



Request for City Council Committee Action from the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department

Date: June 6, 2014
To: Council Member Cam Gordon, Chair, Health, Environment and Community Engagement Committee
Referral to: City Council
Subject: **SUN Neighborhoods Neighborhood Priority Plan**

Recommendation:

1. Approve the Approve the SUN Neighborhood Priority Plan for the (1) Bancroft Neighborhood Association, (2) Bryant Neighborhood Organization, (3) Central Area Neighborhood Development Organization, (4) Corcoran Neighborhood Organization, (5) Longfellow Community Council, (6) Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association and (7) Standish-Ericsson Neighborhood Association;
2. Authorize the appropriate City officers to enter into any contracts or agreements necessary to implement this request.

Previous Directives:

On March 30, 2012, the City Council approved the guidelines for the Community Participation Program. The guidelines included requirements for neighborhood organizations to prepare Neighborhood Priority Plans.

On July 19, 2013, The City Council approved a policy for Preparation and Processing of Neighborhood Priority Plans; and revisions to the existing policy on Changing Approved Neighborhood Action Plans.

On August 2, 2013, the City Council approved three-year allocations for the Community Participation Program for the years 2014 to 2016.

Department Information

Prepared by: Robert Thompson, Neighborhood and Community Relations Department

Approved by:

David Rubedor, Neighborhood and Community Relations Director _____

Jay Stroebel, interim City Coordinator _____

Presenters in Committee: Robert Thompson

Financial Impact

No impact. Funds necessary to implement this Neighborhood Priority Plan are already included in the Community Participation Program allocations to the Bryant, Bancroft, Central, Corcoran, Longfellow, Powderhorn and Standish Ericsson neighborhoods.

Supporting Information

Approval of this plan will (1) recognize the interests of these seven neighborhoods in working with City Departments to address the priorities identified in this plan, (2) approve activities related to these priorities as eligible uses of neighborhood Community Participation Program funds, and (3) authorize City officials to enter into any contracts or agreements necessary to implement this request.

The SUN Neighborhoods Neighborhood Priority Plan

SUN Priorities:

- Multi-Family Housing
Assess and improve multifamily housing and equip and activate its tenants. Access governmental and nonprofit resources to improve the quality of housing in our neighborhoods;
- Programmatic Equity from the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB)
Address a decline in MPRB responsiveness to our community's demographic changes and desires for programming as well as cutbacks to park hours, program offerings and maintenance; and
- Property Inspections
Improve responsiveness of the City's Property Inspections work and communication.

Background

In the SUN Neighborhood Priority Plan, the neighborhood organizations identified and agreed upon the following goals:

1. The staff and boards of the SUN partnership member organizations will gain greater understanding of the City of Minneapolis and Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) in terms of decision making processes, key stakeholders, communication avenues and effective advocacy on behalf of the residents and businesses in our eleven neighborhoods.
2. By establishing solid relationships with elected officials, the SUN Project will share its knowledge of existing and emerging issues in our communities, communicate with elected officials, and together, affect positive change.
3. Schedule regular meetings with the city council members to discuss issues in multi-family housing and property inspections. SUN Project members will understand the City resources and opportunities to better utilize on behalf of our communities.
4. Schedule regular meetings with the MPRB commissioners to discuss MPRB communication with communities served, program equity and implementation of the MPRB Community Outreach Department Framework. Establish a collaborative process to affect positive change for residents and businesses.
5. Evaluate these goals and results to determine progress and effectiveness. Remain flexible and open to opportunities.

In addition to identifying their goals for implementation, this Plan identifies some of the barriers neighborhood organizations have faced towards accomplishing these goals.

In accordance with the policy on Preparation and Processing of Neighborhood Priority Plans (March 22, 2013), the SUN Neighborhood Priority Plan was sent to jurisdictional staff for review, comment and commitment to work towards the agreed upon goals.

Priority Plan Review

The Community Participation Program (CPP) guidelines state that the goal of Neighborhood Priority Plans is to identify major initiatives for the neighborhood organization, and to communicate neighborhood priorities to the City and other jurisdictional partners. Neighborhood Priority Plans must be developed and adopted through a thorough neighborhood participation process. A plan identifies preliminary neighborhood priorities and potential partners. The plan can identify, preserve and build on the existing assets and positive qualities of a neighborhood, or identify opportunities or problems to be addressed. Plans can be as simple or as comprehensive as the neighborhood organization desires, covering a single issue, or several. These plans can be used as a way to focus discussion and marshal resources to deal with neighborhood issues or plan for improvements.

In accordance with the policy on Preparation and Processing of Neighborhood Priority Plans (approved July 19, 2013), the 54th and Lyndale Neighborhood Priority Plan was discussed with jurisdictional staff prior to the neighborhoods' approval. In response to the draft plan, Council staff opened discussions with Public Works and local businesses to identify options for creating a special service district. On October 23, 2013, representatives from the neighborhood organizations met with Council Aids from Ward 11 and 13, Public Works staff, and NCR staff. During that meeting, participants shared information to develop a plan for implementing this phase of the South Lyndale Master Plan.

On April 1, 2014 the NRP Policy Board reviewed and approved the SUN Neighborhoods Neighborhood Priority Plan.

The Minneapolis City Attorney's Office has reviewed this plan and found it to be an eligible use of NRP and CPP funds.