

MEMORANDUM

To: NRP Policy Board Members and Alternates

From: Robert D. Miller, Director

Date: November 16, 2011

Subject: East Phillips Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan

At the October 24 Policy Board meeting the East Phillips Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan was provided to the Board for review and action. Unfortunately, two steps that should have been completed before the plan was submitted for action did not occur and action on the plan was postponed until the Participation Agreement for Phase II was reviewed and approved and the legal review was completed. Both of these steps are usually accomplished prior to submission of a plan for Board action.

The Participation Agreement has been reviewed and approved and the plan has received its legal assessment. It is now appropriate for the Policy Board to take up and act on the East Phillips Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan.

On behalf of the East Phillips Improvement Council (EPIC) I am submitting the East Phillips Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan (NAP) for Policy Board action. Pursuant to the April 19, 2004 Policy Board resolution the proposed NAP includes a Housing Allocation over seventy percent (70%).

The East Phillips neighborhood is located in the southeast quadrant of the greater Phillips neighborhood. It is a 35-block area with a 2010 population of 4,269 residents. A distinctive feature of East Phillips is the great diversity of its population. It is one of the most diverse neighborhoods in Minneapolis and possibly the State.

Two of the most pressing problems facing the neighborhood have been poverty and an aging housing stock. The dramatic increases in boarded and vacated structures that occurred in the late 1990's created a housing stock crisis.

The neighborhood responded to these major issues by using Phase I NRP resources to leverage the construction and/or rehabilitation of:

- 29 homes on vacant lots,
- 28 townhomes,
- a 37 unit affordable housing apartment building
- 43 existing homes
- a 46 unit affordable family apartment building (in process)

In addition, the neighborhood fought long and hard to create, with support from the Minnesota Legislature and the Minneapolis Park Board, the East Phillips Park Cultural and Community Center. This exciting new facility has become the social and recreational center of the neighborhood.

In January 2011 EPIC recruited and established an NRP Steering Committee to oversee development of the neighborhood's Phase II Action Plan. They developed a Participation Agreement in February that included specific and extensive community outreach and engagement efforts.

The NRP Phase II process was kicked-off at the March 2011 EPIC General Membership Meeting that included interviewing and surveying of the attendees. Door-to-door surveying began in Spring 2011 and continued through September of 2011. Surveys and outreach on Phase II plan elements occurred at the Aquatennial summer event held in Midtown Phillips. A plan framework was developed in April and May 2011 and circulated throughout the community. An announcement was placed in the Alley Newspaper April 14th for a Community Meeting to review the framework on April 30th.

Two (2) Somali focus groups were held in the spring of 2011. Input was also gathered from meetings held at East Phillips Cultural Center, monthly community meetings, and monthly board meetings. Additionally, ongoing safety issues were discussed in multi-neighborhood dialogues.

Amendments to the original draft were developed in the spring and formed the NRP Phase II draft plan. A complete Plan was available at community meetings and a plan summary was provided in three (3) languages. The summary was posted on line, distributed door-to-door, and emailed to the EPIC membership. Community meetings were held on September 8th and October 13th to receive additional comments and input. Between the September and October meetings, a Latino focus group, a Nepali focus group, and a 3rd Somali focus group were held. Little Earth of United Tribes had outreach workers at picnic tables at Cedar Field Park and conducted one-one-one listening sessions with residents. Doorknocking and visits to constituents who had expressed interest in adding additional comments to the Plan were also conducted.

The conclusion was a Community Meeting held on October 13th following door-to-door distribution of the draft NRP Phase II Plan, an announcement in the Alley Newspaper, placement on the web, and email correspondence to EPIC membership. The vote for approval was unanimous.

The Neighborhood Action Plan allocates the neighborhood's NRP Phase II commitment of \$489,220 in the following manner.

Housing	\$ 342,454
Community Enhancement	\$ 70,000
Crime and Safety	\$ 1,000
Infrastructure	\$ 35,000
Business Investment	\$ 20,000
Neighborhood Identity	\$ 7,766
Community Building	\$ 13,000

Based on the approval of neighborhood residents, my review of the Plan, the assessment of legal counsel and the extensive outreach conducted by EPIC in developing this Plan, I recommend that the Policy Board adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS: On April 19, 2004, the Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Policy Board (Board) established the Phase II allocation available for the East Phillips neighborhood at \$489,220.00 based on the Phase II revenues projected for NRP,

WHEREAS: The East Phillips neighborhood has conducted an appropriate and responsible Phase II plan development process,

WHEREAS: The submitted East Phillips NRP Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan requests an allocation of \$489,220 and dedicates more than seventy percent (72.21%) of that allocation to housing programs, projects, services and activities,

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Policy Board (Board) hereby accepts and adopts the East Phillips Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan,

RESOLVED FURTHER: That the Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program Policy Board hereby authorizes the Director to request that the City Council and Mayor [a] approve the East Phillips NRP Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan, and specifically those parts of the Plan that fall under City jurisdiction, for their Phase II allocation of up to \$489,220; [b] amend the 2011 General Appropriation Resolution to increase the Fund CNR0 (NRP Fund) by \$489,220 from existing fund balance for implementation of the approved Plan; and [c] authorize the appropriate City officers to enter into any contracts or agreements necessary to implement the activities above.