

KENWOOD ISLES AREA ASSOCIATION  
P.O. BOX 300007  
Minneapolis, MN 55403

April 13, 2007

Robert D. Miller, Director  
Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program  
425 Crown Roller Mill  
105 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55414

RE: KIAA NRP Phase I Neighborhood Action Plan Review

Dear Mr. Miller:

At our April 9, 2007 monthly KIAA Board meeting, Board members unanimously adopted the following motion:

**Whereas, the KIAA NRP Phase I Neighborhood Action Plan Review accurately represents the accomplishments and processes used by the neighborhood over the past 10 years in the implementation of the KIAA Phase I Neighborhood Action Plan,**

**Therefore, be it resolved that the KIAA Board of Directors gives its approval to the final draft of the KIAA NRP Phase I Neighborhood Action Plan Review document; and directs the NRP Committee Chairperson to submit the document to the Neighborhood Revitalization Program Policy Board for their information as a receive and file document.**

We respectfully ask you and your staff to accept our Phase I Review document and to forward it to the NRP Policy Board for their information. We also wish to express our gratitude for the assistance we have received from Carsten Slostad of your staff. Since our neighborhood group has no professional staff, we would not have been able to produce this document without his always accommodating and cheerful help!

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Gary Bennett, Chairperson  
Kenwood Isles Area Association

cc: Kathy Williams, KIAA Secretary  
Pat Scott, KIAA NRP Committee Chair

**KENWOOD ISLES AREA ASSOCIATION  
(KIAA)**

**NRP PHASE I NEIGHBORHOOD ACTION PLAN REVIEW**  
March 31, 2007

The KIAA NRP Phase I Neighborhood Action Plan was approved by the City Council in February 1996. It was designed to implement the following vision and mission statement, using an NRP allocation of \$440,000.

*Kenwood is blessed with many fine neighborhood characteristics. We are surrounded by urban lakes and parks, our residents are collegial and involved and as urban dwellers, we have easy access of the best Minneapolis has to offer.*

*Given the unique character and livability of Kenwood, our mission is simple: keep it that way. We propose to do this by preserving and enhancing our lakes, parks and recreation areas, celebrating Kenwood's urban setting while ensuring our residents' safety and security, and managing both our streets and our parks and open spaces so they are used appropriately and safely.*

The Action Plan contained five elements, each with a designated allocation: Crime and Safety (\$181,000); Parks and Recreation (\$130,000); Environment (\$30,000); Transportation (\$55,000), and Implementation Coordination (\$44,000 over 3 years).

The original goals, accomplishments, and expenditures in each element of the Plan are as follows:

**CRIME AND SAFETY**

Goal: To maximize the safety and security, both real and perceived, of people and property in our neighborhood. (KIAA Plan, 1996)

Accomplishments:

Physical upgrades of various neighborhood park areas and properties: Hidden Beach, Kenilworth Lagoon, Kenwood Park Center (air conditioning).

"Buy-back" Police patrol services in the neighborhood, using off-duty officers from the Mpls 5<sup>th</sup> Police Precinct and the Mpls Park Police on bicycles and in squad cars, and focused heavily on the Hidden Beach area.

Efforts to continue educating residents and property owners to use wise safety and security practices in order to prevent theft and property damage (locking garage and house doors, removing valuables from parked vehicles, security lighting, etc.). CCP/SAFE personnel helped with these efforts.

Expenditures by Strategies:

Strategy 1.1.1 Home Security Hardware Matching Grant.

Original allocation \$16,000.00

Final allocation \$ 116.90

*Notes: It was found that residents installed home lighting /security hardware and did not request matching grants. Plan modifications moved resources to other strategies.*

Strategy 1.1.2 Police Buy-back Bike Patrols

Original allocation \$57,600.00

Final allocation \$62,600.00

*Notes: This was a successful strategy and extra funds were added for patrols in the summers of 2006 and 2007.*

Strategy 1.2.1 CCP/SAFE Crime and Safety Education

Original allocation \$5,000.00

Final allocation \$ 117.00

*Notes: The program was accomplished through volunteer efforts at very little cost. Plan modifications moved resources to other strategies.*

Strategy 1.3.1 Increase Neighborhood Activities / Promotion

Original allocation \$3,600.00

Final allocation \$0

*Notes: Other funds covered promotional materials. Plan modifications moved resources to other strategies.*

Strategy 1.3.2 Safety in Park Properties

Original allocation \$0

Final allocation \$0

*Notes: This strategy was included in the plan to enlist neighborhood help in crime and safety strategies being implemented by the Park Board on park property.*

Strategy 1.3.3 Capital Projects Fund

Original allocation \$98,800

Final allocation \$63,800

|           |  |             |
|-----------|--|-------------|
| Projects: | Hidden Beach Upgrades                  | \$35,667.24 |
|           | Kenilworth Lagoon Upgrade              | \$ 7,500.00 |
|           | Kenwood Park Building Air Conditioning | \$11,000.00 |
|           | Lake of Isles Tree Plantings           | \$ 9,632.76 |

*Notes: All these projects were/will be successfully completed, with the final plantings at Lake of the Isles to be accomplished in 2007.*

## PARKS AND RECREATION AND LIBRARIES

Goal: Enhance the current recreation facilities of the park and neighborhood school to provide an inviting, safe place for people to gather and enjoy activities, which foster a sense of community. (KIAA Plan, 1996)

### Accomplishments:

Improved play areas for children, including the Kenwood Elementary School playground, coordinated with funds from the Minneapolis Public Schools' 7-1/2% NRP allocation.

Installation of an improved Tot Lot (for children ages 2-5) in Kenwood Park. The park improvements included benches, picnic tables with grills nearby, plus a handicapped accessible sidewalk from the nearby street intersection. Safety improvements to two youth athletic fields in Kenwood Park. The title and strategies of this Plan segment were revised to include support to libraries.

### Expenditures by Strategy

#### Strategy 1.1.1 School Play Area

Original Allocation \$60,000

Final Allocation \$70,000

Additional Funds \$14,518 from Second 7.5% NRP School Funds

*Notes: In 1996, this project enabled handicapped upgrades (\$60,000). At the end of 2005 this strategy was modified to include \$10,000 to assist Kenwood School with capital expenditures for equipment to support the school's Performing Arts activities. The current project is expected to be accomplished in 2007.*

#### Strategy 1.1.2 Tot Lot Improvements Kenwood Park Playground

Original Allocation \$58,000

Final Allocation \$58,000

Additional Funds \$30,000 from Lowry Hill NRP funds for this project

*Notes: This project accomplished the goals from both neighborhoods to upgrade this neighborhood-gathering place.*

#### Strategy 1.1.3 Kenwood Park Athletic Field Improvements

Original Allocation \$12,000

Final Allocation \$52,000

|          |   |          |
|----------|---|----------|
| Projects | Safety Upgrades for 4 Playing Fields        | \$12,000 |
|          | Redesign, Safety Fencing, Baseball Field #2 | \$10,000 |
|          | Tennis Court Rehabilitation Support         | \$30,000 |

*Notes: The projects recently added to this strategy are in process. The baseball field #2 improvements were done in the fall of 2006; the Tennis Courts project, with contributions from multiple sources, is projected for the summer of 2007.*

Strategy 1.2.1            Support Walker Community Library

Original Allocation        \$0  
Final Allocation         \$30,000

*Notes: In 2004, this new strategy was added by the neighborhood to support the needs of the library. The project was put on hold until issues surrounding the Walker Library's future were resolved. Funds are expected to provide for 11 new laptop computers and a charging cart; 2 scanners; 2 new book display units and redesigned shelving units for CD and DVD storage; and upgrades to improve the lighting at the main desk and entrance area. Any remaining funds will be used to enhance the collection with preferences for materials relating to historic homes and home maintenance. The project is now moving forward with the help of the Lowry Hill neighborhood's reallocation of \$20,000 from their unspent NRP Phase I funds. Completion is expected in 2007.*

### **ENVIRONMENT**

Goal: Educate residents so as to improve environmental quality and appearance of the Chain of Lakes, and encourage respectful use of surrounding areas. (KIAA Plan 1996)

Accomplishments:

Various educational efforts, working with other public partners (Park Board, Clean Water Task Force, Minneapolis Public Works Dept., Hennepin County Extension), to provide information and workshops to encourage good environmental practices in the neighborhood, some directed toward Lake of the Isles' water quality. Subjects included lawn fertilizers, pet leash and pet feces clean-up ordinances, and fall leaf removal.

Expenditures by Strategy:

Strategy 1.1.1            Clean Water Education

Original Allocation    \$28,000.00  
Final Allocation       \$ 9,381.70

*Notes: Because this strategy involved hired staff early in the implementation of the KIAA plan, funding was moved to the implementation strategy for contracting clarity. The strategy was accomplished.*

Strategy 1.2.1            Lawn Care & Landscape Letter

Original Allocation    \$100  
Final Allocation       \$0

*Notes: Strategy completed with volunteer contributions.*

Strategy 1.2.1            Path & Pet Ordinance Information

Original Allocation    \$1,900  
Final Allocation       \$0

*Notes: Strategy accomplished without using NRP funds.*

## TRANSPORTATION

Goal: Develop and implement a transportation management plan to improve the quality of life in the neighborhood. (KIAA Plan, 1996)

### Accomplishments:

Minimal changes occurred as a result of this section of the plan, primarily because the neighborhood could not agree on action steps to be implemented. Considerable staff time was used to work on this project. Some residents wanted serious traffic calming devices, while many others did not. In addition, KIAA's traffic work came on the heels of bitterly fought traffic calming struggles in adjacent neighborhoods. The lack of neighborhood consensus resulted in no expenditures for the originally envisioned implementation. Several years later, transportation funds were shifted to other Plan segments.

### Expenditures by Strategy:

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Strategy 1.1.1 | Enforce Traffic and Noise Regulations     |
| Strategy 1.2.1 | Promote Alternate Modes of Transportation |

*Notes: These strategies were included to encourage residents to work with the police in enforcement efforts and to promote bike path development and the use of existing bus routes for commuting. NO funds were included or needed to pursue these strategies.*

|                |                          |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| Strategy 1.3.1 | Traffic Calming Projects |
|----------------|--------------------------|

|                     |          |
|---------------------|----------|
| Original Allocation | \$55,000 |
| Final Allocation    | \$0      |

*Notes: Controversial issues; with no consensus to proceed, the strategy was not accomplished.*

|                |                       |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| Strategy 1.4.1 | Traffic Calming Study |
|----------------|-----------------------|

|                     |     |
|---------------------|-----|
| Original Allocation | \$0 |
| Final Allocation    | \$0 |

*Notes: Funding was to be from strategy 1.3.1 but the study was never conducted.*

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| Strategy 1.5.1 | Accessibility Issues in the Neighborhood |
|----------------|--|

*Notes: This was to have been addressed in the traffic study.*

## IMPLEMENTATION

Goal: Provide opportunities for residents to be informed, included and involved with community decision-making relevant to the activities planned to address crime & safety, recreation, transportation and the environment. (KIAA Plan, 1996)

### Accomplishments:

Employment of a part-time coordinator to help direct and support activities of volunteer residents in addressing the varied elements and goals of the Plan, but with the primary focus on issues affecting safety, security and community organization. This part-time neighborhood staff position was originally budgeted at \$44,000 to be expended over a 3-year period. However, with the transfer of unexpended funds in other plan segments, it was extended into early 2001. A total of over \$75,000 was used to fund this neighborhood support position. After 2001, expenditures in this section of the Plan were used to support and coordinate KIAA's neighborhood communications and activities. All of these were organized, developed, and carried out by neighborhood volunteers.

### Expenditures by Strategy:

Strategy 1.1.1            Implementation Coordination

Original Allocation    \$44,000.00

Final Allocation        \$93,984.40

*Notes: Within this strategy, \$75,679.66 was related to paid part-time staff. Direct administrative expenses were grouped with related strategies, but contracted through one implementation contract; these costs were \$18,304.74.*

## **RECENT HISTORY**

As indicated above, the Kenwood Isles Area Association (KIAA) has not had paid staff support since 2001. The neighborhood's volunteer-produced outreach and communications efforts were assisted with NRP funds in January 2003 when Plan Modification # 6 moved \$10,000 from an under-used water quality strategy to the KIAA **Implementation** strategy.

Also during 2003, KIAA collaborated with an adjacent neighborhood group, Lowry Hill Residents, Inc. (LHRI), to pool funds to install much-needed air conditioning at the community's **Kenwood Park Center**. The two neighborhoods collaborated again in the 2003-04 program year to allocate unspent Phase I NRP funds for upgrades at the **Walker Community Library**. KIAA's recommended allocation of \$30,000 in funds for Walker Library improvements required a Phase I Plan modification, which was approved by attendees at the May 2004 KIAA Annual Meeting. However, that funding was put on hold until spring 2005, when the Library Board and City agreed that the current library building would continue to serve the community for the foreseeable future. Frustratingly, the planned library investment was then further delayed, due to uncertainty regarding the future of the entire Mpls Library system! The upgrades are now expected to happen in spring/summer 2007.

In June 2004, the KIAA Board re-established an active NRP Steering Committee and appointed Pat Scott to chair this committee. The committee was charged with reviewing the status of the KIAA NRP Phase I Neighborhood Action Plan; and with redeveloping a neighborhood process in order to make recommendations to the KIAA Board for the use of remaining NRP funds not needed in the original NRP Phase I Plan strategies. This work was accomplished using reallocations among existing strategies, as well as modifications to the original 1996 NRP Action Plan. The committee was directed to prepare items for adoption by the neighborhood at the KIAA Annual Meetings, held in May of each year.

The Committee met regularly to review the Phase I NRP Plan, to seek neighborhood input, and to recommend plan modifications; as well as to look ahead at the possibilities for Phase II. The Committee's monthly, always open meetings were held at the Kenwood Park Center and were reported in the KIAA Board Minutes printed in their entirety in the *Hill&LakePress*, the monthly community newspaper that serves the four neighborhoods contiguous to Lake of the Isles. In addition, KIAA volunteers produced 3 newsletters that were printed and mailed to every KIAA household to inform residents about community events and the work of the Board, including the reactivated NRP Committee. A well-advertised community Open House/Input session was held in February 2005 to get feedback from residents.

A proposal was developed and approved at the May 2005 KIAA Annual Meeting. In addition to the Walker Library enhancement project (\$30,000) that had been approved the previous year, the neighborhood voted to reallocate funds to support **Kenwood Park Tennis Courts Improvements** (\$30,000); to support the purchase of **equipment needed for the Kenwood School Performing Arts activities** (\$10,000); and to add \$5,000 to support **KIAA Implementation**. These approved items became Plan Modification #7. The plan modification received Minneapolis City Council approval on August 19, 2005.

With increased NRP Steering Committee membership (11 members), the Committee met during the summer and fall of 2005, and held an additional, well publicized Community Information and Input Session in early October. The Committee then made final recommendations to allocate all remaining funds in the KIAA NRP Phase I Neighborhood Action Plan in order to become eligible to engage in Phase II activities.

These final Phase I recommendations were approved by the KIAA Board and included: supporting safety improvements to the **Kenwood Park Athletic Field # 2** (\$10,000, completed fall 2006); directing available funds in an already existing capital fund strategy to be used to **plant trees in the restored Lake of the Isles Park** (\$9,632.76, scheduled for 2007); and increasing funds for **Park Police Buy-back** in the Crime and Safety strategy (\$3,500), to be added to \$1500 already available in that strategy (implemented 2006 & 2007). These recommendations were processed as Plan Modification #8 and were administratively approved by NRP on February 10, 2006.

Based upon the productive activities of the reactivated and expanded KIAA NRP Steering committee, the KIAA Board asked the all-volunteer committee to continue its work, using the successful practices developed during the preceding two years; to accomplish the necessary steps to complete the neighborhood's NRP Phase II planning; and to draft the Phase II plan documents for neighborhood approval.