

Stevens Square Community Organization

(612) 874-2840

<http://www.sscoweb.org>

Safety Committee minutes – September 26, 2013, 6:00 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave.



Present: Ken Strobel and Michele McGaughey, co-chairs; Jean Schwalen and Anne Forsyth-Gillette, Hennepin County Community Probation; Rena Dudgeon, Aimee Colegrove, Adam Chard, Rob Illetschko, and Chelsea Adams, Minneapolis Police department; Jennifer Saunders, City Attorney’s Office; Malcolm Williams, Plymouth Church; Trish Brock, Stevens Square Center for the Arts; Dave Hautman, Franklin Nicollet Liquor; Julian Gray, Fades of Gray; Rob Helmerich, Rand Management; Jerry Paulson, Howard Penas, Vicky, and safety coordinator Dave Delvoye (dave_ssc@yahoo.com or 874-2840)

Agenda item	Notes/decisions	Follow up
Announcements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Anne Forsyth-Gillette, the new Stevens Square neighborhood probation officer, introduced herself. The committee welcomed her to the neighborhood. ▪ Stevens Square farmers market is open every Wednesday from 2:00 to 6:30 p.m. in the Plymouth Church parking lot at Franklin & Nicollet. ▪ SSCO's Fall Harvest Festival is set for Saturday, 10/5, from noon to 3 p.m. in Stevens Square Park. ▪ Licensing staff will attend the committee's 10/24 meeting to hear any community concerns about Tibet Kitchen, 1833 Nicollet Ave. The owners of that business have requested changes to the conditions of their license: 1) to drop the requirement that they provide an off-duty police officer from 8 p.m. to midnight on Thursday through Sunday; 2) to extend the closing time from midnight to 2 a.m. The business would still provide an on-site security guard every night of the week. ▪ The committee announced its meeting dates for the rest of 2013: 10/24, 11/21, and 12/19. The committee changed its meeting schedule for November and December due to the upcoming holidays. 	<p>Next Safety committee meeting: Thursday, 10/24, at 6 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave.</p>
<p>Minneapolis Police report – Sgt Rena Dudgeon, Officers Aimee Colegrove, Adam Chard, Rob Illetschko, CPS Chelsea Adams</p>	<p>Crime Prevention Specialist Chelsea Adams distributed copies of a map and list of Part 1 crimes reported in the neighborhood from 8/22 to 9/26. There were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 3 robberies: 8/26, 1:40 p.m., a bomb threat at CVS, 2001 Nicollet Ave; 9/5, 2:40 a.m., at 1801 LaSalle Ave in which two suspects tackled a victim and took his wallet and keys; 9/12, noon, at Franklin & Nicollet in which a male suspect attempted to steal a female victim's purse while she was riding a bike – Thomas Sadler (4/23/70) was arrested and charged with robbery and is in custody on \$40,000 bail plus four warrants pending a 10/15 court date. ▪ 1 theft from person: 9/21, 5 p.m., at 19th & 3rd in which a suspect tried, but failed, to steal a victim's cell phone. ▪ 1 aggravated assault: 9/7, 6:40 p.m., at Franklin & Nicollet in which police responded to a report of a male assaulting another male, although both were gone when police arrived. ▪ 4 aggravated domestic assaults. ▪ 1 motor vehicle theft: 8/24 at Franklin & Nicollet, with keys left in the ignition. ▪ 8 thefts from motor vehicles: 8/24 at 336 East 18th St; 9/2 at 1703 2nd Ave; 9/6 at 17th & 2nd; 9/7 at 1820 1st Ave; 9/8 at 18th & 1st; 9/12 at 343 East 19th St; 9/7 to 9/15 at Groveland & Pillsbury; 9/23 at 19th & 1st. ▪ 12 other incidents of theft. <p>No burglaries were reported.</p> <p>Adams distributed copies of a map showing blocks in the neighborhood which have active block leaders: there are 19 block leaders altogether. 47 people in the neighborhood subscribe to the police crime alert system. Contact Adams</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>for information about becoming a block leader or receiving crime alerts via e-mail. SSCO staff asked the committee if there was interest in asking the 5th Precinct to organize a version of block leader training which could be customized to meet the needs and interests of the neighborhood; this came out of a discussion among Block Patrol leaders. The training could take place after a committee meeting or as separate meetings at various times of day. One person expressed interest. Staff will try to determine whether there is enough interest in the community (perhaps by soliciting opinions via e-mail) to proceed with this idea.</p> <p>The 5th Precinct has organized a presentation about 911 and burglary prevention which is set for 10/22, 6:30 p.m., in the community room at the precinct, 3101 Nicollet Ave. Topics include helpful tips when calling 911, simple steps to prevent burglaries, how property crimes are investigated, and what burglars look for in homes.</p> <p>Sgt Rena Dudgeon reported that the neighborhood beat officers conducted a bait bike detail in the area today. The good news is that no one stole the bike!</p> <p>SSCO made copies available of a list of 23 offenders who have been charged with felonies for selling drugs to night CRT undercover officers along Franklin Ave from August, 2011, to April, 2012. So far, 19 of the 23 cases have been resolved.</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 8/19 to 9/22 showed 34 alcohol-related arrests (40 in 2012), 11 narcotics-related arrests (6 in 2012), and 1 prostitution-related arrest (none in 2012). Year to date, there were 158 alcohol-related arrests (184 in 2012), 59 narcotics-related arrests (61 in 2012), and 2 prostitution-related arrests (1 in 2012). For the period from 8/19 to 9/22, SSCO's Google maps showed 47 police reports for the Nicollet corridor (LaSalle Ave/Blaisdell Ave to 1st Ave, I-94 to 24th St), 6 for the Stevens Square Park area (Stevens Ave to 2nd Ave, 17th St to Franklin Ave), 7 for the Clinton sector (3rd Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to Franklin Ave), and 3 for Loring Heights (Lyndale Ave to Pillsbury Ave, I-94 to Franklin Ave).</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>
<p>Community Prosecutor report – Assistant City Attorney Jennifer Saunders</p>	<p>Jennifer Saunders distributed copies of the 5th Precinct CLEAN list and updated the committee on some of the offenders active in Stevens Square, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Amy Bengtson – on probation for open bottle, trespassing, and disorderly conduct cases until 7/19/14. ▪ Darryl Brooks – on probation for a disorderly conduct case until 2/25/14 and disorderly conduct and littering cases until 8/23/14. ▪ Ellery Charging Thunder – serving 120 days of a 365-day sentence for gross misdemeanor trespassing, furloughed to treatment on 9/20. ▪ Troy Fait – on probation for a loitering case until 11/27/13 and a disorderly conduct case until 8/29/14. ▪ Anthony Ford – ordered to report to the workhouse on 9/27 to serve 90 days for a consuming alcohol in public case and 30 days (consecutively) of a 90-day sentence for another consuming case, on probation for a gross misdemeanor trespassing case until 9/21/15. ▪ Ahmed Hired – in the workhouse until 9/28 for open bottle and possession of liquor in a park cases, then on probation until 9/6/14 with new open bottle (2) and trespassing cases set for court on 9/27. ▪ Frank Killsright – released from the workhouse on 8/29, not on probation. ▪ Harry Leftbear – in the workhouse until 10/30 for disorderly conduct, consuming alcohol in public, loitering, and interfering with traffic cases, then on probation until 5/21/14. ▪ Dejuan McFarland – released from the workhouse on 9/24, not on probation. 	<p>Jennifer.Saunders@Minneapolismn.gov 673-5402</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Brandon Miller – Gross misdemeanor prostitution case set for court on 10/9, trespassing, public urination, 5th degree felony drug possession, loitering, and theft cases set for court on 11/4. ▪ Maurice Patterson –now on the 1st Precinct CLEAN list, open bottle, theft (2), fleeing police, public urination, public nuisance, consuming alcohol in public, felony violating an order for protection, and felony 4th degree assault of a police officer cases set for court on 10/24. ▪ Walter Weyaus – released from the workhouse on 9/18, on probation for consuming alcohol in public until 6/20/14. <p>Saunders reported that chronic offender Ronald King was found mentally incompetent to stand trial, so all of his misdemeanor cases were automatically dismissed by law. Prosecutors are allowed to review any pending gross misdemeanor (such as King's trespassing case) or felony cases every six months. On 9/3, civil commitment proceedings against King were dismissed and he was released from custody and is not on probation. In the past three weeks, King has acquired eight new cases, seven of which involve crimes committed downtown, and is currently in custody for two of them which are set for court on 10/1. Saunders described this situation as a gap in the criminal justice system in which an offender can't be held accountable for misdemeanors due to mental incompetency but also does not meet the standard required for civil commitment. Prosecutors can ask for another competency evaluation for the new misdemeanor cases, but the current finding of incompetency occurred only last month. King is an offender who often pleads guilty to cases and serves his time rather than submit to conditional release involving chemical dependency treatment or geographic restrictions.</p> <p>There was a question about how recent changes in federal drug sentencing policy would affect the neighborhood. Saunders said that, although she is not familiar with the details of the federal policy, Minnesota is going in the same direction with its statutory diversion of low level felony drug offenders (users as opposed to dealers) and Hennepin County's Drug Court (and other specialty courts such as Veterans Court) which seek to address the underlying causes of addiction.</p>	
<p>Priority concerns / hot spots / chronic offenders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stevens Square Park, 1801 Stevens Ave – 5th Precinct and Park police continue to focus enforcement on the park. Of the 34 alcohol-related arrests in the area in the past month, none of them occurred in Stevens Square Park, 7 occurred in Fair Oaks Park (20%), and 13 at Franklin & Nicollet (38%). Total year-to-date alcohol-related arrests/citations in the area are down 14% compared to 2012. ▪ Narcotics-related loitering and traffic in the Clinton sector (3rd Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to Franklin Ave), especially at 19th & 3rd – There was one narcotics-related incident in the area in the past month: 8/20 at Franklin & Clinton in which a male suspect was cited for possession of drug paraphernalia (crack pipe). There was a complaint about criminal activity at and around 1905 3rd Ave, which houses the Third Avenue Market and Stevens Square Center for the Arts (SSCA). Suspicious vehicles sometimes park in the lot behind that building late at night, with people moving from car to car and throwing litter on the ground. The rear (east) parking lot is controlled by the market; the south parking lot is controlled by SSCA. Suggestions included calling 911 to report suspicious activity in progress; posting No Trespassing signs on the east wall and replacing faded ones on the south wall; contacting a towing firm to post No Parking signs in the lots; reserving parking spaces for members of SSCA and volunteers at the nearby community garden; making sure that the lights illuminating the parking lots are operating. ▪ 1702 1st Ave, parking lot on the west side of 1st Ave between I-94 and 18th St – There are reports of people camping out, drinking alcohol, and using narcotics under trees and shrubs on the north edge of this parking lot. There is a large amount of trash and litter in this area. Police are aware of the situation and have focused enforcement there, but the owner of the lot (who also owns Dunwoody Apartments on the east side of 1st Ave) has not taken steps to 	

	<p>clean up the area and resolve the problems.</p> <p>There was a question about delayed police response time in regard to a 911 call about people using heroin in the alley between the 1800 blocks of 3rd Ave and Clinton Ave. Rena Dudgeon explained how 911 calls are prioritized by dispatchers and how response is also determined by the number of officers available and the amount and nature of the calls for service. Adam Chard said that the Stevens Square – Whittier beat officers will often take low priority 911 calls in their area when they are on duty. Dudgeon said that police can focus patrols on alleys if they receive complaints about criminal activity there; the beat officers have patrolled alleys in the neighborhood this year in response to complaints about "scrappers" taking recycling material and loitering by suspicious persons.</p> <p>SSCO's monthly chronic offender update included cases involving:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nanette Haghi (26 arrests in the area in the past eight years, 53 prior convictions in Hennepin County) – 6/10/13 loitering with intent to buy or sell narcotics and possession of drug paraphernalia at Franklin & Stevens. ▪ Darryl Brooks (45 arrests in the area in the past nine years, 37 prior convictions in Hennepin County) – 7/3/13 littering at Franklin & Nicollet. ▪ Harry Leftbear (18 arrests in the area in the past four years, 30 prior convictions in Minnesota) – 6/8/13 open bottle at Franklin & Nicollet; 7/28/13 trespassing at 1801 LaSalle Ave. ▪ Jason Pedlar (42 prior convictions in Minnesota) – 8/11/13 trespassing at 1801 LaSalle Ave. ▪ Ahmed Hired (18 arrests in the area in the past three years, 15 prior convictions in Hennepin County) – 7/2/13 consuming alcohol in public at 2200 3rd Ave, Fair Oaks Park; 7/5/13 possession of liquor in a park at 2200 3rd Ave, Fair Oaks Park; 7/19/13 public urination at 2200 3rd Ave, Fair Oaks Park. ▪ Zaki Sugule (5 arrests in the area in the past three years, 25 prior convictions in Minnesota) – 8/19/13 open bottle at Franklin & Nicollet. ▪ Ahmed Abdulahi Mohamed (2 arrests in the area in the past month, 7 prior convictions in Minnesota) – 8/9/13 bait vehicle theft at 24th & Blaisdell. ▪ Abdi Mohamud Ibrahim (9 arrests in the area in the past three years, 26 prior convictions in Hennepin County) – 7/8/13 open bottle and possession of liquor in a park at 2200 3rd Ave, Fair Oaks Park. ▪ Nathane Roby (Level 3 sex offender, 9 arrests in the area in the past six years, 37 prior convictions in Hennepin County) – 8/11/13 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 – Michele McGaughey</p>	<p>Michele McGaughey reported that, from 8/23 to 9/26, 13 Block Patrol volunteers participated in 27 shifts, contributing 87 hours. Two of our law enforcement partners – Anne Forsyth-Gillette and Chelsea Adams – came along on Block Patrol shifts. McGaughey shared some stories from the Block Patrol log.</p>	<p>Application and guidelines are at the SSCO web site.</p>

Meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Meeting minutes prepared by Dave Delvoye.