

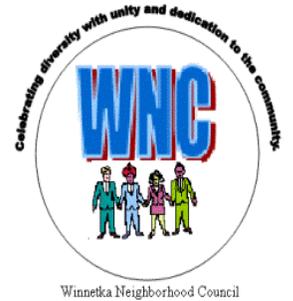


WINNETKA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

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PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

	Chair		Vice Chair	
	JJ Popowich		Marilyn Robinson	
Committee Members				
Dwight Burgess	Herbie Schwartz	Rick Montaine	Open	Open

To: Council Members, Public

From: JJ Popowich, Secretary

Date: June 20, 2005

Subject: Public Safety Meeting Minutes June 20, 2005

1. Call to Order and Committee Members Roll Call.

JJ Popowich	Marilyn Robinson	Dwight Burgess	Rick Montaine
	Herbie Schwartz - Excused		

2. Approval of minutes.

- 2.1. Approved.

3. State and local government representatives' updates: LAPD, Fire, and any other local, state, or federal officials that wish to attend to discuss items of importance to the Public Safety Committee.

- 3.1. Mr. Popowich announced why.

4. Discussion and possible action on the issues surrounding the problems at Runnymede Park. We will have representatives from the Park Rangers and Parks & Recreation in attendance to help us formulate a plan of action if there are significant problems brought forth from the discussion.

- 4.1. Mr. Popowich introduced the subject and welcomed the representatives from the Park Rangers. He announced that the LAPD SLO could not attend because she was in training and the substitute has been injured so they couldn't get someone to attend, but he did get some crime stats for Runnymede from them. He also announced that there seems to have been some confusion with the Parks & Recreation representative Laura Bauernfeind, who had committed to attending. Apparently she did not mark it on her calendar. He said he would like to start by hearing from some community members first.

- 4.2. Mr. Gross, a stakeholder. He says over the last 8 months there has been an increase in players. There are often folks who are using bad language which makes it difficult for them to take their kids. They live in front of the park. Rather than use bathrooms they tend to use the park itself right in front of her side. He lives on the Runnymede side of the park.

- 4.2.1. Mr. Burgess clarified location.

- 4.2.2. Mr. Popowich asked him to clarify what type of players, soccer?

- 4.2.3. Mr. Gross said that they are gamblers and at times they can almost become violent.

- 4.3. Ms. Roseman, a stakeholder from Leadwell St, said about six months ago she was home sick with her daughter and by 7:30 AM there was a large group of kids (probably middle school or high school) all wearing hoods were hanging out in the park. They were vocal and using obscene language. Called 911 because she was concerned that these were gang members. The police inquired whether there was a fight going on and she said she wasn't sure, but she felt it was close enough. Police car drove about 2 hours later. She also mentioned that there has been an increase in rats around the park. She linked this to excessive track. She also brought up the moon bouncers. Sometimes these go past 10 PM at night. In some cases there can be several at the park at once and the motors are loud.

- 4.4. Maribel from Runnymede St echoed the same complaints as Mr. Gross. She said that they can't use it as a family. It seems that all the tables are taken up by gamblers or large groups. The language is very bad and she just can't expose her children to that type of language. They drink quite often. She also feels uncomfortable at how people look at her and her children.
- 4.5. Mr. Gallegos, from Runnymede St said he had the same concerns. Feels that it is too many people and too many late night groups. He says he has also witnessed them drinking and gambling at the park. He can deal with the people, but that types of things are not good. He said the other night he called the police to report a naked woman in the park. The response was very slow. Another time he was approached by someone who asked to stay with him for a few minutes because someone was chasing him and to beat him up. He stayed with him for about 20 minutes and those chasing them circled his house at least twice. He always has to clean his street of trash and beer cans and so on.
 - 4.5.1. Mr. Popowich asked if she was alone.
 - 4.5.2. Mr. Gallegos said that she was alone but calling a lot of attention
- 4.6. Tom, from Leadwell St. said his family has lived there for 16 years. He says there has been a big difference in the neighborhood. He said the problem is that a lot of people are moving in and they don't respect the neighborhood. He hasn't personally experienced crime, but he is concerned that really dirty and trashy. He lives very close and really doesn't go there because it's so bad. He says that every weekend there are large groups of people who move in (20-30) to take over the park and have a party. He wanted to know if the park requires a permit. Feels that this is something that should be done. He said this fee can go to the cleaning of the park and maintenance. He feels it bugs him that the people that cause the problem are the people in the apartments and they come and go and don't seem to care. He also brought up the issue of parking around the parks as its really bad and that leads to trash and other problems. He also suggested a curfew.
 - 4.6.1. Ms. Robinson commented that there is a 10 PM curfew.
 - 4.6.2. Mr. Popowich commented that some parks do require permits downtown and in other communities.
 - 4.6.3. Mr. James Valdez said that he thinks permits are a good idea. He said with those fees maybe we can use those funds for security in the park. Feels this would help things out.
- 4.7. Ms. September from Leadwell St. said she has discussed the issues with Howard (referred to his list) and she believes in that. She says that she understand these park rangers are busy. However, they don't enforce the soccer prohibitions and they don't enforce the public urination. She feels that until we can get the park rangers in there on a regular basis then they won't happen. She feels that these people really need to feel the enforcement because these folks don't understand. There just aren't any consequences there. Got to show some strength there or they will just continue to walk over us.
- 4.8. Mr. Borenstein lives on Winnetka & Runnymede. He says it's gotten worse. He pointed out that today there are 14 guys around the table gambling. He said that as a liberal he's got divided feelings. He understands their rights, but the families can't use the park and it's just not right. He says the police just need to be there every day for months on end to get it done. He said these people have to be moved along. He said the Canoga House Hotel has been getting better. He said that anytime you see something then get the SLO out there. He said that are has a bad reputation.
- 4.9. Mr. Freedman, Leadwell St. said he's not really concerned with the park itself. He does feel that the park needs some control. He asked about how the NC's work.
 - 4.9.1. Mr. Popowich explained how it works and who we report to.
 - 4.9.2. He said that he feels that there needs to be more supervision and maybe a shorter curfew.
- 4.10. Ms. Simmons, from Leadwell St. said she says that she doesn't get to the park that much but drives by there all the time. She said that on Saturday and Sunday there are so many people there that people can't really use the park. For the people that live in the apartments it's great. But if there are a lot of parties and 20 people per party it's not good. She said that a permit would be a great idea. This can limit the overcrowding. She said the illegal activities need more police action. Not sure what the answer is. If they would at least show up at least a few times a day and random. It's not a family park.
- 4.11. Mr. Freedman pointed out that on the west end of Leadwell there is parking after 11 PM. Restricted parking after 11 PM. He said there should be public parking there.

- 4.11.1. Mr. Seflin brought up permit parking.
- 4.11.2. Tom from Leadwell commented on the other side of the parking issue. He lives there and they passed that regulation because there was too much overnight parking causing arguments and problems putting out the trashcans and so on.
- 4.11.3. Mr. Seflin said the problem is pushing the problem east. Maybe we can get that passed for the rest of the area. He continued to say that his issues are listed and known. He feels that it's the wild, wild west and there is no enforcement. He said that we all know that they can't hire more police, but if they can just get the car to drive through the park then a lot of this would go away. He said that he was told by the city that there are only two rangers for the entire city, and he can't see how it's going to get it done. He said that he has suggested permits to Laura Baurenfiend. If we can get some sort of permit it would be good. Her response was we have no one to administer it.
- 4.12. Mr. Borenstein suggested surveillance cameras.
 - 4.12.1. Mr. Seflin said that they do it in Hollywood.
- 4.13. Ms. Torres, from Runnymede said she sees the same problem. She has two children and they men are always in the park. The men use the park to relieve themselves. She commented, "I want my park again."
- 4.14. Ms. Robinson asked if there were any street vendors.
 - 4.14.1. Mr. Seflin said that there are vendors there and they are not authorized.
 - 4.14.2. Another stakeholder commented that they sell food and all sorts of items.
 - 4.14.3. Another stakeholder commented that there seems to be one person who supplies all the drinks.
 - 4.14.4. Ms. Robinson said that she had a sweep of vendors and they ticked 41 vendors and confiscated and trashed their carts.
 - 4.14.5. Another stakeholder said that he had a small chest and he goes to his car and refills.
 - 4.14.6. Mr. Burgess said that they had a similar problem at Quimby. He said that what they did was remove all the benches.
 - 4.14.7. Ms. Robinson said that they also had undercover.
- 4.15. Mr. Selfin commented that on the web site it's listed as a pocket park and they have 20.
- 4.16. Ms. Robinson said that they left only one and at one night in a sting they had \$700.00 dollars.
- 4.17. Mr. Popowich. Let's write motion that we officially request all but 15 benches be removed. Said that we will have to have a very specific plan. We will have to have volunteers. We will have to have a night out and we will have to make it a public spectacle. We may have to embarrass the city into addressing it. We need to do a petition.
- 4.18. A stakeholder commented that she feels Winnetka has been left out.
- 4.19. Mr. Popowich ticked off a few ideas; we recommend that we ask the city to look into a permit system for this park. We would also like to revise the curfew until 8 PM. We officially would like to request that the LAPD patrol the park though a drive through.
- 4.20. A stakeholder said that the people in this park sound like the other park.
- 4.21. Ms. Robinson said that all they do is relocate them to a new park.
- 4.22. Ms. Robinson suggested we ask for more boulders. Perhaps 15 – 20 boulders of a fair size.
- 4.23. Mr. Seflin said that they have lost the full time caretaker.
- 4.24. Mr. Popowich requested the park & recreation commission to submit a maintenance plan to the NC for our approval.

- 4.25. Mr. Burgess suggested we include an exterminator as well.
- 4.26. Ms. Robinson suggested that we contact Vector control to look into the rat problem.
- 4.27. A stakeholder asked about locked bathrooms.
- 4.28. Mr. Popowich said that can be a problem with people breaking in and or locking themselves and others in the bathroom.
- 4.29. Mr. Popowich asked for a few moments to compose the motion and presented the following:

“WNC-P2-062005-2: Whereas the citizens of Winnetka have reported problems to the City of Los Angeles regarding Runnymede Park for over a year and have not had the response that they feel is adequate. Whereas the citizens of the area have noticed illegal drinking, gambling, large parties, public indecency, trash and refuse problems, rodent infestations, drug infestations homeless problems, graffiti, vandalism, and lack of maintenance we resolve:

Resolve to officially request the city Parks & Recreation Department to remove 15 benches.

Resolve to officially request the city to replace them with 15 – 20 large boulders.

Resolve to request the Parks & Recreation Department to submit a long term maintenance plan including the pest and rodent control systems to the Winnetka NC for approval.

Resolve to request the city to add a surveillance camera.

Resolve to request the Parks & Recreation Department to report on any applicable permit systems that can be applied to Runnymede within 90 days.

Resolve to request the LAPD to patrol the park through a drive through at least 3 times a day starting at mid afternoon. This includes a recommendation to have the bike police patrol the park.

Resolve to request the Park Rangers to report back to us at the next meeting with how they are going to enforce the current regulations.

Resolve to request the Bureau of Street Services to conduct a sweep for street vendors with 90 days.

Resolve to request the Parking Enforcement to increase patrol in that area. (Popowich)”

- 4.30. Mr. Burgess seconded the motion.
- 4.31. Mr. Popowich called for a vote on the motion. Motion passed 4 – 0.
- 4.32. Mr. Popowich explained how the process works and when eh can send the letter. He promised to hold a planning meeting for the night out within two weeks. He explained that while we need to wait for the full Board to approve the letter going out, we can still plan the Winnetka Night Out as that was passed by the Board. He stressed the importance of having the people volunteer and commit to doing this.

5. Discussion and possible action on the following proposed motion regarding the California Border Police initiative:

“WNC-PS-062005-1: The WNC Public Safety Committee recommends the Winnetka Neighborhood Council endorse the California Border Police Initiative and issues a letter showing such support and endorsement to be forwarded to the Authors of the initiative, the Public Safety Committee Members of the Los Angeles City Council, (Miscikowski, Reyes, Parks, Weiss, & Zine) and to the California Senate (Alquist, Poochigian, Margett, Migden, Perata & Romero) and California Assembly (Leno, La Suer, Cohn, Dymally, Goldberg & Spitzer) Public Safety Committee members, stating that the WNC endorses and fully support this initiative. The Secretary would be allowed to forward such endorsement letter to other public figures as he/she sees fit.” (Montaine)

For further information on this initiative you can visit the following web site: California Border Police Initiative: <http://www.calborderpolice.com/>

- 5.1. Mr. Popowich introduced the motion and asked if anyone had read the material.
- 5.2. Mr. Montaine said the reason this exists is because the Federal government passed a regulation in 1997 authorizing the states to create a border patrol in case they feel that the Federal government is not doing its job. He went on to say that this will create about 2000 police which will patrol the border and if they

catch anyone then they will have to turn it over to the Federal government for prosecution. He said he's not really for more taxes.

5.3. Ms. Robinson asked if this would be on the next ballot for statewide issues.

5.3.1. Mr. Montaine said he is not sure. They are asking for endorsements.

5.4. Mr. Valdez, a stakeholder, commented that he supports the initiative. He feels that we should protract our borders and have more control on who comes in as far as health and background checks.

5.4.1. Mr. Montaine said that is becoming an issue with new disease comes across the border.

5.5. Mr. Valdez, a stakeholder, commented that maybe they will catch more than just illegal aliens but things like drugs and terrorists. It will force the government to do their job.

5.6. Mr. Burgess said he has no comment.

5.7. Ms. Robinson said she supports it.

5.8. Mr. Burgess said he supports.

5.9. Mr. Popowich says his concern is who will pay for it. The state is broke as it is.

5.10. Mr. Valdez, a stakeholder, commented that if we reduce it then we can realize side benefit savings elsewhere.

5.11. Mr. Popowich said that while he thinks this is good, he can't support it because there is no spending plan. He feels that it's a shame the state has to do this. This is Federal responsibility. If we stopped fighting wars we would be able to do this. This is the problem with our state. We set these programs and mandate them but can't pay

5.12. Mr. Montaine said that there would be cost savings

5.13. Ms. Robinson said that she felt that it's just a tax issue.

5.14. Mr. Burgess seconded the motion.

5.15. Motion passed 3 – 1.

6. **Committee Business –**

A. Comments on Committee Member's own activities/ brief announcements.

i. Ms. Robinson said that she is working on the National Night Out.

1. Mr. Popowich asked if we need to do anything.

2. Ms. Robinson said that we are all invited.

3. Mr. Popowich asked if there is anything we can do to participate in this event.

B. Brief response to statements made or questions posed by persons exercising their general public comment rights.

C. Introduction of any new issues for consideration by the Committee at its next meeting/request that the item be placed on the next meeting's agenda.

D. Requests for Committee Members to research issues and report back to the Committee at a future time.

7. **Adjournment**