

Citizens for a Loring Park Community  
**Livability Committee Meeting Minutes** – Draft 10.21.2010

Wednesday, Oct. 20<sup>th</sup>, 2010

*Thanks to the Wesley Church for hosting this meeting!*

Those attending: Bob Hansen (co-chair/resident), John Novak (co-chair/resident), Neil Carlson (resident), Greg Renstrom (Wesley Pastor), Lt. Matt Clark (MPD), Darrell Harju (resident), Dennis Boe (resident), David Marsh (1350 Nicollet), Jeanne Innes (1350 Nicollet), Abby Rouster (MCTC student), Ugaso Sheik-Abdi (MCTC student), Brad Conley (MCTC student) and Jana Metge (CLPC Coordinator).

I. *The meeting was called to order at 6:36 p.m. by Bob Hansen & John Livability Com. Co-Chair*

Introductions were conducted

Agenda was approved by consensus adding a few more announcements and noting that Jana will be facilitating the Neighborhood Policing Plan section/Renee Allen is out with double bronchitis!

Minute approval moved to the November 2010 meeting

II. The following announcements were made:

- **MCTC Student Homelessness Awareness Action**–Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>–MCTC/Room T-1500 from 1:30-5:00 pm
- **Music Box “Haunted Theatre”** Flyers distributed
- **Red Eye Theater** – Play bill flyers for this weekend distributed
- **Land Use Committee** - Monday, Oct. 25<sup>th</sup> - 6:30-8:00 p.m. - Loring Park Office Building/430 Oak Grove; Room 207
- **Master Plan Steering Committee** – Wednesday, Oct. 27<sup>th</sup> – 7:00-8:30 p.m. – Loring Park Office Building/430 Oak Grove – Room 207; FFI – contact Jana @ CLPC @ 874-9002
- **Historic Resource Action Team** – Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> @ HN Methodist Church; 7:00-8:30 p.m.
- **Downtown Court Watch** – Friday, Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> - from 10:00 a.m. to noon at Central Library downtown - 2nd floor conference room
- **Master Plan EVENT!** – Thursday, Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> – 6:00-8:30 p.m. – Music Box Theatre/1400 block of Nicollet Ave. – Panel on the Arts Culture, Creative Sector/Loring 2030 – Social Time 6-6:30 p.m.
- **Master Plan Community Design Workshop / “VISIONING”** - Saturday, Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> - 8:30 / Social time, coffee, muffins; 9:00–11:45–Community Workshop. This workshop will be hosted by The Wesley Center/1400 block of 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. (next to the Convention Center) – metered parking available off of 1<sup>st</sup> Ave.
- **CLPC Holiday Party & Curry Dinner** - Thursday, Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> @ World Mission Prayer League/232 Clifton Ave. So. from 5:00-9:00 p.m. - Come anytime!
- **“Light Up Loring”** – Thursday, Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-8:00 p.m. @ Loring Park Com. Ctr.-flyers distributed
- **Project Homeless Connect** – Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> @ Minneapolis Convention Center from 10:30 – 4:00 p.m. 1.5 hour training required to volunteer. Closest training site is 3400 Dupont/Universalist Church on 11.30.2010. Pull up [www.homelessconnectminneapolis.org](http://www.homelessconnectminneapolis.org) to register as a volunteer and sign up for training.
- **“LOVE LORING”** – CLPC Annual Fundraiser and Silent Auction – Friday, Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> – Hosted by The Woman’s Club of Minneapolis/410 Oak Grove. Tickets Available!! Call CLPC to purchase at 612-874-9002
- **MCTC Health Fair–WELLFEST–changed to** April 6<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. @ MCTC Cafeteria

Jana reported that **Neighborhood USA is coming to Minneapolis is 2013!!** The Hyatt has been contracted to be the “Host Hotel”, so Loring Park will be the “Host Neighborhood!” We should begin thinking now about activities we could put together. Additionally, NUSA will send out “Proposal for Presentations” Aug/Sept. of 2012. If there are presentations that we should be making at the conference, we should apply to present! Another feature of the conference is that NUSA will set up a series of Neighborhood Tours throughout the City. It is a great opportunity for the City and for Loring Park as the Host Neighborhood!

### III. **Neighborhood Community Policing Plans - Jana Metge/CLPC Coordinator**

Jana facilitated a discussion on Safety issues and potential solutions to lead into the creation of our 2011 Neighborhood Policing Plan. She asked that committee members think about issues, potential solutions and partnership, what/where we need policing, and how community can help. She reported that there are no funds in the MPD City Budget for additional officers, so we should be creative and think about how we as a community can help in creating solutions to issues of crime and safety. Next month, the committee will review then the issues generated at this meeting, along with solutions raised and other solutions that both MPD and CLPC can bring to the table. We will review then our proposed 2010 plan and compare it to the 2009 plan.

#### Community Safety Issues Raised:

- Many MCTC students walk home after dark from school. It is very dark, they feel unsafe.
- The perimeter of the park need additional lighting – it is very unsafe and dark

### **Community Safety Issues Raised (copy):**

- Bus shelters need to be improved and maintained. Many are missing panels, many – the lights are out. Questions were raised as to why in suburbs and downtown there are better bus shelters which have seats, are lit, and have heat.
- Biking is very unsafe in the neighborhood – car and bus traffic is fast and threatens bikers and walkers
- Metro Busses are insensitive to bikers – many fear for their lives with busses cutting them off
- Lighting needs to be enhanced on 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>
- Pedestrian Safety and elevated car speeds along Spruce between HN and Harmon. Something needs to be done, very unsafe.
- Crosswalk at 15<sup>th</sup> St. needs to be implemented, very, very dangerous pedestrian and bike crossing.
- Lighting in the neighborhood should be updated, enhanced – increase from 80 to 110
- Find a way to intervene on issues of homelessness and panhandling; get resources to folks vs. law enforcement approach – find a way to find housing and get folks off the streets and safe.
- Ensure that diversity is respected. Concern expressed that if you don't look the "fit" of downtown, you are a "suspect" by MPD and treated differently than others downtown. Especially of concern to students and people of color in the room. Concern expressed that just because there was bad behavior occurring downtown by a few, folks of the same skin color should not all be treated the same, as if they are subject for concern.
- Low level drug dealing, prostitution along Nicollet Ave.
- Low level negative street activity on Oak Grove/LaSalle areas and alleys
- Bus Shelter lighting and safety – too much loitering by folks not taking the bus – Nicollet & Hennepin

### **Nicollet Ave. Business Concerns –**

Jana brought into the mix issues raised by Nicollet businesses and also stated that there is a monthly group which meets at Olson Advertising and works on issues of Safety in and around the Basilica/Hennepin area. These issues will also be integrated into our Loring Park policing plan. Nicollet issues summarized are: Need improved lighting, low level drug dealing and prostitution, monitoring business licenses to ensure that they are in compliance especially with regard to liquor and noise, litter, parking issues, negative activity occurring in the Meter Farm, safety and lighting on 14<sup>th</sup> Street.

### **Solutions proposed:**

- Jana will forward these notes to the Loring Park Master Plan Consultant team – many issues are Public Realm related and can be addressed in our Plan.
- Xcel Energy will be contacted about enhancing the lighting in the neighborhood.
- Metro Transit will be contacted about bike/pedestrian safety concerns, horn honking, bus shelters
- Lt. Clark will meet with David Marsh about the potential of a Police "StopBy" facility at 1350 Nicollet.
- Lt. Clark will work with Renee and Jana on synthesizing issues/solutions into a proposed policing plan, have it reviewed by and with co-chairs John Novak and Bob Hansen and bring to the next meeting.
- Suggestion for an Ambassador program, especially to walk MCTC students through the Park after school.
- Cameras
- Undercover operations – negative activity flees and hides when squads or uniformed officers come by
- Beat Officers on the street – building relationships, talking to businesses and students
- Continue working with St. Stevens Street Outreach
- Continue working with Downtown Court Watch
- Bring in and meet Metro Transit officers about loitering on bus stops
- Coordinate a better collaboration between MCTC, 1350 Nicollet, businesses with private security, cameras, communication, follow-up, information sharing.

(Note – nothing came up about Restorative Justice – should we bring them into this conversation?)

## **IV. Report Back; Great Sun Buffet/Noise concerns & Taxi Cab issues**

Lt. Clark reported that he was able to get Taxi Cab licensing staff on this as well as traffic control. Over 100 tickets were given out, as well as Education about horn honking. Still an issue is Metro Transit buses honking at Taxis and each other, not only during the day, but in the evening. Some taxi cab issues still remain. Lt. Clark offered to connect Dennis with the Taxi Cab license staff. Another item to follow is the actual licensing hearing at City Hall. There is a proposal now to have no cap on the number of taxi cab licenses given out. The City used to cap it at 500. Concerned community members should attend this meeting and/or give input to Councilmember Goodman's office on this issue. Her number is 673-2207. Additionally, committee members were asked to call 311 the next day and register any violations, so that City staff have it logged and can ensure that issues are followed up on.

Lt. Clark reported that Business Licensing staff were out and took decibel readings and found no violations from Great Sun. Residents reported that booming bass sound occurs on Tuesdays and some Saturdays. There are also issues with noise from King & I, residents have called in concerns to CCP/SAFE office. Residents were instructed to call 311 and register concern from 9-5 the next day, so that these concerns get into the system and can be monitored and tracked. CLPC also contacted the Property owner on this issue.

#### **V. Nicollet Ave. Safety Issues - Lt. Matt Clark & Jana/CLPC**

Lt. Clark and Jana reported on a meeting held on Nicollet Ave. 26 in attendance including business owners, property owners, MPD, CCP/SAFE, Downtown SafeZone, HN County Attorney's office, CLPC staff, CLPC Livability co-chairs (Bob & John). Prior to the meeting, Jana went door to door and visited with each business based on incoming calls of concern to the CLPC office. Lt. Clark also went and met with several of the businesses. Beat Officer Thomas Subject and his partner also went door to door. Concerns raised were that of excessive drinking at some of the restaurants, spilling into the street, causing street fights and other businesses security issues with "evicting" disruptive customers from other businesses. Lighting and litter were issues, along with loitering and low level drug dealing and prostitution had been witnessed. Illegal activity occurring at 1501 Nicollet, the "Meter Farm". City attorney is looking into this to see if folks caught doing illegal activity can be trespassed from this city-owned lot, since it is a pay lot and not a free, city-owned property. Parking issues were also raised.

Lt. Clark reported that he has had undercover on the street as well as uniformed Officers, arrests have been made. 2 drug busts were done as a result of undercover. Also, the Downtown Improvement District set up their camera at 14<sup>th</sup> & Nicollet facing south. This camera videoed activity on the street. Lt. Clark also has MPD Somali liaison and 2 Somali officers working with the corner coffee shop and daycare, hearing their safety issues, as well as providing safety education and enforcement if needed. Renee Allen, CCP-SAFE is working with John Reede – Latino MPD Liasion to put together a Personal Safety Workshop for Salsa a la Salsa employees. Business have suggested meeting quarterly and also an informal mentoring between long-time and new business owners.

#### **VI. Nicollet Ave. Bus Stops and Discussion on Resident Comfort Level**

Alot of concern and frustration expressed regarding MCTC bus stops/shelters. They seem to be not maintained, there are broken panels, the lighting is poor, lots of litter, and lots of loitering at the stops. Committee members expressed the sentiment that they do not feel safe catching a bus along Nicollet or at Hennepin & 15<sup>th</sup>. Lt. Clark suggested that he bring in Metro Transit officers to discuss with the committee the loitering issue. Jana will contact Metro Transit regarding the M & R/Upkeep issue. Also, raised was the issue of busses double parking and parking in the intersections and Nicollet/Grant, thus blocking car and pedestrian traffic. Another question was why and when the bus stop was moved. We will follow up with Metro Transit for the next Livability meeting.

**Bob asked about having Livability meetings at the Wesley in the future. The Committee agreed to have Wesley host the meetings, if they are willing, through the winter. It is too icy and dark during the winter to get down to the Community Center.**

**The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.**

*Respectfully submitted, JLMetge*

#### **Topics for Future meetings**

- Downtown 100 – monitor
- Restorative Justice – update
- MCTC – Students experiencing homelessness
- Bus Shelters
- Loitering at Bus Stops
- Nicollet Cameras/Safety Ambassadors
- Nicollet Ave Special Service District
- Kiosks (salt & pepper shakers)–M & R
- Neighborhood Policing Plan
- Neighborhood lighting issues