

Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Policy Board

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF

December 20, 2010

Present and Voting: Debbie Evans, DeWayne Townsend, Carol Pass, Jeffrey Strand, Peter McLaughlin, Rep. Joe Mullery, Liz Wielinski, Sen. Ken Kelash

Alternates Attending: Wizard Marks, Nicholas Kakos

Absent: Mark Stenglein, Gail Dorfman (excused), R.T. Rybak, Barbara Johnson (excused), Chris Stewart, David Ellis (excused)

Staff: Bob Miller, Carsten Slostad, Robert Thompson, Barbara Lickness, Stacy Sorenson

Others Present: Marian Streit, Doug Walter, Rita Ulrich, Shirley Yeoman, Shirley Heyer, Amy Luesebrink, Scott Engel, Aaron Rubenstein, Andy Hestness, Chris Morris, Ricky Venson, Elena Gaarder, Mohamed Ali, Susan Braun, David Fields, Lynn Regnier, Gary Arntsen, Michael Katz, Jana Metge

I. CALL TO ORDER

Because of the snowstorm and the traffic issues caused by this, Senator Ken Kelash, chair of the NRP Policy Board had difficulty getting to the meeting and officially called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Prior to his arrival, the three neighborhoods on the agenda presented their NRP Phase II Neighborhood Action Plans.

II. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Upon a motion by Debbie Evans and seconded by Liz Wielinski the agenda was adopted

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Upon a motion by Liz Wielinski and seconded by Jeffrey Strand, the minutes of the November 22, 2010 meeting were adopted.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

1. CARAG NRP Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan [NPR / FR#2010-14]

Aaron Rubenstein, chair of CARAG, presented the plan. He outlined the extensive review and survey process used for gathering information from the neighborhood. A short presentation of each of the strategies in the plan then followed. Upon a motion by Peter McLaughlin and seconded by Jeffrey Strand the following resolution was adopted.

WHEREAS: On April 19, 2004 the Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program Policy Board approved a Phase II allocation for the Lowry Hill East neighborhood of \$636,557 based on the Phase II revenues projected for NRP;

WHEREAS: The neighborhood conducted a Phase II neighborhood planning process that began in 2009 and has submitted a CARAG Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan that requests a Phase II allocation of \$636,557;

WHEREAS: The CARAG neighborhood has allocated at 78.4% (\$499,000) of their Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan to housing programs, projects, services and activities;

RESOLVED: That the Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program Policy Board hereby accepts and adopts the CARAG 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 CARAG NRP Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan, and specifically those parts of the Plan that fall under City jurisdiction, for their Phase II allocation of \$636,557; [b] amend the 2011 General Appropriation Resolution to increase the Fund CNR0 (NRP Fund) by \$636,557 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.

2. Nokomis East NRP Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan [NRP / FR#2010-15]

George Jelatis, Rita Ulrich and Doug Walter presented the plan. The critical housing needs identified by this neighborhood are to upgrade and maintain the current housing stock. The other major area of concern is to address livability issues in the apartment complexes in the Bossen field area. In addition the neighborhood is working hard to involve their growing Latino population. They then highlighted two of their very successful community building events, the Minneapolis Monarch Festival and their night before New Years' gathering. Upon a motion by DeWayne Townsend and seconded by Debbie Evans the following resolution was adopted.

WHEREAS: On April 19, 2004, the Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Policy Board (Board) established the Phase II allocation available for the Nokomis East neighborhoods at \$1,620,848 based on the Phase II revenues projected for NRP,

WHEREAS: The Nokomis East neighborhoods have conducted an inclusive Phase II plan development process,

WHEREAS: The submitted Nokomis East NRP Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan requests an allocation of \$1,620,848 and dedicates (70%) percent 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 Nokomis East 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 Nokomis East NRP Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan, and specifically those parts of the Plan that fall under City jurisdiction, for their Phase II allocation of \$1,620,848; [b] amend the 2010 General Appropriation Resolution to increase the Fund CNR0 (NRP Fund) by \$1,620,848 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.

3. McKinley NRP Phase II Neighborhood Acton Plan [NRP / FR#2010-16]

Ricky Venson, chair of the McKinley neighborhood, and Chris Morris presented the plan. They reviewed the past successes and the processes used to develop the Phase II plan. The neighborhood has been devastated by the foreclosure crisis that began in 2005 and expanded into the rental properties. Their plan focuses on addressing housing and economic development. This community also is the first to do community farming (CSA) small-scale urban farming. Upon a motion by Liz Wielinski and seconded by Rep. Joe Mullery the following resolution was adopted.

WHEREAS: On April 19, 2004, the Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Policy Board (Board) established the Phase II allocation available for the McKinley neighborhood at \$580,500 based on the Phase II revenues projected for NRP,

WHEREAS: The McKinley neighborhood has conducted an inclusive Phase II plan development process,

WHEREAS: The submitted McKinley NRP Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan requests an allocation of \$580,500 and dedicates seventy percent 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 McKinley 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 McKinley NRP Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan, and specifically those parts of the Plan that fall under City jurisdiction, for their Phase II allocation of \$580,500; [b] amend the 2011 General Appropriation Resolution to increase the Fund CNR0 (NRP Fund) by \$580,500 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.

V. PRESENTATIONS & REPORTS

1. Discussion of Staff Direction Adopted by Minneapolis City Council

Bob Miller reviewed the action that was taken by the City Council and how this will affect the neighborhoods. Following his presentation members made comments and asked questions for clarification.

2. Resolution Regarding NRP Policy Board Action Relative to City Council Action
[NRP / PR#2010-09]

Before any discussion of possible Policy Board action, Jeffrey Strand recused himself from participating in discussion and voting and his alternate, Nicholas Kakos assumed the Protection Neighborhood Representative role. He then presented a resolution for action, which was seconded by Debbie Evans. After considerable discussion, the following resolution was adopted.

Whereas, the Minneapolis City Council acted on Tuesday December 14, 2010 to adopt a Staff Direction as part of the 2011 Budget process that had no impact on the 2011 property tax revenues for the City of Minneapolis but will significantly and adversely affect Minneapolis taxpayers and neighborhood residents by eliminating their access to 50% of their Phase II neighborhood NRP allocations for improvements to their neighborhood; and

Whereas, the Minneapolis City Council adopted, on December 7, 2007, seven Minneapolis Core Principles of Community Engagement (attached) and violated every one of them with the processes used to adopt this Staff Direction that dramatically and adversely affects the taxpayers and residents of Minneapolis; and

Whereas, the Staff Direction adopted December 14, 2010 by the Minneapolis City Council directs City staff to seek legislation at the state level consolidating neighborhood programs and eliminating the Joint Powers Board that governs NRP without consultation with the Policy Board or the other government participants in the Agreement; and

Whereas, the Staff Direction indicates that promised funds for neighborhoods from the Consolidated Tax Increment Financing District allowed by state statute and created by the City in 2010 will be studied to determine the impact of reducing this commitment by 50%; and

Whereas, the NRP Policy Board acted in good faith and in the interests of good and cost effective government to support the “NRP and NCR: Collaboration, Cooperation and Consolidation Plan” and adopted that plan on September 27, 2010; and

Whereas, NRP and the NRP staff have completed action on every item that was assigned as their responsibility in this plan with a target date of December 2010 and the City and Neighborhood and Community Relations department (NCR) have not yet completed the actions for which they were responsible that were targeted for completion before October 2010; and

Whereas, the Staff Direction adopted by the Minneapolis City Council reduces funding for neighborhood organizations and compromises the integrity of the NRP program and therefore violates two of the four principles of the “NRP and NCR: Collaboration, Cooperation and Consolidation Plan” (“Maximize funding for neighborhood organizations” and “Maintain the integrity of both the NRP and NCR programs”);

Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Minneapolis City Council and Mayor have violated the principles supporting the NRP and NCR: Collaboration, Cooperation and Consolidation Plan approved by the Policy Board on September 27, 2010 and that the support for that plan is hereby rescinded;

Be It Resolved, that because the Mayor and City Council are failing to honor commitments that they made on December 7, 2007 to “fund Phase II Neighborhood Action Plans at no less than 70 percent of their approved April 19, 2004 allocations” and on June 18, 2010 to “increase the amount available to 100% for approved Phase II Neighborhood Action Plans” and are not acting in good faith, in accordance with the Minneapolis Core Principles of Community Engagement adopted by the City Council on December 7, 2007, or in a manner that protects neighborhood NRP activity, the NRP Director shall end all collaboration efforts with the NCR and NCEC, effective immediately upon adoption of this resolution;

Be It Resolved, that the NRP Director is instructed to end all detailing of NRP staff to the NCR effective immediately upon adoption of this resolution and is prohibited from initiating any new detailing without the express consent of this Board;

Be it resolved that the NRP Director pursue options for the benefit of NRP and provide a report to the Policy Board at its January 24, 2011 meeting.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm

Carsten Slostad, Secretary Pro Tem

ATTEST: Senator Kenneth Kelash, Chair