

38th Street and Chicago Avenue Action Planning Report

Community Driven Action

Action Planning Session: Wednesday April 24th, 2013
Report: May 21, 2013

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38th Street and Chicago Avenue Action Planning and Report Sponsored by

38th and Chicago Business Association, Bancroft Neighborhood Association, Bryant Neighborhood Organization, Central Area Neighborhood Development Organization, City Council 8th Ward: Elizabeth Glidden and Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association. Special thanks to Blue Ox Coffee Company for hosting the Action Planning Session!



Summary of Action Planning and Data Collection

History:

On Saturday April 6th, 2013 there was shots fired from a car on the 38th and Chicago Intersection at 2:00 PM. No people were harmed in this incident. Police responded to the shots fired but no arrests were made. The Minneapolis Police Department (MPD) and the City of Minneapolis with 8th Ward City Council member Elizabeth Glidden coordinating immediately began to take action in response to this incident, calling for increased police presence and investigation. They (the MPD and Elizabeth Glidden) partnered with the Sponsors to gain community input to effectively continue their collective work making 38th Street and Chicago Ave a safe corner.

Action Planning and Data:

On Wednesday April 24th, 2013 the sponsors along with community members joined together to began creating a plan for a safe intersection. There were over 60 community members in attendance as recorded through a head count and sign up sheet. The data you see in this report was collected at this meeting as well as through email responses and provided response forms. The provided forms gave the community a chance to submit their thoughts anonymously. The participants in the Action Planning Session were divided into three groups including MPD, City of Minneapolis and Community. Each group was asked once what they like about the intersection and what they want to see changed. Then each group was asked for specific actions they would like to see from each of the departments by rotating the facilitators. The responses were analyzed and sectioned into themes to create this report.

In this report when you read "we" it is referring to the participants in Action Planning and other responders.

What We Like About 38th and Chicago.

Top three themes:

(These themes were mentioned more than three times by responders)

1. Access to Transit
2. Diversity
3. Walkability

Other themes mentioned more than once were the Arts on Chicago Project, New Businesses opening and friendly communication between the people who frequent the intersection.

Summary

While access to transit, the intersections diversity and the walkability of the intersection won out as the most mentioned themes there were many notable responses about what makes 38th and Chicago a likable intersection. Not only did the participants respond that they liked the new businesses there, but that they also liked the opportunity for continued growth and local support of small businesses. They noted recent improvements of the intersection and that they liked the historic storefronts lining the corner. The general intersection culture came up many times noting the diversity, communication, connection of the four neighborhoods and “buzz” as assets to 38th and Chicago. The Post Office Box was noted as a convenience and people also stated they felt the increase in police presence.

What We Want To Change About 38th and Chicago.

Top Three Themes

(These themes were mentioned more than three times by responders)

1. Traffic Calming
2. Public Relations/Image
3. Reduce Crime

Summary

Reducing crime came up many times sighting loitering enforcement and controlling the ripple effect of violence as main concerns. Traffic calming was specified with actions (see actions in this report) and was a propionate of making the corner more welcoming. Overall respondents wanted to see an increase of community presence on the corner which could be executed through public relations and many of the other themes noted. It was also stated that the digital divide was effecting the communication on the corner.

Actions

The actions put forth by the participants were cohesive with general themes. For the reporting of this section the most mentioned themes came to the top of list and are in order of times mentioned. The list has been divided by the areas of action including MPD, City of Minneapolis and Community. Some of the areas will overlap and are being reported in more then one section.

City of Minneapolis		
Theme	Specific Actions	Notes
Beautification	Litter Removal, Planting, Streetscaping.	Mentioned 9 times. Also see community.
Lighting	Both overhead and street level lighting. Visibility into the bus stop.	Mentioned 7 times. Also see community.
Continued Education	Education on loitering, licensing regulations, functions of the city.	Mentioned 7 times. Also see community and Police (MPD).
Business Licensing	Enforcement of current regulations and generally more oversight on regulations.	Mentioned 3 times.
Communication	Increase in communication frequency and mediums of communication. Address issues of access to internet.	Mentioned 2 times. Also see community and Police (MPD).

City of Minneapolis		
Landlord Licensing	Enforcement of current regulations and generally more oversight on regulations.	Mentioned 2 times.
Move the Bus Stop	Move the Bus Stop from it's current location to a new spot.	Addition to the report as an action noted.

Community		
Theme	Specific Actions	Notes
Beautification	Litter Removal, Planting, Streetscaping.	Mentioned 9 times. Also see City of Minneapolis.
Lighting	Both overhead and street level lighting. Visibility into the bus stop.	Mentioned 7 times. Also see City of Minneapolis.
Continued Education	Education on loitering, licensing regulations, functions of the city.	Mentioned 7 times. Also see City of Minneapolis and Police (MPD).
Events	More events on the intersection. Family friendly events.	Mentioned 5 times.

Community		
Youth Center	Bring a youth center to the intersection. Ensure programming for all ages child to teen. Possibly in the Furniture Liquidators building. Continue programming for youth already in place.	Mentioned 5 times.
Communication	Increase in communication frequency and mediums of communication. Address issues of access to internet.	Mentioned 2 times. Also see City of Minneapolis and Police (MPD).

Police (MPD)		
Theme	Specific Actions	Notes
MPD and Community Relationship Building	Community knowing the officers in the area. Better customer service from the MPD.	Mentioned 11 times. Also see Foot Patrol
Increase in Police Presence Permanently	More police presence, it was noted to ensure the presence was not overbearing but seen.	Mentioned 9 times. Also see foot patrol.
Continued Education	Education on loitering, licensing regulations, functions of the city.	Mentioned 7 times. Also see City of Minneapolis and Community.

Police (MPD)

Foot Patrol	Have a Foot Patrol in the area.	Mentioned 5 times. Also see MPD and Community Relationships and Increase Police Presence Permanently.
Permanent Mobile Cameras	Place permanent mobile cameras on the corner that are high quality.	Mentioned 4 times.
Communication	Increase in communication frequency and mediums of communication. Address issues of access to internet.	Mentioned 2 times. Also see City of Minneapolis and Community.
Faster Response Time	Police response in a faster time frame.	Mentioned 2 times.

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MPD Response to community request

Theme: MPD and Community Relationship Building

Specific Actions: Community knowing the officers in the area. Better customer service from the MPD.

Response: Officers will attend community and business association meetings. Although officer personnel can change, extra efforts by Officer Kutz, Officer Seidl and others who have a history of working in the 38th & Chicago area have dropped in to businesses and residents in the area to talk about concerns and share information. Officers have also been assigned to do extra patrol in the area and have visited with businesses and users of the area. Officer Kutz, Officer Seidl, Officer Friestleben and Officer Garmen will be invited to participate in community and business meetings.

Theme: Increase in Police Presence Permanently

Specific Actions: More police presence, it was noted to ensure the presence was not overbearing but seen.

Response: Problem Properties Officer Kutz is assigned specifically to the 38th & Chicago area. Although not assigned permanently, currently specialized units have been assigned to the area. This includes Twin Cities FBI Safe Streets Task Force, the Gang/Weapons Enforcement Team and the 3rd Precinct Community Response Team. These units are all plain clothes and specialize in surveillance and directed enforcement. It is the hope that these units will not be necessary in the future but currently are providing a necessary part of providing a safe community at 38th & Chicago.

As mentioned earlier, officers have been assigned to do extra patrol in the area although looking at a more permanent basis, sector officers assigned to the area will continue to have a presence long term. Officer Kutz is the problem property officer assigned to the sector to assist with ongoing issues that affect the neighborhoods.

Theme: Continued Education

Specific Actions: Education on loitering, licensing regulations and functions of the city.

Response: Officer Kutz and CPS Notsch will continue to work with and educate the local businesses and neighborhoods regarding crime prevention strategies. Officer Kutz is assisting the businesses on how to initiate Trespass program and maintain information about violators.

CPS Karen Notsch regularly attends the business association meetings and will assist businesses on trespass and any new information about crimes against businesses.

CPS Notsch and Officer Kutz will continue to work with other departments of the City of Minneapolis on violations and changes that impact the businesses.

CPS Notsch also attends many of the block club meetings surrounding the intersection and can provide any information request that the block club requests.

Theme: Foot Patrol

Specific Actions: Have a foot patrol in the area.

Response: Currently the Minneapolis Police Department 3rd Precinct does not have the personnel in order to maintain a foot patrol beat. With that said, officers are advised to conduct directed patrol in the area on foot when possible.

Theme: Permanent Mobile Cameras

Specific Actions: Place permanent mobile cameras on the corner that are high quality.

Response: Inspector Sullivan, Lt Taylor and Officer Kutz are working with representatives of the neighborhood associations to achieve this action. Representatives have toured the MPD facilities that provide camera coverage and are doing research into costs and funding opportunities as well as camera placement.

Theme: Communication

Specific Actions: Increase in communication frequency and mediums of communication. Address issues of access to internet.

Response: Currently block leaders and contacts as well as some businesses get crime updates about police action within a 2 block radius of where they live or work, or for violations at their buildings. Many residents and business owners get weekly updates, crime alerts, and updates on the department's govdelivery signup that is sent to their email. Weekly Codefor updates are put on the MPD website.

Theme: Faster Response Time

Specific Actions: Police response in a faster time frame.

Response: This will depend on the crime. Situations where someone has been injured or harmed will receive immediate attention. Crimes in progress will receive high priority but if there is a time period where there is a high volume of calls, 911 will make the decision of prioritizing the calls. Report writing will be a lower priority call if no one is in danger and the crime has already occurred. Anyone can follow-up about a call they made by contacting CPS Karen Notsch to find out about the response time and the outcome of the call.

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City of Minneapolis Department responses to community request Collected by the Ward 8 Office and Councilmember Elizabeth Glidden

Theme: Beautification

Specific Action: Litter removal, planting, streetscaping

Response: City staff has, within the past year, introduced the idea of a special service district to the 38 and Chicago business association as one method to pay for and maintain streetscaping, planting, and litter removal; other business districts have used this model to help with these recommended improvements. City staff and Councilmember Glidden will continue to work with the property owners on options for implementing streetscape, planting, and litter removal plans.

The Minneapolis Park Board installs boulevard plantings i.e. trees. Park Board staff have been requested to review the intersection of 38 and Chicago for greening improvements; all concepts will need to be reviewed with property owners, business owners, and the 38 and Chicago business association.

Business licensing also enforces litter removal requirements for businesses, both on visits to area businesses and in response to complaints. Please contact Please contact 311 or directly contact Business License Inspector Julie Casey at Julie.casey@minneapolismn.gov or 612-673-3905 to report litter issues in front of businesses or other business related complaints.

Business building improvements (like installing picture windows, awnings and other façade enhancements) have been leveraged with City matching grants that are administered by the neighborhoods in partnership with the business association. With new attention in 2012/13, previously unresponsive/uninterested owners have now invested in their properties. In total, approximately \$100,000 has been invested in façade improvement through a combination of City, private, and neighborhood funds. The City will continue to work with the neighborhoods and business association on funding opportunities.

Theme: Lighting

Specific Actions: Both overhead and street level lighting. Visibility into the bus stop.

Response: The City of Minneapolis has a street lighting policy that will permit installation of street lights in a focused multi-block area. Property owners are, under current policy, responsible for the cost of installing the street lights. City staff has, within the past year, introduced the idea of a special service district to the 38 and Chicago business association as one method to pay for street lighting used by other

business districts, and city staff will continue to work with the property owners on options for street lighting.

MPD has initiated contact with Metro Transit to discuss the bus shelter areas. City staff and Councilmember Glidden will assist in coordinating with Metro Transit and Metro Transit police to review safety issues around the bus shelter including lighting.

Theme: Continued Education

Specific Actions: Education on loitering, licensing regulations, functions of the City.

Response: Business licensing staff continues to educate businesses on licensing regulations and required compliance with additional conditions imposed on select businesses; this education occurs on multiple visits by staff to area businesses (see also response to "tougher business licensing". Business licensing staff will attend an upcoming 38 and Chicago Safety meeting for a focused discussion of licensing issues and enforcement. Please also review response of MPD, regarding actions of CPS Notsch and Officer Kutz to educate local businesses and neighbors on crime prevention strategies including enhanced use of the Trespass program by businesses.

Theme: Tougher business licensing

Specific Actions: Enforcement of current regulations and generally more oversight on regulations.

Response: Business licensing has increased enforcement activity at the 38 and Chicago business intersection, including reviewing dozens of hours of video tapes from area stores to identify potential violations. Business license inspectors routinely review the businesses at 38th and Chicago, including greater than normal on-premises surprise inspections. Business licensing regularly works in partnership with MPD personnel on investigation and adverse actions; as an example of this partnership, in late 2011 city investigation of drug paraphernalia and food stamp violations resulted in the forced sale/change in ownership of Main Street Market.

Theme: Communication

Specific Actions: Increase in communication frequency and mediums of communication. Address issues of access to internet.

Response: The City and Councilmember Elizabeth Glidden have increased communication specific to 38 and Chicago safety issues through direct mail to neighboring blocks, sending messages to neighborhood staff to forward to neighborhood communication networks, and use of the Ward 8 e-newsletter and Ward 8 website at www.minneapolismn.gov/ward8/. The Ward 8 office has incorporated recommendations from neighbors to increase communication mediums and frequency and will continue to modify communication strategy to meet needs.

Theme: Tougher Landlord Licensing
Specific Actions: Enforcement of current regulations and generally more oversight on regulations.

Response: Problem properties – which are primarily rental properties but also include homeowner occupied - are reviewed at least monthly by a city team including Crime Prevention Specialist Karen Notsch, Ward 8 office staff, inspections staff, and others as needed. Crime Prevention Specialist Karen Notsch works with the city attorney, county attorney, and MPD investigators on specific properties. Problem properties are identified by neighbor complaints and review of data including 911 calls, inspections citations, crimes committed in and near properties, and other factors.

In 2012, focused attention led by Karen Notsch resulted in the eviction or vacation of gang-involved tenants from four (4) properties in the 3800 block of Chicago. Of these properties, one involved a rare *public nuisance action* brought by the Hennepin County Attorney's office to ban certain individuals from the homeowner occupied property, plus other special conditions to address criminal behavior. In 2011, tenants involved with criminal activity or gangs evicted/vacated from properties in the 36xx block of Chicago and 37xx block of Columbus.

Policy improvements relating to tougher landlord licensing:

- Councilmember Glidden is chief author of 2013 ordinance increasing tools to address problem rental properties (giving authority to impose conditions, and directing staff to begin practice of negotiating conditions for problem rental properties).
- Councilmember Glidden is also the author of a 2013 staff direction to direct city work team of MPD, Inspections, and Problem Property Unit staff to evaluate city response when crimes are committed at rental properties (i.e. conduct on premises) and make recommendations for improvements to city operations and ordinance changes as needed.

May 20, 2013

38CBA Update for Safety

The 38CBA has developed a Business Contact List to foster unity and a commitment to watch out for each. This list aides and assists each business owner in keeping in touch with their neighbors and gives phone numbers and email addresses. We are tweaking the Contact List to insure we maintain complete and accurate information on each business for a quick reference (contact name, business phone number, address & email).

After meeting with Inspector Sullivan & Sgt Kutz, business owners gained a sense of empowerment and feel that they now have an ally. We were contacted by a couple of businesses expressing concerns and experiencing issues of harassment; 38CBA was able to put these business owners in contact with Sgt Kutz and Karen Notsch. Business owners were pleased to have attained immediate response, resulting in a satisfactory resolve within two days of the initial complaint. Needless-to-say, this is a work in progress. Thoughts and strategies are still in the works to combat loitering, petty theft, etc.

We will continue to work together and watch out for each other's businesses, calling in reports if we see suspicious activities.

Business owners are excited and making ready for the upcoming Festival on Saturday- June 8th to give back to the community by showing them that we can and are working together and making a difference! Collaboration is increasing and the unity continues to advance.

Neighborhoods Update

The neighborhoods are all excited and in preparation for June 8th, 2013 on 38th and Chicago! The 38th and Chicago Business Association has planned their annual Music Festival and clean up prior to the festival. Arts on Chicago is having a celebration that day featuring works by local artists and inviting the community to join together in experiencing them. Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association (PPNA) is hosting a Paint the Pavement Event and Central Area Neighborhood Development Organization (CANDO) will be holding it's second annual plant giveaway. June 8th on 38th and Chicago Ave will hopefully set the tone for continued beautification and events.

We; the four neighborhoods, are committed to working with you, our community to direct our work on the 38th and Chicago intersection and beyond. To address actions beyond beautification and events we are working with the partners and seeking opportunities to support them in bringing more lighting and continued education to residents and business owners. Bancroft has taken the lead in exploring possibilities for better quality and permanent cameras on the intersection. We are always developing our communications strategies and look forward to being more connected to you through the 38th and Chicago Safety Email List in coordination with our partners. As of now our biggest focus is connecting the community with the police and city departments through these meetings and other opportunities that arise from them.