



September 2008

City of Minneapolis — Council Member Sandy Colvin Roy

# 12th Ward Update

## DECISION SEPT 11TH ON FUTURE OF NRP, SEPT 22ND HEARING ON FINANCING

After years of discussion about the future of NRP and how to continue the work of revitalizing neighborhoods in Minneapolis, **the City Council is set to vote on September 11th** on the recommendation to create a new department of Neighborhood and Community Relations under the direction of the City Coordinator. The new department would be charged with administering neighborhood revitalization (NRP) as well as several other current community engagement functions. A new advisory board of residents would be created, with nine chosen by a neighborhood defined process and nine appointed by the Mayor and City Council, but they would not make decisions.

The Mayor has expressed his support of the new department, as have many Council members. I am very supportive of continuing to tap the creativity of our residents through allowing them to direct some of the investments made in their neighborhood. **I disagree with bringing all revitalization efforts inside City Hall.** I do not believe a structure entirely “inside” government will produce the results we have seen from citizens. Look at the private investments in housing triggered by NRP, and special projects that make each neighborhood unique that are not likely to be thought of by a centralized government. Revitalization works best when citizens know they can make decisions and an independent board has worked for that.

The vote on funding NRP has been separated from this vote on governance structure, but residents say it’s important for the Council to hear from them about the funding before taking a final vote on Sept 26. It’s hard to separate the issue of money from the issue of a new structure. **The Ways & Means committee voted to approve my request to hear public comment on the financing plan at their meeting Sept 22, which begins at 1:30 pm.**

### NEW MEMBER TO SERVE 12<sup>TH</sup> WARD

I am pleased to announce that a new member has joined the 12<sup>th</sup> ward team. **Loren Olson** is a lifelong resident of south Minneapolis who cares deeply about the issues affecting our City and our neighbors. She joined the office as my Aide this week. Loren is an attorney who worked for three years in U.S. Senator Paul Wellstone’s state office, serving constituents and specializing in immigration issues and veterans’ affairs. Most recently she has worked as a staff research attorney at a legal publishing company.

I am excited to have Loren onboard because I know that she shares my commitment to open and frequent communication with residents in the 12<sup>th</sup> Ward and she brings the skills to help us solve problems and plan for the future.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact Loren or me about any issue of concern to you, or just call to welcome her. You can reach us at 612-673-2212. Loren’s e-mail address is [loren.olson@ci.minneapolis.mn.us](mailto:loren.olson@ci.minneapolis.mn.us).



### LK HIAWATHA WATER QUALITY & FLOODS

In 1998, SENA, NENA and HPDL neighborhoods created the Blue Water Commission to conduct a scientific study and recommend actions to improve the water quality of Lakes Nokomis and Hiawatha. The City, Park Board and Minnehaha Creek Watershed District then formed a partnership to carry out improvements. Public Works is now working on the area of the last recommendation, at the northwest corner of Lake Hiawatha, to find solutions for three storm water problems: 1. Alley and street flooding 2. Storm water alley drains connected to the sanitary sewers, which contribute to Combined Sewer Overflows and 3. Water quality of Lake Hiawatha.

The 1998 report recommended construction of a water quality and flood control pond in the green space at the intersection of East 43rd Street and 19th Ave S. This idea and other possible improvements will be studied by staff and a community advisory committee before a final solution is presented to the community, which is expected to be some time in early November.

For more information contact Bo Spurrier at [bo.spurrier@ci.minneapolis.mn.us](mailto:bo.spurrier@ci.minneapolis.mn.us)

## EVENTS & SPECIAL MEETINGS

### St. Helena Autumn Daze Festival

**Sept 12-14** Fri 6-10p, Sat 10a-10p, Sun 10a-5p  
3204 E 43rd St Games, food, auction, quilt bingo

### Nokomis Naturescape Walking Tour

**Sept 13 9:30-11 a** History of native plant gardens & changes to landscape over time, Hiawatha, Nokomis & Mother Lakes. Meet @50th St & Nokomis Pkwy.

### Minneapolis Park Board 2nd Annual Bike Tour

**Sept 14** Choose 14 or 37 mile route along the Grand Rounds Scenic Byway; w/rest stops & route support  
Register at [www.minneapolisbiketour.com](http://www.minneapolisbiketour.com)

### Standish Ericsson Nhd Assoc Annual Meeting

**Sept 15 6 p.m.** Lk Hiawatha Park Ice cream social, hear from creator of "listening vessel" sculpture for the park & artist leading anti-graffiti mural work along 38th St; Annual Board elections.

### Help Make Mpls most Walkable City

**Sept 18 5:30** Central Library View Mpls' pedestrian plan & share your thoughts & ideas

**\*\*Just added\*\***

### Future of NRP—Discussion of Financing

**Sept 22 1:30 pm** Ways & Means Committee

### Minneapolis 150 Lectures @ Downtown Library

**Sept 23 6 p.m.** *Our People & Their Stories*

**Sept 23 7:20 p.m.** *New Stories from New Arrivals*

### Interpretive Tour of First Lock & Dam

**Sept 27 10 a-noon or 1-3 p** See below for details.

## OPEN APPOINTMENTS

### Civilian Police Review Authority

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/boards-and-commissions/open/index.asp>. Applications due

**September 12th.**

### Zoning Board of Adjustment

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/boards-and-commissions/open/index.asp>. Applications due

**September 30th.**

## LONGFELLOW PARK TOWNHOMES

The Minneapolis Public Housing Authority asked a developer to produce six family units at 3408—38th Avenue South, the former site of Hove Auto. While the site is in the 9th ward, it is across the street from 12th ward residents and I have been paying attention. As I explained in a letter to nearby residents, I am unlikely to have a vote on anything substantial here because Council members do not serve on the MPHA and the requests to the Planning Commission are for variances, not a rezoning.

Nevertheless, my immediate response to the developer when he informed me of his plans was strongly negative—that is too many large family units to put on that size site, and with a development designed for children, you cannot rely on a park to provide all the play space. They need something closer to home.

Since a community meeting in July, a group of residents interested in working to change the design has met twice with MPHA. A revised proposal with reduced density (5 units, not 6), a back lawn of apx. 60' x 40' and a front garden/rain garden on the corner of apx. 30' x 40', as well as a pitched roof design for the building, was shown at 2nd meeting. Storage units (inside and outside) also added.

The developer has withdrawn the land use application but is expected to submit a new application, with a public hearing at the Planning Commission in early October. LCC will host a community meeting at Longfellow Pk on **Sept. 23rd** to review the new plans, beginning with an **open house from 5:30-6:30 pm** to allow residents to view the plan and then a **meeting from 6:30-8:30 pm** for community discussion.

## LRT PLATFORM EXPANSION AT 50TH ST

Met Council plans to expand all LRT station platforms to accommodate three car trains, beginning next year, due to capacity needs. At 50th St. this raises a question about the access pedestrians now have thru an opening in the sound wall. Residents and CM Colvin Roy met with officials on the platform last month to discuss options. Those identified are to build a new opening further south at the end of the expanded platform, to put an opening in apx. the middle of the platform, or to have no opening which forces riders from the south to 50th St. If you have an opinion, please contact the 12th Ward office at 612-673-2212 or Met Council's Community Outreach office at 612-349-7318.

## TOUR RUINS OF 1ST MISSISSIPPI LOCK & DAM WITH DR. ANFINSON

**Saturday, September 27th** Join Mississippi River Gorge Stewards and the National Park Service for an interpretive tour of the Meeker Island Lock and Dam ruins led by Dr. John Anfinson. John has written and spoken about the Meeker ruins but during this walking tour participants will be able to see and touch the remains of the Mississippi River's first lock and dam. Two tours: a few spots left at 10:00 a.m.-Noon, or 1:00-3:00 p.m. Meeker Island Dam ruins, Minneapolis

Pre-registration is required. Register with Sue at [srich@fmr.org](mailto:srich@fmr.org) or 651-222-2193 x14 or go to: [http://www.fmr.org/participate/events/meeker\\_tour-2008-9-27](http://www.fmr.org/participate/events/meeker_tour-2008-9-27)