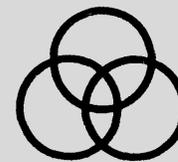


NRP Link

July 2001
Volume 8, Issue 7

Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program News



An open letter from Bob Miller on the future of NRP

The 2001 session of the Minnesota State Legislature has concluded and I want you to know, as clearly as possible, the implications for the present and future of the NRP. For the past 10 years, NRP has helped neighborhoods develop Neighborhood Action Plans, identify priorities, create solutions and implement strategies. The commitment in the original legislation establishing NRP was for a \$20 million per year program for the 20 years between 1990–2009.

The Minnesota Legislature has changed that commitment by eliminating much of the funding stream that has previously been used to support NRP and its activities. The impact has occurred because of the compression of property tax rates and the reallocation of education costs, and their tax support base, from the local to the state level. The result has been a loss of revenue that now makes fully funding NRP until 2009 a real challenge.

To all of you who helped contact legislators and the Governor's Office, our warmest thanks. More than 5,000 calls, e-mails and letters were sent supporting NRP. Unfortunately, NRP was only a minor part of the drama that became this legislative session. Now we have to deal with the results of the legislative actions that occurred. First and foremost are the impacts on neighborhood activities. These fall into two categories: the impacts on Phase I and the existing commitments to neighborhoods; and the impacts on the future.

The concerns that were raised during the legislative session about potential loss of revenues already appropriated for Phase I have been addressed. **The strategies in approved Neighborhood Action Plans will be fully funded.** The commitments made during Phase I will be kept and neighborhoods can proceed with implementation and contracting just as planned.

The impacts on the future are very different. The best information available at this time indicates that Phase II cannot be fully funded through either the Common Project TIF revenues or the development account that

has also helped pay for NRP in the past. It is not yet clear how much will be available from these sources and a working group appointed by the Mayor and City Council is considering options. As one of the members of that group, I will be working to ensure that every effort will be made to fully fund the commitment that was originally made to the residents of the City when NRP was established.

Without assurance that the funds for the second ten years will be available, however, we have no choice but to immediately suspend the processing of any commitments that would be paid for out of Phase II funds. This includes the Affordable Housing and Commercial Area Development Reserve Funds. Projects submitted by the July 13 deadline for the Affordable Housing Reserve Fund will be held for future evaluation when the resource commitment for Phase II is clarified.

The neighborhoods most directly affected by this change in NRP's financial situation are the ones that are eligible to begin their Phase II planning effort. To those neighborhoods, I suggest that you continue with your Phase I reviews and identification of your neighborhood's priorities. It is my hope that the resource commitments for Phase II will be in place before you complete these tasks.

During these uncertain times, I want to encourage you to continue with your efforts to make your neighborhoods better places to live, work, learn and play. Neighborhood associations and residents have helped change the city, and this is not a time for despair, regret or resignation. It is an opportunity to take stock and renew resolve. Residents have invested wisely in the future of the city and now the effort has to be made to ensure that the changes that have been achieved continue. We will keep you informed as the picture for NRP's future becomes clearer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob".

Robert D. Miller
NRP Director

Nicollet Avenue streetscape, SENA 10-year anniversary celebration, and Bassett's Creek planting showcase NRP resources at work

SUMMER IN THE CITY: NRP STYLE

One of the unique features of the Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program is the way in which it brings residents into the priority-setting process of their neighborhoods and city. Nothing illustrates this better than three different celebrations held in June by residents who helped plan and implement projects they deemed priorities in their neighborhoods.

Thanks to the NRP, Nicollet Avenue from 40th to 46th Streets in south Minneapolis received a much needed facelift. Active Kingfield neighborhood residents assured that a Nicollet Avenue improvement project they helped plan met the needs of the neighborhood by balancing concerns for pedestrian safety with the desire for increased boulevard greenery and a more vibrant business district.

Nicollet Avenue now features eight varieties of boulevard trees, new red brick sidewalk, exterior improvements to neighborhood businesses, a repaved street, and new pedestrian street lighting.

According to Heather Martens, Co-chair of the Kingfield NRP Steering Committee, Nicollet Avenue now feels safer and is a nicer place to walk and congregate and meet neighbors.



Residents in the Kingfield neighborhood invested NRP resources in a project to improve Nicollet Ave. New streetlights, trees, and sidewalk enhancements were all part of the project. The improvements are designed to increase overall neighborhood safety and livability along Martin Luther King Park as well as to accentuate the mixed-uses of housing and business on the prominent throughway.

Residents in the Standish and Ericsson neighborhoods in south Minneapolis also got together in June to celebrate their neighborhood organization's 10-year Anniversary. The Standish-Ericsson Neighborhood Association (SENA) was formed as a result of the creation of the NRP.



On June 23, volunteers from the Bryn Mawr and Harrison neighborhoods planted thousands of wetland, woodland, and prairie plantings near Bassett's Creek as part of a master plan to beautify the creek and Bassett's Creek Valley Park.



In Brief

First call for CUE Award nominations

The Committee on Urban Environment (CUE) is calling for nominations for the 30th Anniversary ceremony of the CUE Awards. CUE Awards recognize significant achievement in urban architectural and environmental design, historic preservation, streetscape beautification, neighborhood improvement, parks and open spaces, and public art.

Past CUE Award winners include: "Art-A-Whirl" and the Camden Gateway; children's projects such as the Habitat for Humanity Mural and the Lake Harriet Elf; environmental projects such as Minnehaha Park Renovation Plan and the Midtown Greenway-Phase I; downtown buildings such as the Norwest Tower and Hennepin Center for the Arts and; unique projects like photographer Wing Young Huie's, 6-mile art display along Lake Street USA.

Projects or events nominated for a 2001 CUE Award must be located within the City of Minneapolis and have been completed within the past five years. A special 30-year History of CUE Award winners is also planned for the November ceremony. Nominations, including photos and slides, are due September 1, 2001.

Blooming Boulevard nominations due July 16, 2001

In 2001, the Committee on Urban Environment (CUE) set a goal to increase public outreach and recognize over 2,000 people who have improved the urban environment through gardening and landscaping.

Please nominate someone from your neighborhood that has made residential, commercial, public, private, or industrial land more attractive by planting boulevards, front yards, back yards, alleys, and community gardens. The deadline for Blooming Boulevard nominations is Monday, July 16, 2001.

If you have any questions or need nomination forms and materials, please call: 612-673-3014, email: CUE@ci.minneapolis.mn.us or go to www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cue

Second Annual Blooming Bryn Mawr Garden Tour set for July 14, 2001

On July 14 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Bryn Mawr Garden Club will host a self-guided garden tour featuring more than a dozen private gardens as well as numerous community gardens surrounding downtown Bryn Mawr. Design principles established in the NRP-funded Bryn Mawr Comprehensive Neighborhood Plan have guided many of the featured beautification efforts near downtown Bryn Mawr. Other types of gardens appearing on the tour include: perennial borders, blooming boulevards, both manicured and exuberant front yards, and serene back yards. Tour maps are available on the day of the event in front of the Bloomsbury Market just west of the intersection of Penn Avenue South and Cedar Lake Road, (2 blocks north of I-394 at the Penn Avenue exit). Hennepin County Extension Service Master Gardeners will be available to answer all of your gardening questions. The cost for the tour is \$5. All proceeds from the event will benefit future downtown Bryn Mawr beautification efforts. For more information about the tour, please call 612-377-8915.

National Night Out Block Party Barricade Deadlines Set

On August 7, Minneapolis will celebrate its 18th annual National Night Out (NNO). That night, many block clubs will close off their streets to make their block parties safer and more enjoyable. Last year, more than 540 streets were closed. People planning to close off their streets on August 7 this year should request barricades as soon as possible. Requests are filled on a first-come first-served basis. Because there are a limited number of barricades, the City Clerk's office has set deadlines for reserving them. There is no assurance that barricades will be available for all who want them.

The City Clerk's deadlines for reserving barricades are:

- July 10: Free barricades for applications received or postmarked by July 10
- July 11-24: \$15 fee for applications postmarked between July 11-July 23
- July 24: Requests denied for applications postmarked after July 24

To obtain an application for barricades, Block Clubs can call the City Clerk's office at 612-673-2114.



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NRP

Kingfield celebrates Nicollet Ave. improvements



On June 2, the Kingfield Neighborhood Association held a gathering at Martin Luther King Park to celebrate improvements made to Nicollet Ave. See page 2 for details.

— July 2001 Calendar of Events —

4 Independence Day

City Offices Closed.

12 Management Review Team (MRT) Meeting CANCELLED. Next Meeting August 9

14 Bryn Mawr Garden Tour

10:00a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Tour maps can be purchased for \$5 the day of the event at the Bloomsbury Market, 403 S. Cedar Lake Road (2 blocks north of Highway 394 on Penn Avenue). For more information, see page 3 or call 612-377-8915.

16 Blooming Boulevards Nominations Due

See page 3, or call 612-673-3014 to request nomination forms and materials.

23 NRP Policy Board Meeting

4:30-6:30 p.m., Room C-2350 Hennepin County Government Center.

23 August Link Submission Deadline

Call 612-673-5158, or fax your submission to Brett at 612-673-5138.

30 NRP Training Series 2001: "Preparing for Phase II" 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Suite #200, Crown Roller Mill, 105 Fifth Ave. S. Call Robert Thompson at 612-673-5149 for information.

31 NRP Training Series 2001: "Evaluation I" 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Suite #200, Crown Roller Mill, 105 Fifth Ave. S. Call Robert Thompson at 612-673-5149 for information.

Aug. 1 NRP Training Series 2001: "Evaluation II" 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Suite #200, Crown Roller Mill, 105 Fifth Ave. S. Call Robert Thompson at 612-673-5149 for information.

The NRP Link is published monthly by the Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program.

For more information, call Brett Feldman, Editor, (612) 673-5158.

The NRP Link is available in Braille or large print upon request. TTY (612) 673-2626.

