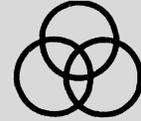


NRP Link

December 2002

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Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program News



NRP Policy Board election official results are in

More than 100 Minneapolis residents attended the NRP Policy Board neighborhood representative election on Thursday, November 21. Sixty-seven electors, chosen by their neighborhood boards, elected four neighborhood representatives to serve on the 2003 NRP Policy Board.

Those elected include: Ron Ravensborg as the at-large representative, Nicholas T. Kakos as the protection neighborhood representative, Carol Pass as the redirection neighborhood representative, and Cam Gordon as the revitalization neighborhood representative. Julia Burman, Debbie Evans, Zachary Korb and Greg Bastien were elected as Policy Board alternates.

Thanks to all the people who chose to participate in the election. Special thanks to the League of Women Voters of Minneapolis for conducting this year's election and forums. Comments, questions or suggestions about the NRP election process can be submitted to:

NRP Election Comments, 425 Crown Roller Mill, 105 Fifth Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55401.

Meet the 2003 NRP Policy Board neighborhood representatives:



Ron Ravensborg



Nicholas T. Kakos



Carol Pass



Cam Gordon

City leaders seek public input on draft goals

The City of Minneapolis provides residents with essential services for a safe, livable community. Strong goals help city leaders provide citizens with the services they need, in a way that makes sense.

City leaders set new goals every four years, and use citizen input to guide the process. The result? Clear priorities that provide long-term direction and clarify the core function of city government. Citizen input is an essential part of the goal-setting process. A complete copy of the city's draft goals and expecta-

tions for public input and a summary are available on the City of Minneapolis Web site at <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/results-oriented-minneapolis/goals/index.asp>. Comments on these draft goals can be sent to: City Goals, Office of the City Coordinator, 350 S. 5th Street, Room 301M. Minneapolis, MN 55415-1330. E-mail comments can be sent to goals@ci.minneapolis.mn.us. Public input will be used to draft a final version of the city goals. Comments will be accepted through Tuesday, December 31, 2002.

Whittier Phase II neighborhood action plan approved by NRP Policy Board

On November 18, the Whittier neighborhood became the second Minneapolis neighborhood to have its NRP Phase II action plan approved by the NRP Policy Board. The plan must now go to the Minneapolis City Council and mayor for final approval.

The Whittier plan directs the allocation of nearly \$7.4 million in Phase II investments, building upon the neighborhood's experience and work of Phase I.

Nearly 50 percent of the Whittier Phase II plan will be invested in "quality housing opportunities for households at all income levels" through single- and multi-family housing loan and deferred loan programs. Nearly 20 percent of the housing funding, or roughly \$730,000, will be designated specifically to households earning less than 50 percent of the Metro Median Income.

The Whittier plan is the result of an extensive community engagement process led by the Whittier Alliance, which facilitated 30 focus groups attended

by nearly 200 neighborhood stakeholders and conducted 275 surveys in English, Somali and Spanish.

In addition to increasing housing opportunities, other Phase II priorities that emerged in the neighborhood were: increasing safety, expanding youth opportunities, strengthening the business economy and building a stronger community.

Highlights from the Whittier neighborhood Phase I plan include: providing much-needed home, commercial and rental property loan programs; construction of the new Whittier Community School for the Arts; a revitalized Nicollet Avenue commercial corridor "more widely known as Eat Street" and a new bookmobile.

For more information about the Whittier Phase II action plan, please contact the Whittier Alliance at 612-871-7756. A copy of the plan will also be available on the NRP Web site pending final City of Minneapolis approval.

Applications for Community Leadership Institute spring 2003 session now being accepted

The University of St. Thomas' Center for Nonprofit Management is again offering an exciting learning opportunity for neighborhood organization volunteers and staff.

Created in collaboration with the NRP and the Metropolitan Alliance for Community Centers (MACC) and presented for the first time in spring 2001, the Community Leadership Institute is a certificate program designed to provide comprehensive leadership training to neighborhood volunteers and community organization staff. The Community Leadership Institute's unique curriculum makes it possible for those who are attending their first class in a university setting to learn side-by-side with emerging leaders who hold advanced degrees. Participants in the program earn a **Certificate of Completion** after successfully completing two semesters of the program.

Semester one of the institute begins Tuesday, January 21, 2003 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and continues for

12 Tuesday night sessions through April 8. Topics covered in semester one include: building an effective board, project management, fund raising and improving communication skills.

Semester two of the institute, which is open to those who have completed semester one, begins Thursday, January 23, 2003 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and continues for 12 Thursday night sessions through April 10. Topics covered in semester two include: ethics of working in community and outcomes and evaluation.

Generous scholarships for the Community Leadership Institute are available through the NRP and the MACC. For more information on the program, or to obtain a brochure and application, contact Barbara Ritter at 651-962-4300. The program brochure and application can also be obtained by calling the NRP at 612-673-5140. Space is limited, and applications are due January 8, so fill out your application today!

In Brief

NRP Policy Board meeting rescheduled

Because of a scheduling conflict, the NRP Policy Board meeting has been rescheduled for 4:30 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 23, in Conference Room #3 on the second floor of the Crown Roller Mill building, 105 Fifth Ave. S.

Longfellow Community Council general membership meeting December 21

The Longfellow Community Council (LCC) will host its general membership meeting on Saturday, Dec. 21, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 2730 E. 31st Street. Join the LCC at this business meeting and buffet where members of the board will discuss LCC activities, programs and projects from 2002 and talk about what is in store for 2003. For more information, please contact the LCC at 612-722-4529.

CUE Front Porch Project looking for partners in NRP Phase II

A task force of the Minneapolis Committee on Urban Environment (CUE) is researching the possibility of working with neighborhood organizations to design and construct front porches. CUE's goal is to use architecture students from the University of Minnesota's College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture as design and build resources for Phase II NRP housing projects. Front porches add value and livability to existing homes and character to the streetscape. They also make neighborhoods safer by placing more eyes on the street. For more information on the Front Porch Project, please call 612-673-3014.

Regional Emmy Award winner to read from new screenplay Dec. 16

Homewood Studios, 2400 Plymouth Ave. N., is presenting a reading of "City Animals," a feature-length screenplay by Tom Poole at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 16. This romantic comedy about a man who has problems with women and animals will be presented by a cast of some of the funniest and most charming actors in the Twin Cities. Poole, winner of a regional Emmy Award as well as grants from the Jerome and McKnight foundations, will be on hand to answer questions and to take advice from the audience. The reading is free and open to the public. For more information, please call 612-587-0230.

Minneapolis supportive housing development receives national award

The Minneapolis Community Development Agency (MCDA) accepted a Meritorious Achievement Award in November from the National Association of Local Housing Finance Agencies (NALHFA) for Portland Village, a multifamily housing development located at 18th and Portland avenues.

NALHFA selected the development from applicants nationwide during its fall 2002 awards competition. Portland Village was applauded for its innovation, extraordinary benefit to the community, affordability and replicability. Developed jointly by Alliance Housing, Inc. and RS Eden, the housing complex provides a sober community for families with members who are recovering from substance abuse.

Completed in December 2001, Portland Village replaced two neglected properties and four vacant lots, leaving three new apartment buildings and a community center in their place. The 26-unit complex, located at 1829 Portland Ave. S., serves an extremely low-income population with the vast majority of its units (22 of 26) affordable to households with incomes below 30 percent of area median income.

Portland Village is targeted toward previously homeless families who are early into recovery from substance abuse problems, are committed to continued sobriety and who need long term engagement in a sober community.

Residents must agree to keep sober and be willing to work or go back to school. Extensive on-site supportive services include case managers who work with the families on a range of issues, on-site licensed childcare provided by PICA/Headstart, and activity programs for older children. All of these services take place in a setting with controlled access and security.

MCDA provided nearly \$1 million of HOME funding to this \$5.3 million project. In addition to MCDA support, funding was received from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Supportive Housing Program, the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, Federal Home Loan Bank, National Equity Fund and Hennepin County.



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 Crown Roller Mill, Suite 425
 105 Fifth Avenue South
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Survey results indicate interest in potential NRP conference

More than 120 people responded to a survey asking whether the NRP should host a conference in 2003. Respondents overwhelmingly supported the idea of the NRP hosting a conference but varied on the details of what the conference should look like. Most respondents were in favor of a 4 to 6 hour conference that would span through the morning but last no longer than mid-afternoon. Two out of every three respondents also felt that if the NRP hosts a conference, it should take place in the spring of 2003. We appreciate people taking the time to fill out the survey. The NRP will conduct a random phone survey in mid-December to get more detailed information about what people would expect from a conference. Watch the NRP Link for more details!

NRP Policy Board Report

Approved November 18, 2002

-  Whittier neighborhood Phase II Action Plan
-  Phase II Early Access request for Seward neighborhood
-  Phase II amendment for Hale, Page and Diamond Lake neighborhoods

— December 2002 Calendar of Events —

- 5 Management Review Team (MRT) Meeting**
4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., Room 333 City Hall
- 16 Regional Emmy Award winner to read from new screenplay at Homewood Studios**
6:00 p.m., Homewood Studios, 2400 Plymouth Avenue North. See page 3, call 612-587-0230 or visit Homewood Studios on the Web at www.homewoodstudios.com for more information.
- 21 Longfellow Community Council general membership meeting**
3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 2730 E. 31st Street. See page 3 or call the Longfellow Community Council at 612-722-4529 for more information.
- 23 NRP Policy Board meeting**
4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., Conference Room #3, Second Floor, Crown Roller Mill building, 105 Fifth Avenue South

- 24 January Link submission deadline**
Call 612-673-5158 or fax your submission to Brett at 612-673-5138.
- 25 Christmas holiday**
City offices closed
- 26 Kwanzaa begins**

Happy Holidays from the NRP!

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.

