

# DRAFT

## **Citizens for a Loring Park Community (CLPC)**

Livability Committee Meeting

Wednesday, August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2006

6:30-8:30 pm

Loring Park Community Arts Center

### **Attendance:**

Luther Krueger (Crime Prevention Specialist, Minneapolis Police), Jan Sandberg (Loring Green East), Eric Sandberg (1501 LaSalle), John van Heel (110 West Grant), Diane Moe (Loring Park), Neil Carlson (Summit House), Darrell Gerber (Better Ballot Campaign), Ahmed Kamara (SuperAmerica), Shaun Stripling (SuperAmerica), Burt Berlowe (Loring Nicollet-Bethlehem Community Center), Brad Englund (Loring Nicollet-Bethlehem Community Center)

### **I. 6:30-6:35 p.m. Welcome, Introductions, Agenda Approval, Minutes—John van Heel**

In the absence of Livability Chair Dick Sandberg, John van Heel led introductions of the 11 persons in attendance.

Neil asked to add an item concerning SuperAmerica to the end of the agenda.

The committee agreed to postpone May and June minutes to September meeting.

### **Announcements:**

➤ Loring Park Dog Park—there will be detailed discussion at the Land Use meeting.

➤ Land Use meeting is Monday, Aug. 28th from 6:30-8:30 at 430 Oak Grove, Room 207. Topics will include: Loring Park Municipal Ramp, Loring Hill Development Guidelines, report on Dog Park options, Lunds store issues, and Nicollet Avenue Meter Farm RFP.

➤ Diane distributed materials on the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Plans for Future of Parks. There will be a town meeting on October 3 at 6:30 p.m. at the Loring Park Recreation Center. Residents will have an opportunity to complete a questionnaire available at all park recreation centers and online at [www.minneapolisparcs.org](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org) from September 15 to October 15, 2006.

➤ Berger Fountain is down, the pump will either be repaired or replaced, and in any case the fountain will be closed the rest of the year.

### **II. 6:45-7:10 p.m. Better Ballot Campaign - Instant Run-Off Voting – Darrell Gerber**

Run off voting for municipal elections (City Council, Mayor, Park Board, Library Board, and Board of Estimation and Taxation) that will be on the ballot for this fall. Darrell described some background including a vote two weeks ago at the City Council (12-1 vote).

Run off voting requires a change to the city charter 0%+1 of those voting. Since Minneapolis is a home rule city with a charter, the city does not need to go to the Legislature to make the charter change.

Runoff voting eliminates the need for a primary election. Voters will rank all candidates whether for single or multiple seat elections. Darrel noted that traditionally the turnout for primary elections is very low with disproportionately with a much larger turnout for general elections. Cities that have used the runoff voting option have seen a larger turnout. Having the ability to rank all candidates gives voters the option to vote for lesser-known candidates and may encourage more candidates to run (although this can happen in regular elections). However, voters can still record their second (or third) choice.

Darrel described the system. To be declared a winner, a candidate must have 50% +1 vote. The lowest ranking candidates are dropped off one at a time and the second place votes for those candidates are then tallied until there is a winner. Each voter still has one vote but it is just moved around.

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For multi-seat races, the situation is more complicated. The threshold is lower such as (25%) based on the number of seats. Count first place votes until one seat is filled, then proceed with counting until the second seat is filled. If the winner has “too many votes” take those votes and redistribute them based on the second choice. Then revert to dropping people from the bottom again.

There could be problems with people being confused although the voters do not have to worry about the counting process. There will be a learning curve and may be a need for some voter education. Darrel thinks that pre-education efforts (flyers and similar) are less effective than having the election judges work with voters.

The biggest concern may be about cost—Darrell said that it was difficult to come up with a number. Runoff voting might require some new machines and definitely new technology. One option is to count first place votes at the polls and then send ballots back to a central site to count the 2<sup>nd</sup>- 9<sup>th</sup> place votes and get final count out in a few days. However, some votes would be determined on the first ballot.

For more information pull up: [www.betterballotcampaign.org](http://www.betterballotcampaign.org)

### **III. 7:10-7:25 p.m. Loring Nicollet-Bethlehem Community Center** Burt Berlowe & Brad Englund

The Loring Nicollet-Bethlehem Community Center (LN-BCC) organization has two sites at 26<sup>th</sup> and Pleasant (Bethlehem Community Center) and Franklin and Nicollet (Loring Nicollet Community Center). The two centers founded by churches in the area, merged in 1972. The organization does not have a religious focus. The organization concentrates on education and employment (both youth and adults), generally serving south Minneapolis.

Burt introduced himself. He is the neighborhood rep for the LN-BCC although he lives in Seward now. Burt hopes to get more involvement from neighborhood groups like CLPC. Stevens Square (now housed in the Nicollet building) and Whittier are involved and Burt would like CLPC to also be involved, possibly by attending Board meetings (the Board is off for the summer and usually meets at lunch) or other committees.

Brad distributed a brochure and described the history of the two centers, membership, and programs. The education programs extend from early education through adult basic education. MERC High School was originally the Minneapolis Education Recycling Center based on the history of the school that morphed several years ago to the Minneapolis Employment Readiness Curriculum. Many of the clients come from the neighborhood.

Luther mentioned that he heard Art Rolnick speak about the economic advantages of early intervention and thought that this sort of organization makes sense for the neighborhood.

John suggested that LN-BCC attend the annual meeting in March. There may be opportunities for involvement in the upcoming LPC plan.

### **IV. 7:25-8:00 p.m. Loring Park Safety Issues** – Luther Krueger

Luther discussed the situation at 14<sup>th</sup> and Spruce: from about April –May there was a big spike in robberies, mostly west of the park. The police tracked down suspects to 1400 Spruce and made arrests in a narcotics raid and some of those were also arrested for robberies. This effectively stopped most of the robberies. The owner was cooperative and the tenant left. They are now looking at two other properties.

Luther pointed attendees to look at the <http://www.iacp.org/> Web site for the International Associations of Chiefs of Police. They have awarded the Community Policing Award to Minneapolis (see [http://www.nightvision.com/law\\_enforcement/2006WinnerList.html](http://www.nightvision.com/law_enforcement/2006WinnerList.html)) for the SafeZone including the partnership with security personnel, Bar Watch, and homeless shelters. Luther said that the bars will be added to same Web site that now includes security personnel. The department will also apply for the Innovations in Government Award from Harvard, but this is a more time-consuming, intensive process.

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There was discussion about a bank robbery last week that was picked up on the radio link with the result that the suspect was apprehended within 20 minutes.

### V. SuperAmerica –

Ahmed and Shaun from SuperAmerica were present. Neil noted that there is still drug dealing in the parking lot (around 10-11 PM). There are two issues: (1) Neil feels that the company is not providing the proper support and do not offer adequate wages and (2) SuperAmerica still allows the sale of products that appeal to drug users including small blunt cigars.

Neil said that there is an organization headquartered in St. Paul that is actively working to discourage the sales of these materials in the stores. Stores have also been encouraged to not sell single cans of beer—SuperAmerica does not allow such sales.

Ahmed reported that based on the direction of the area manager (John), the store now just orders packs of blunts and will no longer allow single sales when that supply runs out. Ahmed said that a bigger problem is with beer. They now have a lock on the beer case. They have closed the public restroom after finding syringes and have also found syringes in the parking lot. Luther requested that Ahmed send him a summary of these problems. Some of the problems come from police action to close things down in Elliot Park. Ahmed also said that residents from 15 East Grant may be causing some problems—he has some video. Ahmed is using the trespass-off forms that he got from Lois Conroy. Gas is now fully prepaid. John is interested in getting a part-time officer present from 8 pm to close and the Westek Surveillance System that has now been refocused toward the air compressor area. Luther asked that Ahmed ask John to send information about hiring an off-duty officer to Luther so that Lt. Kjos can be involved. Luther thought that it sounded like the store was trying to take steps to control the situation.

Ahmed has some concerns about 911 responsiveness. Luther said that Ahmed should feel free to ask to speak with the supervisor.

Luther reported problems with other stores selling the parts of what can be assembled into a crack pipe—this is being prosecuted in one case where the store sold the assembled parts.

### Meeting adjourned 8:10 p.m.

#### Possible Future Topics:

Crime activity data for the past year (?) in the vicinity of the SuperAmerica at Grant and LaSalle.

Convenience store licensing, including Council member Samuels' efforts to revoke the licenses of certain 'inconvenience' stores and how this might impact SuperAmerica. See *MPR* article at <http://minnesota.publicradio.org/display/web/2006/03/29/stores/> and also *Spokesman-Recorder* article at <http://spokesman-recorder.com/news/Article/Article.asp?NewsID=68501&slID=4>

Nancy Page Crisis Stabilization Program, People Incorporated, 245 South Clifton (Joan Bilinkoff). See <http://www.peopleincorporated.org/>

180 Degrees—July or later with new director

Lois Conroy/City Attorney update on the City Attorney's five-year business plan, new happenings in the City Attorney's office, drug paraphernalia laws, and interaction between county and city attorneys.

Status of M & R for the Westside Convention Center

Susan Young - Sanitation Director for the City of Minneapolis - Clean City USA initiative and "Adopt a Trash Can" program

John Dejung and information about the 911 system

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Hennepin County Attorney discussion about about how to get feedback on downtown felony arrests

Scott Christenson, Third Precinct City Attorney (creator of drug paraphernalia law) to address questions raised about the law

Gail Dorfman, County Commissioner, to talk about county initiatives