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Citizens for a Loring Park Community (CLPC)

Livability Committee Meeting
Wednesday, February 15th, 2006
6:30-8:30 pm
@ Loring Park Shelter

Attendance:

Louise Weaver (125 W. Grant), Jan Sandberg (Loring Green East), Luther Krueger (Minneapolis Police SAFE), Bob Hansen (1355 Nicollet), Jana Metge (CLPC Coordinator), Diane Moe (Loring Park director), John van Heel (110 West Grant), Neil Carlson (Summit House), Ahmed Kamara (SuperAmerica), Chris Renz (SuperAmerica)

I. 6:30-6:35 p.m. Welcome, Introductions, Agenda Approval, Minutes—Dick Sandberg

Dick led introductions of the 11 persons in attendance.

Motion by Chris Renz, seconded by Bob Hansen, to approve the January 18, 2006 minutes.

Motion passed.

Dick asked if there were any changes to the agenda—there were none.

Announcements

- Jana distributed a flyer with information about a series of Blue Grass concerts.
- Jana distributed a flyer about the Loring Hill Task Force meetings—(1) an information meeting on February 23, 6:30 p.m. at the Hennepin Ave. Methodist Church and (2) neighborhood summit meetings either March 23rd 6:30-9:00 p.m. or March 25th 9:30 a.m. to noon, both at the Woman's Club
- Jana passed around a copy of the planning tool developed by the consultant for the task for the neighborhood walk.
- The CLPC Annual meeting will be Monday, March 13, 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. at the Woman's Club, 410 Oak Grove. The event begins with an information fair. The guest speaker will be Barbara Sporlein, Minneapolis Planning Director. There will be presentations on the Loring Hill planning process and the Grand Plan for Loring Greenway. The business part of the meeting will include the election of board members.
- Dick added that he has been traveling with his job and the Wednesday meetings are difficult. He brought it up because this is the time of year that the new Board considers committee chairs. Jana suggested possibly changing the date of the meeting. Dick will be gone for the March 15th meeting.
- Jana distributed two news articles from the February 6 Downtown Journal about the city approval of the HourCar contract and Sen. Higgins new job researching ways to deal with nuisance properties.
- Diane announced that the Loring Park Bridge is open!!
- Luther announced his coffee shop hours: March 2 at Espresso Royale and May 4th at Dunn Brothers, 6:30 – 8 p.m.
- The February 27th Land Use meeting will be held at the Billy Graham building to discuss MCTC plans and the Grand Plan for the Loring Greenway.

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- SuperAmerica has a new Westec (sp?) camera and surveillance system at the Grant and LaSalle store.

II. 6:35-7:00 Loring Park Safety Issues – Luther Krueger/1st Precinct Community Prosecutor

Luther distributed the last four weeks of crime maps that are available on the city's Web site at <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/first/docs/citymaps.pps>

Luther highlighted:

(1) 1400 block of Nicollet business meeting—there have been several burglaries and loitering problems. One difficulty is that several incidents were not reported. Luther is encouraging business owners to call about any thefts, from the business or patrons. Luther is conducting a survey around the premises taking note of lighting, garbage issues, illegal parking, and similar and will also do a survey of the interior. There were some reports of solicitation and Luther is asking some of the businesses to use their cameras to monitor the area.

(2) 15 East Grant—still having difficulties with management plan issues. There are more than 100 units of affordable housing in the building.

(3) There was apparently a fire near the Basilica that Luther will look into.

(4) The Community Response (mostly working undercover) team is now the Directed Patrol (usually in uniform on bikes or in cars). Having the officer in uniform helps deter a variety of crimes. Luther is now located in the Directed Patrol office.

(5) Theft from motor vehicles is down.

(6) A burglar allegedly responsible for 60 burglaries was not active in our neighborhood. Luther reviewed some calculations he did on the comfort zone for various crimes. For burglaries, it is about 11 blocks.

(7) **Community Impact Statements:** every day Luther gets a list of arrests that are in the system, which he matches with a person on the virtual block club list. He sends them a partially completed impact form. Luther is sending out about 20 a day. For Loring, Luther will send to nearby businesses and to the Loring mailing list. The completed forms are put into the offender's file and if found guilty, the document is entered into the record at sentencing. The impact statement carries weight because the judge then sees that someone is watching the case.

(8) There is interest in a joint meeting with Stevens Square or another neighborhood group to discuss how the 911 system works and what is discretionary. Jana and Luther will work to invite John deYoung for April. There is some concern that calls to 911 do not result in entering a request for a squad.

Jana discussed the Loring Hill Task Force focus groups and safety concerns. There are apparently pockets of prostitution near 301 Clifton. The institutions on the Hill would be interested in a safety meeting to discuss police resources. There are also questions about 180 Degrees although Luther reported that the facility is not a source of calls or problems in the neighborhood. The director would be happy to come to Livability and discuss what they do.

III. 7:00 – 7:15 p.m. Westside Convention Center Project Update - John Van Heel

In 1999, \$250,000 of expansion money was dedicated to improvement of the area to the west of the Center. Representative appointed by Councilmember Goodman sat on an advisory panel and recommended improvements including trees, kiosks, and banners. The maintenance of this area was left to the City and John has several concerns including upkeep of the kiosk. The Nicollet Ave service district did not include this area but John was told that it would be expanded although it subsequently turned out that the district was not expanded. Things have deteriorated, with banners in tatters. Service district

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people told John last year that the work would be completed at the beginning of the year. There has been discussion of the possible need for a legislative change. It was suggested that this item come back in March.

Bob Hansen added that last month he made a list of eleven lights in the neighborhood that needed work--he originally sent the list to city staff. There are more now more out. It was suggested that Bob contact 311 (Luther spoke very favorably about the 311 system). Neil also sent a list via e-mail to the city that included the lights on Bob's list—work on the list began earlier this week.

IV. 7:15 – 7:30 p.m. CLPC Annual Meeting

Jana described the Information Fair attendees. Insp. Allen will be able to attend to open the meeting. There are five openings on the Board, three returning members who wish to remain on the Board, and one person that has not yet confirmed.

Meeting adjourned 8:10 p.m.

Upcoming items:

For March

Westside Convention Center issues (John van Heel)

For April

180 Degrees

John deYoung and information about the 911 system—invite other neighborhood groups to attend.