

Stevens Square Community Organization

(612) 874-2840

<http://www.sscoweb.org>



Safety Committee minutes – March 25, 2010, 6:00 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave.

Present: Michele McGaughey and Ken Strobel, co-chairs; Robert Lilligren and Nimco Ahmed, Ward 6 City Council; Jean Schwalen, Hennepin County Community Probation; Tony Diaz, Chelsea Adams, Michael Friestleben, and Jessica Bartholomew, Minneapolis Police 5th Precinct; Chris Dixon, City Attorney's office; Mary Gunderson, Arlene Storandt, Richard Kotlarz, Rochelle Peyton, Jerry Paulson, Eddie Chambers, Charles Rosensteel, Aaron Szczech, Howard Penas, and SSCO safety coordinator Dave Delvoye (dave_sscoweb@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	▪ 5 th Precinct block leader training, 4/28, 6:30 to 8:00 p.m., 5 th Precinct community room, 3101 Nicollet Ave. Contact Amy.Lavender@ci.minneapolis.mn.us or 673-5407 for further information. Block leaders organize block or building clubs and work with police to report suspicious behavior and prevent crime.	Next Safety committee meeting: Thursday, 4/22, at 6 p.m. at 1925 Nicollet Ave.
Community Probation report – Probation Officer Jean Schwalen	Jean Schwalen reported that CLEAN sheet offender Kenneth Nickaboine was resentenced on a gross misdemeanor trespassing case (7/31/09, Tillie's Bean, 1931 Nicollet Ave) due to recent arrests downtown for domestic assault and consuming alcohol in public. Nickaboine will be released from the workhouse on 4/2/10.	Contact info: Jean.C.Schwalen@co.hennepin.mn.us 879-8212 Bobbi.Harrington@co.hennepin.mn.us 879-8075

<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 – Pled guilty on 3/24/10 to domestic assault (3/2/10 at Franklin & 3rd) and will be sentenced at a later date to 90 days, 60 days stayed. Conditionally released on 3/24/10, then arrested and booked on 3/25/10 for disorderly conduct. ▪ Pamela Beaulieu – Failed to appear in court for a felony drug charge on 3/25/10; a stayed warrant was issued and she was ordered to appear in court on 4/6/10. There was information that a day beat officer found Beaulieu intoxicated and on the ground at 18th & Nicollet on 3/25. ▪ Walter Bray – In the workhouse until 7/18/10. ▪ Darryl Brooks – On conditional release at Bell Hill Recovery, his 3/25/10 pre-trial was continued to 5/13/10. ▪ Maxim Chance – Public urination case (1/4/10 at Loring Nicollet Center, 1925 Nicollet Ave) is set for court on 4/6/10. ▪ Joseph Conklin – In treatment in Duluth, with a warrant stayed until 4/6/10. ▪ Larry Harper – Consuming alcohol in public and criminal contempt of court case (3/10/10 at 22nd & 2nd) set for court on 4/6/10. ▪ Tammie Houle – Pled guilty on 3/17/10 to two prostitution cases (8/21/07 at 22nd & Nicollet and 11/15/07 at Franklin & Nicollet) and two trespassing cases (including 7/24/07 at 203 East 19th St) and received stayed sentences and supervised probation. A number of other cases were dismissed. Mental Health court review set for 5/26/10. Dixon will find out whether the geographic restrictions are still in effect. ▪ Ronald King – Workhouse release set for 3/31/10, then restricted from the area of I-94 to 24th St, LaSalle Ave/Blaisdell Ave to 4th Ave. ▪ Harry Leftbear – Civil commitment proceedings are underway. ▪ Jessica Matt – Pled guilty on 3/25/10 to prostitution (1/14/10 at Franklin & 4th) and received a stayed sentence and supervised probation. Restricted from the area of I-94 to 24th St, LaSalle Ave/Blaisdell Ave to 4th Ave and the area of 18th St to 24th St, 5th Ave to 13th Ave. A number of other cases were dismissed. ▪ Damon Moore, level 3 sex offender – Five cases set for court on 7/22/10. ▪ Judy Peters – Active arrest & detention warrant for 4th degree assault of a police officer on 9/29/09. ▪ Walter Weyaus – Pled guilty on 3/15/10 to public urination (12/18/09 at 24th & Nicollet), sentenced to 90 days, 60 days stayed. Workhouse release set for 3/30/10. ▪ Earlis Robinson – Found deceased on 3/5/10 at his residence. There is information that alcohol poisoning was the cause of death. 	<p>Contact info: Christopher.Dixon@ci.minneapolis.mn.us 673-5402</p>
--	---	---

<p>Minneapolis Police report – Lieutenant Tony Diaz, Crime Prevention Specialist Chelsea Adams, Sgt Michael Friestleben, Officer Jessica Bartholomew</p>	<p>Chelsea Adams provided a map and list of Part 1 crimes reported in the neighborhood during February. It was a relatively quiet month. There were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2 robberies of person: 2/16, 1:05 a.m., at 18th & Nicollet in which an unknown male suspect stole a wallet from an intoxicated victim; 2/18, 7:10 a.m., at 315 West Franklin Ave in which two male suspects punched a victim from behind and took her purse as she was leaving this apartment building. ▪ 1 crimianl sexual conduct (child abuse) – 2/11, 5:20 p.m., at an address on the 1800 block of LaSalle. ▪ 1 business burglary: 2/19, 5:05 a.m., Kulan Restaurant, 137 East Franklin Ave, in which front doors were pried open and a TV stolen. ▪ 1 motor vehicle theft: 2/12, 1920 4th Ave. ▪ 1 theft from motor vehicle: 2/19, 1933 Lyndale Ave, Rudolphs’ parking lot. <p>Tony Diaz introduced himself as the new lieutenant for sector 1 of the 5th Precinct, the neighborhoods north of Lake St. He’s been on the job for a couple of weeks and is in the process of getting to know his patrol officers and sergeants and the people in the neighborhoods. Diaz has been with MPD for 29 years, the past five with the Assault Unit and Violent Criminal Apprehension Team in the Criminal Investigation Division. Diaz, who started his career in the 5th Precinct in 1981, hopes to stay here for a while and has encouraged his officers to work hard and have fun. He commented on the amazing changes which have occurred in this area due to community involvement.</p> <p>There was a discussion about identity theft, in particular about devices (skimmers) which can be attached to ATMs and credit card processors to steal credit and debit card information. Adams had provided information about preventing identity theft at the February meeting, some of which is available at http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/crime-prevention/docs/identity.pdf Adams distributed copies of the 5th Precinct and City of Minneapolis resource lists.</p> <p>There was a question about what to do if residents of an apartment or condo building smoke marijuana in their homes but allow the fumes to spread into common areas and other apartments. Officers responding to a 911 call would be able to try a knock-and-talk with the residents, possibly identifying and advising them about the problem. Officers could seize any narcotics in plain sight. Another suggestion was to ask the property manager or owner to send a letter about the problem to residents with a reminder that illicit drug use is a lease violation. This approach has been successful in some apartment buildings, but could be more of a challenge when dealing with condo buildings.</p> <p>There was a question about whether the number of 911 calls generates more police patrol in an area. Diaz said that patrol is often driven by reports of Part 1 crime although supervisors review the nature of all calls and self-initiated police stops to get a picture of what’s happening in an area and take that into account.</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 2/22/10 to 3/21/10 showed 16 alcohol-related arrests (23 in 2009), 4 narcotics-related arrests (11 in 2009), and 4 prostitution-related arrests (1 in 2009). Year to date, there have been 48 alcohol-related arrests (45 in 2009), 17 narcotics-related arrests (27 in 2009), and 12 prostitution-related arrests (2 in 2009). For the same period, SSCO’s Google maps showed 17 police reports for the Clinton sector (3rd Ave to 4th Ave, I-94 to Franklin Ave) and 42 for the Nicollet corridor (LaSalle Ave/Blaisdell Ave to 1st Ave, I-94 to 24th St). Information in text format is at http://www.sscoweb.org/What_We_Do/Community_Safety/Crime_Information/index.htm</p>	<p>Contact info:</p> <p>Anthony.Diaz@ci.minneapolis.mn.us 673-3137</p> <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</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</p>
--	---	---

Priority concerns, hot spots, chronic offenders

- Stevens Square Park, 1801 Stevens Ave – There is a report that on 3/17, between 10:30 and 11 p.m., a suspicious group of about 30 people gathered in the park, with one person talking to all the rest. This incident resembles a pattern of gatherings in the summer of 2008 which many community members viewed as gang-related. Staff will notify the Park police of this incident and request that patrols be increased if needed. There was a discussion about how to respond to this situation. Call 911 to report suspicious activity. The park closes at 10 p.m.; after that, persons are allowed to walk on the paved paths through the park but not to loiter. A large number of dog owners are in the park day and night and provide a certain amount of regular surveillance. There was a suggestion to improve lighting in the park. It appears that the Park Board’s policy is to only light the paths, since the rest of the park is closed after 10 p.m. Nimco Ahmed, Council Member Lilligren’s aide, will check with Park Board staff about lighting policy. It may be possible to make lighting improvements if the neighborhood is willing to share the cost. SSCO should let the Council Member’s office know if there is interest in that idea. There was a suggestion to install a fence with gates around the park to control access. The Park Board probably has no funds available for such a project and there might not be community support for it. There was a question about police patrols of the park. The Park police and agents are responsible but have limited resources. 5th Precinct officers also patrol the park; CRT spends about half of its time in the neighborhood.
- Gang graffiti at 19th & 3rd – During the night of March 18, Gangster Disciples graffiti was put on two traffic signs and 40 feet of sidewalk on the southwest corner. The graffiti has since been removed. According to police, the graffiti appears to have been a challenge to member(s) of the Bloods who are staying at a nearby building. Graffiti previously put up by the Bloods on a commercial building at Franklin & 4th was defaced by Gangster Disciples. It is unknown whether this incident is connected to the 3/17 gathering at Stevens Square Park (see above). There is concern that the conflict between these gangs will escalate in the area.
- 116 Groveland Ave – Police and the property manager are working to resolve a problem involving a prostitute working out of an apartment in this building.
- 1810 3rd Ave – According to police, a problem reported earlier this month regarding prostitution at an apartment in this building has been resolved by the property manager.
- 110 East 18th St – The owners of this vacant, fenced, and boarded property have City approval for plans to renovate the building for apartments but have been unable to secure all of the financing needed to proceed with the project. There was a question about whether federal stimulus funds are available for such projects.
- Level 3 sex offender [Brent Murray Spafford](#) (8/13/80), who was residing on the 1900 block of 1st Ave, is in prison until 5/2/10 for a parole violation. The nature of this violation is confidential and not available to the public. Upon release, Spafford is expected to initially reside at a halfway house before establishing a residence on his own. It is uncertain whether Spafford will return to the address on 1st Ave. Further information on Spafford is at: <http://info.doc.state.mn.us/publicview/er/Inmate.asp?OID=204745>
- [Russell Devarn Camp](#) (9/22/85) is due to be released from prison on 4/13/10. Camp was arrested on 2/21/09 at 1801 2nd Ave and is trespassed from that address.

SSCO’s monthly chronic offender update featured cases involving:

- [Kenneth Earl Brown](#): 4/5/08 trespassing at Franklin & Nicollet.
- [Walter James Weyaus Sr](#): 12/18/09 public urination at 24th & Nicollet.

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.

Block Patrol report – Arlene Storandt	From 2/26 to 3/25, 16 Block Patrol volunteers participated in 18 shifts, contributing a total of 82 hours. Two shifts were cancelled. Eight volunteers patrolled the Franklin & Nicollet area during the Art Squared fundraiser on 3/13. One new member joined Block Patrol on 3/15. The Block Patrol guidelines and application are at http://www.sscoweb.org/What_We_Do/Community_Safety/Block_Patrol/	Contact SSCO to join Block Patrol.
--	--	------------------------------------

Coordinator report
– Dave Delvoe

The group working on SSCO's new web site wants suggestions from the committee on two topics.

What kind of message should we include on the web site regarding crime and safety in the neighborhood?

Responses included:

- Focus on the positive efforts of SSCO to build community through a variety of projects, activities, and events.
- Highlight the Safety committee's partnership with law enforcement and its success at solving problems.
- Show how SSCO has brought community members together, especially through Block Patrol, to reduce crime in the neighborhood.
- Add some stories and use anecdotes to show how community members have organized to improve their neighborhood and make it safer.

What kind of safety information should we post on the web site?

Responses included:

- Links to crime prevention resources and criminal justice sites, similar to what is currently available. http://www.sscoweb.org/What_We_Do/Community_Safety/Resources/
- Link to the neighborhood resource list. <http://www.sscoweb.org/Links/documents/neighborhoodresourcelist.pdf>
- Committee agendas and meeting minutes. http://www.sscoweb.org/What_We_Do/Community_Safety/Agendas_and_Minutes/index.htm
- Block Patrol information, guidelines, and application. http://www.sscoweb.org/What_We_Do/Community_Safety/Block_Patrol/index.htm
- Crime information, similar to what is currently available. http://www.sscoweb.org/What_We_Do/Community_Safety/Crime_Information/index.htm There was a discussion about whether to continue to post this information or to make it available upon request. It's unclear how many people actually want or view this data and find it useful. Arguments were made that it's important to provide factual information about how the crime rate has, for the most part, declined in the neighborhood in order to counter the perception that Stevens Square is unsafe or dangerous. Disclosing the data reinforces the message that law enforcement and SSCO have successfully worked together to improve livability in the area. Police refer potential new residents, who contact them with questions about crime and safety in the area, to SSCO's web site because of the quality of the information and encourage them to follow up with SSCO staff. It's useful to give residents a clear and accurate picture of what is happening in the neighborhood.

There was a suggestion to rewrite or update the Community Safety page of the current web site, which was written a number of years ago when the level of street crime was a much more urgent problem: http://www.sscoweb.org/What_We_Do/Community_Safety/ The committee formed a small group to do this – following the suggestions listed above – and then to send the document to the group working on the web site.

There was a question about how to encourage restaurants and coffee shops to add outdoor seating: the big drop in drug dealing at 19th & 3rd coincided with the opening of The Boiler Room café at 1820 3rd Ave. In addition to strong police enforcement, having people outside in a positive way makes a difference. Council Member Robert Lilligren said that businesses have to apply for a permit for outdoor tables, and agreed that good traffic drives out bad. Some businesses have had problems with outdoor seating, attracting loiterers, panhandlers, street drinkers, and others who are not customers but instead cause trouble in the neighborhood. Good management and paying attention to the principles of crime prevention through environmental design go a long way toward preventing those problems.

Meeting to update the web site document regarding community safety:
Tuesday, 4/6, 7 p.m., Loring Nicollet Center, 1925 Nicollet Ave

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Meeting minutes prepared by Dave Delvoye.