

Community Safety meeting minutes – March 27, 2014, 6:00 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave.



Present: Ken Strobel and Michele McGaughey, co-chairs; Anne Forsyth-Gillette, Hennepin County Neighborhood Probation; Chelsea Adams, Scott Watry, Christine Patino, Minneapolis Police department; Jennifer Saunders, City Attorney’s Office; Tracy Fuller, Minnesota Teen Challenge; Malcolm Williams, Plymouth Congregational Church; Dave Hautman, Franklin Nicollet Liquor; Julian Gray, Fades of Gray; Amanda Hilligoss, Arlene Storandt, Howard Penas, Jill Ferguson, Jerry Paulson, and safety coordinator Dave Delvoe ([dave\\_ssc@yahoo.com](mailto:dave_ssc@yahoo.com) or 874-2840)

**Note: A sheet with some of the information presented at this meeting is available from SSCO on request. Contact the safety coordinator at [dave\\_ssc@yahoo.com](mailto:dave_ssc@yahoo.com) or 874-2840.**

Agenda item	Notes/decisions	Follow up
Announcements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ SSCO’s Community Engagement committee meets on 4/8 at 6:30 p.m. at The Nicollet coffee shop, 1931 Nicollet Ave. The meeting will feature a discussion of how Block Patrol can work more closely with that committee to:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ organize special walks, events, and other community outreach projects;</li> <li>○ define its role at existing events such as Cinema &amp; Civics and Red Hot Art, including ways to interact with attendees;</li> <li>○ improve and expand its approach to publicity and recruiting.</li> </ul>                             Everyone is invited to attend and participate.                         </li> <li>▪ SSCO’s annual meeting is coming up in June – date to be announced. Candidates will be elected to a number of positions on the Board of Directors. All neighborhood residents and business and property owners are invited to attend.</li> </ul>	Next Community Safety meeting: Thursday, 4/24, at 6 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave.
Updates from law enforcement partners – 5 <sup>th</sup> Precinct CPS Chelsea Adams, Officers Scott Watry and Christine Patino, Community Attorney Jennifer Saunders, Probation Officer Anne Forsyth-Gillette	<p>Scott Watry and Christine Patino reported that the warmer weather has led to a visible increase in foot traffic in the neighborhood and that there have been a few more arrests for alcohol-related offenses. There have been a number of arrests for shoplifting at CVS, 2001 Nicollet Ave. Residents should take precautions to prevent <a href="#">bike thefts</a> and <a href="#">burglaries</a> of unlocked or open garages, which are on the rise.</p> <p><u>Presentation</u> by Chelsea Adams: 1) A list and map of Part 1 crimes reported in the neighborhood during the past month showed two violent crimes – one of which involved a suspect known to the victim – on LaSalle Ave/Blaisdell Ave. One burglary was reported, and a report of a motor vehicle theft turned out to be a vehicle which had been impounded due to a parking issue. Beat officers arrested a juvenile male for theft at CVS, recovered the merchandise, and released him to his mother. 2) Winter <a href="#">parking restrictions</a> in the neighborhood were lifted today. 3) Information about how to become a <a href="#">block leader</a> and what resources one receives as a result. 4) Copies of the updated 5<sup>th</sup> Precinct resource list and ways to stay informed about what’s happening in the area via the <a href="#">e-alert</a> system, <a href="#">5<sup>th</sup> Precinct e-newsletter</a>, MPD <a href="#">interactive crime map</a>, and MPD’s <a href="#">Facebook</a> page and <a href="#">Twitter</a> account. There is no further information available regarding the thefts from motor vehicles in February in the underground parking garage at the Franklin Lofts condos, 111 East Franklin Ave.</p> <p>SSCO staff reported that violent crime in the neighborhood during January and February dropped 60% compared to last year. Burglary declined 80% and motor vehicle theft was down 33%.</p>	<p>Chelsea.Adams@Minneapolismn.gov 673-2819</p> <p><a href="#">Crime Prevention Resources</a></p> <p><a href="#">911 / 311 information</a></p> <p><a href="#">CRT</a> line (to report suspected drug and prostitution activity at specific addresses or locations): 673-5716</p>

	<p>Adams made a presentation at the Minneapolis <a href="#">Community Connections conference</a> on 3/22 about the success of SSCO's Safety committee and Block Patrol in partnering with law enforcement to reduce livability crime in the neighborhood. SSCO serves as an example of how a community organization which focuses on identifying and solving problems can make a significant difference in improving a neighborhood's quality of life.</p> <p><u>Announcement:</u> The annual 5<sup>th</sup> Precinct open house at 3101 Nicollet Ave is set for 5/13 from 5 to 7 p.m. It's a fun opportunity to learn about MPD and meet the officers and other staff who serve the neighborhood. Free refreshments will be served.</p> <p><u>Presentation</u> by Jennifer Saunders: <a href="#">5<sup>th</sup> Precinct CLEAN list</a>. One individual on the list was civilly committed to a locked facility after being found chemically dependent and mentally incompetent. Two others were convicted and sentenced for assaulting police officers in separate incidents. The last of 23 defendants charged with felony drug sales to undercover officers along Franklin Ave in the neighborhood in 2011 and 2012 was convicted and sentenced.</p>	<p>Jennifer.Saunders@Minneapolismn.gov 673-5402</p>
<p>Neighborhood-related safety ideas and concerns</p>	<p><u>Community concern</u> Drug-related loitering and traffic in the Clinton sector (3<sup>rd</sup> Ave to 4<sup>th</sup> Ave, I-94 to Franklin Ave), especially at 19<sup>th</sup> &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup>. There are reports of suspicious traffic at two addresses in this area, one at an apartment building on the 1800 block of 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave, the other at a townhome on the 300 block of East 18<sup>th</sup> St. Two drug-related arrests occurred in the area in the past month; there had been none during the previous four months. One involved a person in possession of drug paraphernalia with a felony warrant for drug possession, the other involved a person arrested for burglary and possession of burglary tools at an apartment building who was also charged with felony drug possession. There were no violent or other property crimes reported in the area. Arrests for drug offenses this year in the area from Lyndale Ave to 4<sup>th</sup> Ave, I-94 to 24<sup>th</sup> St, are down 10% compared to last year.</p> <p><u>Community concern</u> Illegal consumption of alcohol in the neighborhood. Arrests for these offenses this year in the area from Lyndale Ave to 4<sup>th</sup> Ave, I-94 to 24<sup>th</sup> St, are down 29.5% compared to last year.</p> <p>Total arrests this year for alcohol, narcotics, and prostitution offenses in this area are down 25% compared to last year. There were no police reports in Loring Heights during the past month and no police reports in Stevens Square Park this year.</p> <p><u>Community concerns</u> Complaints this past month have revolved around 1) the winter parking restrictions which had been in effect in the neighborhood since the beginning of February and 2) the large quantity of <a href="#">dog waste</a> which has accumulated on sidewalks, boulevards, and lawns over the winter, making walking treacherous in many parts of the neighborhood, including commercial areas. There was a discussion about past efforts to reduce or eliminate this problem, all of which failed. Many residential property owners in the neighborhood provide free waste pick-up bags to residents and post notices reminding pet owners to pick up the waste. Peer pressure among dog owners has not significantly reduced the problem. Calls to <a href="#">Animal Control</a> via 311 appear to have had little or no effect. A business owner recently confronted a dog owner on Nicollet Ave who did not pick up the dog's waste on the sidewalk in front of the business. It turned out that the dog owner had a bag but couldn't be bothered to use it.</p>	
<p>Community</p>	<p><u>Presentation</u> by staff: Progress report on the <a href="#">Community Safety plan</a> (the strategies approved by the committee for the SSCO strategic plan last month). 1) The program evaluation of Block Patrol is under way and should be completed by</p>	

Safety plan:  
progress report  
and ideas for  
next steps

the 5/22 Safety meeting. Due to limits on the scope and time for the project, the evaluation will not include the Safety committee. 2) See the announcement above regarding the 4/8 Community Engagement meeting. 3) The Block Patrol door-knocking project, in collaboration with Community Engagement staff and volunteers, distributed SSCO and MPD information to the doors of 304 apartments in 11 buildings over the past two months. 4) Changes have been made to the format of the Safety meeting agenda, which has been posted on the web site and in certain buildings around the neighborhood and distributed while door-knocking.

The following items were discussed at the 2/27 meeting but have not been implemented yet: 1) Come up with special topics for meetings which might appeal to more community members. 2) Make it clear that it's okay for attendees to come late or leave early for the meetings, depending on their schedules. 3) Use video-posting web sites to document and promote Block Patrol's activities. 4) Post laminated copies of the SSCO community standards of behavior at all apartment and condo buildings in the neighborhood. 5) Work with the Community Engagement committee to revive the historic walking tours of the neighborhood.

The committee will present a progress report on the plan and continue to develop new ideas for implementing it at every meeting. This will be an ongoing discussion designed to solicit new ideas and participation and to hold the committee accountable for carrying out the plan.

Brainstorming session All meeting attendees shared additional ideas for achieving the strategies in the plan, including:

- Invite City Council Member Warsame and Police Chief Harteau to attend a community meeting, perhaps something similar to an SSCO quarterly meeting.
- 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.
- 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.
- Organize a beauty pageant for dogs, like the one that used to be part of the Fall Harvest Festival.
- 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.
- 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.
- Minnesota Teen Challenge offered to help with – and participate in – any events organized to showcase local music or talent.
- 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.
- Organize picnics in the park.
- Recruit someone with knowledge of the [neighborhood's history](#) to lead educational walks or make presentations.
- 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.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Target outreach efforts at former volunteers who are no longer able to participate due to health or mobility issues.</li> <li>▪ Invite a food truck and/or an ice cream truck to stop at the park on summer weekends.</li> <li>▪ Bring food truck(s) to Cinema &amp; Civics in the park.</li> <li>▪ Purchase a popcorn machine to replace the old one which no longer works.</li> <li>▪ Bring a “pedal pub” to the neighborhood.</li> <li>▪ Regarding web site content, feature profiles of neighborhood volunteers and staff as a way to appeal to others in the neighborhood.</li> <li>▪ Organize a reunion of law enforcement partners and neighborhood volunteers, including those who are currently active and those who have retired or moved away.</li> <li>▪ Promote Block Patrol by featuring a “doggie cam” to record patrols from the canine perspective and then post the videos online.</li> <li>▪ 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.</li> <li>▪ Invite Plymouth Church members to participate in Block Patrol after weekend services.</li> <li>▪ The 5<sup>th</sup> Precinct could provide block leader and other information to rental property owners to distribute to residents.</li> <li>▪ Start an “<a href="#">Artists in Storefronts</a>” program like that of the <a href="#">Whittier Alliance</a> to display local artwork in the windows of vacant businesses and other ask businesses to do the same if possible.</li> </ul> <p><u>Next steps</u> At the 4/24 meeting, the committee will start taking a look at all the new ideas and determine which ones fit the Community Safety plan, have broad support, and can be implemented this year. The event-related ideas will be shared with the Community Engagement committee.</p>	
<p>Block Patrol news – Ken Strobel</p>	<p><u>Presentation</u> by Ken Strobel: From 2/28 to 3/27, 8 Block Patrol volunteers participated in 20 shifts, contributing 48 hours. One new volunteer joined Block Patrol. Block Patrol teams, volunteers and staff from the Community Engagement committee, and a block leader door-knocked 205 apartments in 7 buildings, spoke with the residents of 69 units (33%), signed up 29 residents for the SSCO e-mail list, and handed out 8 Block Patrol applications.</p> <p>Throughout the month, Block Patrol teams conducted surveillance at several addresses where there have been complaints about suspicious traffic and possible drug dealing. Block Patrol teams received information from residents about a business which closed on Nicollet Ave; spoke with the owner of a neighborhood coffee shop several times about plans to increase business in the evening; spoke with the neighborhood probation officers on the street and spent time with CPS Chelsea Adams who was following up regarding the theft of a tip jar from a neighborhood business; reported three street lights out; reported graffiti on the wall of a residential facility and on a controller box; reported overflowing dumpsters outside an apartment building; reported a Metro Transit bus shelter filled with trash and litter; and received thanks and compliments from two residents, one of whom said that he personally feels that the neighborhood is safer with Block Patrol around.</p>	<p><a href="#">Application and guidelines</a> are at the SSCO web site.</p>

Meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Meeting minutes prepared by Dave Delvoye.