

Memorandum

Date: September 21, 2006

To: Policy Board Members and Alternates

From: Robert D. Miller, Director

Subject: Neighborhood Representative Applications

The application deadline for applying for Neighborhood Representative positions on the Policy Board closed on September 15. As of the filing deadline, individuals had filed for every position except Revitalization representative and alternate. The listing of those who have filed is attached for your information. No one had submitted an application for the Revitalization representative position by the deadline. This is the first time in 15 years that this has occurred and leaves the 37 neighborhoods in this classification without a representative on the Board for the first time since NRP began.

Although we have a procedure that ensures that the seats will be filled by a neighborhood volunteer at the Policy Board meetings if the representatives and alternates from the other classifications regularly attend our meetings, this is not the same as having an individual from these neighborhoods bringing their views and perspectives to the Board.

The election rules adopted in 1995 and amended in 1996, 1997, and 1999 require the filing of applications 60 days prior to the election but do not address what, if anything, should happen if the filings will not fill the available positions. We have had, in several years, instances when only one candidate had filed and the alternate position has gone unfilled. We have never before had a situation where 45% of the neighborhoods would go unrepresented because no one has filed for an available representative position.

The only precedent for a similar occurrence and how it was addressed can be found in the deliberations and actions of the Board regarding the 1996 elections. In that year, five candidates had filed by the deadline for the eight available positions. After consultation with the League of Women Voters, NRP staff extended the deadline to allow additional applications to be submitted. The members of the Policy Board disagreed with the extension of the deadline and voted to reopen the whole process of the election, and directed that a new date and timetable be established. All individuals who had previously filed were automatically included as having filed for the new process. The elections were held in January 1997 before the first Board meeting and the number of candidates increased from the original 5 to a final 22.

The difference between the circumstances in 1996 and today are that the 1996 actions were taken to ensure choices and competition while the issue this year is the potential absence of representation. Because of the concerns raised in 1996 about the deadline extension, we took no action this year to extend the opportunity for filing.

I believe that NRP would be best served by making an additional effort to fill the Revitalization Neighborhood representative void and am, therefore, recommending that the Policy Board adopt the following resolution to address this year's circumstances. The resolution meets the requirements of our existing election policy and rules and would allow the election to be conducted before the first Board meeting of 2007.

WHEREAS: No individuals have filed as candidates for the position of Neighborhood Representative for the Revitalization neighborhoods by the filing deadline established by the Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) Policy Board ("Board");

WHEREAS: Concerns have been raised about the potential absence of representation on the Policy Board for the 37 Revitalization Neighborhoods;

WHEREAS: Conducting a fair, open and inclusive election process that involves all of the city's neighborhoods is an essential component of the NRP;

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) Policy Board reopens the neighborhood representative election process for 2006 and adopts the following schedule for conducting the 2006 elections for Neighborhood Representatives:

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|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
| • Friday, October 13 | Filing Deadline for Candidates |
| • Friday December 1 | Registration Deadline for Electors |
| • Tuesday December 12 | Candidate forums and Election |

RESOLVED FURTHER: That all candidates who submitted their applications previously be included in the candidate pool and have the option to revise the category under which they are filing without filing a new application.

The League of Women Voters has been asked to reserve the December 12 date and to be available to accept new candidate applications. We have also checked on site availability and can change our reservation to the new date if the Board adopts this resolution. The resolution and change in dates can be accommodated in this year's election process and still have the new Board members ready for the beginning of their term in January.

Neighborhood Representative Candidate Applications

September 15, 2006----Seven candidates filed for election as neighborhood representatives to the NRP Policy Board.

The following candidates are listed in the category in which they filed:

At-Large

Rosie Cruz	East Phillips
Debbie Evans	Linden Hills
Anna Iwachiw	Phillips
Nicholas Kakos	East Calhoun

Protection

Jeffrey Strand	Shingle Creek
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Redirection

Thomas Bissen	Whittier
Carol Ann Pass	East Phillips

Revitalization

No Candidates Filed for this Category

A voter's guide will be assembled and available on October 2, 2006. Neighborhood organizations will be selecting electors to vote on their behalf at the election, which will be held on Thursday, November 16, 2006 beginning at 7:00 pm.