

Draft
Citizens for a Loring Park Community
Livability Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 17th, 2009

Thanks to the Loring Park Community Center for hosting the meeting

SEE OUR WEB SITE FOR MINUTES, AGENDAS, AND OTHER INFO ON CLPC AT <http://www.loringpark.org/>

Those attending: Thomas M. Normile (resident), Hillary Freeman (Community Justice Project), Matt French, Robert Hansen (resident and Chair), Luther Krueger (MPD), Rena Dudgeon (MPD), Gary Gliem (resident), Gail Baez (HN County Attorney's Office), Liz Cutter (HN County Attorney's Office), Pete Christensen (Music Box Theatre), Jerdis Cerney (resident), Judge Pete Cahill, Ahmed Nooh (International Coffee), Abdigani Hussein (International Coffee), Dave Hile (resident), and Jana Metge (CLPC Coordinator)

The meeting was called to order by Bob Hansen, CLPC Livability Chair at 6:35 p.m. Introductions were conducted.

Agenda was approved by consensus.

May 20 Committee meeting minutes were approved by consensus, with the change to Nikki vs. Mikki.

The following announcements were made and handouts available at the meeting:

- **Community Sing w/Dan Chouinard** – Tuesday, June 16th, 7PM Loring Park Community Building, light refreshments served
- **PRIDE Festival** – June 27th-28th
- **Land Use Committee** – Monday, June 22nd, 6:30-8:00PM, 430 Oak Grove, Room 207
- **Traffic Calming Task Force** – Monday, June 15th, 6:30-8:00PM, 430 Oak Grove, Room 207
- **Master Plan Steering Committee** – Wednesday, June 24th, 6:30-8:00PM, 430 Oak Grove, Room 207
- **Dog Grounds, 3rd Annual Fund Raiser**- Thursday, June 18th, 5:00-7:30PM, Joe's Garage

Bob introduced Rena from MPD. Lt. Clark was unable to attend the meeting and sent Officer Rena Dudgeon. She reported that she has been a supervisor downtown for 1.5 years. She does mid-watch. She has 11 years on the north side and 1.5 years at the 5th precinct. She reported that 24 Officers are now bike certified. She has CRT (Community Response Team) officers on undercover and investigation within the neighborhood. They are in plain clothes and not 911 driven, rather complaint driven. She talked about robberies at parking ramps and that they had a great team approach. They worked with the parking ramp security, had 911 tracking on the individual offending, and a suspect description. They put that out to security at parking ramps. Undercover then tracked the data, analyzed it, where and when robberies were occurring and caught the suspect.

A question was asked about why the individual (truck driver) that killed the biker (14th & Park) in Elliot Park was not charged. Officer Dudgeon said she would look into it. She also said that you could call the precinct, get the case number and follow it through if the case is under investigation.

I. Community Justice Project – Hillary Freeman, Co-Director

Hillary Freeman introduced herself as a Community Crime Specialist, like Luther for the Minneapolis Police Dept. Several years ago, she was allowed to build upon a concept she had and partnered with the Greater Minneapolis Council of churches. She is shared employee between GMCC and MPD. The Community Justice Project, is a public safety

initiative of the Minneapolis Police Department in collaboration with the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches. The focus of this initiative is to be smart on crime because you can not arrest away crime because almost everyone comes home. So this program recruits and trains mentors who work with Offenders while they are in prison and then once they get out. This reentry project has produced a sustainable reduction of crime. If an Offender works with a mentor and continues once out of prison, the recidivism rate is very low. The goal is to not re-offend and to have the mentor there to help you so you will not. The Community Justice project also links individuals to housing and employment resources. Hillary stated that "everyone comes home" so they either change their way of life, or go back to crime.

On Tuesday, she works out of the Adult Corrections facility, interviews them, and hooks folks up with a mentor. She gets referrals from Drug Court and Mental Health court. She also works with the CLEAN sheets in the 3rd precinct to partner with the community there. If an individual turns out to not be a good candidate for a mentor, she provides them with further resources. If they are determined to be a candidate to be mentored, a permission slip is signed. She is looking for folks who are committed.

This is a volunteer-based program. Hillary recruits mentors and trains them. Training involves a focus on increasing public safety through this project, and changing offender behavior. She stated that you can't arrest away crime.

In 2008, out of 182 Offenders, 136 were mentored. Prior to mentoring, these Offenders had accumulated 456 arrests. Post incarceration, with the mentoring, only 55 arrests. They have a 13% recidivism rate. Their goal is to reduce the amount of arrests.

The next training for new mentors is September. They coordinate with the new Drug Court. Close to 52% of the offenders are in for probation violations. Plymouth serves those sentenced to 1 year or less. 70% of Offenders have felony level crimes. Hillary stressed that a community role should be to monitor downward departures on the sentencing guidelines by some Judges. Offenders with Felony crimes should not be in Plymouth and not sentenced with less than a year. Hillary has a FT staff person which supports the mentors. That person is the "go to" person for questions, concerns, etc.

Hillary stated that to be successful upon re-entry you need 1) employment, 2) stable housing, and 3) positive support.

In the Sentencing Guidelines, a 2nd degree possession calls for 48 months. A 1st degree possession calls for 86 months. Hillary cited several examples where individuals at felony levels were sentenced for 365 days and reminded us that State Law allows a 1/3 of the sentence off and release for good behavior. One example was an individual arrested by the Gang Strike force, he should have gotten 86 months and was departed by the Judge. A question was asked if this was common amongst Judges or a particular Judge. Hillary responded that 4 of the 7 departures was the same Judge. She stated that from a public safety perspective, the consequences should be fair and equal amongst the Judges and follow the Sentencing Guidelines set by law. If one Judge is responsible for 4 of 7 departures, and those individuals come back out and re-offend, the community should take a stance, as well as think about the public costs for re-arresting, prosecuting, public defender, etc. Hillary also stated that in her mentoring of Offenders, when they brag to her that they "got off easy", she'll respond to them "you must not matter very much then, if you are not held to the same standard as others". It causes them to think and brings

about interesting conversations.

Hillary also coordinates and communicates with probation; along with sharing employment and housing resources.

Gail Baez, Senior HN County Prosecutor stated that sometimes departure is appropriate and fair and probation may be more appropriate for an individual than prison. But, this is where community impacts statements and court watch comes in, so that you can get to the Judge an entire story and data from a variety of sources, shelter staff, residents, probation recommendation, and the prosecutor. An example cited was a woman, being abused by a pimp, carrying drugs for him, being caught vs. the drug provider. There may be a way to get this individual into a shelter and away from harm, get treatment, and help her to turn her life around. Gail stated that it is important to balance mercy for addicts and help for them to turn around, but ensure accountability for those who deal and prey on communities.

Hillary told a story about a woman, in college now, off of the streets, in recovery with no arrests and holding a job. She will have a year of sobriety in July. That's the goal. Better for the individual and better for the community and no more public resources drained on arrests, jail, prosecution, etc.

Gail introduced the Honorable Pete Cahill, now Judge. Pete was Amy Klobuchar's Deputy Attorney when she was the Hennepin County Attorney. Pete was instrumental in initiating the concept of community impact statements which were allowable by law, but not being used much back then. He also participated in the HN County Drug Court remodel and now is the Judge in of this new model Drug Court.

II. Hennepin County Courts – Judge Pete Cahill

Judge Cahill began discussing the new model Drug Court. With the old model, all drug cases went to Drug Court. The rumor on the 8th floor of Hennepin County was that the 8th floor restroom was the best place to buy. There was no criteria for admission.

The workgroup reviewed evidence-based practices and determined that high-risk and high-need should be the focus. Low risk-low need, intervention only made the problem worse. In the old Drug Court, probation officers had case loads of 300 clients each. No way to monitor or be effective. Addicts and dealers were treated the same. The workgroup came up with evaluation tools. Those who did not qualify for Drug Court, were sent to traditional criminal court room. This is a problem solving approach, not just treatment based. You cannot get accepted to Drug court if you: have involvement with a gang, currently on parole, no involvement in the drug dealing network, if you are a violent offender. With the high risk-high need focus there is intense supervision. Probation Officers have case loads of 30-40 vs. 300 in the old days. PO visits a client once every weeks without notice to ensure that they are following court orders, they order random UA's, they meet with the PO on a scheduled basis weekly, and they are in treatment for 6 months, intensely for 4 months. He reported that 50% of clients are dual diagnosis; with mental illness. He also reported that 50% of the women have post traumatic stress. Once a client gets through this initial period, they move to Phase II and work on their GED, psychiatric services are provided, they seek employment, and visit their PO every other week. There are 186 clients in the new model Drug Court vs. 3,000 in the old model.

Phase II involves a 12 step program, they see a judge every 4 weeks, they do more on

their own, and there are award programs with medalians as sobriety markers. The PO monitors the client to be sure that they do not fall back. Many clients need the structure and Phase III of the program, or even graduating is hard and frightening for them.

Pete stated that there is an Annual Report available on the HN County Drug Court website.

They do hold revocation hearing every Tuesday and Thursday and some are sent back to the workhouse if they violate conditions and agreements. They also have a critical mass of women offenders and are providing gender based treatment which is program specific.

Judge Cahill stated that even at a Graduation ceremony, clients are told that if they feel they are slipping, they can come back vs. re-offend. They keep the doors open. Hillary stated that this is the time when her program is most important. To ensure a mentor there to help.

Judge Cahill stressed that personal impact statements vs. generic ones are very important. If many generic non-personal impact statements come in they do not mean as much to Judges as the ones which are personal and talk about how this Offender has harmed the individual and the community. The more information a Judge has, the better.

Judge Cahill also reported on a decision that there will be a major reorganization of the Bench. There are 62 Judges. Rather than a different Judge being at Pre-trial, trial, and sentencing; they are following the Community Court model for continuity. There will be 3 teams of 18 Judges each. One team will be assigned to Mpls. Each team will have a team leader and a liaison Judge for each community. This may lead to more accountability on the part of the Judges and the Offender. If the same Judge sees an Offender over and over again, that person cannot tell a sad story to a new person. Judge Cahill reported that he had one such incident, but since he had been the Judge throughout, he was able to tell the Offender that no, he violated his court conditions and was revoked. It is hopeful that this reorganization will be very beneficial. They will start this in the suburbs and move into Minneapolis 1 year from now.

Judge Cahill spoke on Mandatory minimums. He said that soft mandatory minimums are a safety value for community within the law. Hard mandatory minimums take any discretion away from the Judge. He cited a domestic violence case and stated that Judge's discretion acknowledged something less, along with intervention, than the mandatory minimums.

A question was asked about what community can do about departures x Judges if inappropriate. Hillary sited a case where there was a departure from the guidelines for a felon in possession of a gun. Judge Cahill reported that the Supreme Court had a ruling upholding mandatory minimums as a safeguard for community. Jana stated that with their Phillips Weed & Seed project, they went to the Chief Judge monthly with departures that they thought were inappropriate and that the Chief Judge worked with them to research the cases. The Chief Judge would then talk to various Judges. It was an informal way to continue the dialogue and debate on the departure.

III. EVENTS/OUTREACH

- **National Night Out-Woman's Club** – Tuesday, August 4th, 6:00-9:00 PM, Parking Lot, 410 Oak Grove, Music and Food, Special Guests, Come one, come all!!!

- **National Night Out** – There may be another party organized by Tom at Willow and 14th St.
- **Loring Park Art Festival** – August 8th-9th – Great event to be at!
- **Dusk2Dawn Event** – September 26th – FMI www.dusk2dawn.org

Bob encouraged members to participate with the walk and form a Loring Park team. This event is in September. This is a fundraiser for Open Arms which provides free meals at homes of many residents in Loring Park.

- **Neighborhood Clean Up Event** – July 11th at 10:00 a.m. The Corner Coffee church in the North Loop is sponsoring a Clean Up day and members of the church will be volunteering and cleaning up the community in and around Loring Park (15th, 14th, LaSalle).

It was reported that Mark Ellenberg, our MAVI (Minneapolis Anti-Violence Initiative Coordinator) was in a motorcycle accident with his wife. He has been a participant at our Court Watch. He has swelling on the brain and injured his spine, though he is up and walking with a brace.

Ahmed from International Coffee on 15th & Nicollet attended and offered the idea of a new community event. He would like to have a Somali family picnic and invite neighbors from Loring Park. He would like to have cultural foods, dance, dress, and teach people about the Somali Culture. It was decided that the 1st step will be to work with Diane on a date for the event.

Luther brought up the concept of “you can’t arrest away crime” and asked that a new slogan be developed. He stated that for communities, many times an arrest provides relief that is needed by the community members. Also, once arrested, is when intervention can begin.

Distribution of the Monthly Court Watch Sheets

Next meeting is Friday, June 19th, 10:00-11:30 AM, Central Library. Gail presented that there have been 45 in attendance at Court Watch meetings. Residents from 5 neighborhoods, police, prosecution from both the City and the County, Downtown Safe Zone, Shelter staff, St. Stephens Street outreach and Catholic Charities. Each participant has a piece of the story. They have a holistic approach to each identified chronic offender. They also monitor cases as they go through the courts. They strategize on problem areas and road blocks to effective criminal justice.

Judge Cahill was thanked for coming to this meeting!

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, JLM

July Livability Meeting Tentative Agenda Items:

**St. Stephen Street Outreach, discussion of NRP Phase II funds and use with Monica Nilsson;
Restorative Justice Quarterly Report with Reggie Prim**

August, No Meeting

September Livability Meeting Agenda Items:

**2010 Community Policing Plan, expansion of the Downtown Cameras along Nicollet Ave.,
and SafeZone Safety Ambassador program**

October Livability Meeting Agenda Items:

**Nicollet Ave. “Eat Street” Special Service District – Scope of Service, membership, history;
13th Street East Plaza, West Side Convention Center Project and neighborhood lighting.**