



NRP mourns the loss of Park Board Commissioner Ed Solomon

The Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program and residents throughout the city suffered a devastating loss on Thursday, December 12, 2002, when NRP Policy Board Member and Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) Commissioner Edward C. Solomon died at the age of 66.

Solomon will be remembered as a champion for the city's youth and a staunch supporter of the NRP. "Ed was a powerful and passionate voice for Minneapolis neighborhoods," said NRP Director Bob Miller. "He genuinely believed that by giving residents the opportunity to make important decisions in their neighborhoods, they would in turn make the city a better place. Ed's passion and presence will be missed."

Solomon, who first became an MPRB commissioner in 1997, had been a member of the NRP Policy Board since 1999. He served as the MPRB president in 2000 and 2001.

Solomon was outspoken about the issues he cared so much about. "I believe our greatest strength as well as challenge is the development of recreation programs that serve youth," Solomon is quoted as saying on the MPRB Web site. "I am also interested in seeing more intergenerational interaction between seniors and youth because I believe that seniors have a lot they can share with youth, and they have the time to do it."

Prior to becoming an MPRB commissioner in 1996, Solomon worked as a personnel administrator for Control Data and Hennepin Parks - now the Three Rivers Park District. Solomon also served for 31 years with the United States Air Force Reserve. He was a resident of the Field neighborhood for more than 40 years where he earned the title "Mayor of 48th Street" and where his name became synonymous with McRae



Edward C. Solomon
2/25/36 to 12/12/02

Park, the park where he coached thousands of youth over the years.

In addition to his wife Harriet, Solomon is survived by his son, Edward (Chuck) Solomon, Jr., daughter Dana Williams and four grandchildren.

In honor of Solomon's legacy, the NRP Policy Board passed a resolution at its December 23 meeting recognizing the impact and contributions made by Solomon to further the goals of the NRP and for his unwavering support and commitment to the empowerment of the residents of the City of Minneapolis.



Solomon, second from left, joined residents from the Standish-Ericsson Neighborhood Association (SENA) at a grand opening celebration for a new playground at Lake Hiawatha Park on August 1, 2001.

Neighborhoods the focus of 2003 Minneapolis and Saint Paul Home Tour

The Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program and the cities of Minneapolis and Saint Paul are proud to present the 2003 Minneapolis and Saint Paul Home Tour. Now in its 16th year, the home tour is an inspiring celebration of city living that brings thousands of home enthusiasts together for a weekend of sharing home remodeling ideas and new ownership opportunities. The home tour has something for everyone. From new construction to creative renovations, the home tour showcases downtown condos and lofts, cozy cottage-style homes, historic preservations and vintage Queen Anne Victorians. Join the NRP on **Saturday, May 3, 2003 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday, May 4, 2003, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** and see why Minneapolis and Saint Paul neighborhoods are beaming with pride!

The 2003 Minneapolis and Saint Paul Home Tour presents the ideal opportunity for neighborhood groups to showcase their housing programs by nominating homes that have received NRP loans or grants.

If you would like to nominate your home or obtain more information about the 2003 home tour, please visit www.msphometour.com. Nomination forms and a virtual home tour featuring past participants are now available.

If your neighborhood organization would like to organize a neighborhood tour to be featured in the 2003 Minneapolis and Saint Paul Home Tour Guide distributed to 180,000 people throughout the Twin Cities, please contact Brett at 612-673-5158.

Past home tour participants talk about home improvements they made with NRP support



Daphnae Koop and Marc Clements
Bottineau neighborhood
2002 Minneapolis and Saint Paul Home Tour

"We bought our 1908 farm-style home in 1998. We were looking for a home with history, character and plenty of room. We were immediately drawn by the hedge surrounding the large yard, the mature trees, the porches, the original details and the layout of the rooms. We are both artists and have chosen a rich palette of colors which includes more contemporary versions of the deep hues from the 1900s. With financial help from the Neighborhood Revitalization Program we were able to fix our roof. Northeast Minneapolis' quirky mix of houses and industry never fails to charm us!"



Pam and Manuel Serra
Lind-Bohanon neighborhood
2001 Minneapolis and Saint Paul Home Tour

"Like many of the houses in our neighborhood, ours was quite small - but not anymore," say Pam and Manuel. "Thanks to a wonderful addition to the back of our house, we now have a larger kitchen, a family room, plenty of closet space and a larger bathroom. There's also a handsome deck attached to the house, a new garage and a swing set in the backyard for the kids. A loan from the NRP financed the addition. Our children attend Emerson Spanish Immersion Learning Center - a great Minneapolis public school! We enjoy the neighborhood and look forward to the new Humboldt Greenway."

In Brief

31st Annual CUE Awards January 30

The Committee on Urban Environment (CUE) recently announced the finalists for the 31st Annual CUE Awards. Winners will be notified at a presentation ceremony from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 30 at the McNamara Alumni Center on the University of Minnesota campus, 200 Oak Street SE. Directions and parking information are available on the Web at www.alumnicenter.umn.edu.

Keynote speaker Janet Abrams, director of the Design Institute of the College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture, will speak on the challenges facing the next generation of urban designers, finalist's projects will be showcased, and the winners will be announced.

The evening will include a social hour with hors d'oeuvres and cash bar, poster board display and a multi-media presentation of the award finalists and winners. The awards program will honor both public and private sector projects and emphasize the need for continued partnerships to create new standards for urban design in the metropolitan area. Questions and RSVPs should be directed to the Committee on Urban Environment at 612-673-3014 or CUE@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.

The NRP has always made a strong showing at the CUE Awards and this year should be no different as the program was involved in several of the projects that are up for awards. They include: Artists on Chicago, 10 units of artist studio/living spaces in the Powderhorn Park and Central neighborhoods; the Central Avenue banners, part of a multi-neighborhood effort to revitalize Central Avenue; the Elliot Park Neighborhood Master Plan, the neighborhood vision for directing its planning and development efforts in the coming years; the Franklin Avenue Streetscape, a renewal project spanning from Chicago Avenue to 16th Avenue; the Linden Hills Library renovation project that expanded public service space and added 18 new computers for public use; Spiff the Biffs, the Lake Harriet Historic Restroom Restoration project; the Grain Belt Brewhouse Renovation and the Linden Hills History Book. Tickets to the CUE Awards presentation cost \$30. If you would like to purchase a ticket, please call CUE at 612-673-3014.

NRP-TV producer and writer extraordinaire John Akre to read from his new novel

Join NRP-TV producer and writer extraordinaire John Akre as he reads from his new novel *Billion Million Thousand Hundred Novel Not Extinct* on Saturday, January 18, 2003, at the Frank Stone Gallery, 1226 2nd Street NE. There will be a reception from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. with a reading by the author at 7:00 p.m.

Billion Million Thousand Hundred Novel Not Extinct is a work of fiction that uses fantasy, myth and humor to tell a tale about the influence of the automobile on the lives of Americans. It is partly based on the Flying Dutchman legend. The Flying Dutchman of the Plains is a ghostly Winnebago that drives the highways of the nation and causes accidents by its mere presence. The novel was self-published in a limited run of 200 copies. Copies may be purchased at the event, or through the Web site at www.sloppyfilms.com/books

Metro Transit route change proposal to be discussed at six public meetings

Metro Transit plans to restructure bus service in the "Central-South" area of the metro region including south Minneapolis, Bloomington, Richfield, Edina and St. Paul south of I-94 and west of downtown.

The proposed changes are aimed at improving the reliability, speed and convenience of transit service.

The plan will also integrate buses with Hiawatha light-rail service when it begins in April 2004.

The full plan is available at

www.metrocouncil.org/transit/sec5/concept_report.htm

The Metropolitan Council will hold six public meetings on proposed transit changes in late January and early February where public input regarding the plan is being sought. The dates, times and locations of the two Minneapolis meetings follow:

Tuesday, Jan. 28, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

University of St. Thomas

Thornton Auditorium

1000 LaSalle Avenue South

Minneapolis

Tuesday, Feb. 4, 7:00 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Midtown YWCA

Community Rooms 155 & 156

2121 East Lake Street

Minneapolis



Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program
 Crown Roller Mill, Suite 425
 105 Fifth Avenue South
 Minneapolis, MN 55401 Phone: (612) 673-5140

City of Minneapolis says goodbye to MPRB Commissioner Ed Solomon



The announcements sign at McRae Park honors the legacy of Ed Solomon who died on December 12, 2002. See front page for more.

NRP Policy Board Report

Approved December 23, 2002

-  Plan modification for Sheridan neighborhood
-  Phase II Early Access request for Powderhorn Park neighborhood

January 2003 Calendar of Events

1 New Year's Day

City offices closed

8 Deadline for applications to Community Leadership Institute

For more information on the program, or to obtain a brochure and application, contact Barbara Ritter at 651-962-4300. Applications are also available on the NRP Web site at www.nrp.org/R2/News/NewsArch/2002/20021212.html

9 Management Review Team (MRT) meeting

CANCELED - Next Meeting February 6

18 NRP-TV Producer John Akre reads from his debut novel

6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. reception with reading at 7:00 p.m., Frank Stone Gallery, 1226 2nd St. NE. For more information see page 3.

20 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

City offices closed

24 February Link submission deadline

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

27 NRP Policy Board meeting

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

30 31st Annual CUE Awards presentation

5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., McNamara Alumni Center, University of Minnesota, 200 Oak Street SE. Information for parking and directions available at: <http://www.alumni-center.umn.edu>. Tickets are \$30. For more information about the CUE Awards, see page 3 or call 612-673-3014. Tickets are available at the same number.

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.

