

*Southwest Seattle Crime Prevention Council - Southwest Weed & Seed
Meeting Notes from Wednesday, April 4, 2007*

Call to order: 7:05 pm by Mariana Quarnstrom, with **46** in attendance.

Powerful Voices – Ann Munro, Associate Director

Ann Munro is one of the founding members of Powerful Voices. Her inspiration stems from something she experienced when she was 10-years-old - her sister's murder. They had lived in a mid-lower class small town in Illinois. Ann thought having that spirit taken left such a negative energy; she wouldn't want to have happen to someone else. Powerful Voices is a 501c3 non-profit organization that started in 1995. Powerful Voices works with girls in the diversion program or who haven't been involved in Juvenile Detention, but share same risk factors. Their earliest partnership was with Washington and Juvenile Services. Juvenile Detention was designed for boys, which is okay, but Powerful Voices realizes girls have victimized in different ways.

SSPC Women described their teenage years as: responsible, lonely, hard, awkward, controlled, happy, quiet. Today's youth have the benefit of growing up 40 years past the civil rights movement. Knowing that girls are struggling Powerful Voices wants to approach them from a strength source, and a place of possibilities that they may achieve their own dreams and civil justice. Workshops for girls in Juvenile Detention focus on safety, including, but not limited to: sex education, decision-making, and accurate health information. Powerful Voices does not work with Pat Graney, but employees know of her, and are inspired by her.

Powerful Voices also has partnerships with schools. Middle schools include: Washington, Hamilton, and Aki Kurose. Partnerships with Meany or Asa Mercer are being explored. School based workshops for middle school girls involve media literacy, where girls examine messages from media and how they internalize those messages. Positive girl culture in school, and activism skills are also developed. A Powerful Voices health class is offered at Aki Kurose. Powerful Voices wants to build a connection with Rainier Beach, but already has high school partnerships with Garfield and Cleveland. High school students are hired for internships through Seattle Youth Employment. Last summer the youth put publish a Diaries Booklet.

350-400 girls are served per year. There have probably been up to 4000 girls over the years. Girls may self-select to get in. However, Powerful Voices works closely with school staff to nominate and really try to diversify the participants. Ethnically 40% of the youth are African-American and 25% are Bi/Multi-Cultural. There is a good student to adult ratio. Ann is one of the oldest employees there. Other employees are closer in age to the youth participants. Employee background varies including: Health, Social Work, and Arts. Ann was majored in Finance and was a social worker, before involving herself with Powerful Voices.

Ann is continually challenges her own adolescent perceptions as an adult. She describes three types of successes. One girl who is unemployed will get job at Safeway. This is great, because she may be the main money provider in the family. Another girl's mom has been struggling with drugs. The girl stuck with program and got \$500 award from the mayor. Ann also finds success in the girls that still come back for support or guidance. They do this because they found Powerful Voices to be a safe place. Powerful Voices can use the community to spread the word. Referrals are great. CPT officers will not actively recruit, but if they have the information available, they will spread the word.

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Weed & Seed Hot Spot Areas – Barb Biondo

Notes were passed out. Barb conducted a PowerPoint presentation. Sarah Valenta provided graphs. Monthly meeting known as Youth Violence Prevention, now called SE Youth Services Partnership. A Spring Clean reminder was given.

Carwash (Rainer & Garden): problems include public drinking and drug activity. ROSA is the primary source of community complaint. CPT Officers have been meeting for six straight weeks with owner Mrs. Washington (mother) and manager Mr. Washington (son). Narc-Unit is working on it, but they haven't seen trafficking. The last major incident was stabbing between employees. There are currently 3-5 employees. Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) are working with owners to get car wash compliant with City code with due date March 31, 2007 to get permanent a wash-pad. Work began April 2nd. No fines have been levied by the city, because work is in progress.

Action: If you see cars being washed contact CPT or SPU Waste Water section and they will be cited.

Lucky's: was looking better a few months ago. The business manager was gone, but she's back. But has been improved. Dan Fink recommends calling the Fire Department if you see recycle overflow. Neale Frothingham suggested Weed & Seed have an attagirl program. Barb noted that does not formally exist, but she did go in and gave Lucky's an attagirl pat on the back.

Boyd Properties: residents and police have complained of problems including inadequate night lighting, abandoned cars and illegal activity at the Fontanelle. During a ROSA walk, members had people out right intimidating them. Weed & Seed has offered grant funding for lighting improvements, but the Boyd's have not yet taken action. DPD can follow up on light safety issues, especially if it pertains to public safety and is emphasized with records suspicious activity. Poles have been put up in parking lot, but cars are still being abandoned cars in the right of way.

Lake Washington Apts: Priscilla Call, from SEED, reports two major improvements for safety are the fence and the guard shelter. The fence was supposed to have started being put up today, but it's not there. Demolition has to start before the new fence can be put up. Installation will start by Safeway, the come down along Mapes Creek. When complete, guards will be able to control and monitor. The gate will open with keycards provided to each adult in a unit. Families have to work out latchkey situations for themselves. There is a fee for lost keycards. Gates should not be propped open. Maintenance will close doors if they are. Because keycards are used, the last person that came through the gate can be tracked. The goal is to convert to a buzzer system. Guard shelter permits have been obtained, but they are waiting for approval from Seattle Fire Department (FDS), which sees a problem associated with the trucks. The architect and contractor have been established. Two guards on duty will walk the premises and go into building each build at least once. 76 work orders have come from the guards' walk-thru. Every time they see something, they write it up. Additional capital improvements include painting the exterior and back stairs. Cameras will be installed. For a variety of reasons, Lake Washington Apartments have seen a total turn over of management staff. The highest priority of their new managers is to have a social services background. The goal is to plan more social events at Lake Washington that are open to community. Litter has been found inside fence. SSCPC members can help, if you see something going on

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call the police. 43-46 residents were evicted in last month, leaving 50 vacant units. They are being leased. Once safety improvements and capital features are complete, it is believed they will rent faster.

SPD Reports by Captain Byers & Officer McRae

- The viewing of the Franklin High School student who was shot will be held on Friday, on Rainier & Henderson, around the same time Rainier Beach High School lets out. SPD motorcycles handing out tickets to emphasize police presence. The funeral will be held at 11am in the Central District.
- Rainier Beach Library is still having youth problems. SPD will check in at least once a week. They can't trespass people permanently, because it is public property. They can, however, do it for a day to a week at a time.
- Foot-beat (sometimes on bikes) will be patrol Rainier & Henderson once a week throughout summer.
- A business on Rainier & Rose wants liquor license to compete with another Ethiopian store 150 feet away. City Attorney Liaison John McGoodwin and CPT Officer McRae are opposed to it.
- Mt. Baker – burglary suspect caught. He has identified five houses he broke into.
- Neighborhood Policing Plan – community members raised concerns about the number of officers per beat, and the possibility of South and East precincts not having enough during high priority calls when multiple resources are pulled.
- Eric Zerr, the 3rd watch sector sergeant for 3S (Rainier & Henderson) was introduced.

Community Concerns

- Gordon Umino asked for information on the house arson that took place on 23rd & Alaska. It was recommended to contact the fire department.
- Alyx Fier reported that during Columbia City Business Association meeting, youth were hanging out at Columbia Plaza gambling and as well as at Haza Ganda North. He reports seeing gambling everyday and would like to see more SPD presence. Dan Fink asked
Action: Call in activity. Gambling in a parking lot is illegal.
- A resident reported an illegally parked trailer that gets shuffled from Rainier Ave to Seward Park Ave to Cloverdale St. It gets tagged but not checked for a week. Can the process be expedited? Barb Biondo suggested Parking Enforcement as a meeting topic.
Action: If see a tag call in again. Parking enforcement: Presentation at SPD.
- Tom Acker stated his concerns about the perception of 911. His concern is there have been a few calls where if the trial goes to the prosecutor then the citizen is wanted to testify, but won't. He alludes to the citizens' of fear of restitution. He questions why is case dropped if find drugs are found? Lt. Koutsky responses, "Because citizens gave probable cause." If cops don't see the incident happen initially, then everything that happens next stems from it comes from the call. There is further concern that the City Attorney's office doesn't have enough prosecutors. There was a request to bring in Norm Maleng (King County Attorney Prosecutor) and Tom Carr (City Attorney Prosecutor).

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Other SSCPC Business

- Matt Hendel resigned from the Executive Committee. He attributed his resignation to a letter regarding the SE District Council that was sent out on behalf of SSCPC. Matt disclosed that his wife is the president of the District Council and he takes the letter very personally. He very strongly opposes the letter and believes the purpose of it is to undermine the District Council. Matt opposes the tone and factual discrepancies. He also believes it is a power issue and refuses to be a part of a council that will endorse such a letter. Towards the end of the meeting further discussion on this topic was started by Boyd Pickrell. Much of the discussion related to the decision-making processes of both the SE District Council and the South Seattle Crime Prevention Council. TA: How do we vote on letter endorsed?
- Mariana Quarnstrom brought to the attention of the SSCPC House Bill 2362. House Bill 2362 deals with felons' use of body armor. If an unlicensed felon is caught with body armor it will increase their sentence. SPD has asked for support. Tom Acker made a motion to endorse House Bill 2362. The ayes have it with no opposition.

Dept. of Planning and Development (DPD)

Darby Ducomb & Paula Barrett were present to address issues of Code Compliance. At a meeting with Darby Ducomb, Dan Fink and Mariana Quarnstrom requested maps. DPD brought a SE Seattle Street map and a SE Quadrant map with partial addresses. SE has two inspectors for couple hundred cases. 70-80 opened a year. DPD will create a SE report to bring to quarterly meetings when they report. Dan Fink will keep the maps. Call Paula about individual cases. 684-7604. She will get back within 24 hours. You can also monitor cases online. Alex Tunnel is the supervisor for Illegal Dumping.

Adjournment: 8:55 pm

Next meeting May 2, 2007 at SE Senior Center.