to listen to resident concerns regarding loitering on the Nicollet Ave. bus stops.

IV. Nicollet Ave. Bus Stops and Discussion on Resident Comfort Level

Last month, concerns about safety at bus stops were brought up. Residents requested that Transit Police attend a Livability Committee meeting. People are not feeling safe at bus stops on Nicollet and Grant, a lot of loitering is going on. Lt. Clark will set this up for the January 2011 meeting. Residents would like more patrol by Transit Police along Nicollet Ave. and for the loitering to stop. At the same time, a resident expressed concern to ensure that we are not invasive to people's rights.

Added agenda items:

- **National Conference on LGBT Equality –**

John Novak asked for Committee support for a \$100 contribution to the Conference. This would be an activist level support and CLPC's name would be listed in the program. (More description on the conference above under announcement section of the meeting.)

Motion: That CLPC Support the National Conference on LGBT Equality at the local activist level in the amount of \$100. John/David M/S/Consensus. Request will be forwarded to the CLPC Board.

- **Taxi Cabs -**

Dennis distributed copies of photographs that he had taken regarding the taxi cab pile up along Grant and Nicollet. Cabs continue to park in no-parking areas, double park, and honk their horns. Dennis had several photographs which illustrated this concern. One committee member asked Dennis to continue to take photos and then date and time them, create an archive.

Action Steps set by the Committee:

- Jana will fax the photograph to Councilmember Goodman – the entire Committee signed that back of the 8x11 photograph, with a note asking the Councilmember to help them and make this stop.
- Renee will invite the Taxi Cab City of Minneapolis Licensing staff to the Feb. Committee meeting.
- All residents will call 311 and log complaints to continue to build a case.
- Lt. Clark will keep an eye out during his late night shift for violations in this area.
- Dennis will continue to photograph violations and mark date/time of incidences.

• **MCTC Report –**

Abby reported that this is National Homeless Month. 2 Fridays ago, students organized to increase awareness on behalf of and with MCTC students experiencing homelessness. They were supported by St. Stephens Street Outreach and the Downtown Church Congregations to End Homelessness. They had 60 in attendance and much media attention.

They are presently collecting food & clothes @ MCTC in the cafeteria and skyway. Jean from 1350 Nicollet gave Abby connection for their building. It was suggested that maybe 1350 Nicollet could host a drop off and then Jana could post for donations via their email network. It would make it easier for Loring residents to donate. Abby stated that food should be canned goods/non-perishables and clothing requests are for hats, scarves, jackets, mittens, and men's clothing.

Brad reported that they have an Open Forum at MCTC on Nov. 30th from noon-1:30 with President Phil Davis.

V. *The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m. Respectfully submitted, JLM*

Topics for Future meetings

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| • Downtown 100 – monitor | • Nicollet Cameras/Safety Ambassadors |
| • Restorative Justice – update | • Nicollet Ave Special Service District |
| • MCTC – Students experiencing homelessness | • Kiosks (salt & pepper shakers)–M & R |