

Citizens for a Loring Park Community (CLPC)  
**LIVABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**  
**Wednesday, August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2013**

6:30-8:00 p.m. ~~~ Thanks to the Loring Park Community Center for hosting!

Present: Dave Hile (Resident & Friends of Loring Park President), Joseph Finley (Committee Chair), Chris Dixon (Community Prosecutor/1<sup>st</sup> precinct), Captain Jason Ohotto (MPRB), Joseph Desenclos (St. Stephens Street Outreach), Renee Allen (CCP/Safe), Inspector Brian Schafer (1<sup>st</sup> Precinct), John Outlaw (Loring Park Director), Terri Ashmore (Basilica of St. Mary), Judy Ericksen (Resident), and Jana Metge (CLPC Coordinator).

Captain Jason Ohotto Announced to the group that he was selected just that day to be the Chief of the Minneapolis Park Police. He received congratulations and a standing ovation. Celebrations!! 60 Individuals applied for the job as MPRB Chief of Police. Eight (8) were interviewed and down to the two (2) finalists. The other finalist was Chief of Police from a town 30 minutes outside of Detroit, Michigan. Jason reported that there are 33 Officers (all ranks) and 20 seasonal park patrol who do parking enforcement, monitor dog park regulations, and work at events. Jason stated that the goal of the Park Police is to provide support for field staff delivering programs, that staff and buildings need to be safe. His goal is to have more of a presence in the Downtown area and coordinate work at Loring Park with Loring Park Beat Officers.

Inspector Bryan Schafer and Chief Jason Ohotto reported that a Flasher had been picked up in the Park. It is the 3<sup>rd</sup> time arrested in Loring Park. This crime was enhanced to a gross misdemeanor and they will request a geographic restriction from Loring Park. Inspector stated that this may be the last cycle for the Code For focus on Grant & Nicollet. Things are going well and getting better. Everyone thanks the Inspector and Chief Ohotto for all they have done in our community to make it a safer place and to enhance community policing.

I. The meeting was called to order by Chair Joseph Finley at 6:35 p.m. The Agenda was approved by consensus. The June Committee Meeting minutes were tabled (no July meeting).

II. The following announcements were made:

- **Community Sing-Along** - Tuesday, August 20<sup>th</sup> @ 7-8:30 p.m. @ Loring Park Com. Center
- **Land Use Committee** - Mon., August 26<sup>th</sup> - 6:30-8:00 p.m. @ Loring Park Com. Center
- **Operetta** - Sat., Aug. 24<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. at Loring Park
- **Loring Park Neighborhood Master Plan - Public Hearing**: Monday, Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> @ 4:30 p.m. @ City Hall/350 So. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Room #307.

III. **Basilica of St. Mary** - Terri Ashmore

Terri Ashmore, Basilica of St. Mary, came for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time to the CLPC Livability Committee Meeting. They handed out a proposal to bring to the Basilica on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013 "In the Heart of the Beast Puppet & Mask Theatre". The production to be developed is La Guadalupe - Our Lady of Guadalupe. They will be partnering with Kalpulli Ketzal Coatlicue Aztec Dancers on this production and holding workshops in the community to build this play. They plan to outreach to Emerson School and the Spanish Emersion pre-school on Nicollet Avenue. Participating residents of the interactive workshops will also be involved in the performance. The performance will involve professional and volunteer actors from the Loring Park neighborhood in a community celebration of inclusion and generosity.

Terri (Basilica) requested that CLPC partner with them through:

- Shared promotion of the event to constituents;
- Engagement of members and neighborhood residents as participants in this production of La Guadalupana;
- Assistance with connecting with other neighborhood organizations to be a supporting partner;
- Purchasing a block of tickets (suggested purchase of 100 tickets for a total cost of \$1,500) to be given away to neighborhood residents to insure broad community participation; OR
- Underwriting the play production costs to make this production possible at an affordable ticket price of \$15/ticket, or for free.

Terri distributed a handout of the proposal, along with an Event budget. The total event will cost \$7,500. The Basilica will provide \$4,000 of financial support. They would like a community match. They will also provide in-kind use of their space for rehearsals, staff support for promotions, and staff support for outreach. Jana reviewed Community Participation Funding from the city and how there is an opportunity to engage the Basilica as a partner under "Outreach to under represented groups". If approved tonight, it will go to the September CLPC Board meeting and then if approved, be added into the 2013-2014 Grant application.

Committee members suggested to reach out to the Jeremiah families, as well as Russian elders and our Somali community, maybe the pre-school. Terri also stated that the Basilica has a Charter School and they can do outreach with them as well.

Terri reviewed what In the Heart of the Beast puppet and mask theatre was and Jana passed around photos of their puppets and festivals in South Minneapolis.

**Motion: CLPC to sponsor this community engagement event and dedicate \$1,500 of Community Participation Funds to purchase tickets to be given away in the Community.**  
*David/Joseph M/S/C Passed Unanimously*

#### **IV. Neighborhood Safety Update - Renee Allen, CPP/SAFE**

*15 E. Grant* - Renee reported that there have been 20 evictions to date, they have hired new management, she has met with the management and conducted a premise survey, they have stepped up security measures and they are now using the crime-free lease addendum. Renee reported that she will have a residents' meeting mid-September at the building. Committee members reported that the area is still a hot spot and that fights have broken out, as well as continued loitering at the Grant/Nicollet bus stop.

*Beat Officers* - Community businesses, property owners, Seniors, and residents love having the dedicated day Beat Officers! Great for community policing efforts. Requested was to get Beat Officers in the evening, especially on the weekends.

*Downtown Skyway Senior Center* - Renee reported that she had done a Personal Safety workshop at the Senior Center.

*Loring Park Crime Maps* - Renee distributed Year to Date and monthly crime stats. These are available through CLPC at [www.loringpark.org](http://www.loringpark.org)

*510 Groveland* - Jana raised a question from one of the 510 Groveland/CLPC Board members. There had been a burglary at 510 Groveland, but has not appeared as a report. Renee said she would check into it and had a meeting scheduled with them, had to cancel due to an Administrative

request of her time, and she will re-schedule and discuss this with the 510 Board.

*The Maryland* - There is a new manager, Jo Kitch. Renee did a mid-month resident safety meeting.

*National Nite Out* - Was a HUGE success (before the rain out). Jana reported that there would be an event report next month for the committee to review.

*Loring Park Neighborhood Master Plan/Activity Center* - It was recommended by Officers and by attendees that we ensure processes and safeguards to monitor and contract new development and/or businesses coming into the area. Folks want revitalization, but not something that would cause trouble in the area. It was suggested that Jana meet with Steve Gallagher/SSCO to ensure that both sides of the freeway, along Nicollet Avenue, have the same regulations.

#### **V. St, Stephens Street Outreach**

Joseph reported that the extra street outreach for the summer is coming to an end. They will continue to be on the street, but the additional hours and Saturdays will not be available over the summer. Joseph reported that with the extra staff, contact numbers have doubled. They have focused on the HN/Lyndale area. Incidents of fighting and folks signing for money. They assisted The Woman's Club of Minneapolis with helping an individual who was sleeping into services. He is working with Janice at the Basilica with individuals staying outside of their facility.

#### **VI. Friends of Loring Park Update - Dave Hile, President**

Dave reported that the *renovation of Berger Fountain* and the removal of cattails are the main elements of their Strategic Plan. He has spoken with Commissioner Tabb and she has a MPRB staff assessing renovation costs. They had a presentation by Paul Hokeness, now with People for Parks. He offered the help of their organization with the renovation of Berger Fountain. The Friends Board held a unanimous vote to bring People for Parks in as a partner. David reviewed that Paul used to be the District Manager for Minneapolis Parks & Recreation and had the Loring Park area. He is very familiar with the needs of Berger Fountain. Paul distributed to the Friends of Loring Park Board, the 2003 assessment done on the Berger Fountain for capital improvements. Dave stated that he would not only like to see Berger Fountain fixed, but the plaza renovated and a raised crosswalk done between Loring Greenway and the Berger Fountain.

Dave also passed around a petition that he had available at all the summer events. This petition is support for the repair and *renovation of the Tennis Courts*. Commissioner Tabb had requested support from both Friends of Loring Park and CLPC in the application of funding from Hennepin County Youth Sports Facilities fund.

Dave also distributed design concepts for a *dome* like they had at the Walker for golf tees, to be built and placed over the *Berger Fountain* in the winter. The current box is ugly. It had been painted in the past, but all of the paint peeled off. Dave reported that John Novak, from CLPC and past Livability chair had the idea of a dome. Dave ran into the students who created the dome at the Walker and invited them to come and present at the Friends Board meeting. The U of M students developed design concepts for a Dome for the Berger Fountain. They could even be lit up in the winter.

*Cattails* - The pilot project has worked around the fishing pier and replanting of native plants is occurring. Jana reported that Sen. Dibble will re-issue his legislation this session. All were encouraged to support it and send letters when notified. Folks may also want to go to the Legislature in support of Sen. Dibble's bil

**VII. Event Recap** – Jana distributed Event Summary write ups for both the Aquatennial Event and the Loring Music Festival. Joseph stated that there was an issue with the Inflatable Jumper collapsing and this was noted in the report to be aware of next year. He also asked that we have more volunteers from the community to help with the event. He thanked John Outlaw from bringing in Teen Teamworks and reported on how excellent they were. A great addition to the event.

Renee suggested that we contact Rick Maas next Spring and schedule his youth for this event. She stated it was a perfect fit.

Jana reported that the Operetta held in the Park August 24<sup>th</sup> was excellent. Great turnout. Just a wonderful event.

Jana distributed the Loring Music Festival summaries and reported that they have now consistent volunteers that begin to call in February to get assignments to the Green Room and Musician product table. There are many MCTC students which have helped at this event, as well as neighborhood residents who volunteer only at Events, don't want to come to meetings, but love to help at Events. Feedback was gathered from volunteers, attendees, performers and all comments are reflected in the Event Summary distributed.

Videos were created on both Events and are available on YouTube at:  
Loring Park Aquatennial 2013  
Loring Music Festival 2013

Joseph reminded committee of "Music on the Greenway" every Thursday from 4:30-6:00. He also reported on the Westminster's use of public space along Nicollet. Open to the public. Tables, games, ping pong. They want to use the space to have more activity on the street along Nicollet.

**NOTE** ~ **September 23<sup>rd</sup>; 6:30-8:00 pm**, CLPC Land Use mtg, will feature a presentation and discussion on the **Nicollet-Central Project** by Alex Cloutier, from Zan Associates, If you are interested in the possibility of a Nicollet Ave. Streetcar, come to this meeting!

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m.  
JLM

**Email to Volunteer:** [loveloring@gmail.com](mailto:loveloring@gmail.com) or call **612-874-9002** or check Our website at: [www.loringpark.org](http://www.loringpark.org) or check us out on Facebook!