

Request for City Council Committee Action

Date: January 18, 2011

To: Community Development Committee
Referral to: Ways & Means / Budget Committee

Prepared by: Carsten Slostad (Phone 673-5150)

Approved by: Robert D. Miller, Director _____

Subject: Nokomis East NRP Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan

Summary of the Request:

The Nokomis East neighborhood has completed their NRP Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan. It has been review by staff and external counsel and adopted by the NRP Policy Board. Final approval and funding is now being requested.

Recommendation:

1. Approve the Nokomis East NRP Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan, specifically those parts of the Plan that fall under City jurisdiction, in an amount not to exceed \$1,620,848;
2. Amend the 2011 General Appropriation Resolution by increasing the Community Planning and Economic Development Department (CPED) agency Fund 01 CNR 8900-800 (the NRP fund) by \$1,620,848 from existing fund balance;
3. Authorize the appropriate City officers to enter into any contracts or agreements necessary to implement this request

January 18, 2011

The Honorable Lisa Goodman, Chair
Community Development Committee
Minneapolis City Council
315 City Hall
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55415

The Honorable Betsy Hodges, Chair
Ways and Means Committee
Minneapolis City Council
315 City Hall
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55415

Re: Nokomis East NRP Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan

Dear Chairpersons Goodman and Hodges:

At its meeting on December 20, 2010 the Neighborhood Revitalization Program Policy Board approved the McKinley NRP Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan and authorized \$1,620,848 in NRP Program Funds to implement this plan.

The Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan allocates \$1,620,848 in the following manner.

Housing	\$	1,135,000
Environment	\$	100,000
Community Participation and Outreach	\$	205,000
Community Development	\$	15,848
Implementation Support	\$	165,000

The completion of this NRP Phase II Plan for Nokomis East comes at a time when Nokomis East Neighborhood Association (NENA) is in a position to take advantage of emerging opportunities for neighborhood improvement and build on new relationships with our growing Latino population and new immigrants. The Plan gives the neighborhood the opportunity to continue working with the City's Benefiting Bossen Group to improve the livability of a rental area that has been troubled for many years by disinvestments, problem properties, absentee landlords, crime, and high tenant turnover. It also allocates funds to create incentives for property improvements.

Another project, the hugely successful Minneapolis Monarch Festival, a partnership of NENA, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB), and Community Celebration of Place, has given the neighborhood experience working in a bi-lingual environment, and created connections with Latinos that NENA can use to reach out to the community. These and other initiatives are outlined in the four major sections of the Plan. Each section contains the goals, objectives, strategies and specific actions to be

The Honorable Lisa Goodman
The Honorable Betsy Hodges
January 18, 2011
Page 2

implemented over the next four to six years. The Plan gives NENA a blueprint for the coming years and the financial resources to carry it out, neither of which would be possible without the Neighborhood Revitalization Program.

NENA began its Phase II planning in 2007 by soliciting members for the Phase II Steering Committee. They used a variety of methods to invite community members to participate—asking for volunteers at Town Meetings, in the *Longfellow Nokomis Messenger*, at community events, on the NENA website and through emails. They also spent two days greeting and talking with commuters at the 50th Street and 46th Street LRT stations as a way of identifying new people who may be interested in serving on the committee.

The Steering Committee drafted the Participation Agreement and then reviewed Phase I projects. A comprehensive review completed in 2002 of the Phase I Neighborhood Action Plan provided a good starting point for a final Phase I evaluation.

The Steering Committee drafted a survey as the primary tool for community input. Members spent a considerable amount of time developing the survey, aiming for enough questions to gather sufficient information but not so many that the survey would be too long. NENA then worked with the Center for Survey Research at the University of Minnesota to finalize the draft, and prepare accompanying materials to be mailed with the survey. They ordered a new mailing list for the neighborhood to ensure new houses and multi-family buildings were included, and used Business Reply Mail to make it as easy as possible for people to return their surveys. (Copies of the survey and cover letter are available on request). The survey was mailed in June 2010 to 6,777 addresses, which included neighborhood businesses. A follow up postcard was sent about three weeks later, reminding people to return their survey, and giving them a chance to get another copy if theirs had been misplaced. The NENA E-List and meetings were also used to remind people to complete their surveys. Approximately 60 additional surveys were mailed out and returned. More than 30% of NENA's residents returned responses to the survey.

On December 20, 2010 the Policy Board passed the following resolution:

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,

The Honorable Lisa Goodman
The Honorable Betsy Hodges
January 18, 2011
Page 3

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 2011 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.

Pursuant to this resolution, I make the following recommendations for consideration by your committees:

Recommendation:

1. Approve the Nokomis East NRP Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan, specifically those parts of the Plan that fall under City jurisdiction, in an amount not to exceed \$1,620,848;
2. Amend the 2011 General Appropriation Resolution by increasing the Community Planning and Economic Development Department (CPED) agency Fund 01 CNR 8900-800 (the NRP fund) by \$580,500 from existing fund balance;
3. Authorize the appropriate City officers to enter into any contracts or agreements necessary to implement this request

Sincerely,

Robert D. Miller
Director