

Citizens for a Loring Park Community
Livability Committee
Wednesday, Sept. 16th, 2009
6:30 pm to 8:00 pm
@ Loring Park Community Center

Attendance: Jana Metge (CLPC Coordinator), Dick Sandberg (1201 Yale Place), Jan Sandberg (1201 Yale Place), Virginia Reilly (Booth Manor), Shane Zahn (DID), Pete Christensen (Music Box Theater), Becky Gullickson (301 Clifton), Lt. David Hanson (Minneapolis Police), Diane Moe (Loring Park), Luther Krueger (Minneapolis Police), David Marsh (Nicollet Towers), Inez Bergquist (St. Mark's), Liz Cutter (Hennepin County Attorney), Jim Daly (Booth Manor), Louis Weaver (1346 LaSalle), Lena Jone (MCTC instructor), Steven Pinkal (Loring 100), Hazel Erickson (Loring 100), nine students from MCTC (Renee Santoro, E. Kenjo, Tolase Atonissa, Becky Sievert, Brit Westfall, Aaron Westendorp, Storm Jacobs, Nicolas Melnick, Michelynne McGuire)

I. 6:30-6:45 PM - Call to Order—Dick Sandberg

Dick led introductions of those in attendance.

Approved the agenda as amended. (Motion Becky Gullickson, second Jan Sandberg).

Approved the minutes of the July 15, 2009 Livability meeting. (Motion Pete Christenson, second Virginia Reilly) Motion passed

Announcements and Reports

- **Traffic Calming Task Force Meeting is:** Tuesday, Sept. 22nd 6:30-8:00 p.m. at the Loring Park Office Building Room 207
- **Dusk2Dawn Event** – Sept. 26th – www.dusk2dawn.org
- The Public Safety and Regulatory Services Committee will conduct several **hearings** on September 23, 2009, at or around 1:00 p.m.:
 - Amend Section 362.36 to clarify the number of days that on sale beverage alcohol establishments may obtain temporary expansion licenses and to **permit additional temporary expansion days to establishments located near the University of Minnesota TCF Bank football stadium**. Currently, all establishments, other than establishments located near the Metrodome, are limited to 4 times a year. This amendment will also clarify the actual number of days in a year that expansions will be permitted
 - Amend Section 360.100 (c) to **permit outdoor alcohol service** near residential properties **without traditional table and chair seating** for customers. This amendment, if adopted, will no longer require that patrons in outdoor areas to be seated at tables. It appears that this was motivated by an interest in allowing folks to stand at tall tables without chairs.
 - Consider Title 17, Chapter 464, **newsracks** and the implementation of voluntary standards.
 - **Music Box Theater:** On Sale Wine Class A with Strong Beer to be used in conjunction with a primarily live performance theater. This location has been licensed as an On Sale Liquor Class D the DBA Triple Espresso Theater from 2005 to 2006. Minnesota State Statute 340A.404(6)(b) allows theaters to obtain alcohol licenses. The applicant intends to offer primarily live theatrical performances. This application is not subject to the off street parking requirements. CLPC has written a letter of support for this application.
 - The **Loring Kitchen and Bar** is scheduled to appear before the Planning Commission on September 28, 2009, with a request to increase the restaurant's square footage (from 3,000 sq ft to

4,200 sq ft) and interior seating capacity (from 110 to 169). This request was outlined in a memo from Village Green dated August 19, 2009, which stated: “. . .the CLPC has requested the restaurant (Loring Kitchen and Bar) to install bifold windows on the canopied sidewalk area to help mitigate noise issues." CLPC did not initiate the request for the bi-fold windows. At the PS&RS meeting on July 8, 2009, restaurant owners offered this option as a way to mitigate noise (a known concern to the neighborhood). There was no discussion at the July 16, 2009 Land Use meeting concerning the need for an additional variance to increase seating.

- **Hennepin and First Avenue conversion** is scheduled for the weekend of October 10. There will be public meetings on September 24 and October 5 from 5:00 to 6:00 at City Hall; Room 319. For more information, see the project web sites at <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/public-works/cip/hennepinave/index.asp#TopOfPage> and a recent *Downtown Journal* article at <http://www.downtownjournal.com/index.php?&story=14376&page=65&category=92>.
- Friends of Loring Park in partnership with the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board are sponsoring a **“Party on the Pond”** on Saturday, September 26th - 1:00-4:00 p.m. Celebrations include the stained glass window dedication.
- The next **Southwest LRT** public hearing is scheduled for September 17, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. at Hopkins Eisenhower Community Center in the lunch room.
- **Court Watch** – the next meeting is Friday, Sept. 18th, 10:00-11:30 a.m., Central Library

III. **Expansion of Safe Zone Cameras down Nicollet Avenue** -- Shane Zahn

Over the past few years, there has been discussion of expansion of the DownTown Safe Zone cameras to 15th Street, along Nicollet Avenue. Shane gave a brief overview of the current system. Most cameras are now converted to internet protocol allowing precincts to access each other’s cameras. The new system will handle up to 300 cameras—60 are now in the system.

As to cost, Shane estimated that the cost for hardware and installation would be about \$7,500 per camera, assuming no power or signal issues. The maintenance cost would be contracted through the City and it is unclear if there would be an additional charge for cameras sponsored by the neighborhood. Shane thought we would have to solicit funds for these dollars. Cameras are not the final solution for solving crime – partnerships are more important. And there can be problems with displacement – a camera in one location may move activity to another location nearby. To simplify the bidding process, keep a total project under \$50,000.

Shane’s experience with the system is that it is great especially for reactive applications (such as using footage after an incident). Through the new downtown Improvement District (DID), the Ambassadors allow them to be more proactive in using cameras.

As a first step to considering cameras, Shane suggested that the neighborhood should determine its goals for the program.

Committee questions and discussion:

Do the cameras work with the City’s wireless internet or on their own system -- The cameras work off a wireless system but not through the internet. Fiber wiring would be best but it is very costly. They have had no issues with line of site. There were some issues with severe weather.

Does it matter if mounted on poles versus properties – building mount helps get around a possible power issue.

What does \$50,000 buy -- Six cameras would cost \$45,000. Each covers about 1½ blocks line of site.

Cameras are used by law enforcement and Safety Ambassadors. The cameras themselves are not

branded due to concerns about vandalism.

Noted that the footage from the cameras can be used for one case multiple times or for multiple cases.

Suggested building cameras into condo building budgets. Shane noted that Atlanta does this and uses a shared camera approach although there could be times with police needs would have a higher priority.

IV. 7:30-7:45 PM – Downtown Improvement District – Safety Ambassadors

The program has been running since July 1, 2009. See <http://www.minneapolisdid.com/> for more information. The district covers 120 square blocks and is paid for by downtown businesses. The Board is business run, not government run. The district is a seven day a week operation with 60 cleaning and safety ambassadors (hospitality) -- safety services operate later in the evening than cleaning services. Shane described the 1st precinct Fusion Center that provides a physical location for briefings and technical services-- this is an outgrowth of the SafeZone. There is a daily meeting to review upcoming events downtown (See ATTACHMENT #1). Citizens are encouraged to report positive and negative reactions on the web site or call 612-332-1111. You may also apply for a job online.

The radio link program is used among police, security officers and DID ambassadors. Ambassadors participate in Court Watch and know the chronic offenders. They are in the process of hiring an outreach worker to work with the homeless. The program will run at a higher level during the summer with some drop off in the winter. See ATTACHMENT #2 for a summary of results for August and to date.

II. 6:45-7:30 PM – Neighborhood Policing Plan – Luther Krueger

Minneapolis Police and the community have worked together to create plans for each of the city's neighborhoods – plans that address specific neighborhood concerns and policing strategies. The plans are updated each year. For last 14 years Luther was the CPS for Loring Park and is moving on to a more central role. But he has returned to work with on the Loring Park Neighborhood Policing Plan (see ATTACHMENT #3 from the MPD web site at <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/safe/NeighborhoodPolicingPlans.asp>).

Luther distributed several pages from the web site, noting that Lt. Hansen's phone number should be 612-673-5701.

Crime statistics: for 2007 to 2008, there was a slight decrease in Part I crimes, with a larger decrease in violent crimes. For 2009 compared to 2008 so far, the drop in Part I is mostly due to a decrease in larceny. There have been increases in robbery and rape (mostly acquaintance rape).

Luther urged citizens to call 911 for emergencies, anything safety related or suspicious behavior. Calls are prioritized. Previous analysis found that police get to a suspicious person call in time to catch the person still on site about half of the time. If there are a lot of suspicious person calls, patrols may increase. It is never a waste of time to call.

Luther distributed a copy of the crime maps that show crimes by type and day. These are similar to maps on line at <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/crime-statistics/codefor/>. Such maps have been useful to crime patrols. If anyone is interested in starting a patrol, Luther suggested wearing some identification such as a vest or cap—any retaliation against a patrol member is treated as a higher order crime. Also there is safety in numbers – three or four persons at a time works for other neighborhoods such as Stevens Square.

In reviewing the 2008 plan, performance measures were reasonably well met.

2008 Performance Measures and Results:

Increase participation in the Virtual Block Club, CityWorkSite, or equivalent for all Stakeholders -- *Increased VBC participation by another 20%*

Increase requests for geographic restrictions on chronic offenders by 25% -- *Exceeded our goal of 25% more geographic restrictions requested in court.*

Maintain volume of Community Impact Statements -- *The volume of impact statements received from the community decreased slightly, due to reduced requests when our threshold for arrests that defined a "chronic offender" was increased.*

Decrease targeted Part I crimes by 10% -- *Loring Park saw a 4% decrease in Part I crimes, and violent crimes decreased by nearly 40%.*

Luther described the Court Watch program (that won an international award recently) that has helped increase geographic restrictions. He also briefly described Restorative Justice.

Luther and the committee reviewed the 2009 plan and heard comments that may be relevant to the 2010 plan.

2009 Neighborhood Engagement:

CLPC continues to be focused on meaningful changes to the entire criminal justice system. Many criminal justice partners frequently invited to present to Loring Park stakeholders and CLPC's Livability Committee rallies citizens to urge our CJ partners to respond to community needs. The Livability Committee continues to reach out to residents of security residential buildings. Most survey respondents again committed to submitting impact statements, participating in Livability, and otherwise networking to increase involvement. The Livability Committee will:

1. Emphasize community involvement and communication from police about what is happening. The Livability Committee would like to forward positive crime news more broadly to the neighborhood. For example, an early 2009 robbery decoy detail resulted in no robbery arrests, but many citizens offering to help the decoy to prevent becoming a victim.
2. Support the First Precinct's strategy of ongoing visibility and help to distribute crime prevention materials and alerts to Loring stakeholders.
3. Increase Court Watch participation and monitoring offenders and distribute information on Loring chronic offenders.

2009 Performance Measures: To measure success in the Loring Park Neighborhood, we will focus on the following goals:

Continue to **increase** participation in the Virtual Block Club.

Increase requests for geographic restrictions on chronic offenders by another 25%.

Maintain volume of Community Impact Statements.

Decrease targeted Part I crimes by another 5%.

Luther was asked about Citizen Patrols in Loring – Luther described the Loring Watch a few years ago. It disbanded because it was partly a victim of its own success but it could be revived. To get the MPD Citizen Patrol seminar you need two coordinators and ten attendees. Committee members cited problems with Loring 100 during day and early evening. Luther discussed the new tools that police have to put pressure on management to control renter behavior.

Jana asked about safety issues around MCTC. There have been some notices from MCTC Public Safety, often dealing with larceny, parking garage thefts, perhaps a few assaults. Jana reported on conversations last year that students were afraid to go into the park. One participant thought that some of this was what those who live outside Minneapolis would think.

Adjourned 8:00 p.m.

October Livability Meeting Agenda:

- Nicollet Ave. “Eat Street” Special Service District – Scope of Service, membership, history;
- Westside Convention Center project and repair needs, and “Lights Out” in the community.

Future Meeting topics:

- Outreach and Community Events
- Restorative Justice – Develop Scope of Service for use of NRP Phase II dollars
- Downtown 100 – Develop Scope of Service for use of NRP Phase II dollars