DRAFT

Citizens for a Loring Park Community (CLPC)

Livability Committee Meeting Wednesday, May 21st, 2008 7:00-8:30 pm Loring Park Community Center – 15th & Willow

Attendance: Jan Sandberg (1201 Yale Place), Dick Sandberg (1201 Yale Place), Jana Metge (CLPC Coordinator), Joshua Callington (resident), Robert Hansen (1355 Nicollet), Lois Conroy (City Attorney's Office), Eric Sandberg (1501 LaSalle), Rose Cotton (1501 LaSalle), Gail Baez (Hennepin County), Reggie Prim (Restorative Justice), Judy Erickson (Loring Way), Lauri Wollner (AccessWorks) (AccessWorks), Susan Segal (City Attorney), Luther Krueger (Minneapolis Police Department), John van Heel (110 West Grant)

I. 7:00 – 7:10 Call to Order/Welcome, Introductions, Agenda Approval, Approval of April 16, 2008 Minutes – Robert Hansen

Bob introduced the persons in attendance—several others joined the meeting later.

Motion by Dick Sandberg, seconded Judy Erickson, to approve the minutes from April 16, 2008.

Motion passed unanimously

Motion by Dick Sandberg, seconded by Lauri Wollner, to approve the agenda with the addition of an item on Xcel Energy under Reports.

Motion passed unanimously

Announcements:

- O Community Sing-A-Long June 5th from 7:00-8:30 p.m .at Loring Park, featuring Dan Chouinard musician and story-teller....sing, hum, or just listen!!
- Mark your Calendars!! National Nite Out Party 1st Tuesday in August (August 5th) in Loring Park
- Yoga Classes will be held June 4 August 16 at the Loring Park Arts Center. Intermediate classes are scheduled for Wednesdays (6:45 8:00 p.m.) and a mixed level class is scheduled or most Saturdays (9:30 10:45 a.m.). The fee for eight classes is \$140. Call Jane at 612-741-5746 to register.
- O Robert distributed the Loring Park summer calendar. Highlights include the Music and Movies series that runs Mondays July 14-Aug. 18. Music begins at 7 p.m.; movies at dusk. The summer theme is "Elected," featuring Hollywood films relating to elections with such actors as Spencer Tracy and Katharine Hepburn. Co-presented by Walker Art Center; assistance by Lunds, City Pages and Cities 97. For more information on this free series call 612-370-4929. The Cromulent Shakespeare Company presents "Love's Labour's Lost" at 7:00 p.m. on June 12th. The GLBT Pride Festival is June 28-29 and the Loring Art Festival is August 2 & 3. For other events, see the calendar at the Arts Center.
- II. 7:10 8:15 p.m. Prosecution of Misdemeanor Crimes and Coordination with Hennepin County Susan Segal (Minneapolis City Attorney), Gail Baez (Hennepin County Community Prosecution), Lois Conroy (Minneapolis Prosecutor, 1st Precinct), Luther Krueger (Minneapolis Police Crime Prevention Analyst)

Susan Segal (our newly appointed City Attorney) and Gail Baez (Hennepin County Community Prosecution, Lead Attorney) spoke on the "Prosecution of Misdemeanor Crimes" and Coordination with Hennepin County prosecution teams.

DRAFT

After a brief introduction by Lois Conroy, Susan Segal briefly described her role as the new City Attorney. She is impressed with the caliber of staff in the office. She recently met with Judge Hopper who has ideas for some new initiatives. Susan noted that RJCA will be adding a juvenile component to the downtown program. She is committed to good coordination between the city and county offices such as misdemeanor and low-level felony offenses.

Gail addressed some of the coordination issues. She defined misdemeanors (jail up to 90 days) and felonies (a year and a day or more). The gross misdemeanors fall in between. In the past, the city and county operated in misdemeanor and felony silos. They have since found that there is considerable overlap with some offenders having offenses of both types.

Lois also described instances of coordination and described several episodes from Operation Clean Downtown. Lois mentioned that the first precinct is a top achiever in submitting community impact statements – 96 percent of all impact statements. Gail affirmed that impact statements have helped put pressure on judges to pay more attention to cases. As another example of collaboration: A Level 3 sex offender committed a drug crime after conviction on the sex offense. While on probation he was apparently involved in a sexual assault and through the combined work of the city and county, his probation was revoked. Lois was cross-deputized and attained a conviction and intensive probation with exclusion from downtown. This result was only possible because of the cooperation between city and county offices.

Susan, Gail, and Lois responded to several questions:

How does probation relate to parole? State sentencing guidelines provide for probation for many offenses that might involve incarceration time if the offender's criminal history score is high enough or the crime itself is high enough. If an offender violates probation, the offender can be brought back before the judge for a decision about workhouse time or prison. The county judge only has jurisdiction if the offender is on probation or in the workhouse. Otherwise if the offender is in prison or on parole, he or she is under the jurisdiction of the state. There has been some frustration with communication between probation and prosecution. The community could help with this.

What has the impact of staffing changes in Corrections made? Community probation was an emphasis a year ago. What about budget cuts? Gail said that there have been some staffing changes. Not all of the offenders who have been problematic have been under community probation. All county budgets are in trouble for this and next year. Lois added that there is still not a community probation officer for the first precinct. Jana mentioned that there was office space for a community probation officer in the Oak Grove Office Building.

What about coordination for property crimes? Gail said that in the past the property team operated separately from the drug team. She noticed overlap between the two – e.g. drug offenders involved with car theft. The county is incorporating the community team into the property team to try to identify those involved with both. While her office cannot set the sentence, they can bring more information to the judge. She mentioned that Judge Pete Cahill might be available to speak to community meetings and has influence in the probation issue.

Lois mentioned a holistic approach – the "Downtown 100" would expand prosecution of the top 20 offenders to the top 100 offenders. Part of the philosophy is that with cross-deputization there is considerable leverage to prosecute both misdemeanor and felony crimes. The price tag for this is about \$350,000--they would need two prosecutors, two paralegals, and a probation officer. Jana asked if there was some way to develop data to show that this would be a cost savings and Lois said that they were working on this. Jana mentioned that this approach might be worked into the neighborhood Phase II plans. Luther suggested a meeting of the five neighborhoods to talk about these issues. John van Heel has attended several joint meetings of North Loop, DMNA, and Elliot Park. A broader coalition could devise a joint approach that might qualify for grants from foundations such as McKnight.

DRAFT

8:20 – 8:30 Announcements/Other Business (Open)

o Restorative Justice Community Action - Reggie Prim

Reggie described the historic involvement of CLPC and other neighborhoods with CCNP to work with offenders at the beginning of the process, not chronic offenders. Reggie needs to get community members at the table with offenders to create a plan to address the harm caused by the crime. He asked those at the meeting to sign up to observe or participate in community conferences. Note that Restorative Justice is undertaking a pilot to determine how to work with youth offenders.

o Bicyclists breaking the law – Robert Hansen

Possible agenda item for a future meeting. Jan suggested contacting Shaun Murphy at the City. Also suggested that this is an issue of signs, fines, and norms.

O Walking Clubs – Robert Hansen

Robert is soliciting those interested in walking clubs. These clubs will be for "fun" and "exercise" and to report anything in the neighborhood that may need attention such as non-working street lights, potholes, potential undesirable activities. These walking clubs may be the forerunner to "block clubs" or "block patrols". If interested please contact Bob Hansen at 612-879-8055 or email him at RAHansen@usfamily.net Luther will send a solicitation to the virtual block club. Luther is planning an information meeting for neighborhoods on block clubs and similar.

O Xcel Lighting - Jana Metge, continued discussion from previous meeting)

Jana referred members to the minutes concerning the light installation and maintenance issues. Xcel had said that the only lights that they maintain are on the wood poles and the City maintains the others. Subsequently it was discovered that Xcel does almost all of lights except Nicollet Avenue, Hennepin/Lyndale Avenues, and the Loring Greenway. When NRP lights were installed, there was a 25 year maintenance agreement with Xcel – they are currently in year ten of the agreement. Per PUC, lights must be replaced within 72 hours or there is a fine. One idea is to build requirements for temporary lights into development projects. It also appears that Xcel is not getting notification of broken lights from 311. It seems that 311 notified Public Works but a notice did not always get to Xcel. Xcel has compiled a list of every light in Loring Park that will eventually be posted on the CLPC Web site.

Adjourned 8:45 p.m.

TOPICS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS:

Heading Home Hennepin Westside Convention Project NRP Phase II Walking Clubs/Block Patrols National Night Out Loring Park Arts Festival GLBT Pride Festival Restorative Justice Neighborhood Crime Stats