

Stevens Square Community Organization

(612) 874-2840

<http://www.sscoweb.org>



Safety Committee minutes – June 24, 2010, 6:00 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave.

Present: Michele McGaughey and Ken Strobel, co-chairs; Bobbi Harrington and Jean Schwalen, Hennepin County Community Probation; Jessica Bartholomew and Geoffrey Johnson, Minneapolis Police 5th Precinct; Chris Dixon, City Attorney's office; Malcolm Williams, Plymouth Congregational Church; Rob Helmerichs, Rand Management; Lucy Minn, Lupe Development Partners; Arlene Storandt, Richard Evans, Jerry Paulson, Charles Rosensteel, Ray Perry, Jeanne Krueger, Mary Gunderson, Rochelle Peyton, Eddie Chambers, Wanda Redmond, Aaron Kocher, Aaron Szczech, Allan Elias, and SSCO safety coordinator Dave Delvoe (dave_scco@yahoo.com or 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">▪ Cinema & Civics in Stevens Square Park, every Wednesday at 8 p.m. through 7/21. http://www.sscoweb.org/documents/CinemaandCivicsflyer.pdf▪ SSCO farmers market, 2:00 to 6:30 p.m. every Wednesday starting 7/7 in the Plymouth Church parking lot at Franklin & Nicollet.▪ Red Hot Art festival in Stevens Square Park, 7/31 & 8/1. http://redhotart.org/	Next Safety committee meeting: Thursday, 7/22, at 6 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave.
Community Probation report – Probation Officers Bobbi Harrington and Jean Schwalen	Jean Schwalen reported that four of her clients successfully completed probation this week. Bobbi Harrington reported on the status of several of her clients, including Pamela Beaulieu who is in custody for a probation violation and goes to court on 6/25; Joseph Conklin who is in treatment; James Jackson a.k.a. Beard who is in the workhouse until 8/27/10 thanks to the good work of the City Attorney's office; and Judy Peters who still has an active warrant.	Contact info: Bobbi.Harrington@co.hennepin.mn.us 879-8075 Jean.C.Schwalen@co.hennepin.mn.us 879-8212

<p>Community Prosecutor report – Assistant City Attorney Chris Dixon</p>	<p>Chris Dixon reported that he recently met with Judge Wernick, the head of the Criminal Court in Hennepin County, who agreed to support the City Attorney’s bid to allow police to book chronic alcohol offenders in the jail for misdemeanor consuming alcohol in public and loitering with open bottle. Judge Wernick will bring the proposal by the end of June to the committee which sets policy on bookable offenses. SSCO had asked Dixon to pursue this change in policy and had submitted a letter in support. Dixon prepared a study which showed that chronic alcohol offenders rarely respond to citations and thus generate a large number of bench warrants for failure to appear in court. Reducing the number of bench warrants would be a cost saving measure.</p> <p>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 prison until 5/19/11 for financial transaction card fraud. ▪ Walter Bray – In the workhouse until 7/18/10. ▪ Darryl Brooks – Goes to court on 7/20/10 for a 2/9/10 public urination case at 2120 Nicollet Ave. ▪ Maxim Chance – In jail on \$40,000 bail for a felony domestic assault case which, along with nine other cases, is set for court on 7/19/10. ▪ Osbin Davis – Back in the area since his release from the workhouse on 6/16/10. ▪ Maurice Giles – Released from custody on 6/14/10. ▪ Larry Harper – No new cases since he was released from the workhouse on 5/27/10. ▪ Ronald King – In the workhouse until 9/17/10. ▪ Rick Martinez – Pled guilty to an open bottle case from 4/30/10, with a loitering with intent to buy or sell narcotics case from 6/1/10 at 1901 Nicollet Ave dismissed. Sentenced to 90 days, 86 days stayed, credit for 4 day served. (Dixon characterized this as a case with a particularly bad outcome.) ▪ Jessica Matt – In the workhouse until 8/25/10. ▪ Randy McNellis – Released from the workhouse on 6/17/10 and arrested the same day, goes to court on 7/2/10. ▪ Kenneth Nickaboine – Goes to court on 6/29/10 for an arrest for consuming alcohol in public at Franklin & Nicollet on 6/15/10. ▪ Maurice Patterson – Sentenced on 6/22/10 to 365 days for trespassing, ordered to serve 90 days. <p>There was a question about enhanced sentences for repeat misdemeanor offenders. There are several instances in which a third conviction for a specific offense can result in a more severe charge and sentence, such as trespassing (from misdemeanor to gross misdemeanor) and domestic assault (from misdemeanor to a gross misdemeanor or felony depending on the circumstances). Laws prohibiting driving while intoxicated also include factors which can enhance the charge or sentence. The city has proposed enhancing sentences in a similar way for other misdemeanors such as loitering with intent to buy or sell narcotics and possession of drug paraphernalia, but the Legislature has not agreed even though such a change would benefit all the cities in the state. Misdemeanor convictions count to a small degree in the sentencing guidelines for felony convictions.</p>	<p>Contact info: Christopher.Dixon@ci.minneapolis.mn.us 673-5402</p>
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<p>Minneapolis Police report – Officers Jessica Bartholomew and Geoffrey Johnson</p>	<p>Geoffrey Johnson, an officer with 5th Precinct CRT (community response team), reported that the team is now working with Drug Court probation on monthly home visits to clients who live in the precinct.</p> <p>There was a question about recent car break-ins in the area, some of which appear to be exploratory in nature to the extent that no item(s) of value were visible in the vehicle. Officers Johnson and Jessica Bartholomew, who is also with CRT, reported that these are often crimes of opportunity in which thieves are looking for specific items which can be sold quickly. Recently there have been a number of thefts from motor vehicles concentrated in the areas around the lakes. http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/crime-prevention/docs/TIPSPREV.pdf</p> <p>5th Precinct information is at http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/about/5th-precinct.asp</p> <p>The Citizens Police Academy will take place at the 5th Precinct, 3101 Nicollet Ave, every Wednesday from 9/28 to 12/8 from 6 to 9 p.m. The application deadline is 8/27. For more information, call Carol Oosterhuis at 673-2874 or visit http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/about/citizens-academy.asp Several committee members who are academy graduates spoke of the benefits of getting to know what it's like to be an officer and how the Police department is organized and operates.</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 5/24/10 to 6/20/10 showed 27 alcohol-related arrests (49 in 2009), 17 narcotics-related arrests (11 in 2009), and 1 prostitution-related arrest (0 in 2009). Year to date, there have been 153 alcohol-related arrests (188 in 2009), 59 narcotics-related arrests (69 in 2009), and 13 prostitution-related arrests (5 in 2009). For the same period, SSCO's Google maps showed 50 police reports for the Nicollet corridor (LaSalle Ave/Blaisdell Ave to 1st Ave, I-94 to 24th St), 21 for the Stevens Square Park area (Stevens Ave to 2nd Ave, 17th St to Franklin Ave) and 17 for the Clinton sector (3rd Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to Franklin Ave). Information in text format is at http://www.sscoweb.org/What_We_Do/Community_Safety/Crime_Information/index.htm</p> <p>A Restorative Justice Community Action client performed two hours of community service on 6/17 removing graffiti in the neighborhood.</p>	<p>Contact info:</p> <p>Chelsea.Adams@ci.minneapolis.mn.us 673-2819</p> <p>Anthony.Diaz@ci.minneapolis.mn.us 673-3137</p> <p>CRT line (to report suspected drug and prostitution activity at specific addresses or locations): 673-5716</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>
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<p>Priority concerns, hot spots, chronic offenders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1800 Stevens Ave – The property manager has hired a private security guard to help resolve problems at this apartment building and to patrol others nearby. ▪ 1816, 1820, 1830 Stevens Ave – The property manager, who was unable to attend the meeting, sent an update on the situation at these buildings which generated recent complaints about drug dealing, loitering, trespassing, and a number of violent crimes: two major arrests in the past month, both offenders are currently in prison; each day the problems are declining and improvements are being made; thanks to police, residents, and other community members who are helping resolve the problems. There were four additional arrests this week thanks to residents calling 911 and quick police response. A number of tenants are being evicted by the end of July. Landscaping improvements are under way. Residents of 1830 Stevens Ave received a notice from Housing Inspections that the owner’s rental license for the building is being revoked and that June 30 is the deadline for filing an appeal. It’s unclear whether the owner has taken action to resolve this matter. ▪ 1900 and 1904 1st Ave – CRT made three drug-related arrests at 1900 1st Ave on 5/27. The manager and caretaker report that the problems in both buildings have been resolved. ▪ Drug dealing at 19th & 1st – There are complaints about street drug dealing at various times on and around this corner. It’s unclear whether the activity is tied to any building(s) nearby. ▪ 1706 2nd Ave – There is a report of suspicious traffic to an apartment in this building. Measures are being taken to resolve the problem. <p>SSCO’s monthly chronic offender update featured cases involving:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maurice Giles: 5/5/10 theft at 1707 3rd Ave; 5/6/10 disorderly conduct and obstructing the legal process at 344 East Franklin Ave. ▪ Inez Green: 9/10/09 prostitution at 19th & 1st. ▪ Michael Jones: 4/2/10 consuming alcohol in public at 17th & 1st; 4/21/10 public urination at 17th & 1st. ▪ Rick Martinez: 6/1/10 loitering with intent to buy or sell narcotics at 1901 Nicollet Ave. ▪ Walter Weyaus Sr: 5/18/10 open bottle at 1900 Nicollet Ave, Plymouth Church. 	<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 5/28 to 6/24, 9 Block Patrol volunteers participated in 15 regular shifts, contributing a total of 47 hours. At least three shifts were cancelled. 8 Block Patrol volunteers participated in Cinema & Civics in Stevens Square Park on 6/16 and 6/23, contributing 40.5 hours. Block Patrol raised \$75.75 by selling soda and water – which was generously donated by CVS Pharmacy – at these events. Volunteers contributed a total of 87.5 hours during this past month. One new volunteer joined Block Patrol.</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>Election of two committee co-chairs for the upcoming year</p>	<p>The coordinator explained the duties and responsibilities of the co-chairs and the election procedures, and conducted the election. There were two candidates for co-chair: Michele McGaughey and Ken Strobel. On a motion by Mary Gunderson, seconded by Jeanne Krueger, the committee suspended the rules and elected Michele McGaughey and Ken Strobel co-chairs by acclamation. The co-chairs will serve a one-year term.</p> <p>The committee discussed how to choose a representative to report to the Board of Directors. The coordinator asked whether the committee wanted to conduct another election, since the person filling this position does not need to be a co-chair. After further discussion, the coordinator asked how many members were interested in this position. Only one person expressed interest: Ken Strobel, who stated that he is already an elected member of the Board and is willing to report on behalf of the Safety committee. On a motion by Mary Gunderson, seconded by Michele McGaughey, the committee chose Ken Strobel to report on its behalf to the Board of Directors.</p> <p>During the question-and-answer periods, a number of suggestions were made by committee members, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Schedule more Block Patrol shifts late at night, especially during “peak hours of activity” on Fridays and Saturdays. ▪ Make it easy for residents to join Block Patrol. ▪ Promote Block Patrol more heavily among SCA residents, who receive a rental rebate for participating. ▪ Distribute welcome packets with information about how to get involved with SSCO. <p>The committee will continue this discussion about recruiting new volunteers at its 7/22 meeting.</p>	<p>Michele McGaughey and Ken Strobel are the committee co-chairs for 2010 – 2011. Ken will report to the Board on behalf of the committee.</p>
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Meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Meeting minutes prepared by Dave Delvoye.