

Minutes

SW Neighborhood Steering Committee
Greentree-Meadowood-Orchard Ridge-Park Ridge-Prairie Hills Neighborhoods
Thursday, July 19, 2007
West Police District, 1710 McKenna Blvd
6:30 – 9:00 p.m.

I. Roll Call

SW Steering Committee Members: Kara Boeldt, Sandy Erickson, Tim Johnson, Marge Liss, Larry Luther, Tom McKenna, Karen Sielaff, De' Kendrea Stamps, Lisa Subeck, Bryan Summ.

Excused Absent: Christie Howell-Yrios, Douglas Kammann, Rick Stirr, Ernie Horinek, Joel Kupferberg.

Absent: Ann Barker, Susan Clay.

II. Announcements and Public Comment

- Extensive graffiti occurred at Orchard Village, Meadowood Shopping Center, and along Russett Road. Photographs of the property damage will be provided to West Police District.
- An organizational/informational meeting to form a Meadowood Neighborhood Watch will occur on Tuesday, July 24 at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church at 6:30 p.m. Mary Anne Thurber, MPD, will be present to discuss crime prevention strategies.
- District Alderperson Thuy Pham-Remmele is sponsoring a listening session with Police Chief Wray on August 8 from 6:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m. in the Cafeteria of St. Maria Goretti School (5405 Flad Avenue).
- Fred Mohs, property owner of County Meadow Apartments, spoke in opposition of a proposed development at 821 S Gammon Road. Country Meadows Apartments has 465 units with approximately 800 individuals living within the complex. One of the reasons Mr. Mohs opposed the project was because of the commercial land use as well as the location of the parking lot and potential for unsupervised individuals. He encouraged steering committee members to attend the upcoming Plan Commission meeting.
- Cindy Thomas emphasized the importance of the neighborhood plan to stress safety issues within the neighborhood. Investigate allocation of monies for additional police services and security surveillance.
- Maryls Miller indicated that safety is an important factor for the quality of life within the neighborhood. Need more police presence.
- Joan Horinek emphasized safety as the most important issue for the area. One of the issues that area landlords are dealing with is to get more landlords involved in meetings and/or actions to improve the area. Discussion followed

regarding strategies to engage residents (i.e. free membership/newsletter for tenants) to licensing landlords.

III. Approval of May 8 and June 21 Minutes

On a motion by Erickson, seconded by Summ the minutes were approved.

IV. Review of Neighborhood Plan and Comments

- Discussion on to repackage neighborhood plan to emphasize, “neighborhood issues” rather than “board categories”. SW Neighborhood Steering Committee members directed staff to place safety issues as the opening of the neighborhood plan and to relate strategies/recommendations in other section on how they will assist in improving the safety of the neighborhood. A handout was distributed that helped to convey this approach. It was noted to build upon the format for the final plan. Clearly relate issues and strategies to crime prevention.
- Discussed the importance of getting up-to-date statistical information and trend data relating to crime for the focus area. SW Neighborhood Steering Committee members directed staff to contact MPD. Tim Johnson and Marge Liss volunteered to work with city staff to help identify the important crime offenses to include in detailed report.
- Discussed the importance of creating benchmarks and success indicators. Earlier draft included success indicators. SW Neighborhood Steering Committee members directed staff to include in next version of the neighborhood plan.
- Discussed the strategies of addressing poverty and drugs. Don’t want to continue to move problem around the city.
- Tim Johnson reported about a program in Norfolk, VA: Grime= Crime. Basis of program is a relationship with various city agencies. A Uniform Notice of Violation is written. The City Attorney sends letter to property-owner. Multi-prong approach to deal with problem quickly.
- Discussed the issue of designation of Dog Park in neighborhood plan. SW Steering Committee members decided to emphasize creating a dog park but to remove the designation of Greentree as the site.
- Discussed the issue of the recent fire at Glacier Point apartments. SW Steering Committee members directed staff to contact the Fire Department to explore if a ladder truck is necessary for the area. Steering Committee members will discuss the appropriateness of including in the neighborhood plan when more information is known.
- Discussed the issue of land use in the neighborhood. On a motion by Erickson, seconded by McKenna: Prepare written communication to Planning Unit Staff citing the designation of the land use categories in the Comprehensive Plan are consistent with the SW Neighborhood Plan.

V. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.