

Ideas generated during Safety committee brainstorming sessions

Block Patrol

- Work with the Community Engagement committee to revive the historic walking tours of the neighborhood.
- Recruit someone with knowledge of the neighborhood's history to lead educational walks or make presentations.
- Participate in the Community Engagement committee's "pop-up events".
- Organize a "traveling block party" like the Kingfield neighborhood group does, bringing a tent, table, banner, snacks, information, and even presentations or entertainment to different areas of the neighborhood where participation in SSCO activities is low.
- Invite Plymouth Church members to participate in Block Patrol after weekend services.
- Use video-posting web sites to document and promote Block Patrol's activities.
- Promote Block Patrol by featuring a "doggie cam" to record patrols from the canine perspective and then post the videos online.

meetings

- Promote the committee's monthly meeting as a "Community Safety Meeting". There may be some confusion as to whether the meeting is only open to "committee members" or to everyone in the community.
- Come up with special topics for meetings which might appeal to more community members.
- Post the meeting agenda in the neighborhood and online to invite community members to attend and to make it clear that everyone is welcome to participate.
- Make it clear that it's okay for attendees to come late or leave early for the meetings, depending on their schedules.
- Invite City Council Member Warsame and Police Chief Harteau to attend a community meeting, perhaps something similar to an SSCO quarterly meeting.

publicity and recruiting

- Post laminated copies of the SSCO community standards of behavior at all apartment and condo buildings in the neighborhood.
- Target outreach efforts at former volunteers who are no longer able to participate due to health or mobility issues.
- Regarding web site content, feature profiles of neighborhood volunteers and staff as a way to appeal to others in the neighborhood.
- Help the 5th Precinct recruit more block and building leaders in the neighborhood.
- The 5th Precinct could provide block leader and other information to rental property owners to distribute to residents.

events

- Franklin Nicollet Liquor would be willing to sponsor a wine tasting event with another local business (such as The Nicollet) and SSCO as a way to introduce new people to the organization. This could be done on a small scale with a low budget, via the sale of reasonably priced tickets, if a venue with a license to serve wine would participate. It could be a fundraiser or simply a social gathering.
- Plymouth Church might have space available – the parking lot and meeting rooms inside the building – during Sunday afternoons in the summer for community events and gatherings.
- Minnesota Teen Challenge offered to help with – and participate in – any events organized to showcase local music or talent.
- Bring neighbors together by organizing musical entertainment in public spaces, such as recruiting a jazz musician to play or inviting local musicians to participate in a jam session.
- Promote events inviting neighborhood entertainers, musicians, dancers (hula hoops), artists, etc. to come out to the park or other public space and share their talents with others.
- Organize picnics in the park.
- Find out if SSCO needs a Park Board permit to bring any additional entertainment to the park and how to prevent noise ordinance violations if music is featured.
- Purchase a popcorn machine to replace the old one which no longer works.
- Invite a food truck and/or an ice cream truck to stop at the park on summer weekends.
- Bring food truck(s) to Cinema & Civics in the park.
- Bring a “pedal pub” to the neighborhood.
- Invite residents whose homes have front porches to sponsor get-togethers with neighbors, perhaps inviting special guests and posting yard signs to promote the events.
- Organize a reunion of law enforcement partners and neighborhood volunteers, including those who are currently active and those who have retired or moved away.
- Start an “Artists in Storefronts” program like that of the Whittier Alliance to display local artwork in the windows of vacant businesses and other ask businesses to do the same if possible.
- Organize a beauty pageant for dogs, like the one that used to be part of the Fall Harvest Festival.