

Stevens Square Community Organization

(612) 874-2840

<http://www.sscoweb.org>



Safety Committee minutes – April 22, 2010, 6:00 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave.

Present: Ken Strobel, co-chair; Bobbi Harrington and Jean Schwalen, Hennepin County Community Probation; Michael Friestleben, Geoff Johnson, and Chelsea Adams, Minneapolis Police 5th Precinct; Chris Dixon, City Attorney’s office; Rob Helmerichs, Rand Management; Arlene Storandt, Richard Kotlarz, Judy Austin, Jerry Paulson, Charles Rosensteel, Aaron Szczech, Ray Perry, Bryan Anderson, Howard Penas, and SSCO safety coordinator Dave Delvoye (dave_ssc@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 info	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Staff distributed information about the Art of Recovery exhibit (4/16 to 6/30 at the State Arts Board, Park Square Court, 400 Sibley St, St Paul) sponsored by the Department of Public Safety’s Office of Justice Programs and the State Arts Board, including an essay by neighborhood resident Trish Brock. The exhibit features work by crime victims who “have used art as a means to respond, explore, express, or heal.” http://www.arts.state.mn.us/aor/2010/▪ SSCO annual meeting, 6/12, 10 a.m., Plymouth Church, 1900 Nicollet Ave.▪ Cinema & Civics in Stevens Square Park, every Wednesday evening from 6/16 to 7/21. http://www.cinemaandcivics.org/site_10/▪ Red Hot Art festival in Stevens Square Park, 7/31 & 8/1. http://redhotart.org/	Next Safety committee meeting: Thursday, 5/27, at 6 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave.

<p>Community Probation report – Probation Officers Bobbi Harrington and Jean Schwalen</p>	<p>Bobbi Harrington asked that anyone who sees chronic offender Darryl Brooks prior to his court appearance on 5/13/10 please contact her. Brooks was released to an outstate treatment center in lieu of bail on a 2/19/10 public urination and disorderly conduct case at 2120 Nicollet Ave but no one was assigned by the court to monitor his whereabouts. There is reason to believe that he is in the area. Harrington is supervising Lynn Love (on probation for a 10/9/09 disorderly conduct incident at 18th & Nicollet) who is restricted from the area from LaSalle Ave/ Blaisdell Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to 24th St, except when she has an appointment with Harrington. Other clients include CLEAN sheet offenders Joseph Conklin (in jail for a probation violation on a criminal damage to property case) and James Leonard Jackson a.k.a. Beard (in custody in Anoka County until 6/30/10 with an additional 15 Minneapolis and 10 suburban cases pending).</p> <p>Jean Schwalen reported on the status of her CLEAN sheet clients. Judy Peters has an arrest and detention warrant for 4th degree assault of a police officer from 9/29/09. Jessica Matt violated her conditions of release on a 1/14/10 prostitution case and was sentenced to 180 days in the workhouse on a probation revocation. Kenneth Nickaboine has completed his recent sentence and is no longer on probation.</p>	<p>Contact info:</p> <p>Bobbi.Harrington@co.hennepin.mn.us 879-8075</p> <p>Jean.C.Schwalen@co.hennepin.mn.us 879-8212</p>
<p>Community Prosecutor report – Assistant City Attorney Chris Dixon</p>	<p>Chris Dixon distributed copies of the 5th Precinct CLEAN sheet, which is at http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/about/docs/Pct5CLEAN.pdf and provided updates on some Stevens Square offenders.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Curtis Batton – In jail pending appearances for violating a no contact order tied to a domestic assault incident on 3/2/10 at Franklin & 3rd and for a felony financial transaction card fraud case. ▪ Walter Bray – In the workhouse until 7/18/10. ▪ Maxim Chance – In jail on \$40,000 bail for a domestic assault case, which was enhanced to a felony due to having two or more prior convictions for domestic assault within three years. ▪ Osbin Davis – Serving 90 days in the workhouse for 5th degree assault at 2001 Nicollet Ave, CVS Pharmacy, on 4/9/10. Any further assaults will be charged as felonies. ▪ William Ernst – Ordered to report to the workhouse on 5/4/10, goes to court on 5/10/10 for a felony assault charge. ▪ Anthony Ford – Disorderly conduct case pending out of Brooklyn Center. ▪ Tammie Houle – Ordered to report regularly to Mental Health court, will probably be removed from the CLEAN sheet if she continues to succeed on probation. ▪ Ronald King – Conditionally released from the workhouse on 3/31/10, then arrested for violating his geographic restriction from the area of LaSalle Ave/Blaisdell Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to 24th St, on 3/31/10 and again on 4/1/10. Goes to court on 4/23. The prosecutor is pushing for King to serve 90 days in the workhouse, which is the consequence imposed at sentencing for violating this condition of release. ▪ Randy McNellis – In jail pending a 4/23 hearing on a 3/26/10 trespassing case at 1820 Stevens Ave plus a public urination case. ▪ Walter Weyaus – In the workhouse until 5/17/10 on a consuming alcohol in public case from 4/9/10 at 1801 LaSalle Ave. 	<p>Contact info:</p> <p>Christopher.Dixon@ci.minneapolis.mn.us 673-5402</p>

<p>Priority concerns, hot spots, chronic offenders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stevens Square Park, 1801 Stevens Ave – Police report no sign of any organized, suspicious activity in or around the park. Except for a few alcohol-related offenses, the park has been quiet. 5th Precinct and Park police have focused on the area. Park staff is looking into possible lighting improvements. ▪ 19th & 3rd – Police report that no further gang-related incidents have occurred in the area. ▪ 1811 Clinton Ave – There is a report of suspicious activity at this address. <p>SSCO’s monthly chronic offender update featured cases involving:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Curtis Batton: 3/2/10 domestic assault at Franklin & 3rd. ▪ Osbin Davis: 4/9/10 5th degree assault at 2001 Nicollet Ave. ▪ William Ernst: 1/9/10 trespassing at 1804 Nicollet Ave. ▪ Inez Green: 9/13/09 5th degree felony possession of a controlled substance at Franklin & Nicollet. ▪ Tammie Houle: 7/24/07 trespassing at 203 East 19th St; 8/8/07 loitering with intent to commit prostitution at Franklin & Clinton; 8/21/07 prostitution at 22nd & Nicollet; 11/15/07 prostitution at Franklin & Nicollet; 1/7/08 loitering with intent to commit prostitution and consuming alcohol in public at Franklin & 4th; 11/11/08 loitering with intent to commit prostitution at Franklin & 4th; 4/1/09 criminal contempt of court at 1814 Nicollet Ave. ▪ Frank Keezer: 4/9/10 consuming alcohol in public and trespassing at 1801 LaSalle Ave. ▪ Lynn Love: 10/9/09 disorderly conduct at 18th & Nicollet. ▪ Jessica Matt: 1/14/10 prostitution at Franklin & 4th. ▪ Walter Weyaus Sr: 4/9/10 consuming alcohol in public and trespassing at 1801 LaSalle Ave. 	<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 and mugshots of the offenders.</p>
<p>Block Patrol report – Arlene Storandt</p>	<p>From 3/26 to 4/22, 11 Block Patrol volunteers participated in 18 shifts, contributing a total of 66 hours. Three shifts were cancelled.</p> <p>The Block Patrol guidelines and application are at http://www.sscoweb.org/What_We_Do/Community_Safety/Block_Patrol/</p>	<p>Contact SSCO to join Block Patrol.</p>

<p>Coordinator report – Dave Delvoye</p>	<p>On 4/6, a small group of committee members met to update and rewrite the committee’s statement about community safety for the new SSCO web site. Copies of the document were distributed and members were encouraged to contact staff with any further suggestions for changes. The document is at http://www.sscoweb.org/What_We_Do/Community_Safety/</p> <p>Staff reported on an idea brought up at the 4/15 Board meeting to try to get restraining orders on behalf of the neighborhood against the top offenders who are arrested most frequently here, such as a certain offender who has been arrested 37 times in the area in the past six years. This might be another way – in addition to court-ordered geographic restrictions – to keep the offenders who cause the most harm out of the area. Currently, there are three chronic offenders restricted from the area by court order, two of whom are in custody for violating the restriction. Many chronic offenders opt for straight pleas at sentencing with the aim of serving their time and avoiding conditional release. Two Board members listed some of the key points of discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Is there any legal precedent for this approach? ▪ Can a restraining order be issued to protect a geographic area, as opposed to protecting specific individual(s)? ▪ If there is interest, how would SSCO approach and frame the issue? ▪ Would this in any way be interpreted as an attempt to discriminate against certain persons for reasons prohibited by law? ▪ Would pursuing this without reasonable hope of success put undue pressure on an already taxed court system? <p>Dixon reported that he had looked into the suggestion at staff’s request and could find no legal precedents for such an approach anywhere in the country. Restraining orders – which are civil, not criminal, court actions – are typically issued by courts to protect persons, businesses, or specific properties, but not the population of large geographic areas such as neighborhoods. An attempt to impose such a restraining order could raise serious constitutional issues and could involve a costly uphill battle likely to attract the attention of civil liberties groups. Two committee members expressed opposition to the idea on the grounds that it would infringe on a number of civil rights and would be a contentious issue within the neighborhood, probably not gaining the support of most residents. No one spoke in favor of the idea.</p>	
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Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Meeting minutes prepared by Dave Delvoye.