

Citizens for a Loring Park Community (CLPC)

Livability Committee Meeting

Wednesday, March 21st, 2007

6:30-8:00 pm

Loring Park Community Center

Attendance: Dick Sandberg (Loring Green East), Jan Sandberg (Loring Green East), Jana Metge (CLPC Coordinator), John van Heel (210 West Grant), Robert Hansen (Loring 100), Neil Carlson (Summit House), Richard Gardell (180 Degrees), Diane Moe (Loring Park), Amanda Delowe (Oak Grove Street)

I. 6:30-6:45 pm. Welcome, Introductions, Agenda Approval, Minutes, Announcements—
Robert Hansen

Robert Hansen led introductions of the 9 or so people in attendance.

Motion Richard Sandberg, seconded Neil Carlson, to approve the minutes from November 15th, 2006.

Motion passed

The November meeting was the last formal committee meeting. There was no scheduled meeting in December; committee members were encouraged to attend the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board meeting in January to discuss the dog play area, and the February meeting was essentially training offered by Insp. Janee Harteau.

Announcements:

➤ **Trees Available from the City:** Jan Sandberg

Jan described the TreeTrust program that makes trees available to homeowners. The trees cost \$15 each, and are between 6 and 10 feet tall with a 1 ¼-inch trunk. Residents can order one tree per household, and the 1,500 trees will be made available on a first-come, first-served basis. Residents can choose from six tree varieties, including birch, oak, pine, serviceberry, hawthorn, and a disease-resistant elm. Order online by visiting <http://www.treetrust.org/> or order by phone (651-644-5800). Trees must be ordered by April 15, and folks will need to pick the trees up at one of two pickup locations and times in late May. They may not be planted in the boulevard.

Richard Gardell offered assistance in planting trees. Jana suggested checking with Pat Havenstein for World Mission Prayer League or with Pat Scott for the Hennepin Avenue Methodist Church. John and others will check with other possible recipients.

➤ **Loring Dog Park Kick Off:** April 19th at 5:00 p.m. at Joe's Garage

➤ **New CLPC Board Members:** Bob Hansen, Neil Carlson, Richard Gardell, Dick Sandberg, Pat Havenstein were elected at the meeting on March 12, 2007. John van Heel, Robert Cook, Terry Thompson, Ela Rausch, and Becky Gullickson continue on the board.

➤ **Loring Greenway:** Work is begin April 16, 2007. Jan will contact Merry Keefe about getting signs posted. There was discussion at the Loring Greenway committee that businesses and condos will be solicited to contribute to upgraded lighting.

➤ **Cattail Pond:** Diane announced that the small pond will be dredged (see March 5 Skyway News) in an attempt to deal with the cattail problem.

➤ **Berger Fountain:** Diane said that the Park Board is working on getting it fixed for the spring.

➤ **Refugee Camp in the Heart of the City:** Diane Moe reported that Doctors Without Borders will sponsor an exhibit for children and the public that simulates a refugee camp. There may be a need for volunteer guides. For additional information about the project see the Web site at <http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/education/refugeecamp/index.cfm>

➤ **Blood Drive:** The second annual neighborhood blood drive will be held April 28th, 2007 at the Woman's Club, 8:30 am to 1:30 pm. Walk-ins are welcome but appointments are encouraged—call 612-870-8001 or e-mail Blooddrive@womansclub.org.

II. 6:45-7:15 pm. City Attorney News – Case Management System Lois Conroy/1st Precinct Community Prosecutor

Case Management System

The city's case management system has been up and running for 18 months. Before this system, the entire prosecution file was paper only and the file contained all the original evidence. This created problems in moving the file around quickly for various court appearances.

The new system can link cases together—previously this had to be done manually. Lois ran through a recent example of a case that allowed nearly instantaneous sharing of information and forms. The time savings are huge. The system has helped reduce the number of persons that were released because the information could not be brought together quickly enough. This will give prosecutors more complete information when appearing in court. The City Attorney's office is now focusing on reports that would be most useful for prosecution and integration with the new statewide reporting system—the city is already integrated with the Hennepin County system (CIP).

While in place for 18 months, there were many modifications made to fine-tune the system. There was a learning curve to adapt to changes in doing business such as dropping the use of carbon paper. There have still been some glitches when paperwork is misdirected.

The system will help make sure that the sentence is a good fit to the offense. The system has helped manage the large volume of community impact statements (the 1st Precinct has more than three times the rest of the city). Overall the community impact statements can give Lois extra help in pushing for a specific outcome.

Questions and concerns:

Concern about how well the city attorney's office handles drunk driving cases including slow or no prosecution of these cases.

There was some discussion about the role of community attorneys.

Repeat offenders: there is a huge group of first time offenders and a hard core of repeat offenders for some crimes such as DWI.

Staffing and paralegals. Having help has allowed Lois to double the number of seminars and increase the number of community impact statements. Additional staff could help “unbury” supplemental evidence which could help make cases stronger.

Restorative Justice Community Action

Lois reported that there is a new minor consumption program imported from the 2nd Precinct to the 1st Precinct. When a citation is issued, the offender is notified of the Restorative Justice option. The program ran so smoothly, that after the first three months, Lois met with police and to discuss how to target Loring Park. As of late last summer, the Park Police now provide similar information when they issue tags.

Questions and Concerns:

Graffiti on Nicollet Avenue: when does it go to the city vs. county? Lois will check on this and get back to Jana.

Repeat juvenile offender downtown being prosecuted by Hennepin County. The county attorney handles all juvenile crimes (misdemeanor, gross misdemeanor, and felonies). Lois feels that the working relationships may improve.

Cameras---they are still very productive but does create more work for 1st Precinct staff.

The lurking ordinance--lying in wait for an opportunity to commit a crime. Lurking differs from loitering. There is an effort to repeal the law as overly broad and vague. Lois thinks that there are many issues that she and those working for repeal have in common and could work on together.

The 311 phone system: some committee members have had long wait times but others expressed satisfaction with getting lights replaced, sidewalks shoveled, and vodka bottles picked up.

III. 7:15-7:45 pm. Addition of New Offenses for Restorative Justice Conferences –

Restorative Justice is collecting information about the addition of new offenses that may impact neighborhood livability and might be considered for community conferences.

1. Disorderly House
2. Key in Ignition (car running, no one in car)
3. Trespass
4. Dog ordinance - off leash
5. Dog ordinance - feces (failure to pick up)

The committee would have liked to have the ordinance language to consider as part of the discussion.

There were concerns about trespass because the city attorney is attempting to go for geographic restrictions in some cases.

Disorderly house was seen as too serious a crime for restorative justice assuming that ‘disorderly house’ is more than noise or messiness.

Neil pointed out that leaving the key in the ignition can have very serious consequences.

Some committee members asked why an offense such as spitting is not included. Can this be tagged as littering? Perhaps an education program at the bus stops (possibly contact Metro Transit) would be helpful.

IV. 7:45-8:00 pm. New Issues

➤**Livability Committee Chair:** At its last meeting, the CLPC Board appointed Robert Hansen and Jan Sandberg as co-chairs of the Livability Committee.

Motion John van Heel, seconded Dick Sandberg, to confirm Robert Hansen and Jan Sandberg as co-chairs of the Livability Committee, with thanks for their willingness to serve.

Motion passed.

➤**Committee Work Plan:** Bob announced that at the April meeting the committee will review the committee’s mission, vision, and goals. Bob would also like to develop activities for the goals. Taken together, this could form an annual work plan for the committee. We will also set the calendar of meetings for the year. The 2006 Goals are attached to these minutes.

Meeting adjourned 8:15 pm.

CLPC Livability Committee

2006 Goals

Vision: That Loring Park neighborhood will be perceived as a safe community, one that is inviting, welcoming, and looks out for one another.

Mission: To provide a forum for residents, businesses, and others interested in public safety, public policy, and livability issues; to voice their ideas in a way that is constructive to the long term health and success of the neighborhood and its constituents.

Goal 1: To build a network between residential properties, businesses, MPD, and the neighborhood to share and communicate information on a monthly basis.

Goal 2: To provide a forum where residents and businesses can discuss public safety issues and brainstorm innovative approaches and solutions to identified obstacles within the Criminal Justice System to include the MPD, City Attorney, County Attorney, and Judges.

Goal 3: To support a joint-neighborhood Restorative Justice Program and promote its activities and our partnership.

Goal 4: To work with the CCNP/Safety Collaborative and support a mission of addressing the root causes of crime versus a policy of displacement from one neighborhood to the next.

Goal 5: To promote, support, and/or initiate Community Celebrations and Events which bring together community stakeholders to celebrate our neighborhood, share information, and conduct outreach.

Goal 6: To promote, support, and/or initiate "greening" efforts in the community which enhance our neighborhood's livability.

Events to Date:

National Nite Out at Loring Park each August and Winter Solstice Celebration each December. Supported and promoted the Loring Park Arts Festival since 2001.

Projects to Date:

CCNP/SAFETY committee = CURA Study "The Prosecution of Misdemeanor Crimes"
CURA Study "Does the Wording of Ordinances affect the Prosecution of Misdemeanor Crimes?"

Westside Convention Center Project, Loring Park Lighting Initiative, Downtown Bus Fare Zone Expansion, advocacy to secure Loring Park as an initial site for Hour Car.

Action to Date:

Provided testimony during the 2004 and 2005 City of Minneapolis Budget process, provided testimony on the creation of new and improved Livability Ordinances, 1st Community Group to support the Downtown Camera Project.