

Stevens Square Community Organization

(612) 874-2840

<http://www.sscoweb.org>

Safety Committee minutes – March 26, 2009, 6:00 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave.



Present: Michele McGaughey and Ken Strobel, co-chairs; Bobbi Harrington and Jean Schwalen, Hennepin County Community Probation; Chelsea Adams, Michael Friestleben, Jeff Mercill, and Michael Killebrew, Minneapolis Police 5th Precinct; Lisa Godon, City Attorney’s office; Rob Helmerichs, Rand Management; Judy Austin, Jeanne Krueger, Charles Rosensteel, Howard Penas, John Ryser, Melinda Langer, Eddie Chambers, Maureen Wells, Jerry Paulson, and SSCO safety coordinator Dave Delvoye (dave_sscoweb@yahoo.com or 612-874-2840) Meeting agendas and minutes are at

http://www.sscoweb.org/What_We_Do/Community_Safety/Agendas_and_Minutes/

Agenda item	Notes/decisions	Follow up
Announcements – contact SSCO to volunteer or for more information about all of these items.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Donations of “good stuff” are being accepted for the 6th annual Stevens Square rummage sale on 4/18 & 4/19. Volunteers are needed to staff the event. ▪ Volunteers are also needed to staff three properties near 18th & 3rd which are on the Minneapolis – St Paul home tour on 4/25 & 4/26. http://msphometour.com/ ▪ Alcohol task force meeting, 4/1 at 6:30 p.m. ▪ Comments were requested regarding the new format of the committee meeting minutes. ▪ Candidates are being recruited to run for election in June to the SSCO Board of Directors. 	Next Safety committee meeting: Thursday, April 23, at 6 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave.
Minneapolis Police report – Crime Prevention Specialist Chelsea Adams, Night CRT Sergeant Michael Friestleben and Officers Jeff Mercill and Michael Killebrew	<p>Chelsea Adams provided a map and list of Part 1 crimes reported in the neighborhood during February. There were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 0 robberies. ▪ 3 apartment burglaries, at 1710 2nd Ave on 2/11, 1905 Stevens Ave on 2/18, and 306 Ridgewood Ave (interrupted in progress) on 2/25. ▪ 1 theft from person, at 1905 3rd Ave on 2/4. <p>Adams will bring a proposal next month asking for money to buy bikes and helmets for the beat officers. Sgt Friestleben reported on recent arrests by his team for narcotics (4 grams of crack) at 22nd & Pillsbury and robbery of person and narcotics (340 grams of marijuana) at Franklin & 4th.</p> <p>In response to a question, Officer Killebrew said that the No Parking zone in front of the Third Avenue Market allows commercial vehicles making deliveries to park there for up to 30 minutes. There is concern that these vehicles block the sight lines of drivers trying to enter 3rd Ave from 19th St, which is part of the reason the area was originally posted for no parking. Staff will contact the City about alternatives which would prohibit all parking at that location.</p> <p>SSCO’s Google maps and lists of arrests from 2/23 to 3/22 in the area from Lyndale Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to 24th St, showed 23 alcohol-related arrests (24 last year), 11 narcotics-related arrests (17 last year), and 1 prostitution-related arrest (1 last year). Year to date: 45 alcohol-related arrests (46 last year), 27 narcotics-related arrests (43 last year), and 2 prostitution-related arrests (13 last year). For the same period, SSCO’s Google maps showed 16 police reports for the Clinton sector (3rd Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to Franklin Ave) and 47 for the Nicollet corridor (LaSalle/Blaisdell Ave to 1st Ave, I-94 to 24th St). Information in text format is at http://www.sscoweb.org/What_We_Do/Community_Safety/Crime_Information/</p> <p>Other news: Officer John Grove will join the Stevens Square-Whittier day beat on May 9. Compliments or complaints about police officers can now be sent online at http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/forms/mpd-citizen-report/</p>	Contact SSCO to receive printed or e-mailed copies of the Google maps, which are updated weekly.
Community Prosecutor report – Assistant City Attorney Lisa	Lisa Godon distributed copies of the 5 th Precinct CLEAN sheet and noted that offender Osman Afrah will be removed because he was found deceased on 3/4. The CLEAN sheet is at http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/about/docs/Pct5CLEAN.pdf	

Godon	<p>Godon reported on a case from 3/6 in which a suspect assaulted a Block Patrol volunteer who was on duty at Franklin & Nicollet. Officer Deb Hubert located and identified the suspect the following week; Officer Michael Killebrew also tried to find the suspect. The suspect has been charged with disorderly conduct following an investigation by the City Attorney's office, and will probably be referred to Mental Health court.</p> <p>Godon spoke about a bill – dubbed by the press, the “Freedom to Steal act” – under consideration at the Legislature which, among other things, would decriminalize many of the livability offenses which plague the neighborhood by prohibiting cities from enacting misdemeanor ordinances. In effect, these kinds of offenses would be downgraded to petty misdemeanors, which are considered payable (with a fine), not criminal, violations. The bill would also reduce consequences for certain repeat drunken driving offenses. It appears that some legislators favor this bill because it's a money-saving measure for the state. The City Attorney's office and many other law enforcement agencies strongly oppose this bill on public safety grounds and encourage citizens to contact their state senators and representatives to express their opinions. At this point, the bill has been introduced and had committee hearings in the state Senate, but has no sponsor in the House.</p>	
Community Probation report – Probation Officers Bobbi Harrington and Jean Schwalen	Schwalen and Harrington reported that most of their clients – 40 to 50 of them, some of the most difficult they have ever had – are in jail for various crimes and violations.	
Priority concerns / hot spots / chronic offenders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1900 1st Ave – Police and the property manager have resolved the problems with drug and prostitution traffic to an apartment at this building. Night CRT officers executed a narcotics search warrant on 3/12 after getting a buy out of the apartment. ▪ 1801 2nd Ave – Police and the property manager have resolved the problems regarding drug traffic to an apartment in this building. Night beat officers arrested Russell Devarn Camp (not on lease) in this building on 2/21 for a Department of Corrections warrant. http://info.doc.state.mn.us/publicviewer/Inmate.asp?OID=228844 ▪ 2020 Nicollet Ave – Police report an increase in problems at this apartment building. <p>SSCO's monthly chronic offender update featured a case involving Maurice Giles (11/8/08, possession of drug paraphernalia at 19th & 3rd) and a report on a case from last month involving Nanette Haghi, who violated her conditions of release and is in the workhouse until 4/24/10. In other top offender news, Darryl Brooks was arrested and booked three times in the area within a week, and is being held on \$2,000 bail pending a 4/1 court appearance for gross misdemeanor 5th degree assault, disorderly conduct, and obstructing the legal process stemming from an incident on Pillsbury Ave last December.</p>	Contact SSCO to receive a printed or e-mailed copy of the monthly chronic offender update, which features the outcome of court cases resulting from arrests in the area along with the names of the sentencing judges.
Block Patrol report – Judy Austin	From 2/27 to 3/25, 11 Block Patrol volunteers participated in 15 shifts, contributing a total of 48 hours. Three shifts were cancelled. A Block Patrol team attended the Citizens for a Loring Park Community information fair at the Woman's Club on 3/9, distributing publicity about SSCO. Block Patrol teams door-knocked five Stevens Community Apartments buildings to recruit new volunteers.	Contact SSCO to join Block Patrol.
Safety coordinator report	<p>Minneapolis Solid Waste & Recycling is again offering matching grants to community groups for innovative graffiti prevention projects. The application deadline is 4/24. The committee discussed ideas for projects and decided to ask staff to apply for a grant combining an updated version of the 2008 rapid response team project with the purchase of a power washer which could be rented to private property owners to remove graffiti from brick walls and other porous surfaces.</p> <p>SSCO's Executive committee is asking all committees for suggestions on ways to improve http://www.sscoweb.org/ Is the site easy to navigate? What kind of information should be posted? Committee members discussed the web site, identified some problems or difficulties, and made some recommendations which staff will forward to the Executive committee.</p>	SSCO will apply for a 2009 graffiti prevention grant from the City.