

Citizens for a Loring Park Community  
**LIVABILITY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Wed., September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012

*Thank you to the Loring Park Community Center for hosting the meeting!!*

Those present: John Novak (co-chair), Joseph Finley (co-chair), Renee Allen (CCP-SAFE/MPD), Lt. Derrick Barnes (MPD-1<sup>st</sup> Precinct), Lt. Jason Ohotto (Park Police), Dennis Boe, Bob Hansen, Hazel Ericksen, Dave Hile (Friends of Loring Park), Mary Faith Fax, Amy (Pings), and Jana Metge (CLPC).

- I.**     *The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by co-chair John Novak.  
The agenda was approved as presented.  
The August minutes were approved by consensus.*

The following announcements were made:

- \* Land Use Meeting - Mon., Aug. 27<sup>th</sup>- 6:30-8:00 p.m. at Loring Park Com. Ctr.
- \* Downtown Court Watch - Fri., Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> - 10:00-noon @ DwnTown Library
- \* CLPC Land Use - Mon., Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> - 6:30-8:00 p.m. @ Loring Park - NOTE CHANGE
- \* VA Resource & Referral Center - GRAND OPENING - Mon., Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> @ 10:00 a.m.
- \* CLPC Livability Committee - Wed., Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> - 6:30-8:00 @ Loring Park
- \* Amy Goodman @ Wesley Church - FUNDRAISER for KFAI Radio-Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup>
- \* Minneapolis "ONE READ" at Mpls. Convention Center - Mon., Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 p.m.  
Featuring Diane Wilson, Author of "Spirit Car" & Garrison Keillor. Tickets \$10

**II. Safety Report / Nicollet Ave. & Loring Greenway**

Renee Allen and Lt. Derrick Barnes from the Minneapolis Police Department, as well as Lt. Jason Ohotto were here to discuss Loring Park safety issues and discuss strategies.

Issues overviewed to date were:

- Ongoing Safety Team meeting on Nicollet Ave. safety concerns from Grant to the freeway - Loitering at Transit stops, drug dealing, prostitution, noise, 3 shootings over the summer. Businesses talked about how awful it is on 14<sup>th</sup> Street, outside of their restaurant beginning at 3:00 p.m. and going into the evening until close.
- Issues of folks sleeping overnight in Loring Park. Park police work until midnight. The Park is closed from midnight to 6:00 a.m., but due to budget cuts, there are no Officers working overnight. 911 needs to be called to alert MPD to the situation and they will respond.
- Greenway concerns about loitering, drug dealing, livability (Part II) crimes that cause residents and visitors to feel unsafe.
- Litter along Nicollet, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Street
- Businesses pay 9% sales tax (downtown tax) over the base sales tax on Nicollet.
- Business / property owners are assessed for the Nicollet Ave. Service District.

The Nicollet Ave. Safety Plan (see end of minutes) was discussed.

Needed ideas/solutions expressed:

- Beat Officer needed on Nicollet
- Apartment Building Private Security needs to work together, with MPD, and keep an eye out around the perimeter of their buildings.
- Social Services/HN County needs to be called in on the number of individuals experiencing homelessness and sleeping in Loring Park.
- Set up Community Service Groups to schedule an ongoing Nicollet Ave. Litter Pick up, along with property owners and businesses picking up trash at their location.
- Expand the Downtown Improvement District to the freeway. Talk to Scott Dibble and Downtown Council ED Mark Stenglein. Figure out how to utilize the existing taxes paid by our Nicollet businesses.
- Get rid of the cattails. Safety hazard.
- Put up the mobile camera in the Park and on Grant/Nicollet
- Get Development along Nicollet, to eliminate the empty storefront and get some activity along the Avenue.
- Start a walking club - visit and walk with Nicollet Ave. Safety Patrol
- Work with licensing on noise issues (cabs and excessive noise/music from restaurant on the corner of 14<sup>th</sup> & Nicollet).
- Story told about Hmong Senior Center Van being broken into at noon on a weekday in broad daylight on 14<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Story told about the 3 break-ins at the Russian Pharmacy.
- Residents recounted the 3 shootings which have occurred over the summer; 1 by the 19 Bar, one shooting towards 1350 Nicollet and one shooting in front of 1355 Nicollet.
- Better and faster communication with MPD on reports when crimes occur.
- Personal Safety Workshops/Block Leader Training - 10 bldgs. per year is the goal.
- Schedule the Trespass Training with Community Prosecutor Chris Dixon.

Residents are extremely concerned with the escalating Part II/Livability crimes and the real and perceived safety issue for residents and visitors.

**III. 7:15-7:45 Loring Park Strategic Plan - Friends of Loring Park**

Friends of Loring Park began a Strategic Planning Process. The September Board meeting discussed Program and Capital Expense needs, New Ideas, Items not yet implemented from the Park's Master Plan, and potential Partners & Resources. Dave came to Livability tonight to share their work and to get additional ideas from CLPC. Prioritization of this strategic session will occur at their October Board meeting. Dave stated that they are committed to programming Loring Park, in partnership with CLPC and with institutions / organizations within Loring. They want to keep their existing events / programs and expand program, especially in the winter months.

Jana talked about the Loring Park Small Area Plan, which is in its final stages and how we are trying to ensure that all of our partners have reviewed the plan, prioritized themselves on their goals, and that these are represented within our Master Plan when it is complete.

Dave also talked about Friends supporting a project to "Wrap Artwork" around utility boxes and that they have requested that resident Todd Miller's artwork be utilized in such a project. Dave invited everyone to Garden Work Day scheduled for Oct. 13<sup>th</sup>.

IV. 7:45-8:00 **New & Emerging Issues** - *Covered in Item II.*

V. *The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.*

*Respectfully submitted, JLM*