

Stevens Square Community Organization

(612) 874-2840

<http://www.sscoweb.org>



Safety Committee minutes – June 23, 2011, 6:00 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave

Present: Ken Strobel and Michele McGaughey, co-chairs; Bobbi Harrington and Jean Schwalen, Hennepin County Community Probation; Chelsea Adams, Aimee Colegrove, Brianna Garman, Jodene Malloy, Adrian St Francis, and Hokly Sarin, Minneapolis Police 5th Precinct; Chris Dixon, City Attorney’s office; Chanti Calabria and Brenna Horn, Restorative Justice Community Action; Malcolm Williams, Plymouth Church; Julian Gray, Fades of Gray; Rob Helmerich, Rand Management; Diane Hansen, Copenhagen Enterprises; Lucy Minn, Lupe Development; Ray Alex Perry, Cheryl Curtis, Arlene Storandt, Randall Chevront, Jerry Paulson, Carla Andersen, Judy Austin, Aaron Szczech, Kandace Krause, and SSCO safety coordinator Dave Delvoye (dave_sscoweb@yahoo.com or 874-2840)

Agenda item	Notes/decisions	Follow up
<p>Announcements</p> <p>Contact SSCO to volunteer or for more info.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ City Council Member Lilligren sent apologies for not being able to attend the meeting. ▪ SSCO annual neighborhood meeting, 6/25, 10 a.m. to noon at Plymouth Church, 1900 Nicollet Ave. ▪ Cinema & Civics in Stevens Square Park, every Wednesday at 8 p.m. through 8/3. ▪ Election of two Safety committee co-chairs for the upcoming year at the 7/28 meeting. Candidates may nominate themselves in advance (contact the Safety coordinator) or at the meeting. ▪ Red Hot Art in Stevens Square Park, 7/30 & 7/31. 	<p>Next Safety committee meeting: Thursday, 7/28, at 6 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave.</p>
<p>Community Prosecutor report – Assistant City Attorney Chris Dixon</p>	<p>Chris Dixon distributed copies of the 5th Precinct CLEAN sheet and updated the committee on some of the offenders active in Stevens Square, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Curtis Batton – released from prison on 5/19, on parole until 12/17. ▪ Joseph Conklin – released from prison on 6/7, on parole until 11/27. ▪ William Ernst – released from the workhouse on 6/14. ▪ Larry Harper – 7/6 court date for 5/24 criminal contempt of court and possession of drug paraphernalia at Franklin & 3rd, charges pending for a 6/13 burglary at 1900 Clinton Ave. ▪ Ronald King – In jail on \$100 bail for three trespassing cases which go to court on 7/11. ▪ Jessica Matt, Randy McNellis, Maurice Patterson, and Frederick Washington have warrants. ▪ Jimmar Nichols-Cooper – geographically restricted from part of the area. <p>Three Stevens Square offenders were recently added to the CLEAN sheet: Frank Killwright, Lynn Love, and Zaki Sugule. Sugule is in jail on \$20,000 bail pending sentencing on 6/27 for felony 5th degree assault from 4/5.</p> <p>In response to a question, Dixon explained the three common types of arrest warrants, which are all issued by a judge:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Arrest warrant for a defendant charged by complaint for a crime after the fact. ▪ Bench warrant for a defendant who failed to appear in court. ▪ Arrest and detention warrant for a defendant who violated probation. <p>SSCO has submitted a community impact statement to the court regarding Ahmed Hired, who has been arrested in the area ten times in the past year. Three of those cases are still pending.</p>	<p>Christopher.Dixon@ci.minneapolis.mn.us 673-5402</p>
<p>Minneapolis Police report – CPS Chelsea Adams, Officers Aimee Colegrove,</p>	<p>Chelsea Adams distributed a map and list of Part 1 crimes in the neighborhood during May. There were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1 homicide: 5/29, 11:20 p.m., at Groveland & Nicollet in which a victim who was shot at this location was found at 22nd & Lyndale, transported to a hospital, and subsequently died. Biyamin Beiti Omar (1/1/83) was arrested on 6/2 and has been charged with 1st degree murder. ▪ 1 robbery of business: 5/29, 1:50 a.m., at 18th & 3rd in which an employee of A Slice of New York was robbed at gunpoint of 	<p>Chelsea.Adams@ci.minneapolis.mn.us 673-2819</p>

<p>Brianna Garman, and Jodene Malloy, interns Adrian St Francis and Hokly Sarin</p>	<p>\$60.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 3 robberies of person: 5/8, 12:35 a.m., at Franklin & Nicollet in which a victim walking on the sidewalk was attacked from behind and robbed of a wallet containing cash and debit cards; 5/13, 1:10 a.m., at Groveland & LaSalle in which a victim walking on the sidewalk was approached by two male suspects in a vehicle who asked for directions and then assaulted the victim and stole \$40; 5/15, 12:30 a.m., while walking outside of 1933 Lyndale Ave, in which a victim was attacked from behind by two male suspects and robbed of \$40 and a rope chain with a gold cross. ▪ 1 aggravated assault: 5/17, 8:50 p.m., at 19th & Stevens in which a juvenile male (who was apprehended) threatened a victim with a jagged piece of hard plastic. ▪ 2 apartment burglaries: 5/13 at 137 East 17th St; 5/29 at 220 East 19th St. ▪ 1 motor vehicle theft: 5/10 at Franklin & Nicollet. ▪ 2 thefts from motor vehicles: 5/15 at 1811 1st Ave; 5/21 at 1815 1st Ave. ▪ 8 other incidents of theft. <p>The 5th Precinct has reestablished a day CRT (community response team) with Sgt Michael Friestleben and two officers. Sgt Sara Metcalf leads the night CRT.</p> <p>On 5/23 at 4 p.m., officers were dispatched to the Hennepin County Mental Health Center at 1801 Nicollet Ave regarding a person with a gun. The situation turned into a crisis intervention, with the suspect inside the building along with other people. Many squads responded to the scene. John Michael Kittleson (12/23/89) was arrested for 2nd degree assault with a dangerous weapon and transported to HCMC, then to HCMC Acute Psychiatric Services, and then to the jail. Kittleson was released on 5/25 with no charges or conditions. Kittleson was charged with terroristic threats on 5/27 and arrested on 5/28. He appeared in court today (6/23), with the next hearing set for 7/26. As a condition of release, Kittleson has been ordered to stay two blocks away from 1801 Nicollet Ave.</p> <p>On 6/7 at 1:40 p.m., a female victim was attacked inside her home on the 300 block of East 18th St by a male suspect who is not known to her. The suspect stabbed the victim with a large knife. The victim fought the suspect, who ran out the back door and fled from the area. The victim was transported to a hospital by ambulance. Police responded quickly and in force but did not find the suspect. The case, which is a top priority for the 5th Precinct, is under investigation. Further information, including a description of the suspect, has not been released to the public. Potential DNA evidence was collected and submitted to the state Bureau of Criminal Apprehension for expedited testing.</p> <p>SSCO's Google maps and lists of arrests in the area from Lyndale Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to 24th St, from 5/23/11 to 6/19/11 showed 17 alcohol-related arrests (29 in 2010), 7 narcotics-related arrests (17 in 2010), and 2 prostitution-related arrests (1 in 2010). Year to date, there were 56 alcohol-related arrests (153 in 2010), 50 narcotics-related arrests (59 in 2010), and 6 prostitution-related arrests (13 in 2010). For the period from 5/23/11 to 6/19/11, SSCO's Google maps showed 40 police reports for the Nicollet corridor (LaSalle Ave/Blaisdell Ave to 1st Ave, I-94 to 24th St), 7 for the Stevens Square Park area (Stevens Ave to 2nd Ave, 17th St to Franklin Ave), and 16 for the Clinton sector (3rd Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to Franklin Ave).</p>	<p>CRT line (to report suspected drug and prostitution activity at specific addresses or locations): 673-5716 or contact Sara.Metcalf@ci.minneapolis.mn.us</p> <p>Crime Prevention Resources</p> <p>911 / 311 information</p> <p>Contact SSCO to receive printed or e-mailed copies of the Google maps, which are updated weekly. The e-mailed versions include links to mugshots of chronic offenders.</p>
<p>Priority concerns / hot spots / chronic offenders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 19th & 3rd – There are ongoing complaints about drug-related loitering outside the market and at other locations at this corner. Police continue to watch the area and stop suspicious persons and vehicles. Some of the loitering may be tied to the alleged sale of single cigarettes in the area. There is no news about whether Metro Transit plans to remove the bus stop in front of the Emily Peake community garden. The buildings in the area are posted for No Trespassing; call 911 to report suspicious activity there. ▪ 110 East 18th St – There are ongoing problems with open/broken/missing windows, holes cut in the security fence, graffiti, and overgrown grass and weeds at this vacant, boarded, and deteriorating property which is on the city's Problem Properties list. The owners respond to complaints from the city but appear to take no proactive measures to prevent or otherwise address the problems. According to information from the City Council Member, the owners of this property are due to 	

	<p>receive at least \$800,000 in public funds to allow them to proceed with redevelopment. There was a discussion about steps the neighborhood and the city could take to resolve the complaints, such as notifying the press about the continued violations or having city crews abate the problems and charge the owners for the services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stevens Square Park, 1801 Stevens Ave – There are reports of frequent suspicious loitering at picnic tables in the park in the area of 19th & Stevens and 19th & 2nd near the playground. There are reports of suspected drug dealing near the basketball court, in which dealer(s) hide their goods somewhere near the biff and deliver them to persons who drive up in vehicles. Call 911 to report suspicious activity in the park, with descriptions of suspects and vehicles and the location of suspected contraband. There was a discussion about whether bringing in a K-9 with drug-sniffing ability or closing the basketball court would help resolve the problems. ▪ Aggressive panhandling – There was a complaint that some 911 operators won't take reports of aggressive panhandling, apparently because they are unaware of what behavior is prohibited by the ordinance. Chris Dixon (who left the meeting before this topic came up) had offered to help educate 911 operators to make sure that police are dispatched to such complaints. In the meantime, callers can demand that a squad be sent to the scene or ask to speak with a 911 supervisor if there are any problems reporting aggressive panhandling. <p>SSCO's monthly chronic offender update included cases involving:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ellery Charging Thunder (18 arrests in the area in the past seven years) – 3/16/11 consuming alcohol in public at Franklin & Nicollet. ▪ Lester Cloud (7 arrests in the area in the past three years) – 5/5/11 consuming alcohol in public at 22nd & Blaisdell; 5/11/11 consuming alcohol in public at Franklin & Nicollet. ▪ Brandon Miller (34 arrests in the area in the past seven years) – 5/19/11 criminal contempt of court for violating conditions of release at Franklin & 3rd. 	
<p>Restorative Justice Community Action report – Community Coordinator Chanti Calabria, intern Brenna Horn</p>	<p>Chanti Calabria introduced Brenna Horn, an intern at RJCA with a focus on 5th Precinct cases. There was a conference for south Minneapolis cases on 6/21, but it included none from Stevens Square-Loring Heights. Upcoming south Minneapolis conferences are set for 8/9 and 9/11; contact Calabria to participate. Ken Strobel, a long-time RJCA volunteer facilitator, explained how community conferences work and gave examples of how attempts are made to take advantage of clients' skills to meet the needs of the neighborhoods. For example, RJCA clients in 2010 helped remove graffiti in the neighborhood and designed new publicity for Block Patrol.</p>	<p>Contact Chanti Calabria 746-0784 CCalabria@rjca-inc.org</p> <p>RJCA web site</p>
<p>Block Patrol report – Arlene Storandt</p>	<p>Arlene Storandt reported that, from 5/27 to 6/23, 12 Block Patrol volunteers participated in 16 shifts, contributing a total of 62 hours.</p> <p>The committee decided to form a small group to plan a celebration of Block Patrol's 20th anniversary in August. The group will sort through the ideas put forward and make a decision about how to proceed. Contact the Safety coordinator to participate.</p>	<p>Contact SSCO to join Block Patrol. Application and guidelines are at the SSCO web site.</p>
<p>Coordinator report – Dave Delvoye</p>	<p>In response to the Safety committee's request, the Neighborhood Development committee asked staff to explore funding sources for a mural or green wall project, possibly through the Clean City graffiti prevention micro-grant program. The proposed budget for the project would be \$5,000, with a maximum of \$1,000 allocated per mural or green wall. No building owners will be approached regarding the project until funding is in place.</p> <p>There was a discussion about graffiti issues, including removing or painting over graffiti on "adopted" trash containers supplied by the city and reporting graffiti on buildings to 311 online and including documentation (such as a photo) and an estimate of the cost to repair the damage. The graffiti clean-up project has not yet been rescheduled.</p>	

The Board asked the committee to consider expanding the guidelines of the [Building Safety Improvement program](#) to include funding the purchase of surveillance cameras. The Board suggested a maximum of \$500 in matching funds (instead of the current \$1,000) per project. The program, which has focused on lighting and fence improvements, received \$15,000 in NRP Phase 2 funding, of which \$7,900 is still available. Copies of the program guidelines were distributed. There was disagreement about the maximum funding per project. There were suggestions to include certain technical requirements (such as a minimal level of camera resolution or clarity) in the guidelines; to require that a participant seek quotes from at least five vendors; to determine whether to offer the matching grants to both residential and commercial properties; and to require grant recipients to maintain the camera(s). Chelsea Adams offered to send information to staff about sources for surveillance cameras. Due to the lack of agreement, the number of suggestions, and insufficient time to make any decisions, the committee tabled the matter until its 7/28 meeting. In the meantime, staff will meet with the committee co-chairs and any interested Board members to write a draft proposal to present next month.

A community member closed the meeting with humorous stories about a theft during a snowstorm of a motor vehicle containing two dogs and a late night encounter in a public place with a nude male brandishing swords.

Meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Meeting minutes prepared by Dave Delvoye.