

MCA Meeting Minutes 11/7/11

1. Review of October minutes - approved & seconded as presented.

2. MCA cash balance is \$2682.90, with total deposits of approximately \$700 for the previous month including \$155 in donations. Disbursements reviewed: final balance is \$2682.90

3. Guest Speaker: Greg Bernstein

Highlights:

- Created a new unit "Major Investigation" focusing on repeat violent crime offenders
- Re-organization into a "community prosecution model". Instead of having a felony prosecutor, post them into zones so that instead of being organized by division, they are organized to a zone of the city. City zones are still under development. Concept is to have Assistant State's Attorneys more closely w/ police, will get Assistant States Attorneys more connected to the communities overseen. Zone prosecutors will see crime trends, share information more than any have been done in the past. Benefit: faster coordination & communication between State Attorneys, police. Target launch: January 2012. Current efforts focused on organizing supervisory structure.
- For lower level courts, new unit: Civilian Review Unit. These cases can originate with citizen/neighbor involvement, and can file criminal charges directly w/ the commissioner. Commissioner will either execute a warrant or refer case for review. In place for 6 month with a turnaround time of 72 hrs. Benefits include earlier engagement with the State's Attorney's office, supports vetting of cases for direction to mediation or counseling. Data is showing a positive impact.
- Community Communication changes: Communication has been centralized downtown (Tony Savage one of the coordinators – email address is TSavage@stattonney.org). A community watch/court watch program is set up to support the public to track the progress of cases. This is being used significantly in Charles Village currently. Cases can be tracked online or via contact with people in the office (ex. Tony Savage). Community Impact Statements can be drafted to summarize impact to the community. Example cited with recent Medfield issue regarding a burglary on Clydesdale Ave: defendant was found guilty & sentenced to maximum sentence of 15 years, in part due to Community Impact Statements provided by nearby community associations (including Medfield). Judges take the Impact Statements into consideration, & the Community Prosecution team can coordinate with concerned individuals.
- Emphasis on public safety.
- Introductions between community liaison Ray Szymczak & Tony Savage
- Medfield residents are encouraged to be in contact with the Community Zone reps.

Q&A:

- Overcrowding in prisons - is it an issue here like in CA? No, not the same kind of issue. Violence related crimes are a priority for Bernstein's office. Bernstein is advocating other approaches as adjuncts to arrests & convictions for non-violent crimes. Ex. special court for prostitution funded by a grant, to offer health, family, & employment counseling to help break the cycle. There are also drug courts, etc. for non-violent offenders.

- "Restorative Justice" - can't incarcerate our way out of drug-related crime. Bernstein will participate in a conference on this in NYC. While creating programs is out of Bernstein's scope, he advocates collaboration
- Elizabeth Stock, prosecutor: the cases that stand out in particular when communities reach out to the State Attorney's office.
- Ray: community has done outreach, & Northern Police District also has emphasized the value of the Community Impact Statements. This in conjunction with the crime watch approaches work together.
- Adrienne: Crime Watch numbers? The anonymous caller number can be used for 911, 311. Ray: when in doubt, call 911 - better tracking, 911 operators are trained to triage the calls. 311 is recommended for things like potholes, street conditions, but for nuisance concerns, call 911.

4. ZONING ISSUES: Rich Kaminski

- Flag pole
 - clip for larger size flag is broken
 - flag will be changed after Veteran's Day
 - What's needed: someone familiar with knots
- Medfield Rec Center has requested help with basketball backboards. This had been previously approved for shared payment between the school, the rec center & the MCA. However, the price has been raised to \$1500 for 2 - now requires more structural backing. Proposal: 1/3 from each of the involved parties. The advantage is that it keeps the kids concentrated there. SUGGESTIONS: targeted fund drive to communicate via the newsletter. Recommendation deferred until more details can be discussed at next MCA Board meeting.
- ABC Roofing: pea gravel storage has ceased on Conduit
- Carroll Fuel - gas station to reopen in December
- Fire Dept is doing outreach to establish a community liaison program. Pilot program started, Rich Kaminski has invited a representative to an upcoming meeting.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

- Loyola stadium noise: noise level continues to be an issue. Per Councilwoman Mary Pat Clarke: there is a north Baltimore neighborhood coalition headed by Cindy Leahy @ MPC's office. Will likely need to request a meeting with the head athletic director. Ms. Clarke reviewed current approach w/ similar issue at Johns Hopkins. Rich noted that the Loyola speakers are above the stadium. There's also an issue with the lights from the stadium.
- Question from Mary Pat Clarke regarding Rec center - asked what is the status of the rec center, confirmed that it is no longer a PAL center. There was discussion regarding whether or not the rec center is on the list for closures. She inquired as to what the MCA is doing to advocate for the rec center? MPC has not heard Medfield as definitely being on the list of facilities to be taken over by 3rd parties. Per MPC the city has funding for 30 of 55 current rec centers from Jan 2012 through Jun 2012 (last 1/2 of fiscal year). Example: Roosevelt Rec Center was on the bid list & was bid out to a private company. Park & Rec head says there's funding for all rec centers, but city budget not consistent with that. Per Gary Sever, who also sits on the Board of Park & Rec, the definitive results of the rec center plans are not clear. MPC recommends vigilance, & that the

MCA consider what action to take if the rec center is at risk. Recommendations: fund raising, volunteer training, though this is not a guaranteed solution as Roosevelt was bid-out. Neighborhoods are organizing rec councils for fundraising. The question was presented regarding whether there are any fundraising or grant sources – answer was unknown at the present time. Ray: recommends we start contact with Rec Center. As such the MCA Board planned to have its next Board Meeting at the Rec Center in order to facilitate a conversation with the Rec Center Director.

- Question was presented to Ms. Clarke regarding whether she was aware of the Dog Park Discovery Committee. She indicated that she is aware of it.

ACTIONS:

- MCA Board to come up with funding recommendations for basketball court
- MCA Board to contact Rec Center to start drafting contracts & utilization stats
- MCA Board to contact law center for free legal aid to determine defensive strategy pending discuss w/ rec center, if deemed necessary
- Gary on point to contact Cindy Leahy re: Loyola