

Citizens for a Loring Park Community
Neighborhood Meeting
NRP Phase II Ten Year Action Plan

Monday, September 15, 2008
The Woman's Club of Minneapolis
410 Oak Grove Street, Minneapolis MN

Attendance: see rosters maintained in the office.

CLPC President John van Heel used a PowerPoint presentation to outline the NRP Phase II Action Plan. He was assisted by Jana Metge.

John explained that the Citizens for the Loring Park Community is the organization recognized by the City as official neighborhood representing area around Loring Park. The NRP Phase II plan is a combination of neighborhood concerns expressed as goals, a budget that will support the organization and specific projects. Funding would come from the NRP (Neighborhood Revitalization Program). John also described the borders of the Loring Park neighborhood which extends well beyond Loring Park.

The plan is based on the organizational structure of CLPC – Land Use and Livability committees. Throughout the plan there is a mix of goals (unfunded) and projects for which specific funds are designated.

LAND USE: seven chapters or goals.

Goal 1 addresses **housing**. Of the funds received from NRP, 70% must be used for housing. It is anticipated that there will be \$370,000 available for the three-five years of Phase II. There will be funds available for certain projects, such as affordable housing along Nicollet Avenue.

Goal 2 focuses on **urban design** including a neighborhood master plan (which may include the Loring Hill guidelines), emphasis on certain corridors (including Nicollet Avenue revitalization), and critical needs (such as damage in need of repair).

Goal 3 addresses **economic vitality** including support for businesses (such as the 2% commercial loan program) and sign age.

Goal 4 addresses **transportation** with a focus on pedestrians and bicycling. There are many objectives in this section. While funding for any one objective may be limited, it is hoped that funds can be leveraged to bring in other funding.

Goal 5 includes **historic preservation**.

Goal 6, **park planning and improvements**, includes several identified priorities (working with Friends of Loring Park) for Loring Park – the Gateway and the Berger Fountain. In Phase I there was considerable funding available for the parks, especially the park master plan, that will not be available in Phase II.

Goal 7 promotes **sustainability** and the environment. The proposed plan includes a loan program to encourage “green” projects.

LIVABILITY three goals or chapters

Jana gave a brief overview of CLPC history and described the three goals.

Goal 1 includes **livability and safety** items.

Goal 2 addresses **education, culture and recreation**.

Goal 3 includes **events and outreach**. There is funding for events and communicating with residents.

Reggie Prim described the Restorative Justice program that brings together (first-time) offenders and the community to determine how the offender can give back to the community. The Downtown 100 program looks at chronic offenders.

Reggie encouraged including funding for RJCA in the Phase II plan. DMNA has funded RJCA in the past but their Phase II plan is in its early stages. The RJCA budget is \$460,000 a year serving 18 neighborhoods with 8 staff. It was noted that the three community coordinators/organizers have actual responsibilities. Most of the cases come from the downtown neighborhood. RJCA is starting a youth pilot this fall beginning with 15 cases over a nine month period. RJCA also works with graffiti issues (an attendee noted that there is a lot of information on the Hennepin County Web site).

Motion by Richard Sandberg, seconded by Pat Havenstein, that \$3,000 currently uncommitted in the Phase II plan be assigned to fund RJCA and that an additional \$2,000 be found (to come from events and media outreach at \$1,000 each). As a part of the motion CLPC expects that RJCA solicit funding from the other 17 neighborhoods participating in RJCA.

Passed unanimously

John added that the last part of the plan targets administrative support which will use 20 percent of the funds available. The funds will be used for rent, phone, mailings, and professional services including financial work. These funds are not sufficient to maintain the current level of service and will require additional fund raising.

There were questions about the funds needed. There is an annual operating campaign. It is projected that the budget will be in deficit but there is no strict requirement that the funding be spread out evenly across the three-five years.

Joe Horan mentioned that the last year of Phase I is 2009 so that there will be funds available that can all be spent in 2009 or spread out over a few years.

Other discussion included some funds that will roll over to the next phase including the business loan program and left-over moneys matched by a federal grant for bike and pedestrian improvements on 15th Street.

There was concern about the threat to the sustainability of CLPC and its future – will it continue unchanged, become all-volunteer, or ? This concern ties into the current discussions at City that is essentially Phase III, defining a structure and funding source. The plan on the table moves NRP into the City Coordinator's office so that it becomes "n r" with a Citizen Advisory Board. The funding source was addressed during the last legislative session. This should get sorted out at the City Council meeting on September

26. Jana noted that the \$3,000,000 being discussed amounts to \$30,000 or so per neighborhood.

Question about how the neighborhood boundaries are defined—changes require working with the City and the affected neighborhoods. Large projects already require collaboration such as the Hennepin/Lyndale corridor. There have been some monthly meetings among the downtown neighborhoods to discuss ways to cooperate or share administrative costs.

OTHER QUESTIONS

Is there a way to encourage retail near Loring Park in the 15th Street / Oak Grove area. John said that some of the Loring Hill guidelines would apply to this issue.

Is there a way to deal with parking? Discussion about the permits (\$25 a year) available only to those who live or work in the neighborhood. John noted that parking is in the plan in several places (urban design, transportation). There is a Loring Hill Parking Task Force that has met several times over the past year addressing both residential and institutional needs.

Noted that the plan refers to non-auto uses which encompasses both pedestrian and non-motorized transportation.

Motion by Kim Havey, seconded by Gary Gliem, that within the transportation section the Phase II plan include a section on preferred alternative parking for scooters and similar.

Passed unanimously

Comment that the plan is well-designed to fit the unique character of the neighborhood. John noted that the first idea was to do a minimal plan but there were comments that kept coming forward from the committees which led to a more fully fleshed out plan.

Motion by Colleen Foster, seconded by Richard Sandberg, to approve the Phase II plan as amended.

Motion passed unanimously

The goal is to get the approved plan to the October NRP Policy Board meeting.