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Citizens for a Loring Park Community (CLPC)

Livability Committee Meeting
Wednesday, January 16th, 2008
6:30-8:30 pm

Loring Park Community Center – 15th & Willow

I. 6:30-6:45 pm. Welcome, Introductions, Agenda Approval, Approval of November 14th, 2007 Minutes, Announcements—Robert Hansen

Attendance: Jan Sandberg (1201 Yale Place), Dick Sandberg (1201 Yale Place), Luther Krueger (Minneapolis Police), Jana Metge (CLPC Coordinator), Michelle Bruch (Downtown Journal), Robert Hansen (1355 Nicollet), Robert Cook (Eddy's Café), Tommi Stevens (AccessWorks), Sue Purchase (AccessWorks), Inez Berquist (317 Groveland), Kristen Wegwerth (Church of Scientology), Ray Harris (Greenway Gables)

Bob introduced the 10 or so persons in attendance—several others joined the meeting later. Several modifications were made to the agenda.

Motion by Dick Sandberg, seconded Jan Sandberg, to approve the minutes from November 26, 2007.

Motion passed unanimously

Announcements:

- **MCTC Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration:** Was held 7:00 p.m., Tuesday January 15, 2008 at the Basilica of St. Mary
- **CLPC Annual Meeting:** Wednesday, March 19th at The Woman's Club of Minneapolis, 410 Oak Grove. The guest speaker will be R. T. Rybak. The Information Fair runs from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. There will be a table to showcase our elected officials. The draft NRP plan will be available for review as well as details about the annual fundraising campaign.
- The **Restorative Justice Annual Banquet** will be held January 22, 2008 at Plymouth Church, 1900 Nicollet; contact Barb to RSVP at 746-0792.
- **Legality of feeding wild animals:** Following up on an action item from the November meeting, Jan Sandberg reported that there is an ordinance requiring that birds only be fed at a bird feeder, but there are no restrictions on feeding bunnies and squirrels.
- A meeting to discuss the **Historic Resource Survey** that will focus on Lowry Hill East, Loring Park, and Elliott Park will be held at 7:00 p.m. on January 17, 2008 at the Elliot Park Recreation Center Building: 1000 East 14th Street.
- The next **Loring Greenway** meeting is scheduled for 4 p.m. on January 17, 2008 in the Community Room at 110 West Grant.
- There will be a "**summit meeting**" of residents from Lowry Hill and other neighborhoods on January 22, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Walker film auditorium.
- At the Land Use meeting on January 28, 2008 the community will discuss support (or not) for a **liquor license for the Eitel hospital development.**

II. 6:45-7:10 p.m. Drug-Free America – Kristen Wegwerth, Church of Scientology

Kristen is also the regional coordinator for the Foundation for a Drug-Free World (drugfreeworld.org). The Church of Scientology is a sponsor for the foundation but did not develop the materials. There are small, educational, secular (nonreligious) booklets available

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aimed at adolescents designed to inform and discourage drug and alcohol use. The booklets are published in several languages. The booklets come as a boxed set but can be placed in a rack for easier individual distribution. The Foundation also has available several public information spots that can be run with permission. Kristen described several ways in which the booklets are being used including Mad Dads.

Committee members asked about the specific drugs covered in the materials, the secular nature of the materials, and the independence of drugfreeworld.org. Kristen can get the booklets which can be customized to include the logo of a sponsoring organization.

Sue and Tommi spoke positively about the booklets, especially their educational focus. The commercials might be a bit too "scare tactic" to get to teenagers. The booklet about "kiddie cocaine" is unique. Also, it would be better to focus on making society illicit drug-free, not entirely drug free.

Luther mentioned that khat is also a drug of interest and there is little written about it.

III 7:10-7:40 p.m. Berger Fountain Renovation Designs – Robert Cook

Robert Cook gave a brief overview of the process for developing the plan for Berger Fountain. The original master plan for Loring Park included a redesign and rebuilding of Berger Fountain. The fountain has suffered for some years from leakages and equipment failure. Several years ago the Park Board announced that it would not support operations but soon after operations restarted with donations from residents, coordinated by CLPC and Friends of Loring Park. With some of the money that was left over from that effort, CLPC worked with a local firm (Leonard Parker) to create a design for the fountain plaza. Ultimately, the mechanicals will need to be replaced. The "Save the Berger Fountain" committee worked with Park Board staff, culminating in a design that was taken to the Park Board and was given concept approval.

Robert said that the goal is to save the original fountain form and its location. However, the plaza would be rebuilt and extended. Robert displayed several drawings illustrating the location of a newly designed plaza that would relate better to the park. Paths to the fountain would be reoriented to focus on the fountain and the plaza would be substantially enlarged. Connections to the Greenway would be more obvious with a low wall toward the Greenway that would encourage sitting. The receiving basin for the water would be downhill from the Greenway and extended into four spokes with additional water features near the Greenway. Pavement surfaces used in the area closest to the Greenway would match the Greenway paving. The cost for the fountain is likely to be about \$1 million although earlier estimates were higher.

In response to a question about cost, Robert would like a larger budget but had been requested to cut it back. The Park Board might be willing to fund the fountain's operation but construction would have to come from the neighborhood. There was discussion that the original Loring Park plan included the fountain and it should continue to be included in the next phase. There may be some sentiment to replace the fountain with a structure that is less costly to maintain and this perspective should be part of discussion of the Phase II plan if the fountain and plaza is in the Phase II plan.

Diane mentioned that there has been considerable park dollars put into the fountain to repair the motor and make electrical repairs. The Friends have dollars in a separate account for the redesign of the Berger Fountain and they spent \$4,000 for the repair of the pump. Ray thought that Friends may transfer the balance to the Park Board Foundation -- earmarked for the fountain. Ray thought that last summer the Park Board decided to put in a new pump without a commitment to extend the plaza. Jana suggested that we need better understanding of what the Park Board intends to do. There has been talk of moving the shuffleboard courts although they have had greater use lately with leagues sponsored by Joe's Garage. Ray mentioned that

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Walking Minneapolis is a private effort to improve walking in Minneapolis and through Loring Park. The \$1 million for the fountain is by far the most expensive part of what they are trying to do and may be too much unless it also includes improving other areas within the park.

IV 7:40-8:00 p.m. Safety Update - Luther Krueger/Community Crime Specialist

Jan distributed copies of Luther's recent Op Ed piece in the *Southwest Journal* addressing displacement of criminals from one neighborhood to another. Luther is encouraged that fewer than half of those arrested in the precinct were arrested in the previous 12 months and half of those arrested will not be re-arrested in the following 12 months. Luther suggests that committee members read *Crime and Everyday Life* by Marcus Felson quantifies the benefits of keeping career criminals on the move.

Luther gave a brief crime update for the First Precinct: for 2007, four of the six neighborhoods (exceptions were Downtown East & West) saw a decrease in crime and violent crime was down about 10 percent. Members should have received an e-mail from Luther about updating the alert list which will allow identifying the recipient's neighborhood.

Jana mentioned that recently CLPC has been doing outreach with the property owners to develop a database and survey owners about top concerns. Rather than escalating property values, the top concern is crime. Is there a need for an annual safety summit? CLPC has tried to hook up the owners with the formal property owners group, the Loring Business Association and Luther's list. Increased panhandling may be part of the perception of crime.

Bob Hansen raised the issue of a request by the CLPC Board to inquire into robberies in the Loring Park neighborhood. Luther said that at their weekly meetings some crimes are mislabeled. Also, there are problems with how crimes are reported to the feds (UCR tables) by reported date vs. city reporting for CODEFOR by incident date. The feds count crimes, the city counts incidents (which may include multiple crimes).

Jan asked Luther to bring more detailed data about robberies to the next meeting including ways in which the community could address any problems.

Adjourned 8:03