

Citizens for a Loring Park Community

LIVABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES - Draft

Hosted by the Loring Park Community Center (down the hill from 15th & Willow)

Those present: Bob Hansen (co-chair), John Novak (co-chair), Dave Delvoye (SSCO), Dennis Boe (resident), John Van Heel (resident), Joseph Finley (resident), John Kueck (resident), Susan Kueck (resident), Milton Schoen (HN County), David Holewinski (VA), Jonelle Draughn (VA), Lawrence Kehias (resident), Dave Hile (resident), Ralph Hausseter (VA), Renee Allen (MPD/CCP-SAFE), Shane Zahn (Minneapolis Downtown Improvement District), Bridgette Jackelen (VA), Doug Hennes (St. Thomas), and Jana Metge (CLPC Coordinator).

I. *The following announcements were made:*

- Land Use Meeting - Mon., Nov. 28th - 6:30-8:00 p.m. at Loring Park Community Ctr.
- Community Sing-A-Long - Tues., Nov. 15th, 7:00-8:30 pm at Lrg Com. Ctr.
- **New Harmony Church presents:** *Community Gatherings at Historic Wesley* - Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. **November 10th** speaker - Peter Hutchinson, President of The Bush Foundation; **November 17th** - The Honorable Mindy Greiling, Minnesota House of Representatives; and **December 1st** - World AIDS Day Remembrance.
- Loring Park Neighborhood Master Plan Steering Committee - Wed., Nov. 30th, **(5th Wed. vs. 4th)**- 6:30-8:00 at Loring Park Community Center.
- Downtown Court Watch - Friday, Dec. 2nd from 10:00-noon; 2nd Floor-Downtown Library-Doty Room
- **CLPC Holiday Party & Curry Dinner** - Thursday, Dec. 1st from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at 232 Clifton - OPEN TO ALL!!! **Donations go to CLPC!**
- "Winter Festival - aka - Light Up Loring" - Thursday, Dec. 8th from 6-8:00 pm @ Loring Park - Carriage Rides, Bonfire, Music, Dance, Crafts, Refreshments!!!!

II. **Veterans' Resource Outreach Center - 1201 Harmon -**

Jonelle Draughn, VA Program Coordinator and Ralph Heussner, Public Affairs Officer will present. A Veterans' Resource Outreach Center (VROC) is proposed for 1201 Harmon. Jonelle is coming to our meeting to present services which are to be a part of this newly proposed VA Office. This office will serve as a community resource and referral center. There are 600-700 homeless vets in MN on any given night.

Jonelle spoke about the U.S. Secretary of Veteran Affairs and President Obama's 5 year plan to end homelessness amongst veterans. Minneapolis was one of sixteen (16) sites chosen nationally. A Request for Proposal was put together and posted via public posting standards throughout the Minneapolis area. The process began January 2011 and selection made in September 2011. The space requirement was 9,500 SF and another requirement was to be close to community partners and resources available to veterans. All responses were evaluated through the Review Board and the selected site was 1220 Harmon and owned by Ken Sherman. The VA agreed to forward the RFP, since a public

document, to have available for review by the community. CLPC could post it on their website, so that residents and businesses in the area will know what Veterans' Affairs was looking for. The VA distributed a handout (available at CLPC). They are beginning to network with community partners such as St. Stephens Street outreach and Heading Home HN. They acknowledged that they were part of the Project Homeless Connect recently held at the Mpls. Convention Center. They are also connected with HN County Veterans' Court and will work with HN County probation as well. Prosecutors and Public Defenders need to agree to a referral to Veteran's court and it is voluntary. The aim of the court is to deal with underlying conditions. They will have approximately 30 VA staff on site. They will hire private security throughout the day and for 1 hr. prior to hours and 1 hour after hours. Proposed hours are from 7:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. Monday-Friday.

This is a new initiative although they will be relocating 2 existing programs into 1 facility. They are looking to relocate a mental health program and plan to have the following services on site - primary medical care, mental health rehabilitation, employment support, space for community partners, homeless programs. They will serve veterans experiencing homelessness or at-risk of homelessness. Community integration - seeing veterans in their homes - will be a component of this service center as well. They provide support. Permanent housing requires case management work and mental health/legal services. St. Thomas was present and offered to meet and partner with the resource center to pursue a partnership with their law students to assist the veterans. It was reported that in the last couple of years, unemployment and no family support system has led to the homelessness of many veterans. Sometimes, homelessness may be contributed to child support issues as well. Milt Schoen from HN County stated that vets should be sent to HN County to complete the forms and service applications. Vets need to qualify and meet the VA Health Care criteria. Once this is done, they will receive services within 24 hours. VA is working with the State Dept. of Human Services as well. The VA also has an outreach arm and visits 10 shelters weekly and works with St. Stephens street outreach and their programs. Residents spoke on how well St. Stevens Street Outreach was working out of the 1350 Nicollet building. Clients are treated very respectfully and talk to residents about wanting to do well and get off the street, they just need a little help. Milt/HN County also reported that they have excellent post-traumatic stress resources. The VA also has their own Post-Traumatic Stress team. If a veteran is signed up, they will be seen within 14 days, 24-7, they will go to the Veterans home if needed. There is no waiting list if a veteran is registered and enrolled. Vets go to de-mobilization sites, there have been 8,000 vets through these services since 2007. 99% of the MN National Guard signed up for health care. These new VA Centers will help with access to care. Milt also talked about HN County's "Stand Down" held annually at Fort Snelling. The VA participates in this, as well as Heading Home Hennepin's Project Homeless Connect.

They will not be using the upstairs, but the basement will be used for staff break room. It was not identified what the upstairs of the 1220 Harmon building will be used for, but office space was speculated.

VA staff articulated that the mission of the Veteran Resource Outreach Center (VROC) is to assist and support veterans in returning to independent and productive lifestyles. They are committed to working with veterans who may be at risk of homelessness or currently experiencing homelessness. They will have primary care on site, as well as the Veteran Bridge to Recovery, a mental health rehabilitation program. They will promote mental and physical health stabilization and maintenance, assist veterans in securing housing, and work with veterans to achieve increased independence and functioning in the community. Jana suggested that VROC present at the MUID/Metropolitan Urban Indian Directors' monthly meeting. There are many native vets that are in and around the Loring Park area. Renee suggested that another contact would be Carla Nielson, former CPS from the Franklin Ave. Safety Center. She can be reached at 673-5703.

Additionally, the VROC will provide food, laundry, showers, access to medical care, counseling, vocational rehabilitation, and shelter/housing referrals. When questioned about Post Traumatic stress syndrome, Milt from HN County responded that HN County has great resources in this area and can partner with the VA on this project. VROC reported that parking needs have been met and they should be done with city review and approvals. They hope to open in the Spring. One resident asked if they would have an Open house for the community and they agreed. Jana asked that they do outreach to the surrounding businesses and introduce themselves/answer questions and attend a Loring Business Association meeting.

None of the other 15 sites, nationwide, are up and operating yet. So, we may be the 1st.

Several committee members expressed the needs which are Veterans' face when coming back. One community member welcomed VROC to the Neighborhood and offered for CLPC to assist and partner as needed. They thanked CLPC and the neighborhood for this community forum and offered to answer any other questions that may come up.

III. **Crime Update** - Renee Allen

There have been some aggressive robberies over this past month during the daytime hours. Lt. Halvorson and Renee Allen/CPS will update us on safety issues & concerns. Renee prepared and distributed Part 1 crime stats from 10.19.2011 through 11.16.2011, as well as 2011 YTD compared to 2010 YTD. Renee noted that Part 1 crimes in Loring were down to 388 compared to 399 in 2010. Burglary was up this year, but other Part 1 crimes - homicide (0), rape (9), Robbery (22), Agg. Assault (28), Larceny (271), Auto Theft (24), and Arson (0) in 2011 compared to 2010 stats of - homicide (0), Rape (7), Robbery (28), Agg. Assault (27), Burglary (53), Larceny (265), Auto Theft (18), and Arson (1). It was stressed that larceny drives Part I crimes. Shane reported that they perception is everything and if folks are feeling unsafe and seeing more negative activity, that it will indeed drive good activity from the street.

Renee had also calculated Part II stats. Vandalism is up in 2011, but overall Part II is down with 580 reports in 2011 compared to 722 reports in 2010. Weapon offenses were

down in 2011, as were Narcotic offenses. Liquor Laws item includes a combination of public urination and public intoxication. It also includes citations issued from Regulatory Services, as well as licensing fees/violations of businesses, cabs, etc. There was only one (1) offense in the curfew/loitering category.

Renee reported that Juveniles having been conducting "flash mob scenes" at light rail stops, especially Lake Street. Cell phones have been taken as folks exit trains. She encouraged all to keep track of serial numbers. MPD may recover stolen items, but there is no way to ID them unless you have a serial number, so many items go unclaimed.

Question was asked regarding crime incidents at the Hyatt ramp. Renee will check into this and report back. She is willing to conduct a safety audit, but it needs to be requested by the owner. This ramp had come up at a CLPC Land Use discussion on the possibility of additional neighborhood parking. Safety and car break-ins came up as concerns by local property owners. Shane talked about management and Minneapolis DID sharing a common radio link and ongoing partnerships with parking ramps. There are 55 businesses connected to DID and radio link. For every 1 MPD camera there are 50 private security cameras and for each MPD Officer there are 13 private security folks. Renee will follow up with crime reports on this ramp and Jana will contact the owner to request a premise security audit via CCP/SAFE.

Renee talked about the "Put Junk in your Trunk" initiative and that out of 12 theft from autos, 10 of the incidences reported that items taken from cars were laptops and GPS. Renee stressed to keep items in your car out of sight, put them away.

Question was asked about the Corner Coffeeshop and what happened to it, was the Dept. of Regulatory Services involved? Renee will check and report back next month.

IV. Stevens Square Community Organization -

Dave Delvoye, SSCO Safety Coordinator presented from our neighborhood to the south, and discussed with us this past summer and the surge of crime they experienced. Over the summer, they assessed their "chronic offenders" and 19 of them were 3rd Precinct Chronic Offenders. 3 additional offenders were offenders on both sides of the freeway. They also believe that they may have been impacted from folks dislocated by the tornado, who moved business down to sside/Stevens Square, but identified offenders were not those identified by the 4th Precinct. Dave reported that the Citizens Patrol watched folks cross over the freeway to deal and watched business relocate in Stevens Square. He gave acclamation to the 5th Precinct and stated that Inspector Clark attended their safety meetings and has been very proactive with strategies, working with the community. His help was very helpful and excellent.

Dave reported that they have expressed concern to their Community Prosecutor regarding 1st Precinct Geographic Trespass boundaries and worried that these will displace folks then to Stevens Square and/or the stretch between Loring Park and

Stevens Square over the freeway. He stated that loitering with intent to deal had increased and needed to be stopped.

In Stevens Square, they breakdown their loitering Part II crimes and monitor them. They focus on the sellers, not the users. They monitor - 1) possession of narcotics, 2) narcotic violation, 3) Drug paraphernalia, 4) Loitering with intent to sell. Dave reported that in addition to the Inspector, SSCO has Probation Officers, Beat Officers, and CCP/SAFE which attends their monthly safety meeting.

Dave provided the CLPC committee handouts of the 1st Precinct Geographic Trespass list and reported that of the 39 folks on the list, 12 are also Stevens Square offenders and 6 were arrested in Stevens Square and active in Stevens prior to Geo Trespass from 1st precinct. The 5th Precinct pushes for jail time vs. agreeing to geo trespass as a 1st step - they have a tougher time in court getting penalties for offenders.

Stevens Square saw a major increase of Part II Livability crime post the "Cleaning Up Peavey Park" initiative which kicked off July 27th. Within days narcotics and prostitution skyrocketed in Stevens, as well as foot traffic over the freeway bridge. At 3rd/4th & Franklin to 18th Street there was a 266% increase in police reports and a 435% increase in police citations and comparative from 2010 to 2011 - 161 arrests vs. 37. There is a strategy in place targeting the drug dealers. SSCO tries to identify, get names, and monitor. Alcohol arrests have declined in Stevens Square, they don't know why. Buyers in Stevens Square (of street drugs) are those following the market, wherever it relocates.

CLPC folks talked about the open air market at Nicollet and Grant over the summer, as well as on Loring Park side of the 94 Freeway bridge. It was reported that SA is starting to go downhill again as well. Concern was expressed about overall city cost by just moving crime from one neighborhood to another and worried that Loring Park will catch it again via the Minneapolis DID stopping at Grant and any 5th Precinct/Stevens Square move. We need to be strategic and work in a city-wide effort, coordinating chronic offenders city-wide vs. precinct to precinct.

Dave also reported that Stevens Square are hoping to enhance their streetlights (brighter bulbs), but that Xcel's timeline for replacing the bulbs was a few years out yet.

The committee thanked Dave for coming and suggested that we coordinate at least 3x each year and certainly prior to next summer beginning. The committee would like to pursue the breakdown of Part II Livability crimes and monitor them separately like SSCO does vs. lumping them in a "loitering" category.

V. "Loring WinterFest Event" -

Diane is looking for ways to increase attendance at this event. She will send out the flyer via email and Jana will post out for everyone to post in their buildings and businesses. "Each one, Reach one" - we need to all spread the word.

Diane reported that Dave Hile will be building and supervising the bonfire. KAIROS Dance Troupe, the in house dance group will be performing. There will be Carriage Rides around the Lake from 6:30-8:30, crafts, and refreshments.

VI. **Issues, Concerns, New Items** - none expressed at this time.

VII. *The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.*

Respectfully submitted, JLMetge/CH