

Community Safety meeting minutes – April 24, 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, Christine Patino, Jonahs Novak, Kurt Schoonover, Rob Illetschko, and Scott Watry, Minneapolis Police department; Tracy Fuller, Minnesota Teen Challenge; Rob Helmerichs, Rand Management; Dave Hautman, Franklin Nicollet Liquor; Amanda Hilligoss, Jill Ferguson, Paul Soderquist, Jerry Paulson, and SSCO staff John Louis and Dave Delvoje (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 or 874-2840.

Agenda item	Notes/decisions	Follow up
Announcements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Preliminary designs for new playground equipment at Stevens Square Park were displayed and passed around. Park staff will present final design options at Cinema & Civics in Stevens Square Park on 6/4 and community members will have an opportunity to express their preferences. The designs are available for viewing at SSCO's office. If unable to attend on 6/4, please send comments to SSCO staff and they will be included in the public record. The project will also include an upgrade of the electrical system in the park.▪ Cinema & Civics in Stevens Square Park is set for every Wednesday evening in June.▪ The Red Hot Art festival in Stevens Square Park is set for 7/26 and 7/27.▪ Clean Sweep is scheduled for 5/3, 10 a.m. to noon, meet in Stevens Square Park.▪ Ward 6 City Council Member Abdi Warsame has agreed to attend the SSCO Neighborhood Development meeting on 5/6, 6 p.m., at 1925 Nicollet Ave. Community members are encouraged to attend and participate.▪ Minneapolis Police 5th Precinct Open House is set for 5/13, 5 to 7 p.m., at the precinct, 3101 Nicollet Ave. This is an opportunity to learn about the Police department and meet the officers and other staff who work in the neighborhood. Free food and entertainment will be provided; everyone is invited to attend.▪ The results of the program evaluation of Block Patrol will be presented at the Community Safety meeting on 5/22.▪ On 4/18, a judge granted SSCO a new two-year harassment restraining order against Brandon Lee Cloud ordering him to stay away from 1925 Nicollet Ave, stay out of the Stevens Square – Loring Heights neighborhood, and have no contact with Block Patrol teams. Thanks to SSCO Board member Karen Ives for help in preparing and filing the petition, to the neighborhood day beat officers for arresting Cloud twice last year for violating the previous restraining order, and to Community Attorney Jennifer Saunders for charging Cloud with those offenses.▪ The SSCO Board has enacted a new term limit policy for committee co-chairs: each committee shall elect one co-chair every year to ensure that there is an experienced co-chair of at least one year; any co-chair may be elected a maximum one two-year term (max of two consecutive years) to ensure that new leadership is brought forward; and there is a procedure in place in case there are no viable candidates who wish to serve as a co-chair. In order to put this new policy into effect, this July each committee will elect one co-chair to serve a one-year term and another to serve a two-year term.▪ SSCO's annual neighborhood meeting is set for 6/14 at a location yet to be determined. The agenda includes election of candidates to various Board positions and updates from all committees. Public officials are often in attendance to present information and answer questions.	Next Community Safety meeting: Thursday, 5/22, at 6 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave.

<p>Updates from law enforcement partners – 5th Precinct CPS Chelsea Adams and Officers Christine Patino, Jonahs Novak, Kurt Schoonover, Rob Illetschko, Scott Watry; Probation Officer Anne Forsyth- Gillette</p>	<p><u>Community concerns:</u> There was a question about an incident at Net Market, 1845 Nicollet Ave, in which three shots were fired into the market's windows, narrowly missing an employee and a customer. Chelsea Adams reported that on 4/14, at 8:35 p.m., officers responded to Groveland & Nicollet regarding shots fired. The incident is under investigation and no further public information is available at this time. If the affected business does not replace the broken windows within a reasonable amount of time, report it to Licensing via 311.</p> <p>There were questions about an incident of thefts from motor vehicles several months ago in the parking garage at Franklin Lofts, 111 East Franklin Ave, and about an incident within the past month in which undercover officers held someone at gunpoint at 19th & 3rd. There was no further information available about the thefts and Adams requested more information about the date and time of the incident at 19th & 3rd, which does not appear in the list of police reports compiled for the area in the past month.</p> <p><u>Presentation</u> by Chelsea Adams: A list and map of Part 1 crimes reported in the neighborhood during the past month showed two robberies, two aggravated assaults (including the one detailed above), one sexual assault (involving a suspect known to the victim), one home burglary (suspect scared off, no loss reported), and two thefts at CVS, 2001 Nicollet Ave, which resulted in arrests.</p> <p>SSCO staff reported that, from January through March, violent crime in the neighborhood dropped 37% compared to last year and burglary reports were down 78%.</p> <p><u>Presentation</u> by staff: Community Attorney Jennifer Saunders was unable to attend the meeting but provided a written update regarding the 5th Precinct CLEAN list. SSCO submitted a community impact statement to the court regarding Ahmed Abdi Hired, who is on the list. Day beat officers arrested Hired recently for trespassing and open bottle at LaSalle Community Gardens. Hired has been arrested in the area 19 times in the past four years. SSCO asked the court to sentence Hired to serve the maximum amount of time in custody if convicted and to restrict him from the area from I-94 to 28th St, LaSalle Ave/Blaisdell Ave to 4th Ave, if he is conditionally released.</p> <p><u>Discussion:</u> Community members emphasized the importance of reminding neighbors to be vigilant when using smart phones, tablets, and laptop computers in public. Thefts of these items continue to be a problem throughout the city. There was also a discussion about letting residents know that the neighborhood continues to get safer: the more people who get involved in watching out for others, the more positive the effect will be on the entire community.</p>	<p>Chelsea.Adams@Minneapolismn.gov 673-2819</p> <p>Crime Prevention Resources</p> <p>911 / 311 information</p> <p>CRT line (to report suspected drug and prostitution activity at specific addresses or locations): 673-5716</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 (3rd Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to Franklin Ave), especially at 19th & 3rd. There are ongoing reports of suspicious traffic at two addresses in this area: an apartment building on the 1800 block of 3rd Ave and a townhouse on the 300 block of East 18th St. Police are working to resolve the problems. There were three felony drug arrests in the area in the past month, all as a result of vehicle stops by police. One violent crime was reported (an early-morning robbery at knifepoint near 18th & 3rd) and one attempted home burglary occurred (on the 1900 block of 3rd Ave). Arrests for drug offenses this year in the larger area from Lyndale Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to 24th St, are down 28% compared to 2013.</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 4th Ave, I-94 to 24th St, are down 8% compared to 2013.</p>	

	<p>Total arrests this year for alcohol, narcotics, and prostitution offenses in this area are down 19% compared to 2013. There were no police reports in Loring Heights during the past two months and no police reports in Stevens Square Park this year.</p> <p><u>Community concern:</u> There were complaints about dangerous potholes in streets in the neighborhood and throughout the city. City crews have been working to fill potholes along Franklin Ave and Nicollet Ave, but the extent of the problem can make it difficult for the City to catch up on repairs. Notify 311 – via phone, web site, or smart phone app – of dangerous potholes. There was a suggestion to ask 311 staff to attend a neighborhood meeting to help educate citizens about how to effectively use the services 311 provides. Staff will check with the Neighborhood Activities Group to find out if there might be widespread interest in this topic.</p>	
<p>Block Patrol news – Ken Strobel</p>	<p><u>Presentation</u> by Ken Strobel: From 3/28 to 4/24, 9 Block Patrol volunteers participated in 21 shifts, contributing 45 hours. 4 Block Patrol volunteers attended the Neighborhood Activities Group meeting on 4/8. Probation Officer Anne Forsyth-Gillette accompanied a Block Patrol team on 4/3.</p> <p>During the past month, Block Patrol teams: conducted frequent surveillance at several addresses where there have been complaints about suspicious traffic and possible drug dealing; disposed of drug paraphernalia found in an alley; gave SSCO information to new neighborhood residents; called the neighborhood beat officers to deal with an intoxicated male drinking liquor at a bus stop; received thanks and compliments from a half dozen neighborhood residents; checked dumpsters and street lights; gave directions to a person looking for an address in another part of the city; helped two people find contact information for the management company of an apartment building; spoke with the owner and staff of a neighborhood market and examined three bullet holes in the store's windows; handed out two Block Patrol applications and numerous copies of the group's promotional material; saw the neighborhood beat officers take a male into custody near the park; moved three mattresses – which had fallen off a truck – out of traffic lanes and onto the sidewalk at Franklin & Nicollet; and spoke with the owners of three neighborhood coffee shops, the caretakers of two apartment buildings, crime prevention leaders of the neighborhood's Public Housing high rises, a teacher from a neighborhood school, the new manager of three apartment buildings near the park, a mother and daughter who were interested in community events, two organizers of Plymouth Church's annual "Night on the Streets" fundraiser, volunteers at the Groveland Food Shelf, a former organizer for the Whittier Alliance, a former Ward 6 City Council member, Family Dollar store job applicants at the Mall Center, and the neighborhood beat officers and probation officers.</p>	<p>Join Block Patrol – it's an easy and fun way to get to know people in your neighborhood and find out what's happening here. Contact: dave_ssc@yahoo.com or Dave at 874-2840</p> <p>Application and guidelines are at the SSCO web site.</p>
<p>Community Safety plan: progress report and ideas for next steps</p>	<p><u>Presentation</u> by staff: Progress report on the Community Safety plan (the strategies approved by the committee for the SSCO strategic plan). 1) The program evaluation of Block Patrol should be completed by early May and will be presented at the Community Safety meeting on 5/22. 2) Brainstorming ideas from past meetings have been compiled and made available. 3) Meeting notices are being posted online and in residential buildings and sent via e-mail and in mailings in an effort to reach more community members every month; 4) Community Safety and Block Patrol volunteers participated in the 4/8 Neighborhood Activities Group (NAG) meeting to discuss ways to partner and achieve some of Block Patrol's goals.</p> <p><u>Discussion:</u> Those who attended the 4/8 NAG meeting presented some of the ideas which were discussed, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Advertising Block Patrol by forming partnerships with rental property owners and condo associations to distribute publicity to residents and perhaps post a removable vinyl sticker with SSCO's web site and Facebook addresses on 	

windows near the entrances to residential buildings. The new SSCO publicity, developed by NAG, should be available soon.

- Figuring out how Block Patrol could organize small scale, more personal walking tours of the neighborhood for new residents, instead of regularly scheduled tours for large groups of residents.
 - Planning a meet-and-greet event for new residents at Abbott Apartments when the building becomes fully occupied.
 - Organizing formal historic walking tours of the neighborhood; potential tour leader(s) would need to be recruited.
 - Defining Block Patrol's role at Cinema & Civics: it is still unclear and may consist of helping out other volunteers (from NAG, the Board, Minnesota Teen Challenge) with various tasks. A number of new ideas regarding concessions and outreach have emerged.
 - Allowing Block Patrol adequate lead time in order to schedule its participation in any upcoming community events.
- There was consensus that it was good for these groups – Block Patrol, Community Safety, and Neighborhood Activities – to continue to talk and work together for the benefit of the neighborhood.

Discussion: The list of [brainstorming ideas](#) from previous meetings was made available. The group discussed:

- Removing or updating the old Stevens Square drug-free zone signs around the neighborhood. There was a suggestion to place stickers containing updated SSCO information over the existing signs. In the past, the City would charge SSCO to remove the signs; now it appears that the City is in the process of "decluttering" its street signage and would probably remove the outdated signs at no charge – Adams provided contact information.
- Holding Community Safety meetings at various outdoor locations during the warm months to attract more attendees. Some potential obstacles related to weather, bugs, acoustics, restroom facilities, and month-to-month confusion about locations were discussed.
- Recruiting volunteers – equipped with brooms, dust pans, and trash bags – to clean up trash and litter in various parts of the neighborhood. Anyone needing to log community service hours could help.

Next steps The group decided to focus on three next steps. 1) providing Block Patrol and block leader recruiting information and new SSCO publicity (perhaps including window stickers, as above) to rental property owners and condo associations for distribution to residents; 2) encouraging community participation in the final recommendations for the design of new playground equipment at Cinema & Civics on 6/4; 3) looking into whether there is interest in organizing a neighborhood-wide presentation by 311 staff.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Meeting minutes prepared by Dave Delvoye.