

Stevens Square Community Organization

(612) 874-2840

<http://www.sscoweb.org>



Safety Committee minutes – May 26, 2011, 6:00 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave

Present: Ken Strobel and Michele McGaughey, co-chairs; Robert Lilligren, Ward 6 City Council; Bobbi Harrington and Jean Schwalen, Hennepin County Community Probation; Chelsea Adams and Aimee Colegrove, Minneapolis Police 5th Precinct; Chris Dixon, City Attorney’s office; Malcolm Williams, Plymouth Church; Jeremy Konecny, The Nicollet Café; Rob Helmerich, Rand Management; Charles Rosensteel, Ray Alex Perry, John Ryser, Howard Penas, Eddie Chambers, Wanda Redmond, Arlene Storandt, Randall Chevront, Natasha Primus, Brandice Camara, Jerry Paulson, Mary Gunderson, Carla Andersen, Maureen Wells, and SSCO safety coordinator Dave Delvoye (dave_sscoweb@yahoo.com or 874-2840)

Agenda item	Notes/decisions	Follow up
<p>Announcements</p> <p>Contact SSCO to volunteer or for more info.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sit & Sip community get-together, 5/28, 10 a.m. to noon at the 17th St Overlook. ▪ Cinema & Civics in Stevens Square Park, every Wednesday at 8 p.m. from 6/15 to 7/20. ▪ SSCO annual neighborhood meeting, 6/25, 10 a.m. to noon at Plymouth Church, 1900 Nicollet Ave. ▪ Red Hot Art in Stevens Square Park, 7/30 & 31. 	<p>Next Safety committee meeting: Thursday, 6/23, at 6 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave.</p>
<p>Community Prosecutor report – Assistant City Attorney Chris Dixon</p>	<p>Chris Dixon distributed copies of the 5th Precinct CLEAN sheet and updated the committee on some of the offenders active in Stevens Square, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maurice Giles – 5/27 probation violation hearing. ▪ Larry Harper – 7/6 court appearance for a criminal contempt and drug paraphernalia charge. ▪ Ronald King – In jail on \$1,000 bail for a gross misdemeanor trespassing charge from the 1st Precinct. ▪ Rick Martinez – Recently seen causing problems at Franklin & Nicollet. ▪ Randy McNellis – Active warrant. ▪ Jessica Matt – 5/26 court appearance for criminal contempt (2) and escape from custody charges. ▪ Maurice Patterson – Active warrant. <p>Dixon will update the CLEAN sheet with new offender(s) on June 1. Contact SSCO staff with suggestions.</p>	<p>Christopher.Dixon@ci.minneapolis.mn.us 673-5402</p>
<p>Minneapolis Police report – CPS Chelsea Adams, Officer Aimee Colegrove</p>	<p>Chelsea Adams distributed a map and list of Part 1 crimes in the neighborhood during April, noting that there were few serious crimes reported. There were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 3 robberies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 4/2, 3:40 a.m. at 1916 3rd Ave in which a victim, who was with a male companion, was robbed at gunpoint of her purse by a male suspect. ○ 4/9, 12:20 a.m. at 18th & 1st in which a victim was robbed at gunpoint. Police arrested Arnold Ladell Dover Jr (11/14/89) and Jessica Denise St Marie (7/24/87) for 1st degree aggravated robbery (they were charged) plus a 15-year-old male and a 17-year-old male. ○ 4/9, 12:30 a.m. at 18th & Nicollet in which a victim walking a bike was punched, chased, and robbed at gunpoint. Police arrested Arnold Ladell Dover Jr (11/14/89) for aggravated robbery (charged with 1st degree aiding and abetting aggravated robbery) plus a 15-year-old male, a 16-year-old male, and a 17-year-old male. ▪ 1 aggravated assault: 4/24, 5:25 a.m. at 1811 Clinton Ave in which a disagreement over a poker game resulted in a fight. Police arrested two persons: Don Cornelius Gilleylen (11/18/75) for 3rd degree assault and a warrant and Roman Alan Ryan III (8/19/66) for a warrant. ▪ 1 apartment burglary: 4/13 at 1815 1st Ave. ▪ 4 thefts from motor vehicles: 4/17 to 4/24 at 1800 LaSalle Ave; 4/23 at Franklin & 4th; 4/26 at 308 East 18th St; 4/28 at Groveland & Nicollet. 	<p>Chelsea.Adams@ci.minneapolis.mn.us 673-2819</p> <p>CRT line (to report suspected drug and prostitution activity at specific addresses or locations): 673-5716 or contact Sara.Metcalf@ci.minneapolis.mn.us</p> <p>Crime Prevention Resources</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 8 other incidents of theft. <p>Adams reported on an incident on 5/23 at 4 p.m. in which officers were dispatched to the Hennepin County Mental Health Center at 1801 Nicollet Ave on reports of a person with a gun. John Michael Kittleson (12/23/89) was arrested for 2nd degree assault and transported to HCMC, then to HCMC Acute Psychiatric Services, and then to the jail where he was booked. Chris Dixon reported that the suspect was released from jail on 5/25 without being charged. The County Attorney’s office plans to resubmit the case on 5/27 as felony terroristic threats and then ask for a warrant for the suspect’s arrest. The suspect resides at a known location. There was no information about whether the staff at the Mental Health Center – a number of whom had been held at gunpoint – had been informed of the suspect’s release.</p> <p>Other concerns included an offender who has repeatedly stolen Tide liquid detergent from CVS, 2001 Nicollet Ave, in order to resell the product. A suspect may be in custody, but the offender’s name was not known. There was a question about how to secure an air conditioner to a lower level window in an apartment building to prevent theft or a break-in. Other than installing metal bars on either side of the unit to discourage entry to an apartment through the window, there is no sure method to secure a window air conditioner.</p> <p>A community member related an incident in which he had to walk several blocks to a bus stop in Uptown due to road construction which had disrupted bus routes in the area. The person was fatigued and happened to lean up against a street pole near Lagoon & Hennepin in order to rest. Lake Street beat officers Deb Hubert and Hung Do saw the person and stopped to check on his welfare. The officers offered to assist the person and give him a ride home, and invited him to attend the 5th Precinct Open House which was taking place that evening. The community member thanked the officers for their alertness, concern, and compassion.</p> <p>Contact Chelsea Adams to sign up for the quarterly 5th Precinct e-mail newsletter.</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 4/25/11 to 5/22/11 showed 9 alcohol-related arrests (24 in 2010), 10 narcotics-related arrests (15 in 2010), and 1 prostitution-related arrest (0 in 2010). Year to date, there were 39 alcohol-related arrests (126 in 2010), 43 narcotics-related arrests (42 in 2010), and 4 prostitution-related arrests (12 in 2010). For the period from 4/25/11 to 5/22/11, SSCO’s Google maps showed 40 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), and 15 for the Clinton sector (3rd Ave to 4th 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>Priority concerns / hot spots / chronic offenders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 19th & 3rd – There are ongoing complaints about drug-related loitering outside the market at this corner. Police continue to watch the area and stop suspicious persons and vehicles. 1905 3rd Ave is posted for No Trespassing; call 911 to report suspicious activity there. ▪ 110 East 18th St – There are still problems with open/broken windows and holes cut in the security fence at this vacant, boarded property. ▪ Stevens Square Park, 1801 Stevens Ave – There was a report of suspected gang activity in the park. Call 911 to report suspicious activity. ▪ Aggressive panhandling – Aimee Colegrove reported that day beat officers conducted an undercover detail on 5/16 to address complaints about aggressive panhandling along Nicollet Ave in the area, especially at bus stops. Two persons were cited before the detail was unexpectedly cut short. A follow-up detail is planned, probably for a Thursday or Friday. Call 911 to report aggressive panhandling. ▪ Shoes on power lines – This is sometimes a sign of drug activity in an area, sometimes an obnoxious prank. A community member saw several persons trying to throw pairs of shoes tied together onto power lines at 19th & Stevens at about 10:30 p.m. on 5/25. After the person confronted them, the suspects left the area but apparently returned later and succeeded in throwing three pairs of sneakers onto the lines. Another community member recently saw disgruntled residents who had 	<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>been evicted throwing shoes onto a power line in the alley between the 1800 block of 1st Ave and Stevens Ave. These residents also threw litter and trash around the area before they left. Call Xcel Energy at (800) 895-4999 to report shoes on power lines.</p> <p>SSCO's monthly chronic offender update included cases involving:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Eric Robinson – 2/24/11 theft at 2004 Lyndale Ave, Steeple People Store. ▪ Shaneequa Beaulieu – 9/7/10 giving police a false name (of another person) at 2119 Pillsbury Ave. ▪ Kenneth Nickaboine – 4/21/11 criminal contempt of court for violating conditions of release at Franklin & Nicollet; 4/28/11 criminal contempt of court for violating conditions of release at Franklin & Clinton. 	
<p>Ward 6 report – City Council Member Robert Lilligren</p>	<p>Robert Lilligren reported that he has informed Metro Transit of the neighborhood's interest in removing the bus stop near the southeast corner of 19th & 3rd and that he will follow up on the complaints regarding 110 East 18th St. Police are participating in the Click It or Ticket seatbelt enforcement program from 5/23 to 6/5. With the onset of warm weather, police are encouraging drivers and motorcyclists to be aware of and respect each other on the streets. To prevent the spread of emerald ash borers, the city is advising owners of ash trees not to prune them or move wood or branches until after Labor Day. The League of American Bicyclists recently designated Minneapolis a gold level bicycle friendly community. Information about volunteering and donating funds to help clean up tornado damage and assist victims on the north side is available at the city's website or from 311.</p> <p>The city is considering a new ordinance sponsored by Council Member Tuthill to increase regulation of outdoor seating areas (including sidewalks, patios, and rooftops) at businesses which serve liquor, wine, and/or beer due to complaints about noise and other livability problems in surrounding residential areas. Downtown businesses would be exempt, and there are concerns that businesses elsewhere in the city would be hurt by the new regulations. There are complaints in Uptown that some businesses with outdoor seating are not interested in working with neighborhoods to resolve the problems. There are also questions about whether existing ordinances would be sufficient to address the problems. A public hearing on the proposed ordinance is coming up soon.</p> <p>The legislative session, from which emerged a number of proposals hostile to Minneapolis' interests, ended 5/23 with no budget agreement. The governor vetoed bills which would have: cut local government aid (LGA) to the city by 30% for 2012 and 2013, a reduction of \$48 million, with LGA to be entirely phased out after that; reduced the renters property tax credit; and cut Metro Transit's budget for 2012 and 2013 by 85% (\$109 million). On the positive side, progress was made in reaching an agreement to merge the closed city police and fire department pension funds into a statewide pension fund, although a final deal is not yet in place and no legislative action was taken. On the federal level, the city is expecting a 17% cut in Community Development block grants (CDBG) from HUD. If this occurs, the mayor is proposing targeted – not across the board – cuts. The police Crime Prevention Specialist positions are now funded by CDBG.</p>	<p>Robert.Lilligren@ci.minneapolis.mn.us 673-2206</p> <p>Ward 6 web site</p>
<p>Block Patrol report – Arlene Storandt</p>	<p>Arlene Storandt reported that, from 4/29 to 5/26, 12 Block Patrol volunteers participated in 23 shifts, contributing a total of 74 hours. Three new volunteers joined Block Patrol. Block Patrol teams patrolled the area around 17th & 3rd in support of a fundraiser at the Minnesota African American Museum on 5/18. A Block Patrol team attend the 5th Precinct Open House on 5/19.</p> <p>Ken Strobel announced that August is the 20th anniversary of the founding of Block Patrol. He suggested that August be declared “Block Patrol month” in the neighborhood and that events or projects be organized to commemorate the anniversary, such as trying for a record for the total number of volunteer hours in a month. Other ideas put forward included: inviting special guests or dignitaries to participate in Block Patrol shifts; holding an event in the park; organizing a party at a local restaurant; contacting Block Patrol alumni and organizing a reunion; recognizing those who have contributed the most hours and honoring them with certificates of achievement or gift cards donated by businesses; telling the story of Block Patrol through photos and</p>	<p>Contact SSCO to join Block Patrol. Application and guidelines are at the SSCO web site.</p>

Coordinator report – Dave Delvoye	<p>videos. Contact the Safety coordinator with other ideas or comments.</p> <p>The graffiti clean-up project was rained out on 5/14 and has not yet been rescheduled. Given adequate lead time, Hennepin County Sentence to Service crews are available to clean up graffiti in the neighborhood. Regarding the suggestion at the 4/28/11 meeting to use murals to discourage or prevent graffiti, a number of possible locations were identified, although the property owners or managers have not been approached for permission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1804 to 1816 Nicollet Ave, Village Center Mall, west or north wall. ▪ 1845 Nicollet Ave, Net Market, south wall. ▪ 1905 3rd Ave, Third Avenue Market and Stevens Square Center for the Arts (SSCA), north wall. ▪ 1930 Clinton Ave, Clinton Market, west or south wall. ▪ 1705 Stevens Ave, on the north wall of the garages at this condo building. <p>These walls are already painted (they are not bare brick) and are sometimes tagged with graffiti.</p> <p>It's unknown whether SSCA would want to be involved in a mural project; last year the organization painted a mural on the south wall of 1905 3rd Ave where the art center is located. It might also be possible to partner with other arts organizations. Some neighborhood groups have received Clean City micro-grants for murals. (SSCO submitted a grant application again this year for a power washer to remove graffiti.)</p> <p>There was a suggestion to use murals to portray the history of the neighborhood. By consensus, the committee expressed interest in a mural project for the neighborhood and referred the matter to the Neighborhood Development committee, which has jurisdiction over art-related projects. Maureen Wells volunteered to present the information at the Neighborhood Development committee meeting on 6/7.</p> <p>The SSCO Board approved the committee's request to 1) work with the Police department and the city to acquire a mobile police camera for use in the 5th Precinct and 2) to explore the possibility of raising funds to purchase a mobile police camera to be used and controlled by SSCO. In the meantime, SSCO staff met with 5th Precinct Inspector Matt Clark and Downtown Improvement District Safety Director Shane Zahn to get information and advice on how to move forward with this project. The next step is to contact camera vendors and get price quotes.</p> <p>A community member asked if it was illegal for a resident to sit in the front yard of his or her apartment building and drink alcoholic beverages. Chris Dixon said that a person could be cited by police for consuming alcohol in public or loitering with open bottle if the space is open to the public and not just to residents. It could potentially be a violation if police were called to the scene.</p>	
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Meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

Meeting minutes prepared by Dave Delvoye.