

NRP LINK

Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program News • August 2011 Vol. 18, Issue 3

Narrowing the Inequality Gap: \$2.68M Unfrozen

On December 13, 2010, the Minneapolis City Council and Mayor limited neighborhood access to their Phase II Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) funds to 50% of the neighborhoods' previously approved Phase II allocation. For some neighborhoods, the restriction had no impact: they had already spent most of their Phase II monies. Others, however, were very much affected, with Nokomis East, Hawthorne, Longfellow, Downtown, Central, Cedar Riverside, Holland, and Webber-Camden at the top of the "negatively impacted" list.

When the City Council acted on April 1 to release \$2.68 million of the frozen funds, the NRP Policy Board was asked to allocate the released monies. The NRP Policy Board solicited comments from neighborhoods and on July 25, the Board approved a distribution

approach "that honors and is consistent with the allocation methodology adopted by the NRP Policy Board on April 16, 2004," said NRP Director Bob Miller in his staff report. The \$10 million that remains frozen by the original Council and Mayor action is still unavailable to neighborhoods.

Miller commented that "The Council action of December 13 impacted neighborhoods very differently, depending upon where they were in the Phase II plan development, approval and implementation process. To address the inequities created by the action of December 13, 2010, I recommended that the \$2.68 million be provided to the neighborhoods most adversely impacted by the Council action so that the range neighborhoods receive of their Phase II allocation narrows from the current 50-100% to 66-

100%. Under this plan, 38 neighborhoods would receive additional funds for implementing their Phase II plans."

Miller stated that during the NRP comment period on the methodology, "ten neighborhoods provided input on the proposed distribution approach and all but one supported the action recommended by staff." A chart with the figures for the 38 neighborhoods that will receive a share of the \$2.68 million can be found at www.nrp.org under "About the NRP"- "Policy Board"- "Minutes and Agendas" for the July 25, 2011 meeting.

A request for legislative action that would release the \$ 10 million and solve the inequity (and allow an orderly transition away from NRP as the original legislation intended) was met with strong opposition from the City and did not pass either House.

Historic, New and Remodeled Homes Draw Accolades

Historic homes were the most visited during the 2011 Minneapolis and Saint Paul Home Tour. The "Hewson House" in Minneapolis, 2008 Pillsbury Ave., had 1,160 visitors and issued 184 passports. The Cavendar-Heck house at 613 North Street, was the top place to start in Saint Paul, and logged 460 total visitors. In Minneapolis, 2222 Pillsbury Ave., a 1908 home that has been in the same family for most of its life, had 905 visitors.

New and remodeled homes also received a lot of attention, with homeowners and their contractors reporting a steady flow of visitors during the tour, April 30 and May 1. Jeff Oishi and Jim Hagen's totally new home at 3817 47th Ave. S., an example of Universal Design, had 746 visitors. "One person asked which part of the house was the original and what was added on. That tells me we met our goal of fitting in to the neighborhood," Oishi said.

Remodeled homes in the nearby Longfellow area also received some of the highest visitor totals in spite of a slow Saturday start, affected



2011 Home Tour homeowners and staff at the after party.

by the Get In Gear 10K race in the morning. Richard Skarie and Beth Dorn's home at 3712 48th Ave. S. and Michelle and Dave Boardman's home at 3552 45th Ave. S. saw 674 and 737 visitors, respectively.

The reconfigured kitchen and relocated powder

room at Kurt Pollack and Mary Beth Colbert's home at 2712 West 40th Street drew 753 visits. Others in the Linden Hills area also had a lot of visitors.

Other popular starting locations included the
(continued next page)

Strong interest in Home Tour

(continued from page 1)

Hagen/Oishi residence, Steven and Krista Hong's house, and the Von Arx residence on the Kenilworth Lagoon.

Homes in the Macalester-Groveland and Highland areas of Saint Paul drew in the 500s and 600s.

Rainy and windy weather were factors, along with many competing events. The tour was moved from its regular weekend, the last full weekend in April, to avoid Easter, as were other events. Visitor tallies compare favorably to the last consistently bad-weather tour, 2008, when approximately 26,000 visits were logged. This year, the number of visits per attendee averaged 7.4 and resulted in a total of 27,445 visits, just a few hundred visits and visitors under the corresponding figures for 2010.

The percentage of first-time visitors (24%) equaled the percentage who've attended

the tour in 10 or more years. Visitors who have attended five to nine tours outnumbered the two to four year category (29 to 23 percent) according to the returned surveys.

"To have maintained our numbers after an extended recession, with the additional challenge of the bad weather and competing events on the weekend, was a great accomplishment and shows how much interest there is in this well planned and executed event," said Bob Miller, Director of the Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP). "NRP has coordinated and sponsored the tour for the past nine years in the interest of maintaining and improving the housing stock in Minneapolis and helping build neighborhood social fabric through the actions of individuals and neighborhood organizations."

What's Your Organization's Insurance Status?

For more than 10 years NRP has been able to secure, for interested neighborhoods, Directors and Officers (D&O) insurance at very reasonable premiums. Last year, NRP began making an optional general liability program available to interested organizations.

NRP Director Bob Miller said the general liability policy premium would initially cost an average of \$450 annually, "and it would be appropriate to consider converting to this coverage when an organization's current policy is up for renewal." The final premium per neighborhood will depend upon the number of neighborhoods that

enroll. The more neighborhoods participating, the lower the premium per neighborhood.

The D&O insurance premium is covered by NRP, which located and negotiated the arrangement. NRP will also be paying the general liability premium for the participating neighborhoods but will be billing that premium back to the organization receiving coverage.

Find out more about coverage, what you can do to minimize potential claims on either policy, and how to enroll by calling your NRP Neighborhood Specialist or Bob Miller at 612-673-5140.

Corcoran, SENA and Lyndale Newsletters Recognized

Standish-Ericsson Neighborhood Association, Lyndale Neighborhood Association, and Corcoran Neighborhood Association all received "gold" level recognition, highest honors for their printed neighborhood newsletters. The awards were presented at the Neighborhoods USA (NUSA) conference in Anchorage, Alaska at the end of May this year.

NUSA, as its name suggests, is comprised of organizations throughout the country.



The three newsletters were among 27 chosen for recognition in this first-ever juried competition that "acknowledges excellence in neighborhood newsletters—a vital communication tool that can often determine a neighborhood's success," according to the introduction on www.nusa.org.

NUSA also names a Neighborhood of the Year, a Best Neighborhood Program, and a "Who's Who in America's Neighborhoods." Browse for inspiration on how to make your neighborhood better, at www.nusa.org.

NRP Policy Board Election Timetable Set

Each year, there is an election for the Neighborhood Representatives on the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) Policy Board. Candidate filing forms will be available Wednesday, Aug. 17 at the NRP Office, City Clerk's Office, League of Women Voters Office, and Minneapolis Public Libraries. Filing forms will also be available electronically from the NRP web site, www.nrp.org. As in the past two years, NRP office staff and volunteers will conduct all the election activities. The filing deadline is noon Friday, Sept. 16 and the candidate forums and election will be held Thursday, Nov. 17 in the evening. For details, call Carsten Slostad at 612-673-5150.

NRP Director Bob Miller said, "The NRP Policy Board will help determine the future of the program and any transitions that will need to be made. All interested neighborhood residents are encouraged to apply."



Putting Creativity to Work Mural Celebrates a Life

Kris Nelson of the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs (CURA), who helped many neighborhood organizations, passed away this summer. The youth arts school Juxtaposition created a mural on the side of one of their buildings on Broadway and Emerson avenues North, titled "Putting Creativity to Work," and made a tribute to his memory.

This is Your Forum

Submit articles and ideas on any topic for the LINK by email to link@nrp.org. Write between 300 and 600 words stating a problem or opportunity, how you dealt with it, and what you think others could learn from your experiences along the way. High-resolution photos are also welcome.

Margo Ashmore, editor, 612-673-5103

NRP LINK is available in Braille or large print upon request. TTY 612-673-2626.

Archives are on www.nrp.org "Resources"-Media.

In Brief



► Block Clubs Serve for More than Crime Prevention

National Night Out was held on Tuesday, Aug. 2. The many creative and convivial gatherings outside with the porch lights on started with a crime prevention agenda. That continues, and neighbors use the night to accomplish other benefits of knowing each other. For example, senior citizens may have family and other friends, but neighbors can be first responders when something's not quite right healthwise or something's too heavy to lift. Even if not every neighbor comes to National Night Out, it makes sense to review who lives where, and what's normal and what's not, and how to reach the individual or their loved ones when something goes awry. This can of course, be done through other events and activities throughout the year through block clubs; for resources on starting block clubs contact Community Crime Prevention/SAFE at 612-673-3082 or your Neighborhood Revitalization Program Neighborhood Specialist at 612-673-5140.

► Library Reopenings and Home Tour on MNN

Minneapolis Neighborhood News is a program produced by the Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program through the Minneapolis Television Network. Each episode features reports about the work of Minneapolis neighborhoods in the NRP. Minneapolis Neighborhood News can be seen on cable in the city of Minneapolis on MTN 16 on Sundays at 5 p.m., on MTN 17 on Fridays at 6:30 p.m.

The current program, #117, has segments on the reopening of the Nokomis and Northeast libraries, and some homes on the Minneapolis & Saint Paul Home Tour.

For a trip down memory lane and more, and for ideas to help your neighborhood, visit the Minneapolis Neighborhood News on-line archives at <http://mtn.org/Video/community/mnnarchive/mnnarchive.html>. The archives date back to 1992.

You can also watch a series of programs devoted to the history of the NRP: By the People, at <http://mtn.org/Video/community/mnnarchive/bythepeople.html>.

NRP Policy Board Report Summaries

May, 2011: Directed staff to distribute the proposal to distribute \$2.68 million of released NRP funds to neighborhoods for a 45 day period of review and comment (see page 1).

Approved the East Isles NRP Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan and authorized the use of \$387,253 in NRP Program Funds.

Approved the Lynnhurst NRP Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan and authorized the use of \$285,619 in NRP Program Funds to support the projects and programs in the plan.

June, 2011: North Minneapolis Neighborhoods Tornado Relief: Requested City Council Appropriation of 100 percent of Phase II NRP Funds for Harrison, Folwell, Jordan, McKinley, Near North-

Willard Hay, Webber-Camden, Hawthorne and Lind-Bohanon.

July, 2011: Approved dates for 2012 Neighborhood Representative Election

Approved a waiver of the NRP Streetscape Funding policy for the Sheridan Neighborhood.

Approved the distribution of \$2.68 million of NRP funds released by the City Council on April 1, 2011 in accordance with the NRP staff recommendation of July 20, 2011.

Received and filed St. Anthony East Phase I Review.

Received results of the 2011 Minneapolis St. Paul Home Tour.

► Artists Leading Organizing: Three \$10,000 Grants

The Center for Urban and Regional Affairs has announced an RFP for the Artists Neighborhood Partnership Initiative (ANPI) small grant program, saying "Artists as the drivers of arts activity can build social relationships among diverse residents and stimulate innovative problem solving. The ANPI program supports effective partnerships with individual artists and community based organizations to engage residents who are traditionally underrepresented, e.g. youth and immigrants, and to develop innovative community engagement approaches to address community issues." Three grants up to \$10,000 will be awarded. Letters of interest are due by September 1, 2011. Promising projects will be invited to submit a full application due by October 17, 2011. Potential applicant organizations and individual artists are strongly encouraged to consult with CURA staff for help developing their applications. Contact Jeff Corn, jcorn@umn.edu or 612-625-0744 or Margaret Kaplan, mkaplan@umn.edu or 612-624-2300.

► MWMO Grant Deadlines & Info Meetings

Neighborhood organizations and others can partner with the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (MWMO) by applying for Stewardship Fund grants. Funded projects should improve water quality or improve water and natural resource management and build community understanding, knowledge, and initiative.

There are three types of grants: Mini Grants up to \$2,000 - February 1, June 1, and October 1 cycles each year; Planning Grants up to \$10,000 - February 1 annual cycle, and Action Grants up to \$50,000 - October 1 annual cycle.

Letters of Interest for Mini and Action Grants due Monday, Oct. 3, 2011 by 3:00 p.m. For information about the application process, visit www.mwmo.org/stewardshipfund.html and/or attend a session at MWMO's office, 1224 Marshall St. NE, Suite 201, Minneapolis, MN 55413 Thursday, Aug. 25, Noon-1 p.m. or Tuesday, Aug. 30, 4-5 p.m. Phone 612-465-8780.

► Mpls. Riverfront Design Initiative Final Meeting

After a summer full of meetings in communities introducing and refining the "RiverFIRST" concept, a final public meeting is set. It will be a joint briefing with Advisory and Technical Committees and the public by the design team of their final recommendations, Tuesday, Sept. 20, 6-8 p.m. at the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board at 2117 West River Road.

► Picture a Park Photo Contest Open Through Sept. 5

The Picture A Park photo contest has returned for its second year, deadline Sept. 5. The contest, sponsored by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB), People for Parks (PFP) and National Camera, is designed to highlight the life and times in Minneapolis parks year round. Contest rules and entry form available online at www.minneapolisparke.org.

► Want a Fun and Funky New Bathroom?

A bathroom remodeling reality show is looking for young, energetic homeowners who are open to "outside the box" design ideas, who live in the Twin Cities metro area, and who are ready for a fantastic makeover. For a list of requirements, visit their website at: www.magneticproductions.com/casting/bathtastic or contact Martine Schroeder, Production Assistant at mschroeder@magneticproductions.com, 612-321-9202 x 41.



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What Are They Doing?



Finding out what it's like to do simple tasks like pouring water with obscured vision, or crossing an obstacle in a wheelchair. Lind-Bohanon Neighborhood Association and YouthCare volunteers held the mobility challenge at National Night Out to raise awareness about including people with mobility impairments in neighborhood activities.

NRP Policy Board Reports for May, June, and July, 2011

See page 3 inside this NRP LINK newsletter

Complete reports:

www.nrp.org/R2/AboutNRP/PB/PBMeetingReps.html

Policy Board Meets 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.
(arrive early to go through security)

Remaining 2011 Dates: Aug. 22, Sept. 26, Oct. 24, Nov. 21, Dec. 19
Room C-2350 Hennepin County Gov't Center, 300 South 6th Street

Stevens Square Community Organization's Red Hot Art festival July 30-31: Photos at left and right, by Lenora Drowns, Ken Stroebel, center.



Stevens Square, home to many working artists and nestled between two major arts institutions, celebrated its 10th year of Red Hot Art. A variety of organizations participated in FLOW in North Minneapolis where recovery from the May 22 tornado was a central theme. Mural projects are a popular way to rally community. Visual and performing arts/music attract people who may not otherwise be interested in meetings, but have ideas and care about their environments. Engage in and through arts: Have fun, discover new ways to communicate.

Artists can lead Neighborhood Partnership Initiatives, see grant details inside

Arts Build Community



Youth ambassadors for MR|DI have been at events all summer long encouraging people to take photographs, draw and write about what the "River Is" and what the "River Could Be." Results are posted on the website.

Chain saw art carving from tornado-downed trees at the FLOW Northside Arts Crawl in North Minneapolis, by Pat Carney for FLOW. CARAG mural photo by Julie Cohen/Zack Farley. At right, gathering input for MinneapolisRiverfrontDevelopmentInitiative.com (MR|DI)