

**PRESENT:** Nikki Lundin, Stacey Kryman, Rob Ward, Holly Smith, Barney Mansavage, Susan Minogue, Barbara Parker, Paige Smith, Bill Mahoney, Kiki Graham, Ed West, Casey Suskind (?), Erin (?), Ron Huddleston? Cunningham?, Deirdre McCrary

**REPORT FROM PAIGE AND OTHER GUESTS ON CRIME ABATEMENT IN CENTRAL DISTRICT:**

Paige described the process by which in May after the Ferrari murder concerned neighbors and business owners came together to lobby for real and meaningful improvements in the Central District to make it a safer place. Paige and Kiki wrote letters to City Council members and the East Precinct asking for improvements in the commercial district, which occupies an important geographical position linking three neighborhoods--Central District, Leschi, and Madrona. Richard Conlin, Tim Burgess, and Sally Clark pledged to make the changes requested. There is an existing plan to improve the area between Union and Jackson, which would logically include Cherry. The idea is to prevent crime through environmental design, with the one block radius at MLK and Cherry being the focus. The work to analyze, design, and follow through is already funded and will begin in a few weeks. Re-design will focus on changes such as trimming bushes, regulating alley traffic, fighting graffiti, adding or subtracting trash cans, adding or enhancing lighting. Agencies involved include Parks, City Light, Public Utilities, and Police Dept.

Casey described an analysis his group did on the YWCA on Cherry and the car wash on 23rd & Union, in which they figured out what was needed to reduce problems and crime at those sites. In both cases the plans got rapid City approval. Casey will be working with Sarah, his colleague, to write a report and implement changes for the Cherry St. plan, and Paige reiterated that the head of the East Precinct is committed to implementing the suggested changes, and Casey confirmed that City departments listen and support implementation. He compared his group's methods to the Cincinnati blight index, in which a group goes through an area and rates what they see, takes photos, and makes changes. After six months they return for a second analysis as a way to measure improvement.

Casey suggested contacting Sgt. Jay Shen (Community Outreach) if we want to arrange an informal chat about proposed changes or if we just want to stay in touch.

911 calls: People are encouraged to call often because digital dispatch has allowed more and better responses, as well as recording and tracking numbers of calls. Stacey asked about the purpose of her giving her name and number when she calls and was told that the information helps if there is any follow-up response or question. It is possible also to request anonymity, no contact, or response by phone only. If a caller finds an operator unresponsive, he or she can request a secondary, non-emergency operator or report a call-taker who is rude. However, the operator may be simply trying to dig for information. Every call does go onto the radio dispatch. Officers want information quickly and might come across as rude.

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Kiki noted that improvements along MLK from Union to Cherry have been called for since the '90s but have not happened because of lack of funding, but there are a lot of services along that corridor that people could use but now avoid. Her group has asked that issues of land use, zoning to provide incentives to businesses, etc., be looked at to spur improvement. There are available grants to help. Any small group wanting to look into possibilities and changes can arrange a meeting with SPD through Francisco Tao (?). Paige has met with CleanScapes about possibilities for clean-up. SDOT is the resource for shrub trimming on sidewalks, alleys, rights-of-way. Graffiti Rangers will do removal for free, funded through private grants. Paige will put all these contacts into a format that we can publish and disseminate. Shannon Polson is working with Paige's group on clean-up because of her family connection to Chris Martin, former neighbor and CleanScapes founder.

Ed West, owner of Catfish Corner, described his involvement as a business owner in the Cherry corridor. He also works on youth programs to curb youth violence and is currently teaming with others to make proposals to Parks and other agencies. He has found that just getting kids off the streets at night and into supervised activities reduces crime. He said we need to change the mind-set of the kids, give them vision and hope so that they don't continue involvement in crime, but without money those programs can't happen. Volunteers can do only so much. His group has tried to buy one of the alley properties for their project but the owner continues to ask too much money (\$200,000), well above assessed valuation. Mr. West notes that, despite the constant problems with graffiti in the alley, the mural of Dr. King has remained untouched because it symbolizes something in which the collective youth take pride. Mr. West is looking for corporate contacts, investment, and other help. He hopes to take his program beyond the Central District to the National Youth Conference, where the games and curriculum can be shared with other cities.

Ron Huddleston spoke about the important but largely missing link of a pronounced black middle class that can set an example of a path as a black professional. Dr. King's mural represents that goal. He believes we need to address issues of home ownership, corporate connections, entrepreneurial spirit. Holly urged the retention of existing black families in Madrona. When blacks leave the community, they take their middle-class values with them.

Kiki reminded folks that next week Mazvita will hold another community dialogue from 6 to 8:30 with Dept. of Neighborhoods, East Precinct, and neighbors. Information on the Garfield CC website.

Question: How can we induce more inter-racial communication, become more of a community, get more people of color to join community work?

Kiki suggested that the Council take on more projects that cross neighborhood divides, build campaigns that bridge communities.

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Ron drew an analogy to his recent visit to Leavenworth, which has created commerce around a fake Germany. Could the black community build an attraction around its own cultural identity--Africatown, highlighting Ethiopian and other African entrepreneurial attractions. The Central District has more black businesses than anywhere else in the city--can that be encapsulated and marketed? Ed West noted that the problem might be in getting business owners to come together in spite of personal jealousies.

Kiki said that a person from their group who works on business outreach has spoken with all business owners, and all want to contribute but aren't yet organized. She sees it as a Cherry Street celebration of culture. Bill pointed out our relationship with BOOM (use of our 501c3 status) and suggested Kiki's group talk with Soni and John Platt to get ideas about how to get things started. Susan noted that a group on 12th Avenue has been very successful in getting its goals accomplished. A Dine-out for Garfield was suggested as a fund raiser that would draw people to local restaurants. A street fair with businesses and artists' studios involved would also bring out people. Bill suggested that the Garfield Student Body President who spoke at the May Garfield CC dialogue would be a good liaison with the school.

Paige is organizing categories of involvement so that those interested in helping with this effort can be channeled into areas of interest or expertise.

Paige will keep in touch as things happen. An article for the *Madrona Newsletter* about what is happening was suggested. Paige will email a condensed version of their collected information. Susan suggested the Central Area District Council monthly meetings at the senior center as a way for people to cross neighborhood lines and get people involved.

**Wine Tasting:** Stacey has confirmed the date, November 3, and is working on the logistics. Bill is checking into possible use of and permitting costs for the alley behind Glassybaby. The neighbor who has complained about graffiti and obstructions in the alley might pose a problem, but Holly will suggest that she call Graffiti Rangers and suggest that she deal with her own obstructing shrubbery as well. Leschi Market is recruiting wineries, and Bottlehouse and Madrona Wine Merchants will also be included. Barbara will put a "Save the Date" notice in the newsletter with information about buying tickets through Brown Paper Ticket as soon as pricing and admittance numbers are figured out.

**Halloween:** Kick-off on Halloween night will be at the shelterhouse with treats. Nikki suggested doing shifts to contain some greed and grab evident last year. The event might end at the school gym with a scavenger hunt, which hasn't yet been confirmed, but would be a way to get people into the school building.

**Combined Wreath and Live Christmas Tree Sale:** Deirdre floated the idea of Friends of Madrona Woods combining forces with MCC's wreath sale to offer live Christmas/Hanukkah trees as a woods fundraiser. FoMW would purchase potted grand firs at a bulk rate and offer them for "sale" along with wreaths, with pick-up for both items

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happening on December 1. People would be encouraged to plant their live tree in Madrona Woods in January as a donation and a way of creating a vested interest in the welfare of the park for those families who choose to donate their tree.

**BOOM Mixer:** The next mixer, to which all MCC board members are invited, is October 23 at a location to be announced.

At the last BOOM mixer Barbara learned that the Blossom people won't be hanging the winter garlands this year and are no longer raising funds for their purchase. BOOM will take over and hang them on November 17. MCC still collects for the blossoms.

Rob and Bill are trying to find information about artificial turf but have learned that it is costly--\$5 to \$7/square foot, commercial price.

It was reported that Karin has talked with those in charge of renovation of the shelterhouse and learned that they would like to meet with the council before starting work. MCC needs to make certain their work doesn't interfere with Mayfair.

Adjourned at 8:40

Submitted by Deirdre McCrary, Secretary